

Eternal Heart 501

Chapter 501: Blood Lotus Saintess

Elder Ren found that Chen Yu had escaped but did not pursue him right away. To do so would be akin to abandoning the treasure hoard of the Evil Yin Ancestor.

His hatred for Chen Yu was immense, which made him extremely conflicted.

The other four from the Guiyuan Realm who were with Elder Ren also didn't rush to make a move.

The two sisters possessed mid-grade Spiritual Artifacts and were very powerful. Moreover, there was the man with the conical hat and Wan Baoguang beside them.

"Elders from a different clan? And that one in the Late Guiyuan Realm, does he know the man in the black robe on our team?"

This thought quickly flashed through Wan Baoguang's mind.

Things were different from what he had expected. The powerhouses of the different clan hadn't arrived; instead, another group of strong foes had descended.

And within this group of powerhouses, the one in the Late Guiyuan Realm seemed to recognize Chen Yu, launching a killing move as soon as he appeared.

What surprised him even more was that Chen Yu managed to withstand a blow from the Late Guiyuan Realm and escape unscathed.

"It seems that man in the black robe has been hiding his power all along." For the first time, Wan Baoguang felt that the young people of today were also so deeply scheming.

Looking at the solemn and intense expressions of Elder Ren and the other five Guiyuan Realm cultivators, Wan Baoguang felt a shiver within.

"They want to seize the treasure, but they're worried about us teaming up with these two sisters..."

Wan Baoguang guessed the enemies' thoughts in an instant.

In fact, he had considered this himself, but it wasn't realistic. Even if they joined forces, it seemed the enemies were stronger.

Moreover, Wan Baoguang didn't want to team up with the twin sisters who had turned evil.

"Gentlemen, I shall not take part in this matter. Please open a convenient gate for me to leave."

Wan Baoguang said humbly.

"I, too, will leave."

The man with the conical hat also spoke.

"Let's go."

The four Guiyuan Realm cultivators glanced at Elder Ren and, upon seeing no objection from him, the leader among the black robed elders spoke.

In reality, this was also what they hoped for; otherwise, dealing with the two sisters would be somewhat difficult.

Elder Ren had even more to consider.

If he pursued Chen Yu, he would miss out on the treasures here. If he stayed, he would once again have to let Chen Yu live.

At this moment, as Wan Baoguang and the man with the conical hat took the initiative to leave, it suited his wishes.

Once these two left, the remaining two sisters would be enough for the four black robed elders to handle, and he could go after Chen Yu.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Wan Baoguang and the man with the conical hat dashed out, not willing to team up with the twins to deal with these powerful foes now that they could leave.

"No, the real treasure has been taken by them."

The sisters immediately cried out.

"Do you take us for fools?"

The black robed elder scoffed disdainfully.

When they entered, they had heard that it was these two sisters who had obtained the treasure and wanted to kill to silence them; moreover, the battle situation also saw the sisters having the upper hand.

Furthermore, the mid-grade Spiritual Artifacts in the hands of the sisters were the best proof.

In their eyes, the sisters' claims were just a ploy to distract them and seek a way to live, but they wouldn't fall for it.

"This matter is left to you."

Elder Ren immediately said.

"Don't worry, Elder Ren."

The black robed elder revealed a hint of a warm smile.

With Elder Ren gone, they could hide some of the spoils after killing the two sisters.

After all, with Elder Ren absent, he wouldn't know what they had scavenged.

Swoosh!

After speaking, Elder Ren transformed into a black afterimage and left the Evil Yin Tower.

It didn't take long for him to catch up with Wan Baoguang and the man with the conical hat, who had just left.

The two were startled, thinking that this powerhouse of late-stage Demonic Rejuvenation had come to cut them down.

But Elder Ren didn't care about these two at all, brushing past them.

Watching Elder Ren head off into the distance, Wan Baoguang and the man with the conical hat exchanged a glance, "This Late Guiyuan Realm power must have tracked them all this way. What enmity do the two of them have, after all?"

To make a Late Guiyuan Realm powerhouse go through so much trouble, to the point of ignoring treasure to kill Chen Yu, just what offense had Chen Yu committed against this Late-stage Guiyuan Realm figure?

"This is no longer our concern. This expedition is over; Jiang Chen, until next time."

Wan Baoguang smiled at the man with the conical hat as he spoke.

"Until next time."

Jiang Chen wasn't surprised that Wan Baoguang had guessed his identity.

Watching Jiang Chen leave, Wan Baoguang couldn't help but sigh, "Someday, this man will definitely make a name for himself in Yun Zhao Country!"

Jiang Chen was a student of Sky Sword Academy from two terms ago. He didn't come from an influential family and had managed to secure third place in the academy competition. Later, he joined the Ye Family, one of the four great families.

However, as a Guest Elder, the Ye Family did not provide him with many resources. Relying on his own abilities, Jiang Chen ventured out to gain experience and treasure hunt.

During the time inside the tower, Jiang Chen had shown strength that was nearly at the peak of Middle Stage Guiyuan Realm. It was believed that in the upcoming Talent Tea Party in six months, he would shine brilliantly.

But who was that man in the black robe? He had kept his strength so deeply hidden...

...

Chen Yu was able to burst out with the speed of a Late Guiyuan Realm for a short time but couldn't maintain it for long.

Shortly after, he sensed a strong pressure surging from behind. The one coming after him was none other than Elder Ren.

"Chen Yu, you scoundrel, Yi Lantian saved your life that day, but where can you escape to now?"

Elder Ren laughed loudly, his voice trembling slightly from excitement.

This time, no one would come to Chen Yu's aid; his death was all but certain.

However, Chen Yu had a pair of black wings behind him that seemed to amplify his speed, making it difficult to catch up to him for a short time.

Boom!

Elder Ren swung his arm, black True Yuan swirling around his limb, whipping up a dark tempest.

"Go."

He flung his arm fiercely, and a massive black Wind Blade hurled towards Chen Yu.

When dealing with a fleeing enemy, one must use a wide-ranging killing move to leave no room for escape.

"Swallowing Cloud Demon Fist."

Chen Yu's fist generated a suction force, gathering demonic energy and Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi from all directions to form a massive demon fist illusion. Dark, fierce patterns adorned it.

Boom!

A massive black fist shot into the sky, growing larger and larger, colliding with the black wind blade.

For a moment, the two forces intertwined, and the black fist managed to block the wind blade.

At the same time, Chen Yu harnessed the recoil of that punch to burst forth with an even greater speed.

"This kid, his strength has become so strong."

Ren Bing was inwardly shocked, his killing intent towards Chen Yu intensified.

Although that previous move of his was performed casually, it was still not something an early Guiyuan Realm Peak could easily block, but Chen Yu had done it.

Ren Bing calmly closed in on Chen Yu once more.

"Where will you escape to this time?"

Ren Bing shouted low, ready to make his move.

Chen Yu retrieved a talisman, provided by Wan Baoguang from the ruins.

True Yuan surged into it, and the talisman gradually dissipated, turning into a tremendous force of wind that attached to Chen Yu.

With minimal effort, this force propelled him forward.

Instantly, Chen Yu exploded with a speed characteristic of the Late Guiyuan Realm, and with the black residual wings amplifying the effect, his pace quickened even more.

Boom!

Chen Yu stirred up a turbulent wind, widening the distance between him and Ren Bing, getting further and further away, even about to vanish from sight.

"So the kid has a talisman that boosts speed."

Ren Bing's face darkened; chasing down someone at the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak without results for half a day was displeasing to him.

"Devil Light Magic Escape!"

Ren Bing became surrounded by rising black Demonic Qi, emitting a dim black light.

Boom!

There was a sudden explosion of formidable aura from him, his speed skyrocketed, chasing forward.

Chen Yu's talisman lasted only ten breaths of time, whereas Ren Bing's escape technique far exceeded that.

Once again, Ren Bing caught up with him.

Chen Yu's expression turned grim, filled with intense irritation.

Although he had once joined forces with the Red Flame King to severely injure a Late Guiyuan Realm individual,

Tie Yuanshan's Late-Stage Pseudo Guiyuan Realm and Ren Bing's true Late Guiyuan Realm were distinctly different.

Moreover, to deal with Tie Yuanshan at the time, he had used all his methods and still did not go through with the kill.

If Chen Yu were to stop and battle Ren Bing, using all his tricks, there was a high chance he could force Ren Bing to retreat, but it would be difficult to kill him.

By then, various secrets of Chen Yu would be exposed, and if Ren Bing simply spread the word, Chen Yu would become a target for numerous Guiyuan Realm powers, a loss outweighing the gain.

Hence, without assurance of slaying Ren Bing, Chen Yu didn't wish to reveal cards like the "Nine Bone Demon Spirit Sword."

Therefore, he fled.

"Demon Dance."

Ren Bing suddenly extended his claws, violently grabbing forward, and the space directly ahead churned with darkness, forming numerous pillars of demonic energy, wildly thrashing.

Chen Yu was more adept at straight runs, and taking turns made it easier to be caught up to.

Caught off guard, Chen Yu was swiped by a demonic pillar, causing a shock to his inner Qi.

Bang!

He flew backward, with Chen Yu immediately invoking the third demonic pattern to unleash the Demon Scale Armor.

Bang!

From behind, another demonic pillar struck.

"Demonic Annihilation Claw."

Chen Yu activated the first demonic pattern, and his claw swept out, its terrifying destructive power breaking the twisting demonic pillar.

However, by then, Ren Bing had arrived, a dreadful pressure of demonic power crashing down, darkening the heavens and earth immensely.

Even from below, Chen Yu looked up at Ren Bing, his demonic intent bursting forth, soaring to the skies, matching Ren Bing in a standoff.

"Don't push me too far."

Chen Yu coldly shouted, the intensity in his demeanor increased.

If Ren Bing truly pressed him relentlessly, Chen Yu had no choice but to unveil the "Nine Bone Demon Spirit Sword," call forth the Red Flame King, and fight with all his might.

In that battle, he might expose his hand and become the center of controversy, but if Ren Bing failed to slay him, his reputation would plummet.

Ren Bing felt a twinge of shock inside. Chen Yu showed no trace of fear in this predicament, and his spirit could not possibly be faked. Where did his courage come from?

The next moment, the killing intent resurfaced on Ren Bing's face. He was actually hesitant because of Chen Yu's aura and his words. How humiliating.

"I will not only bully you, but I will also kill you."

Ren Bing's eyes filled with a menacing light, a terrible surge of True Yuan rising.

Chen Yu's gaze was deep and calm, ready for what would come.

But at that moment.

Roar!

Behind them, a mass of blood clouds appeared in the sky, expanding rapidly with incredible speed, radiating an immense pressure of the Blood Path.

That pressure alone indicated to Chen Yu that the newcomer might be even more powerful than Ren Bing.

"Could it be another powerhouse from the Black Prison Alliance?"

Chen Yu's heart stirred; if that was truly the case, even going all out now might prove meaningless.

"Hmm?"

Ren Bing's brow furrowed.

He recognized that aura; Ren Bing could guess who it was.

Yet, why would she come here?

Ren Bing's departure this time had not alerted many.

Moreover, why would she rush here to kill Chen Yu?

In an instant, the sky turned blood-red.

Chen Yu turned around only to see a strikingly attractive woman, standing within the rolling blood mist. She bore the Blood Lotus Mark on her forehead, dressed in a lavish Blood Lotus Skirt, her stern gaze coolly overlooking from above, falling on Chen Yu in the deep forest. A flicker of complex emotion passed through her eyes.

"You are..."

Chen Yu was immediately dumbstruck.

This sudden appearance of a Blood Path powerhouse was actually someone he knew, Tong Yuling, whom he had parted ways with in the Blood Burial Garden.

"Blood Lotus Saintess, what brings you here?"

Ren Bing's aura subsided a touch, speaking with a slight wariness.

Chapter 502: Joining the Organization

Chen Yu had never expected that when he and Tong Yuling met again, it would be under such circumstances.

In the past, within the Yunyue Sect, Tong Yuling was Chen Yu's senior sister, and their relationship was extremely good; they completed many sect missions together.

Everything changed because of the trip to the Blood Burial Garden, where their relationship shattered, and they walked on different paths.

Now, even though they met again, their relationship could no longer be as before.

Moreover, it seemed that Ren Bing was acquainted with the Blood Lotus Saintess, which made matters even more complicated.

"Elder Ren, didn't I say that Chen Yu must not be killed?"

The gaze of the Blood Lotus Saintess moved to Ren Bing, her expression even colder, and a bloody aura assailed him.

Ren Bing shuddered. Indeed, the Blood Lotus Saintess had said such a thing, but he didn't take it to heart. He didn't believe that the Blood Lotus Saintess would do anything to him over an outsider.

But now, it seemed that the Blood Lotus Saintess was truly furious. Why was that?

Simply because of a talented individual?

"Holy Daughter, this person killed my son. I was so driven by vengeance that..."

Ren Bing clenched his teeth; his imposing manner completely weakened.

Between him and Chen Yu, there was a deep-seated hatred, yet now he had to explain himself to someone else. This showed just how wary he was of the Blood Lotus Saintess.

Previously, Chen Yu had been worried that the Blood Lotus Saintess and Ren Bing were in cahoots. If Tong Yuling was no longer the one from the past, then Chen Yu was sure to die this time.

However, it seemed that Tong Yuling still regarded their past relationship. She didn't strike to kill Chen Yu and even came to stop Ren Bing's action.

"Senior Sister Tong..."

Chen Yu couldn't help but speak, yet he didn't know what to say.

He was extremely grateful to Tong Yuling for coming to his rescue.

On the other hand, upon hearing this, Ren Bing's heart suddenly skipped. It seemed that Chen Yu recognized the Blood Lotus Saintess?

And Chen Yu addressed her as his senior sister? This was no ordinary relationship!

Ren Bing privately rejoiced; if he had indeed killed Chen Yu, what would the Blood Lotus Saintess, as his senior sister, do to him?

"Damn it, how could Chen Yu have a connection with the Blood Lotus Saintess?"

Ren Bing felt immense annoyance in his heart.

This meant he had no chance for revenge.

He hated that his strength was insufficient. The murderer of his son stood before him, yet he could not strike.

But the next words from Tong Yuling confused both Chen Yu and Ren Bing.

"Chen Yu, I'll give you a chance to choose. Join the Blood Moon Organization, and I will spare you from death!"

