

Eternal Heart 341

Chapter 341 Assist Yuan Chen

The Communication Talisman given by Master Yi Lantian could only allow Chen Yu and Yuan Chen to contact each other, so this talisman flying towards Chen Yu was definitely sent by Yuan Chen.

Master Yi Lantian's original intention was for Chen Yu to seek help from Yuan Chen if he encountered danger.

However, Chen Yu had never used the talisman—it was his fellow disciple Yuan Chen who had employed it.

"Is there something you want to tell me, Brother Chen?"

Chen Yu reached out to touch the streak of white light hovering before his eyes.

Instantly, a stream of information flooded into his spiritual consciousness.

The message consisted of a few simple characters and a rough topographical map.

"This is bad, Brother Chen is in trouble."

Chen Yu's brows furrowed.

He had originally thought that if he could work together with Yuan Chen, he'd have an easier time in this place, and the speed of collecting tokens would be much faster.

But, unexpectedly, the communications talisman Yuan Chen had sent was a plea for help.

Yuan Chen was asking Chen Yu to gather several strong cultivators from No Demon Academy and rush to a certain location to support him.

"What's wrong, Chen?"

Jin Zhuo Peak, who naturally noticed the talisman as well, inquired after seeing Chen Yu's expression.

"Brother Yuan Chen has encountered trouble; he wants me to lead a few students from No Demon Academy to provide support."

Chen Yu replied truthfully.

If he were to go support, the first fellow student he would look for was certainly Jin Zhuo Peak.

Upon hearing this, Jin Zhuo Peak hesitated for a moment. A situation that even Yuan Chen found unmanageable must be extraordinary.

But if he could successfully help Yuan Chen, there ought to be substantial benefits.

"Senior Brother Jin, let's set out."

Chen Yu stood up.

"Let's go."

Jin Zhuo Peak didn't refuse and decided to go support Yuan Chen.

Firstly, they were from the same academy, and it would sound bad if word got out that he refused.

Secondly, he knew Yuan Chen extremely well—if he assisted him, Yuan Chen would certainly repay the favor.

Moreover, Jin Zhuo Peak had obtained a fair amount of rare materials from Lv Qiuling. His injuries had not only fully recovered, but his strength had also significantly improved, leading him to refine quite a bit of Half-step True Essence.

Chen Yu had also spent many days in the secret realm and had traveled to many places.

Combining the memory of the terrain with Jin Zhuo Peak, they were able to approximately determine Yuan Chen's current location.

Since the distance was quite far, the two set off immediately.

After a short walk, they encountered a small team led by Situ Lin Yu, with Nie Xuan among them, and the other two were top-notch cultivators from the outer courtyards.

"Brother Situ, do me a favor, and there will be generous rewards after it's done."

Chen Yu proactively invited Situ Lin Yu.

They were pressed for time, and whether they could encounter another team from No Demon Academy was uncertain.

In Chen Yu's view, Situ Lin Yu was no ordinary man, with exceptional strength.

However, their relationship wasn't that great, so Chen Yu promised significant rewards.

"Alright!"

After a brief discussion with Nie Xuan, Situ Lin Yu agreed.

After rushing for about an hour, Chen Yu and his group began to approach the target point given by Yuan Chen.

But it couldn't be guaranteed that Yuan Chen was still there at the moment.

"It's that river up ahead."

From afar, Chen Yu saw a wide river with its turbid waters raging untamed.

Using Iron Moon Strange Insects to scout the surroundings, and not detecting any other figures, Chen Yu approached the river alone and jumped in.

"Ice?"

At the bottom of the river, he found a massive wall of ice.

"Chen?"

A blurry figure appeared inside the ice wall, and Yuan Chen's voice came through.

At the bottom of the river, the disciples reunited.

"Brother, are you injured?"

Chen Yu could tell that Yuan Chen's complexion was not good.

"Yeah, I've been ambushed by a team led by Yin Chengzhuang and got somewhat injured," Yuan Chen sighed.

"Yin Chengzhuang!"

Chen Yu remembered that before the great competition, Yin Chengzhuang—who was ranked third at Yunyang Academy—had openly provoked Yuan Chen.

Afterward, Yin Chengzhuang had also deliberately exposed Chen Yu's identity, creating enemies for Chen Yu.

"How many people did you bring?"

Yuan Chen asked.

"Jin Zhuo Peak, Situ Lin Yu!"

In the team, only these two possessed top-notch strength that could be useful.

"It's still not enough; we're probably no match for Yin Chengzhuang's team in a head-on battle."

Yuan Chen analyzed for a moment and said, "Moreover, Yin Chengzhuang has a Bloodline Pupil, and there's someone in his team who is good at tracking. It won't take long for them to find this place."

"Do you have a plan, Brother?"

Chen Yu inquired.

Although Yin Chengzhuang was ranked third in Yunyang Academy, he had managed to injure Yuan Chen, which could not be taken lightly.

"Before I was ambushed by Yin Chengzhuang, I got an 'Ice Cold Origin Fruit'. I plan to consume it and take this opportunity to attempt a breakthrough to the Guiyuan Realm!" Yuan Chen's eyes sparkled.

"Alright, we will draw the enemy away."

Chen Yu had already guessed Yuan Chen's strategy.

In truth, a genius like Yuan Chen had a great chance of breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, as he had simply stayed in the Qi Transformation Realm a bit longer to increase his True Qi volume. Thus, when breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, his True Yuan volume would accordingly be greater.

And the Ice Cold Origin Fruit could not only increase the True Qi volume of an Ice Dao Cultivator but also help in refining True Yuan.

Therefore, Yuan Chen's chances of breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm were even higher, and it wouldn't take too long.

"Divide these rare materials among Jin Zhuo Peak, Situ Lin Yu, and others."

Then, Yuan Chen took out some valuable materials, which he had acquired in this place.

"Evil Spirit Fruit, Fiery Sun Blood Flower, Yin Wind Strange Grass

Chen Yu's gaze intensified.

Some of the materials Yuan Chen presented corresponded in quality with what was offered by the treasure-seeking turtle.

The Magic Triangular Grass among them was six hundred years old and the most valuable.

It seemed that Yuan Chen had intentionally kept these for Chen Yu.

"Okay, take care, Senior Brother."

Chen Yu took the precious materials and quietly left the river, heading back to the dense forest nearby.

"What? Hold up Yin Chengzhuang's team?"

Two students from the outer courtyard shivered with fear, but in the end, they agreed.

After all, they were not the main force, and if they didn't agree, they wouldn't get those valuable materials.

"This piece of Evil Spirit fruit is mine."

Situ Lin Yu's gaze flickered slightly as he took a fruit.

The Fiery Sun Blood Flower was chosen by Jin Zhuo Peak, and Nie Xuan set her sights on the Yin Wind Strange Grass.

In addition to these, there were other precious materials that were evenly distributed among the team.

After the distribution was complete, the group hid nearby.

Having discussed their strategy, Nie Xuan left alone.

Until a certain moment.

A team suddenly appeared from the opposite side.

The team consisted of twelve people, three students from Yunyang Academy and nine from the outer court.

The lean man in grey leading them was none other than Yin Chengzhuang, ranked third at Yunyang Academy.

Ahead of Yin Chengzhuang, there was a short, sallow-faced youth crouching on the ground, seemingly observing something closely. Next to him was a black squirrel, its nose twitching incessantly.

"Yuan Chen should be hiding in this area."

The short youth murmured after a while.

"Don't tell me these useless things. If you find him, I'll reward you with some precious materials."

Yin Chengzhuang snorted coldly.

They had been searching for a long time but still hadn't found Yuan Chen's hiding place. Yin Chengzhuang had lost patience with this short youth and did not really believe in his tracking skills.

Just then, there was a sudden noise from the woods nearby.

Yin Chengzhuang and his men noticed it immediately and looked over in unison.

"Who?"

Yin Chengzhuang barked in a low voice, leaping forward.

The other five people followed closely behind.

"No Demon Academy's people? Chen Yu!"

When Yin Chengzhuang saw the team in the forest, he couldn't hide his joy.

In the forest, Jin Zhuo Peak and the others felt a chill upon seeing Yin Chengzhuang.

Although Yin Chengzhuang was only ranked third at Yunyang Academy, his strength was not much weaker than the second-ranked, and he even had the power to contend with Yunhai Zhen.

Facing such a strong opponent, they were somewhat fearful.

Aside from Yin Chengzhuang, there were two other Yunyang Academy students among them, one of whom was a blue-dressed woman named Ge Lin, ranked sixth, and the other, a burly youth, ranked eleventh.

The other nine were outer court students, but their large number was not to be underestimated.

"Retreat. We just need to lead them away. Once Senior Brother Yuan Chen breaks through to the Guiyuan Realm, Yin Chengzhuang won't be able to cause any trouble."

Chen Yu communicated secretly and began to retreat immediately.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh...

The team immediately set into motion, dispersing in different directions.

"Chen Yu, ha-ha, not long ago, I seriously injured your Senior Brother. Now you pop up again. It seems that in this secret ground, I might be able to send both you brothers to the Netherworld."

Yin Chengzhuang's sinister voice carried over.

"Not good!"

Chen Yu's face showed bitterness.

Because of his Senior Brother Yuan Chen, Yin Chengzhuang harbored extraordinary hatred towards Chen Yu.

His cultivation foundation was significantly inferior compared to Yin Chengzhuang, especially the latter's Bloodline Pupil that was hard to defend against and had a certain restraint on close-combat body cultivators. Chen Yu did not wish to engage with such an enemy.

But Chen Yu had a trump card; should Yin Chengzhuang become careless and approach within a certain distance, he would use the trump card given by his Master.

Buzz!

Behind him, Yin Chengzhuang's eyes covered in a layer of gloomy red glow, began to emanate a chilling flame power.

"Pupil Skill!"

Chen Yu felt the threat coming from behind him.

Yin Chengzhuang came from a family of Bloodline Pupils, and Chen Yu had long heard of the power of his Pupil Skills.

Right at that moment, in another direction, Situ Lin Yu, who had been watching the team from Yunyang Academy, his eyes turned pitch black and sinister, exuding a strong suction power.

"Eh? This kid's Pupil Skill can actually affect my pupils?"

Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill was disturbed and did not launch.

After all, Chen Yu was running away, and if his pupils were also disturbed, the hit rate of the Pupil Skills would be very low.

"A talent from the Situ Family?"

Yin Chengzhuang took a few glances at Situ Lin Yu but did not bother further.

But at this moment, Situ Lin Yu's Big-headed Evil Spirit also launched its Pupil Skill, disrupting Yin Chengzhuang.

"Hehe, seeking death. A mere boy dares to use a Pupil Skill before me."

Yin Chengzhuang sneered and changed his strategy, attacking Situ Lin Yu.

"Go!"

Situ Lin Yu and Jin Zhuo Peak retreated together.

They had previously discussed tactics; Situ Lin Yu, skilled in spiritual secret techniques and Pupil Skills, and Jin Zhuo Peak, the strongest among them, would jointly lead away Yin Chengzhuang.

Chen Yu and the others would deal with the rest.

"Ge Lin, leave that little guy Chen Yu to you."

Yin Chengzhuang instructed and then pursued Situ Lin Yu and Jin Zhuo Peak.

"Hmph, boy, just accept your fate. Count yourself lucky to fall into my hands; I'll make your death quick."

The blue-dressed Ge Lin, with both a cold demeanor and beautiful appearance, showed a sinister color.

Whoosh, whoosh...

Ge Lin and the ten others made their move towards Chen Yu and his companions.

With Yin Chengzhuang's strength, handling Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu was enough.

"Brother Chen

The other two students, their voices quivering, were at their wits' end.

Chen Yu had not told them beforehand about the number of enemies; if they had known, they would certainly not have agreed.

"Don't worry, these few people can't do anything to us."

Chen Yu said with relative composure.

The two outer court students' eyes widened as if looking at a fool when they glanced at Chen Yu.

They were now being chased by eleven people, including Ge Lin from Yunyang Academy ranked sixth, and a burly youth ranked eleventh.

While Chen Yu at No Demon Academy was ranked merely thirteenth, the gap between the two sides was vast.

At this point, for Chen Yu to still boast such a thing, if that wasn't a problem with his brain, then what was it?

Chapter 342: One-on-one with Ge Lin

"Don't worry, these few people can't do anything to us."

Chen Yu said this with considerably more composure.

The two outer court disciples were frightened by Chen Yu's bold words.

But at this moment, there was no spare time for them to refute.

Behind them, the formidable team led by Ge Lin was nipping at their heels.

In less than half a cup of tea's time, Ge Lin and the others had completely caught up.

Mainly because the two outer court disciples were slower, dragging down Chen Yu.

Of course, Chen Yu's intention was to lure this group out for a distance before making a move.

"Hehe, prey that has caught Ge Lin's attention has never had the chance to escape."

Ge Lin chuckled.

The rest of the people also showed smiles, casually stepping out.

To them, this enemy was far too easy to deal with, without any challenge at all.

The two outer court disciples who were with Chen Yu were shivering all over, having lost the will to fight.

But suddenly, a voice rang out in their minds: "Make your move!"

Make a move? What move? The two were stunned for a moment.

Just then, the sound of a powerful gust of wind roared in their ears.

Roar~

Using “Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow,” Chen Yu seemed to transform into a pitch-black fierce beast, charging out.

"How dare you resist?"

"Kill him!"

Several disciples immediately shouted.

They took out their treasures and launched attacks together.

These outer court disciples were mostly in the Late Innate stage, with one or two at the Peak of Middle Innate, and only one at Innate Peak.

In an instant, several people launched their attacks, creating a chaotic and splendid mix of knife glows, sword shadows, and the winds of fists and feet, all rushing toward Chen Yu.

However, Chen Yu's speed was unabated as he pushed the “Copper Statue Technique” to its limit.

Thump thump thump~

The attacks of ordinary Late Innate disciples hit Chen Yu's body and immediately shattered upon impact, unable to leave any mark on Chen Yu's copper-bodied form.

Only the attack from that Innate Peak disciple left a shallow mark on Chen Yu's skin.

"What?"

This scene caused the colors of the disciples' faces to change drastically.

They all thought Chen Yu was just a Middle Innate disciple, and even if he was the vice dean's disciple, at best his strength would be comparable to a Late Innate.

The scene before them thoroughly frightened them.

