

Eternal Heart 321

Chapter 321 Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record

The Guardian Tower Master withdrew the Array's prohibition and took out an ancient tome from a dark gray box.

Subsequently, Chen Yu started to copy the content of the first three levels of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" here.

"Deputy Head, is your disciple going to practice this Cultivation Technique?"

The Guardian Tower Master probed with an extra question.

In the past hundred years, almost no one redeemed this technique, and those who had managed to cultivate it successfully in the past thousand years numbered only one or two.

Although this technique was powerful, if it couldn't be mastered, it was entirely useless — a waste of five hundred thousand No Demon Points for nothing.

"Um, let him try. If he succeeds, at the next grand competition, our No Demon Academy has a chance to strive for first place."

Yi Lantian spoke indifferently.

The Guardian Tower Master took a deep breath, not expecting the Deputy Head to have such high hopes for Chen Yu.

Indeed, if Chen Yu really achieved something on the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," the academy would have a great chance of winning first place in the next grand competition.

Thinking of the academy's competition, the Guardian Tower Master felt somewhat heavy-hearted.

In recent years, the No Demon Academy's competition results had been less than ideal, finishing third or fourth. It had been nearly ten years since they secured the first-place position.

Yuan Chen was indeed strong, but only within the No Demon Academy.

After all, Yuan Chen didn't come from a super family, nor did he have powerful bloodlines. He reached where he was purely through his will and talent.

Soon, Chen Yu finished copying the first three levels of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

"If you spread this technique without authorization, you will spend a lifetime repenting in the No Demon Academy's 'Demon Prison'!"

Yi Lantian warned Chen Yu.

Within the No Demon Academy, only those who committed unforgivable sins were imprisoned in the Demon Prison, and once inside, there was almost no chance of release.

"The disciple understands."

Chen Yu solemnly said.

The "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" was one of the Ancient ten great bizarre techniques, also touted as the number one defensive Cultivation Technique in the Kunyun Continent. If he leaked this technique, not even the Deputy Head could save his life.

"If you want to redeem the fourth to sixth levels, wait until you have practiced to the third level and possess one million No Demon Points."

Yi Lantian said again.

Chen Yu knew that the one million No Demon Points was definitely a discounted price.

After exchanging the Technique, Chen Yu bid farewell to his Master and returned to his courtyard.

Chen Yu first skimmed through the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.”

As one of the Ancient ten great bizarre techniques, it naturally wasn’t ordinary and couldn’t be compared with common techniques.

Each level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” could cultivate a special type of demonic inscription, containing a whiff of the mysterious power of the Heavenly Demon Dao. It’s not only capable of refining the Demon Body, but each demonic inscription could also produce incredible Divine Skills.

The first three levels of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” corresponded to the Qi Transformation Realm, whereas the fourth through sixth levels corresponded to the Guiyuan Realm, and the seventh to ninth levels corresponded to the Sky Sea Realm.

That is to say, if Chen Yu could successfully cultivate this technique, he would have a sliver of hope to reach the legendary highest realm in the Kunyun Continent.

This demonstrated just how potent this technique was.

"Sky Sea Realm!"

Chen Yu could only feel his blood boiling, filled with a yearning desire.

Upon careful review, this technique melded Body Cultivation and the Demon Dao, and the method of practice was also extremely special, requiring the fusion of demon power with the power of Body Cultivation, forming a special and powerful “Demonic Inscription Qi.”

For the physical cultivation aspect, he needed to treat his body as if it were a sculpture or a vessel, inscribing it with demonic patterns.

The first level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” corresponded to the Postnatal Qi Transformation. If he were to master it, he would possess one demonic inscription, making his physique’s defense almost entirely immune to all attacks at the Postnatal Stage.

The second and third levels corresponded to the Qi Transformation Innate, and once fully mastered, he would have three demonic inscriptions, rendering his physique’s defense impervious to all attacks below the Guiyuan Realm.

Of course, apart from its formidable defense, this technique’s attack capabilities were also top-notch.

"Five hundred thousand No Demon Points, that’s too valuable!"

Chen Yu laughed.

The might of this technique was beyond description.

And he speculated that the mysterious heart had an amplifying effect on this technique.

Immediately, Chen Yu started cultivating the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.”

Unlike other Cultivation Techniques, this one required practicing both True Qi and bodhi on two levels.

Firstly, Chen Yu needed to transform his Cloud Evil True Qi into the “Demonic Inscription Qi” of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record,” and secondly, his True Copper Statue needed transforming into a “Secret Pattern Demon Body.”

Chen Yu’s Cloud Evil True Qi and True Copper Statue had both reached the Late Innate level.

This meant that to achieve complete transformation, he needed to at least master the second level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.”

Time was precious, and Chen Yu immediately went into closed-door training.

Training the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” was quite painful.

The “Demonic Inscription Qi” of this technique was incredibly strong, necessitating an extremely dense Demonic Qi; if one was not vigilant, it could impact one’s spiritual consciousness and cause deviation.

Fortunately, Chen Yu had the Moon Spirit Ore Mother, an ancient miraculous stone, so he didn’t have to worry too much.

On the other hand.

The “Copper Statue Technique” contained some Buddhist path meanings, and since Buddha and demons were inherently opposed, the transformation of the physique was not only incredibly difficult but also exceedingly painful.

Chen Yu felt as if his copper muscles, bones, and skin were being nibbled on by countless ants, slowly undergoing a transformation.

On the first day, Chen Yu transformed a thread of “Demonic Inscription Qi.”

In the Qi Sea within him, among the pitch-black Cloud Evil True Qi, a strand of black Demonic Inscription Qi appeared, resembling a small black snake, swimming through a lake.

And on his bright Copper Statue, a small part turned into a black color, its patterns undergoing change.

The first level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” corresponded to the Postnatal Qi Transformation; for a cultivator whose cultivation was high to practice a lower-level technique, it would usually not be too difficult.

Thus, Chen Yu quickly passed the beginner's threshold.

A month later.

Humming sounds echoed!

Inside the closed training chamber, above Chen Yu, Evil Qi soared to the sky, forming a large black python circling around him.

However, at the tail of the black python was a complex and ferocious black demonic inscription.

Now, Chen Yu had achieved minor mastery of the first level.

After one more month, Chen Yu mastered the first level.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body, and at that instant, a faint black radiance emerged on his body. On his right arm, a sinister black demonic inscription materialized, resembling a demonic claw.

"Is this the first demonic inscription?"

Chen Yu gazed at the inscription on his arm, filled with anticipation.

Activating the Secret Pattern Demon Body, the blackness on Chen Yu's arm suddenly flickered with bright light, as if coming to life, transforming into a fierce demon claw.

Boom!

Without using the power boost from the “Copper Statue Technique,” Chen Yu punched the ground.

Thump-crack!

A tyrannical strength burst forth, creating a fist-sized crater in the ground with fine cracks spreading outward.

It must be known that the material of the cultivation chamber was reinforced with arrays and was exceptionally hard, usually impervious to damage even by those in the Early Innate stage.

But at this moment, Chen Yu’s punch broke through it.

This punch, he had only utilized the strength amplification brought by the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.”

"It seems the physique boost given by the mysterious heart is still there."

Chen Yu was secretly delighted.

The first level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” corresponded to the Postnatal Qi Transformation, but the sheer strength of Chen Yu’s punch was comparable to someone in the Early Innate stage.

Furthermore, this technique was even more outstanding in defense.

Chen Yu estimated that, once he had cultivated the first level, the mere Secret Pattern Demon Body could probably withstand an attack from an ordinary Mid Innate Level cultivator.

Immediately after, Chen Yu began to delve into the second level of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.”

The difficulty of each level seemed to multiply exponentially.

For the second level, Chen Yu spent a month's time but barely managed to grasp the basics.

"This won't do, the progress is too slow."

Chen Yu's expression turned slightly grim.

Inside the chamber, Red Flame King radiated Innate-Level Fire Dao True Qi.

Clearly, he had digested a portion of the Blood Dragon Beast Demon Core's power and his cultivation had broken through to Innate.

One day, Chen Yu left his dwelling and sought out his master, Yi Lantian.

Yi Lantian, being a Demon Cultivator as well as possessing profound cultivation, should be able to give Chen Yu some good advice.

"You've already cultivated the first level?"

Yi Lantian was a bit surprised.

Although the first level corresponded to the Postnatal Qi Transformation, it was not so easy to achieve.

Of course, the further one progressed in this technique, the harder it became to cultivate.

The first level took three months; the second level might require a year or even longer.

"You could take some Demon Dao Elixirs to promote the cultivation of True Qi and the refining of your physique. Moreover, you can train in the academy's Demonic Qi Pool, which has excellent refining effects on both True Qi and physique."

Master Yi Lantian offered some advice.

"Thank you for your advice, master."

Chen Yu did not linger and immediately left.

He quickly went to the Wumo Sub-Hall to purchase some Elixirs and Body Refining liquids.

Afterward, he headed to the academy's training ground, the Demonic Qi Pool.

The Demonic Qi Pool was a special cultivation location like the Evil Wind Valley, specially designed for Demon Cultivators.

After paying with No Demon Points, Chen Yu entered the Demonic Qi Pool.

The entire vast pool was filled with pitch-black dense liquid, its surface constantly roiling like boiling water.

Above the Demonic Qi Pool, a layer of dark fog blanketed the area, filled with an intense demonic aura.

"Chen Yu!"

"It's Chen Yu, the deputy headmaster's new disciple!"

Many people looked at Chen Yu with envy, jealousy, and amazement.

After Chen Yu's reputation spread, his details also became known to the students.

"Isn't Chen Yu an Evil Cultivator? What is he doing in the Demonic Qi Pool?"

This was the doubt in many students' minds.

Swish-swish~

Chen Yu stepped into the Demonic Qi Pool.

Instantly, Chen Yu felt endless pressure squeezing every part of his body, being eroded by the force of the Demon Dao.

"No wonder most people only cultivate around the edges."

Chen Yu thought to himself inwardly.

To venture deep into the center, not only was cultivation level required but also a powerful physique.

After a short while, Chen Yu got accustomed to the edge and took a few steps forward, beginning to cultivate the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

Whizzing!

A vast Evil Qi radiated from within Chen Yu's body, intertwining with a hint of the Demonic Qi.

Chen Yu's physique also continuously accepted the refining baptism from the Demonic Qi Pool.

"Demonic aura!"

The nearby students immediately sensed the strong Demonic Qi emanating from Chen Yu.

"Cultivating both Evil and Demon Paths at the same time is rather foolish, isn't it? Moreover, both paths demand a high level of mental fortitude; I think there's a high chance he might suffer demonic deviation," a student from the Wind Demon Academy commented with a laugh.

During his cultivation, Chen Yu felt the external pressure lessen gradually, so he took a few more steps forward.

At this moment, the Demon Cultivators around him were almost all at the Mid Innate Level.

"Huh? He managed to get here so quickly?"

A student at the Mid Innate Level showed a look of amazement.

Generally, those in the Early Innate stage could only cultivate at the edge of the Demonic Qi Pool, and those who had just started cultivating the Demon Dao would be doing well just to enter the pool.

Near the center of the pool, a cold-looking young man opened his eyes.

This person was Ren Han.

With the academy's competition approaching, he was also seizing the last moments to bolster his strength.

"Chen Yu?"

Ren Han frowned slightly.

If it weren't for Chen Yu being taken in as a disciple by the deputy headmaster, he was sure Chen Yu would already be dead now.

He was also surprised to see that Chen Yu had started cultivating the Demon Dao.

Chapter 322 Claw of Demonic Annihilation

In the pool of Demonic Qi, Chen Yu was focused on cultivating without paying attention to anything else.

The special cultivation area within the academy was a no-fight zone, so he had nothing to worry about.

Moreover, he needed to accelerate his cultivation progress, for even if he participated in the academy's grand competition, it would be hard to achieve anything significant without faster improvement, serving merely as a foil for others.

"Demon Spirit Pill!"

Chen Yu took out a Demon Technique elixir he had purchased and swallowed one.

Immediately, a potent and overbearing medicinal strength radiated from within his body, producing a strange medicinal effect that enhanced the speed at which Chen Yu absorbed and refined the Demonic Qi.

Within his Qi Sea, the True Sha Qi was transforming into the Demonic Pattern Qi very slowly.

Physically, Chen Yu's body absorbed the medicinal liquid from the pool of Demonic Qi very quickly.

He promptly mobilized a thread of Demonic Pattern power, gathering it upon his body's surface to perform detailed engraving.

The Demonic Pattern Qi and the Demonic Pattern engraving on the body's surface contained in the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" involved principles of engraving and Body Refinement.

Although Chen Yu didn't understand engraving, he only needed to follow the engraving designs from the Cultivation Technique.

Whenever a texture appeared on the "Secret Pattern Demon Body," that spot would crazily absorb the Demonic Qi in the pool.

Furthermore, a dark and fierce Demonic Pattern manifested on Chen Yu's arm, resembling a demon claw, which was named "Demon Claw Secret Pattern" and corresponded to the first layer in the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

At this moment, this Demonic Claw Secret Pattern was also being nurtured in the pool of Demonic Qi.

"The effects of cultivation here almost increase by fifty to sixty percent!" Chen Yu thought to himself.

Cultivating too quickly also came with certain side effects, such as impacting the mental state or causing severe, hard-to-heal conditions to the body.

But Chen Yu didn't need to care about these, spiritually, he had the Moon Spirit Ore Mother.

Physically, the mysterious heart granted him an extremely strong self-healing ability.

Hence, Chen Yu didn't need to worry about these side effects; he just had to endure more pain.

But for cultivating such a powerful technique and rapidly enhancing his strength, it was all worth it.

Behold.

Gurgling~

The Demonic Qi liquid near Chen Yu boiled continuously, and his body was almost overwhelmed by the black liquid of the pool.

He stood in the pool like a black statue, emitting an eerie and domineering aura.

"This guy is crazy, daring to absorb so much Demonic power from this place."

"He is truly insane; he just started cultivating the Demon Technique, continuing like this will surely lead to devastating consequences."