The Blood Lotus Saintess looked at Chen Yu again. Her gaze, while not as detached as before, made Chen Yu feel very alienated, as if they were strangers who had met for the first time.

Moreover, the Blood Lotus Saintess made it very clear with her words. If Chen Yu didn't join the Blood Moon Organization, what lay ahead was a dead end.

This shattered the notion Chen Yu had earlier; Tong Yuling was not just there to save Chen Yu. She could also become his enemy.

On the other side, Ren Bing was somewhat confused. Weren't these two supposed to be junior brother and senior sister? Why was the Blood Lotus Saintess so cold towards Chen Yu?

"Senior Sister Tong, so many years have passed, and upon our first meeting, you make such unreasonable demands?"

Chen Yu lamented.

However, he overlooked the reaction of the Blood Lotus Saintess upon hearing these words.

A flicker of unusual emotion passed through the eyes of the Blood Lotus Saintess, as if she had thought of something, but then her gaze became even colder, filled with anger and resentment.

Those emotions quickly vanished.

"Kekeke, am I making unreasonable demands?"

A reckless and alien smile appeared on the beautiful face of the Blood Lotus Saintess.

Seeing Tong Yuling in this state, Chen Yu felt a sting in his heart.

The Tong Yuling of before was not like this, graceful, pure, lively...

Because of his last rejection of her confession, Tong Yuling's personality had drastically changed. Influenced by the other half of her personality within her, she had become the reckless, sinister, and indifferent Blood Lotus Saintess as she was now.

"I'm not forcing you. Whatever choice you make, it will be the path you chose for yourself."

The Blood Lotus Saintess smiled faintly.

"This senior sister and junior brother relationship seems quite incompatible. If Chen Yu refuses to join, I might still have the chance to avenge my son's death."

Ren Bing felt secretly delighted within.

Chen Yu struggled internally.

Back when he was in Qi Country, the Blood Moon Organization agent who had ambushed him had mentioned that the Blood Lotus Saintess had joined the Blood Moon Organization, so Chen Yu was not surprised by Tong Yuling's proposal.

Initially, Chen Yu was also somewhat tempted by Xue Feng's offer.

He planned to investigate the organization before making a decision.

But last time, when he met Yi Lantian, with Yuan Chen and his junior sister present, Chen Yu found it inconvenient, so he deferred the matter, planning to inquire later.

Unexpectedly, now was the moment he had to make a decision.

"If I refuse Senior Sister Tong again, she might be completely overtaken by the Blood Lotus Saintess. If I join the Blood Moon Organization, perhaps she could return to her original self, back to becoming the Tong Yuling from before."

Chen Yu pondered.

He previously had rejected her, causing Tong Yuling to change this much. He really couldn't bear to refuse her again.

Additionally, the remnant powers of his sect seemed to dread the Blood Moon Organization greatly.

Just like the Elder Ren before him, he didn't dare to act against Chen Yu because of the Blood Lotus Saintess.

If Chen Yu joined the Blood Moon Organization, would he then be safe? No longer targeted for assassination by the sect forces?

In that case, there was another benefit.

"I'll join."

Chen Yu responded.

Ren Bing showed a hint of disappointment, but this was within expectations. Refusing to join meant a certain death, so anyone would choose to join the Blood Moon Organization.

Blood Lotus Saintess stared at Chen Yu, her gaze slightly confused for a moment.

"His choice to join the Blood Moon Organization, is it to return to my side?"

Blood Lotus Saintess suddenly pondered this thought but then immediately dismissed it, "No, he's merely seeking a way to survive."

Observing Blood Lotus Saintess lost in thought and her expression changing back and forth without speaking, both Ren Bing and Chen Yu found it strange.

"Elder Ren, from now on, he is a member of the Blood Moon Organization."

Blood Lotus Saintess regained her composure, realizing she had just lost focus, and exuded an even more formidable presence.

"Yes."

Ren Bing nodded, understanding that Blood Lotus Saintess was telling him that from now on, he shouldn't lay a hand on Chen Yu.

"Senior Sister Tong, now that I've joined the Blood Moon Organization, can you tell me about it?"

Chen Yu asked, his curiosity about this mysterious Blood Moon Organization having grown.

"You cannot!"

Blood Lotus Saintess said coldly.

"Why is that?"

Chen Yu was both puzzled and frustrated.

He had joined the Blood Moon Organization, yet Tong Yuling refused to share even that with him.

He suddenly felt that he should have accepted Xue Feng's invitation; not only would he have received better treatment, but upon returning to Yun Zhao Country, he would also have avoided assassination by the sect forces.

"Can I still contact Xue Feng, to let him fulfill the benefits he promised me initially?"

Chen Yu thought to himself.

Since Tong Yuling wouldn't tell her, he couldn't expect her to treat him any better.

"Some of the peripheral members of the Blood Moon Organization also are not privy to the core secrets of the organization. You've just joined and you already wish to know everything?"

Blood Lotus Saintess said blandly.

In truth, she was deliberately making things difficult for Chen Yu.

She still wanted to know if Chen Yu joined the Blood Moon Organization for her sake, or for some other reason.

But she would never directly inquire about this...

The listening Elder Ren was increasingly confused, sensing an intricate connection between the two—seemingly intimate yet possibly fraught with animosity.

Just then, four silhouettes flew from a distance, the Guiyuan Realm cultivators who had been with Ren Bing earlier.

"Elder Ren."

The group called out, casting a glance at Blood Lotus Saintess, not recognizing her.

After all, Donglin Prefecture was on the fringe of Yun Zhao Country, with limited contact with the Black Prison Alliance, let alone knowing the Blood Lotus Saintess of the Blood Moon Organization.

"Congratulations, Elder Ren, on capturing Chen Yu. How do you plan to torture the boy to vent your hatred? Black Hawk Castle has a set of torture methods that will make him beg for death but be unable to die..."

The Black Robed Elder spoke obsequiously.

In his view, Ren Bing held a grudge for the murder of his son and not killing Chen Yu on the spot must mean he planned to torture Chen Yu to his heart's content, so he was flattering him along those lines.

Upon hearing this, Ren Bing's eye twitched.

At this moment, Chen Yu was no longer a prisoner.

Moreover, Blood Lotus Saintess and Chen Yu's relationship was ambiguous, and even Ren Bing dared not say such things before Blood Lotus Saintess.

Ren Bing inwardly lamented that the man had failed to read the room.

"Hm?"

After finishing, the Black Robed Elder expected Ren Bing to be pleased, but he sensed something amiss.

Ren Bing remained silent and even looked a bit curious, while the authoritative and icy demeanor of Blood Lotus Saintess weighed heavily on him, making his heart tremble.

"Elder Ren, may I ask who this senior is?"

The Black Robed Elder bowed to Blood Lotus Saintess and then inquired.

"This is the Holy Daughter of the Blood Moon Organization, Blood Lotus Saintess. Furthermore, Chen Yu has now joined the Blood Moon Organization."

Ren Bing explained everything, to prevent the Black Robed Elder from saying anything else that might offend Blood Lotus Saintess.

"What... I had no idea your Excellency was the Blood Lotus Saintess. I was blind not to recognize Mount Tai and hope you will forgive my ignorance."

The Black Robed Elder was greatly surprised and smothered her with goodwill without missing a beat.

He had heard of the name Blood Lotus Saintess a hundred years prior.

He also knew the relationship between the Blood Moon Organization and the Black Prison Alliance, as well as Ren Bing's determination to kill Chen Yu.

Now that Chen Yu stood unharmed, he was undoubtedly under the protection of Blood Lotus Saintess.

Since Ren Bing dared not touch Chen Yu, thinking back on his own words just then, he realized his foolishness.

"How are things on your end?"

Ren Bing changed the subject.

"The twins in that ruin increased their strength, and with the middle-grade Spiritual Artifact in their hands, they were formidable. We did our utmost but only managed to kill one, the other escaped."

The Black Robed Elder sighed, looking ashamed.

Ren Bing's expression darkened further. Not only had they failed to kill Chen Yu, but they had also let one of the sisters slip away.

"What did you find?"

Ren Bing asked again.

"The other items in that woman's storage bag seemed quite ordinary, only that middle-grade Spiritual Artifact might be a private collection of Evil Yin Ancestor."

The Black Robed Elder reported truthfully, himself finding it peculiar. Could it be that what the sisters had said was true, and other treasures had gone to the man with the bamboo hat, Wan Baoguang, and Chen Yu?

But now that Chen Yu had joined the Blood Moon Organization, even if he had gotten some benefit inside, the Black Robed Elder couldn't demand it.

Chapter 503: Organization, Mission

Next, the Blood Lotus Saintess bid farewell to the others, she was not at all interested in their conversation.

"Let's go," the Blood Lotus Saintess said to Chen Yu.

She flew ahead at a moderate pace, seemingly taking care of Chen Yu.

"Senior Sister Tong, where are we heading?" Chen Yu asked.

Right now, he was no longer in any danger, but Chen Yu realized that the Blood Lotus Saintess and Ren Bing must know each other well, and there was likely some connection between the Blood Moon Organization and the Black Prison Alliance.

However, since he had already agreed to join the Blood Moon Organization, it was pointless to overthink matters; he would find out everything in due time.

"From now on, don't call me Senior Sister Tong."

The Blood Lotus Saintess's expression was cold and final.

She had already made her decision to carry on the other half's will and live on as the "Blood Lotus Saintess." Everything about Tong Yuling in the past had nothing to do with her now.

She thought she could manage it, but Chen Yu's appearance had still disturbed her emotions, causing significant mood swings recently.

Since it was troubling her, it was better to confront it directly and resolve the inner conflict.

Chen Yu kept silent, neither agreeing nor refusing.

After a while, the Blood Lotus Saintess calmed her emotions and said, "Now that you've agreed to join, you still need to go back and acquire the identity of a member."

Chen Yu nodded.

Throughout the journey, neither spoke, creating a somewhat awkward atmosphere.

"Senior Sister Tong, why did you join the Blood Moon Organization? It can't be for cultivation resources," Chen Yu inquired.

At this moment, the Blood Lotus Saintess had regained control of the Blood Burial Garden and clearly lacked nothing in that regard.

"Go home," the Blood Lotus Saintess said after pondering for a moment.

"Go home?" Chen Yu mulled over it.

Clearly, the home mentioned here was not Tong Yuling's home, but the "home" of the Blood Lotus Saintess.

However, as far as Chen Yu knew, the Blood Lotus Saintess was originally not from the Blood Moon Organization, so what then did this 'going home' mean?

The Blood Lotus Saintess only said those two words and obviously did not want to discuss anymore. Seeing this, Chen Yu didn't ask further.

Soon, the two arrived at the critical transmission site of Donglin Prefecture.

The Blood Lotus Saintess chose the Ancient Transmission Array leading to the southern "Lanling Prefecture."

Chen Yu flew with the Blood Lotus Saintess until they reached an uninhabited mountain range, where she took out a Blood Moon Token and made it float in mid-air.

She executed a spell, releasing strong power into the token, causing it to emit subtle spatial fluctuations.

At a certain moment, the Blood Lotus Saintess tore at the air with her claws around the token, opening a small portal in the void.

"Enter," the Blood Lotus Saintess uttered and then flew in; Chen Yu followed closely behind.

Immediately upon entering, it darkened as Chen Yu stepped into a dark red space.

Above, a bright red blood moon hung in the sky, and the landscape of strange-styled pavilions and buildings, all coated in a layer of blood.

Chen Yu realized that this was likely the core area of the Blood Moon Organization.

After flying a distance, a grand and majestic blood-colored palace appeared in front, emitting a natural grandeur that instilled a sense of awe.

He followed the Blood Lotus Saintess into a wide and tranquil hall.

Upon their arrival, there were already four members inside.

"Blood Lotus Saintess, whom have you recruited?"

"With Blood Lotus Saintess's discernment, the person you fancy must certainly be a dragon among men."

The three seated people all stood up and smiled to different extents before they examined Chen Yu.

Chen Yu was slightly alarmed internally, as these individuals gave him a very strong feeling; their cultivation was around the Late Guiyuan Realm and they were all very respectful towards the Blood Lotus Saintess.

Adding Ren Bing's earlier attitude, Chen Yu thought that the Blood Lotus Saintess in her lifetime must have been an exceptionally powerful cultivator in the Kunyun Realm.

"Isn't this Chen Yu?" one of the tall men recognized him, and the others also scrutinized him closely.

With Chen Yu's reputation, it was normal to be recognized.

And it seemed the Blood Moon Organization also valued him highly, especially considering he defeated four major Late Guiyuan Realm cultivators and claimed first place in the previous grand competition.

"Outsiders say that Chen Yu, who secured first place in the last grand competition by defeating four Late Guiyuan Realm cultivators, is a Body Dao Practitioner and cultivates one of the ancient top ten mystical skills, and also has low Spiritual Body aptitude, which will surely cause him to lag behind those four individuals over time."

"Now it appears those people were short-sighted and blind."

The tall man praised Chen Yu, his expression gentle and his voice soft, making him come across as very approachable.

Just then, a dark-skinned middle-aged man walked into the hall, enveloped in a dark vortex, as a tremendous chilling force surged forward.

"Blood Lotus Saintess, is it necessary to make such a big deal out of recruiting a new member and summon us?" the dark-skinned middle-aged man's voice was cold.

"This person is strong..." Chen Yu cautiously noted internally.

This dark-skinned middle-aged man gave him a very dangerous feeling, especially the man's deep and somber eyes, which inspired fear and made it difficult to meet his gaze.

"I am showing respect to everyone here, allowing everyone to decide together!" the Blood Lotus Saintess said with a seductive smile.

Shortly after, eight strong individuals dressed in Blood Moon Robes gathered in the hall, each emitting a powerful aura, which made Chen Yu wonder just how formidable the Blood Moon Organization was and what their intentions were.

Additionally, Chen Yu did not see Xue Feng.

However, the dark-skinned middle-aged man then threw out a stone plate engraved with the Blood Moon pattern.

The plate, full of intricate patterns, suddenly started spinning, emitting a strange red light and casting a blood mist.

Within the blood mist, various figures appeared, around ten or so, their strengths indiscernible. This time, Chen Yu did see Xue Feng among them.

"Is this some sort of projection technique?" Chen Yu couldn't help but marvel.

In the projection, Xue Feng also seemed slightly surprised to see Chen Yu and nodded in acknowledgment.

