

Eternal Heart 191

Chapter 191 First Arrival in the Ancient Kingdom

"No!"

The man in black robes roared lowly like a wild beast pouncing towards the Transmission Array.

Disregarding his injuries, disregarding all consequences.

At his fastest speed, the man turned into a gold blur, streaking toward the Ancient Transmission Array.

In the field of view.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng stood upon the Array Formation Platform, their silhouettes gradually blurring but not yet teleported away!

"There's still time!"

Joy surged in the man's heart.

He must obtain the Heavenly Que Sword and the Moon Spirit Ore Mother; as for the nearby Moon Spirit Ore, compared to the first two, especially the Moon Spirit Ore Mother, they were insignificant.

At this moment.

Elder Chai's goal was not to kill the two at the Transmission Array, as that would not be easy to achieve.

His intention was to teleport with them!

"Hmph, once I teleport to the other side and am not controlled by the force field, I can annihilate these two with a flick of my fingers."

Elder Chai's body shone with golden light, just about to charge into the Transmission Array.

No good!

Ye Luofeng could not help but pale.

The reason she chose the Transmission Array was to escape Elder Chai's relentless pursuit.

If.

Elder Chai were to teleport with them, without the constraint of the Ancient Moon Well force field, their deaths were certain!

At the crucial moment of life and death.

Wuhou!

A deep roar like the sound of a bell or spring thunder erupted from the Transmission Array, transforming into a grey and twisted soundwave, striking Elder Chai.

Boom!

Elder Chai's figure staggered, caught off guard by the soundwave's encroachment.

Immediately.

His blood churned, his internal organs twisting in pain, his eardrums nearly bursting with blood.

Just in that moment of delay.

The two within the Transmission Array had vanished.

"No

Elder Chai roared in anger, his complexion ashen.

Wow!

Burning with rage and his blood surging, Elder Chai spat out a mouthful of blood.

Simultaneously.

On the ground, at the entrance to the Moon Mine.

"Huh! It seemed like there was a slight spatial fluctuation just now."

The old man from the Lingjian Sect, who was overseeing the remnants of the Ancient Array, revealed a look of surprise.

"Spatial fluctuation? That's not good!"

On a nearby mountaintop, the seated Lv Tiezu's expression changed drastically.

Whoosh!

He quickly transformed into a bright orange streak of sword light and dashed into the Moon Mine.

Shortly after Lv Tiezu entered.

Swoosh swoosh swoosh!

A dark mass of figures appeared in the nearby void.

"It's the Bone Demon Palace, and also the people from the Water Moon Sect

Elder Pan, on guard at the mining site, changed color.

Looking around.

Near the Moon Mine, a force of nearly a thousand showed up, birds hovering in the sky.

They saw.

The Palace Master Fu from the Bone Demon Palace, Guardian Shangguan, even the Water Moon Sect Master and others, leading numerous troops approaching.

"Surround this area!"

Palace Master Fu commanded grimly, and a multitude of Bone Demon Palace's forces ensured the site was encircled.

Elder Pan, along with the Lingjian Sect and others, had no chance to resist and were captured without a fight.

"Thankfully, we arrived in time."

Palace Master Fu breathed a sigh of relief and ordered his men to interrogate those from the Lingjian Sect present.

Before long.

A disciple from the Lingjian Sect, unable to endure the torment and threats, revealed what had happened before.

"It seems there are clues about the Heavenly Que Sword and the Moon Spirit Ore Mother here, and it might truly be credible. First, Chen Yu might have teleported away from here, now this place was sealed by Elder Chai from the Lingjian Sect with an Ancient Array to explore its secrets."

Palace Master Fu's eyes flickered.

However.

Upon learning that two Guiyuan Realm masters were inside the mine, Palace Master Fu was also somewhat cautious.

Crack!

Palace Master Fu broke a black talisman in his hand and muttered, "I have sent a message to Master Absolute Yin

Over the next two days.

A shocking battle erupted near the Ancient Moon Well.

The combatants were the camps of Bone Demon Palace and the Lingjian Sect (including Iron Sword and Yunyue Sects).

In this battle, both sides were truly enraged, and both suffered heavy losses.

Afterward.

News that a large amount of Moon Spirit Ore remained under the Ancient Moon Well, as well as the Heavenly Que Sword and Moon Spirit Ore Mother being taken away by Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng, spread like wildfire.

At the same time.

Within the Lingjian Sect's camp, two rumors were widely circulated.

The first was that Ye Luofeng had embezzled the Heavenly Que Sword and, in collaboration with Chen Yu, grievously injured Elder Chai before fleeing far away.

This rumor was said to originate from Elder Chai's own account.

The second was that Chen Yu was the murderer of Lv Santong, which was confirmed by the divination of the Great Snow Mountain Tribe.

These two rumors shook the sect world of Chu Country, and even the neighboring Qi Country, Yan Country, and the northern Great Snow Mountain Tribe paid attention.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng becoming traitors was not in itself remarkable.

However, these two were involved with the Moon Spirit Ore Mother and the Heavenly Que Sword, and even due to the existence of Moon Spirit Ore in the underground mine, they triggered a crazy battle between the two camps.

Not long after.

The two camps ceased fighting, deciding to mine the Moon Spirit Ore together.

As for the Ancient Transmission Array, both camps tried using Grade Essence Stones, yet despite the depletion of the stones, they could not initiate teleportation.

"It must be that the Transmission Array on the other side was destroyed, unable to resonate, hence the inability to teleport."

An experienced Array Master concluded.

Naturally, such an outcome left both camps, including Elder Chai and others, with frustration.

Because of this.

Both camps stationed some troops year-round to guard this Transmission Array.

...

After a bout of severe turbulence and disorienting consciousness.

Chen Yu's feet sank as he stepped upon an ancient, rusted transmission stone platform, shrouded in darkness all around.

Then, suddenly,

A "yelp" sounded next to him, as Ye Luofeng's delicately charming figure swayed and bumped into Chen Yu.

Chen Yu himself had just steadied his stance. In his haste, he wrapped his arms around the stunningly beautiful girl.

Huh!

Ye Luofeng gradually recovered from her disoriented discomfort, only to find her skirt torn, her clothes disheveled, and herself held in someone's embrace.

What infuriated and outraged her was,

The young man embracing her looked unreservedly—with an excellent poise—down at her jade-like face, the heaving of her chest, the graceful curves...

Moreover,

The hand of that young man, which was dragging her tender body, was actually placed on her round and plump buttocks, and he squeezed.

"Damn it!"

After squeezing subconsciously, Chen Yu felt an excellent touch, utterly intoxicating, but knew immediately that it was a bad situation.

Were he to explain that it wasn't intentional, that it was merely an appreciation of beauty, a natural reaction, she certainly wouldn't believe him.

As expected, Ye Luofeng's face suddenly went cold, and a hint of iciness flashed in her phoenix eyes.

Slap!

A delicate, jade-like hand struck Chen Yu's face.

"Aow!"

Chen Yu grunted but remained unmoved, releasing Ye Luofeng as if shocked by electricity.

Hiss!

After slapping Chen Yu, Ye Luofeng felt pain in her palm as if she'd struck a bronze statue.

She had just come to her senses from the discomfort of the remote transmission. The slap was instinctual, executed without circulating any True Qi.

"You... You scoundrel!"

Ye Luofeng clenched her teeth, her face growing even more frigid as True Qi surged within her.

"Miss Ye, please stop, it really wasn't intentional."

Chen Yu said with a bitter smile.

"Not intentional?"

Ye Luofeng's chilly and moonlike delicate face darkened even more.

If the unintentional embrace could be seen as a fluke, the action of "squeezing" with his hand seemed all too intentional.

"Ah, even if I really did mean it, let's say, I, Chen Yu, saved Miss Ye's life before. Had it been another girl, perhaps she would've offered herself in gratitude."

Chen Yu shook his head and sighed.

"Hmph, the toad wants to eat swan meat."

A slight flush of annoyance and embarrassment tinged Ye Luofeng's tense face.

"Alright, Miss Ye, let's check the situation outside for now."

Chen Yu immediately motioned with his hand.

While seeming to banter, Chen Yu had already sent the Iron Moon Strange Insects to scout the surroundings.

At this moment,

The two of them were in a dilapidated temple hall, dimly lit. The only sources of light were from the temple's ceiling and the luminous pearls in the hallway.

The ancient transmission array beneath their feet had a structure similar to the one inside the Ancient Moon Well.

Suddenly, Ye Luofeng's expression changed as she thought of something.

Slash!

She wielded the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword and struck the transmission array beneath her feet, creating a crack a meter long.

"Miss Ye, do you know where exactly we are?"

Chen Yu asked.

The Iron Moon Strange Insects he had sent out had conducted a brief search nearby and found this ruined temple hall deeply embedded within a concealed mountain.

"As Elder Chai revealed, the other side of the transmission array is the land of an ancient kingdom, a place with a splendid cultivation civilization."

Ye Luofeng said with a cold face, distancing herself from Chen Yu.

An ancient kingdom?

A hint of excitement appeared on Chen Yu's face.

He had read about ancient kingdoms in old texts.

It was rumored,

That the land of ancient kingdoms was vast and rich in resources, its cultivation civilization was several times more developed than remote, smaller countries like Chu Country.

"Indeed, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi here is much denser than in Beiyuan."

Ye Luofeng slightly sensed it and showed a hint of joy.

She was wholeheartedly dedicated to the Sword Dao and looked forward to the long-standing heritage of such an ancient land.

The two of them searched the dilapidated temple hall for a long time without finding any clues.

However, the Iron Moon Strange Insects found a few scattered pieces of Moon Spirit Ore in a corner of the great hall.

Chen Yu collected the pieces of Moon Spirit Ore, his face deep in thought.

It seemed,

The rumors of the Ancient Sword Sect defector might indeed be credible.

The vast amounts of Moon Spirit Ore mined from the Moon Cave were transported to this ancient land through the transmission array.

According to legend,

The descendants of that Sword Sect defector had flourished on this land and still existed to this day.

Following the dilapidated temple hall's corridor, the two moved carefully and cautiously outward.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect scouted ahead, with no incidents occurring along the way.

"By the way, Miss Ye. What exactly is this 'Moon Spirit Ore Mother' you mentioned before?"

Chen Yu broke the stagnant silence.

"Moon Spirit Ore Mother? I must admit, you're incredibly fortunate. Not only did you soar to the heavens in the Blood Burial Garden, but you also came across this legendary Holy Ore."

Ye Luofeng said with a hint of emotion.

"You were lucky to obtain the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword as well,"

Chen Yu rolled his eyes.

"While you may not know what Moon Spirit Ore Mother is, you must have heard of the rumors about the Moon Spirit Holy Stone, right?"

Ye Luofeng said.

"I have! Legend says it's a Holy Stone that can reverse the quality of one's Spiritual Body."

Chen Yu nodded eagerly.

"That Moon Spirit Ore Mother is the original embryo of the 'Moon Spirit Holy Stone'!"

Ye Luofeng said with a light smile.

At her words, Chen Yu was greatly shaken.

He could never have imagined that the Moon Spirit Crystals were the embryonic form of the Moon Spirit Holy Stone.

"You've experienced it before. The 'Moon Spirit Ore Mother' can purify the soul, heal mental wounds, and additionally, it refines the spirit and Sword Intent, providing great benefits to cultivators."

Ye Luofeng revealed a hint of envy.

Chen Yu nodded; just the ability to heal mental damage and aid in condensing spiritual power made it an unparalleled treasure.

"However, that's not the greatest value of the Moon Spirit Ore Mother!"

Ye Luofeng's voice paused.

"It's not?"

Chen Yu exclaimed.

"The strategic value of the Moon Spirit Ore Mother even surpasses that of the Heavenly Que Sword."

"In the presence of the Ore Mother, even a mundane mountain range can, over time, accumulate Moon Spirit essence and give birth to new Moon Spirit Ore, even forming a new Moon Spirit Ore Vein! This is an ability that will be lost once it becomes a 'Moon Spirit Holy Stone'!"

Chapter 192 Offering Oneself in Marriage

After hearing about the value and usefulness of the "Moon Spirit Ore Mother," Chen Yu's mouth hung wide open, unable to close for a long while.

The ore mother, whether in personal efficacy or strategic value, was extremely high.

For personal use, it could cleanse the soul, repair mental damage, and even be used to condense spiritual power, including refining Sword Intent.

The strategic value was even more exaggerated.

The "Moon Spirit Ore Mother" could breed new Moon Spirit Ore, almost equivalent to a mobile Moon Spirit Ore.

If the conditions were sufficient and given enough time, it could cultivate a large Moon Spirit Ore Vein, and even forming the "Moon Spirit Holy Stone" was not impossible.

"This ore must not be exposed. If discovered by some major power, I'm afraid it would bring about a catastrophe of killing."

Chen Yu felt a chill in his heart.

Then,

He thought of another issue.

Since the "Moon Spirit Ore Mother" was the embryo of the "Moon Spirit Holy Stone," could it enhance the quality of a Spiritual Body?

Immediately,

Chen Yu asked Ye Luofeng about this.

"Yes,"

The answer Ye Luofeng gave was affirmative.

"However, the Moon Spirit Ore Mother does not focus on this effect and can only slightly improve the quality a bit. The advanced Moon Spirit Holy Stone is almost heaven-defying in this regard but will lose the ability to nurture a Moon Spirit Ore Vein."

Ye Luofeng replied.

"Slightly improve the quality a bit?"

Chen Yu's heart stirred.

Just how much can a 'slightly improve' actually improve?

Ye Luofeng couldn't help but be astonished, "You're not really considering using the ore mother just to improve your quality a little, are you?"

If he did that, it would truly be a waste.

Even if we ignore the strategic value.

The mere ability of Moon Spirit Ore Mother to repair mental damage and condense spiritual power far exceeds the benefit of slightly improving one's quality.

After all,

In the later stages of cultivation, the focus increasingly shifts to the mental aspect.

"I do indeed have that plan,"

Chen Yu didn't hide it.

He was caught in a dilemma.

On one hand, the quality of his Spiritual Body was his biggest shortcoming in cultivation.

On the other hand,

Chen Yu's strength in Body Cultivation did not give him an edge in the mental realm.

Of course, it was just a lack of edge, not prominence.

If he kept the Moon Spirit Ore Mother, it could condense his spiritual power; if he used it, he could somewhat make up for the shortcoming in quality.

"You really plan to use it? When I learned you possessed this ore mother, even I felt a sudden urge to kill and seize it."

Ye Luofeng's voice turned slightly colder.

The hint of mocking chill in her eyes seemed to be more than just words.

If Chen Yu really intended to do so, she might not resort to killing, but taking action to seize the treasure was still possible.

"Oh! Miss Ye, if you had your eye on this ore mother, why didn't you say so earlier!"

Chen Yu feigned shock.

"What do you mean by that?" Ye Luofeng's expression remained cold.

