

Eternal Heart 721

Chapter 721: The Legend of the Food God

Several years ago, Tu Zhixiang was ranked sixty-third on the "Heavenly Pride List." Her current strength, to put it conservatively, could easily make the top fifty or even the top forty, making her a renowned genius in the Southern Domain.

At this moment, Chen Yu and Tu Zhixiang were continuously exchanging blows, their combat power constantly increasing, yet the outcome remained uncertain.

Suddenly, Tu Zhixiang bellowed, her jade palm sweeping through the air, summoning countless streams of blood light from the blood-colored waterfall nearby, swirling around her.

Blood Flower Palm!

Tu Zhixiang's strength increased a notch as she unleashed eighty percent of her power, striking out dozens of palms in succession.

A sea of blood light palm images formed a blood-colored flower, floating towards him, raising a blood mist whirlwind, making it difficult to differentiate the real from the fake in her movements technique.

Chen Yu showed no sign of weakness. He launched the Swallowing Cloud Demon Fist and the Demon Annihilation Claw—the enormous Demon Fist taking the lead in the attack, while another sinister black Demon Claw struck from a different direction towards Tu Zhixiang.

Boom!

When fist and palm met, the Blood Flower Palm gained the upper hand, shattering the Swallowing Cloud Demon Fist and advancing towards Chen Yu.

On the other side, she also faced an attack from Chen Yu and prepared to dodge.

But she found her movement technique seemed to be constrained by a strange force, only able to perform at eighty percent effectiveness.

"Spatial Realm Power!"

Tu Zhixiang felt a tremor in her heart, though her face showed no change.

Chen Yu was about to take advantage of the situation to attack when he suddenly thought of something and stopped.

Some days ago, Tu Zhixiang was decisively defeated by Shen Ji. If Chen Yu were to go all out now, the outcome might be uncertain, but with his astonishing defensive power, he was confident of maintaining an unbeatable position.

Such an outcome could deal another blow to Tu Zhixiang's confidence, affecting her performance in the Heavenly Pride ranking battles.

Chen Yu waved both his palms, activating the second demon pattern. A demon scale light shield appeared and blocked the remaining power of the Blood Flower Palm.

Just then.

Inside the great hall, the aged and authoritative voice of the Silent Blood Valley Master echoed, "Stop! Don't destroy my Demon Intent Fruit trees."

At this moment, as the Power of Heaven and Earth Realm from Chen Yu and Tu Zhixiang suddenly dispersed, the whole universe seemed to revolve around the great hall, controlled by every move the master made.

A single voice influencing a clash between Sky Sea Realm Venerables, this was the legendary Condensed Star King!

Chen Yu and Tu Zhixiang promptly ceased fighting and descended from the air.

In reality, with just a slight effort, the Silent Blood King could have ensured their fight didn't affect anything at all.

The Silent Blood King clearly had deep considerations, not forcing his two disciples to battle all out and determine a winner before the Heavenly Pride ranking battles.

"Remember when you first entered the valley, you were just a naive youngster. Now you've grown so much that even when your senior sister uses eighty percent of her strength, she does not have the upper hand," remarked Tu Zhixiang, feeling amazed at Chen Yu's growth.

The last time they sparred, she used sixty percent of her strength and it made Chen Yu only able to defend passively.

This time she used eighty percent, but still, no winner was determined!

She even had a feeling that going all out might not guarantee her victory.

"Thanks to the master and senior sister for taking care of me."

Chen Yu grinned.

This battle also gave him a clearer understanding of his own strengths and weaknesses.

"Good, Yu'er, you are indeed fortunate. With such strength, you have a chance to contend for the top five in the next Heavenly Pride ranking, and if you push a little, becoming the 'Heavenly Pride Star' of the Southern Domain is within reach," the Silent Blood King said, stroking his beard with relief.

Before, he had underestimated Chen Yu, but now he spoke of Chen Yu's unlimited potential.

The one who topped the "Heavenly Pride List" was called the "Heavenly Pride Star," representing the younger generation of the entire Southern Domain to a large extent.