Chen Yu was like a copper Buddha, impervious to swords and spears, invulnerable to water and fire, Vajra Unbreakable.

Pfft!

Chen Yu's Giant Ruler Sword violently rose in his hands, lifting up a layer of black scale-like waves, and severed the head of a Late Innate disciple.

Likewise, this scene also shocked the two disciples with Chen Yu.

They seemed to see hope for survival, and immediately got excited.

"No wonder he can become the vice dean's disciple, indeed he has some skill."

Ge Lin became a bit more serious, but still maintained a faint smile, not taking Chen Yu seriously.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Ge Lin and another robust youth charged out immediately.

The rest of the disciples sighed in relief. With two strong individuals from Yunyang Academy making a move, how could they not deal with Chen Yu?

Roar~

After killing one person, Chen Yu didn't pause, continuing to use "Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow."

The robust youth from Yunyang Academy, ranked eleventh, tried to catch up with Chen Yu, only to find that his own speed couldn't surpass the opponent's, which made him view Chen Yu more highly.

"Stay!"

Ge Lin's figure fluttered out.

She noticed that Chen Yu's movement technique was straightforward, so she interposed herself in Chen Yu's path to intercept him.

Swoosh!

Ge Lin revealed a slight smile, a green treasure sword appeared in her hand, and she fiercely thrust out.

Ranked sixth at Yunyang Academy, her true strength was almost comparable to the top three of other academies.

Ordinary Postnatal Late Stage individuals couldn't even survive one strike from her.

However, Chen Yu's speed didn't slow down at all. Evil Qi tumbled over the Giant Ruler Sword, coalescing into an invisible Sha Qi Sword.

Clang!

The fierce clash caused Ge Lin's sword to tremble, her arm feeling numb and tingling.

The two figures passed by each other.

"How is this possible? This guy's strength

Ge Lin was somewhat in disbelief.

Although she hadn't taken Chen Yu seriously, hence she hadn't used her full strength, that strike of hers just now should have been able to instantly kill an ordinary Late Innate.

Roar~

After one move in the clash, Chen Yu continued to use his movement technique, becoming faster and faster, forming several afterimages.

In the next moment, Chen Yu successfully established an Evil Wind Domain, a terrifying black Evil Wind enveloping an area of more than a dozen zhang, shrouding the disciples of Yunyang Academy within it.

Suddenly, Chen Yu appeared behind a Late Innate disciple, sweeping out with his sword.

Boom!

The disciple realized the danger too late and was struck flying by Chen Yu's sword, breathless.

The other disciples immediately banded together, forming a group to resist Chen Yu.

At this moment, Chen Yu's two teammates also joined the fight.

"Brother Chen truly deserves to be the vice dean's disciple of No Demon Academy, his strength is so formidable, no wonder he has been so calm from beginning to end."

The two disciples were convinced by the strength Chen Yu displayed.

At the same time, an extremely fast shadow suddenly sprang out from behind the ancient trees nearby.

Swoosh!

That black figure rushed into the Evil Wind Domain, a dagger suddenly appearing and sweeping across a disciple's neck.

Blood sprayed wildly, whisked by the Evil Wind, splattering on the faces of the other disciples.

This person who had suddenly burst out from the shadows was Nie Xuan.

Earlier, they had all discussed and agreed on a strategy.

Nie Xuan excelled in assassination, so she had left earlier and had been hiding in the shadows.

After a successful strike, Nie Xuan, taking advantage of the cover provided by the Evil Wind Domain, brandished her short dagger to target another person's heart.

"Ah

A scream ensued as another person was killed with one strike.

Assassins were so terrifying, often capable of killing beyond their level.

But after killing two in a row, Nie Xuan was almost completely exposed; getting another strike wasn't going to be that easy anymore.

"You all are too arrogant!"

Ge Lin's face turned cold.

Eleven of them chased after Chen Yu and his three companions. To their dismay, four of them had already been killed by Chen Yu and the others. If Yin Chengzhuang found out, he would surely curse them to death.

Swoosh!

Ge Lin instantly flew out, her hand wielding a cyan treasure sword, stabbing again and again to unleash a flurry of swift sword shadows slicing into the black Sha Qi domain.

This time, Ge Lin got serious.

Boom!

Within the Sha Qi domain, Chen Yu executed the "Shocking Evil Sword Technique," fending off Ge Lin's attacks.

At the same time, his movement secret technique also came to a halt.

Huff!

Chen Yu had been prepared all along. He took a deep breath, and his belly expanded.

Simultaneously, a coppery light bloomed from his body as his stature swelled rapidly in size.

Dang!

Activating the “Copper Statue Technique,” a thunderclap resonated, rising from the ground, startling the surrounding forest.

A wave of sonic attack fanned out in front.

Those outer court disciples, having just freed themselves from the Sha Qi domain, were suddenly assaulted by the sonic attack, caught completely off guard.

At the same time, Nie Xuan leapt out. Her speed burst forth incredibly fast, closing in on a disciple in an instant. Her dagger made a light slash, tracing a streak of blood.

Then, she swiftly turned to another target. Her movements were incredibly fluid with no pause in between.

Thump!

Another one fell.

When she attempted to stab a third person, her attack was blocked. Nie Xuan retreated rapidly.

But after two rounds of cooperation from Chen Yu and Nie Xuan, the enemy’s numbers had already been halved.

Off to the side, two outer court teammates gaped at Chen Yu and Nie Xuan, their mouths agape.

One served as a decoy, drawing fire and disrupting the enemy, while the other performed sneak attacks. Their coordination was exceedingly clever.

"Ah

A scream erupted from among the enemies.

A disciple's foot was pierced through, and poison quickly spread, rendering his entire leg numb.

Swoosh!

A dark blue light darted past and returned to Chen Yu's palm.

"Heh heh, another one dealt with!"

Chen Yu grinned broadly.

Elsewhere, Ge Lin and the burly youth's faces were ashen, shaking with fury.

From the time Chen Yu launched his attack until now, their numbers had dwindled continuously. Now only six remained, one of whom was poisoned in the leg and, even if he could suppress the toxin, was unable to join the battle.

"Seeking death!"

Ge Lin's face was steely.

Her figure streaked forward, rapidly closing in on Chen Yu, her cyan treasure sword trembling, radiating astonishing True Qi fluctuations.

On the other side, the burly youth charged at Nie Xuan.

The remaining outer court disciples engaged in wild combat.

"Yunyang's sixth, huh?"

Chen Yu's eyes shone with a fierce fighting spirit as he wielded the Giant Ruler Sword, colliding with hers.

He didn't underestimate Ge Lin and put in his full effort.

Clang clang bang!

Ge Lin was slightly stronger than Jin Zhuo Peak at the beginning, her swordsmanship tight and impeccable, pressing down on Chen Yu.

"It seems that without using demon power, it's hard to contend with her!"

Chen Yu no longer concealed his abilities. His body shrank, the coppery glow faded, to be replaced by a layer of dark luminescence.

Simultaneously, the energy of the demon pattern surged out, gathering on the Giant Ruler Sword.

Boom!

A loud explosion erupted, unleashing a terrifying force.

Swoosh...

Ge Lin was sent reeling back several steps, her delicate face showing a hint of shock as she stared wide-eyed at Chen Yu. "How could this be possible, you have another force inside you?"

How could a normal person have two different types of True Qi?

Chen Yu, revealing his Demon Body and Demon True Qi, soared in overall strength, prompting Ge Lin to take him seriously as an opponent of equal caliber.

Clang clang bang!

Once again they crossed swords; Chen Yu's attacks were fierce and fearless.

Thump thump! Thump thump thump!

During the fight, Chen Yu's heart burst forth, displaying even greater strength.

Boom!

Ge Lin was pushed back by Chen Yu once more, a trickle of blood escaping from the corner of her mouth.

"This brat's defense is so freakish!"

Ge Lin gazed at the demon-like, black figure of Chen Yu with a sense of dread.

During their recent exchange, her attacks only left a shallow sword mark on Chen Yu's body, and only occasionally could she see a bloodstain, which nearly healed instantaneously.

Furthermore, Chen Yu seemed to possess some secret technique that allowed him to suddenly unleash greater strength, blasting her back in an instant.

"I'm ranked sixth at Yunyang Academy. How could I lose to an Innate Middle Stage whipper-snapper!"

Ge Lin's pretty face contorted with a sinister hue.

Buzz!

A powerful aura pulsed forth as her cyan treasure sword burst into a layer of cyan rainbow light.

"Half-step True Essence."

Chen Yu was slightly moved.

The difference between an Innate Peak who had refined a Half-step True Essence and one who hadn't was like night and day.

"Heh heh, forcing me to use Half-step True Essence, you can go to your death in peace."

Ge Lin's lips curled into a slight smile as she blitzed forward in an instant.

Whoosh!

The cyan treasure sword, dragging a trail of light, sliced through any obstruction and swung toward Chen Yu's neck.

"Half-step True Essence, do you think you're the only one who has it?"

Chen Yu remained unflustered, instead revealing a slight smile.

Buzz!

In his Qi Sea, a tiny black luminous pattern at the center of the demon-marked energy was tapped by Chen Yu.

Boom!

The Giant Ruler Sword in Chen Yu's hands exploded with a layer of terrifying black demonic light, and the sword's might suddenly soared.

"Impossible!"

Ge Lin's expression froze, her eyes nearly popping out.

How could Chen Yu, merely at the Innate Middle Stage, have a Half-step True Essence?

Boom bang!

The swords collided, and a black shock wave instantly engulfed everything.

Ge Lin, in her blue dress, was sent flying several zhang away, her clothes torn, stained red with the blood she spat out.

Chapter 343: Defeat One by One

Both were at the Half-step True Essence, but Chen Yu's Half-step True Essence was based on the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," an ancient technique, and was naturally more powerful than Ge Lin's Half-step True Essence.

Of course, Ge Lin didn't know this, and up till now, she was still in a daze, her mind in chaos.

Why did she lose to someone at the Innate Middle Stage? Why did she lose to someone at the Innate Middle Stage even after using her Half-step True Essence?

For a moment, she couldn't accept this fact.

"Not good, Ge Lin lost!"

"How is this possible? Ge Lin ranks sixth at Yunyang Academy, how could she be defeated by Chen Yu from No Demon Academy, who ranks thirteenth?"

Not far away, Ge Lin's fellow external institute students, noticing the battle here, were stirred up by shock and awe.

Conversely, Chen Yu's two teammates from the external institute were overjoyed.

However, the sturdy young man and Nie Xuan were not here.

That sturdy young man, ranked eleventh at Yunyang Academy, was far stronger than Nie Xuan. She could only use the terrain here to contend with him for the time being, dragging the sturdy young man along.

Thus, the only person who noticed the details of how Chen Yu defeated Ge Lin was an external institute student who had been bitten by the Iron Moon Strange Insect and couldn't move or participate in the battle and was watching from the sidelines.

"Die!"

Chen Yu brought his sword down in a cleave.

He had to kill Ge Lin and then deal with the others to rush over and support Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu.

"No

Ge Lin roared, mobilizing her Half-step True Essence, and swung her sword again.

However, at this moment she was lying on the ground, still heavily injured, so this slash wasn't very powerful.

Cling clang!

Chen Yu didn't use his Half-step True Essence and easily blocked it.

At the same time, a dark blue spot shot out, biting towards Ge Lin's right hand.

"Ah

Ge Lin screamed in agony, her right hand trembling uncontrollably as the sword in her hand fell to the ground.

Immediately, her hand bore a red and blue wound, rapidly spreading.

Seizing the opportunity, Chen Yu thrust his sword out, slashing across Ge Lin's neck.

Spurt!

Blood sprayed, a head rolled to one side.

After taking Ge Lin's sword and storage bag, Chen Yu didn't have time to inspect his spoils and immediately turned around.

"Run

When Chen Yu killed Ge Lin, Ge Lin's four teammates immediately began to flee.

The external institute student with the injured leg, though slow, was the first to run, far ahead of the others.

"Heh, thinking of running?"

Chen Yu immediately gave chase.

His speed was nearly on par with top students like Jin Zhuo Peak, so those few mere external institute students could never escape.

Soon, Chen Yu and his team dispatched them one by one.

Chen Yu checked and found tokens in these four people's storage bags.

Thus, he took all of the tokens and picked a few high-quality ores, then bequeathed their storage bags to his two external institute teammates.

Following that, Chen Yu went to support Nie Xuan.

"Hopefully, Miss Nie Xuan is unharmed."

The other two muttered.

In the dense forest, a slim shadow darted back and forth, nimble and flexible.

"Hehe, where do you think you're running to?"

A sturdy young man holding a giant axe charged about, swinging his axe, destroying everything in his path.

"Earth Splitting Axe!"

The sturdy young man wielded his giant axe, slashing fiercely downward, a dark yellow heavy axe light hit the ground and surged forward.

Boom bang!

Along the way, the ground cracked open in a few inches wide fissure, ancient trees breaking and crashing down.

"Ugh

Nie Xuan let out a muffled grunt, impacted by the sturdy man's axe, collapsing to one side, a trickle of blood leaking from the corner of her mouth.

"Heh heh, I didn't expect No Demon Academy, besides Shang Han, to have such a beauty like you."

The sturdy young man leaped fiercely and landed in front of Nie Xuan, releasing a tremendous pressure.

Nie Xuan had only recently broken through to the Late Innate stage, whereas the sturdy young man was at the Innate Peak, ranked eleventh in Yunyang Academy, making their strengths incomparable.

If not for Nie Xuan's strong evasion skills and the environment here, she would probably have been killed by the sturdy young man already.

But now, she wasn't far from death.

"If you let this old man have some fun, I could spare your life."

The sturdy young man's lecherous gaze fell on Nie Xuan's slender yet voluptuous body.

He knew that Nie Xuan was an assassin, a sort who, if failing a mission, often bites a poison pill to commit suicide.

If Nie Xuan committed suicide, what fun would that leave him?

"Shameless lecher, don't even think about it!"

Nie Xuan's pale face was extremely cold, her eyes filled with disgust.

"If that's the case, then I guess I will have the pleasure of killing you myself."

The sturdy young man's eyes sharpened, he raised his giant axe.

The heavy pressure emanating from the axe made it difficult for Nie Xuan on the ground to even think of dodging.

Just as the axe was about to fall.