When Chen Yu had suddenly disappeared and couldn't be found, he regretted not having taken action earlier to kill Chen Yu.

Unexpectedly, Chen Yu had gone to Yun Zhao Country and had ultimately decided to join the Blood Moon Organization.

At the same time, Xue Feng thought of this meeting being convened by the Blood Lotus Saintess concerning the matters of the Blood Burial Garden, and he knew the details most clearly.

The body that the remnant soul of the Blood Lotus Saintess seized was from the Yunyue Sect disciples, Chen Yu's senior sister.

The primary reason Chen Yu joined was likely because of Tong Yuling.

"Everyone is almost here, speak whatever matter you have."

The dark-skinned middle-aged man spoke indifferently.

"This assembly is to bring one person into the organization, his name is Chen Yu, the top of the previous grand assembly in Yun Zhao Country."

The Blood Lotus Saintess narrated.

"We all know that."

"Just for welcoming Chen Yu into the organization, there's no problem with that. Holy Daughter, if there is any issue, please speak plainly."

In the hall and through the projections, several voices arose.

Chen Yu was quite well-known, and the vast majority present knew of him and agreed to his joining the Blood Moon Organization.

But since the Blood Lotus Saintess gathered everyone, there certainly was another important issue.

"Just this one matter."

The Blood Lotus Saintess maintained a neutral expression.

Inside the hall, a silence ensued.

"Blood Lotus Saintess, just to recruit one individual, you go through such great lengths. Do you think our time here is so idle?"

The dark-skinned middle-aged spoke coldly.

"I want him to take up the position of 'Hall Master'," the Blood Lotus Saintess said after leaving them hanging initially.

"Ridiculous."

The dark-skinned middle-aged was even more displeased.

"That doesn't seem appropriate."

"For so many years, the number of people within the organization who could directly be promoted to 'Hall Master' are very few."

Others spoke cautiously, but they also disagreed, and there were a few who remained silent.

Despite the remarkable background and strong deterrence of the Blood Lotus Saintess, she couldn't possibly stand against so many formidable members of the Blood Moon Organization.

"Holy Daughter's proposal could be considered," Xue Feng spoke a word in favor of Chen Yu.

"The Blood Lotus Saintess wholeheartedly recommends him, there must be a reason. Perhaps, everyone should assess him; if he passes, then let him take the position of Hall Master!"

The tall man, seemingly admiring the Blood Lotus Saintess, spoke up.

"At this time, we don't have the leisure to prepare a Hall Master assessment for him."

The dark-skinned middle-aged's expression was stern and serious. He spoke up abruptly, "However, we have a major action planned soon, it could very well be used as the assessment. If Chen Yu successfully and flawlessly completes the mission, granting him the position of Hall Master wouldn't be too much."

"This mission..."

The Blood Lotus Saintess hesitated a bit, but couldn't find any suitable reason.

"This is a feasible method."

"If he completes it, proving his cunning, loyalty, strength, and all other aspects..."

Most of the members agreed this time, as this way, no one was blamed.

"If that's the case, then alright," the Blood Lotus Saintess agreed.

"What is the mission?"

Chen Yu asked immediately, as it was related to him.

"When the time comes, you will know," the Blood Lotus Saintess said.

Chen Yu was speechless inside, but he was already accustomed to it; after all, this Blood Moon Organization liked to be mysterious.

"Lord Xue Feng, I wonder if the conditions you initially promised still stand?"

Chen Yu thought for a moment, then asked.

Many present were slightly surprised to know Chen Yu had an understanding with Xue Feng.

"Of course they do. However, if you complete the mission and take up the position of Hall Master, the privileges you enjoy will be even better."

Xue Feng said with a light smile.

Chen Yu's expression turned odd, realizing the Blood Lotus Saintess had fought for the Hall Master position for him also to secure better resource terms.

It seemed, there was still a chance to awaken the original Tong Yuling.

Actually, the Blood Lotus Saintess was also considering other issues.

If Chen Yu were an ordinary member, he would have to go out and carry out various missions. If he were a Hall Master, he could freely choose, or even guard some places, doing nothing, and if Chen Yu stayed in Yun Zhao Country, he could stay by her side.

"That's settled then, everyone can leave."

The dark-skinned middle-aged said.

Then, the projection on the stone disc faded, and those present slowly left.

"Hand over your Blood Moon Token," the Blood Lotus Saintess still wore a cold expression.

Blood Moon Token?

Chen Yu thought for a moment. In Qi Country, he had encountered a seductive woman who indeed gave him a blood-moon-shaped token, but it was different from the Blood Moon Token that the Blood Lotus Saintess previously produced.

"If you have this token, you will certainly fail this mission."

The Blood Lotus Saintess added another line.

Only then did Chen Yu pull out the token and handed it to her.

"Once you complete the mission and become a Hall Master, you will be privy to the core secrets of the Blood Moon Organization. Now, I will send you away from here."

Following that, the two left the hall and the Blood Lotus Saintess opened a passage, sending Chen Yu on his way.

The next moment, where the Blood Lotus Saintess stood, she tightly closed her eyes, seemingly in some pain, showing a conflicted and struggling expression.

At this moment, it seemed as if two different thoughts were clashing in her mind, causing her pain.

One thought urged her to draw a clear line with Chen Yu, even blaming her for aiding Chen Yu.

The other thought wanted to help Chen Yu, to keep him close by.

...

After returning to Lanling Prefecture, Chen Yu went through a Transmission Array to arrive at Tianhe Prefecture.

As for the mission, since those people didn't mention it, there was no use in thinking more about it.

Now he was more excited to hand over the materials he had gathered to Master Shen, to have him help create a suitable Spiritual Artifact.

Chapter 504: Demon Flood Dragon Sword

No Demon Academy, after Chen Yu returned, he immediately went to the crucial area for Artifact Refining.

"Looks like you've gathered the materials?"

Master Shen saw Chen Yu and guessed the outcome.

In fact, the list of materials he had given Chen Yu was very precious and hard to find.

He had thought that it would take Chen Yu a long time to gather them, but Chen Yu returned much faster than expected.

"Master Shen, please have a look."

Chen Yu waved his hand, taking out all three kinds of ore materials from the Smoke-Spitting Pearl.

The first was the Black Light Stone bought in the Royal City of Tianhe Prefecture, and the second and third were the Demon Plate Stone and Seven Star Ore found in the ruins.

"Not bad, the quantities are sufficient. With these, there's about an eighty to ninety percent chance of successfully refining a top-grade low-quality Spiritual Artifact for you."

Master Shen nodded.

In Artifact Refining, an eighty to ninety percent chance was already very high.

Moreover, an Artifact Refiner usually wouldn't claim a hundred percent chance of success since accidents are inevitable; it's wise to leave oneself some leeway.

"Master, take a look at these two ores too."

Chen Yu thought of the two stones he had obtained from the Evil Yin Tower.

With Chen Yu's experience, he couldn't identify them, but knowing they were collected by the Evil Yin Ancestor, they must be extraordinary.

Therefore, Chen Yu decided to show them to Master Shen to see if they could be integrated into the Spiritual Artifact he was forging.

After speaking, Chen Yu took out a piece of silver-gray jade and a rough black stone.

Master Shen initially didn't pay much attention, but upon seeing the two stones, his eyes widened considerably, and a hint of excitement shone through.

"These are 'Silver Crystal Jade' and 'Flame Demon Stone'. Where did you get them?"

The usually calm and serene Master Shen was a little excited.

"Are these two things very precious?"

Chen Yu asked.

"Of course, these two ores are legendary rare ores, used as materials for refining medium-grade Spiritual Artifacts."

Master Shen glanced at Chen Yu and didn't hide the truth, speaking frankly.

Medium-grade Spiritual Artifacts were usually in the hands of those at the later stages of the Guiyuan Realm or even stronger.

If people knew that someone in the early Guiyuan Realm had the materials to refine a medium-grade Spiritual Artifact, it would definitely cause a frenzied scramble by those in the later stages of the Guiyuan Realm.

"It seems that the Evil Yin Ancestor collected those ores with the intention of forging another powerful medium-grade Spiritual Artifact. Unfortunately, he died before he could refine it."

Chen Yu felt this in his heart.

At the same time, he was somewhat expectant, wondering if these two ores could be integrated into the Spiritual Artifact he was forging.

"Hehe, I must say, you're a lucky lad. Silver Crystal Jade is an excellent material for forging heavy weapons, accommodating most materials, fusing them to strengthen the weapon's toughness; while the Flame Demon Stone has a certain chance of granting the Spiritual Artifact one potent ability."

Master Shen chuckled softly.

Chen Yu was overjoyed but also a bit regretful that he had not managed to acquire the third stone.

"I haven't forged a medium-grade Spiritual Artifact for a while now."

Master Shen also appeared eager to try.

As an Artifact Refining Master, he obviously preferred to forge higher-quality artifacts.

One, to hone his skills.

Two, to build his reputation. An Artifact Refiner needed a reputation to craft powerful and high-quality weapons.

But people wouldn't entrust such precious materials to an unknown refiner, so a seasoned Artifact Refining Master was very rare.

"Then I'll trouble Master Shen."

Chen Yu voiced his compliment.

Master Shen didn't reply and started designing the refining plan.

Three days later, Master Shen came up with three forging plans, from which Chen Yu chose one.

The next step was to start refining the artifact.

During this time, Chen Yu used Demon Pattern True Essence to aid the Artifact Refining, shortening the refining time.

Moreover, this would make the Spiritual Artifact easier to refine in the future.

A month passed.

Hum!

From the Artifact Refining room came a deep and violent sword cry, which startled many refiners outside, who were secretly amazed that Master Shen had forged another remarkable masterpiece.

"Done!"

Master Gu took out a broadsword three and a half feet long.

The broadsword was pitch-black, with fine inscriptions on its body, and occasionally shimmering with a strange dark silvery brilliance, making it look mysteriously extraordinary.

The sides were rough, with many black spikes making it look fearsome.

Buzz, buzz!

In Master Gu's hands, the sword trembled slightly, releasing bursts of unruly demonic power, as if trying to break free from Master Shen's control.

But when Chen Yu took hold of it, the sword quieted down a bit and, after a moment, lay quietly in his hands.

"Spiritual Artifacts choose their master. As a Demon Cultivator, having assisted in the forging with True Essence for a month, this Spiritual Artifact is more closely aligned with you," Master Shen said with a smile.

Spiritual Artifacts value spiritual nature, and the sentient nature of this artifact he forged was very unusual.

"Master Shen, what grade has this sword achieved?"

Chen Yu inquired.

"Medium-grade Spiritual Artifact. Unfortunately, it was just short of another step forward, to the refined medium-grade level. If you get more rare ores in the future, you can bring them to me for further refinement."

Master Shen sighed slightly.

Although Silver Crystal Jade and Flame Demon Stone are materials for refining medium-grade artifacts, they are not the main materials; otherwise, this artifact's quality could reach the refined grade.

"What's the special ability?"

Chen Yu asked eagerly, as Master Shen hadn't finished everything in one go, making him ask.

The special ability of a Spiritual Artifact, to some extent, also determined the artifact's strength and value.

For example, if a defensive artifact had "sharp" or "armor-piercing" abilities, it would be a joke.

"The power from the Flame Demon Stone has completely fused into this sword, so its special ability is 'Explosive'."

Master Shen smiled satisfactorily.

As a heavy weapon, and given Chen Yu's proficiency in close combat, this particular feature could be considered top-tier.

"Thank you, Master."

Chen Yu was very satisfied and subsequently took out a hundred thousand Primordial Stones, presenting them to the other party.

Compared to a satisfactory mid-grade Spiritual Artifact, a hundred thousand low-grade Primordial Stones was a small price to pay. Moreover, Artifact Refining was extremely draining on the spirit, so Chen Yu should have given some form of compensation.

Master Shen did not decline; a hundred thousand Primordial Stones was a considerable amount for him.

"I shall take my leave now."

After bidding farewell to Master Shen.

"Hold on, you haven't named this sword yet."

Master Shen stopped Chen Yu.

If he were to say that he was the one who refined this sword in the future, but he didn't even know its name, who would believe him?

"This sword... shall be called 'Demon Flood Dragon Sword'."

After pondering for a moment, Chen Yu came up with an extremely domineering name.

The sword was of demonic attribute, fierce in appearance, and had integrated sixty-eight teeth of the Red-eyed Jiao; hence, Chen Yu chose this name.

"Demon Flood Dragon Sword,' not bad."

Master Shen nodded, feeling that Chen Yu's ability to name a sword was quite acceptable.

Following that, Chen Yu left the place to head to Earth Demon Pavilion.

With a new Spiritual Artifact in hand, Chen Yu decided to choose a powerful sword technique. The previously practiced "Shocking Evil Sword Technique," while being a decent Killing Sword Technique, was somewhat useless for Chen Yu, who cultivated the demonic path.

After some selection, Chen Yu took an interest in a sword technique known as the "Devil Wind Sword Technique."

This technique required a total of three hundred thousand No Demon Points. Chen Yu used up all his No Demon Points and topped it up with eighty thousand Primordial Stones to finally acquire the technique.

The "Devil Wind Sword Technique" was known for its ferocity. The attacks were broad and swift, brutal, and focused on the momentum of the sword. Against weaker opponents, a mere condensation of this momentum could scare them away.

Once this swordsmanship was cultivated to the Great Achievement Realm, it could unleash a "Demon Wind Sword Domain" inflicting devastating strikes on enemies within that domain.

"It's very suitable for the 'Demon Flood Dragon Sword'."

Chen Yu was quite satisfied with this sword technique.

Afterward, he went to the training tower and rented a training chamber.

It took two days for Chen Yu to successfully refine the "Demon Flood Dragon Sword," and then he began practicing the sword technique.

The "Devil Wind Sword Technique" emphasized momentum, which could continuously increase once it formed, making the sword unstoppable.

Chen Yu wasn't a Sword Dao genius and struggled to comprehend the momentum for a long time.

Therefore, he decided to forsake the normal training approach and started to practice the sword directly, in hopes of grasping the momentum through the movements.

Boom!

Chen Yu infused the sword with Demon Pattern True Essence, and a fierce thrust shot forth.

Upon the "Demon Flood Dragon Sword," the Demonic Qi roiled and surged, blasting forward and then suddenly exploding into a cloud of demonic mist after traveling a certain distance.