Some nearby students were shocked to see Chen Yu cultivating like this.

Ten days later.

The second layer of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" was initially formed.

A wisp of the second Demonic Pattern appeared, connected to the Demon Claw Secret Pattern.

The second layer corresponded to the Innate stage.

But Chen Yu felt that the power between his body's physique had already reached the Innate Middle Stage and his defensive power should be much stronger.

In his Qi Sea, already thirty percent of the True Sha Qi had transformed into Demonic Pattern Qi.

Due to the enhanced defensive physique, he moved a few steps toward the center again.

This scene made the nearby students gape in astonishment.

"He is still unscathed."

"Not just that, his understanding of the Demon Technique seems to have deepened, and he moved towards the center of the Demonic Qi pool!"

The students' surprise and jealousy were beyond words.

Although they came to cultivate in the pool of Demonic Qi, they dared not absorb too much Demonic power at once.

Firstly, the process was extremely painful.

Secondly, their physical constitution could not withstand it.

Thirdly, their mental state could easily be affected.

But Chen Yu's unrestrained absorption of the Demonic power, without suffering any consequences, naturally made them very envious.

After moving forward a few steps, Chen Yu stopped.

The effects of cultivation here had further improved, and standing there, he felt infinite pressure coming from all directions.

This position could only be endured by some students in the Peak of Innate Late Stage.

Thus, there weren't many people around Chen Yu.

He focused, swallowed a few elixirs, and continued cultivating the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

In the distance.

Ren Han's eyes narrowed slightly, his residual vision sizing up Chen Yu.

"This kid seems to have cultivated an extremely powerful Demon Technique, apparently combined with Body Refinement; otherwise, he couldn't have reached this position."

Ren Han, as the top figure of the Devil Wind Institute, discerned such clues from Chen Yu's cultivation.

"However, does this kid have such high talent in Demon Technique? What Cultivation Technique is he practicing? It seems even more powerful than the 'Thousand Demon Technique' I'm cultivating!"

Although Ren Han was widely knowledgeable, he struggled to guess that Chen Yu was practicing the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

After all, Ren Han had only heard of this technique and didn't understand it at all, and currently, only his master Yi Lantian, his second senior brother Yuan Chen, and the Guardian Tower Master knew about Chen Yu's cultivation of this technique; it had not been disclosed.

A month had passed, and Chen Yu felt the second layer was nearing minor completion; he continued moving a few steps towards the center.

At this moment, Chen Yu felt that the cultivation effect had increased by almost ninety percent.

"What cultivation technique is this kid practicing?"

Watching Chen Yu moving step by step towards him, Ren Han's expression turned slightly grim.

Suddenly, he curved his lips into a faint smile.

He had harbored killing intent towards Chen Yu for a long time, but since Chen Yu had become the deputy dean's disciple, he dared not act.

Chen Yu was so close to him, and he still dared not act, but in the pool of Demonic Qi, making some subtle moves shouldn't be a problem as long as there was no solid evidence.

In cultivation, Chen Yu suddenly felt the surrounding Demonic power squeezing and striking, growing continuously stronger.

Initially, Chen Yu didn't think much of it and continued cultivating.

But then, the black water around him boiled up, powerful Demonic power continuously gathering towards him, seemingly aiming to drown him.

"Look quickly, that guy has gone mad, invoking such intense Demonic power."

Many people in the distance watched Chen Yu as if watching a spectacle.

The environment of the pool of Demonic Qi was complex, and the chaotic energy massively interfered with perception, making it appear to outsiders that the phenomena around Chen Yu were all caused by himself.

Chen Yu himself was deeply engrossed in cultivation and did not notice.

"Hehe, just entered the Demon Technique, encountering such a situation, you must be panicking. If you handle it carelessly, even slightly, you might suffer severe injury or deviate into madness."

In the distance, Ren Han gave a cold smile and no longer paid attention to Chen Yu.

He could only attack covertly, for if Chen Yu noticed, it would be troublesome.

Boom! Boom!

Powerful demonic forces incessantly bombarded Chen Yu from all directions.

Suddenly, a large amount of demonic aura surged into Chen Yu's body.

These forces were extremely violent, rampaging through him.

"Swallow it for me!"

Chen Yu controlled the demon pattern Qi, activating it and voraciously devouring the force.

At the same time, his Secret Pattern Demon Body rapidly absorbed the demonic force, refining his body.

However, this still did not resolve the pressing crisis.

At that moment,

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Chen Yu's heart suddenly began to beat, creating a mysterious force that suppressed and absorbed the surrounding demonic forces.

Under the suppression of his heart, the arrogant and frenzied nature of the demonic forces was subdued, flowing smoothly within Chen Yu's body and converging at the center of his Qi Sea.

Buzz! Buzz!

Chen Yu's cultivation speed also increased, rapidly transforming true essence into demon pattern Qi.

At a certain moment when the transformation reached sixty percent, Chen Yu successfully broke through to the second foundational level.

Moreover, within that sixty percent of demon pattern Qi at the center, a dark, glowing, fine pattern emerged, exceptionally dazzling and emitting an incredibly powerful aura, seemingly even stronger than the demon pattern Qi itself.

"What is this?"

Chen Yu was slightly puzzled but could not discern anything.

At this moment, there were three forces within his Qi Sea.

The outermost was the true essence, inside that was the demon pattern Qi, and at the center of the demon pattern Qi, a dark glowing fine pattern had formed, with some similarities to the demon pattern Qi.

After the transformation, the demon pattern Qi was even stronger and more condensed than the true essence, with the center's dark, glowing pattern emitting an aura that was even stronger than that of the demon pattern Qi.

Despite this, the dark glowing pattern was merely a sliver, far too scarce.

Having reached the second foundational level according to the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," Chen Yu's overall abilities had improved, and he no longer feared the substantial demonic forces surrounding him.

In the distance,

"Has it calmed down?"

Ren Han noticed the situation on Chen Yu's side, his brows slightly furrowing.

Upon closer inspection, he also realized that the demonic aura on Chen Yu's body had grown stronger.

"How can this be?"

Ren Han felt surprised and somewhat startled inside.

His initial attack had been meant to covertly harm Chen Yu, but the result was unexpectedly beyond belief. Chen Yu showed no abnormalities, and his cultivation of the demon technique had instead advanced further.

At this point, Ren Han dared not make another move.

The previous crisis had no effect on Chen Yu, and another similar attempt would likely be futile.

Moreover, he could not make too obvious a move, as it would be easy for the other party to detect.

"I've reached the small accomplishment stage!"

Chen Yu felt his physique and strength.

On his body's surface, aside from the first "Demon Claw Secret Pattern," half of the second demon pattern had also condensed, forming a series of scales connected to the Demon Claw Secret Pattern.

The first Demon Claw Secret Pattern had enabled Chen Yu to cultivate the attack technique "Demon Extinguishing Claw" from the first level of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

If the second demon pattern was successfully condensed, it would allow him to perform the defensive technique "Demon Pattern Protection" from the second level.

Having reached the small accomplishment stage, Chen Yu moved closer to the center, nearing Ren Han significantly.

"My god, how much time has passed? Chen Yu has actually reached the depths of the demonic Qi pool, so close to Ren Han."

"Could he be the demon cultivation genius that appears once in a century?"

Many people gaped, their jaws nearly dropping.

They had all watched as Chen Yu moved step by step from the very edge, finally approaching Ren Han, the number one person of the Devil Wind Institute.

"Ren Han?"

Hearing other people's discussions, Chen Yu's face showed surprise.

He knew that he had grievances with Ren Han but had never seen him before.

Unexpectedly, the cold-faced, long-haired young man nearby was Ren Han.

In that case, the sudden change in the demonic Qi pool just now might have been caused by this man.

Not long after starting to cultivate, Chen Yu got up and left the demonic Qi pool.

Then, he went to the academy's cultivation tower and rented a small private cultivation chamber.

In recent times, he had been fully focused on enhancing his cultivation level and had not touched upon combat techniques.

Vroom! Boom!

Activating his Secret Pattern Demon Body, Chen Yu's body turned pitch black, with wisps of demonic Qi swirling around him. His body's demon patterns suddenly emitted a dark, glowing light.

He looked like a sinister demon lord, exuding a slightly intimidating domineering aura.

"Demon Extinguishing Claw!"

Chen Yu suddenly reached out with one hand.

Buzz!

The Demon Claw Secret Pattern on his arm suddenly spread and climbed, densely covering his arm and hand.

With a fierce claw strike, dark demonic Qi formed a ferocious and terrifying demon claw, adorned with strange, ancient, and mysterious patterns.

Bang! Boom!

This domineering and slightly intimidating claw strike powerfully roared out, directly penetrating an iron man not far away.

These iron men were dummies specifically made for cultivators to practice on.

Though that was the case, these iron men had strong defenses, and ordinarily, someone at the peak of the Innate Late Stage could only leave some indentations on them at most.

"Utilizing demon pattern Qi and Secret Pattern Demon Body, this strike of mine has reached the peak of the Innate Late Stage!"

Chen Yu grinned.

At the moment, Chen Yu's Secret Pattern Demon Body and True Copper Statue were roughly equivalent, not providing much amplification; thus, this strike's main enhancement came from the demon pattern Qi and the combat technique "Demon Extinguishing Claw."

Subsequently, Chen Yu continued to train in this combat technique, aiming to achieve mastery.

When he left the cultivation chamber, he heard that the No Demon Academy would conduct a competition for spots.

Only the top twenty would have the chance to represent the No Demon Academy and participate in the grand event of the Yun Zhao National Academy competition.

Chapter 323: The Twenty-Move Agreement

The entire No Demon Academy, only had twenty slots for representatives to participate in the grand competition.

Compared to the numerous students from the No Demon Academy, these spots were incredibly scarce and were almost always reserved for those in the Late Innate stage or even the Peak.

"The cultivating tower is also overcrowded, it seems many are ready to make an all-out effort to fight for a slot," remarked Chen Yu.

Being able to represent the No Demon Academy in the grand competition was an honor in itself, not to mention the various opportunities within the competition. Moreover, the final rankings came with rewards that even those in the Guiyuan Realm coveted.

Moreover, once missed, the chance would not come again for five years.

The grand competition also had an age limit of no more than thirty years, and after another five years, many would surpass this limit and no longer qualify for participation.

So, the opportunity could not be missed.

Chen Yu didn't pay much attention to the battle for slots.

His Master had already made his expectations clear: if he couldn't last twenty moves against Yuan Chen, he shouldn't participate.

"Currently, my Demon Pattern Qi far surpasses the average Late Innate stage. I won't be defeated by Brother Chen in a head-on clash, but my movement technique is still lacking!" Chen Yu recognized his own shortcomings.

In recent times, he had been focused on improving his cultivation, practicing the Secret Pattern Demon Body, falling behind in his movement technique.

Right away, Chen Yu went to the Evil Wind Valley to practice the "Evil Secret Technique."

This movement technique, to a certain extent, also belonged to the demonic path.

Chen Yu had studied the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," and approaching this movement technique should be a bit easier.

Roar~

A turbulent wave of pitch-black Evil Qi burst forth from Chen Yu's body, and in an instant, he transformed into a shadowy figure, shooting out like an arrow.

Having comprehended the essence of evil, even if he switched to the demonic path, this essence remained and provided a certain enhancement to Chen Yu's movement technique.

Boom, boom, boom~

Chen Yu sprinted back and forth within the Evil Wind Valley, leaving a deep pit on the ground at every stopping point.

Soon, several afterimages of Chen Yu were formed, followed by the creation of a Devilish Evil domain.

Within the domain, Chen Yu's speed was further amplified, and the entire domain put tremendous pressure on the enemy.

...

Half a month passed, and Chen Yu left the Evil Wind Valley.

"Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow" cultivated to the fifth layer, I shouldn't be much slower compared to Brother Yuan Chen," Chen Yu was highly satisfied with his cultivation results.

"When the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' reaches the second layer of Great Success, I'll go and spar with Brother Chen."

Having made his decision, Chen Yu immediately returned to his residence for a final closed-door cultivation, attempting to break through to the second layer of Great Success of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

Inside the secret chamber, Chen Yu sat cross-legged and pulled a "black fog bead" out of his storage bag.

This bead was the byproduct of his body after consuming a Demon Cleansing Pill to expel the demonic forces from his body.

Under the action of his mysterious heart, that tremendous demonic force condensed into a black bead, which was the one in his hand.

"The power within this bead was originally expelled from my body; if I take it again, it should be more conducive for absorption!"

Chen Yu placed the black fog bead in his palm, circulated his cultivation technique, and absorbed its power.

And indeed,

The demonic power from the black fog bead was rapidly absorbed by Chen Yu, quickly integrating into his True Qi and physical body.

Within the Qi Sea, the Demon Pattern Qi further increased, and a dark, glossy pattern in the center gently swirled, emitting an incredibly unsettling aura.

From afar, the Red Flame King lay nearby, seemingly asleep but actually in the midst of cultivating.

"Eh? This kid's making such quick progress?"

Sensing the strong waves of demonic intent from Chen Yu, the Red Flame King opened his eyes for a glance.

"This cultivation technique is no simple matter, and indeed, this child's talent in Body Cultivation is extremely powerful, which is why he's making such smooth progress," the Red Flame King observed for a few moments and commented.

While Chen Yu's talent in cultivation was average, his talent in Body Refinement was remarkably astonishing.

Just as the Red Flame King was about to close his eyes and continue resting, he suddenly sensed an unusual fluctuation within Chen Yu's body.

After a detailed perception, a shine flashed in the Red Flame King's eyes.

"Is this guy even human? He's just at the early stage of Innate and has already condensed a whiff of 'True Yuan Foundation,' probably without even realizing it himself."

The Red Flame King approached in surprise, scrutinizing Chen Yu.

Ordinarily, geniuses would be able to condense some Half-step True Essence before advancing to the Guiyuan Realm.

These geniuses were without exception at the Innate Peak, with some at the Late Innate stage, but they were much rarer, one in ten thousand.

But Chen Yu, merely in the early period of Innate, had already condensed a whiff of True Yuan Foundation, which, although sparse and of low quality, was already a miracle.

