Eternal Heart 65

Chapter 65: Meteorite Iron Betting Battle
The next day.
Chen Yu arrived at the Elder Mansion as planned and met with his master, Elder Mao Qiuyu.
Standing beside Elder Mao was a slightly arrogant, fair-faced youth in black clothing, about the same age as Chen Yu.
"This is your Senior Brother Chang Xuan."
Elder Mao introduced.
"It's an honor to meet you, Senior Brother Chang."
Chen Yu bowed slightly and observed the youth in black carefully.
This Chang Xuan, whom he had heard mentioned repeatedly by his two other senior brothers, was a true disciple of Elder Mao and was dearly loved by the master.

"Hmm."
Chang Xuan replied with just a word, his tone quite cold.
Chen Yu felt slightly awkward.
However, since the other party was a "True Disciple," he indeed had the confidence, being only a year older than Chen Yu at the most but already at the Mid-stage of Organ Refining.
"Chen Yu, I called you here today to participate in the 'Meteorite Iron Battle'; you might have a chance to enter the fray."
Elder Mao explained.
"Meteorite Iron Battle? Isn't it participated in by senior disciples in the Organ Refining Stage?"
Chen Yu was astonished.
Though he had come first in the External Sect Grand Competition previously, he was still a tender newcomer in the Inner Sect.

Within the Inner Sect.
Most disciples were at the Organ Refining Stage, and some veteran disciples were only half a step away from the Qi Transformation Realm.
"The veteran disciples have already fought several rounds in their matches. Today's competition will delve into the Meridian Passage Stage."
Elder Mao's expression was grim.
Previously, those senior elite disciples had participated in many battles, but they had lost more than they won.
Seeing Elder Mao's grim expression, Chen Yu did not press further.

After a short while.
Elder Mao, accompanied by Chang Xuan and Chen Yu, arrived at the sect's critical area, "Yuntian Hall."

Yuntian Hall was generally where the sect's upper echelons held council.
This was Chen Yu's first visit there.
Inside Yuntian Hall, some high-ranking officials, including elders and hall masters, had already arrived.
This included previously met figures like the Yunyue Sect Master, Elder Nangong, Fairy Xia Yu, among others.
Moreover.
There were also some young elite disciples visible, such as the Seventh Prince and Mu Xueqing.
The hall was filled with an air of solemnity.
The faces of the high-ranking officials present all looked grim.
"Everyone is here."

Clad in a blue robe, the Yunyue Sect Master spoke up, "Is the roster for today's battle, concerning the Meridian Passage Stage candidates, finalized?"
As soon as his words fell.
Two young men and a woman, three young disciples, stepped forward.
These three disciples were uniformly at the Peak of Meridian Passage Stage, their aura nearly touching the Organ Refining Stage.
"My granddaughter, 'Qiu Yue'er', was originally planning to advance to the Organ Refining Stage soon. This is good timing. She possesses a specially made treasure, the 'Ling Yue Sword,' which can exert greater power."
An elder in a white robe, stroking his beard, chuckled.
Qiu Yue'er.
The gazes of the crowd fixed on the young girl among the three disciples.
Dressed in simple green clothes, she appeared around fourteen or fifteen years old and rather petite. Her fair, delicate face, straight aquiline nose, and bright eyes under curved eyebrows exuded natural beauty.

"Qiu Yue'er pays respect to all the seniors."
The girl smiled playfully and bowed to the surrounding high ranks, earning their approval.
Clearly.
This Qiu Yue'er was set to be a key player in today's battle.
The other two young men were also quite exceptional, both almost ready to advance to the Organ Refining Stage.
"Shi Chuan, Peak of Meridian Passage, extremely high comprehension, has learned the high-level cultivation technique 'Golden Wave Saber' to near Great Success."
The second young man in green also introduced himself briefly.
Chen Yu was inwardly shocked. The quality of the disciples within the Inner Sect was exceptionally high.
The difference between the Inner and External Sect: younger age, higher cultivation level, and advanced techniques.