This demonstrated its explosive nature; the attacks had an explosive effect and greater destructive power.

Fortunately, the "Devil Wind Sword Technique" was also known for its powerful offensive capabilities, making the two highly compatible.

"Madness Demon Slash."

"Sky Flying Sword Slash."

...

During the practice, Chen Yu kept trying to grasp the momentum of the sword.

Three days later.

Compared to when he started, Chen Yu's attacks were now incredibly fierce and smooth, executed in one breath, with a stunning aura around, forming an intangible pressure.

Chen Yu's body seemed to have an instinct, seamlessly integrating all external movements perfectly.

Gradually.

Chen Yu practiced more smoothly, as the "Demon Flood Dragon Sword" danced around, with piercing shrieks and thunderous explosions echoing around him.

After a while, Chen Yu finally stopped, feeling extremely exhilarated.

In the following days, Chen Yu continued to practice sword techniques while cultivating his Cultivation Method.

A month later, Chen Yu had grasped the momentum, and the sword technique was at its initial completion.

...

Four months later.

The Talent Tea Party had already spread throughout Yun Zhao Country, with many members already setting off toward Yunyang Holy Mansion on Liuhe Mountain.

Chen Yu in the academy, on the other hand, was not in a hurry. He continued to practice swordsmanship and Cultivation Technique, improving his own strength.

Several days later, as Chen Yu walked out of the training tower, he saw a fair and beautiful girl, his junior sister apprentice Yu Bu Yu.

"Brother, it's time to gather. Let's go to Liuhe Mountain together to attend the Talent Tea Party."

Yu Bu Yu didn't interact with Chen Yu much and was not very familiar in conversation.

"Okay, let's go."

Chen Yu walked over and left with Yu Bu Yu.

On the Central Square, a group of twenty or thirty people had already gathered.

Among these people, each had an extraordinary temperament, most of them with a hint of pride.

They were all among those who had made it into the top fifty of the academy's competition and could be regarded as talents of Yun Zhao Country, naturally proud.

Among them, Chen Yu saw several familiar faces, including Kong Zhong, Jin Zhuo Peak, Yuan Chen, Shang Han, and others.

As for the participants from the previous and current sessions, Chen Yu did not recognize any.

"Chen Yu has arrived."

Many people whispered among themselves, while those who knew Chen Yu approached with a smile.

"Brother Chen, where have you been these past few years?"

Jin Zhuo Peak, not much for talking, opened the conversation.

"I've been attending to some matters."

Chen Yu replied vaguely.

Just then, the crowd parted to make way, and a man dressed in a black robe with a square face and small eyes walked through, looking calmly at Chen Yu.

"So this is Chen Yu? I am 'Cao Xingyue' from No Demon Academy, the leader of the previous session's competition."

The square-faced man introduced himself proactively.

Chapter 505: Gathering Together

"Brother Cao."

Chen Yu nodded slightly.

"I heard you just returned to the academy a few days ago. Originally, you were one of the organizers of the tea party, but you missed this opportunity, allowing Yunhai Zhen and Yun Yingwu from the Imperial Family to host the tea party..."

Cao Xingyue sighed, seemingly regretful.

If people from No Demon Academy and the Imperial Family had jointly hosted this tea party, it would have greatly enhanced the reputation of No Demon Academy.

"However, it's not really a big deal. You just returned to the academy and might not know anything about the tea party. If you have any questions, just ask me. I will lead everyone to Liuhe Mountain later; you can rest assured."

Cao Xingyue spoke again, stopping Chen Yu, who was about to apologize, from speaking.

This Cao Xingyue first pointed out Chen Yu's mistake, then offered to take the lead.

The key issue was his attitude; he acted as a senior, which was quite displeasing.

Moreover, organizing the Talent Tea Party was Chen Yu's own affair; at most, he had some apologies towards the academy, but what did it have to do with Cao Xingyue?

Participating in the Talent Tea Party was mainly for fame. Chen Yu and Situ Lin Yu had consistently been the top scholars of the academy. If Cao Xingyue were to lead, wouldn't it imply that his status in the academy far exceeded that of Chen Yu and Situ Lin Yu?

People around couldn't help but look over.

"I wonder if Chen Yu will show weakness and give way in front of Senior Cao."

"Senior Cao attended the academy's competition more than a decade ago; he was already at the Innate Peak then. Now he has reached the Middle Stage of Guiyuan Realm, much more experienced than Chen Yu and Situ Lin Yu."

"There has been no news of Chen Yu in recent years. After returning to the academy, he also went into intense seclusion, probably because his cultivation was progressing too slowly. Maybe he will choose to give way."

Chen Yu ignored Cao Xingyue and did not answer.

To the others, Chen Yu seemed to be giving way, which disappointed those who remembered him as the top scholar of the previous session.

Cao Xingyue narrowed his eyes slightly, quite pleased, sensing that Chen Yu was still respecting him.

"Situ Lin Yu has arrived!"

"Situ Lin Yu?"

The crowd suddenly exclaimed, and many girls even let out a shriek.

A man in green clothes floated in, his long hair fluttering with the wind, his face clear, his eyes twinkling mysteriously, and a faint smile on his lips. This person was indeed Situ Lin Yu.

Chen Yu and Situ Lin Yu were of the same cohort, and the two were somewhat acquainted.

However, Chen Yu felt that Situ Lin Yu had changed a lot now, appearing more flamboyant, emitting ease and confidence from between his brows.

Beside Situ Lin Yu were a few other people, but they were almost overshadowed by his presence.

Phew!

Several people floated down to the square.

"Chen Yu? I thought you were not going to participate in the Talent Tea Party."

Situ Lin Yu carefully eyed Chen Yu.

In this session's academy competition, he had won first place, sweeping through other Guiyuan Reartists with an invincible posture, glorious and unmatched.

But in the previous session, Chen Yu, of the same cohort as Situ Lin Yu, had completely outshone him.

So once he arrived, Situ Lin Yu's gaze fell on Chen Yu, with a very interested expression.

"Such a grand event naturally calls for attendance. However, I didn't expect you, Brother Situ, to have advanced so rapidly in the past few years, becoming the top scholar of the new session of the academy competition."

Chen Yu couldn't help but praise.

"I just wonder what strength the top scholar of the previous session has now. We shall see at the tea party."

Situ Lin Yu was very interested in Chen Yu's current strength.

Beside them, Cao Xingyue's expression turned dark. Were Situ Lin Yu and Chen Yu completely ignoring him?

"Situ Lin Yu, it's good that you have arrived. Please let the others know too, so no one misses the time."

Cao Xingyue walked over, standing tall, chin raised, bearing a leader's stance.

"Who are you?"

Situ Lin Yu glanced at Cao Xingyue indifferently.

"You... I am your senior, the leader of No Demon Academy from the session before the last."

Cao Xingyue's eyes widened, then he spoke with a dark face.

"So the one who was ranked fourth in that session is this gentleman."

Situ Lin Yu's lips curled up in a faint smile.

Chen Yu remained silent, but that didn't mean Situ Lin Yu would do the same. His character had changed somewhat from before; he was untamed and unrestrained, proud and arrogant, not easily lowering his head in front of others.

"Indeed, Situ Lin Yu, the new generation's prodigy, full of pride."

Some admired him, while others thought Situ Lin Yu was too arrogant.

"Hmph, that's no way to speak to a senior. Don't you have any manners?"

Cao Xingyue snorted coldly, his face grim.

In the competition session before the last, Cao Xingyue was the strongest but ranked fourth, which was equivalent to the last among the four major academies, far inferior to the recent sessions.

Besides the older generation from the session before the last, many cast contemptuous glances.

Everyone attending the tea party was of equal status, yet Cao Xingyue continuously placed himself above others, treating them as juniors to enhance his own standing.

"Chen Yu, take your cohort with me later."

Then, Cao Xingyue addressed Chen Yu.

He was trying to win over Chen Yu and isolate Situ Lin Yu.

"That won't be necessary, don't we all know the way?"

Chen Yu said with a light smile.

His words pleased everyone present.

After all, they were all geniuses, proud and dignified, and none wanted to meekly follow behind someone else.

"You..."

Cao Xingyue did not expect Chen Yu, who had just been silent and retreating, to oppose him now. This made him both embarrassed and annoyed, yet he was helpless.

"Humph, wait and see how proud you can be at the tea party."

Cao Xingyue thought to himself,

Chen Yu was the champion of the last grand competition, but with inferior talent and focused on Body Refinement, he didn't have a great future. Situ Lin Yu was this session's champion, but he was still too green and lacked experience.

Soon, nearly everyone had arrived—just under fifty people.

Logically, for the past three sessions, the No Demon Academy had more than this number of participants in the top fifty.

But the world is unpredictable. Over the past decade or so, some died in relics or assassinations, their promising lives cut short. Others had commitments that prevented their attendance.

"Let's set off."

Chen Yu called out.

Everyone took flight, grouping into clusters of three or five, but all headed towards the same destination.

"Junior Brother, in this tea meeting, Ye Chengfeng, Yunhai Zhen, and Duan Xinyue will definitely challenge you. Be careful in handling them," Yuan Chen said.

Back during the initial competition, Chen Yu had defeated those people, but after so many years, who was stronger or weaker was still unknown.

These three would certainly seek to spar with Chen Yu, looking to redeem their previous defeats.

"No worries, Master Shen has crafted a fine Spiritual Artifact for me. Even facing them should pose no major problem."

Chen Yu smiled.

"Also, the veterans from the session before last are likely to spar with the strong newcomers. These veterans should not be underestimated."

Yuan Chen added.

Being the champion and yet not highly regarded, Chen Yu naturally became a target at the tea party.

Next, Yuan Chen listed the people to watch out for—the champion of the institute from the session before last was Yun Yingwu, second was Fu Sanguang from Sky Star Academy, third was Jiang Chen from Sky Sword Academy, and fourth was Cao Xingyue.

Of course, those were the rankings from over a decade ago. It wouldn't be surprising if someone who ranked lower had a stroke of luck and skyrocketed to the top.

...

Yunyang Holy Mansion, Liuhe Mountain, this mountain was a private territory of the Imperial Family.

Since the event organizers were members of the Imperial Family, that's why the tea party was hosted on Liuhe Mountain.

The peaks of Liuhe Mountain were incredibly high, with a flat, hexagonal summit that offered a breathtaking view.

At the mountaintop, amidst a series of pavilions and towers, many young elites were engaging in lively conversations.

Most of them were from Yunyang Imperial College, given that the venue for the tea meeting was in Yunyang Holy Mansion and many had arrived here a month early.

Besides those from Yunyang Academy, some individuals from other academies who preferred to act alone had also arrived earlier, waiting for the tea meeting to start.

Just then, a burst of brilliant starlight flickered nearby, illuminating the clouds in a magnificent array of colors.

Soon, a group of figures appeared, and from their attire, it was clear they were from Sky Star Academy.

Inside the pavilion, almost everyone looked up.

"Haha, sorry for making you all wait here for us," said a disheveled man with a mustache, laughing heartily.

"Humph, Fu Sanguang, it seems you're itching for a fight again."

From within the pavilion, a man in a majestic red and yellow robe spoke coldly.

It was plain to see that Fu Sanguang was the leader of the Sky Star Academy group, yet someone dared to rebuke him like this.

"Oh, oh, oh, Yun Yingwu, I really cannot stand people like you, always ready to lecture others. Just because your name includes 'heroic,' doesn't mean you actually are. At least you're far from handsome."

The disheveled man frowned, clearly displeased.

"Is that Fu Sanguang?" Yunhai Zhen, a young man in golden attire, looked over.

This person was also a prodigy of his time, cultivating one of the Ancient's top ten exceptional techniques, the "Three Lights Star Chart."

But back then, when he had just switched to this Cultivation Technique, it wasn't well-developed, and he eventually lost to Yun Yingwu.

Yun Yingwu's expression turned solemn, and he stopped talking.

This was typical of Fu Sanguang, always provoking him every time they met since his loss.

Yun Yingwu felt that arguing with someone like Fu Sanguang was beneath him and, crucially, he couldn't win...

"Senior Sanguang, less talk," Duan Xinyue said with a helpless smile, trying to calm him down.

As the people from Sky Star Academy settled in, another side suddenly surged with an enormous Evil Demon aura, as if some terrifying demon had arrived.

"The No Demon Academy is here," Yun Yingwu stated flatly.

Initially, this tea party was supposed to be co-hosted by him and No Demon Academy's Chen Yu, but Chen Yu was absent, so Yunhai Zhen replaced him.

Yun Yingwu wasn't a prince but a son of a lord of the Imperial Family, and he didn't get along well with Yunhai Zhen. However, he recognized Yunhai Zhen's formidable talent and was curious about the youth who had defeated Yunhai Zhen.

Moreover, this session's grand competition was again topped by No Demon Academy.

The faction within Yunyang Academy had already decided that this time, they should seriously shake the spirit of No Demon Academy.

"Heh, No Demon Academy is still No Demon Academy, utterly undisciplined and disorganized."

Upon seeing the team from No Demon Academy, Yun Yingwu couldn't help but chuckle.

"I heard there's a guy from No Demon Academy who practiced the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record.' Where is he?"

Fu Sanguang's eyes roved over the members of No Demon Academy.

"Indeed, a gathering of talents," Chen Yu remarked upon seeing them.

Yun Zhao Country was vast with rich vitality, home to many strong talents. There were several middle-staged Guiyuan Realm cultivators present, all exuding a remarkable aura, far surpassing any from a small region like Beiyuan.

It seemed the collective talents gathered here could conquer the strong warriors from Beiyuan all on their own.

After the members of No Demon Academy were seated, within an hour, a piercing Sword Intent shot through the sky.

Whizzing sounds echoed!

A group of people in white robes flew over, every one of them strikingly attractive men and women with exceptional demeanor.

"The women from Sky Sword Academy are indeed the most beautiful," Fu Sanguang commented, his eyes rolling around and finally resting on Ye Luofeng, his demeanor momentarily transfixed.

Chen Yu also looked over, and Ye Luofeng was looking right back at him.

Then, Chen Yu saw Ye Chengfeng, and beside him stood an ordinary-looking man with an ethereal quality, sparking an inexplicable sense of familiarity.

Chapter 506: Tea Party Begins

From this point on, the main forces of the four major academies had largely arrived, with only a handful of stragglers still on their way.

With so many geniuses gathered in one place, most of them knew each other, and some even had good relations.