Of course, all this was probably because Chen Yu had switched his cultivation technique mid-journey.

The original "Yuan Sha Divine Skill" was extremely powerful, and Chen Yu cultivated it to a very deep level.

And midway, he switched to the even more ancient and mysterious "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," starting to cultivate all over again, making his True Qi even more formidable.

Still, the Red Flame King found it all incredible.

"Kid, what secrets do you hold?"

The Red Flame King suddenly spoke.

After a while, Chen Yu woke from his cultivating state and looked at the Red Flame King seriously, thinking, "Has he noticed the secret of my mysterious heart?"

The mysterious heart had always been Chen Yu's greatest secret. This heart not only greatly increased his physique and self-healing abilities but could also suppress other forces, devour bloodlines for his own use, and within it was an independent mysterious space.

It was hard to imagine just what kind of treasure this mysterious heart was.

But he knew that he absolutely could not reveal this secret.

"What's up?" Chen Yu feigned ignorance.

"You've already condensed a whiff of True Yuan Foundation!"

The Red Flame King's demeanor became more solemn.

"True Yuan Foundation?" Chen Yu was astonished.

He experienced the strength of True Yuan firsthand.

When sparring with Brother Yuan Chen, as soon as the Half-step True Essence appeared, Chen Yu's powerful finishing move disintegrated in an instant.

"It seems you don't know, maybe it was an accidental creation," the Red Flame King said.

"Is this the rudimentary form of True Yuan?"

Chen Yu's Spiritual Sense delved into a strand of dark and shiny pattern at the center of his Qi Sea.

Indeed, it was an accident, an accident caused by Ren Han.

"Haha, it seems I should thank Ren Han after all."

Chen Yu laughed heartily.

However, upon further thought, this strand of rudimentary True Yuan had appeared accidentally and was too insignificant in quantity, hardly serving any purpose.

Chen Yu did not know the method to condense Half-step True Essence, and since the appearance of this rudimentary True Yuan, there had been no change or growth.

Moreover, he was currently only at the Early Innate stage, and his Qi Sea had not yet stabilized. Would there be any accidents if he started to condense Half-step True Essence now?

"Kid, you have already condensed a strand of rudimentary True Yuan. This king happens to have a Secret Technique that can allow you to condense the rudimentary True Yuan into Half-step True Essence while cultivating your Innate True Qi and continuously increase it!"

Red Flame King seemed to glimpse Chen Yu's thoughts, and his words made Chen Yu's heart tremble.

"However, in exchange, you have to give this king some benefits!"

Red Flame King did not hide his true intentions.

Chen Yu was very wary of Red Flame King. He himself was at the Early Innate stage, and so was Red Flame King, which is why Chen Yu had never provided any resources for him.

"Fine!"

After contemplating for a while, Chen Yu felt the trade was completely feasible.

If he could successfully condense Half-step True Essence, it would become a significant ace up his sleeve.

With his strength improved, it was only right to give some benefits to Red Flame King.

"Twenty fire cores!"

Chen Yu took out twenty fire cores from his storage bag, all of which were of Early Innate and Innate Middle Stage, not too high in quality.

The high-quality fire cores were all sold during the last trading event.

"Kid, are you that ignorant? The value of this Secret Technique, is it something that can be exchanged for these twenty fire cores?"

Red Flame King was quite indignant.

This spell was also obtained by him accidentally, but at the time he had already broken through the Guiyuan Realm, thus he never used it.

The value of this technique was self-evident; almost all the strong people below the Guiyuan Realm would desperately vie for it at any cost.

Chen Yu fell into thought again, giving too many fire cores made him uneasy, and Red Flame King probably wouldn't care for other items.

"How about this?"

Chen Yu took out a stem of Black Blood Strange Grass from the Light Silver Crystal Space.

This was his find in the Blood Burial Garden, and since it was too precious and of no use to him, he had kept it stored.

"Eh? Blood Awakening Spirit Grass, you actually have such a treasure."

Red Flame King was somewhat startled.

The goods on Chen Yu were not what ordinary Innate Strong People could possess.

"Well, it's barely acceptable!"

Red Flame King pondered for a while and then agreed.

He knew that Chen Yu would not give him too many cultivation resources, but this "Blood Awakening Spirit Grass" could help to stimulate the awakening of Bloodline Power.

The Fire Scale Beast's body already contained some bloodline of the Holy Beast Qilin, and if it could be further enhanced, the bloodline might become even more terrifying.

For the time being, Red Flame King could not change into another body and had to reside within the Fire Scale Beast's body.

Truth be told, the Fire Scale Beast's body was incredibly strong, far superior to a human body, but as a human being, Red Flame King naturally did not wish to become an ancient beast.

Subsequently, Chen Yu completed the trade with Red Flame King.

After the successful trade, Red Flame King consumed some fire cores and rested once more.

As for the Blood Awakening Spirit Grass, he did not consume it but stored it in a storage bag he had demanded from Chen Yu, seemingly for another purpose.

Half a month later.

When Chen Yu absorbed all the demonic power within the black fog bead, the second layer of the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record” also reached the Great Achievement Realm.

"Peak of Early-stage Innate!"

Chen Yu felt that his cultivation had reached a bottleneck and was not far from the Innate Middle Stage.

During this period, he also cultivated the Secret Technique given by Red Flame King and successfully condensed Half-step True Essence, albeit not much.

One day, Chen Yu ended his seclusion and went to his senior brother Yuan Chen’s residence.

"Junior brother, are you ready?"

Yuan Chen showed a slight smile.

"Yes, senior brother, please go easy on me during the match."

Chen Yu smiled as well, teasingly.

In truth, he was now absolutely confident that he could withstand twenty moves from Yuan Chen.

Immediately afterward, the brothers went to the vice-principal’s residence.

"Begin!"

Yi Lantian wasted no words.

Buzz boom!

Suddenly, a layer of dark magical light coated Chen Yu's body surface, adorned by a pattern of ancient and mysterious veins, as a surging demonic aura soared into the sky.

On his arm, a glinting Demon Claw Secret Pattern emerged, along with half a demon pattern that connected with the Devil Claw Secret Pattern, extending towards Chen Yu's back.

Facing Yuan Chen, Chen Yu did not take any chances, attacking with full force.

Roar~

With a fierce howl from the demonic wind, Chen Yu charged forward in a blink, arriving in front of Yuan Chen.

If it were an ordinary Late Innate opponent, they would probably be overwhelmed with fear at this moment, losing their will to fight.

But Yuan Chen's expression barely changed, appearing serene.

Boom bang!

Chen Yu's fist fiercely came crashing down, forming a Demon Pattern Black Fist with a commanding chill.

Swish!

Yuan Chen lightly tapped with his toe, hastily retreating to avoid the punch.

However, Chen Yu's reflexes were incredibly fast, and he explosively chased after Yuan Chen.

Yuan Chen smiled slightly, knowing his junior brother had improved greatly in all aspects, and it was time he did more than just dodge.

Chapter 324: Competing for Slots

Chen Yu's advancement startled Yuan Chen.

A year ago, he could easily dodge Chen Yu's attacks, but now, Chen Yu was sticking close to him, forcing him to bring out his real skills to escape.

Snap!

Yuan Chen extended a hand and unleashed a mysterious Mystic Ice Palm, colliding with Chen Yu's fist.

Boom!

The Demonic Qi of the ice burst forth, and both of them took several steps back.

"What strong True Qi. It seems the disciple's 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' is quite accomplished."

Yuan Chen was a bit surprised.

His strike just now was not at full strength and used only True Qi.

In the exchange, they were evenly matched, neither gaining the upper hand.

In fact, Yuan Chen's True Qi, being a top genius, was slightly stronger than Chen Yu's Demonic Qi. However, Chen Yu had activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body, making them evenly matched.

"Little Junior Brother, you need to be careful next."

Yuan Chen reminded with a smile.

The first strike, he had merely intercepted casually without using full strength.

Swoosh!

After speaking, Yuan Chen's movement technique vanished, leaving behind an afterimage as he rapidly approached Chen Yu.

Roar~

Not taking any chances, Chen Yu activated the 'Evil Secret Technique', unleashing a demonic wind as his figure violently burst forth.

Yuan Chen's palm landed where Chen Yu had been a moment ago, shattering his afterimage.

Then, he chased after him again.

Boom!

The two exchanged blows during the chase.

Chen Yu felt his arm turn icy cold, a chilling force invading.

Fortunately, the resistance of his Secret Pattern Demon Body to the Evil Demon was extremely formidable, so the impact was minimal.

Yuan Chen knew that Chen Yu had cultivated 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record', which had stronger resistance against attacks from Evil Demon paths, but he did not expect Chen Yu to withstand his attack.

Whoo!

Another palm strike from Yuan Chen came.

This palm radiated a stronger chilling force, with numerous ice crystals swirling around his palm.

Chen Yu immediately pulled out the "Giant Ruler Sword", striking down with a slash.

Though he had converted to the demonic path, the power of the 'Shocking Evil Sword Technique' wasn't as great as before, but his swordsmanship still existed.

Ping ping bang!

Chen Yu's great strength showcased the weight advantage of the "Giant Ruler Sword", colliding repeatedly with Yuan Chen.

Soon, the bout reached the agreed twenty moves.

"Chen'er, don't go easy on little Junior Brother on purpose. If he doesn't have enough strength, participating in the academy's grand competition will only bring humiliation and might even cost him his life."

Master Yi Lantian whispered.

"Mystic Ice Palm."

Yuan Chen's eyes held a trace of seriousness as the chilling force exploded from his palm, drastically dropping the surrounding temperature.

In the void, it seemed as though a palm formed of icy force condensed and struck towards Chen Yu.

With Yuan Chen's movement technique, Chen Yu had no chance of dodging this palm.

"Demon Extinguishing Claw!"

Chen Yu switched the Xuan Heavy Sword to his other hand, his right hand was awash with surging Demonic Qi.

The Demon Claw Secret Pattern on his arm suddenly spread, climbing densely over Chen Yu's arm and palm.

Whoo~

He clawed out, and the black Demonic Qi formed a fearsome and ancient-looking demon claw with strange patterns.

Bang!

The demon claw and the ice palm collided, creating a storm of icy chill and demonic qi.

After this move, neither of them made another move.

"Twenty moves are up. Junior Brother has improved rapidly. With such strength, his performance in the grand competition won't be too bad."

Yuan Chen smiled.

"Chen'er, you only used fifty percent of your strength, right? You didn't even tap into your Half-step True Essence."

Master Yi Lantian spoke indifferently.

Over this past year, Yuan Chen too had made considerable progress, achieving an eighty percent conversion rate from True Qi to Half-step True Essence.

However, Master Yi Lantian knew that Chen Yu also hadn't used all his tricks.

"Chen Yu, having reached such power with just the second level of the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record', do you possess some special constitution?"

Then, Master Yi Lantian looked at Chen Yu and asked.

"Disciple's constitution is indeed better than ordinary people."

Chen Yu replied, not revealing the secret of his mysterious heart.

"I allow you to participate in the academy's grand competition. In ten days, the academy will hold a battle for slots; prepare yourself."

...

With Master's approval, Chen Yu could participate in the grand competition.

Returning to his residence, Chen Yu continued to seclude himself to enhance his strength.

Originally, he had wanted to participate in the grand competition to see the geniuses from all over Yun Zhao Country.

But after cultivating 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record', Chen Yu felt that he could significantly improve his strength with some more breakthroughs in this Cultivation Technique, allowing him to shine in the competition and achieve good results.

Time was limited, however, with the competition only a month away.

In the meantime, Chen Yu seized every moment, enhancing his cultivation level.

During the spare moments from practicing the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record', Chen Yu activated the Flame Control Technique, absorbing and refining more sealed "Blood Crystal Flame".

This flame was incredibly powerful; previously, Chen Yu had only refined a tenth of it.

Currently, both his cultivation and Spiritual Sense had improved.

In less than a day, the amount of "Blood Crystal Flame" Chen Yu refined reached a third, after which he stopped refining.

Soon, ten days passed.

Chen Yu's cultivation of the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' reached Great Success on the second level, challenging to break through in a short time. These ten days only stabilized his cultivation a bit as he hadn't been practicing this technique for long and was eager to succeed.

"The battle for slots has begun."

Chen Yu exited the courtyard, heading towards Demon Sky Peak.

Along the way, many students hurried toward Demon Sky Peak, with many of them warmly greeting Chen Yu.

Around the Demon Sky Peak, students gathered in droves.

Of course, most were there to watch.

Only twenty people could participate in the grand competition, surely the strongest twenty in the academy.

"Brother Chen!"

Not far away, Brother Kong, dressed in a black robe, greeted and walked over.

"Brother Kong, are you contesting for a spot?"

Chen Yu asked.

Currently, Kong Zhong was at the Peak of Middle Innate. If he were to break through to the later stage, with his methods, he could certainly secure a spot.

He lacked the talent of people like Duan Hao and Nie Xuan, and he didn't have the support of a family, so his cultivation speed was already quite fast.

"Let's try!"

Kong Zhong smiled, wanting to take a chance.

Upon reaching Demon Sky Peak, Chen Yu immediately spotted many familiar faces.

Among the disciples of the Evil Spirit Institute, Situ Lin Yu looked at Chen Yu, his eyes gleaming with light.

"I knew you would participate in the academy's grand competition."

Situ Lin Yu smiled leisurely.

In the newcomer competition, he had lost to Chen Yu, but he was not convinced.

During this period, he had been adventuring in foreign territories, taking on the most dangerous tasks, honing himself.

Now, he had reached the Late Innate stage and had become a star surrounded by others at the Evil Spirit Institute.

In addition, Duan Hao, Jin Zhuo Peak, Shang Han, Luo Haotian, and others also looked toward Chen Yu.

Luo Haotian stared at Chen Yu with a mix of annoyance and helplessness.

Once, Chen Yu was just an ant in his eyes, but now, Chen Yu had grown to such an extent that he could compete on the same stage with him.