"As long as Miss Ye is willing to accept my proposal, we could share the benefits of the ore mother together... Ah!"

Before Chen Yu could finish, a sudden change occurred.

Whoosh!

Ye Luofeng's beautiful face turned icy, her fair wrist flicked, and a frosty edge of her sword, white as frost, had already struck Chen Yu's body.

This woman had reached the Postnatal Late Stage, only a step away from the Innate Qi Transformation Realm, quite an impressive feat.

Puff!

A layer of sparkling copper light patterns appeared on the surface of Chen Yu's body, and as it was pierced by the ice-sharp sword shadow, it instantly dimmed, the Copper Statue Force Field pierced in an instant.

"Ow! This woman is so cold

Chen Yu grunted as he stumbled back, swinging his arm, and with a flash of black iron qi patterns, he tore the ice-sharp sword shadow apart.

Even so,

On his arm, a wound appeared, encrusted with a layer of frost.

However,

With Chen Yu's formidable physique, the wound healed in the blink of an eye, visible to the naked eye.

A flash of surprise skimmed through Ye Luofeng's frost-clear eyes.

Yet,

She still had no fondness for Chen Yu, even feeling a certain exasperation akin to 'hating that iron cannot become steel'.

Whew!

Ye Luofeng calmed her cold heart, forcing herself to cool down.

"Being able to inherit the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword and escape safely, Luo Feng indeed owes you a favor,"

Ye Luofeng said calmly.

Chen Yu couldn't help but break into a radiant smile, but before he could express his "willingness," he was immediately choked by her following words.

"But I hate most when people leverage favors for personal gain!"

Ye Luofeng's brows lightly knitted.

"The favor I owe, Luo Feng will repay. But I will not have feelings for you, not now, not ever."

Ye Luofeng's voice was as clear and cold as her stunning appearance.

Very pleasant, yet very cold.

"Oh."

Chen Yu appeared regretful, shaking his head.

Ever since parting ways with Mu Xueqing, Ye Luofeng had been the first beauty to strike him with awe and stir a faint flutter in his heart.

By happenstance, he had the leisure to tease a little.

But this woman was too cold for his liking, seeming dull and uninteresting.

The rest of their journey,

There was an awkward and cold distance of two zhang between Ye Luofeng and Chen Yu.

However, the atmosphere was soon broken.

"No way through!"

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng stared dumbfounded at the collapsed ruins in front of them.

This hall was originally embedded inside the mountain, making it extremely hidden.

"We're not going to end up buried in the mountain range, living lonely until old age, right? If that's the case, we might as well make do

Chen Yu chuckled.

Before he could finish, Ye Luofeng, with a tense face, was already taking action.

Pff!

Ye Luofeng drew out the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword and cleaved forward.

Judging by her determination, she was ready to forcefully carve out a path through the mountain, displaying an 'Old Man Moves Mountains' spirit, rather than settling with someone.

"Wait!"

Chen Yu moved swiftly, quickly blocking Ye Luofeng.

"What are you doing? If you want to stay here, do it alone. I want to return to Beiyuan as soon as possible."

Ye Luofeng's face darkened.

Swoosh!

At that moment, a Silver Spot Iron Worm flashed out from the collapsing ruins of the mountainside.

"Miss Ye, please don't misunderstand. My insect has already found a pathway that was originally here, but it has been buried by the collapse,"

Chen Yu explained.

"So what?" Ye Luofeng sneered coldly.

"Now, if we excavate along the collapsed pathway, it will be much easier."

"If Miss Ye digs haphazardly, we may cause an even more severe collapse. By then you might have to spend your life here with me."

Chen Yu waved his hand dismissively.

After listening to the explanation, Ye Luofeng's face turned slightly red, realizing she had almost made a mistake.

"Go!"

Chen Yu threw a small metal sphere.

Instantly,

A sword and shield puppet about ten feet tall appeared out of a white fog.

Chen Yu immediately operated his spiritual power technique.

The puppet, now holding a giant sword, went forth to start digging in the ruins.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect was also not idle, drilling holes in the front.

The two worked together with outstanding efficiency.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect was naturally adept at burrowing, a kind of instinct.

As for the puppet, it was incredibly strong, and as long as it had enough Primordial Stones, it would never tire.

Pff-chi!

Soon, a damaged pathway was extended bit by bit in front of the two.

Joy appeared on Ye Luofeng's face.

If it had not been for Chen Yu's presence, along with the Iron Moon Strange Insect and the sword and shield puppet, any average Qi Transformation Realm cultivator might have been trapped to death within the valley.

Those in the Qi Transformation Realm can't avoid the need for sustenance.

Without sufficient food, they could only last about ten days to half a month.

To increase efficiency, both Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng joined in the digging efforts.

Chen Yu controlled the puppet while digging at the same time.

As a result, executing the control technique caused his spiritual power to be consumed quickly.

Fortunately, after consuming the Blood Soul Bud, his spiritual energy was strong, and the Moon Spirit Ore Mother had certain effects on healing the heart and mind as well as restoring spiritual power.

During this process,

Chen Yu's spiritual power underwent an unseen tempering and improvement.

...

Three days later.

Chen Yu, along with the puppet and spirit pet, finally broke through the mountain.

Under the scorching sun,

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng stood in front of a desolate mountain range, with wild vegetation growing everywhere, as far as the eye could see.

"We've finally made it out."

Ye Luofeng let out a long sigh of relief, casting a complex glance at the young man beside her.

She finally had a change of heart about Chen Yu.

If it hadn't been for him, by forcefully digging through the pathway alone, she really could have been buried there.

"The top priority now is to figure out where we are, how far we are from the Beiyuan territory

Chen Yu said with a serious face.

Facing this strange and unknown environment, he no longer had any trace of jest.

"We need to find some populated area first."

Ye Luofeng nodded.

Before leaving,

The two of them closely memorized the contour of the nearby mountains and the geographical direction and also concealed the entrance of the pathway in the mountain wall.

Having done all this,

They began to explore the mountain forest.

Half a day later,

The two had traveled over a hundred miles, encountering many ferocious beasts along the way, occasionally sensing the presence of Qi Transformation Realm demon beasts.

Chen Yu guessed that this place must be a danger zone similar to the “Yunyuan Mountain Range.”

For the demon beasts with powerful aura, the two of them naturally avoided them as much as possible.

Roar!

From up ahead came one or two hair-raising beast roars, faintly emitting Qi Transformation Realm demonic aura and oppressive power.

"There are two Qi Transformation Realm demon beasts, we should take a detour,"

Ye Luofeng suggested.

"No," Chen Yu shook his head.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect he sent out for scouting had discovered something unusual.

Just as Ye Luofeng was puzzled,

"Everyone, quick, retreat!"

"How come there are two Cloud Pattern Leopard Kings, and they're a male and female pair!"

A flurry of panicked figures were rushing in Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng's direction.

On closer look,

The escaping figures turned out to be some young men and women, around the same age as Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

Judging from their attire, these people belonged to the same faction.

Among these youths, there were a dozen or so, with the weakest being at the Organ Refining Stage, currently being chased by two grey-white patterned demon leopards.

The two demon leopards, over two zhang in length, weren't particularly large compared to some of the larger ferocious beasts.

However,

The two demon leopards emitted a layer of faint red demonic aura and moved with incredible agility through the forest.

Crack!

One of the demon leopards swung its claw, and a flash of pale red aura slice through, bringing down a tree large enough for two people to embrace together.

Boom!

The tree fell, blocking the way of one of the girls.

"Ah!"

The girl was around sixteen or seventeen, with a pretty face, now pale with fear.

"Yan'er!"

The boy in the lead, who seemed to be slightly older, changed his expression.

Whoosh!

The older boy, clad in black armor, came rushing over, holding a Black Iron Heavy Spear, and cast out a booming black aura, like a hanging crescent moon.

"Bang!"

The Black Iron Heavy Spear, with its formidable power, blocked the demon leopard's pounce aimed at the girl "Yan'er."

Huh!

Ye Luofeng and Chen Yu showed a trace of surprise.

This boy clad in black armor looked eighteen or nineteen but had achieved Postnatal Qi Transformation, his strength comparable to Mei Changqing.

Of course.

Among the crowd, only the boy in black armor had the cultivation of the Postnatal Early Stage, at most barely able to fend off one Cloud Pattern Demon Leopard, facing two would risk annihilation.

"Be careful!" a young voice called from behind.

Whoosh!

The other Cloud Pattern Leopard suddenly swerved and pounced toward the girl Yan'er, who had just narrowly escaped one disaster.

Chapter 193 Yunlai Fu Family

"Yan'er!"

The young boys and girls fleeing in panic let out a cry, revealing an expression of unbearable distress.

At this moment,

Another Cloud Pattern Leopard, with a cunning and bloodthirsty glint in its eyes, suddenly turned to attack Yan'er.

The only young man in black armor in the crowd, at the Qi Transformation Realm, barely managed to hold off the first Cloud Pattern Leopard and was completely unable to come to the rescue.

It appeared that,

This beautiful and charming young girl was about to meet her demise under the fierce pounce of the second Cloud Pattern Leopard.

"Beast!"

Ye Luofeng's expression turned cold as she transformed into a white streak of shadow, darting between the trees in an attempt to save her.

However,

She was still a dozen feet away from Yan'er and hopelessly out of reach.

Huff!

The Cloud Pattern Leopard raised its sharp claw, emitting a faint red aura that screamed as it brought forth a fierce cold gust of wind, which reached the girl first, shattering her protective inner energy layer with its mere remnants.

"It's too late!"

As Ye Luofeng floated among the branches and leaves, she drew a white jade-like sword, still dozens of feet away.

Just then, a sharp whistling sound of air being pierced rushed by her ear.

Whoosh!

A dark curved spear shadow, dragging a thunderous sound of tearing through the air, covered a distance of twenty feet in the blink of an eye.

How fast!

Ye Luofeng's eyebrows tightened as she sensed the astonishing power of the javelin, and the residual force of the Qi swept past, causing her dress to rustle loudly.

"Thud!"

The tip of the dark javelin lit up with a sharp golden light and pierced through the abdomen of the Cloud Pattern Leopard in a flash.

Thump!

The Cloud Pattern Leopard let out a moan as it was impaled by the javelin and dragged back by the immense force for several feet.

"I... I'm not dead?"

The young girl Yan'er, with a pale face, stared dumbstruck at the blood spraying from the abdomen of the Cloud Pattern Leopard as it crashed into two large trees with a loud "boom," kicking up dust everywhere.

Her mouth hung open in shock, and she looked towards the tall young man in the distance who had intervened.

He was a young man wearing beast hide armor with a somewhat rustic air.

Naturally, that young man was Chen Yu.

For him, killing a common Postnatal Qi Transformation Demon Beast was not a difficult task, especially using his proficient javelin.

Chen Yu walked unhurriedly towards the impaled Cloud Pattern Leopard.

Before he arrived, the huge gash in the Cloud Pattern Leopard's abdomen had bled too much, its organs were shattered, and it was already dead.

The young boys and girls at the scene stood dumbfounded, unable to snap out of their daze.

"Thank goodness! Thanks to this brother's righteous help,"

Said the young man in black armor, his face full of gratitude.

Yan'er, the young girl, came out of her shock and bowed in thanks to Chen Yu.

Chen Yu nodded slightly, walked over to the corpse of the Cloud Pattern Leopard, and methodically retrieved his javelin.

"What are you all still dazed for? With the remaining Cloud Pattern Leopard, if we work together, we can definitely capture it,"

Called out the young man in black armor to the other youths of his kin.

However,

Seeing its companion slain with a single blow by Chen Yu, the remaining Cloud Pattern Leopard felt fear.

Zoom!

Before the crowd could surround it, the leopard turned into a gray-white streak and dashed deep into the mountains and forests.

"Beast, stop!"

A cold and stern shout came from the treetops overhead.

In the next instant,

A vision of a snow-white and ethereal beauty, like a translucent dragonfly, "whooshed" past directly above the Cloud Pattern Leopard's head.

The Cloud Pattern Leopard stiffened, shuddering as if struck by cold, and its eyes filled with terror.

"So beautiful

The young man in black armor stared dumbfounded at that fleeting exquisite beauty.

Shick!

A three-foot-long gleaming ice sword light, biting cold to the bone, sliced across the neck of the Cloud Pattern Leopard, leaving a trail of bloody frost on the ground.

Thud!

The Cloud Pattern Leopard stood rigid for a moment or two, finally falling over, its head severed from its body.

"What a powerful sword!"

The young man in black armor's admiration intensified, mixed with a strong sense of shock.

The surrounding youths stood gaping, their eyes fixed on the icy and jade-like beauty, unable to move, feeling a sense of awe and amazement akin to looking up at a Heavenly Immortal.

At this time,

Chen Yu retrieved his javelin, wiped off the blood, and walked over.

"These fools, was my spear not as impressive as that ice-cold little lady?"

Seeing the petrified youths, Chen Yu snorted disdainfully.

Ye Luofeng, expressionless, seemed to throw a challenging glance at Chen Yu, a sign of "rivalry."

Ever since the beginning of the transmission battle, Chen Yu had continuously performed miracles, outshining even her— the Postnatal Qi Transformation realm's top sword talent.

Including the excavation of the tunnel and saving the girl named Yan'er before her.

All these accomplishments were challenging Ye Luofeng's pride.

For one, she was the most outstanding talent in the Lingjian Sect of Qi Country and even throughout the entire southern Three Kingdoms, never having lost to anyone of her generation.

Furthermore, she had come to a conclusion: whether now or in the future, she would never take a liking to Chen Yu.

The latter was of paramount importance.

Since she had no interest in Chen Yu,

Then her performance and achievements must surpass his, or at least not lag behind.

That was exactly why,

Ye Luofeng demonstrated a seemingly "superfluous" feat, instantly killing the fleeing Cloud Pattern Leopard.

In terms of performance and lethality,

Both had slain a Cloud Pattern Leopard instantaneously, each with their strengths, neither outshining the other.

Nevertheless,

With Ye Luofeng's beauty as an enchanting young lady, her icy allure added glamor to that sword strike, bringing a strong sense of amazement and shock, naturally overshadowing Chen Yu in the limelight.

"I am Fu Hong, thank you for your help, miss," the young man in black armor said, coming over with a face full of gratitude and eagerness in his eyes.

In Chen Yu's eyes, there was a bit of a fawning taste.

"May I ask the noble lady's surname and given name, and which prefecture's genius you are? It seems our Yunlai Prefecture does not have a genius as stunning as miss."

The young man in black armor spoke enthusiastically.

Throughout the conversation, his attention was fixed on Ye Luofeng, almost completely overlooking Chen Yu.

Most of the other young men did the same.

Chen Yu sighed to himself. It was no wonder they say when there's the opposite sex, there's no humanity; these young men had completely forgotten who it was that stepped in to save the life of one of their companions just moments ago.