Though the tea party hadn't begun yet, the summit of Liuhe Mountain was already bustling with activity. Everyone engaged in conversations over tea, mostly discussing combat skills, Cultivation Techniques, and heritage secrets, creating a fairly harmonious atmosphere.

By comparison, the seniors from previous years were more talkative and would occasionally clarify doubts for the new talents.

Among them, Yun Yingwu, Jiang Chen, and others took the lead and were rather popular with the new talents. They posed questions and the seniors explained generously without any reservation.

Fu Sanguang, on the other hand, was rather lazy, not bothering to give advice to the newcomers and spending most of his time admiring the beauties.

As for Cao Xingyue, perhaps it was because his reputation wasn't impressive enough or his infamy ran too deep, few new talents from No Demon Academy sought his advice. Instead, many young women in the throes of springtime milled around Situ Lin Yu, making Cao Xingyue gnash his teeth in envy.

Of course, the buzz here wasn't just about pure exchange and mentorship. Many were observing the opponents they had in mind.

For example, Cao Xingyue was watching the likes of Fu Sanguang, Yun Yingwu, and Jiang Chen.

"How come all these guys seem so unfathomable? Perhaps Jiang Chen might be a challenge."

Cao Xingyue sweated in embarrassment, his gaze landing on Jiang Chen.

He had originally thought that at this tea party, he could wash away the disgrace of finishing fourth in his year, but he found the others to be incredibly strong, with only the unaffiliated Jiang Chen posing as a possible challenge that could be hoped to win against.

Chen Yu was also sizing up the strong rivals from his year, including Duan Xinyue, Ye Chengfeng, and Yunhai Zhen.

These individuals either hailed from the ten Ancient Clans or one of the top four major families, each with extraordinary backgrounds and immeasurable growth rates.

At the same time, these people were also paying a lot of attention to Chen Yu.

"This time, I must take what rightfully belongs to me as number one from your hands."

Yunhai Zhen clenched his fists slightly, feeling somewhat excited inside.

He believed that with his progress, he could certainly defeat Chen Yu now.

On the other side, Ye Chengfeng's eyes also sharpened: "I look forward to whether you can withstand a few of my strikes this time..."

Besides, Chen Yu was the champion of the previous tournament. The seniors from two sessions ago also saw Chen Yu as a stepping stone; defeating him would bring them fame.

Chen Yu had long felt the gazes of many seniors sizing him up, the champion of the last tournament.

As for the newest generation, though they were talented, they didn't attract much attention.

After all, it had only been two years since the last tournament of the academies. There was limited time for their strength to grow, and traditionally, the newest generation served merely to highlight the achievements of the previous two.

"Senior Brother, there are so many strong practitioners in the Guiyuan Realm."

Yu Bu Yu had been following Yuan Chen and Chen Yu. It was her first time seeing so many talented individuals, and she couldn't help feeling a bit of reverence.

"You won't need much time before you'll be one of the Guiyuan Realm practitioners yourself."

Yuan Chen said with a smile.

Chen Yu now had a deeper understanding of Yu Bu Yu. Not only did she possess a fire Spiritual Body, she was also from the Ancient Clan Yu Family. With such talent, the declining Yu Family treasured her as a precious gem, pouring all their resources into her cultivation.

By the evening, the tea party promptly started, and those who hadn't arrived by then forfeited their right to participate.

When the time came, an intense atmosphere enveloped the venue; many geniuses were raring to demonstrate their skills.

First to take the stage for a bout were the seniors from sessions past.

Their years of experience and refinement made for a rich combat spectacle.

After four or five consecutive battles, the crowd couldn't help but find it somewhat dull; they were keener to witness the appearances of those ranked within the top five of the academy contests.

"Duan Hao, fight with me and let me see what progress you've made in these past two years," a young man in white robes with a gentle jade-like face called out.

"Duan Hao? The genius from the Duan Family? I've heard he placed fourth in this year's academy contest."

"The youth challenging him isn't any ordinary person either; it's Fu Beiling, the young prodigy of the Fu Family, who ranked seventh in this year's contest."

The crowd immediately perked up with interest.

Moreover, they also wanted to see just how strong the new generation's talents really were, since it had been said that each year's academy contest surpassed the previous ones.

Chen Yu also had a particular interest in this bout.

Duan Hao was from his year, and there had previously been some conflicts between them, which were later resolved.

Fu Beiling had encountered Chen Yu in the Red Earth Secret Realm, and some unpleasantness had taken place between them.

"As you wish,"

Duan Hao, with a fierce look in his eyes, gave the challenger a glance and stepped forward.

"Green Radiance Finger,"

Fu Beiling concentrated a green radiance at his fingertips, which flashed by in an instant and shot towards Duan Hao.

"Break!"

Duan Hao's countenance surged with Evil Qi, and the invisible force of evil spread several feet around him, hinting at the presence of a fierce and ferocious beast.

Boom!

He threw a punch, and atop his fist, dark Evil Qi condensed into the shape of a ferocious tiger's head, shattering Fu Beiling's finger strike.

At the same time, Duan Hao executed the Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow, turning into the shadow of a fierce beast as he pounced towards Fu Beiling.

Fu Beiling's movement technique was even more extraordinary, far surpassing Duan Hao who practiced the Devilish Evil Frenzy Shadow. His elusive figure was accompanied by crisscrossing sharp green finger rays.

However, Duan Hao was incomparably fierce, with tiger-headed Evil Qi enveloping his fists and dragon-shaped Evil Qi shadows coiling around his legs, his attacks brutally forceful.

Both of them were at the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak stage, making the battle exceedingly intense and splendid.

"Duan Hao's not bad, he has cultivated the Evil Qi manifestation to a higher level,"

Cao Xingyue nodded, himself hailing from the Blood Slaughter Institute.

He was also secretly amazed; in just two years, both their strengths had grown to such extents, indeed far surpassing the previous sessions.

Cao Xingyue wasn't the only one thinking this; others had the same thought.

"It seems that Situ Lin Yu has some ability to have reached the top," Cao Xingyue recognized Situ Lin Yu's strength anew in his heart.

Fifty moves later, Duan Hao invoked his gale bloodline, further increasing his speed, and with a fierce and violent demeanor, he repelled Fu Beiling.

"Fu Beiling has a flexible movement technique and sharp attacks, but his momentum is far inferior to Duan Hao's. In the battle, the initiative also lies in the hands of the shorter contender. Unless Fu Beiling can greatly improve his speed or defense, it will be difficult to defeat Duan Hao."

After watching this battle, Yun Yingwu said with a faint smile.

"Thank you, Brother Yun, for the guidance." Fu Beiling was also pondering, and now Yun Yingwu spelled it out directly, which made things clear to him.

With the fourth-ranked Duan Hao entering the stage, some who were prepared to make a name for themselves also successively challenged those with higher rankings.

As for those ranked at the top, they were not rash in issuing challenges.

Their goals were higher, mostly aimed at the top three. But after so many years, they were not too familiar with each other's methods, so they opted to observe before challenging, without haste.

"Cao Xingyue, fight me."

A young man with azure hair leaped out.

"Cao Xingyue, the elder ranked fourth in the previous tournament, possesses incredible strength."

"The challenger is Lv Guangliang from the Lv Family, who was ranked seventh in that tournament. This will be a battle worth watching."

The crowd started discussing.

In the eyes of everyone, the elders from two tournaments ago were the top-notch fighters of the tea party, so this battle was highly anticipated.

"Lv Guangliang, you are still so ignorant of the ways of the world."

Cao Xingyue stood up, somewhat displeased.

Being among the top five of the previous previous tournament and the first to be challenged, did this not imply that in everyone's eyes, he was the weakest?

"Heh, we shall see after a try."

Lv Guangliang smiled nonchalantly, drew out an azure long spear, and burst forth with his True Yuan.

On the other side, Cao Xingyue's expression was gloomy, and a dark Evil Qi coiled around him, forming a ferocious giant bear.

Whoosh!

In the void, a solid and curved spear shadow charged forward, like a venomous snake suddenly launching an attack.

Cao Xingyue drew a black giant axe and chopped out with a stunningly massive axe glow, surging towards the spear shadow.

Both being at the Middle Stage of Guiyuan Realm, their clash was momentous.

"Again..."

Lv Guangliang rapidly waved his long spear, and it seemed as though thousands of sharp and cold venomous snakes surged out of the void, attacking Cao Xingyue from all sides.

In terms of attack speed, Lv Guangliang, who wielded a spear, was certainly faster than Cao Xingyue.

Gradually, Cao Xingyue started to falter.

The audience couldn't help but be astonished; Lv Guangliang's strength had reached such a level that he could pressure the fourth-ranked Cao Xingyue.

"Giant Axe Sky Dominance!"

Cao Xingyue bellowed, and the Evil Qi giant bear behind him seemed to rage as well.

Boom!

He swung his axe mightily, and a colossal black axe shadow descended from above, destroying everything in sight and charging towards Lv Guangliang.

"Break."

Lv Guangliang, a member of the Ancient Clan Lv Family, stimulated his bloodline, and dark azure patterns emerged on his skin's surface, instantaneously amplifying his True Qi, as he thrust out with his spear.

Cao Xingyue knew the bloodline characteristics of the Lv Family and realized that his strike was unlikely to injure his opponent. He immediately invoked the Cao Family's gravity bloodline, closing in on Lv Guangliang.

Within a thirty-zhang radius around Cao Xingyue, a dim, twisted sphere of gravity enveloped the area, and the closer one got, the stronger the gravity became.

After a series of pursuits, Lv Guangliang was the first to falter and lost the match.

"Damn it, to have fought over a hundred moves."

Cao Xingyue cursed inwardly; although he won, the victory lacked luster.

At the same time, he thought that it must be because Lv Guangliang had made substantial progress, not because of his own shortcomings.

After this battle, several more sparring matches followed.

On the side of Yunyang Academy, a gaunt man in grey clothing with sinister-looking pupils focused his gaze on Chen Yu and Yuan Chen.

"Yuan Chen is now at the Middle Stage of Guiyuan Realm; my chances of winning are not great, but I wonder about Chen Yu's strength."

The grey-clothed man murmured to himself. This person was Yin Chengzhuang.

In the previous tournament, because of Chen Yu and Yuan Chen, he failed to enter the top ten in the first round, missing his chance.

This time at the tea party, his targets were Chen Yu and Yuan Chen.

Rumor had it that Chen Yu's Spiritual Body aptitude was poor, and the higher he climbed, the slower his cultivation progress became, limiting his potential.

But having lost to Chen Yu before, Yin Chengzhuang didn't want to lose again, so he was more cautious.

"Brother, let me test that Chen Yu."

Next to Yin Chengzhuang, another gaunt man spoke.

"Good, you were ranked tenth in this tournament and have now broken through to the Guiyuan Realm. Your Pupil Skill talent is no weaker than mine; go and test Chen Yu's strength for me."

Yin Chengzhuang nodded.

"Chen Yu, I am this tournament's tenth ranker, 'Yin Yu', and I'd like to ask for some guidance from the previous tournament's champion."

The gaunt man leaped out, then turned his gaze toward Chen Yu.

As a rising genius, ranked tenth and challenging the previous tournament's champion Chen Yu, he was not favored by the crowd.

But by stating his request as seeking guidance from Chen Yu, even if he lost in the end, there wouldn't be any shame in it, and a good performance might even bring honor in defeat.

Many in the vicinity were visibly shaken, their attention drawn because they were also interested in Chen Yu. They could see that Yin Yu was there to probe Chen Yu's capabilities.

Chen Yu had a big reputation, but was not regarded favorably. Whoever was the first to defeat him would be able to rise in fame in one fell swoop.

"Alright, then I shall give you some guidance."

Chen Yu walked out smiling, with the air of a senior.

Chapter 507: All the Mighty Compete

"Well, then allow me to give you some pointers."

Chen Yu walked out with a smile, exuding the air of a senior.

"Hehe, sure."

Yin Yu forced a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

By saying Chen Yu was providing guidance, he was elevating Chen Yu's status while leaving himself a way out.

The Yin Family was an Ancient Clan with Bloodline Pupils—what could Chen Yu, a mere Body Cultivator, possibly teach him? Could it be about Body Refinement?

Yin Yu silently scorned the thought, not taking it to heart.

"Chen Yu, let me see what you're capable of. Yin Yu was ranked tenth in the last competition, certainly amongst the top practitioners below the eight Guiyuan Realm competitors. Now that he has broken through to the Guiyuan Realm, his strength might even surpass those ranked eighth, seventh, and so on from this year's competitors."

Yin Chengzhuang pondered for a moment, his gloomy gaze fixed on the dueling platform.

Suddenly, Yin Yu activated his Bloodline Pupil. His dark eyes were covered with a layer of dull red light, with faint flickers of flames visible within.

"Yin Flame Pupil Fire!"

Yin Yu locked his gaze on Chen Yu, flames surging within his pupils, instantly gathering into a ball of fire as he continued to build up power.

After all, Chen Yu was the first-place winner in the last competition; Yin Yu wouldn't be careless and would go all out.

"Not moving?"

Yin Yu was looking at Chen Yu, who stood still, seemingly intending to let Yin Yu strike first.

"To think so little of me..."

Yin Yu's eyes flashed fiercely, promptly initiating his Pupil Skill.

Boom!

Suddenly, a dark red fireball appeared on Chen Yu's body, exploding violently.

This Pupil Skill affected both the soul and the physical realms.

But the flames on Chen Yu's body danced briefly before dissipating.

How could a Pupil Skill activated by Yin Yu's power harm Chen Yu's physique?

As for the mental aspect? Chen Yu's spiritual will was already comparable to the Middle Stage of Guiyuan Realm; it wasn't something Yin Yu could shake.

From start to finish, Chen Yu didn't move an inch, not even a frown crossing his brow.

Around him, the previously indifferent expressions of the onlookers turned tense.

At that moment, Chen Yu moved. He activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body, his entire body pitch black with inscriptions shimmering as if he had transformed into a peerless demon.

Step by step, he walked towards Yin Yu, each step sending tremors through Yin Yu's heart.

"Yin Flame Pupil Fire!"

Yin Yu's face turned pale, his body quivering slightly as he launched his Pupil Skill again.

His pupils flickered with dark red firelight, casting an ethereal red flame that descended upon Chen Yu.