"Senior Brother Luo, when we buried Chen Yu underground that day, he had the deputy dean's trump card; otherwise, he would've certainly died."

A long-haired young man, who had hunted the Fiery Fire Demon Lizard with Chen Yu, said this.

"It doesn't matter; if I encounter him in this grand competition, I will make him lose miserably."

Luo Haotian said with confidence.

"What merits does he have to be taken as a disciple by the deputy dean!"

Shang Han from one of the four great super-families, articulated these words through her crystalline lips.

With her pride, when Chen Yu offended her that day, he was in for a bad end.

But Yuan Chen's sudden appearance changed everything.

After a long wait.

A very experienced branch dean stood up, "The competition for spots in the grand competition begins now

The rules of the competition for spots were very simple.

The top twenty, taken from the ranks of students in the Ten Thousand Demon Tower.

Then, anyone could challenge these twenty, but they couldn't challenge the same person consecutively.

When no one else issued challenges, the remaining twenty would be the participants of the grand competition.

Not far from the challenge platform stood twenty people, becoming the most eye-catching presences throughout Demon Sky Peak.

The first was Yuan Chen, dressed in simple, plain yellow clothing, his face calm with a slight smile.

And the second, Luo Haotian from Demon Fire Peak.

The third, Ren Han from Devil Wind Institute.

The fourth, Jin Zhuo Peak.

...

Nearly all of the top twenty were older students.

"Not in a hurry!"

Chen Yu found a quiet spot and calmly waited.

No Demon Academy had many people, and many would want to challenge.

With Chen Yu's lower cultivation, even if he secured one of the spots, he would face numerous challenges.

Thus, he simply decided to wait for a while.

Kong Zhong did as well, his cultivation being only at Peak of Middle Innate, he didn't see a great chance for success nor did he immediately plan to challenge.

Swoosh!

A figure quickly dashed onto the challenge platform.

This person was tall and ugly-faced, whom Chen Yu actually recognized—it was Wei Bin.

At the Dark Night Exchange Meeting, Chen Yu had bought some high-quality Fire Spirit Ginseng from him.

The last time Chen Yu stormed the tower, he also happened to encounter Wei Bin, who reached the thirty-seventh floor.

"I'm the first, Wu Hong, hand over your spot!"

Wei Bin shouted, looking to the man ranked fifteenth.

"As you wish."

A well-proportioned man in blue clothing, with hands behind his back, walked onto the challenge platform.

Without much talk, both suddenly attacked.

Clang!

A sword and a saber clashed fiercely, unleashing a wave of ice and fire.

"Ha ha, come on."

Wei Bin laughed loudly, a dark red saber incessantly chopping in his hands, casting impressive fiery saber lights.

The man in blue swiftly jabbed with his long sword, his swordsmanship tight and impervious.

Both had reached the Innate Peak.

The battle didn't last long.

"Fiery Golden Light Slash."

Wei Bin shouted, his dark red saber extending a massive blade of fire, ferociously chopping down.

Bang!

The man in blue fell off the platform, spitting out blood.

Wei Bin won, securing a spot.

"This person has a strong hope of entering the top ten."

Chen Yu speculated.

The top five likely possessed strength close to the Guiyuan Realm; the top ten held the peak powers of Innate Peak, and clearly Wei Bin met this criterion.

"I challenge the sixteenth!"

A woman in a purple robe stepped onto the challenge platform.

However, this woman ultimately failed the challenge.

Clearly, the strength of her selected opponent had progressed beyond her expectations.

After starting two matches, the competition became even fiercer, with almost one person challenging immediately after another's defeat.

But mostly, there were more losses than wins.

"Let me test the strength of the top ten."

From the Evil Spirit Institute, Situ Lin Yu slowly stepped out, leaping onto the challenge platform in a flash.

As soon as these words were spoken, they caused quite a stir.

Situ Lin Yu, being a newcomer from within the last three years, not only aimed for a spot but directly challenged the top ten!

Chapter 325: Amazing Progress

"Let me test the strength of the top ten."

Situ Lin Yu from the Evil Spirit Institute slowly walked out, and with a leap, his figure landed on the challenge stage.

"Situ Lin Yu is actually directly challenging the top ten in the institute!"

"He is just a freshman who joined the institute in the last three years; does he possess strength comparable to the top ten?"

The crowd below was in an uproar.

This was the first challenge against the top ten so far.

"Directly challenging the top ten?"

Duan Hao glanced at Situ Lin Yu, his expression growing solemn.

Even for him, facing the older students of the top ten, he did not have full confidence in winning.

Chen Yu also became somewhat interested.

In the last competition for freshmen, Situ Lin Yu was his strongest opponent.

Although he ultimately won first place, the competition process was quite dangerous.

Moreover, Chen Yu felt that Situ Lin Yu had not yet displayed all his cards.

Situ Lin Yu always gave Chen Yu an unfathomable impression; after the tournament, they never met again, only hearing that Situ Lin Yu had been adventuring outside the domain.

Chen Yu wondered what level of strength Situ Lin Yu had reached by that time.

"Junior brother's courage is commendable, but not being able to clearly recognize one's own strength is utterly foolish, let the senior brother teach you a lesson."

Yu Hong suddenly stood up, his face cold and slightly displeased.

Yu Hong, ranking tenth and at the Peak of Innate Late Stage, was an old student of the Devilish Fire Institute.

For him, being challenged by a student so young and new, was an insult.

Swoosh!

Yu Hong's figure dashed out, rushing onto the competition stage.

Instantly, a powerful Innate Peak Level True Qi pressure, accompanied by a terrifying Devilish Fire, caused the temperature of the entire arena to spike abruptly.

Boom!

Yu Hong suddenly erupted, transforming into a dark blue firelight that charged towards Situ Lin Yu.

Although he considered Situ Lin Yu not his match, he had heard of Situ Lin Yu's reputation, who was known as a rare genius of the Evil Spirit Institute in hundreds of years and had a deep understanding of the Evil Path, so Yu Hong did not take it lightly.

"Defeat!"

Yu Hong shouted loudly, sending a fierce palm strike.

In the air, the Demonic Qi condensed, forming a dark blue flame light palm that howled out.

Situ Lin Yu remained calm, equally striking with a palm, creating a gloomy grey ghost fog.

Bang!

The power released by the dark blue flame light palm instantly engulfed Situ Lin Yu's palm technique and continued to advance forward.

Swoosh!

A grey mist appeared around Situ Lin Yu, and his body moved to another side, leaving behind a grey residual shadow that Yu Hong's palm strike dispersed.

"Ha-ha, that's all you've got, daring to challenge me, Yu Hong."

Yu Hong laughed heartily, pursuing Situ Lin Yu closely.

Bang, thump!

A series of fierce and powerful Devilish Fire light palms howled across the challenge stage.

Situ Lin Yu occasionally clashed directly with them, but his attacks were always scatter frontally by Yu Hong.

This made Yu Hong increasingly feel that Situ Lin Yu was nothing special, finding the rumors grossly exaggerated.

"Junior brother, it's time to end this."

Yu Hong barked, his palms coming together, releasing an astonishing dark blue flame light.

Whoosh!

He suddenly pushed his palms out, unleashing a towering wave of dark blue Demonic Qi, as if it could devour everything in front of it.

"Situ Lin Yu is going to lose."

"He's too impulsive. Every one of the top ten is a strong fighter at the Innate Peak; they have also prepared a lot for the institute's grand competition."

"However, the fact that Situ Lin Yu held up against Yu Hong for so many moves is commendable, though he lost to Yu Hong, breaking into the top twenty should be no problem."

Below the stage, many people began talking.

"No, it's not that simple."

Chen Yu thought to himself.

Throughout, Situ Lin Yu had not used his spiritual secret technique or even the Evil Spirit.

Evil Cultivators aren't known for their frontal combat prowess, and Yu Hong, who practiced both the Fire Path and the Evil Path, naturally held an advantage in direct combat.

But to underestimate Situ Lin Yu because of this was a grave mistake.

"Yes, it can end now."

On the challenge stage, Situ Lin Yu smiled leisurely.

Swoosh!

He waved his sleeve, and a Big-headed Evil Spirit floated out.

This Big-headed Evil Spirit looked extremely solid, with the skin texture on its surface visible.

Clearly, after such a long time, Situ Lin Yu's Evil Spirit had grown stronger.

"Evil Yin Wave!"

Situ Lin Yu suddenly opened his mouth, emitting a series of rapid, low-pitched evil sounds.

At the same time, the Big-headed Evil Spirit also performed the same secret technique.

Buzzing!

In the air, a layer of semi-transparent sound waves, visible to the naked eye, bombarded out.

Boom! Thump!

The oncoming dark blue waves immediately vibrated, then gradually disintegrated.

"Using the vibration effect of sound waves to destabilize the enemy's martial skill, significantly weakening its power."

A teacher watched with appreciation in his eyes.

"Situ Lin Yu's Evil Yin attack can shatter Yu Hong's killing move because Situ Lin Yu has thoroughly understood Yu Hong's cultivation technique and directly targeted its weaknesses."

A robed teacher from the Evil Spirit Institute smiled contentedly.

The earlier combat allowed Situ Lin Yu not only to refine his direct combat skills but also to observe the enemy's cultivation techniques and martial skills.

Identifying the opponent's weaknesses and attacking them suddenly often yields unexpected results.

"How can this be

Yu Hong's face showed shock.

His killing move was actually neutralized by the opponent's evil technique.

Boom!

At the same time, those evil sound waves struck Yu Hong's body, generating a shock that blasted into his viscera, sending him staggering back nearly ten steps with a trace of fresh blood spilling from the corner of his mouth.

"Dark Night Pupil Skill!"

Situ Lin Yu didn't give Yu Hong a chance to catch his breath and immediately activated the Spiritual Pupil Technique.

Swoosh!

The Evil Spirit also drifted near Yu Hong, its pitch-black eyes staring at him, releasing powerful Demonic spiritual power.

"No

Yu Hong struggled desperately, attempting to break free from the Dark Night Pupil Skill.

Being among the top ten in the academy, his spiritual will was also strong.

However, Situ Lin Yu's spiritual power was too strong, and coupled with the Evil Spirit, the power of the Illusion Eye Technique greatly increased.

Swoosh!

Situ Lin Yu executed his movement technique and appeared in front of Yu Hong, striking out with a palm.

Boom!

Yu Hong's figure was smashed out of the arena, drenched in sweat. It was only then that he fully regained consciousness from the Illusion Eye Technique.

"He's defeated, Yu Hong has been defeated by Situ Lin Yu."

Many people exclaimed in disbelief.

The turnaround in the battle happened too swiftly, which was astonishing.

"Situ Lin Yu's spiritual power is nearing the Guiyuan Realm level."

Chen Yu was inwardly shocked.

His own spiritual power had reached the Peak of Innate Late Stage, and facing Situ Lin Yu would be extremely unfavorable.

However, Situ Lin Yu's head-on combat ability was not strong, which was precisely Chen Yu's strong suit.

The other nine in the top ten also could not help but glance at Situ Lin Yu.

As the geniuses of the academy, they could somewhat discern Situ Lin Yu's true strength from the battle just now.

The challenge continued and after four rounds, Duan Hao from the Blood Slaughter Institute took the stage.

"I challenge the eleventh spot!"

Duan Hao's expression was cold and his gaze deep.

He did not want to lose to Situ Lin Yu, but challenging an Innate Peak level expert, his chances of winning were not high.

Relatively speaking, challenging the eleventh spot was more secure.

Swoosh!

The eleventh candidate ascended the challenge platform, a tall and sexy woman.

"Tiger Evil Fist."

Duan Hao burst forth explosively, a punch whistling out, behind him, a towering Evil Qi formed a spectral tiger, shaking people's souls.

Pop pop whish whish!

The sexy woman produced a dark silver whip in her hands, whipping it up, executing sharp whip shadows.

The sexy woman's whip technique was extremely profound, standing in place, her whip shadows heavy, capable of both offense and defense.

"Black Dragon Leg!"

After the punching technique, Duan Hao transitioned to leg techniques, bursting forth with tremendous power, smashing through the sexy woman's whip shadow.

The sexy woman grew more solemn, her dark silver whip radiated stronger True Qi fluctuations, and the speed of her whip technique increased by a notch.

Boom bang pong!

On the competition platform, the two fiercely clashed at high speed.

In the blink of an eye, they exchanged hundreds of moves.

Compared to Situ Lin Yu's battle, Duan Hao's fight was getting the blood boiling.

"Sharp Wind Bloodline."

Duan Hao's body erupted with Bloodline Power, dark green wind patterns emerged on his skin, a formless cyclone power surfaced, blending with his Cultivation Technique.

After activating his Bloodline, Duan Hao's speed doubled, and his move's power also significantly increased.

Bang!

Duan Hao suddenly burst forth, breaking through the sexy woman's defenses, and struck her left shoulder with a punch.

The sexy woman staggered backward off the challenge platform, a trace of fresh blood spilling from the corner of her mouth.

"Duan Hao won!"

"As expected of the Duan Family's genius, on par with Situ Lin Yu in the academy."

Many freshmen exclaimed.

Two years ago, Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao were both freshmen, yet now they had squeezed into the top twenty of the academy, truly unbelievable.

This was a great encouragement for the freshmen who had just joined the academy.

These two had become the idols many freshmen admired.

It's worth mentioning, the progress Duan Hao and Situ Lin Yu had made was indeed stunning, overshadowing other students from their batch.

"I wonder how strong Senior Chen Yu is now? I heard in that batch's freshman competition, Senior Chen Yu was ranked first, surpassing Duan Hao and Situ Lin Yu."

"Moreso, Senior Chen Yu was also taken as a disciple by the deputy dean."

Many freshmen's gazes immediately centered on Chen Yu.

"Junior brother, it's your turn to make a move now."

The first-ranked Yuan Chen revealed a slight smile.

His mentor managed to hold more than twenty moves against him and seemed to have some reserve strength yet to uncover, which might be enough to break into the top ten.

"Brother Yuan, you seem quite confident in your junior brother," Luo Haotian said with a smile, inquiring about Chen Yu.