"The young lady's name is Ye Luofeng; I have been cultivating in the mountains with my teacher. This is my first journey outside with my junior brother, and I know nothing about the outside world,"

Ye Luofeng said, her icy gaze swept lightly over the young men.

Confronted by her look, the young men felt a chill piercing through their souls and shifted their gazes away in shame.

Witnessing Ye Luofeng's imposing aura and the mysterious origins she casually concocted, there was an involuntary twitch at the corner of Chen Yu's mouth.

Upon reflection,

The origins Ye Luofeng conjured up were well suited for their “ignorance” about this place.

However,

Chen Yu was somewhat dissatisfied with Ye Luofeng’s mention of “bringing her junior brother out from the mountains”.

“Oh!”

“No wonder Miss Ye and this brother have such formidable strength; it must be from the lineage of some hidden master.”

The group of young men believed her story almost entirely.

In this wild forest and seeing a clear and beautiful woman who seemed unworldly, alongside a somewhat rustic but honest-looking young man, indeed fit the narrative of their “origin”.

“This is my junior brother Chen Yu, and it is his first time coming down the mountain. I hope you will all take good care of him and offer guidance,”

Ye Luofeng said, her cool gaze slyly shifting toward Chen Yu.

By presenting herself as his senior sister, she seemed to be deliberately putting Chen Yu a step below her.

“Ah, brother!”

“Brother Chen Yu, you’re very lucky to have such a heavenly fairy-like senior sister,”

The young men finally reacted, greeting him one after another.

Then the young men, including the youth in black armor, introduced themselves.

The young man in black iron armor was named Fu Hong, while the girl who nearly died under the claws of the Cloud Pattern Leopard was named Fu Yanzi.

Most of the other young men also bore the surname Fu.

It turned out,

Fu Hong, Fu Yanzi, and the other young men came from a prominent family in the region of Yunlai Prefecture.

"Our Fu Family is not only one of the three major families of Yunlai Prefecture but also shares a slight connection with one of the four super noble families of Yun Zhao Country, 'Fu Family'."

When speaking of their lineage, Fu Hong and the other young men had an unmistakable look of pride.

"These young men all come from one family, and it seems they even have the appearance of some sort of branch family,"

Chen Yu was quite surprised.

The youths ranged in age from about fourteen or fifteen to twenty years old, and all of their cultivations were uniformly at the Organ Refining Stage.

That Fu Hong, barely older than Mei Changqing, possessed a cultivation of the Qi Transformation Realm.

This single fact suggested that the strength and foundation of this Yunlai Prefecture Fu Family far exceeded that of Yunyue Sect and might even be on par with the Bone Demon Palace in terms of power.

"A family from one place, this powerful?"

Chen Yu found it hard to believe that the Yun Zhao Country he had arrived in was such an enormous existence.

Ye Luofeng also seemed to realize this fact.

She then inquired,

"Aren't there any sect forces here? I have read in ancient texts that most cultivational resources outside are in the hands of sects

"Sects?"

The group of young men and women showed a strange look.

"It seems that the two of you have indeed been isolated from the outside world, not even knowing the basic common sense of Yun Zhao Country,"

The youth in black armor, Fu Hong, said with a slightly odd expression.

As if suddenly, everyone no longer harbored any suspicion about the two's concocted identities and origins.

"Sects? Hehe... In our Yun Zhao Country, ever since the founding 'Yun Zhao Saint Emperor,' they have been classified as illegal organizations,"

Fu Hong chuckled strangely.

Sects = Illegal organizations?

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng exchanged glances, their hearts shocked, finding it unbelievable.

In the Beiyuan Three Kingdoms, the world of sects held sway over the entire world, especially regarding numerous cultivational resources.

The sects were the true rulers.

Here, sects had become illegal organizations?

"Our Yun Zhao Country is one of the three great ancient countries of Kunyun Continent, with a history of over ten thousand years."

"Ten thousand years ago! The first Holy Emperor, 'Yunyang Lie,' swept through the eight desolates, blood-washed the sects, integrated the resources of heaven and earth, forged the supreme divine throne, ruled with noble bloodline majestically over the world, and enfeoffed thirty-six prefectures, one prince for each."

Some young men elaborated on some of the glorious history, spitting as they spoke,

"Ancient country? One of the three great ancient countries of the continent

A hint of reverence for the legendary ancient countries shone through Ye Luofeng's eyes.

"Yun Zhao Country—is this place truly the ancient country mentioned in the ancient texts?"

Chen Yu's heart raced.

Following,

Through the narrative of the young men, Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng got a rough grasp of the situation in Yun Zhao Country.

Yun Zhao Country was indeed one of the ancient countries of the continent as rumored.

However,

its rulers were no longer sects but the imperial power.

Regarding sects, after the initial “Yun Zhao Saint Emperor” declared his reign, they were either purged and erased or compromised with the imperial power or hid in remote mountains and forests.

In short,

here, imperial power was supreme, and sect influence waned.

Moreover, Yun Zhao Country possessed vast territories, totaling thirty-six prefectures (an approximate number in reality, there were more).

How large was the area of a single prefecture?

Even the smallest prefecture was as big as Chu Country, and the larger ones could be more than ten times that size.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng were currently in a prefecture named “Yunlai Prefecture.”

The Fu Family was one of the three major families of Yunlai Prefecture.

Such family powers dominated locally, but in the vast expanse of Yun Zhao Country, they were at most considered third-rate forces.

(Wishing everyone a Happy New Year~~ Due to many social engagements, I was completely unable to write during the Spring Festival, so there is only one update today. I might be busier in the coming week and might have to take some time off to plan. For details, please see the leave notice.)

Chapter 194: Practical Assessment

Amidst the chatter of the Fu family's youths, Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng realized their current predicament.

Through the Transmission Array beneath the Ancient Moon Well.

The two indeed arrived at the land of the legendary and splendid ancient country—Yun Zhao Country.

At this moment.

The “Yunlai Prefecture” where the pair stood was one of the thirty-six prefectures of the ancient Yun Zhao Country, its territory even vaster than that of Chu Country.

Upon arriving in the ancient country.

Beyond their excitement and anticipation, there was also a sense of unfamiliarity and caution.

This ancient land was no longer the world they were familiar with, once dominated by sects.

As long as ten thousand years ago, the sects had declined and had even been deemed illegal organizations.

In this vast and ancient nation.

Imperial power divided the world, commanding all the princes and various clans.

"The two of you only need to remember 'one emperor, four great families, ten ancient clans, thirty-six prefectures,' to grasp a rough idea of the distribution of power in Yun Zhao Country,"

Elder Mao, with a slight smile.

As he spoke, his gaze often lingered on the pure and peerless beauty of Ye Luofeng.

One emperor, four great families, ten ancient clans, thirty-six prefectures...

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng exchanged glances, filled with amazement.

"Ten ancient clans?"

Chen Yu murmured these words softly.

The ten ancient clans were the only entities he did not quite understand.

[One Emperor]: Evidently, it was the Yun Zhao royal family, the supreme rulers.

[Four Great Families]: Four super families that soared like the noonday sun, their influence sprawling across the world.

With the Fu family's strength, on par with the Bone Demon Palace, it seemed to be an offshoot of one of the four great families and took pride in this fact.

This indicated the profound power of these four great families.

[Thirty-Six Prefectures]: One prefecture, one prince, each prefecture equal to a common nation.

"The ten ancient clans are the long-standing noble families of Yun Zhao Country. The descendants of these families possess noble bloodlines; they are born aristocrats!"

"Yes, even the Yun Zhao royal family is one of the ten ancient clans."

As the group of youths discussed the ten ancient clans, a hint of reverence shone in their eyes.

Noble bloodlines? Born aristocrats?

Chen Yu became somewhat intrigued by the ten ancient clans.

Could the "Black Emperor Bloodline" he had stripped from Lu Zhuo be considered a kind of noble bloodline?

In the killing fields of the Blood Burial Garden.

That Lu Zhuo had an inexplicable sense of superiority, viewing the genius disciples of the Bone Demon Palace and the two sects as "country bumpkins."

"Hmph! What noble bloodlines, nothing but a bunch of pretentious, outdated snobs,"

Commented Elder Mao with a hint of disdain.

"More than half of the ten ancient clans have now declined, struggling to continue their bloodlines. And yet, one of their fallen branches still disdains to intermarry with a thriving and legitimate clan."

Despite his words, Elder Mao's tone carried a trace of sourness.

Regardless of their prosperity or decline, the ten ancient clans in Yun Zhao Country represented noble bloodlines, the identity of aristocracy.

"Miss Ye, as you are unfamiliar with this place, why not come and visit our Fu family?"

"Exactly! With Miss Ye's talent and strength, becoming either an affiliated family member or a guest of our Fu family would be an effortless accomplishment,"

Some youths in the crowd eagerly proposed.

Looking at them, one could tell they feared Ye Luofeng would go her separate way after inquiring about the situation.

In regards to this, the rescued girl "Fu Yanzi" pouted her lips slightly and felt stifled.

She envied and resented Ye Luofeng's stunning beauty.

Originally.

With her looks and talent, she was considered one of the Heavenly Pride Girls in the Fu family who received much attention, and even Elder Mao had intentions to pursue her.

However.

When Ye Luofeng appeared and captivated everyone, all the young men fell head over heels, completely forgetting her existence.

Elder Mao hardly gave her another look, completely drawn to Ye Luofeng.

And now.

The fact that everyone was inviting Ye Luofeng to visit the Fu family and even become an affiliated family member or a guest filled her with indignation.

"Visit?"

Ye Luofeng and Chen Yu exchanged another look.

Just as the duo were about to speak under the expectant gazes of the youths,

"Who goes there!"

Suddenly, Ye Luofeng and Chen Yu turned their gaze toward the treetops to the left in unison.

"Truly, heroes emerge from the young. I merely approached within ten yards, and you young heroes have detected me,"

A robust laugh sounded.

No sooner had the voice died away,

Than an elderly man in plain clothes descended from the foliage of a large tree to the left.

"Uncle Lin!"

"We pay respects to Uncle Lin!"

Elder Mao, Fu Yanzi, and other youths all promptly paid respects, wearing expressions of reverence.

Chen Yu surmised that this elder, known as “Uncle Lin,” had a cultivation not much inferior to Elder Mao.

The man had approached within ten yards, and it was only because he had carelessly stepped on a dried leaf, producing a subtle noise, that he was detected by Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

Afterward.

With Elder Mao’s introduction, Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng became acquainted with the elder.

"I am Fu Lin, ranked second in the clan. You may simply call me Uncle Lin,"

Uncle Lin said, wearing an approving smile.

He had observed Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng in action from the dark.

Their skills, although not earth-shattering for the Qi Transformation Innate stage, were commendable.

What was truly valuable was their youth; Ye Luofeng especially, at least at the Postnatal Late Stage of cultivation, not far from Qi Transformation Innate.

"Fu Hong! In this practical assessment, since you all failed to jointly repel or contend with two Cloud Pattern Leopards, you’re graded C,"

Declared Uncle Lin in a stern tone, his sharp gaze sweeping over Fu Hong and the others.

The group of youths all shamefully hung their heads low, not daring to meet Uncle Lin’s gaze.

"Practical combat assessment?"

Chen Yu was slightly startled and then quickly understood what was going on.

Clearly,

The group of young warriors, including Fu Hong, Fu Yanzi, and others, had engaged in a bloody battle with ferocious beasts and demon beasts in the forest, and it was a practical combat assessment.

Its purpose seemed to be for the clan to hone the real combat abilities of the new generation.

"You usually practice in too comfortable conditions, lacking real combat experience and teamwork."

"Both Cloud Pattern Leopards are not even at the Postnatal Middle Stage; and you have over a dozen people, one at the Postnatal Qi Transformation, over a dozen at the Organ Refining Stage, and three or four in the Late Stage of Organ Refining and at its peak."

"If you were able to quickly form a formation and use the terrain to your advantage, you could at least hold your own for a while."

Uncle Lin's tone was filled with dissatisfaction.

Chen Yu stood by, dumbfounded.

When he and Ye Luofeng had just arrived, they saw two Cloud Pattern Leopards slaughtering the group of young ones, sending them fleeing in disarray, without any courage to fight back.

"The assessment information we received earlier said there was only one Cloud Pattern Leopard here

Fu Hong said with a gloomy expression.

If there had been only one Cloud Pattern Leopard, leading a team with so many members at the Qi Transformation Postnatal Stage, he naturally wouldn't fear it.

But the reality was, upon their arrival at this place, they were greeted by two Cloud Pattern Leopards.

"One Cloud Pattern Leopard? Hmph! That was an intentional error in the information provided by the clan. In actual chaotic battles and confrontations with enemies, there will always be unexpected occurrences. Without the ability to adapt, how can you survive?"

Uncle Lin snorted coldly.

That remark left Fu Hong and the others speechless.

Chen Yu, having experienced the clan wars in Chu Country, deeply agreed with Uncle Lin's words.

Whether it was the battle at Beishan Spirit Garden, the mission at Yan Family Castle, or the later clan wars, there were too many unforeseen events.

Even a close friend by your side could potentially be an infiltrator.

Chen Yu speculated that over here in Yun Zhao Country, the world was governed more by imperial power and was relatively more peaceful and comfortable.

The Fu Family, in particular, was a major clan in the region of Yunlai Prefecture.

As such, the combat experience of these young ones was indeed very average.

"This Uncle Lin is likely responsible both for assessing and secretly protecting these young ones. Even if I hadn't taken action, Fu Yanzi most likely wouldn't have died," thought Chen Yu.

After berating the group of young warriors,

Uncle Lin then turned, smiling, and invited Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng to visit the Fu Family.

"As a senior sister, I and my junior brother are venturing out for the first time and would love to witness the prominence of a major outside clan,"

Ye Luofeng agreed to Uncle Lin's invitation using her status as a senior sister.

Chen Yu curled his lip and didn't object.

Visiting a major local clan to adapt and understand the customs and common sense of Yun Zhao Country aligned with Chen Yu's own thoughts.

On the other hand,

He was almost ready to charge into the Qi Transformation Realm and needed a stable environment.

"Please, don't mention it,"

Uncle Lin addressed the two without putting on airs of an elder, speaking in a friendly tone.

An hour later,

Chen Yu, with Ye Luofeng, followed Uncle Lin and the young Fu Family team to a flat valley.

Not long after,

Another team of young warriors walked into the valley, accompanied by a middle-aged man at the Qi Transformation Realm.

"Uncle Cheng!"

Fu Hong, Fu Yanzi, and others saluted the middle-aged elder in succession.

Judging by appearances, these youths belonged to another Fu Family team undergoing a practical combat assessment.

Leading the second team of young warriors was a young man with a square face, looking mature and steady.

However,

When the square-faced young man's gaze landed on Ye Luofeng, his heart skipped a beat, his gaze froze for a moment before he forcibly shifted his eyes away to maintain his composure on the surface.