Swish~

Suddenly, a piercing sound filled the air.

That sound grew harsher, rapidly approaching the sturdy young man.

"Who is it?"

The sturdy young man swung his axe.

Cling clang!

A black long spear was knocked away, piercing through an ancient tree not far away.

"Don't tell me you've forgotten me already?"

Chen Yu's laughter rang out.

His speed was extremely fast, like a black frenzied shadow, instantly closing in on the sturdy young man.

"Chen Yu? How is that possible!"

The muscular youth was shocked, his body stiffening.

He remembered correctly, wasn't Ge Lin the one who dealt with Chen Yu personally?

With Ge Lin's strength, killing Chen Yu should have been easy, right?

But now, Ge Lin was gone, and Chen Yu was bouncing around right in front of him.

The muscular youth couldn't help but think of one possibility: Ge Lin was dead!

Seeing Chen Yu appear, Nie Xuan immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

She never underestimated Chen Yu, believing his strength and talent were not much less than Situ Lin Yu's. However, she was still very surprised that Chen Yu could support her so quickly.

"Die!"

Chen Yu approached the muscular youth, and swung the Giant Ruler Sword with full force.

Clang!

The muscular youth countered with his giant axe, and terrifying forces collided, sparking a shower of sparks.

In the end, the muscular youth's arm trembled, and he was suppressed head-on by Chen Yu, retreating four or five steps.

"What strong power."

The muscular youth didn't expect Chen Yu's power to be greater than his own.

After pushing back the muscular youth, Nie Xuan immediately got up and retreated to the back.

By this time, two other outer court students also came to support.

"Let's all go!"

Chen Yu roared lowly, not caring about outnumbering the enemy, only thinking about quickly resolving the opponent.

As the main force, Chen Yu fought the muscular youth head-on, his speed also faster than the opponent, preventing the muscular youth from escaping.

The two outer court students assisted from the side.

Meanwhile, Nie Xuan hid in the shadows, looking for opportunities.

Boom!

Chen Yu executed a move from the “Shocking Evil Sword Technique”, and the Giant Ruler Sword burst out a nebula of evil Qi.

The muscular man was blasted back several steps.

Simultaneously, Nie Xuan in the shadows finally launched her attack.

She darted under the muscular youth, her dagger stabbing upward fiercely, slicing open the throat of the muscular youth.

Blood spurted forward, but Nie Xuan had already moved away, not a drop on her.

Immediately after, the group gathered the spoils of war.

Nie Xuan and the two outer court students just hoped to pass the assessment and didn't need many tokens.

Thus, the one hundred and six tokens from a dozen people's hands all ended up with Chen Yu.

As such, Chen Yu now had a total of two hundred and eight tokens.

Ge Lin was killed single-handedly by Chen Yu, and all spoils went to him, while the spoils of the muscular youth were distributed among the four.

"We made a fortune!"

The two outer court students were overjoyed.

They had initially thought this mission would be extremely perilous, yet Chen Yu was so formidable, single-handedly killing Ge Lin ranked sixth in Yunyang Academy, then turning the tide of battle.

"Let's hurry and support Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu."

After distributing, everyone started to move.

Previously, they had discussed a strategy.

Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu were to restrain Yin Chengzhuang but could not flee too far, just circling nearby was okay.

Chen Yu and the others immediately acted.

Soon after, they felt astonishing True Qi fluctuations not far away, and they quickly rushed over.

In an ancient forest, Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu were sprinting.

"Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill is very powerful, Situ Lin Yu, are you okay?"

Jin Zhuo Peak asked.

Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill was mainly countered or blocked by Situ Lin Yu.

Jin Zhuo Peak only occasionally struck, attacking Yin Chengzhuang to make it harder for him to catch up with them.

"I can hold on a bit longer."

Situ Lin Yu gritted his teeth.

In reality, if it wasn't for his spiritual power nearing the Guiyuan Realm, he would have been overwhelmed by now.

After all, Yin Chengzhuang ranked third in Yunyang Academy, his real strength approaching Yuan Chen, and his Pupil Skill was amplified by the Bloodline Pupil, extremely powerful. f

"Yin Yan Pupil Fire!"

Yin Chengzhuang's eyes, locked on Situ Lin Yu, and the dim red light inside gradually condensed into a flame shape.

On the other side, Situ Lin Yu's eyes flashed, sensing something, and immediately executed "Ghost Shadow Step".

At the same time, the floating Big-headed Evil Spirit opened its mouth and issued a piercing scream, trying to affect Yin Chengzhuang.

Boom!

Situ Lin Yu's figure flashed and disappeared, and a dark red Yin Fire suddenly ignited an ancient tree behind him, instantly splitting the tree.

On another side, Situ Lin Yu's clothes caught a small flame, rapidly spreading.

Situ Lin Yu quickly circulated his True Qi to extinguish it.

"Kid, you won't be so lucky next time."

Yin Chengzhuang sneered.

He had been pursuing Situ Lin Yu and Jin Zhuo Peak for a long time, but with Situ Lin Yu's outstanding talents, Yin Chengzhuang couldn't injure the two initially.

However, as time passed, the gap between them became apparent.

Yin Chengzhuang's cultivation and foundation were far superior to Situ Lin Yu and Jin Zhuo Peak.

He felt that Situ Lin Yu's spiritual power was nearly exhausted, very tired, and wouldn't last much longer.

"Why haven't Ge Lin and the others come back yet?"

Yin Chengzhuang's gaze suddenly darkened.

Logically, Ge Lin and the others should have easily taken care of Chen Yu and his group.

Yet he had been chasing Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu for so long without seeing them return.

Just then.

"Yin Chengzhuang, are you still expecting them to come back?"

A loud shout answered Yin Chengzhuang's doubts.

Yin Chengzhuang's eyes narrowed as he looked into the distance, and instantly spotted Chen Yu and the others' figures, his mouth agape, showing a look of surprise.

Chapter 344: The Unlucky Yin Chengzhuang

"You... you're still alive?"

Yin Chengzhuang found it somewhat hard to believe.

Ge Lin had departed with eleven people to hunt down Chen Yu.

However, what Yin Chengzhuang had waited for all this time turned out to be Chen Yu and his companions returning, while Ge Lin and her group had not appeared.

There was only one possibility: all twelve people with Ge Lin had died!

This possibility, like a bolt of thunder, struck Yin Chengzhuang's mind, causing him to freeze for a moment, unbelieving.

"Haha, of course we're alive. Are you blind not to have seen that?"

Chen Yu laughed, his reply laced with mockery.

On the other side, Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu also revealed expressions of surprise and delight.

Earlier, when discussing the plan, they had only considered delaying the enemy until Yuan Chen made his breakthrough to the Guiyuan Realm.

Unexpectedly, Chen Yu's group had already dealt with the enemy.

As a result, even without Yuan Chen breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, the situation could be resolved.

Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu stopped fleeing and stood their ground.

After that, Chen Yu and the others converged.

Yin Chengzhuang, on the other hand, suddenly stopped and did not advance.

Although he was powerful, not fearing a single opponent, being outnumbered was a different matter.

Moreover, Chen Yu, Nie Xuan, and the others, being able to deal with Ge Lin and the rest, were naturally not as simple as they appeared on the surface.

"Let's go!"

Yin Chengzhuang immediately made up his mind.

Whoosh!

He turned around instantly, becoming a gray afterimage that swiftly disappeared into the dense forest.

Jin Zhuo Peak, Nie Xuan, and others couldn't help but exhale in relief; it seemed there was nothing else to worry about.

But Chen Yu then made a startling declaration.

"Chase him; we can't let him get away!"

Chen Yu's shout stunned everyone.

"Chase after Yin Chengzhuang?"

Jin Zhuo Peak couldn't help but be taken aback.

Yin Chengzhuang was mighty strong; chasing him seemed like a thankless task.

"Hehe, we just need to keep an eye on him, leaving markers along our path. Once Brother Yuan Chen breaks through to the Guiyuan Realm, Yin Chengzhuang will have no choice but to surrender. Besides, with a powerhouse like Yin Chengzhuang, the resources and Tokens he holds are likely far beyond our imagination!"

Chen Yu smiled faintly and had already dashed out.

The rest, persuaded by his words, quickly adopted the same idea.

But the only ones who could truly keep up with Yin Chengzhuang's pace were Chen Yu, Jin Zhuo Peak, and Situ Lin Yu, while the others had to hurry along behind them, thankfully without losing trail due to the markers.

However, Yin Chengzhuang, upon seeing only Jin Zhuo Peak, Situ Lin Yu, and Chen Yu chasing after him, couldn't help but laugh.

"You three, want to hunt me down?"

Yin Chengzhuang laughed loudly.

He felt it was necessary to teach these youngsters a lesson.

Yet, Yin Chengzhuang discovered that when he slowed down, Chen Yu and the others also slowed down, always maintaining a certain distance from him.

And this distance was precisely within the effective range of Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill.

"Damn it, they're just keeping tabs on me."

Yin Chengzhuang finally understood what Chen Yu and the others were planning.

At the same time, he pondered that Chen Yu must be waiting for someone.

The answer was self-evident; it had to be Yuan Chen.

If Yuan Chen joined them, Yin Chengzhuang would certainly not be able to stand against his foes.

Whoosh!

Yin Chengzhuang's body released a burst of fierce True Qi; his movement technique's speed instantly increased, and in no time at all, he disappeared from the sight of Chen Yu and the others.

"We can't catch up."

Jin Zhuo Peak said helplessly.

Though Jin Zhuo Peak and Yin Chengzhuang were both at the Innate Peak level, their actual strengths were not on par.

With Yin Chengzhuang speeding up with a Secret Technique, they found it hard to keep up.

"His Secret Technique surely won't last long, I will go ahead first. You all just need to follow later."

Chen Yu decided resolutely and gritted his teeth.

He had plans on making it into the top ten in the first segment; currently holding only two hundred and eight Tokens, he still had a way to go.

Yin Chengzhuang, ranked third at Yunyang Academy, was sure to have many Tokens.

Just by keeping up with Yin Chengzhuang, they could seize all his Tokens once his senior made the breakthrough to the Guiyuan Realm.

Thump thump! Thump thump thump!

Chen Yu's heartbeat gathered strength and suddenly exploded; he activated the "Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow," immediately becoming a dark gale rushing forth.

Chen Yu's Secret Technique was adept at straight-line pursuits.

Moreover, with the propulsion of the demon pattern's energy, his speed would be even faster.

Simultaneously, with his heart's explosive thrust, Chen Yu's straight-line speed reached an astonishing level, shocking Jin Zhuo Peak and Situ Lin Yu, who could only gape behind him.

Ahead.

After shaking off Chen Yu and the others, Yin Chengzhuang couldn't help but smirk contentedly: "Heh heh, I shook them off so easily."

However, at that moment, the roar of an angry wind sounded behind him.

Yin Chengzhuang turned his head to look and his face immediately stiffened.

"Impossible, how can this lad, merely at the Innate Middle Stage, burst forth with such speed!"

Yin Chengzhuang found it hard to believe.

Of course, Chen Yu still maintained a certain distance from him as he was fairly wary of Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill.

But soon, Chen Yu's heart-driven burst came to a halt, and he entered into a period of weakness.

Furthermore, with the continuous chasing and fleeing, having had no rest, Chen Yu now felt somewhat weary.

He immediately retrieved a jade bottle from his storage bag, which still contained the last drop of "Heavenly Bamboo Shoot Liquid."

Initially, to hatch the Fire Scale Beast, he had wasted most of the Heavenly Bamboo Shoot Liquid. The remaining small amount was sufficient for a single use.

Without a second thought, Chen Yu consumed the Heavenly Bamboo Shoot Liquid; his vigor and True Qi rapidly restored to their peaks.

"This damned fellow, to have such spiritual liquid!"

Ahead, Yin Chengzhuang cursed under his breath.

Although only Chen Yu was catching up to him, if he tried to kill Chen Yu, Chen Yu could escape.

It felt like an incessant irritation — he couldn't chase him away nor could he escape, which intensely frustrated Yin Chengzhuang.

What made Yin Chengzhuang even more disheartened was that, throughout this pursuit, they had not encountered any teams from Yunyang Academy.

Until a certain moment, a surge of Sword Intent that shot straight into the clouds suddenly erupted from a nearby forest.

Whoosh!

A figure clad in white suddenly appeared in Yin Chengzhuang's field of vision, transforming into an indestructible blade of light, charging towards Yin Chengzhuang.

"Ye Chengfeng!"

Yin Chengzhuang's face showed apprehension.

Ye Chengfeng was the top contender of Sky Sword Academy, unmatched in the talent of Sword Dao, and his attacking power was much stronger than Yin Chengzhuang's Pupil Skill.

At this moment, Ye Chengfeng had sensed Yin Chengzhuang and had actively come to kill him.

Whoosh!

Ye Chengfeng's speed ranked him among the top talents.

In an instant, he intercepted Yin Chengzhuang.

"Sky Sword Academy's Ye Chengfeng!"

Chen Yu, who was in pursuit of Yin Chengzhuang, also saw Ye Chengfeng, feeling a stabbing pain in his eyes when he looked at him.

"Hand over all the Tokens you have."

Ye Chengfeng's icy gaze casually swept across Yin Chengzhuang and Chen Yu.

"Ye Chengfeng, aren't you underestimating me a bit too much? Even you would not find it easy to defeat me," Yin Chengzhuang retorted, his expression turning cold.

He did not expect Ye Chengfeng to be so domineering as to demand all his Tokens.

Chen Yu naturally was unwilling as well. He had plans to break into the top ten of the first segment, so how could he hand over all his Tokens.

"Then let's try!"

Ye Chengfeng was ready to try as soon as he said so.

Ding!

A slender treasure sword with a crystal-white blade was unsheathed, and invisible white Sword Intent densely filled the air, slicing the surrounding trees and plants into pieces that fell to the ground.

Whoosh!

A sword swept out, releasing a heaven-piercing sword light that killed everything in its path, like thunder cutting through dark clouds, dazzling to behold.

"You

Yin Chengzhuang's mind trembled; he hadn't expected Ye Chengfeng to start fighting without any nonsense.

Buzz!

Yin Chengzhuang summoned a surge of dark red True Qi, forming a barrier of flame light to guard in front of him.

Boom!

The barrier of flame light couldn't even hold for half a moment, instantly shattering, and the remaining sword light struck Yin Chengzhuang.