The Yin Flame Pupil Fire inflicted persistent damage; initially, the enemy might withstand it, but over time, like a raging fire consuming the soul, the pain would become unbearable.

However, Chen Yu's expression remained unchanged, step by step he approached Yin Yu.

"Damn it, why isn't it working? How can his soul be so strong as a Body Cultivator?"

Yin Yu's face was drenched in sweat, his heart racing with urgency.

Chen Yu was soon in front of Yin Yu, who was now under tremendous pressure from Chen Yu's imposing presence as well as a psychological strain, causing him to become rigid and shiver.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu struck out with his hand.

Yin Yu immediately deployed his True Essence Protection Shield.

Bang! Crack!

The True Essence Protection Shield shattered the instant it made contact with Chen Yu's palm, and Yin Yu himself was sent flying, tumbling five or six times across the ground. When he stood up, a large red handprint was visible on his face.

"There's nothing much to teach; you're just too skinny. A single slap sent you flying."

Chen Yu smiled lightly. He knew Yin Yu had come to test him, and he wasn't about to actually offer any guidance, so he simply advised him to take care of his health and not be too frail.

"It seems this Chen Yu isn't as weak as imagined."

"Perhaps No Demon Academy really invested heavily in cultivating this young man."

The crowd murmured amongst themselves, their estimation of Chen Yu rising.

"Is this the young man who cultivated the 'Heavenly Demon Secret Pattern Record'? Seems quite capable."

Fu Sanguang stared at Chen Yu.

Yin Yu returned to his place with a face full of humiliation.

He had thought he could injure Chen Yu, which would have brought him great fame, or at the very least he could have lasted a few moves. But instead, he ended up being slapped away by Chen Yu.

"Big brother, you must avenge me," Yin Yu said with a look of grievance.

Yin Chengzhuang remained silent; the recent fight had revealed none of Chen Yu's techniques, and without any certainty, how could he dare to fight rashly?

"Since I can't deal with Chen Yu, then I'll target Yuan Chen."

Yin Chengzhuang shifted his focus.

Not only Chen Yu was responsible for preventing him from ranking in the top ten in the first stage; Yuan Chen was also a significant factor, and there was personal enmity between them as well.

However, Yin Chengzhuang, only at the Early Peak of Guiyuan Realm, didn't have much confidence in defeating Yuan Chen. Besides, the competition had just begun, and he didn't want to reveal all his strength yet.

"Brother Lv, you owe me a favor, and I want you to repay it now."

Yin Chengzhuang tilted his head and communicated with Lv Guangliang through a sound transmission.

Lv Guangliang was a veteran from the penultimate competition, previously fighting a hundred moves against Cao Xingyue before losing.

"What is it?" Lv Guangliang had no choice but to respond.

...

The tea gathering continued.

A Ye Family disciple stepped onto the dueling platform: "Brother Zhou, I was defeated by you in the last competition. Today, let us battle once more."

This Ye Family disciple was only slightly less skilled than the Fire Swordsman Zhou Yuning from Sky Sword Academy.

In the big competition, Fire Swordsman Zhou Yuning ranked third, while he ranked sixth. Dissatisfied with this position, he had trained hard for two years, and today, he intended to win and take Zhou Yuning's place.

"Alright."

Zhou Yuning stood up, accepting the challenge.

Ding! Whoosh!

In an instant, both parties struck, and a crimson fire sword crossed with an icy chill sword.

In the blink of an eye, they had exchanged more than a dozen sword strikes, but the victor remained undecided.

The Ye Family disciple was eager to attack, with Zhou Yuning initially avoiding the brunt of the onslaught. As the Ye Family disciple's momentum began to wane, Zhou Yuning suddenly launched a ferocious attack.

"Sun Blaze Extinguishes the Heavens."

His treasured sword swung repeatedly, unleashing a vast expanse of sword-light and flames that oppressively advanced forward.

The Ye Family disciple hastily countered with his sword but was defeated by Zhou Yuning, who suddenly delivered a strike from another side.

"This year's group of new talents are all quite impressive," the elder remarked once more. Both of these talents had reached the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak, possibly due to the tournament rewards that had allowed their cultivation to advance significantly over the past two years.

"Please proceed, Lv Guangliang," Yin Chengzhuang reminded.

However, Zhou Yuning did not step down after his victory.

"Miss Ye, you did not participate in the academy tournament this time, and I was unable to witness your elegance. How about we exchange a few moves here?"

Zhou Yuning looked towards Ye Luofeng.

Ye Luofeng had returned to Sky Sword Academy six months prior, displaying her astonishing strength. Many believed her to be on par with Zhou Yuning.

Zhou Yuning was also curious about Ye Luofeng's strength and thus suggested the exchange.

"Okay."

Ye Luofeng leapt up and landed gracefully.

Such a beautiful woman looked even more stunning with a serious face, ready to strike with her sword, captivating many men.

Luckily, Zhou Yuning was a sword cultivator with unwavering will, or else he would have truly been reluctant to strike.

"Witness the sword, Green Fire Scouring the Fields."

Zhou Yuning quickly made his move, executing a series of continuous sword shadows that sliced through the air.

"Spirit Light Ancient Sword."

Ye Luofeng wielded the Heavenly Moon Sword and slashed a mysterious cyan sword glow that pierced through the continuous sword shadows.

Whoosh!

Zhou Yuning's sword shadows crumbled but transformed into a burst of flames pursuing Ye Luofeng.

And Ye Luofeng's sword was stabbing towards Zhou Yuning.

"Excellent swordsmanship!"

Zhou Yuning, brimming with battle spirit, floated upward, approaching Ye Luofeng and unleashing an even more sharp and unrestrained sword technique.

Yet, Ye Luofeng's sword conveyed a sense of ancient quietude, plain and unassuming, but concealing variations and countering Zhou Yuning's sword in an unpredictable manner.

Ye Luofeng's cultivation of the "Spirit Heart Sky Sword Technique" shared a connection with the Heavenly Que Sword, and since obtaining this sword, she had also received the latter half of this ancient sword technique, sharpening her swordsmanship day by day.

"This lady's sword technique is extraordinary. Surely, there's no such powerful sword skill in Sky Sword Academy, right?" Yun Yingwu observed Ye Luofeng's sword art and couldn't help but comment.

"Who would have thought that Sky Sword Academy would have such a prodigy? If she had participated in the academy tournament, it would have been extremely intense. By then, it would be a clash of the top nine in the Guiyuan Realm."

The crowd around was abuzz with discussion, all eyes fixated on the dueling platform.

"Spiritual Rhinoceros Sword."

Ye Luofeng seized a certain moment to execute a profoundly enigmatic thrust.

This sword thrust was unpredictable in its trajectory, like a fleeting illusion, reaching its target in an instant, catching Zhou Yuning off guard.

Clang!

Zhou Yuning could only parry with his sword, part of the sword pressure forcing him to retreat and leave the dueling platform.

"Miss Ye's talent is extraordinary. I, Zhou Yuning, concede defeat," he sighed, cupping one hand in the other in salute.

"My goodness, Zhou Yuning has actually lost."

"Such strength in this lady, and she did not participate in the academy tournament. That's truly a pity."

The onlookers variously gasped or expressed their sentiments.

After Ye Luofeng stepped down, Lv Guangliang promptly flew out.

The crowd couldn't help but wonder, who would Lv Guangliang challenge this time?

"Yuan Chen, I've heard you were ranked fourth in the last tournament. How about we have an exchange?" Lv Guangliang called out.

"Turns out he wants to spar with Yuan Chen, but it seems the two of them don't have much in common," someone remarked.

"Yuan Chen is also very strong, I wonder what will be the outcome of this battle..." another pondered.

"Please enlighten me," Yuan Chen said as he ascended the dueling platform, with impeccable manners.

Lv Guangliang's gaze intensified, he drew a long spear and thrust it forward.

Boom!

Yuan Chen struck out with a jade light palm attack to meet Lv Guangliang's thrust.

But Lv Guangliang was never one to prevail through brute force. He did not mind at all as the spear in his hand swung continuously.

His spear technique could be soft yet overpowering, at times like a whip, sweeping out arcing spear shadows.

Whizz!

Spear shadows pierced from all directions, besieging Yuan Chen.

Yuan Chen swung both palms in response, unleashing a cold blizzard, but all were penetrated by spear shadows.

"Cold Ice Shield!"

Yuan Chen waved his hands, creating a shield of ice to protect himself within.

"What's the use of incessantly defending?"

Lv Guangliang activated the Lv Family's bloodline, enhancing his True Qi in a flash. The power of each spear shadow increased remarkably, their attacks becoming more ferocious.

"Hehe, Yuan Chen is doomed to lose. Next, we'll find someone from the Yin Family to challenge him and Chen Yu's younger Martial Sister," grinned Yin Chengzhuang, a chilling smile on his cold face.

"Brother is clever, haha. Yu Bu Yu ranked forty-eighth in this tournament and is considered one of the weakest at the tea party. Any decent person could defeat him," Yin Yu said excitedly.

Having faced a setback at the hands of Chen Yu, the two brothers could now take their revenge on Chen Yu's Senior Martial Brother and Junior Martial Sister, which was a form of catharsis for them.

Chapter 508: Slap on the Face

On Liuhe Mountain, the tea party was in full swing.

Unnoticed in the distant clouds hung two figures.

Both wore blue robes of the same style. Among them, an elderly man with an astonishing aura smiled and said, "Great Elder, what do you think of these two?"

Beside him stood a man who appeared somewhat younger, a middle-aged man with a fair complexion and deep, black eyes. He looked out over the distance, giving the impression of the vast sea, blending naturally with the world around him, inspiring awe and reverence.

"They are passable."

The young Great Elder was very indifferent.

The fierce battle between Yuan Chen and Lv Guangliang, two of Yun Zhao Country's geniuses, failed to alter his expression in the slightest.

The corner of the elderly man's eye twitched, but he still nodded with a smile.

"Yuan Chen only ranked fourth in the last competition, and there are still more stunning talents to come,"

The elderly man continued.

Just then, on the combat platform, Yuan Chen was defeated by Lv Guangliang.

"I yield."

After speaking, Lv Guangliang quickly left.

After all, challenging Yuan Chen was meaningless to him; it was merely repaying a favor to the Yin Chengzhuang.

Swoosh!

A woman with a distinguished aura leaped onto the platform.

"Yu Bu Yu, shall we have a match?"

The woman revealed a slight smile.

"Me?"

Beside Yuan Chen and Chen Yu, Yu Bu Yu was startled.

She had come to the tea party purely to watch and learn, never intending to participate.

Moreover, she had ranked 48th in this competition, so nobody would likely seek to test their skills against her.

Yet, she found herself in this very situation.

The woman challenging her was also a new talent in this competition, ranking 40th.

"Miss Yin ranked 40th in this competition, Yu Bu Yu, you are no match for her."

Yu Bu Yu spoke the truth; she had little confidence in defeating her opponent.

The distinguished woman had joined the Yin Family later, and by taking the family's surname, she could receive greater cultivation.

"It's just a friendly spar. If you're not strong enough, I'll give you some pointers. I hope the disciple of the Vice Dean of No Demon Academy is not so timid?"

The woman said slowly.

This time, she brought up Yu Bu Yu's master. If Yu Bu Yu didn't fight, it would disgrace her master's name.

"Alright, please enlighten me."

Yu Bu Yu stepped onto the combat platform, saying earnestly.

"Hehe."

The woman's laughter was charming yet carried a hint of coldness.

In fact, she was very envious of Yu Bu Yu, who had been born into an Ancient Clan with astonishing talents and had even been taken as a disciple by the Vice Dean.

Swoosh!

She drew a silver sword, casting out a chilling beam of light.

Yu Bu Yu went all out, activating the Yu Family's Bloodline, with dark blue flames outlining her body.

A chilling flame burned up from her body, exuding a cold aura.

"This doesn't seem to be the Yu Family's Blue Flame Bloodline."

Many people around voiced out.

Although the Yu Family was the least among the top ten Ancient Clans, it was still a giant within the ranks of Yun Zhao Country.

"Because Sister Yu Bu Yu is naturally a Spiritual Body, her Bloodline is also different,"

Yuan Chen explained to Chen Yu.

The Yu Family's Bloodline was not strong, but the Bloodline Power Yu Bu Yu displayed now was different from the Blue Flame Bloodline, and it was even stronger.

Boom!

Yu Bu Yu threw out a palm strike, meeting the woman's sword light.

Boom! Hissss!

On the combat platform, Sword Qi and blue flames exploded wildly.

Their battle was not considered exciting for the talented individuals present, even somewhat dull.

"Sister Yu Bu Yu's combat ability is too weak; she lacks practice."

Chen Yu observed for a while and couldn't help commenting.

Shortly after, the battle concluded, and the distinguished woman won.

"Hmph, even though she's from one of the ten great Ancient Clans and is gifted with a unique Spiritual Body, she still lost to me."

The woman snorted coldly and, as she walked off the stage, repeated Yingcheng's instruction, "So much for the disciple of the Vice Dean of No Demon Academy."

Her victory over Yu Bu Yu made this remark fitting. It also implicitly included the recently defeated Yuan Chen and put down Chen Yu as well, with Chen Yu being unable to respond.

In the clouds.

The elderly man shook his head slightly, "Great Elder, this is just a grudge between two Qi Transformation Realm disciples. Both have good potential, but they still need much time and training."

"No, that woman in blue is quite remarkable."

A gleam of light flashed in the young Great Elder's eyes.

The elderly man paused, slightly surprised, wondering if the Great Elder had made a mistake.

"Although that girl has a Spiritual Body, she is too weak-willed, not suited for cultivation. I wonder what you mean by saying she is good,"

The elderly man asked.

"You don't understand."

The Great Elder uttered three words, deeply impacting the elderly man.

"This woman isn't just any Spiritual Body; she has a mutated Spiritual Body with extremely strong cultivation potential. She barely needs to put in any effort in her practice, yet her cultivation will continue to rise."

The Great Elder explained, enlightening the elderly man, who couldn't help being amazed that such a talent had emerged from the Yu Family.

...

"Brother, I lost." Yu Bu Yu returned disheartened.

"It's okay."

"But she also insulted the Master."

"Then slap her mouth!"

Chen Yu said this very indifferently, yet Yuan Chen and Yu Bu Yu could distinctly feel his anger.

"Junior brother, don't be too impulsive."

Yuan Chen comforted him.