"Fu Hong, your team only achieved a C-grade result?"

When the square-faced young man, Fu Jing, learned of Fu Hong's assessment results, he couldn't help but smirk.

Because,

His team had achieved a B-grade result, fighting undefeated against a group of ferocious beasts led by a Postnatal Middle Stage demon beast for half an hour.

"Fu Jing! Don't be so smug; we were up against two Postnatal Stage demon beasts!"

Fu Hong clenched his fists, his face flushed, as he sneakily glanced at Ye Luofeng.

"Whether it's two or one, the difficulty of the assessments our teams faced was roughly the same."

Square-faced young man Fu Jing said indifferently.

Seeing the dispute between the two,

The rest of the members from both teams appeared somewhat surprised.

In normal times,

Although the relationship between Fu Hong and Fu Jing was not great, they rarely openly confronted each other.

Especially Fu Jing, who was always more composed.

Uncle Lin, the plain-clothed man, and Uncle Cheng first looked surprised, then their gazes skimmed over Ye Luofeng, reflecting a thoughtful expression.

Chen Yu couldn't help but sigh; indeed, a beautiful woman could bring disaster.

It looked like he would have to maintain a certain distance from Ye Luofeng in the future.

Later,

The two learned that Fu Hong and Fu Jing were two of the greatest talents of the Fu Family in Yunlai Prefecture, both possessing Postnatal Qi Transformation cultivation.

Among them,

The more mature Fu Jing was slightly superior in cultivation strength and ranked among the top talents of the clan.

Two days later,

Yunlai Prefecture, Fu Family.

Chen Yu entered a garden estate filled with the sounds of birds and the fragrance of flowers along with a group of talented young warriors of the Fu Family.

The Fu Family's main base was not in the central district but rooted near a riverbank in the countryside.

In an elegant parlor,

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng met the head of the Fu Family, Fu Yuan.

Family Head Fu Yuan, a portly elder of considerable age, had his eyes slightly squinted, twinkling with sharp light.

Uncle Lin, the second eldest, also known in the family as Fu Lin, accompanied them.

Hearing that Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng had each killed a Cloud Pattern Leopard in seconds, Family Head Fu Yuan was also quite moved.

After some pleasantries,

Family Head Fu Yuan spoke, "The two young heroes are venturing out for the first time and are unfamiliar with this place. Are you interested in joining our Yunlai Fu Family?"

Chapter 195: The Five-Year Promise

"Two young heroes, on your first venture from the mountains, unfamiliar with life beyond. Would you be interested in joining our Yunlai Fu Family?"

Fu Family Head narrowed his eyes slightly, filled with anticipation.

Such young talents as Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng were extremely rare, even within the entire Yunlai Prefecture.

Especially Ye Luofeng, who far surpassed all the prodigious youths of her generation in the Fu Family.

"Here it comes."

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng exchanged a glance.

They indeed planned to visit the Fu Family for a while, but as to whether or not to join, they still hesitated a great deal.

At least,

Compared to the vast ancient countries, the Fu Family was not a top force; joining them so quickly also felt somewhat begrudging.

"There's no compulsion in this matter, the two young heroes may take some time to consider. Moreover, there are several ways to join the Fu Family: one could be a guest officer, or an adopted child with a different surname, or even further, by changing your surname to Fu and fully becoming a member of the Fu Family."

Uncle Lin spoke with a smile.

Hearing this, Chen Yu breathed a slight sigh of relief.

Ye Luofeng's delicate eyebrows furrowed as she pondered for a moment.

Three approaches: guest officer, adopted child with a different surname, or becoming a Fu by changing one's surname.

The first, as a guest officer, was the least binding; one would hold a nominal position in the Fu Family, exert some effort occasionally, and receive certain benefits in return.

However,

To become a guest officer, one must possess exceptional strength or special talents, otherwise, they wouldn't qualify.

The second option of becoming an adopted child with a different surname would mean becoming part of the Fu Family and enjoying various resources and benefits the family offers, along with corresponding duties.

However, because such members are of a different surname, they usually don't receive focused cultivation.

The third option would be changing one's surname to Fu, completely integrating into the Fu Family, utterly loyal to the clan, and enjoying the family's utmost cultivation support.

"I have just left the mountains with Junior Brother and aim to travel around in the future; we can only take on the role of guest officers for now."

Ye Luofeng provided their response.

Chen Yu could only silently protest inside at Ye Luofeng's unilateral decision.

Of course,

Even though Ye Luofeng acted dominantly, her choices also matched Chen Yu's needs.

"With the two of you easily defeating the Cloud Pattern Leopard, becoming guest officers is certainly not an issue."

Family Head Fu Yuan was unsurprised by their decision.

The mentorship of Chen Yu and company must be extraordinary; without a deep understanding, they naturally would not easily integrate into an unfamiliar family.

After confirming their status as guest officers,

Family Head Fu Yuan immediately dispatched people to arrange lodgings for Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

"It's no problem for the two of you to become guest officers, but to confirm the level of guest officer, we need to consult with the family elders."

Uncle Lin "Fu Lin" rose to see them off.

Levels of guest officers?

Chen Yu thought inwardly, a major clan known throughout the region indeed had a comprehensive system for recruiting talent.

As Fu Yuan, Family Head, and Uncle Lin watched Chen Yu and the other leave,

They stood shoulder to shoulder, conversing in low voices.

"Second Brother, these two were discovered by you. Do you have any thoughts?"

Family Head Fu Yuan asked.

"Their strength—I've witnessed it with my own eyes—surpasses our Fu Family's peers of the same generation without any exaggeration. That is one point."

Uncle Lin paused.

"Second, from their conversation at the time, they seem to know nothing of the common knowledge within Yun Zhao Country."

"I surmise that even if there is some concealment in the background they provided, it is at least not related to the various powers within Yun Zhao Country."

At this, Uncle Lin showed a smile.

"So much the better."

This second point pleased Family Head Fu Yuan greatly.

Chen Yu and company having no ties with other powers inside Yun Zhao Country meant they were, relatively speaking, a blank slate.

Young and promising, with a simple and clean background!

Such talents were coveted by any great power, hoping to recruit and cultivate them.

"Big Brother, the hunting competition hosted by Prince Manor two months from now—these two seem like they would be a strong asset."

Uncle Lin said with a smile.

"The hunting competition!"

Family Head Fu Yuan clapped his hands excitedly and laughed, "I've been anxious about that recently."

The hunting competition is personally presided over by the highest authority in Yunlai Prefecture, the "Yunlai King."

At the time,

Including Prince Manor, three major families, and several dozen other powers, will all participate in the event.

This hunting competition, held once every three years, is not only a chance to show the family's strength, but the final results will determine the speaking rights over resource allocation among the various powers for the next three years.

It could be said,

For the Fu Family, and even the entire Yunlai Prefecture, the hunting competition was a significant event.

"That 'Yunlai King' is fond of hunting, and the hunting competition has been going on for a decade or two. The rules in recent years have become more perfect. Each participating power can send ten contestants, not older than twenty years, but the number of guest aids cannot exceed three."

Uncle Lin added.

"Ha ha. These two really came at the right time. It happens that in this generation my Fu Family doesn't have any prominent geniuses, not to mention competing with Prince Manor, but also there is a certain gap between the top geniuses of the two other major families."

Family Head Fu Yuan chuckled and clapped his hands.

...

That afternoon, in the guest rooms of the Fu Family.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng each received a guest token and were granted the corresponding level of guest officers.

"Second-level guest officer?"

Chen Yu rubbed a token between his fingers.

He had listened to Uncle Lin explain the Fu Family's grading of guest officers when the tokens were granted.

A second-level guest officer is usually a master of Postnatal Qi Transformation.

Above that is the first-level guest officer, generally a strong practitioner of Qi Transformation Innate.

Of course,

Above the first-level guest officer, there is an even higher title of "Guest Elder."

The status of a Guest Elder is revered and exceptionally free, not only enjoying the treatment of family elders but also very autonomous.

However, generally, one must be a great power of the Guiyuan Realm to qualify for Guest Elder, or at least an outstanding cultivator within the Innate stage of Qi Transformation with special abilities to have a possibility.

For Chen Yu to be granted the status of second-level guest officer with Refining Organ Stage Cultivation, corresponding to a Postnatal master, was indeed exceptional.

A second-level guest officer is not the lowest rank; below it, there is still the third-level guest officer.

Having become guest officers,

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng were then arranged to stay in separate mansions with courtyards.

Chen Yu's residence spanned over two to three acres, resembling a quadrangle courtyard with a small garden inside and a few servants to attend to him.

Its atmosphere was refined and peaceful.

Chen Yu was very pleased with his accommodations, which had surpassed the treatment he received in the Yunyue Sect.

However.

When Chen Yu was invited to Ye Luofeng's mansion, he immediately felt a sense of imbalance in his heart.

Ye Luofeng's dwelling was an exquisitely crafted green tower, nestled amongst a grove of bamboo and alongside a babbling brook, all embraced by the bamboo and floral verdure.

"This place is not bad, it's said to have once been inhabited by a Guest Elder."

Ye Luofeng pursed her lips and smiled faintly.

Moreover, she brandished her Guest Token.

"First-level Guest Officer."

Chen Yu's mouth twitched.

A first-level Guest Officer in the Fu Family was already considered part of the upper echelons, typically corresponding to a master of the Qi Transformation Innate level.

"Spit it out, 'Senior Sister Ye,' you wouldn't have invited me over simply to show off your superior living conditions, right?"

Chen Yu said irritably.

He stressed the words "Senior Sister Ye" quite heavily.

"Junior Brother Chen, please, have a seat."

Ye Luofeng seriously played along, gesturing Chen Yu into the pavilion.

She dismissed the servants.

In the entire pavilion, only the two of them were left.

"Chen Yu, we have been transported together to the Yun Zhao Ancient Country, what are your plans moving forward?"

Ye Luofeng said.

"What plans could I possibly have?" Chen Yu rolled his eyes.

"If I were to be sent back now, it would surely be the end of me. Neither Lv Tieniu nor your sect's Elder Chai would let me off."

Chen Yu twisted his neck.

He had made thorough preparations for this transportation and had accepted the risks of life and death.

All of this was for survival and for the time to grow.

In the end.

He succeeded, and was also lucky, as he was transported to a civilized and brilliant ancient country.

With that being the case, he naturally intended to seize the time and opportunities to strive for a breakthrough into the Guiyuan Realm within the next ten years.

At the very least.

He would need to possess a combat prowess on par with the Guiyuan Realm to even consider returning.

"I'm in a similar situation. Until I fully comprehend the inheritance within the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword, I can't easily go back."

Ye Luofeng expressed her worries.

She was eager to return sooner, but this place was too far from Beiyuan.

Even if she risked using the Transmission Array to return, with her strength and the possession of the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword, she would still be at a disadvantage and in a passive position against Elder Chai's schemes.

"However, I cannot stay here for too long. That Elder Chai at the Lingjian Sect has ulterior motives, and he may harm our Master."

Ye Luofeng sighed lightly.

"So what do you have in mind?" Chen Yu waved his hand.

"How about this? Let's meet here again in five years. At that time, we can discuss the return transmission."

Ye Luofeng stated solemnly,

"A five-year promise? Senior Sister Ye seems very confident, and you also do not plan to stay long with the Fu Family."

Chen Yu clicked his tongue in wonder.

Of course.

He could roughly guess that after Ye Luofeng received the inheritance of the Heavenly Que Fragmented Sword, her Sword Dao cultivation would greatly improve, and she was already just a step away from the Qi Transformation Innate level.

On this basis.

If she could also seize the opportunities and resources of the Yun Zhao Ancient Country, indeed, in the next five years, she could make rapid advancements.

"I have inquired already, there's a Sword Cultivator Holy Land within Yun Zhao Country that surpasses my Lingjian Sect. Once I break through to the Qi Transformation Innate level, I shall head there."

Ye Luofeng's eyes were filled with firmness and determination.

"Good! In five years, no matter where I am, we will meet here. I hope by then, Senior Sister Ye will not have been surpassed by me."

Chen Yu stood up to leave.

Hearing this, Ye Luofeng shook her head with a smile, full of confidence.

In her memory, she was always the one surpassing other geniuses and had never been outstripped.

...

In the following days.

Chen Yu began his life as a guest officer in the Fu Family.

As a guest officer, he had considerable freedom on most days, only being called upon when the family needed him.

For the first two to three days.

Chen Yu didn't focus on deliberate cultivation but instead relaxed his body and mind while getting familiar with the environment of the Fu Mansion.

The Fu Family's mansion was truly vast; if one included the additional estates on the perimeter, it was comparable in size to a city.

That day.

Chen Yu passed by the Fu Family's medicinal garden area and saw some figures receiving or exchanging medicinal materials in front of the storeroom.

"Guest Chen."

A crisp voice of a young girl rang out.

Chen Yu glanced sideways and spotted a charming and beautiful young woman.

It was Fu Yanzi, who he had once saved, the young girl Yan'er.

At this moment.

Fu Yanzi was in front of the medicine storeroom, exchanging for some rare medicinal herbs and woods.

He saw Fu Yanzi obtaining several precious medicines from the storeroom, including two-hundred-year-old Blood Spirit Ginseng and two-hundred-year-old Pearl Fruit.

"Miss Fu, can one purchase two to three hundred-year-old precious materials in this place?"

Chen Yu asked in surprise.

Back at the Yunyue Sect, if such a divine treasure appeared, it would have been taken away by the elders in the Qi Transformation Realm in advance.

"Generally, as long as it's not too rare, they can be purchased. With Guest Chen's status, you even get a ten percent discount on ordinary purchases."

Fu Yanzi smiled sweetly.

Chen Yu was elated and went to inquire at the storeroom.

"Excuse me, can I exchange for a two-hundred-year-old Ice Snow Lotus?"

Chen Yu asked.

Back in Chu Country, he had wanted to get a two-hundred-year-old Ice Snow Lotus and had been unsuccessful, ultimately settling for two one-hundred-fifty-year-old ones combined.

"How many do you want?"

The steward at the storeroom didn't even bat an eyelid.

Chapter 196: Preparation for Advancement

"How many do you want?"

The attitude of the elderly guardian caused Chen Yu to pause in surprise.

Back then, when he was with the Yunyue Sect, he had attempted to acquire the Ice Snow Lotus for a long time but failed to obtain even one that was two hundred years old.

Not to mention two hundred years,

Even one that was a hundred and fifty years old was extremely rare.

Later on, it was only due to good luck when he killed two Postnatal Hua Qi cultivators from the Water Moon Sect that he obtained two hundred and fifty-year-old Ice Snow Lotus samples.

Otherwise, without this main ingredient, Chen Yu's "Copper Statue Technique" would not have been able to break through to the "Copper Statue Gang Body" so quickly.

"How many Primordial Stones for one?"

Chen Yu presented his Second-level Minister Token.