Yin Chengzhuang had prepared himself, knowing he couldn't simply block Ye Chengfeng's first strike.

He had already circulated his True Qi to defend with all his might, plus he had an exceptional defensive treasure armor.

Boom!

Yin Chengzhuang was pushed back dozens of steps by Ye Chengfeng's strike, his complexion slightly pale.

Of course, Ye Chengfeng's sword strike was not only aimed at Yin Chengzhuang but also included Chen Yu.

A fraction of the sword light stabbed towards Chen Yu from a distance.

Although it was only a small portion of the sword light, Ye Chengfeng, as a Sword Dao Practitioner, specialized in attacks and did not hold back in his slash.

"Secret Pattern Demon Body!"

Without a second word, Chen Yu activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body.

Boom!

The sword light struck, and a storm exploded.

"Good thing I have my exceptional armor. But this Chen Yu must have been slain by Ye Chengfeng's strike."

Yin Chengzhuang sneered to himself.

Even though Ye Chengfeng's strike was mainly aimed at him, a very small part of it was intended for Chen Yu.

However, a hint of surprise flickered on Ye Chengfeng's brow from a distance.

As the dust cleared, Chen Yu was actually unscathed.

"This

Yin Chengzhuang found it hard to comprehend.

Wasn't it true that apart from a few top-notch powerhouses, no one of the same level could block Ye Chengfeng's sword?

Chen Yu was merely at the Innate Middle Stage. Although it wasn't a full strike from Ye Chengfeng, Chen Yu had remarkably blocked it without a scratch.

Of course, after blocking the strike, Chen Yu's Secret Pattern Demon Body subsided.

"I'll repeat it, hand over all the Tokens."

Ye Chengfeng still spoke simply and coldly.

Buzz!

The crystal white treasure sword in his hand vibrated slightly with the flow of Sword Intent, emitting a faint white light.

Clearly, Ye Chengfeng was preparing for his second strike.

His swordplay did not consist of consecutive moves; each strike was followed by a pause, brewing before it was unleashed, hence its immense power that few could withstand.

Yin Chengzhuang's expression was somewhat embarrassed, feeling somewhat helpless against Ye Chengfeng.

And Chen Yu also felt the difficulty of the situation, for if Yin Chengzhuang capitulated, he would have to face Ye Chengfeng alone.

Just at this moment, a powerful fluctuation along with startling coldness arose from behind Chen Yu.

"This aura

Yin Chengzhuang's complexion turned ashen.

Ye Chengfeng also slightly raised his head to look into the distance.

"Ye Chengfeng, as the number one figure of Sky Sword Academy, isn't it a bit too much to bully my junior brother?"

A yellow figure suddenly appeared, arriving by Chen Yu's side.

"Senior brother!"

Chen Yu immediately rejoiced.

Since Yuan Chen had arrived, there was nothing to worry about.

Moreover, Yuan Chen was no longer the Yuan Chen of before—he had now broken through to the Guiyuan Realm.

"Guiyuan Realm?"

Ye Chengfeng also discerned Yuan Chen's cultivation level.

After all, Yuan Chen had just broken through and was not yet able to control his aura at will.

"Fine, your junior brother just blocked a part of the power from one of my strikes. I won't trouble him."

Ye Chengfeng compromised.

At this point, Yin Chengzhuang felt like crying.

Ye Chengfeng wouldn't trouble Chen Yu but didn't say he wouldn't trouble him, and Yuan Chen definitely wouldn't let him go.

Chapter 345: The Final Stage

"Gentlemen, I am willing to give up all my tokens!"

After lamenting inwardly for a while, Yin Chengzhuang made a decision.

Ye Chengfeng only wanted the tokens he held, and if he proactively handed them over, Ye Chengfeng would not make things difficult for him.

Moreover, Yuan Chen couldn't possibly ignore the passage tokens.

In this way, he could stay out of the affair.

But the price was too great, requiring him to give up all his tokens.

Yin Chengzhuang had just entered this place and began sweeping up tokens; by now, he had accumulated a considerable number.

With a rustling sound,

Yin Chengzhuang handed over a heap of tokens and immediately retreated.

Yuan Chen had intended to find trouble with Yin Chengzhuang, but he couldn't ignore these tokens.

"Senior Brother, Yin Chengzhuang was held back by me, Jin Zhuo Peak, Situ Lin Yu, and some others, otherwise he would have run away earlier."

Chen Yu immediately spoke.

His meaning was clear; Yin Chengzhuang had been under watch by Chen Yu and others the whole time, and they deserved the most credit, while Ye Chengfeng had only just appeared.

"Understood."

Yuan Chen nodded.

Previously caught in a crisis, Chen Yu and others only needed to drive Yin Chengzhuang away, but they risked staying close to Yin Chengzhuang, waiting for Yuan Chen to arrive.

Yuan Chen held certain grievances against Yin Chengzhuang and was grateful for this.

"Ye Chengfeng, Yin Chengzhuang has long been prey eyed by No Demon Academy, so his tokens are ours!"

Yuan Chen spoke assertively.

"Let me see the strength you've gained after your breakthrough to the Guiyuan Realm then!"

Ye Chengfeng snorted coldly, staring directly at Yuan Chen, his eyes emitting an incredibly sharp Sword Intent.

Ye Chengfeng hadn't paid much attention to the earlier Yuan Chen.

But it was different after he had broken through to the Guiyuan Realm.

"Okay!"

Yuan Chen spoke briefly, his demeanor eager.

He had just broken through to the Guiyuan Realm and wanted to test his own strength.

"The battle is starting."

Chen Yu immediately retreated.

Instantly, Ye Chengfeng and Yuan Chen moved into action.

Whoosh!

A dazzling white light shone; a terrifying sword beam burst forth instantly, striking towards Yuan Chen.

This sword, long brewed by Ye Chengfeng, was extremely powerful.

"Mystic Ice Palm!"

Yuan Chen channeled his True Yuan, unleashing a dim, cold, icy palm shadow.

Instantly, a chilling force spread out, covering his surroundings with a layer of frosty haze.

Boom!

The sword beam clashed with the ice palm, sweeping up a destructive storm.

In the air, sharp white light and gray ice fragments surged around.

Nearby mountains and vegetation were instantly sliced with countless sword marks and coated with a layer of ice.

Ye Chengfeng's Sword Dao attack was strong enough to be renowned across the four major academies, but at this moment, Yuan Chen, having broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, could match him blow for blow.

After clashing once, the two engaged again.

Among them, Ye Chengfeng used extremely fast movement techniques to dodge and defend.

After a brief moment of brewing, he unleashed another astonishing sword light, startling those around.

Before long, Jin Zhuo Peak, Situ Lin Yu, and Nie Xuan among others also arrived, and upon seeing this scene, they couldn't help but gasp before joining Chen Yu.

"Yuan Chen has broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, yet Ye Chengfeng can still contend with him."

An outer academy student exclaimed.

"You don't understand; the top talents of the four major academies, even before breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, condense a Half-step True Essence, possessing the strength to contend with the Guiyuan Realm. Compared to ordinary people, these top talents' increase in combat strength isn't significant after their breakthrough because their strength was already strong, reaching a limit."

"But in terms of future potential, that can't be compared with ordinary Guiyuan Realm, these talents will continue to grow more and more astonishingly and even have the potential to reach the Sky Sea Realm. For ordinary Guiyuan Realm, this hope is much more remote, nearly non-existent."

Jin Zhuo Peak slightly explained, somewhat disdainful.

This was also why these talents deliberately stayed in the Qi Transformation Realm and were reluctant to break through to the Guiyuan Realm.

"I see."

The student who had misspoken suddenly felt embarrassed.

Boom, bang!

The battle between Yuan Chen and Ye Chengfeng didn't last long.

Yuan Chen, having broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, had stronger True Yuan than the Half-step True Essence, also in greater quantities.

At one moment, Ye Chengfeng was sent flying back several dozen feet by Yuan Chen's palm, his body coated with a layer of ice, and blood just emerging from the corners of his mouth immediately froze.

"Yuan Chen, after I break through to the Guiyuan Realm, I'll reclaim this loss."

Ye Chengfeng dropped a cold remark and quickly left the area.

Afterward, everyone gathered around the pile of tokens.

After counting, there were three hundred sixty-seven tokens.

Yuan Chen, having driven off Ye Chengfeng, clearly deserved the most credit, and next was Chen Yu, who, without, Yin Chengzhuang would have escaped long ago.

Eventually, Chen Yu received one hundred tokens.

"Senior Brother Jin, you don't seem to have much use for so many tokens

Chen Yu approached Jin Zhuo Peak and hesitated before speaking.

Jin Zhuo Peak was momentarily stunned, somewhat speechless inside; it was clear Chen Yu was trying to extort tokens from him.

Presumably used to extortion, Chen Yu didn't approach Situ Lin Yu or Nie Xuan but instead approached the more formidable Jin Zhuo Peak.

"Indeed, you only need ten pairs of black and white tokens to pass the first phase; it is indeed excess. I was planning on trading with some who need them."

Jin Zhuo Peak was no fool, hardened by previous extortions this time he proposed a trade.

Eventually, Chen Yu exchanged some resources for eighty tokens from Jin Zhuo Peak.

In this way, Chen Yu now had three hundred eighty-eight tokens.

"Junior Brother, are you aiming for the top ten?"

Yuan Chen was surprised by Chen Yu's actions.

He was indeed very surprised. Considering Chen Yu was only in the Innate Middle Stage, he actually aspired to rank among the top ten in the first segment.

"Yes."

Chen Yu answered very frankly.

After all, the top ten in the first segment wasn't about strength, but rather about the number of Tokens, which made it relatively easier.

Moreover, it was said that the rewards for the competition were incredibly generous.

Chen Yu even suspected that the rewards for the competition were split into two parts, the first being distributed during the first segment and the rest afterward.

If that were the case, he couldn't afford to miss out on the rewards of the first segment.

"Okay, Senior Brother will try his best to help you."

Yuan Chen smiled.

This junior brother seemed even more formidable than he had imagined.

Perhaps, this competition, his junior brother might even break into the top twenty.

Afterward, Chen Yu and his senior brother Yuan Chen teamed up, diverging from the others.

With only a little over half a month left in the first segment, most people had focused on plundering precious materials before.

But after half a month, most were considering the issue of Tokens.

Those without ten pairs of black and white Tokens were all trying to complete their sets.

And those who had hopes of breaking into the top ten were seizing every opportunity to plunder Tokens from others.

Chen Yu and Yuan Chen were doing just that; both aimed for the top ten, and they embarked on a campaign to plunder Tokens.

Anywhere they went, unless it was someone from No Demon Academy, they almost invariably plundered.

With Yuan Chen's Guiyuan Realm cultivation level, as long as he didn't run into the top figures from the other three major academies, it was virtually smooth sailing.

Five days passed, and Chen Yu had acquired another two hundred Tokens, reaching a total of five hundred eighty-eight.

But afterward, plundering Tokens became more difficult.

Only ten days remained in the first segment, everyone moved in teams, and the teams were strong, concentrating Tokens in the hands of top fighters.

Even Yuan Chen couldn't remain as carefree as before and had to start being cautious.

It was said that Yunhai Zhen, Ye Chengfeng, Yin Chengzhuang, and Duan Xinyue were each leading their teams, starting to scourge for Tokens.

Time slowly passed, and the entire secret realm space was filled with a tense atmosphere of combat.

Every now and then, a large-scale battle would erupt.

...

In a certain mist-covered forest with dim lights, a dozen people gathered together.

All of them were dressed in black, their faces concealed, revealing only their eyes.

Quickly, one of the individuals in black took out a Token.

The rest immediately knelt down.

This Token symbolized a True Disciple of their sect alliance, a top genius infiltrated into the various academies of Yun Zhao Country.

"Nowadays, these academy geniuses in the secret realm have formed large teams and are plundering Tokens everywhere; it's become difficult for us to make a move."

The one who took out the Token spoke in a cold, deep voice.

"Yes, a few days ago, a disciple was discovered and killed while trying to make a move."

One of them reported.

"It's all because of that 'Zhenluo Sect,' acting too ostentatiously and making these academy geniuses cautious, making it hard for us to act."

One disciple complained.

"Zhenluo Sect?"

The person holding the Token, chewed over these words.

Zhenluo Sect was another formidable sect power.

This time, the infiltrators from Zhenluo Sect also had incredible beings.

According to his speculation, that rumored assassin in a pitch-black mask should be a True Disciple of the Zhenluo Sect, and even stronger than him.

"Alright, hand over the Tokens you assassins have collected."

The person standing continued.

The others, without saying a word, immediately took out the Tokens they had collected over this period.

Everyone understood that this True Disciple aimed to break into the top ten of the first segment.

"Do any of you know the situation of Chen Yu from No Demon Academy?"

The black-clad person of True Disciple status inquired.

"This person is only ranked thirteenth in No Demon Academy, Senior Brother, are you planning to make a move on him?"

Someone asked.

"Hmph, Chen Yu isn't as simple as he appears on the surface; he is actually a disciple of the vice dean of No Demon Academy. If we can eliminate him now, why give him a chance to grow further?"

The only one standing scoffed.

"I know. Chen Yu is with Yuan Chen, and Yuan Chen has now broken through to the Guiyuan Realm with formidable strength, and with his protection, we can't touch Chen Yu."

A woman shared what she knew.

"That's not for certain. I heard that Ye Chengfeng of Sky Sword Academy has broken through the Guiyuan Realm and is actively looking for Yuan Chen's whereabouts, wanting to challenge him

A slightly sharp voice chimed in.

"Good, reveal Yuan Chen's whereabouts to Ye Chengfeng of Sky Sword Academy."

The black-clad True Disciple commanded.

"Hehe, Senior Brother, what a clever plan, letting Ye Chengfeng deal with Yuan Chen and Chen Yu."

One person spoke flatteringly.

Ye Chengfeng's strength was ranked second in Yun Zhao Country's celestial rankings, considerably stronger than Yuan Chen, and now that he too had broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, he should be able to overpower Yuan Chen.

"Disperse!"

The standing person in black waved.

Whoosh whoosh—

A group of people scattered and disappeared.

The person in black also quickly left, and when he had gone a short distance and found no one around, he put away his black clothes.

His face was handsome, with chiseled features, dark, gloomy eyes, and his long black hair flowing without wind.