He and Chen Yu had realized that someone was targeting them.

As for the mastermind behind this, it must be Yunyang Academy, and together with the identity of the dignified lady and her remarks just now, it was almost certain that it was the Yin Family of Yin Chengzhuang.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu leaped up and ascended the martial arts platform.

"Chen Yu has taken the stage; he was the champion in the last competition. I wonder whom he will challenge?"

"It's quite possible that he'll challenge his rival from the last competition, Yunhai Zhen, although he might also challenge Yun Yingwu, the champion from the competition before last. But I think he's biting off more than he can chew."

"I guess the most likely challenger would be Situ Lin Yu, the champion of the new competition."

The surrounding discussion was fiery.

"The one who just stepped down, get up here."

Chen Yu called out lowly, his gaze fixed on the Miss Yin.

"No way, why is Chen Yu challenging her? She ranked fortieth in this competition, while Chen Yu was the champion in the last one."

Someone was very surprised.

However, most people guessed that Chen Yu was here to avenge his junior sister.

"Senior, you were the champion of the last competition and are supremely strong. I, a young woman, ranked fortieth in this competition and am no match for you?"

The dignified lady revealed a grievously smiling expression while respectfully addressing Chen Yu as 'senior'.

"No worries, it's just a friendly match. I quite fancy your potential, determined to give you a lesson or two. Why don't you come up quickly?"

Chen Yu's face was stern, and by the end of his speech, he suddenly raised his voice, making the dignified lady's heart skip a beat.

This line was exactly what she had said to Yu Bu Yu earlier, and now Chen Yu was returning those words on behalf of his junior sister.

The dignified lady was intimidated by Chen Yu's aura, and tremblingly walked onto the stage.

"Senior, please be merciful."

The dignified lady pleaded in a pitiful and aggrieved tone.

Boom!

A gust of wind roared as Chen Yu appeared instantly in front of the dignified lady, a shadow of darkness enveloping her.

Chen Yu waved his large hand, slapping toward the delicate face of the dignified lady.

The dignified lady intended to defend herself, but under Chen Yu's oppressive power, she found it very difficult to circulate her True Qi. Moreover, Chen Yu's palm was incredibly fast and reached her in the blink of an eye.

Slap!

The dignified lady instantly lost consciousness, her head buzzing with noise. When she regained consciousness, she found herself lying on the ground, her whole body in pain, and her face felt as if it had been scorched by fire.

"Disciples of the Yin Family, no more than this."

Chen Yu stood on the martial arts platform and coldly snorted.

"Chen Yu..."

Yin Chengzhuang ground his teeth in rage.

Yet this was not the end, Chen Yu spoke again, "I have quite an appreciation for the Yin Family, determined to properly instruct all attendees from this family."

"Yin Yuan, come and have a friendly match with me. If you are too weak, I will give you some pointers."

Before anyone else could react, Chen Yu issued a challenge to Yin Yuan, who ranked forty-third in the competition two sessions ago.

Yin Yuan felt both furious and fearful, but he had to step onto the stage otherwise he would gain a reputation for cowardice and also bring disgrace upon the Yin Family.

Moreover, it had only been a month since Yin Yuan had advanced to the Guiyuan Realm, and he was planning to make a name for himself at this gathering.

"I've just advanced to the Guiyuan Realm. Even if I can't compete, I can hold off for a few moves. If Chen Yu uses excessive force, I'll concede!"

Yin Yuan made up his mind and leaped forward.

But just as he entered the range of the martial arts platform,

Boom!

Chen Yu's figure burst forth like a black violent shadow, arriving in front of Yin Yuan.

Yin Yuan's heart thumped wildly, scared stiff by Chen Yu's intense pressure, which made him feel as if a mountain was pressing down on his head.

As he saw Chen Yu's iron-like giant hand swinging at him, Yin Yuan drew a broadsword and held it in front.

Bam!

Chen Yu's palm struck the broadsword and then, continuing with the formidable force, smacked Yin Yuan's face right next to the blade.

"Damn..."

Yin Yuan was shocked inside, Chen Yu's strength was incredibly fierce, and his body unyieldly tough, managing to strike using his hand alone.

Just as Yin Yuan was about to retreat, Chen Yu's other hand swung over.

Yin Yuan's pupils contracted, and he promptly activated his True Yuan Protection Shield.

Crack!

Under Chen Yu's palm, the protection shield was as fragile as paper and instantly shattered.

Slap!

A harsh slap landed on Yin Yuan's face, sending him flying off the martial arts platform.

"How could this be..."

Yin Yuan, with a sword mark on his right cheek and a palm print on his left, roared in unwillingness.

"Next."

Chen Yu called out calmly, and seeing that no one responded, he began to name names.

"Senior practices a powerful Cultivation Technique and possesses immense strength; we juniors admire it deeply and concede without contest..."

A member of the Yin Family named by Chen Yu immediately said a bunch of flattering words and gave up.

"Chen Yu, you are bullying us too much."

A more hot-tempered member of the Yin Family, called by Chen Yu, climbed onto the martial arts platform.

He excelled in speed and believed it would be difficult for Chen Yu to slap him.

However, with a charge of power to his heart, Chen Yu increased his speed, and with one slap, brought him to his senses, the second slap sent him flying.

"Yin Chengzhuang, what are you sitting down there for? Come up here!"

After the challenge, Chen Yu looked at Yin Chengzhuang with a commanding tone.

"This Chen Yu intends to challenge all members of the Yin Family alone, what a spirit."

"Regrettably, among these three competitions, the only one in the Yin Family with great talent is Yin Chengzhuang. He lost to Chen Yu during the competition, it remains to be seen whether he can win now; otherwise, the reputation of the Yin Family will truly be lost."

Chapter 509: Strong Challenge

Below the stage, Yin Chengzhuang's face was full of embarrassment, with several members of the Yin Family beside him, all sporting palm prints of the same size and shape on their faces.

"Chen Yu, how dare you humiliate my Yin Family like this!"

Yin Chengzhuang's complexion was grim, his voice low and hoarse.

Chen Yu's move was too ruthless; he had fiercely slapped the face of the Yin Family.

And from beginning to end, Chen Yu hadn't shown much of his skills, leaving Yin Chengzhuang without a clue.

But now Chen Yu had singled him out, how could he not step up? Otherwise, he would be letting Chen Yu trample the face of the Yin Family underfoot.

"Where is the humiliation in this? I saw that the disciples of the Yin Family were all too weak, so I kindly pointed it out, hoping they would practice diligently and become talented someday."

Chen Yu said with a crooked smile.

"Hehe, you're right, you're the champion of the last Great Competition, they naturally can't compare with you."

Yin Chengzhuang intended to utter threats but feared that losing would be even more embarrassing, so he decided to elevate Chen Yu on a pedestal instead.

If Chen Yu won, it wouldn't look too bad for him. If he won, it would be a great boost to his reputation.

"You are the same."

Chen Yu let out a low hum, took out a black broken wing to enhance his speed, and charged forward.

Yin Chengzhuang, as the genius of the Yin Family, was immensely powerful. Chen Yu didn't know how strong he was now, so it was best to avoid his Pupil Skill as much as possible.

In such high-speed movement, it was hard for Yin Chengzhuang to lock on, unable to use his Pupil Skill.

"So fast..."

Yin Chengzhuang also displayed his movement technique, sparring with Chen Yu.

Chen Yu didn't want to be locked by his Pupil Skill, and Yin Chengzhuang didn't want Chen Yu to get close.

Boom!

Chen Yu took out the Giant Ruler Sword, and ferociously chopped down.

Besides high-speed movement, there was also attacking the enemy, not giving the opponent a chance to use his Pupil Skill.

"It's good that I've improved my speed over the years, otherwise, I really would have fallen into his hands this time."

Yin Chengzhuang congratulated himself in secret.

The others around were watching the sparring stage.

Yin Chengzhuang was a Pupil Skill genius of the Yin Family, at the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak. Even if he wasn't Chen Yu's match, he could still force out Chen Yu's techniques.

However, half a moment later, the situation on the sparring stage was still one chasing the other, appearing rather dull.

"Yin Chengzhuang is at the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak, how can he be so afraid of Chen Yu, fleeing continuously?"

"He's overestimating Chen Yu too much."

"Fight already!"

The surrounding shouts were incessant.

Being talked about like this, Yin Chengzhuang also felt that he had lost face.

He turned his head to look at Chen Yu, "Is this the extent of this young man's strength?"

"In that case, accept your defeat."

Yin Chengzhuang suddenly launched a palm strike, turned around, and his gaze concentrated on Chen Yu, his pupils covered with a layer of dark red light, flickering flames inside rapidly converging into a ball of dark red fire.

But at the moment Yin Chengzhuang turned around, Chen Yu also found his opportunity, channelling True Yuan and throwing the Giant Ruler Sword.

Boom bang!

The palm strike from Yin Chengzhuang shattered upon being struck by the Giant Ruler Sword, which continued forward, stabbing towards Yin Chengzhuang.

"Defeated."

Yin Chengzhuang shifted his body to dodge Chen Yu's giant sword, and at the same time, the Pupil Skill he had readied was activated.

But just then, a dim, twisting forcefield spread from the Giant Ruler Sword, the characteristic "Gravity" of the Giant Ruler Sword.

Unprepared, Yin Chengzhuang's form immediately sank.

"No..."

Yin Chengzhuang couldn't help but cry out, as the sinking of his body caused his Pupil Skill to miss its mark.

Spurt boom!

A burst of dark red flames exploded next to Chen Yu's thigh and then dissipated into nothing.

Boom~

Chen Yu's speed burst forth, raising a roaring gale as he attacked Yin Chengzhuang.

"Damn it, this kid's too cunning."

Yin Chengzhuang immediately took out a dark brown shield, placing it in front of him, with inscriptions on it flickering, forming a brown protective barrier.

Thump!

Chen Yu's punch landed; the demon patterns on his left arm surged and spread to his palm.

This punch carried a bit of the flavor of the Swallowing Cloud Demon Fist, a torrent of Demon Pattern True Essence spreading out.

Thump crack!

The brown light barrier shattered, and Yin Chengzhuang was terribly frightened; he knew all too well about the defensive strength of his shield.

Yin Chengzhuang immediately tried to flee, but found that Chen Yu had grabbed onto his shield with his other hand and swung it violently, nearly lifting Yin Chengzhuang off his feet, successfully hindering him.

Thump!

Chen Yu charged upward, crashing into Yin Chengzhuang's gaunt body, and heard several sounds of bones breaking.

"This is bad..."

Yin Chengzhuang spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, his expression urgent, seemingly worried about something.

As he had expected.

Smack!

Chen Yu's palm struck, the sound exceptionally loud, leaving a palm print behind.

Yin Chengzhuang's body trembled slightly; he had never suffered such humiliation before.

Smack!

The other half of his face echoed again with that sound, and Yin Chengzhuang was stunned for a moment.

Smack! Smack!

Two more slaps followed, as if composing a rhythm.

Chen Yu, accidentally using too much force, had sent Yin Chengzhuang flying out of the sparring stage.

"What a pity, after slapping so many faces, yours is still the most satisfying, so I couldn't help but hit a few more times."

Watching Yin Chengzhuang being sent flying, Chen Yu sighed.

"You..." Yin Chengzhuang's rage overwhelmed him, causing him to faint on the spot.

"Brother Yin..."

Many from the Yin Family hurried to help him up.

"Sigh, compared to Yin Chengzhuang, I'm still alright. I only took a slap..." Yin Yuan suddenly felt very fortunate.

...

"Sir, this person's name is Chen Yu, the champion of the last tournament, and his opponent this time is the most outstanding talent of the Yin Family from the Ancient Clan for these three sessions."

The elderly man spoke.

"This young man has decent combat talent, but his innate gifts are too poor," the young Great Elder commented apathetically: "However, given his young age, he still has considerable room for growth."

"As for Yin Chengzhuang, his Pupil Skill talent is quite good. Now that he has experienced this hardship, if he can pull himself together, his future achievements should surpass those of Chen Yu, and there's also a chance for him to redeem his honor."

"The Great Elder's words are very true," the elderly man flattered.

At Liuhe Mountain, the sight of Chen Yu beating Yin Chengzhuang to such a state made people reassess Chen Yu.

After all, he was the champion of the last session; even if his talent was lacking, his strength couldn't be too poor.

On Sky Sword Academy's side.

"This Chen Yu is not very strong," a short-haired man chuckled.

"No, he hasn't used his full strength yet," Ye Chengfeng said impassively.

"That sword..."

Jiang Chen focused on the sword in Chen Yu's hand, reminding him of a black-robed person he encountered half a year ago while exploring ancient ruins, who had a sword identical to what Chen Yu held.

"Hehe, let me have a go at him," the short-haired man said eagerly.

"Wait a moment..."

Jiang Chen immediately interjected.

"Brother Jiang, what's the matter?"

The short-haired man was puzzled; in the last tournament, he ranked third in strength at the Sky Sword Academy and was considered very strong.

Just then, Chen Yu, who had just finished the battle, spoke again: "Lv Guangliang."

"What? He's challenging Lv Guangliang too?"

The short-haired man was somewhat surprised; Lv Guangliang had ranked seventh in the last tournament, while he ranked tenth. Then he disdainfully said, "He's really overestimating himself, even Yuan Chen lost to Lv Guangliang, yet he dares to challenge Lv Guangliang."

On the other side, the Yunyang Academy talent prepared to challenge Chen Yu, sat back down.

Yunyang Academy's goal this time was to severely undermine the No Demon Academy.

The members of the Yin Family were almost all from the Yunyang Academy; not only had the Yin Family lost face just now, but Yunyang Academy's reputation was also tarnished. Therefore, they planned to send a strong participant to defeat Chen Yu.

However, it turned out that Chen Yu was also challenging Lv Guangliang, someone in the Middle Stage of the Guiyuan Realm!

But this was also good; after Chen Yu loses, Yunyang Academy can strike him afterward, inflicting a double blow.

"This young man indeed has confidence, daring to challenge an elder like Lv Guangliang," Yun Yingwu said with slight interest.

"Hmph, even I would have some difficulty dealing with Lv Guangliang."

Cao Xingyue snorted coldly.

"I didn't expect you would really challenge me."

Lv Guangliang was somewhat surprised, he flew out calmly and examined Chen Yu seriously: "However, with the strength you just showed, it's impossible for you to defeat me."