"One for seven hundred inferior yuan stones, and a ten percent discount for Second-level Ministers,"

Said the guardian expressionlessly.

Seven hundred genuine yuan stones, equivalent to seventy thousand lesser quality essence stones.

Chen Yu was slightly surprised; the price was quite a bit higher than he had anticipated.

You must understand.

Back at the Hidden Lake auction, the artificially inflated price for a hundred and fifty-year-old heavenly material was only a bit over thirty thousand.

Could it be that

The prices in the lands of the ancient country are significantly higher than those in the smaller countries of the Beiyuan Field Region?

"This price is very fair."

Fu Yanzi stood by, not having wandered far.

She narrowed her elegant eyes, sizing up the young man who had once saved her life.

The young man was dressed in worn beast-hide armor which looked rather unsophisticated, yet his tall and straight stature combined with a robust and masculine aura, gave her a particular impression.

"Very fair?"

Chen Yu no longer doubted and decided to make a purchase.

Immediately,

He bought three two-hundred-year-old Ice Snow Lotus samples. Even after the discount, it was nearly two hundred thousand lesser quality essence stones.

Fu Yanzi's mouth fell open slightly in surprise at Chen Yu's "wealthy youth."

Nearly two hundred thousand lesser quality essence stones, even for some Postnatal Hua Qi cultivators, was a considerable amount.

And he wasn't done yet.

Right after,

Chen Yu bought two two-hundred-year-old Fire Spirit Ginseng samples, each priced at seventy thousand.

"With more than two hundred years of Fire Spirit Ginseng, I have one left in my hand. Now, I have gathered three portions of 'Ice Fire Elixir Formula's Body Refining elixirs."

Chen Yu felt satisfied within.

The fourth Body Refining Elixir Formula, with three main ingredients: Fire Spirit Ginseng, Ice Snow Lotus, and Moon Spirit Ore.

Of these, what he had in the greatest abundance was Moon Spirit Ore.

Now,

In the resource-rich ancient country, acquiring the other two main ingredients was not difficult; just the prices were higher.

After this transaction,

Chen Yu had spent over three hundred thousand lesser quality essence stones, and he didn't have many left over.

This was after the Yunyue Sect had compensated him with two hundred thousand lesser quality essence stones following the incident in the Blood Burial Garden.

Of course,

Chen Yu still had some precious materials and treasures on hand. Although they were extremely valuable, most were useful to him, or he couldn't easily exchange them.

Leaving the storeroom,

Chen Yu returned to his residence, ending a few days of wandering.

In the following days,

Chen Yu devoted himself to preparing to advance to the Qi Transformation Realm.

His talent was in the realm of Body Techniques, and in terms of martial arts cultivation, his aptitude was considered poor.

Although he had refined Postnatal True Qi, facing the high peak of the Qi Transformation Realm, a barrier many cultivators found insurmountable, he still had to proceed carefully.

When striking for the Qi Transformation Realm, it would be best to succeed in one go.

Otherwise, leaving behind a psychological shadow would lower the success rate with each subsequent attempt.

Chen Yu didn't rush the attempt.

Firstly, he wanted to fully elevate and stabilize his cultivation at the limit of the Organ Refining Stage.

For him, this was effortless.

Ever since advancing to the Late Stage of Organ Refining, the refinement of Cloud Evil True Qi had almost naturally brought him close to the Peak of Refining.

Next,

It was the adjustment of his mental and physical states, especially on a spiritual level.

Lastly,

He needed to prepare one or two precious elixirs that could slightly increase his chances of a successful breakthrough.

...

In the blink of an eye,

Two or three days had passed.

Chen Yu cultivated wholeheartedly, effortlessly stabilizing his cultivation at the Peak of the Organ Refining Stage.

The Late Stage and Peak of Refining were essentially the same realm,

But the peak represented the very pinnacle of that realm, slightly stronger than the general late stage.

However, stabilizing at the Peak so quickly still exceeded Chen Yu's expectations.

"Although I refined the Cloud Evil True Qi ahead of schedule, it shouldn't have happened this quickly, especially since I have the qualifications of a Half Spirit Body."

Chen Yu felt something was amiss and fell into contemplation.

At this,

He suddenly remembered the Moon Spirit Liquid he had taken before, which was prepared using powdered Moon Spirit Ore.

Ever since that time, his internal qi cultivation had slightly improved.

Once the cultivation goal was reached,

Next,

Chen Yu started the second step, adjusting his body and mind.

During this period,

To consolidate his foundation, Chen Yu even ingested a dose of the “Ice Fire Elixir Formula’s” Body Refining elixir, further stabilizing his “Copper Statue Gang Body.”

The strength of his life constitution would provide a slight enhancement to his cultivation and advancement.

In fact,

Chen Yu also took out the rare “Moon Spirit Ore Mother” to purify his soul and calm his mind,

Which helped adjust and improve his spiritual state.

If Ye Luofeng knew Chen Yu was using the Moon Spirit Ore Mother in such a crude and simple way, she would probably lament the waste of such a treasure.

However,

Chen Yu himself had not practiced any spiritual techniques, other than those used for controlling puppets.

Previously, his “Cloud Evil Fist” could amplify spiritual might, but it wasn’t a technique focused solely on spiritual cultivation.

Fortunately,

Chen Yu’s spiritual power was already strong enough to tower over his peers and far exceed average Postnatal Qi Transformation cultivators.

One day...

Chen Yu's physical and mental state, including his essence, energy, and spirit, had all reached their peak.

His cultivation and condition met the requirements.

Preparation work.

Only the third and final step remained.

"To break through to the Postnatal Qi Transformation, it would be best to prepare one or two precious elixirs or spiritual medicines."

Chen Yu sat cross-legged with his eyes open, a clear light in his pupils.

In fact,

Chen Yu now had considerable confidence in advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm, even without precious elixirs or spiritual medicines.

His only concern was the issue of his Half Spirit Body talent, which required the preparation of precious elixirs or spiritual medicines as a backup and for additional support.

So,

Nearly ten days after entering seclusion, Chen Yu left his courtyard residence.

15 minutes later.

Chen Yu arrived at the Fu Residence's "Alchemy Room".

This place was always manned by alchemists who manufactured and sold various precious elixirs and spiritual medicines at prices slightly lower than the market rate, considered a kind of benefit for family members.

Unexpectedly,

Chen Yu found that the various precious elixirs and spiritual medicines sold in the Alchemy Room were priced similarly to those in Beiyuan.

Some ordinary elixirs were even slightly cheaper.

Having spent some time in the Fu Residence, Chen Yu had a fair understanding of prices.

Some heaven-and-earth treasures and various precious raw materials were priced higher than in Beiyuan, while some "finished products", such as elixirs, weapons, and armor, were at most on par with Beiyuan, or even slightly lower.

By inference,

The alchemists and artifact refiners of Yun Zhao Country likely surpassed those in the Beiyuan region in skill and success rate.

"I'll take a Qi Storage Pill."

Chen Yu spoke.

Here, a Qi Storage Pill was priced at thirty thousand inferior grade essence stones, with a 10% discount, it only cost twenty-seven thousand.

Back then,

He had auctioned off a Qi Storage Pill for a high price of forty thousand at the Hidden Lake auction.

The high auction price of that Qi Storage Pill, and the large amount of resources he exchanged for it, had elevated his Copper Statue Technique to a certain extent and also changed Chen Yu's destiny.

After all, at that time, the Qi Storage Pill didn't mean much to Chen Yu.

And now,

Chen Yu was able to purchase a Qi Storage Pill much more affordably and with greater composure.

"With the Qi Storage Pill, plus the Mysterious Water Moth Lotus, external aids are entirely sufficient,"

Chen Yu was full of confidence.

The Qi Storage Pill and Dark Water Lotus Petals could both increase the success rate for breaking through to the Qi Transformation Realm by a bit, providing a crucial boost at the key moment.

With everything ready,

Chen Yu could finally attempt to break through to the Qi Transformation Realm, realizing a dream that had once seemed out of reach.

Just as he returned to his residence,

A petite and charming young girl stood in front of the courtyard.

It was Fu Yanzi.

Seeing Chen Yu's arrival, Fu Yanzi's beautiful eyes lit up slightly, and she hurriedly approached.

"Miss Fu, are you looking for me for something?"

Chen Yu asked, curious.

"The family head has matters to discuss and asked us to go over. Yan'er just happened to be passing by to deliver the message."

Fu Yanzi stuck out her tongue slightly, her face playful and lively.

"Thank you, Miss Fu, for leading the way."

Chen Yu nodded.

His gaze swept over Fu Yanzi, noting that she had reached the Peak of Refining in the few days he hadn't seen her, showing amazing progress.

Before long,

Chen Yu, following Yan'er, arrived at a large hall used for discussions.

Inside the hall,

Family Head Fu Yuan and Uncle Lin, along with several other family elders, were present.

Moreover, in the hall stood a row of young men and women, all under the age of twenty.

Chen Yu noticed that Ye Luofeng was unexpectedly among them.

Besides,

The two geniuses of the Fu Family, Fu Hong and the square-faced Fu Jing, were also present.

The two young prodigies' gazes often lingered on Ye Luofeng's face, unable to conceal the admiration and astonishment on their faces.

To this,

Fu Yanzi seemed somewhat annoyed but lacked the courage to confront Ye Luofeng.

"Just the right number, ten people, all present."

Family Head Fu Yuan, with a smile, scanned the ten people in attendance.

The young men and women below all wore a fighting spirit, ready to flex their muscles.

Ye Luofeng's eyes flashed with understanding.

Only Chen Yu was a little confused.

After all, for the past ten days, he had focused solely on preparing for advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm and had not paid attention to external affairs.

"As you all might know, one and a half months from now, the 'Hunting Competition' that takes place once every three years in Yunlai County will begin,"

Family Head Fu Yuan said.

The Hunting Competition!

With the news confirmed, excitement showed on the faces of the youth.

"Family Head, there are ten spots for each Hunting Competition. Are we the ten people?"

Fu Hong asked with exhilaration.

"Preliminarily, it will be you ten. However, in our clan, other talented individuals who meet the criteria can take your place if they defeat any one of you,"

Family Head Fu Yuan, narrowed his eyes slightly.

With these words, some of the less outstanding children in attendance tightened their expressions, feeling the pressure.

Among the current ten,

Ye Luofeng, Fu Jing, and Fu Hong, with their Postnatal Hua Qi Cultivation, naturally had no worries.

However,

The other disciples who were in the Late Stage of Organ Refining might not be able to retain their spots.

"The Hunting Competition, what kind of event is that?"

Chen Yu could not help but ask Ye Luofeng through spiritual power transmission.

"The Hunting Competition is the grand gathering of the young elites of Yunlai Prefecture, not a contest of fighting against each other but rather a theme of hunting, engaging in life-and-death battles with fierce demon beasts, culminating in ranking based on hunting results,"

Ye Luofeng explained.

"Hunting? Sounds like outdoor activity for young noblemen, isn't it a bit dull?"

Chen Yu was surprised.

It reminded him of the first time he encountered members of the Fu Family; the content of the actual combat assessments for their two elite teams was fighting against beasts and demon beasts.

"The Hunting Competition is hosted by 'Yunlai King'; it's not as simple as you imagine. Each competition is a cruel rivalry, full of variety, and not without serious injuries or deaths,"

Ye Luofeng said earnestly.

"Besides, the winner of the Hunting Competition not only receives generous rewards but also reaps profound significance. When the time comes, you had best not hide your abilities; if you perform exceptionally and dazzlingly, you might receive unexpected benefits."

Chapter 197: He Brothers (Resuming Updates)

"...At that time, you better not hide your talents. If you perform exceptionally and brilliantly, there might be unexpected benefits."

Ye Luofeng seemed to have done some research on the hunting tournament.

This woman actually took the initiative to advise Chen Yu to make an effort to stand out at the tournament, and it would be best not to conceal his skill.

Chen Yu was slightly startled but somewhat skeptical at heart.

His focus was currently all on advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm; he had little interest in other matters.

He figured that as long as his strength was formidable enough, wouldn't the opportunities and benefits come his way without the need to vie for them?

Luckily, the hunting tournament was a month and a half away, which did not conflict with his plan to advance to the Qi Transformation Realm.

His advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm would take at most ten days to half a month.

"Among you ten, seven are native disciples, and three are guest elders. These are tentatively the ten spots for our Fu Family to participate in the hunting tournament."

Uncle Lin added from the side.

Seven native disciples, three guest elders.

At the behest of the family head and others, these ten young talents got to know each other a bit.

Native disciples, they all knew each other, so no introductions were needed.

Among the ten spots, having three guest elders was a form of "external assistance."

According to the rules of the hunting tournament, each clan or power could only send a maximum of three external assistants.

Besides Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng, there was a third guest elder spot on the scene.

That was a burly and tall man with a mole between his eyebrows.

This man wore a hostile expression, and his gaze occasionally swept toward Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

Then,

Perhaps due to Ye Luofeng's peerless beauty and high cultivation, his unfriendly gaze ultimately settled on Chen Yu.

"Chen Yu, be careful of 'He Dabao'!"

Fu Yanzi warned him through a secret transmission.

"This person is a second-level minister of our Fu Family. He's not yet twenty years old, yet possesses the cultivation of the middle stage of postnatal, and was heavily recruited by the family head specifically for the hunting tournament."

He Dabao?

Chen Yu looked at the man with the mole between his eyebrows, giving him an extra glance or two.

He wondered what this had to do with himself.

Soon,

Fu Yanzi resolved the doubts in his mind.

"He Dabao also has a younger brother named 'He Xiaobao,' who is half a step into postnatal Qi Transformation. Originally, they were both definite choices for the three guest elder spots."

Fu Yanzi explained.

Upon hearing this,

Chen Yu had a sudden realization.

Not only did the hunting tournament carry rich rewards, but it also seemed to be a great opportunity that the younger generation yearned to partake in.

However,

The appearance of Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng had taken up two of those spots.

With a total of three guest elder spots, including He Dabao, the quota was filled, and his younger brother He Xiaobao lost the chance to participate this time.

After confirming their spots and getting acquainted with each other, the group of young people dispersed.

At the entrance of the hall.

Chen Yu had just walked out when a strong gust swept before him, bringing along an invisible surge of Qi pressure.

"What advice does Your Excellency have?"

Chen Yu looked unconcerned as he stared at the burly and tall man before him.

It was He Dabao.

This man's cultivation in the middle stage of postnatal surpassed that of Fu Hong and Fu Jing from this generation of the Fu Family.

His strength was almost comparable to some of the Hall Masters of the Yunyue Sect.

"Chen Yu, right? I believe you understand my purpose here."

He Dabao twisted his neck, his postnatal True Qi faintly radiating from him, the invisible oppression continuing to escalate.

If an ordinary cultivator at the Organ Refining Stage were in his place, their inner Qi would likely become chaotic.