If there were any students from No Demon Academy here, they would recognize this man's name; he was none other than Ren Han, the top figure of Devil Wind Institute.

Chapter 346: Encounter with the Assassin Again

In the blink of an eye, another five days had passed, and in the Token collection contest, Chen Yu and Yuan Chen had no gains to speak of.

Fortunately, in these five days, they had scavenged quite a few precious materials, so it wasn't a total waste.

Of course, both of them had also consumed a lot of valuable resources.

Yuan Chen needed to consolidate his recently achieved breakthrough in power, while Chen Yu also needed to quickly increase his strength to secure a better ranking.

There were less than five days left until the end of the first stage.

Chen Yu's "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" second layer was almost complete.

With a little more study, he would be able to step into the third layer.

The demon patterns formed by the second layer were like a layer of dragon scales, named "Demon Scale Pattern," which connected to the "Devil Claw Secret Pattern" and extended to his back.

Having a complete "Demon Scale Pattern" would also allow for the practice of related combat skills, but Chen Yu simply did not have the time to do so right now.

"Senior brother, how many Tokens do you have now?"

Chen Yu asked.

"Six hundred thirty-two," Yuan Chen answered.

If Yuan Chen hadn't broken through to the Guiyuan Realm early on, he probably wouldn't have been able to collect so many Tokens.

Compared to Yuan Chen, Chen Yu currently had five hundred ninety Tokens, which was also relatively high.

All thanks to Lv Qiuling, Ge Lin, Yin Chengzhuang, and others.

Lv Qiuling, ranked second at Sky Star Academy, Ge Lin, and the robust young man along with their numerous group had almost all their Tokens end up in Chen Yu's hands.

Next was following Senior Brother Yuan Chen, from whom he had scavenged a large number of Tokens.

But as time went on, the difficulty of collecting Tokens suddenly increased manyfold.

Logically speaking, five hundred ninety Tokens should secure a place in the top ten, but nothing is absolute. The later it gets, the greater the variables, it's still best to collect as many Tokens as possible to ensure the ranking.

After all, the more Tokens one has, the higher the ranking, which would result in richer rewards.

"It looks like the only way to get Tokens now is through a big battle."

Yuan Chen pondered for a moment before speaking.

Currently, those with the majority of Tokens were basically part of a sizable team.

In the past few days, the two had also witnessed two large-scale battles that were incredibly fierce.

"Let's go, find No Demon Academy's team first, and then look for our prey."

Yuan Chen made up his mind.

Initially, he was only acting with Chen Yu, naturally wanting to maximize their gains; after all, with more teammates, their own share would inevitably shrink.

Afterward, Chen Yu and Yuan Chen started hurrying on their way to find the large team from No Demon Academy.

However, they hadn't gone far before they felt a massive and chaotic surge of energy rapidly approaching from afar.

"A large team is closing in on us."

Yuan Chen's heart tightened slightly.

If it was No Demon Academy's team, that would be good, but if it was from another academy, that would be bad.

Just then, a powerful Guiyuan Realm aura burst out from that team, accompanied by a soaring, crystal-white Sword Intent glow.

"Ye Chengfeng!"

Yuan Chen's face showed a hint of alarm.

In Sky Sword Academy, there were not many who had broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, and no one else possessed such special and strong Sword Intent apart from Ye Chengfeng.

If it were only Ye Chengfeng, who had broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, Yuan Chen might not be his opponent, but he wouldn't be overly afraid either.

But clearly, Ye Chengfeng had come with a large team, and even if he and Chen Yu had remarkable abilities, they wouldn't be able to contend with them.

"How could we be so unlucky to run into Ye Chengfeng's team? We've got to get out of here."

Yuan Chen immediately said, leading Chen Yu to retreat.

They had just started to turn away when the huge Sword Intent behind them became stronger and more focused, aiming directly at them.

"No good, we've been discovered."

Yuan Chen knew that Ye Chengfeng had set his sights on them.

Swoosh!

A figure in white burst out from the large team, like a sharp sword, leaving deep sword marks a few inches deep on the trees as it passed by.

"Yuan Chen, hand over your Tokens."

Ye Chengfeng's cool voice transmitted through the air.

"Run, Junior Brother, no, you and I should split up now. If you stick with me, Ye Chengfeng will target you too."

Yuan Chen smiled slightly, speaking with urgency.

"Alright, Senior Brother, take care."

After speaking, Chen Yu quickly parted ways with Yuan Chen.

If he were to flee with Yuan Chen, he wouldn't be able to keep up, and would only be a hindrance.

Yuan Chen might not necessarily be a match for Ye Chengfeng, but he had no problem ensuring his own safety.

Behind them, within the ranks of Sky Sword Academy's team.

"Ha ha, the top figure of No Demon Academy runs away as soon as he sees Senior Ye."

A male student laughed heartily.

"That's right, Senior Ye's talent is unparalleled. In this year's academy competition, Senior Ye might even have a chance to defeat Yunhai Zhen of Yunyang Academy and become the first."

Another student spoke proudly.

"Ice Mountain Fairy's talent is also astounding. In the next academy competition, Miss Luo Feng will definitely shine even brighter than Senior Ye does now."

A handsome young man glanced at Ye Luofeng within their ranks, his eyes sparkling as he spoke with a smile.

Hearing about Ye Luofeng, almost everyone's gaze in the team converged on the ice-cold beauty in white.

"Eh? Yuan Chen's Junior Brother is here too. Ye Chengfeng has gone after Yuan Chen, so let's handle his Junior Brother Chen Yu."

A student said with ease.

Previously, Chen Yu had been collecting Tokens everywhere alongside Yuan Chen, much to everyone's annoyance.

But now, with the protection of Yuan Chen gone, and given Chen Yu's ranking of thirteenth in No Demon Academy, he would be easy to deal with.

"Miss Luo Feng, will you join us?"

The handsome young man who had previously complimented Ye Luofeng asked.

"I won't go,"

Ye Luofeng promptly refused.

She was well aware that Chen Yu was Yuan Chen's Junior Brother.

Although she wanted to compete with Chen Yu, it was to be a fair one-on-one match, not a group beatdown.

She even wanted to persuade these seniors not to go after Chen Yu.

But as a member of Sky Sword Academy, she couldn't find a reason not to.

"Alright, once I get that kid's storage bag, Miss Luo Feng, if you see anything you like, just pick it out."

The handsome youth smiled warmly, immediately setting out.

Of course, a group of students followed suit.

After all, in the final stage of the first phase, it's rare to come across such solitary prey.

Some students, however, preferred to stay behind and catch a few more glances of the Ice Mountain Fairy within the academy.

...

In the ancient forest, Chen Yu had relaxed after running with all his might for a distance.

"I should find the main team first, otherwise it would be bad if we encountered a large team from another academy."

Chen Yu made his plan.

Moreover, after finding the No Demon Academy's main team, he could also go to support Yuan Chen.

However, as Chen Yu was about to move, he noticed several people chasing after him.

Whoosh whoosh...

Seven people appeared in Chen Yu's vision, all looking at him with relaxed and comfortable gazes, as if he were prey in abundance.

"Kid, you're not running?"

The elegant young man revealed a graceful smile, with a hint of curiosity.

When he saw Chen Yu, Chen Yu just stood his ground until they caught up, without moving an inch.

"Haha, I think he's resigned to his fate; he can't run away anyway!"

One of the students laughed unrestrainedly.

"Hehe, if you're bringing your Tokens to me willingly, it would be rude not to accept."

The corners of Chen Yu's mouth lifted slightly, with an amused smile.

Upon hearing this, the complexions of the seven people opposite him changed abruptly.

"Heh, courting death."

One Sky Sword Academy student's eyes sharpened, holding a purple shining sword, and he rushed out in an instant.

However, just as he got close to Chen Yu.

Clang!

A muffled sound was heard, and the student was sent flying back rapidly and crashed heavily to the ground, his precious sword flung to the side, quivering.

This student ranked thirteenth in the Sky Sword Academy, so he was eager to make a move, hoping to teach Chen Yu a lesson.

Unexpectedly, he hadn't even seen Chen Yu's action clearly, and without Chen Yu even moving his weapon, he was kicked back, and he found that several of his ribs were broken.

"You do have some skill, sir."

The elegant young man narrowed his eyes, a sword appearing in his hand, and he leaped out the next moment, exuding a sharp presence.

At the same time, the other six charged out as well.

Among these six, four were external academy students.

"Why not just hand over the Tokens directly? Why demean yourself?"

Chen Yu revealed a hint of a wicked smile, took out the Giant Ruler Sword, and pushed his Copper Statue Gang Body to the limit.

In an instant, Chen Yu became a glowing bronze giant.

"Sword annihilates all directions."

True Qi condensed, and with a wave, terrifying waves of Evil Qi Sword Intent surged forward, layer upon layer pressing onwards.

Boom bang peng!

Just this one round of attacks had the four external academy students blown away.

Of the three remaining, aside from the elegant young man, the other two were worse for wear.

This time, Chen Yu's attack finally intimidated them.

Bang~

With a fierce stomp, Chen Yu charged forward, initiating an attack.

In moments, the other two were also sent flying, leaving only the elegant young man.

"How... how can you be so strong?"

The elegant young man was shocked and questioning within.

He ranked sixth in the Sky Sword Academy, but at the moment was completely suppressed by Chen Yu, only able to defensively react.

Bang!

The elegant young man didn't last twenty moves before he was swept away by Chen Yu's sword, crashing hard to the ground.

Although the first phase of the trial was short, comparing before and after, Chen Yu's strength had improved significantly.

After defeating these seven people, Chen Yu first approached the elegant young man and snatched his storage bag.

"Not bad, there are some Tokens here."

Chen Yu merrily took away the Tokens and some other valuable items.

In comparison, the other people's storage bags were quite meager, with few items of interest to Chen Yu.

"Scram."

After taking the spoils, Chen Yu let them go, preparing to get on his way.

But just then, from behind a robust ancient tree beside Chen Yu, a short blade suddenly extended, silently but swiftly slashing towards Chen Yu's throat.

In that instant, Chen Yu's hairs stood on end, and a cold sharpness brushed his neck.

"Assassin."

Chen Yu's heart jolted.

The assassin was so close, and he hadn't noticed.

While part of the reason was that the attention drawn by the seven Sky Sword Academy students had caused him to lower his guard,

The assassin's concealment skills were undoubtedly top-notch.

Facing the assassin's sudden strike, Chen Yu tossed his head back.

The short blade shifted, aiming to make a rearward cut, showing how swiftly the enemy reacted.

Chen Yu didn't underestimate his opponent, having anticipated the move, he blocked it with his hand.

Ting chichi!

The dagger scored a cut on Chen Yu's palm, blood oozing out.

The figure in black furrowed his brows, as a practitioner at the Innate Peak and a True Disciple from the alliance of sects, his assassination attempt on Chen Yu had also failed.

No wonder the two assassins sent out before had not managed to kill Chen Yu.

But it didn't matter, his dagger was poisoned, Chen Yu's condition would continue to deteriorate, and he would soon die.

To the black-robed figure's surprise, however,

Chen Yu's wounded hand had actually grabbed the dagger tightly, pulling fiercely.

Yes, his dagger couldn't be withdrawn, it was grasped by Chen Yu, and the assassin had never encountered such a situation in his years of killing.

A tremendous force came, and the figure in black was abruptly pulled out.

"Courting death!"

Chen Yu's Secret Pattern Demon Body was activated in an instant, his legs enveloped with a layer of demon patterned energy, and he sent a leg flying over.

Chapter 347: Unmasking

"This kid actually wants to trade injury for injury," the man in black understood Chen Yu's intention.

Regardless, since Chen Yu was already injured, why not go all out and, by doing so, restrain the man in black and strike opportunistically.

That's what the man in black thought. Without this desperate attempt, Chen Yu would have no chance of winning.

However, in the eyes of the man in black, Chen Yu's plan was too naive.

As a top assassin, his control over his body far exceeded that of ordinary people.

Even if Chen Yu did this, he wouldn't be able to do much to him.

The moment his figure was pulled out, the man in black's body suddenly bent like a crescent moon, causing Chen Yu's kick to hit nothing but air.

Missing his mark, Chen Yu's palm had already released the short blade, as he launched a punch with lightning speed.

Boom Pow Peng!

Chen Yu's fists and feet kept striking, while the man in black's body dodged with snake-like agility, his ability to evade was astonishing, far surpassing that of Nie Xuan.

However, faced with such a barrage of attacks from Chen Yu, the man in black was also struggling to cope.

In addition, Chen Yu's relentless advance made each punch and kick powerful and imbued with an overbearing and awe-inspiring demonic aura.

"His demonic power has reached such levels," the man in black was inwardly shocked.

Additionally, given that Chen Yu practiced Body Cultivation, his close combat skills were exceptional, sticking closely to his foe.

If it were anyone else, after a failed assassination attempt, the man in black would have swiftly retreated to look for a second chance.

"You must be an infiltrator from a sect organization, right? Was it your accomplice who tried to assassinate me last time?" Chen Yu barked coldly as he attacked.

Inside the secret realm, many talented students had been assassinated, and many speculated that these assassins were indeed infiltrators from sects placed within the various academies.

"Dead men don't need to know so much," said the man in black coldly.

However, in his heart, he was nodding. Chen Yu had actually guessed correctly.

Suddenly, the man in black, who had been dodging and avoiding, launched an attack, his dark short blade stabbing swiftly towards Chen Yu's neck.

An assassin's every attack was silent yet powerful.

"I think it's you who's on the brink of death. You better say as much as you can while you can, otherwise you won't have the chance later," Chen Yu said nonchalantly.

Facing the man in black's sudden attack, he was not the least bit afraid.

Cling clang!

Gripping the Giant Ruler Sword tightly, it clashed with the man in black's short blade, sparking a shower of sparks.

Chen Yu had the advantage in strength, and after blocking the strike, he thrust powerfully upward.

Whirr whirr!

The man in black dodged in stride and pulled away, creating a gap between him and Chen Yu.

"Heh heh, all talk, but how long can you last after being hit with my 'Divine Scattering Powder'?" the man in black sneered. He didn't need to force a confrontation with Chen Yu.

"Divine Scattering Powder?"

Chen Yu looked at the wound on his palm, and although the blood had already clotted and the wound was healing fast, the healing speed seemed slower than expected.