"Heavenly Pride Star!"

Tu Zhixiang inhaled deeply with a serious look.

Which youngster wouldn't aspire to this glory representing the entire Southern Domain's younger generation?

But the vast majority are destined not to reach it, only able to look up from afar.

Following that, Chen Yu asked about two cultivation-related issues before he and Tu Zhixiang left their master's residence.

"Junior brother, during your recent travels, have you heard of the 'Food God'?" asked Tu Zhixiang suddenly as they walked.

Some days back, she had learned about the "Food God" from their master.

Thinking Chen Yu had been traveling outside all year, she decided to ask.

"Food God? What is that?"

Chen Yu looked puzzled.

"It seems you haven't seen it."

Tu Zhixiang muttered to herself.

But that was also normal, perhaps it was all just a rumor.

"Have you at least heard of the 'Food God Banquet'?" she asked again.

It was understandable that Chen Yu hadn't seen the Food God, but not even knowing what it was seemed a bit ignorant.

"What banquet? The name sounds impressive," Chen Yu asked again.

"Alright, let me enlighten you," she began.

"The Food God... a legend, a myth in some realms," stated Tu Zhixiang solemnly.

"Legend! Myth!" Chen Yu hadn't initially taken it seriously, but now his expression changed slightly as he started listening intently.

"Nobody knows exactly where he came from, how old he lived to be, or what race he belongs to, but one thing is certain, the Food God is a 'God' who pervades heaven and earth!"

When Tu Zhixiang mentioned the word "God," her expression became very grave, making Chen Yu feel as though the senior sister before him was somewhat a stranger.

"God?"

Chen Yu's heart inexplicably throbbed, his mysterious heart beating a bit faster.

Could there really be gods in this world?

Above the Condensed Star Realm, lies the Xuanming Realm.

The Emperor of the Xuanming Realm comprehends the Profound Meaning of Heaven and Earth, can move mountains and seas with a mere gesture.

Yet even such powerful beings dare not claim to be gods.

What level of a powerhouse is the Food God?

"According to ancient texts, the Food God travels through myriad realms. If he encounters an ingredient that interests him, or is suddenly inspired, for various reasons, he would host an impromptu 'Food Feast,' known as the 'Feast of the Food God!'"

At this point, Tu Zhixiang's eyes seemed to reveal a strong longing and hope.

The person known as the Food God, the dishes he cooks, one cannot even imagine how delicious they are...

"Could there really be such a wondrous event?"

Chen Yu felt amused by the novelty but still found it somewhat unreliable.

"Some time ago, I heard the Master mention that the Food God appeared in the Southern Domain of the Great Yu Realm, so I casually asked you about it,"

Tu Zhixiang added.

"Even if such a thing exists, the Feast of the Food God is not something we can participate in."

Chen Yu shook his head.

A god's feast, even the Emperor of the Xuanming Realm would be greatly tempted, not to mention the kings of the Condensed Star Realm.

This is not something those in the Sky Sea Realm can meddle with!

"It's not necessarily true, each Food God Feast has its own specific rules, all set by the Food God himself. Who can defy the rules set by a god?"

Tu Zhixiang said with a smile, her heart seemingly filled with anticipation, whether for the feast of the Food God or just for the food itself.

"It is said that the Food God once descended into a minor realm, held a Food God Feast there, and all the participants were cultivators from the Postnatal Qi Transformation Realm. Most of those attendees later became the peak echelons in that realm!"

Tu Zhixiang provided another example.

Initially, Chen Yu did not quite believe or have much hope.

But hearing so much from Tu Zhixiang, it would be hard for anyone not to be influenced at all.

At this moment, Chen Yu indeed harbored a slight hope, even if he could not participate in the Food God Feast, it would be satisfying enough just to witness it.

"Let's not talk about that anymore, we shouldn't dwell on such elusive matters. We should focus on preparing for the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle; that's our priority."

Tu Zhixiang patted Chen Yu's shoulder and walked away.

Upon returning to his residence, Chen Yu began his closed-door cultivation.

Since he was to participate in the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle, he would do his best.