The deliberate oppression of the Qi Transformation Realm also contained a level of mental pressure, not to be taken lightly.

However,

The young man in his view, dressed in tattered beast hide armor, seemed completely unaffected.

He Dabao was taken aback.

The other party was completely ignoring the pressure from his presence, which was a whole stage higher, and it was not a pretense of calmness.

"Chen Yu, the spot in the hunting tournament is of extraordinary significance to me and my brother."

He Dabao's voice then softened.

His tone became much more gentle, as if implying a negotiation on equal terms.

"Is that so? The hunting tournament is a grand event encompassing the territory of an entire manor; it seems to be a rare opportunity for any talented youth."

Chen Yu said with a half-smile.

He had previously been indifferent about the hunting tournament.

Now, someone was actually coming forward to dispute a spot, and coupled with Ye Luofeng's reminder, he suddenly became interested.

If He Dabao knew what he was thinking, he might feel the urge to cough up blood.

"A hundred thousand lesser Grade Essence Stones."

He Dabao produced a bargaining chip.

As long as Chen Yu was willing to give up his spot to his disciple, a hundred thousand lesser Grade Essence Stones would be his gift.

Chen Yu was slightly moved but did not agree.

"Plus, a mid-grade treasure and a three-hundred-year-old Blood Ginseng."

He Dabao clenched his teeth slightly.

"Understand that with your Organ Refining Stage cultivation, it will be difficult for you to gain fame at the hunting tournament and attract the attention of those major figures."

He Dabao spoke earnestly.

"Sorry, I've decided to participate in this hunting tournament."

Chen Yu shook his head.

Without giving He Dabao any further attention, Chen Yu walked away directly.

He Dabao watched as Chen Yu departed, his expression shifting unpredictably.

"The hunting tournament, held only once every three years, is an opportunity for a carp to transform into a dragon. My brother absolutely cannot miss out on it!"

He Dabao took a deep breath as if he had made up his mind.

Moments later,

At the Fu Residence, atop a pavilion on the water.

A Fu Family's Disciple stood before He Dabao, with a servile demeanor.

"...That's everything I know about the origins of these two."

The Fu Family's Disciple finished speaking.

Learning about the deeds of Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng, He Dabao's frown deepened.

"That Ye Luofeng, even I may not necessarily be able to defeat her."

"As for Chen Yu, according to the description at the time, and the details of how he killed the Cloud Pattern Leopard, it might be exaggerated, and perhaps assisted by Ye Luofeng, who is in the late stage of postnatal."

He Dabao contemplated.

If he made a move to challenge, he was confident he could crush Chen Yu.

But,

When his brother He Xiaobao issued the challenge, the odds of winning were hardly more than fifty percent.

He Dabao pondered for a long time before a hint of coldness flashed across his face, seemingly coming to some resolution.

...

Returning to his courtyard residence.

Chen Yu prepared for his breakthrough into the Qi Transformation Realm, making final preparations.

At this very moment,

His cultivation had reached the Peak of Organ Refining, possessing Cloud Evil True Qi, with an astonishing maturity in his power.

Both his physical and mental states, especially on the spiritual level, became even clearer and more lucid after being adjusted by the Moon Spirit Ore Mother.

Lastly,

Before advancing, Chen Yu took out a small piece of high-quality Moon Spirit Ore.

Using the method he learned back at Yan Family Castle, he crushed the Moon Spirit Ore into powder and brewed a simple pot of Moon Spirit Liquid with boiling water.

That pot of boiling water transformed instantly into a mysterious silver liquid, emanating a faint glow reminiscent of moonlight.

Chen Yu remembered clearly

That at Yan Family Castle, his rapid progress, which exceeded expectations, was the result of the effects of the Moon Spirit Liquid.

Afterward,

He concluded that the Moon Spirit Liquid's enhancement of one's intrinsic quality and physique was mainly due to its first-time use; the effect of subsequent consumption was minimal.

But this time,

He was using high-grade Moon Spirit Ore, excavated near the ancient Transmission Array's Moon Spirit Ore Wall.

Glug!

Chen Yu tipped back his head and downed a pot of high-quality Moon Spirit Liquid, completing his final preparations for the assault on the Qi Transformation Realm.

In an instant,

A long-missed cool and moist sensation began permeating and moisturizing Chen Yu's body bit by bit.

His flesh, bones, and organs were undergoing a mysterious cleansing and purification under the influence of the Moon Spirit Liquid.

Not only that,

But even Chen Yu's spiritual consciousness was bathed and moistened, feeling ethereal.

In the depths of his being,

Chen Yu felt his body and physique crossing a certain threshold, accompanied by an indescribable sensation.

And then,

He practiced the Yunyue Sect's central cultivation technique, the Yuan Sha Divine Skill. The internal breath and True Qi within his body moved more vigorously through his meridians than ever before.

The flow remained unobstructed.

However, the affinity between the True Qi and the meridians had noticeably increased.

"Could it be that my Spiritual Body's quality has improved?"

Chen Yu had a bold thought.

A Half Spirit Body's innate qualities shouldn't have such compatibility with the energy of the primordial essence.

Just as Chen Yu was puzzling over this,

"Chen Yu, if you don't come out right now..."

A sharp teenage voice came from inside the courtyard.

Who is it?

Chen Yu's expression turned grim; before he had sequestered himself, he had informed the servants outside not to allow any disturbances.

It hadn't even been half a day.

At this moment,

Two young men stood in the courtyard.

One with a birthmark between his eyebrows, the burly man was He Dabao.

Before He Dabao stood a teenager who had a similar facial contour and a birthmark at the corner of his mouth.

This young man was He Dabao's brother, He Xiaobao.

"Lord He! I swear I'm telling the truth! Guest Chen... just started his retreat today."

A servant said with a wry smile.

"Hmph! This Chen Yu is really cunning. Worried about being challenged for his spot, he has resorted to such tricks."

He Dabao said, his face betraying his anger.

Following the breakout from the council hall, he had sent someone to monitor Chen Yu.

It turns out,

The first thing Chen Yu did upon returning was to close his doors to visitors, and He Dabao finally lost his patience.

"Xiaobao! That Chen Yu has just begun his retreat; he's bound to come out."

He Dabao whispered.

"When it's your turn, execute the plan as discussed, use that secret technique, and with the small dose of the 'Bursting Qi Pill' you took in advance, your strength will be guaranteed to double."

"Don't worry, big brother. I'll guarantee to defeat him in an instant to a point where he won't be able to leave his bed for a month or two, and the spot will naturally be mine."

He Xiaobao's birthmarked corner of the mouth curled into a hint of a smile.

Creak!

At that moment, the door opened and a young man clad in a beast hide armor emerged.

Seeing Chen Yu come out, both He Dabao and He Xiaobao's eyes brightened, revealing a smug look of triumph.

Chen Yu's face, however, didn't look too good.

After all, he was prepared to break through to the Qi Transformation Realm, and all was in readiness.

"It's just as well, better to deal with these buffoons early than to be disturbed during the critical moment of breaking through to the Qi Transformation Realm."

Chen Yu quickly came to this conclusion.

This further strengthened his resolve to deal decisively with the challenger.

"Chen Yu! Enough chitchat. My brother is here to challenge you for the spot at the Hunting Contest."

He Dabao said with full confidence.

Without a word, Chen Yu walked onto the open courtyard floor.

The He brothers were slightly taken aback, not expecting Chen Yu to be so forthright.

Zing!

He Xiaobao, carrying an aggressive and violent wind with him, dashed onto the open floor.

His eyes showed traces of bloodshot, and a tumultuous surge of internal breath erupted from within him, nearly on par with Postnatal True Qi.

Mixed into this, there seemed to be an essence of elixir strength.

Moreover,

He Xiaobao's Qi Sea condensed, and his internal breath surged like a torrential flood, explosively erupting.

Boom!

He Xiaobao's face nearly contorted as he swung a single fist, sending out a layer of faint grey fist energy visible to the naked eye, resembling a rolling millstone with a ring of thick dust and rock debris, enveloping Chen Yu with a crash.

Whoosh!

The force of the punch left a trench in the courtyard, a foot deep and several meters long, as the fierce wind howled.

"Comparable to a strike from the Postnatal Qi Transformation stage, slightly better than the Postnatal Early Stage!"

He Dabao, observing from the side, had a trace of joy flit across his face.

Chapter 198: The Shocking Transformation to Qi

Under the enhancement of the "Bursting Qi Pill" and secret technique, He Xiaobao's punch was comparable to a hit from someone in the Postnatal Qi Transformation Realm.

Boom!

The spinning millstone-like punch energy streak cut a trench, with rolling stone debris and dust, thunderously enveloping Chen Yu.

The mighty power of this strike was enough to instantly kill any mediocre disciple in the Organ Refining Stage.

"Clashing now!"

"How can He Xiaobao be so strong?"

Near Chen Yu's courtyard, some Fu Family's Disciples were secretly paying attention to this battle.

"Hmph! These He Brothers clearly have the suspicion of cheating."

Some perceptive individuals immediately spotted the oddity.

Using secret elixirs to boost strength in a formal challenge was inherently against the rules.

"Yet, if He Xiaobao severely injures Chen Yu, leaving him bedridden for a half-month, even if the challenge is against the rules, that position will fall into He Xiaobao's hands."

Some clan disciples furrowed their brows.

Clearly, the He Brothers had a sinister plan and had calculated their move in advance.

"He's hit!"

At that moment, someone exclaimed with shock.

Boom!

The light grey punch energy, like thousands of pounds of giant stones, ruthlessly blasted Chen Yu.

"Victory!"

He Dabao, who was watching from the side, revealed a cruel, cold smile.

He Xiaobao's strike was powerful enough to send someone below the Qi Transformation Realm flying with severe injuries, with healing unlikely within one or two months.

However.

After the punch landed on its target, there was neither the anticipated scream of agony nor the scene of blood splattering.

In the dust, one could vaguely see an unmoving, tall figure.

He Dabao's expression drastically changed, just about to give a warning.

"You dare!"

An explosion rang in his ears, as if there was the sound of a thunderbolt on a clear day.

He Dabao, a Qi Transformation Postnatal cultivator, staggered, blood roiled within him, feeling a sense of dizziness.

He silently cursed the situation.

"Ah!"

He Xiaobao let out a sharp, agonized scream, his body flying backwards.

The onlooking crowd seemed to hear the roaring of a thunderous lion, only to see a greyish wave of sound energy rolling over, covering half of the courtyard.

Thump!

He Xiaobao crashed to the ground, bleeding from seven orifices, and his eyes shut, fainting.

"Xiaobao!"

He Dabao roared in alarm, rushing to He Xiaobao's side.

He Xiaobao's face was a mix of purple and green, bathed in blood. With many of his meridians broken and his inner breath in disarray, he was almost at death's door.

"Quick, call Pharmacist Xu!"

He Dabao screamed at the top of his lungs, eyes bloodshot with a glint of furious intent to kill, glancing over Chen Yu.

But.

He had no time to seek revenge on Chen Yu right then, quickly feeding a lifesaving precious elixir to his brother and using True Qi to stabilize the chaotic inner breath inside his brother's body.

"Hmm?"

Chen Yu appeared surprised.

He had held back on his "Copper Lion Roar", not using his full strength.

Just that he hadn't anticipated.

That the opponent would be so "fragile", nearly exploding and dying from the blow.

Upon further thought, Chen Yu quickly understood.

He Xiaobao's combat strength, although comparable to the Postnatal Qi Transformation Realm, still had the fundamental physical condition of the Organ Refining Stage.

Chen Yu had expected this and hadn't used his full power with "Copper Lion Roar".

However.

Chen Yu had overlooked He Xiaobao's actual situation.

Having taken the "Bursting Qi Pill" and used secret techniques to stimulate his inner breath, he was inherently unstable and dangerously volatile.

As a result.

Chen Yu's "Copper Lion Roar" had caused He Xiaobao's inner breath to collapse and become disordered, triggering a backlash.

That He Xiaobao didn't explode and die was considered lucky.

After a moment.

"Pharmacist Xu is here!"

Several Fu Family's Disciples were escorting an elderly man who had lived past seventy.

Pharmacist Xu was a first-level Guest Elder of the Fu Family, skilled in alchemy and medical techniques.

"Oh! It's very dangerous; it was nearly fatal. This child's internal meridians are mostly broken, and his organs are nearly shattered. Without half a year's time, recovery will be difficult,"

Pharmacist Xu sighed deeply.

This outcome left the Fu Family's Disciples at the scene looking at each other.

The He Brothers had intended to have Chen Yu bedridden for two months but ended up suffering the consequences themselves.

"Pharmacist Xu, will my brother's cultivation future be affected?"

He Dabao's face was ashen, struggling to contain his rage and murderous intent.

"He's lucky to be alive!"

"Optimistically, even if the injury is healed, at most two to three tenths of his cultivation could be retained. I'm afraid he'll never reach the Qi Transformation Realm for the rest of his life."

Pharmacist Xu couldn't help but shake his head.

Hearing this.

He Dabao was burning with anger, roaring furiously, his eyes reddening with veins of blood, a murderous intent becoming evident as he locked his gaze on Chen Yu.

"Boy! How will you pay for crippling my brother?"

He Dabao growled, his body emitting a turbulent postnatal True Qi wave, the surrounding energy undulating with an astonishing aura.

"You've reaped what you sowed."

Chen Yu remained unflappable, speaking lightly.

He was about to break through to the Qi Transformation Realm and rather hoped that He Dabao would strike, to finish him off as well, avoiding further trouble.

"Court death!"

This He Dabao, in a fury, spread open a single claw, a heavy sensation filling the surroundings as a somber rock-colored sphere of True Qi whirled, filling the area with a fearsome heaviness.

"Stop!"

A stern and cold grunt came through.

A linen-robed elder, who was past sixty, surrounded by a dim layer of True Qi, floated across dozens of feet in the air and gently landed.

"Uncle Lin!"

Several Fu Family's Disciples immediately paid their respects.

Seeing Uncle Lin arrive, Chen Yu couldn't help but show a hint of disappointment.

Next.

As Chen Yu expected, He Dabao played the villain and lodged the complaint first, bitterly describing how Chen Yu crippled his brother He Xiaobao, with ruthless methods and so on.

Added to the sight of He Xiaobao, blood streaming from his seven orifices and barely clinging to life, it really was a heartbreaking and sympathetic sight.

At first hearing, Uncle Lin's expression turned dark, his face filled with anger.

However.

Throughout the process, Chen Yu's face was expressionless, silent, with a hint of mockery on his lips.

Uncle Lin revealed a hint of a different color, "Guest Chen, do you have anything to say?"

"Just now, everyone here saw what happened."

"Before I even had the chance to 'make a move,' with just a loud shout, He Xiaobao collapsed on his own, blood streaming from his seven orifices."

After saying this, Chen Yu's gaze swept over the surrounding Fu Family's Disciples.

"That's right, it was indeed so."