And indeed, he felt a faint, almost imperceptible impact on his state.

But to the man in black witnessing this scene, it stirred a different emotion.

He actually saw the wound on Chen Yu's palm healing, yet he had not seen Chen Yu take any Healing Pills.

One must realize that his dagger was a top-notch artifact with a characteristic that the wounds it caused bled incessantly and were extremely hard to heal.

Also, Chen Yu's mental state seemed unaffected.

Thud!

Suddenly, Chen Yu burst forth like a black lightning bolt, charging towards the man in black.

Whoosh!

Being an assassin, the man in black temporarily got out of the way, using the ancient trees around for cover.

"Slash!"

With a ferocious swing of the Giant Ruler Sword, Chen Yu cut the ancient tree where the man in black was hiding in half at the waist.

The tree split into two, but the man in black's figure was nowhere to be seen.

Then suddenly, the man in black dropped from above, the short blade lunging out.

It turned out, while hidden behind the ancient tree, the man in black had silently climbed to the top of the tree undetected.

This assault from the man in black posed an even greater threat to Chen Yu than the previous two, the blade on his short blade was more menacing.

"Demonic Annihilation Claw!"

Chen Yu extended his right arm, his hand forming a claw.

Buzz!

Demonic patterns surged wildly within his body. The "Devil Claw Secret Pattern" on his right arm shone with a faint glow, as if coming to life, spreading and climbing, extending to his hand.

He swiped his claw through the air, and the dark demonic Qi formed a ferocious and dreadful demonic claw, covered with strange patterns, ancient and sinister.

"What is this?"

The man in black revealed a look of shock.

The strength unleashed by Chen Yu at that moment far exceeded his expectations.

That claw was chillingly powerful, overbearing and sinister, with an intangible deterrence.

Cling clang!

The moment of the collision, a terrifying force surged towards the man in black.

The man in black quickly pulled back and tumbled backward to land on a patch of grass not too far off.

With his face covered, only a trace of surprise could be seen in his eyes, but his arms were visibly trembling slightly.

Just now, had he not withdrawn in time, Chen Yu's strike would have severely injured him.

"The Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record!"

The man in black squeezed out a few words from his mouth.

"You actually know it?" Chen Yu was somewhat surprised.

But upon reflection, considering the reputation of this Cultivation Technique among the ancient top ten extraordinary techniques, being recognized was not surprising.

The expression on the man in black darkened, he hadn't anticipated that Chen Yu was indeed practicing the Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.

This technique not only required special conditions to cultivate, combining demonic power with Body Refinement, but it was also extremely difficult to practice, with an excruciating process.

Long ago, students at the No Demon Academy had tried to practice it, but by now, it had been nearly forgotten by everyone.

Chen Yu had surprisingly cultivated the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," no wonder even he couldn't see through it.

"Can't let him live."

The man in black's expression was incredibly gloomy.

He knew Chen Yu hadn't cultivated this technique for very long, but his achievements were somewhat terrifying. Given time, he would become unstoppable.

Swoosh!

The man in black took the initiative and rushed out, attacking Chen Yu head-on.

In the next moment, an overwhelming Demonic Qi burst forth from within him, making him appear like a deranged and ferocious demon.

Boom!

With a fierce swipe of his palm, a pitch-black and solid wind of palm strength blasted out.

This sight greatly surprised Chen Yu.

Now, this assassin was actually fighting him at close quarters and the power he suddenly unleashed was also extremely astonishing.

Thump!

When their palms collided, Chen Yu immediately felt a wild surge of demon path power wash over him. Had it not been for his Secret Pattern Demon Body, he might have been the one unable to withstand it.

"Die."

As the man in black's palm struck, another hand quickly drew a black short blade.

Normally, assassins wouldn't engage in a head-on fight and would be reluctant to reveal their cultivation techniques and combat skills, but at this moment the man in black just wanted to kill Chen Yu, no matter what.

Cling!

Chen Yu's other hand had somehow grabbed a dark silver, translucent short sword and clashed with the man in black's blade.

But the man in black was more skilled. His blade slid past Chen Yu's Dark Snake Sword and stabbed towards Chen Yu's chest from another angle.

The man in black was multitasking, one hand using the palm and the other the sword, demonstrating long years of practice, moving with fluidity and without the slightest pause.

Chen Yu couldn't stay calm. The assassin was not only skilled in the art of assassination, but also incredibly powerful. He was no ordinary opponent, at least on par with Luo Haotian from No Demon Academy, who was ranked second.

Boom!

Suddenly, a burst of Bloodline Power erupted from Chen Yu, and a half-transparent blood-colored scale pattern swiftly appeared on his arms and forehead.

Activating his Dragon Scale Bloodline Power, Chen Yu's strength and defense surged.

He unleashed an even more formidable power with his palm, fiercely blasting the man in black back several steps.

"Bloodline

The man in black's pupils contracted, appearing very surprised.

Chen Yu actually had Bloodline Power, something he had never heard of.

However, the man in black didn't retreat. Having seen Chen Yu reveal so many of his cards, he couldn't let Chen Yu get away even more.

Thump! Thump!

Crazy surges of Demon True Qi erupted from the man in black's palms, fiercely unleashing one palm strike and then another.

Moreover, the force of these two palm strikes seemed to converge in the air, layering upon one another.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Three more strikes were unleashed.

And with the last palm strike, the man in black also mobilized Half-step True Essence.

In the air, a visually substantial black light palm emerged, radiating boundless black Qi, pressing down towards Chen Yu.

"The Seven Extremes Demon Palm, you're a student of the No Demon Academy!"

Chen Yu's gaze flickered keenly.

The Seven Extremes Demon Palm was very famous within the No Demon Institute. It was difficult to master, but once perfected, its power was immense. It was the choice technique of many demon path top talents, which was why Chen Yu knew of it.

Facing the man in black's lethal move, Chen Yu responded in kind, channeling the little Half-step True Essence within his body.

The Demon Claw Secret Pattern on his arm lit up again, extending over his palm.

Once more, a devastating Claw of Demonic Eradication was executed. But with the Half-step True Essence employed, its power reached a shocking level.

"Half-step True Essence!"

The man in black's eyebrows jumped abruptly. His heart was thunderstruck. The monstrous talent of Chen Yu truly frightened him.

Boom!

Two powerful demon path forces collided, creating a tempest of demonic Qi.

Swoosh!

The man in black burst out in an instant, becoming incredibly vague within the tempest of demonic Qi, difficult to make out clearly.

"Die!"

The man in black once again executed the Seven Extremes Demon Palm and mobilized Half-step True Essence.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Chen Yu and the man in black exchanged three blows, evenly matched.

However, after three strikes, Chen Yu had depleted his Half-step True Essence.

After all, he was only in the Innate Middle Stage, and hadn't been condensing Half-step True Essence for long, only able to sustain four attacks.

"It's over."

The man in black breathed a sigh of relief, circulated his Half-step True Essence, and launched a palm toward Chen Yu.

This battle was finally about to end.

The thought alone was terrifying. If Chen Yu, with such talent, were allowed to grow successfully, he could very well stand a good chance of reaching the Sky Sea Realm.

Just then, Chen Yu's angry shout came: "You think it's over just because you say so?"

Whoosh!

A mass of Blood-Red Glaze flames suddenly flared up in Chen Yu's right hand.

Though he'd burnt through his Half-step True Essence, the flames that emerged now were no less intimidating than the Half-step True Essence.

"Spirit Flame

The man in black broke out in a cold sweat. He had never expected Chen Yu to have such a fearsome technique available.

But at this moment, it was too late for him to hold back.

Boom!

Their palms met, and in an instant, the Blood Crystal Flame spread onto the man in black's palm.

Now, Chen Yu had more of the Blood Crystal Flame, choosing not to fuse the True Fire Spirit Flame with his True Qi but to use it separately.

"Ahh

The man in black screamed, falling to the ground.

The next moment, the Blood Crystal Flame along his palm started to spread across his body.

The man in black frantically cycled his True Qi and Half-step True Essence and only after a short while managed to suppress the Blood Crystal Flame.

After all, he wasn't covered in much of the Blood Crystal Flame.

The man in black's clothes were burned off, revealing a silver undergarment beneath. It was clear to see it was a high-grade magical artifact. Without the protection of such a high-grade artifact, the man in black would not have extinguished the Blood Crystal Flame so quickly.

At the same time, what got burnt by the Blood Crystal Flame was also the black cloth covering the face of the man in black...

Chapter 348: Token Performance

"Ren Han."

Chen Yu looked at the youth lying not far away, without much surprise.

From the beginning, Chen Yu had suspected that the assassin sent to kill him was a disciple of No Demon Academy.

Later, when the assailant used the “Seven Extremes Demon Palm,” Chen Yu had almost guessed his identity.

Ren Han was ranked third in the academy, and the fact that he practiced the “Seven Extremes Demon Palm” was no secret.

Although he was ranked third in No Demon Academy, as a double agent, he had clearly concealed his strength. His real combat power was probably equivalent to Luo Haotian, who was ranked second, or perhaps even stronger.

"You even have True Fire Spirit Flame Ren Han stared at Chen Yu, extremely resentful.

Who would have anticipated not only did Chen Yu hide his Bloodline Power, but he also possessed True Fire Spirit Flame?

Moreover, to Ren Han's perception, Chen Yu's True Fire Spirit Flame seemed to be of the Innate Spiritual Flame kind!

Otherwise, how could he possibly have been defeated?

"Don't kill me, I'll tell you the identities of the other undercover agents from No Demon Academy."

Ren Han suddenly spoke up.

"Oh?"

Chen Yu's eyebrows twitched slightly.

There was a rule among the disciples, that there were generous rewards for uncovering double agents.

Suddenly, a fierce glint flashed in Chen Yu's eyes.

Although he was attracted by Ren Han's words, he also remained alert for the last-ditch counterattack of a top-notch fighter.

Sure enough, after Ren Han spoke those words, he reached for his storage bag.

"Go to hell!"

Ren Han threw out a black bead.

That bead contained the True Yuan fluctuations of the Guiyuan Realm level.

Ren Han, being the Direct Disciple of an alliance of sects, wouldn't execute such a dangerous mission without some trump cards.

Chen Yu recognized at a glance that it must have been crafted by a Guiyuan Realm expert, encapsulating an attack of the Guiyuan Realm level.

Swoosh!

At the thought, Chen Yu took out a dark purple bead that Yi Lantian had given him from the Light Silver Crystal Space.

At the same time, Chen Yu violently hurled the bead out.

"What

Ren Han's expression showed a hint of surprise.

Without any apparent movement to retrieve an object, Chen Yu's hand suddenly produced a dark purple bead.

Boom-bang!

The two beads collided in mid-air, unleashing the terrible force within.

A monstrous wave of Demonic Qi formed and spread continuously.

In the moment of throwing his bead, Chen Yu quickly activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body and retreated backward.

On the other hand, Ren Han was lying on the ground with injuries and was slower in action than Chen Yu.

Also, the expected point of explosion would probably have been closer to Chen Yu than to Ren Han.

But contrary to his hopes, Chen Yu's thunderous reveal of his trump card caused Ren Han's black bead to explode in mid-air.

Bang!

Ren Han's figure was sent flying, smacked onto the ground hard, his complexion pale, spewing out a large mouthful of fresh blood.

"Why

Ren Han staring hard at Chen Yu, unable to comprehend what had just happened.

Swoosh!

Just then, a dark blue light shot out near Ren Han, biting at his foot.

Ren Han circulated his True Qi and fiercely forced out the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

But at this moment, the Iron Moon Strange Insect had not only a potent poison but was also imbued with a particular demonic intent, making its attack extremely fierce.

Just now, it had bitten Ren Han's foot several times, causing the poison to spread faster.

"No

Suffering from the severe injuries and the invasive poison, Ren Han slowly died in his struggle.

It wasn't until after Ren Han had died that Chen Yu approached his corpse and took away his storage bag.

He also took off the precious armor from Ren Han's body and put it on himself.

In the tough skirmish with Ren Han, Chen Yu's beast hide armor had sustained some damage and wouldn't last much longer.

After some thought, Chen Yu still decided to cut off Ren Han's head.

After all, upon returning to the academy, he could get certain rewards with the achievement of having killed an undercover agent.

Ending this battle, Chen Yu quickly left to find No Demon Academy's main force.

On the way, Chen Yu looked into Ren Han's storage bag.

To his shock, the number of Tokens within was only second to Chen Yu's own.

Chen Yu did not know that Ren Han also had plans to make it into the top ten, hence he had collected a vast number of Tokens.

Such a large number of Tokens acquired by the undercover agents had mostly gathered in his hands.

"This is a big win."

Chen Yu couldn't help but laugh out loud.

He had five hundred ninety Tokens in his hand, and he found five hundred Tokens in Ren Han's storage bag. Altogether, Chen Yu now had over a thousand Tokens.

With so many Tokens, Chen Yu's target was no longer just the top ten—there was even hope to break into the top three.

Of course, apart from the black and white Tokens, there were plenty of other good things in Ren Han's storage bag.

Among them, there were four kinds of ores for refining top-quality magical weapons, as well as a dozen kinds of five-hundred-year-old precious materials.

Before long, Chen Yu found the team led by Jin Zhuo Peak.

Afterward, the whole team started searching for Yuan Chen.

However, with the speed of Yuan Chen and Ye Chengfeng, it would be difficult for such a large team to catch up to them.

Two days later, Yuan Chen returned to the team on his own.

He said that Ye Chengfeng had chased him for a day. His True Yuan was exhausted, and he had to give up.

Now, only the last three days were left in the first stage of the competition.

The teams from the four major academies had basically come together, and no one was making any hasty moves.

"I really didn't expect Ren Han to be an undercover agent!"

Yuan Chen looked surprised when he was told and heaved a sigh.

"But Junior Brother, with your strength, could you actually kill Ren Han?"

Yuan Chen suddenly questioned.

After all, Ren Han was ranked third in No Demon Academy.

"Senior Brother underestimates me too much."

Chen Yu smiled and offered no further explanation.

Yuan Chen pondered, the Master had given Chen Yu a life-saving ace, and if used well, it indeed could kill Ren Han.

"Senior brother, what color Token are you short of?"

Chen Yu asked.

The ranking of the top ten in the competition is based on the number of black and white Tokens.