"Shen Ji!"

As Chen Yu recalled the scene when he had just returned and encountered Shen Ji, his gaze became grave.

During his travels outside, he had heard people discussing the Little Demon King, Shen Ji, and the best remarks only placed him possibly within the top twenty.

Who would have thought Shen Ji would have such amazing talent, already at the mid-stage of the Sky Sea Realm!

This news would probably spread after some time.

"If the Secret Pattern Demon Body breaks through to the peak of the Early Stage of the Sky Sea Realm, my strength will increase further."

Chen Yu muttered as he circulated his True Yuan, grinding his physique according to the Body Refinement method in the Cultivation Technique.

It seemed that he suddenly had a clear goal, and this cultivation session went very smoothly.

Ten days later.

Suddenly, a layer of Demonic Pattern Light Qi surged around Chen Yu's body, radiating in all directions, hitting the Array Barrier of the secret chamber, making popping sounds.

His entire body was pitch black, covered with inscriptions and fierce demonic patterns, as if possessing some mysterious power, flickering with a strange dim light.

Chen Yu slowly exhaled, and after a moment, the oppressive atmosphere in the chamber dissipated.

"My physique has improved further!"

Chen Yu's deep, dark eyes sparkled with light, his confidence bolstered a bit more.

In terms of the soul, he had the Moon Spirit Ore Mother.

During his travels, he frequently used this treasure to cleanse and refine his soul and spirit. Together with some rare materials he used before his return, he reached the peak level of the Early Stage Sky Sea Realm.

"Now it's time for the mental realm!"

Without pause, Chen Yu continued to hone and enhance.

In terms of the mental realm, he had a treasure, "Blood Star Holy Pill."

His consciousness sank into the mysterious heart space; the next moment, a blood-red, translucent Holy Pill gleaming with dark red starlight, like a red star, appeared before him.

"Ah, Carefree Palace!"

Taking out the Blood Star Holy Pill, Chen Yu suddenly remembered the Carefree Palace.

Initially, he had killed a disciple of Carefree Palace, Fang Yan Yu, and took the "Blood Star Holy Pill" from him.

What he found ironic was that Carefree Palace was in the Southern Domain of the Great Yu Realm; he would probably encounter them in the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle.

Chen Yu could only hope that Carefree Palace did not know he had acquired the Blood Star Holy Pill.

Otherwise, as a True Disciple of Black Demon Valley, Carefree Palace would not dare do anything to him.

This was the advantage of entering a big sect!

Buzz!

Suddenly, from the Holy Pill burst forth a deep and dark red starlight, enveloping Chen Yu's body.

After a moment, his mental consciousness arrived in a strange realm, deep insights surfaced in his mind, and his entire aura suddenly rose...

Five days passed.

There was still half a month left until the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle.

Chen Yu left his residence and arrived at the outer area of Black Demon Valley.

On a wide and flat square, there were fifty to sixty figures.

This place was normally the activity area for the Outer Valley Disciples, but today, all the outer disciples were gathered outside the square, crowded beyond capacity.

"These are the young geniuses of Black Demon Valley."

"Shen Ji, Little Demon King Shen Ji is here!"

The crowd gazed in awe, including the geniuses on the square, their expressions changed.

"And there is Tu Zhixiang of Blood Demon Valley, and behind her, Chen Yu!"

Chapter 722: Gathering of Geniuses

The Tianjiao Ranking Battle had only one rule: as long as one was under the age of fifty, they could participate.

Therefore, those who met this criterion and were not too weak in strength would almost all take part. Even if they didn't place in the rankings, having the opportunity to witness the hundred talents on the "Tianjiao List" and to step onto the stage of the Tianjiao Battle was an honor in itself.

"It's said that Shen Ji has made a breakthrough to the Mid-stage Sky Sea Realm; I've always underestimated him."

"With Brother Shen's current strength, the top ten of the 'Tianjiao List' shouldn't be a problem, and he even has the hope of entering the top five. Truly deserving as the ace of Black Demon Valley!"

Most of the attention was on Shen Ji.