Those Fu Family's Disciples who were watching the fight were slightly taken aback and then nodded their heads.

The He Brothers were not kind, always bullying the weak and fearing the strong. Therefore, no one intentionally covered for them.

"This is not me crippling him! It's clearly a frame-up."

Chen Yu shook his head and sighed.

A frame-up?

The many Fu Family's Disciples present nearly dropped their jaws.

Uncle Lin, too, wore a stunned expression.

And He Dabao, seething with rage, nearly sprung into action.

Uncle Lin slightly raised his hand to stop He Dabao.

As an elder of a prominent family clan, Uncle Lin naturally wouldn't take sides without evidence.

"Elder Xu."

Uncle Lin's gaze fell on the pharmacist beside him.

"Preliminary speculation suggests that He Xiaobao had taken a Bursting Qi Pill beforehand and activated some secret technique to forcibly enhance his combat strength, resulting in injury from the Sound Wave Secret Technique and suffering backlash..."

Pharmacist Xu said expressionlessly.

He himself was an Alchemist and possessed Postnatal Qi Transformation realm cultivation. In the Fu Family, his word was highly respected, and his conclusions were definitive.

"I see."

Uncle Lin showed a look of realization, and on the spot dismissed the many Fu Family's Disciples.

The storm quickly subsided.

Later that night.

After discussing among themselves, several Fu Family elders appropriately handled the matter.

He Xiaobao, having taken a Bursting Qi Pill and maliciously challenged Chen Yu with ill intentions, suffered severe injuries as a consequence of his own actions.

Chen Yu's accidental harm, therefore, carried no responsibility.

Of course.

For the upcoming Hunting King contest, the Fu Family still needed to make use of He Dabao, to appease the He Brothers by offering treatment, Elixirs, and care for the subsequent meridian recovery.

Such a settlement appeared reasonably fair and proper to outsiders.

But for He Dabao, the principal party involved, who had witnessed his brother being crippled and almost had his cultivation destroyed, naturally harbored deep resentment.

In the Fu Residence, within a luxurious and spacious room.

"Xiaobao! Your brother will surely avenge you."

"That Chen Yu who ruined your cultivation, brother will make him pay back tenfold, including his beautiful senior sister, they will both suffer."

He Dabao's eyes flickered with venomous intent, like a poisonous snake in the night.

However.

He Dabao did not know.

The target of his desired revenge was about to experience a new breakthrough.

In a room of a siheyuan within the Fu Family.

Chen Yu sat cross-legged, wholeheartedly circulating the "Yuan Sha Divine Skill".

Whoosh!

A thick layer of dark cyan Qi patterns emerged around his body, writhing like snakes and emitting tremendous Evil Qi pressure.

As time passed, the dark cyan Qi patterns grew denser, like a heavy layer of dark clouds filling the air, an invisible aura of Evil Power continuously climbing.

Whoosh whoosh~

From a diameter of several feet, the dark cyan clouds of Evil Qi gradually expanded to several dozen feet, with intimidating roars echoing faintly around them.

Until at a certain moment.

The dark cyan clouds of Evil Qi expanded to a radius of thirty feet, dispersing into the air above.

Three days later.

Above the siheyuan, a light black whirl of Qi rotated, its appearance resembled an Ancient giant serpent, circling ominously above Chen Yu's room.

This extraordinary phenomenon alarmed many of the Fu Family's Disciples.

"What strong Evil Qi!"

"Such an atmosphere, could it be that some great expert is about to ascend to Innate Qi Transformation?"

Many of the Fu Family's Disciples converged towards this place.

Not long after.

The area was sealed off by the Fu Family's higher-ups, forbidding anyone to enter within a half-mile radius.

A hundred feet away from Chen Yu's residence, on the rooftop of a building.

Family Head Fu Yuan, Uncle Lin, and other Innate Qi Transformation high-ranking members stood watching the dark black whirl of Qi that resembled an Ancient giant serpent.

"Judging by this scene, the person attempting the breakthrough is practicing a powerful Ancient Evil Technique."

A middle-aged man with purple hair said with a faint smile.

"Such an Evil Technique, once mastered, has exceptional might. And depending on the spiritual insight and cumulation of Evil Power of the practitioner, could display vastly different levels of strength."

Several Postnatal Qi Transformation realm elders looked toward Chen Yu's place of seclusion with complex expressions.

Obviously.

From the spectacle of Evil Qi displayed, the practitioner of that Evil Technique is among the best of the best, himself surely possessing no small fortune.

"Hehe, once Chen Yu steps into the realm of Qi Transformation, along with his senior sister Ye Luofeng, this Hunting King contest, our Fu Family might stand a chance to fight for the crown," said Family Head Fu Yuan and Uncle Lin, looking at each other and smiling.

"That may not be so certain. Such astonishing Evil Power is generally not something a Postnatal Peak can handle, let alone a youngster who just attempted a Qi Transformation breakthrough."

A white-browed old man spoke doubtfully.

His words caused a hush among the gathered clan elders.

Indeed.

The spirit of Evil Power looming above Chen Yu's place of seclusion was formidable.

That spirit of Evil Power, nearing Innate Qi Transformation, along with the underlying True Qi fluctuations, far surpassed the ordinary Postnatal Qi Transformation.

But at that moment.

The huge serpent-like whirl of Evil Qi began to condense.

The light black whirl of Qi, as it compacted, distilled and pulsed like a heart, its surface shining with a dark halo, intermingling with the dawn's early light.

"This kind of spectacle..."

Family Head Fu Yuan and the other clan elders were shocked, their expressions incredulous.

Chapter 199: Advancement to Qi Transformation, Aptitude Change

"This scene..."

The elders of the Fu Family, one after another, showed expressions of amazement, even shock.

And all of this originated from the refinement and transformation of the twisting evil clouds in the sky, pumping in and out like a heart, with a layer of dark purple light emanating from its surface, blending with the morning glow on the horizon.

With each inhalation and exhalation of the evil cloud vortex, it resembled an ancient sky-devouring giant python consuming the essence of heaven and earth.

"...How is this possible!"

The white-eyebrowed elder, who previously looked down on him, appeared somewhat distraught.

"To truly be able to harvest and assimilate Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, one must reach the Guiyuan Realm to do so."

"Such an advancing scene, having at least communicated and fused with some essence of heaven and earth, would normally appear after advancing to the Qi Transformation Innate."

While the group of elders was discussing.

Whoosh—

A cyan stream of Qi shadow, from the distant sky, came flashing over at a stunning speed.

In the blink of an eye.

The cyan Qi shadow became a white-robed elder with the appearance of a youthful crane, hovering in mid-air, gazing at the evil cloud vortex in the sky.

"Clan Leader!"

The elders bowed their respects one after another.

Only those with the ability to break free from their bodily shackles and fly could achieve such a feat, and naturally, only those above the Guiyuan Realm could do so.

"Is this just a junior who has advanced to Postnatal?"

The white-robed Clan Leader floated down from the air, revealing a trace of surprise.

"Apologies for disturbing the Clan Leader!"

"It's a Guest Elder who is attempting to break through into the Qi Transformation Realm. His phenomenon is comparable to that of Qi Transformation Innate, and there are even faint signs of devouring the essence of heaven and earth."

Family Head Fu Yuan and others respectfully informed him.

At this moment.

Hovering in mid-air, the evil cloud vortex, with dark purple light swirling, tightened further, bit by bit merging into the interior of the room.

At the same time, inside the room.

Chen Yu sat cross-legged, enveloped in a layer of profound black Qi vortex, with dark purple light pulsing on the surface.

Indistinctly.

The evil Qi radiating from him became increasingly pure and majestic, evil but not malignant, fierce but not brutal.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The mysterious heart thudded powerfully, as if hammering against the pulse of heaven and earth.

"What is happening?"

"I've already broken through the Ren and Du meridians, entering the phase of refining essence into Qi. The internal breath and blood continue to congeal into Postnatal True Qi. Why isn't it over..."

Chen Yu's forehead beads with large drops of sweat.

This attempt to break into the Qi Transformation Realm was unexpectedly smooth, not even the prepared external elixirs were used.

However.

In the process of refining essence into Qi and converging the Qi Sea into a True Qi cluster, a problem arose.

During the final moment of the breakthrough, the mysterious heart pulsated in a strange state, suddenly drawing in a strand of Evil Qi from the outside world.

At that instant.

Chen Yu's consciousness merged into a chaotic and violent yet dazzlingly beautiful space, feeling the boundless evil Qi of heaven and earth, as well as the interweaving and fluctuation of various forces.

Luckily.

Chen Yu's mental will was extraordinary, withstanding the surging evil Qi of heaven and earth.

Combined with the heart's ability to suppress various energies, Chen Yu absorbed an unimaginable amount of heaven and earth evil Qi.

As a result.

He not only advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm with ease but also formed a thumb-sized bead of dark True Qi at the depths of his Qi Sea.

Surrounding this dark True Qi were ordinary Primordial Evil True Qi, also a form of Postnatal True Qi.

"What is this blob of dark True Qi?"

"Why does it feel so much stronger than the Primordial Evil True Qi I've refined?"

Chen Yu, having left that mysterious realm, took a deep breath, continually condensing True Qi to stabilize his current realm.

Before advancing to Qi Transformation, two forces existed inside his Qi Sea:

The first was the peripheral Cloud Evil inner breath with extraordinary potency, approaching Postnatal True Qi.

The second was the core-refined Cloud Evil True Qi.

After advancing.

The peripheral Cloud Evil inner breath, through the process of refining essence into Qi, transformed into the unique Primordial Evil True Qi of the Yuan Sha Divine Skill.

The core Cloud Evil True Qi absorbed that strand of heaven and earth essence, transforming into a small cluster of profound and mysterious dark True Qi, far surpassing Primordial Evil True Qi in aura.

To know.

The Yuan Sha Divine Skill was an ancient Evil Technique, and Chen Yu was cultivating the original entry-level version. The Primordial Evil True Qi he condensed was already stronger than ordinary Postnatal True Qi.

And this small blob of dark True Qi was much stronger than Primordial Evil True Qi.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

After a long time, the heart's beating gradually steadied.

The Primordial Evil True Qi throughout Chen Yu's body cycled continuously, dense and powerful like an endless river.

Having just advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm, the density and purity of Chen Yu's True Qi already surpassed those of the same realm.

Two days later.

Chen Yu felt the affinity of the Primordial Evil True Qi within his body, fierce or gentle, all under the control of a single thought.

"This is too smooth!"

Chen Yu exhaled deeply, his face full of confusion.

Even if his foundations were solid and he condensed True Qi before advancing, and his Cultivation Technique was of an alarming level, it should not have been so easy to advance and enter that mysterious state, enduring the wash of heaven and earth's evil Qi.

After all.

His Half Spirit Body talent meant that the difficulty of advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm was several times, even ten times, that of an average person!

"Congratulations Brother Chen on advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm!"

When Chen Yu walked out of the room, there were many visitors in the courtyard.

Since that day when Chen Yu successfully advanced and the phenomenon in the sky disappeared, the family had lifted the lockdown.

At this moment.

Many descendants of the Fu Family came to meet this newly advanced Qi Transformation Realm talent.

"Brother Chen must be under eighteen years old, right? Advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm so young, reaching the Guiyuan Realm in the future will surely be within reach."

Some young Qi Transformation Realm cultivators came to offer their congratulations, with faces full of envy.

Generally speaking, being able to advance to the Qi Transformation Realm before the age of thirty is considered good fortune.

If one can advance to the Qi Transformation Realm before twenty years of age, then there is hope for ascending to the Guiyuan Realm in the future.

And Chen Yu, being so young, was probably not even eighteen years old yet.

"Eighteen years old? I'm about sixteen now," Chen Yu murmured to himself.

The age of sixteen, advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm, if this were to be known, it might very well shake a region.

Of course.

All of this related to Chen Yu's strenuous battles and his pursuit of numerous opportunities, particularly the significant one in the Blood Burial Garden.

Additionally, the assistance of his mysterious heart played an indispensable role.

"Chen Yu, the Family Head has summoned you."

A crisp and pleasant female voice reached his ears.

In the crowd, the charming and beautiful Fu Yanzi approached Chen Yu directly.

"Okay."

Chen Yu nodded, accompanying Fu Yanzi as they walked together.

After advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm, Chen Yu noticed that Fu Yanzi seemed more amicable towards him.

Moreover, on the two occasions when the Family Head had summoned him, it was this girl who came.

Fu Yanzi's bright eyes sparkled, observing the youth who might even be younger than herself.

Ever since Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng joined the Fu Family, all the clan elders tried every conceivable way to retain them.

Among these methods, the best, naturally, was an alliance marriage.

As long as Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng could marry into the core lineage of the Fu Family, they would naturally integrate into the main Fu Family.

Regarding Ye Luofeng, the Fu Family hoped to choose someone from Fu Hong and Fu Jing who could gain the lady's favor.

As for Chen Yu, if he could join in marriage with Fu Yanzi, that would also be a fine choice.

At first.

Fu Yanzi felt some gratitude for Chen Yu's life-saving grace, but it was not to the point of being moved.

Now, however, Chen Yu had advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm at such a young age, and he elicited impressive phenomena, clearly a genius with great fortune.

Upon meeting again.

Fu Yanzi's heart fluttered, feeling no aversion towards this lad who emanated a rural air; in fact, she was even somewhat inclined.

Before long.

Chen Yu met Family Head Fu Yuan in a side hall.

Also summoned was Ye Luofeng.

"Congratulations to Guest Chen, for advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm at such a young age."

Family Head Fu Yuan spoke with narrowed eyes and a smile.

In Ye Luofeng's beautiful eyes, there was also a flash of something unusual.

On the day Chen Yu advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm, she sensed part of the phenomenon not far away.

This gave Ye Luofeng considerable pressure.

She thought Chen Yu could never catch up to her pace, but unexpectedly, the phenomenon of his advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm was no less impressive than her past self.

"Family Head overpraises me, I was able to advance to the Qi Transformation Realm so quickly thanks to several opportunities in the past."

Chen Yu spoke modestly and firmly.

After the pleasantries, Family Head Fu Yuan got to the point.

"A few days ago, the 'He Brothers' left our Fu Family and joined 'Wu Family,' another rival clan in Yunlai Prefecture."

Family Head Fu Yuan stated flatly.

The He Brothers... defected to a rival clan?

Chen Yu was slightly moved, and with a little thought, he understood this must be related to him.

The He Brothers had an irreconcilable conflict with Chen Yu, and they already bore complaints about their previous treatment.

Now that Chen Yu had advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm, with extraordinary phenomena, the He Brothers' importance within the Fu Family had drastically diminished, and they naturally found it difficult to stay.

"Today, I hope the two of you can pledge to do your utmost to help our Fu Family win the Hunting King's honor at the hunting competition."

Fu Yuan said earnestly.