If there were only one hundred black Tokens and two hundred white Tokens, the score would only count one hundred pairs of black and white Tokens.

"I need a few dozen more white Tokens."

Yuan Chen checked his storage bag.

"Perfect, I have some extra white Tokens here."

Thus, the two carried out a Token exchange, maximizing their benefits.

"Now I have enough Tokens in my hands!"

In the last few days, the team from No Demon Academy made no moves.

At least, since Yuan Chen did not act, the others dared not to wander recklessly either.

Meanwhile, Yuan Chen and Chen Yu had been cultivating in seclusion for these days.

The power of the Copper Statue Gang Body had almost entirely transformed into the Secret Pattern Demon Body.

Chen Yu was converting the last bits of true malign Qi into demonic pattern Qi.

Soon, the time for the first segment arrived, the entire space experienced a slight shake, a clear unprecedented fluctuation, which everyone could perceive.

The entire secret realm was controlled by the four major academies.

Under the control of the four major academies, all the survivors among the students emerged from the secret realm.

Atop the Liuyun Mountain Range, the higher-ups of all the academies stood up to watch the students emerge from the secret realm.

When the secret realm passage closed, many faces around showed grief.

Clearly, those who did not come out had all died.

This time, the mortality rate in the first segment of the academy competition was not only high in elimination but also in death.

Even within the four major academies, a considerable number of students had died.

Yi Lantian glanced over at Yuan Chen and Chen Yu with a rather flat expression.

It was Mr. Xu from the Devil Wind Institute who asked aloud, "Where is Ren Han? How come he didn't come back?"

In fact, most of the students from No Demon Academy had not seen Ren Han at all in the secret realm and naturally could not know.

"Master, Ren Han was an assassin and has been killed by your disciple."

Chen Yu secretly transmitted a message to his Master.

Yi Lantian instructed him to announce it publicly here.

"Mr. Xu, within the secret realm space, the traces of the lurking Ren Han were discovered, and he has been slain."

With his Master's permission, Chen Yu spoke out about the matter.

"What?"

Mr. Xu's face showed a hint of surprise, then remained silent.

The crowd was in an uproar.

It was unexpected that Ren Han, ranked third in the No Demon Academy, turned out to be an infiltrator.

Immediately after, Chen Yu produced a Token.

"That's right, the 'Black Prison Alliance' True Disciple's Identity Token."

As soon as this Token was presented, no one else had any objections.

Of course, it wasn't just the No Demon Academy that had discovered infiltrators; the other three major academies also found and executed lurking enemies.

After this matter concluded,

The Vice Chancellor of Yunyang Academy floated up into the sky.

"Now, the first segment has ended, all competing students, present your proof of results!"

The voice of the man in the Golden Cloud Robe echoed throughout the mountain range.

Instantly, all students who had collected ten pairs of Tokens took out their Tokens.

Those who hadn't managed to collect enough quietly withdrew.

But at this moment, nobody paid attention to these failures; almost all eyes were on the leading students of the four major academies.

Ye Chengfeng glanced at Yuan Chen, snorted coldly, and showed his Tokens.

At once, pairs of black and white Tokens floated in mid-air.

"Four hundred and twelve pairs!"

Ye Chengfeng announced in a cool voice.

Four hundred twelve pairs, which amounted to eight hundred twenty-four Tokens.

The number astounded many onlookers.

It seemed as if to purposely suppress Ye Chengfeng, Yunhai Zhen from Yunyang Academy stepped forward.

Black and white lights flickered, his front filled with densely packed Tokens.

"Five hundred ninety-six pairs!"

This number shocked the entire crowd.

The man in the Golden Cloud Robe showed a trace of a smile, nodding his head very satisfied.

Then, Duan Xinyue from Sky Star Academy came forward, presenting her Tokens.

"Three hundred forty-two pairs!"

Duan Xinyue's count of Tokens was far less than Yunhai Zhen's and notably fewer than Ye Chengfeng's.

Of course, the theft of Tokens also involved an element of luck.

For instance, Yin Chengzhuang, ranked third at Yunyang Academy, could only produce a barely sufficient one hundred twenty pairs of Tokens, making even him feel utterly mortified.

"One hundred twenty pairs? Yunyang Academy's third-ranked is a bit too weak, aren't they?"

Some students from the four major academies, and relative ancient clans of the Yin Family, were unforgiving with their mockery.

Following closely, Lv Qiuling from Sky Star Academy, ranked second, also brought out her Tokens, just a little more than Yin Chengzhuang at one hundred sixty-seven pairs.

After all, when Chen Yu had robbed Lv Qiuling of her Tokens, not even half a month had passed in the first segment.

With her abilities as a Beast Tamer, she still had time to plunder a significant number of Tokens.

Lv Qiuling glared fiercely at Chen Yu; with the number of Tokens in her hands, it was a mystery whether she could enter the top ten. And all of this was caused by Chen Yu.

Next, Yuan Chen revealed his Token count, totaling three hundred forty-nine pairs.

The higher-ups of No Demon Academy all nodded.

As students continued to present their Tokens, Chen Yu placed his hand on the storage bag and took out his own Tokens.

Whoosh~

Instantly, an array of black and white Tokens neatly lined up in front of Chen Yu.

Just by area, it was larger than Yuan Chen's.

This startled the high-ranking members of the No Demon Academy.

And the other three major academies, including the second-tier ones, all turned their gaze towards him.

After all, the spread of Chen Yu's Tokens in front of him was really vast and eye-catching; otherwise, why would they bother observing a student at the Innate Middle Stage.

Counting carefully.

"Five hundred thirty-nine pairs!"

To note, even Ye Chengfeng was at four hundred twelve pairs, yet Chen Yu had obtained over a hundred more Tokens than Ye Chengfeng.

Chapter 349: Ancient Ruins

In an instant, Chen Yu's five hundred and thirty-nine pairs of tokens drew the attention of almost everyone.

After all, some people expected others to display many tokens.

But hardly anyone was prepared for Chen Yu to present five hundred and thirty-nine pairs, aside from Yuan Chen.

"It seems Ren Han had quite a few tokens in his possession," Yuan Chen said with a faint smile.

He was rather familiar with the number of Chen Yu's tokens, and the sudden increase must have been the spoils of defeating Ren Han.

On the other side, the top disciples from the four major academies all focused on Chen Yu, their expressions a mix of shock, surprise, and envy.

"Is this the new disciple recently taken in by the deputy head of No Demon Academy?"

Since the start of the grand competition, Yunhai Zhen had finally glanced at Chen Yu, but it was only a cursory look.

After all, the snatching of tokens also involved luck, and with Chen Yu's cultivation, he posed no threat to him at all.

On the contrary, Yin Chengzhuang and Lv Qiuling looked at Chen Yu with expressions of intense jealousy and annoyance.

Their abysmal performance was largely thanks to Chen Yu; of those five hundred and thirty-nine pairs of tokens, some surely belonged to them.

"How could this boy have so many tokens!"

Inside No Demon Academy, Luo Haotian felt internal turmoil.

Not long after, he also took out his three hundred and thirteen pairs of tokens, a fairly large number, but it paled in comparison to Chen Yu's.

"He really knows how to draw attention wherever he goes."

Ye Luofeng's autumn eyes lingered on Chen Yu for quite some time.

She wanted to compete with Chen Yu, hoping to surpass his results, but when Chen Yu brought out five hundred and thirty-nine pairs of tokens, Ye Luofeng simply presented ten pairs; the rest didn't matter anymore.

Not only the disciples, but the higher-ups of the other academies also scrutinized Chen Yu closely.

Being taken as a disciple by Yi Lantian meant his strength and talent were exceptional, but at the end of the day, being in the Innate Middle Stage, he couldn't influence the competition's dynamics.

Following that, those who presented a significant number of tokens included Zhou Yuning from Sky Sword Academy and Tang Mo from Yunyang Academy, ranked second there. The former brought out three hundred and three pairs, and the latter three hundred and thirty-five pairs, approaching the results of Duan Xinyue from Sky Star Academy.

It wasn't long before almost everyone eligible had presented their tokens, leaving behind only those who did not qualify.

"Next, we will announce the top ten rankings."

"The top five are Yunhai Zhen, Chen Yu, Ye Chengfeng, Yuan Chen, and Duan Xinyue!"

This time, No Demon Academy made an unprecedented achievement with two people in the top five: Chen Yu and Yuan Chen, bringing great honor to the academy.

"From the sixth to the tenth place, they are Tang Mo, Luo Haotian, Luo Qiuman, Zhou Yuning, and Lu Fan!"

Among the sixth to tenth places, No Demon Academy had one person, Luo Haotian.

Luo Qiuman, ranked third at Sky Star Academy, was also Luo Haotian's sister.

And Lu Fan and Zhou Yuning were the second and third-ranked disciples of Sky Sword Academy, but Zhou Yuning performed better than Lu Fan.

Instantly, the eyes of everyone in Liuyun Mountain Range converged on these ten individuals.

"Good, the top ten of the first round, come with me to collect your awards."

The deputy head of Yunyang Academy declared.

"What exactly are the awards for the top ten?"

Many asked aloud.

The top ten disciples were also puzzled.

"The top ten will have the opportunity to enter the Yun Zhao Royal Family's Ancient Relic Space for enlightenment!"

The man in the Golden Cloud Robe proudly revealed the award for the top ten.

"The Ancient Relic Space of the Yun Zhao Royal Family!"

The Yun Family, now the rulers of Yun Zhao Country, controlled all thirty-six states of the country, and they founded the most powerful Yunyang Academy. Their resources were immeasurable.

"It's said that the royal Yun Family houses many Ancient Relics left by late Guiyuan Realm and even Sky Sea Realm experts. Inside, different moods and insights are contained. Entering, one can understand the will of the strong, or various aspects of techniques

Many of the disciples and upper echelons couldn't help exclaiming.

The royal relic space was desirable even to them.

In fact, No Demon Academy also had several such relic spaces, but in terms of levels and completeness, they were far from matching the royal heritage, which required a high number of No Demon Points to enter.

"Let's go!"

The man in the Golden Cloud Robe led the group of more than ten disciples as they soared towards the heavens behind him.

Liuyun Mountain Range was also home to Yunyang Academy.

Once the group stepped into a golden vortex, they arrived at Yunyang Academy.

Yunyang Academy was majestic, with countless palatial buildings lining its vista.

Inside Yunyang Academy, a secluded transmission array led directly to Yun Zhao Palace.

After stepping into the array, they were transported directly to Yunyang Palace.

Compared with Yunyang Academy, Yunyang Palace was even more grand and noble, emanating an ancient and solemn pressure.

The deputy head of Yunyang Academy, who was also a royal, held an exceedingly high position.

Despite the strict security of the palace, the group moved unobstructed.

Soon, they arrived at a serene valley surrounded by more than a dozen Ancient Transmission Arrays.

"Choose the relic you wish to enter for your enlightenment. Also, once inside the relic, present your tokens; the more you have, the longer you may stay."

The man in the Golden Cloud Robe said.

The ten disciples immediately moved forward, each Transmission Array accompanied by a Stele with a brief description.

Yunhai Zhen, the royal disciple, went straight towards a Transmission Array directly ahead.

Suddenly, the Ancient Transmission Array activated, forming a spatial channel through which Yunyang Lie stepped.

"Yunhai Zhen entered the ancient ruins, rumored to be left by the first Holy Emperor Yunyang Lie after a great battle with a Sky Sea Realm powerhouse," Yuan Chen said with a chuckle.

Chen Yu's mind trembled; he too was very interested in the so-called ruins and immediately sought out one suitable for himself.

Soon after, Chen Yu found an ancient ruin of the demonic path.

The figure related to this ancient ruin was known as “Ghost Bone Demon Venerable.”

Stepping into the Ancient Transmission Array, Chen Yu instantaneously arrived in another space.

The entire space was densely grey, with wild winds and desolate ground full of innumerable pits, emanating an ancient and desolate aura of ages past.

The moment he arrived, a terrifying demonic intent that could shake the heavens bombarded Chen Yu.

This was the will of a demonic path left by a Sky Sea Realm powerhouse of a bygone era. Although much time had passed and it had weakened significantly, it still oppressed Chen Yu.

With a shout!

Chen Yu let out a low shout, stimulating his Secret Pattern Demon Body and circulating the energy of demonic patterns. Within his spiritual consciousness, a powerful demonic intent also emanated, offering resistance.

At the same time, Chen Yu took out a black and white token and placed it to the side.

"The time within the ancient ruins space is limited; I must make haste!" Chen Yu immediately sat down cross-legged.

With his mind focused, he circulated the “Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record,” feeling the power of the whole world’s ambiance.

However, Chen Yu felt that the power in this piece of ancient ruin was too high-level, and he could hardly comprehend anything. He could only sense the formidable demonic intent and the great forces of nature.

Compared to other geniuses, his talent in this aspect wasn't high.

Yet Chen Yu did not feel dejected. While perceiving, he also cultivated the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" in this place.

He had already attained Great Success in the second layer of this cultivation technique, just a hair's breadth away from the third layer.

Not much time passed before...

Buzzing!

The dark aura on Chen Yu's body suddenly shone even brighter, the demonic patterns on his body became clearer, and he began to furiously absorb the demonic power from the world around him.

In this moment, Chen Yu's Secret Pattern Demon Body formally advanced to the third layer.

Simultaneously, the third layer of the Secret Pattern Demon Body drove the circulation of the energy of demonic patterns, and in no time, Chen Yu's own energy also entered the third layer.

The breakthrough to the third layer of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" lessened the pressure around Chen Yu by a bit.

"The third layer of 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' corresponds to the Late Innate stage, but I've just entered the third layer and I already feel that my physical body is touching the threshold of the Guiyuan Realm. Chen Yu rejoiced inwardly while feeling his Secret Pattern Demon Body.

"The 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' is renowned for its defense. I am curious to see how strong my True Qi has become after the breakthrough to the third layer."

Chen Yu stood up, circulated the energy of demonic patterns, and threw a punch.

Only to see, black fog resembling a layer of demonic patterns concentrated around Chen Yu's arm, whooshing out with an impressive force.

Boom!

However, this punch, when it struck the ground, only managed to blast out a small pit less than half a zhang in diameter.

Chen Yu's eyes shone with curiosity as he carefully felt the ground.

"So hard!" Chen Yu couldn't help but be astonished.