Although most did not like the person, his formidable strength and astonishing talent commanded attention and respect.

Besides, among the other four major valleys, there were also no lack of powerful geniuses.

Chen Yu and Tu Zhixiang were among them.

Both were disciples of the Silent Blood King from the Blood Demon Valley, with Tu Zhixiang ranked even higher on the "Tianjiao List." Additionally, being one of the Black Demon Valley's five great beauties made her even more noticeable.

Suddenly.

The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around them began to churn, and a vast and profound demonic intent surged forth like a mountain, deep as the sea.

Boom!

A giant shadow burst forth from the layers of dark clouds in the sky.

It was a massive warship as large as a mountain, covered in densely packed inscriptions that flickered with a myriad of strange lights.

There were two pitch-black demonic horns on top of the warship.

At a glance, the entire warship resembled the colossal skull of a Demon King, delivering a vast and imposing visual impact.

"Board the ship!"

A stern voice, old and chilly, emanated from within the Demon Horn Warship, quieting the world as if this was the only sound left.

"It seems that this time the team is led by the Valley Master of Yinfeng Valley."

Tu Zhixiang said and, with a leap, flew onto the warship.

And the other geniuses immediately followed suit.

Shoo!

A streak of black light shot up, stirring up billowing dark energy that made many geniuses nearby lose their balance and dodge to the side.

This black light landed on the warship and transformed into a figure. It was none other than the Little Demon King Shen Ji, who was the first to board the warship. He glanced indifferently at the geniuses below, then turned and walked away.

Soon after, the warship activated, whipping up a sky-high surge, and sped towards the distant horizon.

Only half a month remained until the Tianjiao Ranking Battle.

Most of the contestants were in secluded meditation, adjusting their condition, while some who couldn't wait sparred with others on the warship's fighting platform.

Within his secret chamber, Chen Yu was in deep meditation.

With Condensed Star Kings aboard the warship, he didn't dare to take out the Blood Star Holy Pill rashly.

Chen Yu sat cross-legged on the Earth Primordial Crystal, comprehending the Power of Heaven and Earth Realm.

The Demon Horn Warship traveled at extreme speed, seemingly containing principles of space; Chen Yu's spiritual consciousness spread out through the Earth Primordial Crystal.

After some time, his understanding of the power of space deepened.

He then practiced the Space Palm Technique to enhance his comprehension.

The Spatial Realm Power was an incredibly strong auxiliary force, capable of complementing defense, attack, and movement techniques.

In the Sky Sea Realm, there was a saying that a cultivator who comprehended Spatial Realm Power was almost invincible among their peers.

So far, Chen Yu had not met anyone else who had grasped this power.

He felt that he had a talent in this area, similar to his talent for Body Refinement, which is why he spent more time on it.

A few days later, Chen Yu took a break and practiced another secret technique, the "Six Flames Sword Finger."

The "Six Flames Sword Finger" was passed down by the Red Flame King. Chen Yu had already perfected the first point, and its power was extraordinary.

"Where has the Red Flame King run off to, not coming to find me?"

Each time he practiced the "Six Flames Sword Finger," Chen Yu couldn't help but think of the Red Flame King.

The "Six Flames Sword Finger" had six layers, three with Yang attributes and three with Yin attributes.

Normally, practicing this Cultivation Technique required one Yang Fire and one Yin Fire to unleash its greatest power.

However, Chen Yu's Innate Spiritual Flame, the Blood Crystal Flame, was quite unique, not favoring any side, which made it suitable for both types of Sword Point.

Still, in terms of power, it might not compare to the pure Yang Fire's Yangming Sword Point.

Now, what Chen Yu was practicing was the second layer: the Taiyin Sword Point.

The Taiyin Sword Point emphasized the passive Yin, the opposite of the assertive Yangming Sword Point.

Chen Yu had started practicing it long ago, but he was clearly unsuited for this style of combat technique, and the results were not significant.

The True Yuan in his body revolved, and the Blood Crystal Flame converged on his right thumb.

Whoosh!

A semi-transparent dark red light suddenly fluttered out, ethereal and passive, almost imperceptible.