Even though Duan Xiaolong had previously been the strongest in combat in the External Sect, he was already several years older.
"Wan Dong, Peak of Meridian Passage, strong real combat skills, often mingling with fierce beasts. He has cultivated 'Cloud Evil Fist' to Great Success, limited in full potential by his cultivation level."
The third young man also introduced himself.
'Cloud Evil Fist?'
Chen Yu was a bit shocked; the third youth named "Wan Dong," like him, practiced 'Cloud Evil Fist.'
Perhaps due to the sensing of Evil Qi, Wan Dong suddenly looked sideways, locking eyes with Chen Yu.
Instantly.
A dense surge of Evil Qi and murderous intent rushed forth.
The 'Cloud Evil Inner Breath' within Chen Yu aggressively pulsed, repelling the opponent's Evil Qi.

Wan Dong displayed a trace of surprise, giving Chen Yu an extra glance.
"Are there a few more 'reserve' candidates?"
The Yunyue Sect Master smiled again.
He was mostly satisfied with the quality of the three disciples he had just seen.
Promptly.
A few more youths emerged from the crowd, about five or six, each at least in the Late-stage of Meridian Passage.
Among them, Chen Yu spotted a familiar face, Le Feng.
"You, come forward too."
Elder Mao nodded to Chen Yu.

Reserve?
Chen Yu was slightly taken aback but also stepped forward, lining up with Le Feng and the other six.
It turned out.
Today's Meridian Passage Stage battle had selected three main participants and seven reserves.
The three main participants were Qiu Yue'er, Wan Dong, and Shi Chuan, three disciples of extraordinary origins.
The seven reserves were Chen Yu, Le Feng, and five others.
"Eh! This lad seems to be the first place winner of this session's External Sect Grand Competition."
Several high-ranking elders recognized Chen Yu.
Grand Competition first place?

Qiu Yue'er and the other two cast a uniform glance at Chen Yu, but their expressions subtly conveyed a hint of disdain.
Different from Chen Yu.
Qiu Yue'er and others, possessing extraordinary aptitude or impressive backgrounds, had entered the Inner Sect early on and were given focused training.
For disciples like Chen Yu, who came from the External Sect and had inferior talent, they looked down on him from the heart and felt a sense of superiority.
This feeling of superiority, Chen Yu had also experienced from Chen Ying'er, which was not surprising.
"Sect Master Junior Brother, my disciple has recently had a fortuitous breakthrough to the Late-stage Meridian Passage. He should also qualify for the main force."
Elder Mao spoke up.
"Oh?"
The Blue Robed Sect Master glanced at Chen Yu, quite surprised, "However, the three main forces have been basically determined. We'll see how things go at that time."

Elder Mao's words gave Qiu Yue'er's three main forces a sense of crisis.
The three main forces swept their gazes over Chen Yu, their eyes unfriendly.
"Brother Chen."
Le Feng gave a bitter smile and greeted Chen Yu.
Actually.
With the strength of Nangong Li and Duan Xiaolong, they also had a chance to participate in the gambling battle, at least as alternates.
However, both of them had recently advanced to the Mid-stage of Organ Refining.

An hour later.

At Yunyue Sect, in front of a large stone platform, hundreds of people gathered.
The stone platform, about ten feet high and irregularly elliptical, covered an area of about one or two acres.
"Is this the Trial Gold Platform?"
Qiu Yue'er's three main forces looked at the stone platform, nervous yet excited.
Hum!
Suddenly, pale golden lights flickered on the stone platform, with array patterns shimmering, seemingly a combat platform of an Array.
"The Trial Gold Platform is where True Disciples compete for rankings each year."
Wan Dong, who also practiced the Cloud Evil Fist, looked forward with longing and anticipation.
Trial Gold Platform, the battle for True Discipleship!