"My little junior brother has exceptional talent and strength, he should be able to make a name for himself in this academy competition," Yuan Chen said softly.

Seeing the gaze from his senior brother Yuan Chen, Chen Yu couldn't help but step forward.

"I challenge the thirteenth place."

Chen Yu issued his challenge to the thirteenth place.

This competition was merely to secure a spot, as long as one entered the top twenty there was no need to reserve nothing in the fight for rankings to the point of a bloody battle.

Moreover, Master Yi Lantian had also advised Chen Yu, "In the early part of the competition, do not reveal that you are cultivating the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.'"

After all, being Yi Lantian's disciple, Chen Yu was somewhat conspicuous.

Being somewhat low profile at the beginning, better ignored by other academies, would make it easier to achieve better results at the critical moment.

However, being too low profile could tarnish the Master's reputation, so Chen Yu decided to secure the thirteenth spot.

"Senior Chen Yu is only challenging the thirteenth place, it seems he admits he's not the equal of Duan Hao and Situ Lin Yu."

"That's right, Senior Chen Yu, after all bereft of family backing, can't cultivate as swiftly as Senior Situ Lin Yu and Senior Duan Hao. Now both Seniors Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao are at Innate Late Stage, while Senior Chen Yu is just at Early Innate."

The freshmen felt somewhat regretful, speculating the reason.

They entirely forgot that for an ordinary student, reaching Early Innate Peak in two years and daring to challenge the thirteenth spot was already quite remarkable.

Chapter 326: Acting Low-Key

"I've long heard that the Vice Dean has taken on a new disciple, yet I've never had the chance to meet him. Today, as Disciple Chen has taken the initiative to challenge, let me see for myself what abilities Disciple Chen truly has."

From the thirteenth position, Fan Dong said with a smile.

Fan Dong was a senior student at the Devil Wind Institute. Although ranked thirteenth, he had been in the late stage of the Innate level for a long time and possessed extremely strong underlying strength.

He had heard of Chen Yu's deeds and knew the latter was capable of challenging those above his level. However, he couldn't believe that with his years of strength in the late stage of Innate, he would lose to a young man at the peak of the early stage of Innate.

Nearby, numerous instructors and teachers all turned their attention to Chen Yu.

Many of them had only heard that Chen Yu was taken as a disciple by the Vice Dean but had never seen him.

Naturally, they were curious about who had caught the eye of the Vice Dean.

The Vice Dean wasn't ordinary in his choices, take Yuan Chen for instance. He didn't have a strong bloodline or backing from a major family, but his strength was undisputedly the first in No Demon Academy.

Whoosh!

Fan Dong took a stride, bringing with him a gust of wind, and landed on the battle platform.

With a tip of his toes and almost no pause, Fan Dong rapidly closed in on Chen Yu.

Whoosh~

A palm thrust out, the roaring wind forming a beast shadow, descending upon Chen Yu's chest.

Chen Yu immediately activated his Copper Statue Gang Body, transforming into a Buddha-like copper statue bathed in light.

His Copper Statue Gang Body hadn't completely turned into the Secret Pattern Demon Body yet, so he could still use it, just not as powerfully as before.

Channeling the Sha Qi within him, Chen Yu vehemently threw a punch.

Boom!

Fist met palm, and the wind and Sha Qi exploded outward.

A tremendous force was released from Chen Yu's arms, transferring into Fan Dong's arms and causing his bones to ache.

"What a formidable strength."

Fan Dong was secretly astonished.

Moreover, Chen Yu's Sha Qi was on par with his True Qi.

Little did he know that if Chen Yu were to use the Secret Pattern Demon Body and Demon Pattern Qi, that single punch could have seriously injured Fan Dong.

"Tearing Wind Palm!"

Fan Dong's expression grew stern as he fully channeled his True Qi.

Alongside his rapid movement techniques, Fan Dong unleashed several terrifying palm attacks.

Howl~

Chen Yu stimulated his physical power and True Qi, executing the "Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow".

Exploding instantaneously, he moved at incredibly high speeds, pressing in on Fan Dong.

One should know, Chen Yu's training in the "Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow" had reached the fifth level; his speed was only a bit slower than his senior brother, Yuan Chen.

"Sha Qi materialize!"

Sha Qi swirled around Chen Yu's arms, transforming into a Black-Scaled Giant Python, and he launched it forward.

"Tearing Wind Palm!"

Fan Dong immediately struck out with a palm, attempting to defend.

Whoosh~

The Black-Scaled Giant Python instantly crushed the oncoming wind and collided with Fan Dong's body.

Fan Dong was thrown backwards, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

Had he not been wearing a protective armor, Chen Yu's punch could have left him severely injured.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu pressed forward again, kicking out with his leg and sweeping Fan Dong off the competition platform.

"I've lost!"

With a look of dejection on his face, Fan Dong realized he was defeated by a student in the early stage of Innate.

However, upon further thought, this student was not ordinary – he was a disciple of the Vice Dean, and that balanced out Fan Dong's feelings.

Having defeated Fan Dong, Chen Yu took his place among the twenty, standing in the thirteenth position.

"Hmm, Chen Yu's speed, defense, and strength are all exceptional. He truly deserves to be the Vice Dean's disciple. At the peak of early-stage Innate, he managed to defeat a genius student in the late stage of Innate."

Many teachers and instructors nodded in agreement.

Not far from the challenge platform, Ren Han showed a hint of doubt, "Didn't this kid switch to cultivating the demonic path?"

Indeed, Chen Yu had switched to cultivating the demonic path, but the Sha Qi in his body hadn't completely transformed into Demon Pattern Qi yet.

Therefore, he could still fight as an Evil Cultivator; however, the strength he exhibited now was probably only fifty to sixty percent of his prime.

Beside Ren Han.

Luo Haotian shook his head slightly, "With this level of skill, he thinks he can stand out in the great competition of the academy?"

Chen Yu could attain the thirteenth position here, but in the great competition of all the academies in Yun Zhao Country, gathering all the elite students, this level of strength was hardly noteworthy.

However, it also couldn't be ruled out that Chen Yu was hiding his true capabilities.

"Yu Hong, you challenge Chen Yu later."

Luo Haotian looked towards Yu Hong in the distance and transmitted his voice.

Yu Hong was originally ranked tenth but was defeated by Situ Lin Yu and lost his spot.

He was recovering from a mental injury, preparing to take up the challenge once again.

"Senior Brother Luo, Chen Yu is Yuan Chen's junior brother."

Yu Hong had a bitter look on his face.

Luo Haotian was the top student of the Devil Flame Institute and a prodigy from the Ancient Clan Luo Family.

And Yuan Chen was the top student in the entire No Demon Academy, with Chen Yu being his junior brother.

Truly a dilemma.

"Junior Sister, don't blame your Senior Brother for being ruthless!"

A somewhat plump man ascended the challenge platform, revealing a teasing smile as his gaze wandered over Nie Xuan's curvaceous body.

Thump!

Like a spring, Nie Xuan rapidly shot forward, a black long sword in her hand slashing towards the plump man's neck.

Clang!

The plump man pulled out a pair of short sticks, blocking Nie Xuan's sword strike.

Afterward, his short sticks hammered down in a frenzied offensive, pressing Nie Xuan fiercely.

However, Nie Xuan's movement skill was superb, and her ability to dodge was astonishing. Her supple body twisted effortlessly, performing a variety of high-difficulty moves.

From time to time, Nie Xuan would dart behind the plump man, launching attacks.

After nearly two hundred exchanges, the plump man still couldn't gain the upper hand over Nie Xuan.

At a certain moment, Nie Xuan seized a breach in her opponent's defense, sliding behind the plump man. A dagger suddenly appeared from her sleeve, stabbing fiercely.

The force of this strike was extremely powerful.

The plump man struggled to resist, his short sticks blocking the attack.

But then, Nie Xuan's second and third strikes followed quickly.

Boom!

The plump man was swept off the challenge platform by Nie Xuan's kick.

"Assassins won't miss any opportunity."

Chen Yu thought about the two assassins he had encountered after having watched this fight.

If those two assassins had been any stronger, he might have died in their ambush.

Facing an assassin, one can't afford to show any weakness, because the opponent will certainly not miss the opportunity to unleash a powerful combat strength in that instant and end the fight.

Nie Xuan's victory sparked a wave of cheers.

After all, as an assassin, she was not accustomed to fighting openly and honorably.

The challenges continued, but the number of challengers who could achieve victory dwindled.

"I challenge the thirteenth place!"

Yu Hong suddenly stood up.

Yu Hong's challenge did not surprise many people.

Indeed, he was originally ranked tenth but had been defeated by Situ Lin Yu, and out of the twenty, Chen Yu had the lowest cultivation level.

Yuan Chen glanced over, not at all worried as he knew that if Chen Yu went all out, Yu Hong stood no chance at all.

"It's over, Senior Brother Chen's strength isn't on par with Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao. He might fail against Yu Hong's challenge."

Some of the freshmen showed a hint of regret.

They had assumed that Senior Brother Chen challenged the thirteenth place because he admitted he was no match for Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao.

During that year's great competition, Chen Yu took first place but as time passed, Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao had caught up with him.

This made them sigh with envy at the power a strong family background brought.

Swoosh!

Being challenged, Chen Yu did not say much, simply stepping onto the challenge platform.

"Junior Brother Chen, sorry, but I'm taking your spot," Yu Hong said with a smile.

If it hadn't been for Luo Haotian's pressure, he wouldn't have chosen to challenge Chen Yu.

Swoosh!

Yu Hong's figure suddenly sped out, turning into a blur as he closed in on Chen Yu.

Suddenly, a dark blue flame palm struck with explosive force.

Chen Yu took out his Giant Ruler Sword and swept it horizontally, slashing out an astonishing evil wind sword light.

Bang!

There was an explosion as the evil Qi blue fire raged.

"Blue Flame Palm!"

Amid the chaotic flames and evil wind, Yu Hong suddenly burst forth, slamming another mighty flame palm.

Hoo!

Chen Yu executed the Shocking Evil Sword Technique, the giant sword cleaving powerfully through the air.

"This kid is not simple at all!"

The more Yu Hong fought, the more startled he became.

In truth, Chen Yu was also somewhat surprised; not using the demon pattern Qi and Secret Pattern Demon Body, defeating Yu Hong was not going to be easy. His Copper Statue Gang Body and True Evil Qi were transitioning to the Secret Pattern Demon Body and the demon pattern Qi, making it difficult to exert the same strength as during his peak.

Of course, if Yu Hong knew what Chen Yu was thinking at the moment, he might cough up blood in frustration.

Ha!

Chen Yu let out a fierce shout, pushing his Copper Statue Gang Body to the limit.

Buddhist light blossomed from his body, dazzlingly bright as he grew much taller, like a small giant.

"What's going on?"

Yu Hong was completely astonished.

In the academy, this was the first time Chen Yu had exhibited his ability to become gigantic.

"Sword Breaking Nebula!"

After enlarging, Chen Yu suddenly executed a sword move, and a massive jet-black Sha Qi Sword burst forth.

Boom!

Yu Hong was blasted off the challenge platform, blood spraying from his mouth.

"No, how could I lose?"

Yu Hong could hardly believe it.

"Senior Brother Chen has actually defeated Yu Hong."

"Is this really Senior Brother Chen's true strength? It seems he is no weaker than Senior Brothers Situ Lin Yu and Duan Hao!"

The freshmen were taken aback, exclaiming in surprise.

"This must be all of his strength."

Luo Haotian's lips curled into a cold smile.

Just now, it was clear to him that Chen Yu had been pushed to the brink before unleashing a deadly move to finally defeat Yu Hong.

After defeating Yu Hong, Chen Yu's position was thoroughly secured.

The challenge matches continued.

Soon, the number of challengers thinned.

"I challenge the twentieth place!"

Then, Puppet Master Kong Zhong stepped onto the challenge platform.

Chapter 327 Setting off

"Kong Zhong finally made his move."

Chen Yu looked toward Kong Zhong on the stage.

Since the freshman examination had ended, he hadn't seen Kong Zhong make a move, and he wondered how strong Kong Zhong had become.

"Haha, you think you can take my place?"

The woman currently ranked twentieth, a somewhat overweight female contestant, immediately stepped forward.

This woman had defeated the former holder of this position and had taken the spot. Her strength was not weak; she was one of the best among those in the Late Innate stage.

The overweight woman looked at Kong Zhong's appearance and couldn't help but laugh.

She herself was of an inferior stature and looks, but after seeing Kong Zhong, she felt a sense of comfort in her heart.

"Hmph!"

Kong Zhong sensed her thoughts from the woman's demeanor and let out a low, cold snort.

Go!

Kong Zhong waved his hand, releasing four puppets, among which two were at the Late Innate stage and two at the Innate Middle Stage.

Despite that, puppets ultimately lacked the flexibility of cultivators, had no consciousness of their own, and were merely controlled by Puppet Masters. A single Late Innate stage puppet definitely couldn't compare to a Late Innate stage cultivator.

Furthermore, the overweight woman was a talent from the No Demon Academy.

As for Kong Zhong's four puppets, her expression didn't change in the slightest.

However, Chen Yu, who had some understanding of Kong Zhong, noticed something different about the puppets.

For instance, the Giant Bear Puppet and the Monkey Puppet only resembled these animals on the exterior. Upon closer observation, many parts had significant modifications.

Chen Yu speculated that Kong Zhong's puppetry skills must have greatly improved.

Swoosh swoosh...

Under Kong Zhong's control, the monkey, giant bear, and two leopard puppets attacked the overweight woman from four directions.

"Just a few puppets!"

The overweight woman was dismissive, and a dark blue hammer appeared in her hand.

Boom boom boom~

She swung the hammer in a spinning motion, unleashing a layer of swirling, cold power.

Centered around her, it was as if a layer of grayish-white ice and snowstorm was spreading in all directions.

"Hehe, let's first reduce your puppets' agility, then deal with you, the Puppet Master, and all this will be over."

The overweight woman thought to herself.

The main approach of a Puppet Master was to use puppets, and their own combat power wasn't high.