Because of their status as Guest Elders, which came with certain freedoms, the Fu Family was concerned that Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng might, like the He Brothers, become unpredictable.

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng exchanged a glance, just about to respond.

Suddenly.

A vast and ancient voice rose behind them:

"As long as you succeed, I promise, in addition to the rewards of the hunting competition itself, our Fu Family will also fulfill one request of yours within our ability."

Hmm?

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng both tensed up, realizing that behind them stood a white-robed elder with the appearance of being both old and young.

"This is our Fu Family's Clan Leader 'Fu Yangzi,' one of the great powers at the Guiyuan Realm in our clan."

Family Head Fu Yuan introduced with a smile.

"Greetings to the Clan Leader."

Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng each paid their respects to the white-robed Clan Leader.

Chen Yu's mysterious heart faintly sensed that the cultivation level of Clan Leader 'Fu Yangzi' was unfathomably deep, surpassing that of Supreme Elder Gongyang Mountain from the Yunyue Sect.

At this moment.

The arrival of Clan Leader 'Fu Yangzi' showed just how much the Fu Family regarded both Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

And for a great power at the Guiyuan Realm to promise to fulfill a request on behalf of the entire clan certainly carried significant weight.

"Clan Leader, Family Head, rest assured. My junior brother and I will definitely win the title of 'Hunting King' at this hunting competition."

Ye Luofeng promised with a smile.

Chen Yu's mouth twitched slightly, this woman's confidence was indeed remarkable, not even bothering to assess the strength of her opponents before making such a guarantee.

...

Leaving the side hall, Chen Yu just stepped outside when he saw Fu Yanzi waiting.

"Brother Chen Yu!"

Fu Yanzi approached him with a face full of affection.

Ye Luofeng smiled teasingly, leaving Chen Yu and Fu Yanzi behind.

However, she did not fare much better herself; just a few steps away, she encountered the eager courting of the two prodigies, Fu Hong and Fu Jing.

"Miss Fu, does your family have a place where one can test their Spiritual Body aptitude?"

Chen Yu inquired.

After advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm, he had always felt a sense of unreality, as if things were going too smoothly.

"There are many ways to test for a Spiritual Body aptitude. I have one of the simplest methods here, take this!"

Fu Yanzi handed over a cylindrical crystal.

The crystal was about half a foot long, with more than a dozen scales marked on it.

Chen Yu grasped the cylindrical crystal, just about to ask how to test when he felt an odd force field emanating from the crystal, creating a resonance with his body.

Buzz!

The crystal abruptly lit up with a white crystalline glow, extending up to the third scale, then stopped moving.

"A low-grade Spiritual Body? How is that possible! With Brother Chen Yu advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm at such a young age, how could he possibly have just a low-grade Spiritual Body?"

Chapter 200: Barrier Beasts

"A Low Grade Spiritual Body? How is that possible! With such a young age advancing to the Qi Transformation Realm, how could Chen Yu only have a Low Grade Spiritual Body!"

Fu Yanzi covered her mouth with her hand, her face full of disbelief.

For most lower-tier cultivators, a Low Grade Spiritual Body is considered "qualifying" talent.

However,

Given Chen Yu's age of sixteen and the extraordinary phenomenon of his advancement into the Qi Transformation Realm, the qualification of a Low Grade Spiritual Body seemed incredible.

You see,

In this generation of the Fu Family, the two leading new talents, Fu Jing and Fu Hong, were both two to three years older when they advanced to the Qi Transformation Realm, yet they are of High Grade Spiritual Body quality.

Even Fu Yanzi herself possessed the talent of a Mid Grade Spiritual Body.

Unlike Fu Yanzi's shock and slight disappointment, Chen Yu's heart was filled with ecstasy.

Spiritual Body Talent!

Complete Spiritual Body Talent!

In the realm of talent, this had been Chen Yu's longed-for but elusive shortcoming.

"No wonder my advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm was much smoother than I had imagined..."

Amidst his surprise, Chen Yu couldn't stop pondering.

One thing was certain.

The change in talent must have occurred before the advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm, not as a result of the advancement.

But what was the reason?

Chen Yu's thoughts raced, and he could only come up with two points:

The first point.

The integration of the mysterious heart induced a transformation in his physique, which perhaps had also brought about some change to his talent.

But.

Chen Yu felt that the integration of the mysterious heart mainly enhanced his physical body and innate talent for Body Technique.

The second point.

Moon Spirit Ore, formulated into Moon Spirit Liquid.

That time at Yan Family Castle, the first use of Moon Spirit Liquid had a slight promotion effect on his body.

After that.

Chen Yu discovered that the cultivation speed of the Inner Breath Heart Method seemed to have increased by a strand or two, but it wasn't very noticeable.

"It started from that moment! And just before this advancement, I used high-quality Moon Spirit Ore and formulated and consumed Moon Spirit Liquid once again."

Chen Yu had a sudden revelation.

The use of Moon Spirit Ore twice, the first time was ordinary Moon Spirit Ore, and the second time was high-quality Moon Spirit Ore.

Moreover.

Chen Yu cultivated the Copper Statue Technique, and the main ingredient of the recently used "Ice and Fire Prescription" was Moon Spirit Ore.

Moon Spirit Ore, after all, had a faint connection with the teleported Moon Spirit Holy Stone, and it inherently had a minor promotion effect on talents and physique.

In addition.

Chen Yu's physique was that of a Half Spirit Body, and he had the profound absorptive effect of the mysterious heart.

In light of this.

The enhancement of Chen Yu's Spiritual Body Talent was completely within reason.

"A Low Grade Spiritual Body Talent, huh?"

Not far away, Ye Luofeng was entangled by Fu Jing and Fu Hong but was paying attention to the situation on Chen Yu's side.

The sound of Fu Yanzi's amazement reached the ears of Ye Luofeng and the others.

Fu Jing and Fu Hong were quite startled.

Ye Luofeng's heart was even more shocked, engendering a hint of defeat.

From the battle of teleportation beneath the Ancient Moon Well to their arrival in the Yun Zhao Ancient Country, throughout this process, Chen Yu had outperformed her by a narrow margin.

Especially since she owed Chen Yu her life.

Not long ago,

Chen Yu's advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm, at such a young age, was a phenomenon not inferior to hers back then.

Ye Luofeng had always thought that Chen Yu's talent must be close to hers, at least not far off.

Little did she expect that Chen Yu's talent would be so far behind hers.

That afternoon.

The news of Chen Yu's Low Grade Spiritual Body Talent reached the ears of the senior members of the Fu Family.

This news also caused a small ripple in the Fu Family.

Most of the higher-ups of the Fu Family were slightly disappointed.

After all, the aura of Chen Yu's advancement to the Qi Transformation Realm was comparable to some geniuses advancing to Innate Qi Transformation.

In the evening, in a small side hall of the Fu Family,

Several elders of the Fu Family were discussing some family affairs.

During this time, they also touched upon the situation of Chen Yu's talent.

"With a Low Grade Spiritual Body Talent, even with good opportunities, this speed and quality of advancement are indeed a bit strange."

The white-browed elder who had doubted Chen Yu furrowed his brows slightly.

"This is not so astonishing to warrant shock and awe."

Uncle Lin, however, did not find it remarkable and spoke indifferently,

"The path of cultivation, the role talent plays is only a small part. Chen Yu may possess some special physique, or his spirit and understanding are highly compatible with Evil Technique."

Of course.

The situation of Chen Yu's talent was not the main point of the conversation and was quickly passed over.

"There's no need to delve too deeply into this matter."

Family Head Fu Yuan spoke up.

"Based on the aura of his advancement, this Chen Yu's combat power will definitely exceed those of the same rank, which will only be beneficial to our Fu Family in the coming Hunting Tournament..."

...

Regardless of the outside world's discussions and views.

Chen Yu, the person in question, returned to his residence and continued to quietly consolidate his cultivation.

Several days later.

Chen Yu's cultivation, as well as the Yuan Sha Divine Skill, became further solidified and more refined.

At this point.

He began practicing the Secret Technique moves within Yuan Sha Divine Skill.

As an Ancient Evil Technique of Guiyuan Realm caliber, Yuan Sha Divine Skill was not just a martial Cultivation Technique, but a system.

This skill included mental methods, moves, combat techniques, Secret Techniques, movement techniques, and more.

Having acquired a Low Grade Spiritual Body, Chen Yu felt that the mental method's operation was much smoother than before.

The practice of the moves and Secret Techniques within Yuan Sha Divine Skill, which emphasize spiritual understanding, boosted by this inherently talented body, also added benefits.

Therefore.

In the practice of moves and Secret Techniques, he was even stronger than some of the top talents.

In the blink of an eye.

Half a month had passed.

Under the augmentation of powerful spiritual power and body technique talent, Chen Yu easily mastered the combat skills in the "Yuan Sha Divine Skill," exhibiting an exceptional realm advancement.

Not only that.

He also preliminarily cultivated the representative "Evil Qi Manifestation" of the "Yuan Sha Divine Skill."

That day.

Chen Yu was seated in meditation in his room, with faint black patterns appearing on his body, emitting a buzzing sound, looking like the scale armor of a black python and slightly ferocious.

Suddenly, with a low shout, he swung one arm.

Whoosh!

A huge black python made of faint black Qi burst forth from his arm and suddenly expanded to six to nine feet, the evil winds surrounding it howling fiercely, shocking the soul.

At a glance, the Qi patterned black python seemed nearly lifelike, opening its bloody maw and unleashing an evil force that went straight for the soul.

Just that aura alone was enough to make an ordinary Postnatal Qi Transformation cultivator's spirit tremble, unable to exert their full strength.

"The power of this Evil Qi Manifestation truly has a qualitative difference compared to the previous shadowy evil punches," said Chen Yu, satisfied.

Evil Qi Manifestation was the combination of "True Qi" and "Evil Intent," truly "materializing" the power of evil Qi.

The previous "shadowy evil punches" were but vague shadows, so indistinct they were hardly visible to the naked eye.

However, this "Evil Qi Manifestation" sculpted clear and complete contours.

Simply put, it went from shadow to form.

The difference in power between the two was indeed as vast as the heavens and the earth.

Chen Yu was confident that if he activated "Evil Qi Manifestation" now, an average Postnatal Qi Transformation cultivator would likely be unable to withstand it.

While practicing the "Yuan Sha Divine Skill," Chen Yu also observed the mass of dark True Qi deep within his Qi Sea.

This mass of dark True Qi was much more powerful than ordinary Primordial Evil True Qi.

Whether it was ordinary techniques or Evil Qi Manifestation, the resulting power was qualitatively different.

However, there was only a small amount of this dark True Qi, so Chen Yu temporarily treated it as a trump card, not to be used in common situations.

...

Time flew by.

Chen Yu had stayed in the Fu Family for over a month.

During that time, he progressed to the Qi Transformation Realm and passed the life milestone of turning sixteen.

That day.

Chen Yu took out a bottle and drank the last drop of the Ice and Fire Body Tempering Liquid inside, using the "Copper Statue Technique" to forge his body.

"The Copper Statue Gang Body is finally showing some progress, but I've used up the main ingredients 'Ice Snow Lotus' and 'Fire Spirit Ginseng' from the Ice and Fire recipe again," murmured Chen Yu.

His progress with "Copper Statue Technique," a Body Cultivation Technique, had always been very smooth, could even be described as unobstructed.

Only.

This technique, while time-consuming, also required a large amount of materials to assist in cultivation.

"Lord Chen. Miss Fu requests an audience."

Outside, a servant conveyed the message respectfully.

"Mhm."

Chen Yu had just finished his cultivation and walked out of his room.

In the courtyard.

Chen Yu saw Fu Yanzi again.

Since the day Chen Yu's Spiritual Body talents were exposed, Fu Yanzi's enthusiasm for him had diminished slightly.

But on the whole.

Fu Yanzi still maintained a close connection with him, thankfully not too frequently, or else Chen Yu might have been somewhat troubled.

"Brother Yu, there are just twenty days left until the 'Hunting Competition' begins. Recently, some of the Fu Family's disciples have conducted several real battle drills."

Fu Yanzi spoke happily and went straight to the point.

"Real battle drills? It seems the Fu Family is well-prepared," Chen Yu said with a faint smile.

The Hunting Competition was judged by the number of Demon Beasts killed to determine the final results.

Over the recent period.

The Fu Family disciples attending the Hunting Competition had frequently fought with Demon Beasts and had shown some improvement.

Nevertheless.

The previous few real battle drills had not included Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng.

"The Family Head feels that we have had enough practice working together. Now, we invite you both to join us for coordination," explained Fu Yanzi, stating her purpose.

"Understood," Chen Yu nodded.

He was very clear that the Hunting Competition was a team activity.

At the hunting festival, facing a great number of ferocious Demon Beasts, individual strength seemed insufficient.

Therefore.

The final title of the Hunting King was divided into an individual Hunting King and a team Hunting King, each with its own substantial rewards.

Two hours later.

In a hilly area within the Fu Family's territory.

Chen Yu, Ye Luofeng, Fu Hong, Fu Jing, Fu Yanzi, and ten others, gathered together.

In front of the group was a huge three-colored barrier enveloping an area of a hundred paces, from within which came intermittent roars of beasts.

Looking closely.

Inside the barrier, there were actually over a hundred ferocious beasts and Demon Beasts, all with evil auras soaring to the sky.

The weakest among them all possessed strength on par with the Late Stage of Organ Refining.

As for the Postnatal Qi Transformation Demon Beasts, there were five or six.

The one with the strongest presence was an Iron Abyss Rhinoceros, its body covered in deep green scale armor like iron, as tall as a three-story building, and its aura edging close to Innate Qi Transformation.

"So many ferocious beasts, double the number from the previous times!"

The Fu Family's disciples showed fear on their faces.

"Six Postnatal Qi Transformation Demon Beasts, this is more than real battle drills!"

"That 'Iron Abyss Rhinoceros,' possessing a diluted Ancient Beast Bloodline, could probably contend with someone at the Innate Qi Transformation level."

Even the geniuses Fu Hong and Fu Jing had difficulty hiding their discomfort.

Ten talented youngsters challenging over a hundred Demon Beasts and ferocious beasts?

Normally, just that "Iron Abyss Rhinoceros," which could compete with an Innate Qi Transformation opponent, would be more than enough to completely overwhelm talented disciples like Fu Hong and Fu Jing.

Among the crowd, only Chen Yu and Ye Luofeng had relatively calm expressions.

Still, the immense lineup of ferocious beasts could slightly move them.

Not far away.

Family Head Fu Yuan, Uncle Lin, and others looked towards the group of youngsters.

"According to the information we have received, the forces participating in the 'Hunting Competition' have dispatched exceptionally strong lineups," said Uncle Lin solemnly.

"In this barrier, the over a hundred ferocious beasts and Demon Beasts—if you can overcome them, then you would just have a slight chance of contending for the glory of being the 'Hunting King.'"