The ruins, washed by the ambiance of a Sky Sea Realm powerhouse, had undergone a transformation, turning ordinary soil and stone incredibly tough.

Yet, Chen Yu still surmised that the punch he had just thrown using True Qi very closely approached the normal attacks of other Innate Peak students using half-step True Essence.

Having obtained the results, Chen Yu sat down with delight, beginning to consolidate his newly achieved third layer.

Furthermore, he noticed that the black and white tokens he had placed aside were now pairing up on their own.

By now, one pair of black tokens had disappeared.

It seemed that when all the black and white tokens vanish, that will be when Chen Yu must leave this place.

Chen Yu sat down cross-legged to solidify his recently achieved third layer of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record."

Cultivating this ancient unique technique here felt doubly effective compared to in the Demonic Qi Pool. In just a few short days, Chen Yu's comprehension of the demonic path deepened substantially.

Five days later, Chen Yu realized that half of his black and white tokens had disappeared.

During these five days, Chen Yu's demonic cultivation was thoroughly consolidated, with his overall understanding far surpassing his prior knowledge.

"The second demonic pattern is now obtained; I can cultivate the corresponding combat technique."

Having solidified the cultivation technique, Chen Yu began to engage in the second layer's corresponding combat technique "Demon Scale Protection."

While activating his Secret Pattern Demon Body and the power of the second layer demonic patterns, the "Demon Scale Pattern" on Chen Yu's back came to life, slowly undulating.

An unusual demonic power emitted from the Demon Scale Pattern enveloped Chen Yu, forming a luminous dome of demonic runes around him, covered with semi-transparent black scale patterns.

With the third layer of the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," Chen Yu's defensive power touched the level of the Guiyuan Realm. If he activated the combat technique "Demon Scale Protection," his defense would rise yet again.

At the Innate stage, to be able to resist attacks from the Guiyuan Realm, only this ancient and unparalleled defensive cultivation technique could accomplish such a feat.

Of course, Chen Yu had only just started practicing Demon Scale Protection and would need to practice more to unleash its true defensive power.

As Chen Yu cultivated the corresponding combat technique for the second demonic pattern in the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record," the winds and clouds in the entire secret realm rolled more fiercely, with demonic intent boiling and striking straight into the heavens.

In the dimly lit space filled with demonic Qi, Chen Yu seemed to see a dark figure holding an oddly shaped sword, walking through the void.

Even though the figure was faint, it exerted a mountainous pressure on Chen Yu.

Chen Yu knew that what he was seeing now was an illusion, just an apparition formed by the space of the ancient ruins, and that shadow should be the “Ghost Bone Demon Venerable,” who left these ruins.

Chapter 350: The Second Segment

In the gloomy Demonic Qi space, a black shadow appeared in the distance, wielding a strangely shaped sword and walking through the void.

The emergence of this scene caused the demonic forces throughout the space to surge and boil, turning the sky dark and the earth dim.

A strong will of Demon Cultivation emanated from the shadow, making Brother Chen feel as insignificant as an ant, giving rise to a sense of awe.

At the same time, Brother Chen noticed something strange inside his storage bag.

Upon close inspection, he saw that the bone sword he had found beneath the Demon Bone Wilderness was trembling continuously and emitting Demonic Qi.

This scene took Brother Chen by surprise.

Since being placed in the storage bag, the bone sword had lain there as inert as an ordinary weapon, but now, it showed signs of anomaly.

Just at that moment, the shadow in the ancient ruins rapidly assaulted in Brother Chen’s direction, arriving in front of him in an instant.

It was then that Brother Chen could see clearly—the strangely shaped sword in the hands of the shadow was exactly the bone sword he had obtained.

From this, it might be concluded that the shadow, barely visible before him, was very likely the skeleton he had encountered underground.

Suddenly, the shadow swung the bone sword in its hand—the sword was extremely odd, with nine sections of sword spikes on both sides, pulsating and undulating like breath, capable of extending and contracting.

Boom—

As the bone sword was waved, the Demonic Qi throughout heaven and earth revolved around it as its center. Just looking at it made one face immense pressure.

Under the shadow's presence, Brother Chen felt immobilized.

This was still just an illusion of the relic. Had Brother Chen truly faced this scene, he probably would have been annihilated in an instant by the remnants of the Ghost Bone Demon Venerable's sword strike.

All of a sudden, the shadow threw the bone sword in its hand forcefully downward, striking right into the center of the huge pit before Brother Chen.

Rumble—

At the same time, the ground shook and black bone spikes burst forth from the earth, extending dozens of meters in length.

In a flash, Brother Chen was surrounded by a dense thicket of black bone spikes, forming a "bone forest."

"Is this the special ability of that bone sword?"

Brother Chen thought to himself upon seeing this scene.

The bone sword was not only capable of changing shape, but it could also cause countless long and sharp spikes to grow instantly within a hundred meters.

Gradually, the bone spikes around Brother Chen turned into countless specks of dust and dissipated away.

The vision in the heavens and earth also completely vanished.

At this moment, looking at the ground pocked with craters, Brother Chen finally understood that this was the aftermath of the Ghost Bone Demon Venerable using the bone sword to cast that strike.

At the same time, the black bone sword in the storage bag became still once again.

At this moment, Brother Chen truly wanted to take the bone sword out and try it.

But the Red Flame King had warned him that with his current abilities, he could at most use the bone sword for a single move before his True Qi and True Yuan would be depleted, his vitality impaired, and there might even be unpredictable side effects.

Brother Chen thought about it, then let it go.

If his True Qi and True Yuan were exhausted and he was also injured, he would find it extremely difficult to remain here.

Brother Chen sat down cross-legged and carefully recalled the scene he had just witnessed.

After a whole day of meditation, Brother Chen finally opened his eyes.

"The 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record' has broken through the third layer, and in terms of attack and defense, it's comparable to the Guiyuan Realm, with a certain possibility of breaking into the top five. The only shortcoming is at the soul level."

Brother Chen's gaze darkened as he took out a "Magic Triangular Grass" from his storage bag.

The medicinal effect of this grass was extremely fierce, and given its age, those with a weaker heart or unstable mind who consumed it would find it hard to resist its magic illusion power, easily suffering mental damage and becoming insane.

Yet, opportunity comes with risk, and the potent effects of this precious material made the risk reasonable.

Without a second word, Brother Chen swallowed this precious material and took out the Moon Spirit Ore Mother from the Light Silver Crystal Space, holding it in his palm.

Inside Brother Chen, a domineering spiritual power blossomed, surging towards his spiritual power.

With each collision of the medicinal effect, Brother Chen felt as if the entire world was shaking.

Thankfully, the quiet and peaceful power emanating from the Moon Spirit Ore Mother helped Brother Chen's senses return to normal in an instant.

However, as the medicinal effect continued to clash, his spiritual power gradually absorbed it, becoming more refined.

At the same time, Brother Chen's spiritual power birthed a unique demonic intent!

This demonic intent made Brother Chen's spiritual power even stronger, capable of withstanding mental attacks and even counterattacking the enemy who performed the spiritual attack.

In this way, under the effects of the Magic Triangular Grass and with the aid of the Moon Spirit Ore Mother, Brother Chen's spiritual power was elevated without any surprise or danger.

Two days later, the medicinal effects finally wore off.

Brother Chen's spiritual power had reached the level of the Innate Peak.

"I'll strive to advance another level," Brother Chen gritted his teeth and took out a second Magic Triangular Grass.

In the competition, there were quite a few skilled in soul attacks.

For instance, Situ Lin Yu, who was only at the Late Innate stage, but whose spiritual secret technique might affect even the average cultivators of the Guiyuan Realm.

There was also Yin Chengzhuang, who had a Half-step True Essence and the top genius with a Bloodline Pupil, whose Yin Flame Pupil attack could harm the souls of those in the ordinary Guiyuan Realm.

Brother Chen then consumed the second Magic Triangular Grass.

The first grass had been obtained by Brother Chen on the back of a treasure turtle; the second was given by Yuan Chen.

After consumption, Brother Chen continued his closed-door cultivation.

The effect of the same precious material decreases with continuous consumption.

This time, Brother Chen used a shorter period to exhaust the medicinal effect completely.

The moment he opened his eyes, Brother Chen's dark pupils seemed to burst forth with two deep black demonic lights, possessing an invisible force of demonic impact.

If it had been an average cultivator in the Innate stage, being glared at by Brother Chen like this, they would probably collapse on the spot.

"Now my spiritual power is nearly on par with the Guiyuan Realm level!"

Brother Chen felt a tremendous increase in his spiritual force, as if undergoing a transformation, his Spiritual Sense became stronger and could cover a range of nearly a hundred zhang.

Of course, the reason his spiritual power could improve so greatly in such a short time was not just due to the two Magic Triangular Grasses but also the effect of the Moon Spirit Ore Mother, combined with years of accumulated depth, which made Brother Chen's foundation incredibly strong and his spiritual power pure and refined.

Secondly, this ancient ruin also played a part.

The infinite demonic intent within the entire ancient ruin could refine a Demon Cultivator's spiritual power.

Glancing over, Brother Chen noticed that there were less than twenty pairs of black and white Tokens left.

"Not much time remains!"

Chen Yu devoted all the remaining time to cultivating the "Demon Scale Protective Body."

In this ancient relic, he could sense the presence of high-level demonic powers, allowing Chen Yu's cultivation of this combat skill to progress at a rate far beyond the ordinary.

In less than half a day, Chen Yu almost completely grasped this combat skill.

"Truly worthy of an ancient relic left by the Sky Sea Realm," Chen Yu remarked.

Beside him, the last pair of black and white tokens were dissipating, and time was about to run out.

During the ten days in the ancient relic's space, Chen Yu's strength had increased dramatically.

First, the "Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record" had broken through to the third layer, and the combat skills that could be wielded with the second demonic pattern were thoroughly mastered.

Next, his spiritual power greatly intensified, reaching the level of the Guiyuan Realm.

Chen Yu's understanding of the demonic path and his application of power also received many inspirations.

Soon after, a spatial passage appeared behind Chen Yu, and he himself felt a strong repulsive force, urging him to leave this place.

After leaving the ancient relic, Chen Yu saw that everyone except for Yunhai Zhen was gathered in this valley, and every person's face was filled with excitement and joy.

But as soon as Chen Yu emerged, many people looked at him with eyes filled with jealousy and envy.

This was because the number of tokens determined the time one could stay in the ancient relic.

Chen Yu, being merely at the Innate Middle Stage, had, through some stroke of luck, ranked second in the first phase, just behind Yunhai Zhen, and had stayed in the ancient relic for such a long period.

Everyone waited for most of the day, and finally, Yunhai Zhen emerged from the ancient relic, exuding a powerful aura.

Zhou Yuning looked at Yunhai Zhen and felt an intangible suppression, diverting his gaze involuntarily.

"Alright, we can go now," the man in the Golden Cloud Robe said as he looked at Yunhai Zhen with satisfaction, then spoke.

Under his leadership, the group successfully left the palace, stepped on the Transmission Array, and were teleported inside Yunyang Academy.

When the group emerged from Yunyang Academy,

On a clearing in the Liuyun Mountain Range, a huge platform had been built at some point.

On the platform, there were four competition stages.

Students nearby the mountain range looked at Yunhai Zhen and the other ten with eyes full of covetousness.

These ten had spent time in the ancient relic and must have gained considerably, leaving the others a step behind; they definitely had an advantage in the upcoming tournament.

Lv Qiuling and Yin Chengzhuang in particular, glared at Chen Yu with a look full of bitterness and resentment.

They had had a chance to comprehend the ancient relic, but all of that had been taken away by Chen Yu.

"Kid, if I encounter you on the stage, I'll make your life worse than death," said Yin Chengzhuang with a twisted and dark expression, appearing somewhat ferocious and terrifying.

"Next, we begin the second phase of the Academy's big competition!" the man in the Golden Cloud Robe loudly declared.

All the students who had entered the second phase stood up.

If the first phase's reward was insight from the ancient relic, then the final reward given out in the second phase would surely be even more astonishing.

There were a total of one hundred and eight participants in the second phase.

These one hundred and eight would be evenly divided among the four competition stages, vying for victory, ranked by their number of wins.

In the end, the top three from each of the four challenge stages would be selected for the final battle of the tournament, determining the top twelve rankings.

Chen Yu was assigned to the fourth competition stage.

Near the fourth challenge stage, students gauged each other, observing their strengths.

Chen Yu noticed that among those assigned to the fourth challenge stage were quite a few acquaintances, including Yu Hong, Nie Xuan, and Shang Han from the No Demon Academy.

"Haha, Chen Yu, I really didn't expect you would be at the fourth challenge stage too," Lv Qiuling said with a cold laugh not far away.

"Brother Chen, you're really unlucky," said Yu Hong from the No Demon Academy, slightly shaking his head.

Originally, in the secret realm, it was only by teaming up with Jin Zhuo Peak that Chen Yu had forced Lv Qiuling into a corner and obtained the Token.

But now, in the second phase being one-on-one, Lv Qiuling was grouped with Chen Yu, and she would surely not let him off easily.

Of course, there was a clear rule in the second round forbidding killing, otherwise Lv Qiuling might actually kill Chen Yu.

"The first round, Duan Xinyue versus Tangshan!"

Near the fourth competition stage, a referee announced the contenders.

With the flash of a black light, Duan Xinyue appeared on the challenge stage, her bright and captivating eyes scanning the young man in purple robe standing below the stage.

"Tangshan, come on up quickly!" Duan Xinyue said with a smile, seemingly familiar with the young man in purple.

On usual occasions, faced with such a beauty, most men would rush up eagerly.

But this was a competition, and Tangshan hesitantly ascended to the competition stage.

"I concede...!"

As he got on the stage, Tangshan immediately started to speak, as if ready to admit defeat.

But the moment he climbed onto the stage, Duan Xinyue darted forward like a black star streaking across the sky, arriving in front of Tangshan.

With a light tap of her finger, a burst of black starlight exploded.

With a thunderous boom, Tangshan fell off the challenge stage, ending the match.

"Duan Xinyue wins," the referee announced routinely.

Near the fourth stage, many students looked at Duan Xinyue with a fearful expression.

The student just now was clearly about to concede, but before he could utter the words, Duan Xinyue had cut him off, blasting him directly off the challenge stage.