However, the overweight woman found that these puppets were performing well and had strong resistance. But gradually, the four puppets began to slow down in speed and agility under the erosion of the cold and icy power.

"Just an Innate Middle Stage Puppet Master thinks they can take my spot."

The overweight woman sneered disdainfully.

She charged at Kong Zhong, suddenly swinging her hammer and smashing a nearby leopard puppet to scraps.

What the overweight woman didn't expect was...

Swoosh!

From the shattered remains of the leopard puppet, a spider puppet suddenly rushed out.

Hiss~

A sturdy strand of web shot out, entangling one of the overweight woman's arms.

At the same time, the other three puppets' bodies suddenly opened up empty square spaces, from which spider puppets flew out, each spitting out a thread of web.

In an instant, the overweight woman's limbs were all bound by the webs.

"Break!"

The overweight woman struggled with all her might, her True Qi surged wildly, and a wave of cold power spread along the webs, trying to destroy the spider puppets.

Just then, Kong Zhong extended a metal arm, from which a purple-golden hook claw shot out, aiming for the overweight woman's chest.

Bang!

The woman's clothes on her chest tore apart, but the treasure armor inside withstood some of the force.

Still, she spit out a mouthful of blood, her face turning ashen.

At that moment, the giant bear, leopard, and monkey puppets immediately launched an attack.

The overweight woman desperately defended herself but was ultimately blasted off the challenge stage.

"I've won!"

Kong Zhong revealed a hint of a smile.

All around, there was a stir of amazement.

Previously, they had not been optimistic about this Innate Middle Stage Puppet Master.

But the puppetry skills and adaptability Kong Zhong displayed astonished them greatly.

"Black Star Master, this disciple of yours is no ordinary individual!"

Some teachers and instructors said to the one-eyed Black Star Master.

"It seems Brother Kong is not confident enough with himself," remarked Chen Yu with a light smile.

Just now, Kong Zhong had been fairly calm, as if he still hadn't played his trump card.

Following Kong Zhong's challenge, Yu Hong once again initiated a challenge.

After two consecutive losses, he no longer had the capacity to strike for the top ten, so he challenged the fourteenth rank.

If he was overconfident and aimed for the top ten, a failure could lead to injury, and he might not even grab a spot at all.

Soon, the battle for the spots came to an end.

"Next, you can challenge those ranked higher than you, and if you win, you can take their place. The final ranking will also be your position on the No Demon Academy's leaderboards," said the extremely senior branch president once again.

Chen Yu wasn't interested in that; it was merely some extra fame and had no great practical use.

But among the twenty, there were a few who valued their ranking in the academy and initiated challenges.

The most significant movement was Wei Bin, ranked fifteenth, who challenged the eighth rank. After a long battle, he finally won by a narrow margin.

Wei Bin had not given his all in his previous fight, which was clear for all to see. His breakthrough into the top ten thus wasn't too surprising.

Ultimately, the twenty spots for the No Demon Academy's competition were decided.

Among them, Wu Heng, Luo Haotian, Ren Han, and others at the front of the rankings were never challenged from the start to the finish.

Countless spectators surrounding the area looked at these twenty individuals with envious and admiring eyes.

These twenty individuals are currently the strongest twenty at the No Demon Academy, set to represent the academy in the entire Yun Zhao Country's academy competition.

"This is the information related to the academy's grand competition. After all twenty of you return, take a look!"

A teacher took out twenty small booklets and distributed one to each person.

Returning to his residence, Chen Yu flipped through the booklet.

Firstly, the booklet contained records of student information from the four major academies, as well as twenty to thirty of the top academies.

"Duan Xinyue, Ye Chengfeng, Yunhai Zhen among others, are all introduced here!"

Chen Yu's eyes sparkled with keen light.

The booklet introduced the Cultivation Techniques these individuals practiced, some of their methods, as well as their strengths and weaknesses, among other information.

Of course, these descriptions might only represent the past states of these geniuses and could not guarantee their current strength remained as recorded in the booklet.

Among them, Chen Yu paid special attention to Yunyang Academy.

"Senior Brother Yuan Chen once said that the top ranker of Yunyang Academy is still debatable, as there are at least one or two people who have the capability to challenge for first place!"

Yunyang Academy, truly one of the four major academies, had the most descendants from the Imperial Family and the great clans, hence the possibility of the emergence of such exceptional geniuses was relatively higher.

"The top twenty are all at the Innate Peak!"

After a glance at the intelligence, Chen Yu's expression slightly trembled.

Unlike No Demon Academy, the top twenty individuals from Yunyang Academy all possessed the cultivation of the Innate Peak stage.

In addition to this information, the booklet also detailed explanations of the competition format.

Previous competitions generally consisted of two segments.

The first segment would involve trials or adventures to eliminate the vast majority of the students.

After all, with so many participants in the academy competition, starting with direct ranking battles would waste too much time.

And the mortality rate in this segment was relatively high.

The second segment would then be the ranking battle, determining the student rankings in Yun Zhao Country!

Additionally, there were a few competitions that added another segment in the middle with the purpose of testing or eliminating students.

Besides this, regarding rewards,

Almost every competition featured Origin Transformation Pills that could increase the chances of breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, as well as top-grade treasures, massive amounts of Spirit Stones, titles, and land grants.

"I wonder what the rewards for this competition will be?"

Chen Yu was somewhat expectant.

According to the intelligence, the rewards for each competition were progressively increasing, surpassing those of the previous competitions.

That night, Yuan Chen came to visit.

"Senior Brother, why have you come? We are departing in three days."

Chen Yu asked.

"This is from Master for you."

Yuan Chen took out two items from his storage bag.

One was a black and purple bead that Chen Yu recognized; it was with this bead that he had managed to kill the Fiery Fire Demon Lizard and avert the crisis in the Demon Bone Wilderness underground.

"This is a Communication Talisman, which might prove useful when the time comes!"

Yuan Chen handed the second item to Chen Yu.

Chen Yu did not decline and received both items.

The power of the black and purple bead could rival a full-strength strike from someone in the Guiyuan Realm and, if used well, could even kill someone of that level.

As for the Communication Talisman, it would allow Chen Yu to send out a distress message to Yuan Chen.

For the first time, Chen Yu felt how much his Master, Yi Lantian, valued him.

"With these few items, as long as you can make it through the first segment, breaking into the top fifty should not be a problem."

Yuan Chen said with a calm smile, then left the residence.

In the academy competition, only the top fifty received rewards, so making it into the top fifty was considered an achievement.

But Chen Yu's goal was not just the top fifty.

"If I give it my all, I should be able to break into the top twenty!"

Chen Yu estimated in his heart.

He spent the remaining time in seclusion, studying the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

The stronger his power, the better ranking he could achieve in the academy competition.

Three days later.

Everyone gathered at a square inside the academy.

The square was already crowded with several students and some of the academy's top brass.

Half an hour later, the majority of people had arrived.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, a figure in a black robe appeared in the sky, with a sleeping wildcat draped over his shoulder.

As everyone's eyes followed the figure, he suddenly appeared on the ground.

"So fast!"

Everyone was taken aback, as they had not seen the trajectory of the person's movement technique.

"Vice Principal!"

All the higher-ups saluted in unison.

Among the twenty students, several had never seen the Vice Principal before and showed expressions of surprise and admiration.

Had it not been for the academy competition, they likely wouldn't have had the chance to meet the Vice Principal even after graduating.

"Let's go!"

The Vice Principal's black robe fluttered, and Demonic Qi rolled around him.

The next moment, a bizarre Demon Beast appeared in the square that spanned several dozen zhang.

It had a large head and body covered in scales, and yet it sported a pair of black wings.

With a flap of its wings, it sent out a foul wind and dark wave, making many students at the Late Innate stage feel oppressed and short of breath.

"A Guiyuan Realm flying mount!"

All the students looked on with envy, as the Demon Beast's grade also seemed extraordinary.

Swoosh, swoosh~

Twenty people all boarded the creature.

The Guiyuan Realm flying mount suddenly flapped its wings, carrying everyone away into the distance.

In less than half a day, they arrived at the Royal City of Tianhe Prefecture, and after activating a large teleportation formation, everyone was teleported to Yunyang Holy Mansion.

Chapter 328: Gathering of the Proud Elite

A layer of brilliant silver-gray light, accompanied by the slow dissipation of spatial fluctuations, revealed the group from No Demon Academy as they appeared at the important teleportation site of Yunyang Holy Mansion.

"No Demon Academy has arrived!"

"True to being one of the top four academies, their lineup is so formidable. That young man in yellow leading them must be Yuan Chen, the top student of No Demon Academy."

Around them, a buzz of voices suddenly erupted, with countless gazes converging on the group from No Demon Academy.

The students from No Demon Academy looked around to see a sea of people on all sides.

Most of them were geniuses in their twenties.

Their gazes toward the No Demon Academy students were filled with excitement and admiration.

This scene made the hearts of the No Demon Academy students swell with pride and a deep sense of honor.

"There are at least four hundred academies participating in the academy competition every time, and these are the academies apart from the top four!"

Yuan Chen introduced to the other students who were participating in the academy competition for the first time.

"Senior Brother, why are they here?"

Chen Yu asked.

"They are here to welcome us. The academy competition is actually organized by the top four academies. Since the four academies are too strong, other academies can hardly gain any advantages in the competition. As a result, most of them choose to pledge allegiance to one of the top four academies to seek their protection,"

Explained Senior Brother Yuan Chen in a low voice.

In other words, the academies nearby that were allied with No Demon Academy would be looking to the No Demon students to lead the way in the first stage of the competition.

"Senior Yi, long time no see!"

At this moment, several Guiyuan Realm powerhouses approached and greeted Vice Dean Yi Lantian.

Also in the Guiyuan Realm, a few of them were older than Yi Lantian, but they addressed him respectfully with a smile, calling him Senior Yi.

"This year's academy competition has many extraordinary talents from your academy. They're sure to achieve excellent results,"

Said a portly old man with a hearty laugh.

After his words, he turned to evaluate the twenty students from No Demon Academy.

After looking them over, his brows slightly furrowed.

Among the twenty from No Demon Academy, there was a student at the Innate Middle Stage and even one at the Early Innate Stage.

In their second-tier academies, even those at the bottom had only one or two at the Early Innate Stage.

"Let's go, head to the competition venue,"

Yi Lantian said calmly, mounting a flying mount and leading the way.

At the same time, from among the countless onlookers around them, nearly a third mounted their flying mounts and soared into the sky, following behind No Demon Academy.

"That young man in the yellow clothes is Yuan Chen of No Demon Academy."

"And there's Luo Haotian, ranked second, and Ren Han, ranked third— all my type of handsome men."

"Hey? Why is there an Early Innate youngster? He can't possibly be here to compete."

Students from other academies behind watched the twenty from No Demon Academy and discussed animatedly.

"Haha!"

Wei Bin laughed with a strange enjoyment, and the rest also showed smiles, holding their heads high and chests out.

Having so many people admiring and worshipping them, few could maintain a composed state of mind.

Boom~ The Ancient Transmission Array on which the No Demon Academy group had not yet departed was once again shining with a layer of silver-gray light.

"Sky Sword Academy!"

"Look quickly, there's Ye Chengfeng and He Qiuyun, so handsome!"

Cries of surprise filled the surroundings.

The twenty from No Demon Academy also looked together in that direction.

They saw the group from Sky Sword Academy arriving on a silver boat, shaped curiously like a sword.

The students of Sky Sword Academy were almost all handsome men and beautiful women, each with an extraordinary bearing.

Leading them was Ye Chengfeng, clad in white, unsullied by dust, his pale blue hair fluttering in the wind.

He Qiuyun, with his sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, had even more striking looks than Ye Chengfeng.

However, among the twenty from Sky Sword Academy, the focus of most eyes was not on these two men, but on a woman.

This woman was dressed in a white gauzy fabric, with eyes cool as the waters of an autumnal pond, an aquiline nose, slender eyebrows, and a flawless complexion like porcelain, akin to a Heavenly Immortal.

Her breathtaking beauty left many male students dumbstruck, drooling.

"Ye Luofeng, the new generation genius of Sky Sword Academy and also the first beauty of the academy

A student praised unceasingly.

The Sky Sword students didn't pay much attention to the gazes of those around them; they all looked towards the No Demon students.

"Yuan Chen?"

Ye Chengfeng's gaze lingered on Yuan Chen for a moment, then he immediately turned his attention away.

"Eh? That kid is also here."

He Qiuyun's gaze swept over the others before resting on Chen Yu.

Back then, the honor of the Hunting King in the hunting competition was stolen by Chen Yu.

And during his years at the academy, he had been pursuing Ye Luofeng without success, blaming it all on Chen Yu.

"Indeed, he's also participating in the competition!"

Ye Luofeng's icy eyes settled on Chen Yu, filled with a fighting spirit, a joy of reunion, and a touch of elation.

When she sensed Chen Yu's cultivation level, the corners of her mouth lifted ever so slightly in a smile.

In the past hunting competition, she had lost to Chen Yu.

But now, she had reached the Peak of Middle Innate, leaving Chen Yu far behind.

Ye Luofeng was already the center of attention, and her unusual behavior caught the eyes of countless onlookers.

"The Ice Mountain Fairy, Ye Luofeng, is actually smiling! Who is she looking at? Seems to be someone from No Demon Academy?"

"Could it be that Ye Luofeng has someone in her heart?"

Many students' hearts shattered instantly.

"Luo Feng?"

Ye Chengfeng's sharp eyes followed Ye Luofeng's gaze to Chen Yu.

As the top student of Sky Sword Academy, he also couldn't resist a beauty like Ye Luofeng. And since they shared the surname Ye, he had invited her to join the Ye Family, one of the four super clans.

Instinct told Ye Chengfeng that the person Ye Luofeng was watching was just a young man at the Early Innate Stage.

The No Demon Academy students, however, showed faces of surprise, feeling flattered and overwhelmed by the attention.

Ye Luofeng of Sky Sword Academy, although they had not seen her, they had long heard of her reputation.

Indeed, she truly lives up to her reputation.