"Don't worry, in our battle, I will show some real skills."

Chen Yu smiled indifferently.

As soon as he said this, everyone on the scene exclaimed, "That's quite the boast."

"I don't think he defeated Yin Chengzhuang very easily."

Yin Chengzhuang, who had just woken up, unfortunately heard this statement and fainted from anger again.

"Good!"

Lv Guangliang shouted loudly, pulling out a long spear and thrusting fiercely.

Continuous spear shadows appeared, as if thousands of sharp, cold poisonous snakes surged out, attacking Chen Yu from all sides.

Madness Demon Slash!

Chen Yu wielded the Giant Ruler Sword, performing a sword technique from the Devil Wind Sword Technique, instantly producing a tempest of Sword Qi that swept forward like a crescent moon.

"My Green Ink Cloud Spear is a top-grade low-level Spiritual Artifact; do you think you can block my attack with a Half Spirit Artifact?"

Lv Guangliang's eyes were sharp, showing no mercy as he launched a furious assault.

Boom, boom, boom!

In the void, the clash of the whirlwind of spear shadows and Sword Qi erupted continuously.

"Chen Yu's sword techniques are not polished, while Lv Guangliang's spear technique has reached Great Success. Using the Green Ink Cloud Spear, combined with his rich combat experience, Chen Yu is probably going to lose this battle," Yun Yingwu observed after a brief moment.

"Junior brother, what about your new Spiritual Artifact?"

Yuan Chen murmured softly, recalling that before they set off, Chen Yu mentioned that Master Shen had crafted him a Spiritual Artifact.

He also understood that Chen Yu challenged Lv Guangliang to regain face for Yuan Chen.

"As expected of the older generation's talent, he's indeed not simple."

Seeing he couldn't gain the upper hand, Chen Yu put away the Giant Ruler Sword and drew out the Demon Flood Dragon Sword.

With this sword in hand, a terrifying sword momentum burst forth, stirring the winds and clouds, causing alarm.

Boom, bang, pong!

The Demon Flood Dragon Sword danced wildly, and the might of its sword techniques surged, the violent Sword Qi forcing back the spear shadows, giving Chen Yu the upper hand and pressing Lv Guangliang into a dangerous situation.

This abrupt change brightened the eyes of the audience and shook their spirits.

Especially Yun Yingwu, who was stunned for a moment, feeling an urge to retract his earlier words.

Chen Yu had been practicing sword techniques with the Demon Flood Dragon Sword, so his earlier use of the Giant Ruler Sword was clumsy.

Now, wielding the Demon Flood Dragon Sword, a mid-grade Spiritual Artifact with an explosive attribute, the attack power was greatly increased.

At this moment, Yun Yingwu could only hope that Lv Guangliang still had some cards up his sleeve to defeat Chen Yu.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Continuous explosions echoed in the sky, increasingly encroaching on Lv Guangliang.

In terms of offensive power, his incessant, venomous, and rapid spear techniques were already inferior to Chen Yu.

"Turns out it's a mid-grade Spiritual Artifact with explosive properties." Lv Guangliang's eyes widened, he took a deep breath, feeling envious of Chen Yu.

Chapter 510: Evil Genius

"Where did this boy get the mid-grade Spiritual Artifact from?"

Cao Xingyue couldn't help but exclaim inwardly, feeling somewhat envious.

At the moment, in head-to-head combat, Chen Yu had already suppressed Lv Guangliang.

Cao Xingyue had fought Lv Guangliang and knew firsthand that his opponent was very strong—it took him over a hundred moves to defeat him.

Doesn't this mean that Chen Yu's strength is not far off from his own?

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Wielding the "Demon Flood Dragon Sword" and executing the "Devil Wind Sword Technique," Chen Yu relentlessly pressured Lv Guangliang.

His sword never ceased moving, and his sword momentum kept climbing—a black Sword Qi whirled around Chen Yu, soaring upwards and threatening all directions.

"We can't keep going like this."

Feeling Chen Yu's formidable sword momentum, Lv Guangliang's expression turned serious. Such aggressively growing momentum, if not interrupted, would inevitably lead to his defeat.

If it could be broken, Chen Yu would be reset to the starting point, and Lv Guangliang might have a chance to win.

"Dragon and Snake Strike."

Lv Guangliang suddenly withdrew and retreated, his hands gracefully maneuvering as True Yuan continuously flowed into them.

A dark green snake shadow traced under his spear slowly transformed into a dragon, exuding a dominant dragon's aura.

Roar~

The dragon-snake spear shadow roared lowly and charged forward.

This attack was both flexible and domineering, worthy of being Lv Guangliang's finishing move.

Faced with such a powerful strike, Chen Yu did not back down but swung the "Demon Flood Dragon Sword" even faster, building up his sword momentum.

As the dragon-snake spear shadow approached, Chen Yu's figure suddenly leaped into the air.

Sky Flying Sword Slash!

He also executed the second major sword move from the "Devil Wind Sword Technique."

As the sword moved, it seemed as if a colossal demonic wind Sword Qi descended from the sky, the momentum was staggering.

The Sky Flying Sword Slash instantly used up half of Chen Yu's accumulated sword momentum, enhancing the sword technique's potency.

Bang!

Chen Yu's sword fell, slicing off the tail of the dragon-snake spear shadow.

His sword was less powerful than Lv Guangliang's spear.

However, Chen Yu wielded a mid-grade Spiritual Artifact with explosive characteristics.

Boom!

The explosive feature manifested, generating a wave of Demonic Qi explosion that spread out.

The spear shadow was affected, and Chen Yu swung another sword, effortlessly destroying it completely.

"The last sword."

Chen Yu's gaze sharpened, his figure leaping again as he slashed out, his sword momentum weakening once more.

Boom!

A massive black demonic light Sword Qi fell from the sky, striking directly at Lv Guangliang.

Lv Guangliang excelled in rapid and agile attacks, but defense was his shortfall.

The sword struck Lv Guangliang's long spear, bending it into a remarkable arc.

Bang!

Suddenly, the black sword light burst, creating an explosion that spread in all directions.

Lv Guangliang was blown back several dozen steps, his clothing shredded, looking somewhat embarrassed.

"Your Spiritual Artifact is powerful, I, Lv, admit defeat."

Lv Guangliang shook his head slightly and conceded, then walked down from the combat platform.

He knew Chen Yu challenged him because he had previously defeated Yuan Chen.

Moreover, Lv Guangliang admitted his defeat because of Chen Yu's powerful Spirit Artifact, otherwise, he might not necessarily be weaker than Chen Yu.

In fact, as soon as Lv Guangliang said this, many people believed it too because Chen Yu's Spiritual Artifact was indeed powerful.

Heavy weapons are known for their strong attack power, especially those of mid-grade with explosive properties.

"Brother Jiang, this person is truly strong, seems like you expected this."

The short-haired man next to Jiang Chen wore a smile.

If Jiang Chen hadn't stopped him earlier, he would have stepped forward to challenge Chen Yu.

But now, Lv Guangliang, who ranked above him, had lost, and he was definitely not Chen Yu's match.

Jiang Chen stayed silent. He stopped the short-haired man because he recognized that Chen Yu was the man in a black robe who had teamed up with them previously.

Chen Yu had been chased by a Late Guiyuan Realm cultivator but managed to survive.

Having escaped from a Late Guiyuan Realm, his strength must have been formidable, which was why he had stopped the short-haired man earlier.

"Why don't you, Brother Jiang, take this person down?"

The short-haired man suggested suddenly.

"No... I'm not his match!"

Jiang Chen shook his head slightly.

As soon as these words came out, the short-haired man and many others from Sky Sword Academy were all astounded.

Jiang Chen was the third place in the last grand competition. How could he not be Chen Yu's match? They figured Jiang Chen was being too modest.

Even though Chen Yu relied on his mid-grade Spiritual Artifact to win, he still won!

He had already won several matches in a row, carrying an unstoppable and fearless momentum that was deeply intimidating, discouraging others from easily challenging him.

"How has he become so powerful!"

Yin Chengzhuang clenched his fists tightly, slightly trembling.

Besides him, many others felt intensely emotional.

Among them was an arrogant woman in yellow robes, Qiuling from the Lv Family. In the first round of the grand competition, her Spirit Pets were killed by Chen Yu, leading to her defeat.

Over the years, she had gradually gathered new Spirit Pets, but Chen Yu had left her far behind.

Another person was Luo Haotian.

Before the grand competition, he regarded Chen Yu as insignificant, but during the competition, he was kicked off the platform by Chen Yu.

After the competition, he diligently trained and made strenuous efforts, breaking through to the Guiyuan Realm, not far from reaching the Early Guiyuan Realm Peak.

Chen Yu had already reached the early peak of Guiyuan Realm and defeated Lv Guangliang from the previous session.

"Brother Yingwu, our Yunyang Academy's reputation is going to be completely tarnished by these people," a man whispered.

Unfortunately, Lv Guangliang, who had just lost to Chen Yu, was also from Yunyang Academy.

"Yes, Brother Yingwu, we must teach this kid a harsh lesson," another woman agreed.

"There's no rush. This guy is on a roll, and besides, he's exhausted from so many fights. If I were to defeat him now, people would definitely say I was picking on him!" said Yun Yingwu very indifferently.

Firstly, he didn't feel the need to personally deal with Chen Yu, and secondly, even if he did step in, he'd have to give Chen Yu three points of credit so that when he won, he'd gain even more recognition.

To prevent Chen Yu from challenging more Yunyang Academy members, Yun Yingwu spoke, "You've fought many battles consecutively; give others here a chance to exchange tips."

As one of the hosts, Yun Yingwu's words carried a lot of weight.

But Chen Yu had already planned to stop there. He only wanted to defeat those who had tarnished the reputations of Yuan Chen, Yu Bu Yu, and his master and had no intention of challenging others.

The competitions continued. With Chen Yu, who was the top contestant in this major competition, making his appearance, the tea party entered an intensely competitive phase. Most of the participants were extremely powerful, and some were dark horses who had made a name for themselves.

"Duan Hao."

Wu Heng, a new talent from Yunyang Academy and also a possessor of the Thunder Spirit Body, issued a challenge to Duan Hao.

Duan Hao was fourth in the major contest, and Wu Heng was fifth.

Duan Hao's face turned solemn as he stepped onto the stage. Knowing Wu Heng's strength, he could only go all out to have a chance of victory.

One hundred fifty moves later, Duan Hao won.

Without resting, he challenged the Eighth Prince, who had ranked second in this contest.

The Eighth Prince, a member of the Imperial Family, was also extraordinarily talented. If Situ Lin Yu, the remarkable genius, hadn't appeared, he would have represented Yunyang Academy in winning first place.

"You're no match for me," said the Eighth Prince calmly.

"Watch out."

Duan Hao didn't waste words and immediately launched an attack.

He knew the Eighth Prince was strong, but it was precisely because the opponent was stronger that he looked forward to the battle even more.

However, in less than thirty moves, Duan Hao was defeated.

The face of the Yunyang Academy attendees looked somewhat better.

Following that, Luo Haotian, Yin Chengzhuang, and Lv Qiuling, among others, took turns to showcase their skills.

Duan Xinyue also had a bout with Yuan Chen.

"It's my turn now."

On the No Demon Academy side, Cao Xingyue thought to himself.

This tea party, he had been challenged once by Lv Guangliang. Although he had won, it wasn't spectacular.

Swoosh!

Cao Xingyue ascended the stage, his gaze sweeping around and suddenly resting on Situ Lin Yu from No Demon Academy.

"Situ Lin Yu, although I'm much older than you, as the top contender in this major contest, your abilities must be outstanding. Let's exchange a few moves," Cao Xingyue said with a slight smile.

Before setting out, Situ Lin Yu had embarrassed him, so at the tea party, it was his turn to teach the other how to behave.

Moreover, by emphasizing Situ Lin Yu's ranking, he elevated his competitor. Winning under such terms would make his own victory seem even more impressive.

"Hehe, alright, I'll play along," Situ Lin Yu said, leaping lightly onto the stage.

"Situ Lin Yu!"

"Evil Genius Situ Lin Yu is making a move."

Among the new talents, many girls shrieked while most others showed looks of fear.

"Playing?"

Cao Xingyue chuckled dryly, already infuriated inside.

Boom!

He drew out a black giant axe and violently chopped down, sending a crescent-shaped huge black light wave sweeping across, brimming with Evil Qi.

Swoosh!

Situ Lin Yu avoided the direct confrontation, leaping up while splitting his figure into three, making it hard to distinguish the real one. He swept out layers of fan shadows with his silver-gray folding fan.

"Child's play."

Cao Xingyue swung his axe, shattering all the fan shadows in the sky.

However, suddenly, a Big-headed Evil Spirit appeared in the sky.

Wah wah wah...

The Big-headed Evil Spirit started crying loudly, its enormous fierce mouth releasing layers of powerful mental sound waves toward Cao Xingyue.

Cao Xingyue frowned, finding it troublesome, and immediately focused his mind, manifesting a giant Evil Qi bear around him to counter the mental sound waves.

"Such strong mental sound waves..."

Cao Xingyue was inwardly shocked; his surrounding Evil Qi bear was actually shaking slightly.

"Evil Ghost Claw!"

Situ Lin Yu swung his jade fan, sending out a misty haze of grey fog.

Boom!

From within the fog, suddenly a ghastly pale ghost claw extended with incredible speed, striking towards Cao Xingyue.

Then followed the second, third... nearly a hundred ghost claws stretched out.

"This kid... how is he so strong?"

Cao Xingyue found it very troublesome as Situ Lin Yu was stronger than he had anticipated.

He had just witnessed the strength of the Eighth Prince, ranked second, and had estimated Situ Lin Yu's abilities.

But what he didn't know was that in this major contest, Situ Lin Yu had overwhelmed the Eighth Prince, who had been ranked second!

Pong!

In the sky, the other two Situ Lin Yus suddenly exploded into a fog, turning into two fierce ghosts.

It turned out this wasn't a movement technique or shadow clone, but a transformation into fierce ghosts, which was why Cao Xingyue had been unable to distinguish the real from the illusions.

"Death..."

Both ghosts, one at the early peak of Guiyuan Realm and the other at the early Guiyuan Realm, roared together, charging at Cao Xingyue.

"Damn it... how could this be?"

If earlier Cao Xingyue felt it was troublesome, now he was genuinely frightened.