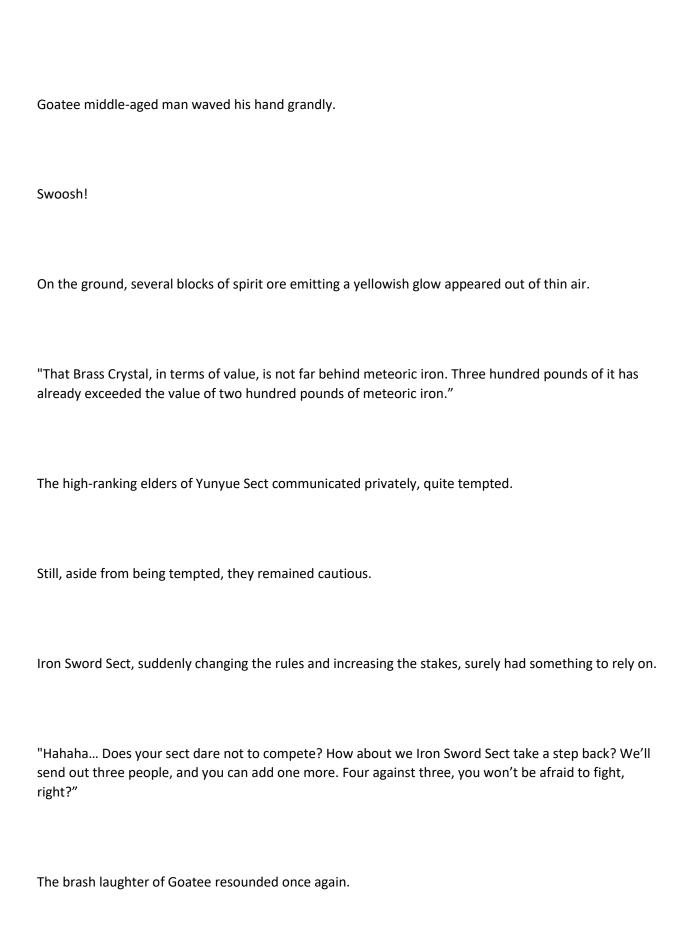
In Yunyue Sect, the status of True Disciples was not entirely unshakeable.
Ordinary Inner Sect disciples could challenge True Disciples. Of course, promoted disciples like Nangong Li had a protection period—they could be challenged only after fulfilling three years or reaching the age of twenty.
Besides.
The True Disciples also had rankings among themselves. The top-ranked True Disciple was the Chief Disciple!
This was similar to the External Sect competition but at a much higher level and scale.
"Hahaha Yesterday's gambling battle ended in consecutive losses for Yunyue Sect. I wonder if your sect has a new turning point today."
A brash, loud laughter came from the other end of the Trial Gold Platform.
That voice, unpleasant in tone and words.
Everyone's eyes turned to a group of about fifty people on the opposite side of the Trial Gold Platform.

In front of these people, there was a flag with a rusty old iron sword marked on it.
Iron Sword Sect!
Chen Yu recognized the origin of these people.
That harsh voice came from a middle-aged man with a goatee, his face somewhat smug.
"Giggle
On another side of the Trial Gold Platform, a group of women's laughter sounded, quite pleasant to hear.
Glancing sideways.
There was a water-blue flag on that side, representing the Water Moon Sect, also with about forty to fifty people, mostly female disciples.
"Hmm?"



The goatee middle-aged man from Iron Sword Sect let out his harsh voice, "The other day, the competitions among Organ Refining Stage Disciples of Yunyue Sect were merely passable. I wonder if the Meridian Passage Stage will also be a pushover."
His grating, unbearable voice made the high ranks of Yunyue Sect grimace.
However, the gambling battle was unavoidable.
Iron Sword Sect and Water Moon Sect jointly pressured with this method, coercing an exchange for meteoric iron, which, in fact, was still considered a "gentle" approach.
In the past, for resources and territory issues, Iron Sword Sect even instigated wars.
"Let's begin."
The Yunyue Sect Master nodded.
Soon, ten disciples from Yunyue Sect stepped forward.

"Zhan Sect Master. Today's rules, how about we change them a bit? Let each side send out three people for a skirmish, but the winner can continue fighting, and the loser gets eliminated. The final winner takes all the stakes."
Goatee middle-aged man proposed.
"This
The Yunyue Sect Master exchanged glances with a few elders.
The last gambling battles, whether three-on-three or ten-on-ten, were calculated by rounds, winning a match meant acquiring the opponent's staked rare materials and spiritual treasures.
But this time, the winners could keep fighting.
Until one side's gambling disciples were completely defeated, the winning side would then take all the stakes all at once.
"The Iron Sword Sect wants to increase the stake?" Elder Nangong furrowed his brows.
"Hehe, this time, we stake three hundred pounds of Brass Crystal! Your sect only needs to stake two hundred pounds of meteoric iron."



That harsh voice made the Yunyue Sect Master and others quite annoyed.
"Fine!"
Yunyue Sect Master said coldly. Since the other party dared to boast, he was not going to be polite!