"Miss Luo Feng isn't watching me, is she?"

Wei Bin let out a somewhat foolish, goofy grin.

"This lady, she's getting more and more beautiful!"

Chen Yu glanced at Ye Luofeng and got slightly distracted for a moment.

Suddenly, Ye Chengfeng's eyes, carrying an extremely sharp Sword Intent, assaulted everyone, causing the hearts of the No Demon Academy students to tremble.

"What a strong Sword Intent, a single look instills fear in me. Is this the strength of Ye Chengfeng?"

A Late Innate student exclaimed in shock.

There was a rumor about the once Ye Chengfeng: among his peers, aside from the top individuals from the four great academies, very few could withstand a single sword strike from him.

However, it was just for an instant, as Ye Chengfeng's gaze shifted away.

"Vice Dean Yi, you've arrived quite early."

An elder with white eyebrows on the "Sword Boat" said with an indifferent smile.

"Likewise!"

Yi Lantian simply responded.

Then, Sky Sword and No Demon Academy, each leading a large group of affiliated academies, hurried off into the distance.

"Miss Ye, are you faring well at Sky Sword Academy?"

On the way, Chen Yu took the initiative to greet her via a message.

"Not too bad, Luo Feng will definitely make it into the top twenty in this competition!"

Ye Luofeng felt a sudden surge of happiness for some reason, and then messaged back.

"This lady, it seems she still wants to compete with me."

Chen Yu was somewhat speechless. It appears that Ye Luofeng was not willing to accept her last defeat.

Soon enough, the two great academies, leading many affiliated academies, arrived at a region of beautiful mountains and rivers that stretched endlessly.

From afar, Chen Yu saw many figures standing ahead.

As the figures became clearer, everyone suddenly felt a pressure.

"Yunyang Academy!"

Duan Hao said in a grave tone.

Yunyang Academy's people were stationed at the peak of a mountain, while the mountain's middle was filled with shadows of the affiliated academies, their numbers at least twice that of No Demon Academy.

"The people from No Demon Academy and Sky Sword Academy have finally arrived."

Atop the mountain, a middle-aged man wearing a Golden Cloud Robe laughed out loud.

The crowd from No Demon Academy settled on a peak to the left, while Sky Sword Academy took its place on the right.

"Yunhai Zhen!"

From Sky Sword Academy's side, Ye Chengfeng's sharp eyes focused on a handsome young man in golden clothes.

This man was the top individual from Yunyang Academy, Yunhai Zhen!

At this moment, he seemed to be engrossed in contemplation, his eyes half-closed, completely oblivious to the outside world.

"Hmm?"

The young man in golden clothes sensed something unusual, opened his eyes, and a fierce flame glint clashed with the Sword Intent in the void, an invisible force exploding in the air.

Feeling the intangible contest between the top individuals from the two great academies, many students were boiling with excitement.

"I wonder who is stronger, Yunhai Zhen or Ye Chengfeng!"

"Ye Chengfeng's Sword Dao is unmatched, while Yunhai Zhen possesses the powerful Yun Family bloodline, along with a special spiritual flame. It's really hard to say."

Many began to discuss.

Some students at No Demon Academy suddenly felt that their strongest member, Yuan Chen, was perhaps not on the same level as those from Sky Sword and Yunyang Academy.

"Don't just focus on Yunhai Zhen; every member from Yunyang Academy is not to be underestimated, with Tang Mo ranked second and Yin Chengzhuang third

Yuan Chen suddenly spoke.

As soon as he finished speaking, a slim and somewhat cunning-looking man in grey clothes from Yunyang Academy's side turned his attention toward Yuan Chen.

"Yuan Chen? I did not expect that for this competition, you would become the top individual at No Demon Academy. This time, I will defeat you."

The man in grey clothes, "Yin Chengzhuang," gave a sinister smile.

It was well-known that Yin Chengzhuang was ranked third in Yunyang Academy, but if he could defeat No Demon Academy's top student, how would No Demon Academy save face?

"It looks like elder brother has a score to settle with this Yin Chengzhuang."

Chen Yu pondered to himself.

"Rumor has it that Yuan Chen's junior fellow disciple is also participating in this academy competition. I wonder which one he is?"

Seeing that Yuan Chen remained silent, Yin Chengzhuang spoke again with a sneer.

Although Yuan Chen's strength was not on par with Yunhai Zhen or Ye Chengfeng, he was still the top individual in No Demon Academy. More importantly, he was a disciple of the Vice Dean.

Therefore, Yuan Chen's junior fellow disciple was also naturally a disciple of the Vice Dean.

To be accepted as a disciple by the Vice Dean, everyone was no ordinary person and was basically destined to become the first or second strongest in the academy.

Immediately, the gaze of many from the other two mountains converged on the students of No Demon Academy.

According to No Demon Academy's intel, only a student previously ranked twentieth had detailed information. Chen Yu had taken the spot later, so there was no detailed information on him.

Only a few knew through other sources of information that Chen Yu was a disciple of the Vice Dean.

Gradually, the gaze of most settled on Chen Yu.

"Early Innate? Are they kidding? This kid is here to feed, right?"

"No Demon Academy's Vice Dean's vision is getting worse and worse, haha, Early Innate, I could kill him with one strike."

Many started to laugh.

"Vice Dean's new disciple!"

Ye Luofeng's beautiful eyes lit up with interest.

She was also taken as a disciple by the Vice Dean, and although Chen Yu was Early Innate, she would definitely give her all if they faced each other.

"Junior brother, be careful of this Yin Chengzhuang. Although he was once defeated by me, his bloodline is incredibly strong, and I am not clear on his current strength."

Yuan Chen looked at Chen Yu, speaking with a hint of concern.

Most could tell that this Yin Chengzhuang was deliberately making trouble for Chen Yu.

In this dog-eat-dog world, without strength, Chen Yu became a disciple of the Vice Dean, which naturally made many green with envy, and those who had suffered at Yuan Chen's hand in the previous competition were even less likely to let Chen Yu off.

Moreover, although Chen Yu was not strong now, being accepted as a disciple by the Vice Dean meant that he must have something exceptional about him. Perhaps in the next academy competition, he might become a pillar of No Demon Academy, and it would be best to nip such potential in the bud.

"The Yin Family possesses the bloodline of pupil techniques, and Yin Chengzhuang's 'Yin Flame Pupil' is particularly powerful, capable of killing with a glance."

Shang Han, who bore ill will towards Chen Yu, said with a hint of schadenfreude.

Chapter 329: The Grand Competition Begins

"The Yin Family possesses a bloodline connected to their eyes, and Yin Chengzhuang's 'Yin Flame Pupil' is even more immensely powerful, able to kill a person with just one glance."

Beside him, Shang Han, who bore hostility towards Chen Yu, chimed in with a hint of schadenfreude.

The Yin Family was one of the ten great Ancient Clans, and even Shang Han did not feel confident in withstanding a few moves from Yin Chengzhuang.

In other words, if Chen Yu were to encounter Yin Chengzhuang, his death would almost be certain.

After sizing each other up for a while, the three major academies fell silent.

The academy competition was about to begin, and there would be plenty of opportunities to make a move.

After the No Demon Academy group settled in, Chen Yu paid no more attention to the rest and concentrated on comprehending the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

This year's competition was filled with strong contenders. With his current strength, if he were not careful, there was a possibility he could fall.

The Red Flame King lay beside him, presumably cultivating.

With the competition spanning a long time, Chen Yu didn't feel confident leaving the Red Flame King at the academy; he might prove to be of help at a critical moment.

A day later, Sky Star Academy arrived.

Sky Star Academy was also led by its vice president, with all personnel riding on a palace-shaped flying artifact.

The number one figure from Sky Star Academy, Duan Xinyue, stood proudly in a black dress, her curvaceous figure and her beautiful face wearing a smile that was both confident and seductive. She seemed like a fiery spirit, the complete opposite of the Ice Mountain Fairy Ye Luofeng.

Duan Xinyue glanced over the other three major academies and greeted Yuan Chen first.

"New Moon!"

From Yunyang Academy, the second-ranked Tang Mo, for the first time initiated conversation, looking towards Duan Xinyue.

Many from the four major academies knew that Tang Mo fancied Duan Xinyue, but Duan Xinyue was not at all interested in the low-profile and dull Tang Mo.

All four major academies had arrived early so that they had more time to observe the participating students from each academy.

After all, the information in reports was not always accurate.

Meanwhile,

Martial Artists from all over Yun Zhao Country, showing interest in this grand event, raced to arrive at Liuyun Mountain Range.

Gradually, more and more Martial Artists gathered in the Liuyun Mountain Range, turning the previously quiet atmosphere lively.

One day.

"The Yun Zhao National Academy competition, begins now!"

A man in a Golden Cloud Robe from Yunyang Academy spoke loudly. His booming voice immediately spread in all directions, clearly entering the minds of everyone listening.

This man was not only the vice president of Yunyang Academy but also a member of the Yun Zhao Royal Family, holding a high position and wielding great power.

All students watched intently, knowing that it was time for the competition rules to be announced.

The competition rules of the grand event would have a certain degree of influence on the overall results and the victory or loss.

"I wonder what the competition rules will be?"

Jin Zhuo Peak muttered to himself.

The rules for each session of the academy competition were set by the senior executives of the four major academies, who signed a contract not to disclose them.

"The first stage, elimination round. All participating students, please choose a Token."

The man in the Golden Cloud Robe waved his hand, and golden clouds tumbled in the air, producing nearly a thousand gray Tokens.

All students showed expressions of confusion; this competition's rules were indeed different from previous sessions.

Without knowing the reason, all the contestants still leaped up and chose a Token for themselves.

"The first stage, you will enter a trial location. To pass this stage, each contestant must collect ten white Tokens and ten black Tokens!"

Finally, the competition rules were announced to the world.

"Black and white Tokens?"

Many students showed puzzled looks.

Didn't everyone receive a gray Token?

But just then, the gray surface of all Tokens gradually faded, revealing either black or white colors.

"Black!"

Chen Yu's eyes flashed, and he immediately placed the Token in his storage bag.

The moment others learned of their Token colors, they quickly stowed their Tokens in storage bags as well and surveyed their surroundings.

The rules of the first stage stipulated that collecting ten black Tokens and ten white Tokens was required to pass.

In other words, even if someone collected twenty white Tokens, it would not be considered passing. If the colors of the Tokens in one's possession were rashly revealed, even one's usual friends might turn against them.

"Next, rankings will be determined based on the pairs of black and white Tokens during the first stage, with extra rewards for the top ten."

The vice president of Yunyang Academy announced the final competition rule.

Upon hearing this, the top contenders from the four major academies immediately smiled.

"Heh heh, this year's academy competition is quite interesting."

Yin Chengzhuang smiled, his dark eyes sweeping over all the contestants.

This year's competition format was outright plundering; the more Tokens you plundered, the higher your rank would be, and you could receive the rewards for the first stage.

Yunyang Academy's top figure, Yunhai Zhen, also had a glint of excitement in his eyes, evidently intrigued.

In previous years, the first stage was just an ordinary elimination round, lacking any competitive edge or fighting spirit.

But now, the first stage would also determine rankings and distribute certain rewards.

The students from outside the four major academies instantly turned pale.

With their strength, after entering the trial, wouldn't they only be relegated to being plundered?

"Once you enter, if you encounter students from the four major academies, hand over your Tokens immediately and seek their protection!"

One of the academy's high-level executives strategized for their students.

"The trial begins!"

The vice president of Yunyang Academy threw out an ancient silver stone disk.

At the same time, the vice presidents from the other three major academies flew out as well.

Whizz!

The four vice presidents simultaneously performed hand seals, casting mysterious characters that imprinted into the stone disk.

"The four vice presidents each have a part of the sealing keys."

The Red Flame King's eyes flashed with a sharp light.

"Open!"

The four shouted in unison.

Buzzing~

The space above the stone disk vibrated violently, and suddenly "whoosh," a fissure tore open.

An ancient and special aura seeped out from within.

"Hurry inside!"

In an instant,

All the competing students, one after another, soared into the air.

Suddenly, a terrifying power enveloped the area, pressing toward the passageway.

Numerous students who had reached the vicinity were forcibly pushed back, coughing up fresh blood.

Swoosh!

Out of nowhere, an astonishingly fierce sword light aimed directly at the spatial passageway appeared.

Ye Chengfeng, as if transforming into a sword light phantom, entered the spatial passageway with a speed far surpassing others.

Immediately after,

Whoosh!

A golden figure, wrapped in a dazzling golden flame, blasted away several top warriors and rushed into the spatial passageway.

"Yunhai Zhen! Such strong True Qi!"

Jin Zhuo Peak, who was forced to retreat, exclaimed.

Swish! Swish!

Following that, Duan Xinyue and Yuan Chen, successively entered as well.

After the top students from the four major academies entered, other students from the same academies scrambled to get in, with students from outside the major academies being the last.

"Is the first stage of this competition too cruel?"

"With only ten black and white Tokens allowing advancement, that means over ninety percent of the students will be eliminated in the first round."

Many of the later-informed academy leaders exclaimed in surprise.

To collect Tokens, students must engage in a merciless battle.

The elimination rate for the first stage had never been so high before.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you may not know this, but this trial ground is a new secret realm discovered by the Yun Zhao Royal Family last year. That is to say, this is the first exploration!"

The Vice Dean of Yunyang Academy spoke.

"A new secret realm!"

Many of the high-level officials from the academies, including some excited cultivators, immediately showed eagerness in their eyes.

Every time, the first stage of the competition is almost always an adventure trial.

These trial grounds are treasure lands far superior to ordinary secret realms.

That's why weaker academies also participate, sometimes with notable gains.

And this time, the first stage of the trial is an untouched treasure land!

"As you know, a secret realm that has never been explored holds the greatest opportunities, so correspondingly, the rules for this first stage are harsher."

The Vice Dean of Yunyang Academy spoke again.

...

Swoosh!

Chen Yu emerged from the spatial passageway, feeling his body suddenly weigh down, accompanied by a sense of dizziness and discomfort.

He steadied his landing.

It was an ancient forest, with trees so thick and vegetation so lush, all emanating an aura of ancientness.

"Ah, Blood Transformation Grass that is two hundred years old!"

Chen Yu caught a glimpse of a dark red herb next to an ancient tree.

"To find two-hundred-year-old medicinal herbs so easily!"

However, Blood Transformation Grass is quite common, and at two hundred years old, it isn't very valuable.

Moreover, the easy discovery of a two-hundred-year-old precious material indicated that the resource level here was very high.

Therefore, Chen Yu did not rush to collect the Blood Transformation Grass. Instead, he released the Iron Moon Strange Insect to scout the surrounding environment.

Just as the Iron Moon Strange Insect flew out,

"Hm, someone's here?"

Chen Yu became vigilant, then relaxed again.

Behind Chen Yu, suddenly, a student at the Innate Middle Stage appeared.

Seeing the No Demon Academy insignia on Chen Yu's clothes, the male student immediately showed a terrified look, "Don't kill me, I'm willing to hand over my Token, please let me follow senior!"

Chen Yu turned to look at the student, whose clothes did not belong to any of the four major academies, clearly indicating he was from a second-tier academy.

"Eh? Early Innate?"

At that moment, the student also scrutinized Chen Yu, showing a puzzled expression.

Squashing the surprise on his face, the student approached Chen Yu with a Token in his outstretched hands, "You must be the Vice Dean's disciple, mustn't you? You surely possess exceptional talent and strength, otherwise the Vice Dean wouldn't have taken notice of you."

The male student wore a flattering smile, but as he came within three meters of Chen Yu,

He suddenly lunged forward, a curved knife appearing in his hand, and viciously swung it.

"Ha-ha, die!"

The male student revealed a ferocious grin.

The curved knife he flung was spinning rapidly, like a crescent moon, cutting through the air with a sharp whirring sound, aiming to slash Chen Yu.

"Heh heh, the Vice Dean's disciple of No Demon Academy, surely the Vice Dean misused his powers to grant you this opportunity, but you are seeking death, daring to participate in the Great Competition with mere Early Innate stage!"

The male student laughed loudly.

He ranked within the top ten in his own academy as someone at the Innate Middle Stage.

In this trial secret realm, the outside world could not see within, or else he wouldn't risk assassinating a disciple of the Vice-Dean of No Demon Academy.

The next moment, however, the male student's smile froze.

Cling-clang!

The sharp curved knife he flung, as if hitting an iron wall, trembled violently and struggled to advance.

"This... senior

The male student turned pale with fear, trembling, ready to plead.

Snap! Swoosh!

Chen Yu reached out, grabbed the knife, and flung it forcefully.

A flash of gold, and the sharp curved knife slid across the male student's neck, blood splattered, and the head fell to the side.

Chen Yu walked over, took the storage bag from the body, and began a careful examination.

"Lucky me, a white Token!"

Chen Yu smiled, taking the Token and anything else he found valuable with him.

Chapter 330: Demon Spirit Poison Heart Flower

"The first part of the competition requires each participant to collect ten black and ten white tokens to pass the assessment."

"Next, rankings will be determined based on the pairs of black and white tokens, and rewards will be granted to the top ten."

"Although Chen Yu didn't know what the specific rewards were, he heard that the rewards issued during the academy's grand competition were definitely worthwhile."

"If possible, I also want to strive for the top ten," Chen Yu thought to himself.

At present, though, that hope seemed rather bleak.

For instance, the top competitor from the four major academies was almost an invincible presence in the trials, not to mention that the ones ranked second and third were only slightly behind the first, each a top-notch master in their own right.

There were two methods to vie for the top ten.

First, at the very beginning of the trial, plunder a large number of tokens.

Students from outside the four major academies, holding many tokens, would also be easy to seize upon.

Second, toward the final phase of the trial, seize tokens from the top talents.

By the end, each top talent would possess numerous tokens.

Each plunder would yield tremendous gains.

Just then, Chen Yu's Iron Moon Strange Insect discovered the traces of other students.

In his vision,

A black-haired young man with a straight posture and a cold face encountered a fat man.

The fat man was ranked nineteenth at No Demon Academy.

"Senior Ren, I didn't expect to run into you so soon!" the fat man said excitedly, hurrying over.

Although he was a student of one of the four major academies, his strength was at the bottom, and if he encountered other students from the major academies, he probably wouldn't fare well.

At this moment, he met Ren Han, ranked third in his own academy.

With Ren Han by his side, danger would be greatly reduced.

"Sure, let us stick together," Ren Han said indifferently, his eyes unflinching.

The fat man was overjoyed and stood next to Ren Han.

But in the next moment, his face twisted in pain, and a trickle of fresh blood spilled from the corner of his mouth.

His heart had been pierced by a delicate, pale hand, and blood spurted out.

"Senior Ren

The fat man fell dead, disbelief etched on his face.

Ren Han, expressionless, took the deceased's storage bag, then pulled out a bottle and sprinkled a black-green powder.

Immediately, the fat man's body burst into flames.

From a distance, Chen Yu witnessed this scene, equally surprised.

From what had happened, the fat man and Ren Han seemed to bear no grievances; otherwise, the fat man wouldn't have joyfully approached Ren Han without any precautions.

Yet, Ren Han had mercilessly killed a fellow student!

At that moment, Ren Han's gaze shifted towards a nearby dark blue spot.

"Not good, I've been spotted," Chen Yu thought, alarmed.

Ren Han's perception and vigilance were too sharp.

Through the insect's vision, Chen Yu watched as Ren Han fiercely struck out with his palm.

Boom!

A black palm blade, solid as reality, shaped like a small black knife exuding a tremendous demonic aura, sliced through the air at high speed.

At the critical moment, the Iron Moon Strange Insect burrowed into the ground, using the soil layers to absorb most of the palm's force.

Then, the Iron Moon Strange Insect rapidly retreated underground.

"Ren Han is coming," Chen Yu immediately retreated.

However, Ren Han might be faster than him.

Given the enmity between Chen Yu and Ren Han, plus having witnessed that scene, Ren Han would not let him off easily.

Ranked third in the academy, even if Chen Yu used all his tricks, he might not be able to kill him.

...

Whoosh!

A dark figure flashed through the ancient forest, arriving at an empty space.

"There was someone here just now!"

Ren Han's expression darkened.

His gloomy and dark eyes scanned the surroundings, searching for any clues.

Suddenly, his ears twitched slightly, as if he heard something, and he charged forward.

Several miles away, above the old forest,

A figure with a pair of black incomplete wings extended behind him hovered in the air, overlooking the deep parts of the distant forest.

"He's really fast," Chen Yu sighed in relief.

The black wings on his back were a reward from a hunting competition.

If he hadn't used these wings to leave in time, escaping would not have been so easy.

High above, Chen Yu's vision was extremely broad, and he spotted another student not far away, towards whom Ren Han was charging.

Even though the student voluntarily handed over his tokens, Ren Han still killed him.

Whoosh!

A dark blue light shot towards Chen Yu, landing in his palm.

The strike from Ren Han had injured the Iron Moon Strange Insect, though luckily the damage wasn't severe and the insect's recovery ability was extremely strong.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu flapped his wings, staying away from the area for the time being.

From afar, Chen Yu's vision caught sight of the forest's edge.

"There's a cave ahead," Chen Yu controlled his wings, slowly descending.

Flying with these wings consumed a significant amount of True Qi.

However, as he descended, Chen Yu noticed the presence of a three-person group directly in front of the cave.

The leader of the group seemed somewhat familiar to Chen Yu.

After a moment's thought, Chen Yu recalled that during the newcomers' grand competition, several people from Yunyang Academy had come to visit; among them was a short-haired young man who was very enthusiastic towards Commandery Princess Ning, rumored to be from the Lv Family of the ten Ancient Clans, named Lv Ze.

"Let's go take a look."

Chen Yu landed, retracted his wings, and approached the cave.

Then, he sent the Iron Moon Strange Insect into the cave again to scout the situation.

Boom Bang!

In the cave, sounds of fighting could be heard.

Lv Ze and two others were fighting fiercely with seven or eight scorpions.

These scorpions were pitch-black and shiny, with their tail tips exhibiting a touch of bright red, signifying an unimaginably potent poison.

Inside the cave, there was a pool of black spring water, with many precious materials in the center and some hatching eggs around the edge.

"These are 'Black Iron Demon Scorpions', their bodies flow with a trace of Ancient Beast Bloodline; among the demon beasts, they are considered top-tier, and here, there are six hatching eggs of the Black Iron Demon Scorpions!"

Lv Ze's gaze fell on the hatching eggs inside the cave, his eyes blazing with fervor.

If these eggs were successfully hatched and nurtured by the clan, they would become six powerful spirit pets.

However, Chen Yu was not interested in the Black Iron Demon Scorpion eggs. Instead, he was enormously attracted to a rare material inside the spring water.

"Demon Spirit Poison Heart Flower!"

The Demon Spirit Poison Heart Flower, a rare demonic material containing the essence of the demonic path, could be absorbed swiftly to enhance one's cultivation.

But this flower also came with a toxin that directly attacked the heart, causing unbearable pain.

Even so, since precious materials that could enhance cultivation were exceedingly rare, many Demon Cultivators would still take the risk to consume it once they found it.

"However, the strength of these three is not weak!"

Chen Yu did not take immediate action.

Lv Ze, from Yunyang Academy, was at the Innate Peak and possessed Bloodline Power.

He was ranked eighth among the twenty from Yunyang Academy.

But the overall strength of Yunyang Academy was extremely powerful; his eighth place in Yunyang could be compared to the top five in No Demon Academy.

Besides Lv Ze, there were two other students in the Late Innate stage.

"Let them kill the Black Iron Demon Scorpion, then I'll make my move."

Chen Yu made a plan in his mind.

Let the Black Iron Demon Scorpions drain the True Qi of the three, and once they had dealt with the trouble, Chen Yu would then step in to claim his share.

As long as the strength displayed by Chen Yu caught their attention, getting a share of the Demon Spirit Poison Heart Flower would not be a problem.

To prevent any accidents, Chen Yu instructed the Iron Moon Strange Insect to retreat from the cave and scout the area nearby.

It could become troublesome if other students arrived while he rushed into the cave.

So Chen Yu wanted to be sure there was no one else nearby.

At a certain moment.

The Iron Moon Strange Insect's vision caught a flash of a red figure.

"Senior Brother Jin!"

Chen Yu's gaze sharpened.

Previously in the Demon Bone Wilderness, Jin Zhuo Peak had secretly attacked him.

Of course, it was only in secrecy; Jin Zhuo Peak wouldn't dare openly assassinate him.

Later, upon realizing Chen Yu hadn't died, Jin Zhuo Peak's attitude changed drastically, being exceedingly caring towards Chen Yu, and even confronted Duan Xinyue head-on.

"Then I'll go and ask Senior Brother for help."

Chen Yu grinned, controlling the Iron Moon Strange Insect to reveal itself deliberately, catching Jin Zhuo Peak's attention.

At the same time, Chen Yu rushed over.

"Who's there?"

In the dense forest, Jin Zhuo Peak watched cautiously into the distance.

"Senior Brother Jin, it's me, your junior."

Chen Yu said with a smile.

"Chen Yu?"

Jin Zhuo Peak was slightly stunned, obviously not expecting to run into Chen Yu so soon.

To kill or not to kill?

If he killed Chen Yu, he could gain tremendous benefits from Luo Haotian, and since it was just the two of them here, it was relatively safe.

However, Jin Zhuo Peak bore no deep grudge against Chen Yu, although he had other concerns.

Chen Yu's master was the vice principal of the academy, who might have given him some life-saving trump card.

"Junior Chen, follow me—it will be safer."

Ultimately, Jin Zhuo Peak abandoned the idea of killing Chen Yu.

For the time being, it was wise to gain Chen Yu's favor and trust.

Firstly, it would make it easier to attack when the time came to kill Chen Yu, providing a higher success rate.

Secondly, having good relations with Chen Yu, who had Yuan Chen and the vice principal backing him, could bring some benefits.

"Senior Brother Jin, I just discovered a cave full of precious materials and ores, but it has already been occupied by other students."

Chen Yu immediately spoke.

"Oh? Where is it?"

Jin Zhuo Peak asked immediately.

He also had noticed that the precious materials in this trial area were of high age and included several rare items not found in the outside world.

"Follow me."

Chen Yu led the way ahead, bringing Jin Zhuo Peak closer to the cave.

He didn't reveal specific details about the inside of the cave.

They didn't wait long.

The sounds of the battle inside the cave gradually decreased.

"Let's go."

Jin Zhuo Peak whispered a command, and they burst forth immediately.

Upon entering the cave, the Black Iron Demon Scorpions had already been slain by Lv Ze and the other two.

They were approaching the hatching eggs and the pool, preparing to collect them.

"Who's there?"

Suddenly, Lv Ze looked towards the cave entrance and yelled.

Following that, Jin Zhuo Peak and Chen Yu slowly walked over.

"We'd like to share some of these spoils."

Jin Zhuo Peak, seeing the three opponents, slightly relaxed and spoke coldly.

Lv Ze was ranked eighth at Yunyang Academy, which should place him on par with Jin Zhuo Peak; the other two were from different academies and not very strong, and Chen Yu should be able to handle them.

He believed that in this evenly matched situation, Lv Ze wouldn't opt for a direct confrontation.

However, when Lv Ze's gaze fell on Chen Yu, his expression changed.

Last time, he had visited No Demon Academy for a new student competition along with Commandery Princess Ning, and her high praise of Chen Yu sparked jealousy in Lv Ze.

Originally, in Lv Ze's eyes, Chen Yu was merely an ant who could never catch up to him.

Now, however, Chen Yu had not only become a disciple of the vice principal but was also competing on the same stage in the academy competition, which made Lv Ze profoundly dislike him and want him gone.

"Heh, I've long wanted to meet a student from No Demon Academy!"

Lv Ze revealed a cruel smile.

Jin Zhuo Peak frowned slightly; unexpectedly, the other side was so resolute, unwilling to share the resources here.