If used suddenly in a chaotic battle, it could have unexpected effects.

But in terms of lethality, it was inferior to the assertive and dominating Yangming Sword Point.

Of course, Chen Yu's Taiyin Sword Point was just at the beginner's stage; if he also brought it to perfection, it would be a different story.

Along the way, Chen Yu was mastering Spatial Realm Power and practicing the "Six Flames Sword Finger."

In the blink of an eye, more than ten days passed.

One day, a long horn's resonant hum echoed within the warship, persisting for a while before ending.

Chen Yu left the secret chamber, stepped out of the warship, and looked down into the distance.

Abysses, ancient forests, towering mountains, and great rivers were interwoven into a magnificent and vast landscape.

"Is this one of the perilous lands in the Southern Domain, the 'Impoverished Mountain Ancient Land'?"

Chen Yu's gaze sharpened, as the sky and the earth occasionally revealed flying birds and beasts. Although most were intimidated by the Demon Horn Warship and dared not approach, there were also one or two fierce and majestic roars echoing out.

The warship suddenly slowed down, and up ahead, one could see a chaotic architectural landscape.

Shoo—

All the geniuses alighted.

Nearby were camps and forces of various sizes.

"These are all the people participating in the ranking battle of the Heavenly Pride List?"

Chen Yu scanned the surroundings and couldn't help but take a deep breath.

There were so many!

The Southern Domain was so vast, and there were so many geniuses—it was no lie.

The usually indifferent Shen Ji, having arrived here, slightly contained his expression as his gaze swept around.

"Demon Horn Warship, three-and-a-half-star sect, Black Demon Valley!"

"The ace of Black Demon Valley should be the Little Demon King Shen Ji, right? I heard he broke through to the mid-stage Sky Sea Realm, but I wonder if that's true or false."

A wave of discussions suddenly rose from the surrounding onlookers.

"There's still a day or two until the Heavenly Pride List ranking battle. You can interact with the other participating geniuses as long as you don't cause any fatalities."

An elder in black robes came out and instructed them.

After speaking, this elder also took the initiative to leave, flying toward other camps.

"Wind Fire Sect, Shangguan Feiyun!"

Tu Zhixiang saw the elder heading toward that particular camp, her gaze landing on a tall and straight man in a green robe.

"So, that's Shangguan Feiyun with the Sky Dragon Spear?"

Chen Yu also looked over.

He knew only a few of the talented individuals in the Southern Domain, but he had heard of many, including Shangguan Feiyun, who was said to have risen rapidly in recent years. Everyone outside said that his strength ranked in the top twenty.

Suddenly, an argument between Shen Ji and someone else came from not far away.

"Luo Qiumei, it seems like apart from you, there are hardly any decent individuals in Heavenly Jade Sect."

Shen Ji was as domineering as ever, and moreover, there was longstanding animosity between Heavenly Jade Sect and Black Demon Valley.

"Hmph, during the ranking battle, I will shut that vile mouth of yours!"

From the Heavenly Jade Sect, a woman clad in white, with a remarkable temperament, spoke coldly with frost on her face.

Whiz—

As if an invisible chill of Sword Qi spread out, biting cold, piercing into the soul.

The disciples of Black Demon Valley stepped back en masse, not daring to confront it directly.

"Luo Qiumei, the leader of the geniuses of the Heavenly Jade Sect!"

Chen Yu had some understanding of rival forces.

"Luo Qiumei, you dare to attack the disciples of Black Demon Valley? Do you really think Black Demon Valley is so easy to bully?"

Shen Ji, with intimidating momentum, coldly shouted, and a soaring demon aura tumbled out, faintly forming the vast silhouette of a demon head, its demonic might awe-inspiring.

"Brother Shen, please calm your anger. Let me test the young prodigy of Heavenly Jade Sect and verify whether your words hold true!"

A man in black robes next to Shen Ji stepped forward.

When Chen Yu had first returned to Black Demon Valley and inadvertently encountered Shen Ji, this man was by Shen Ji's side, a genius with a high reputation in Black Demon Valley, said to have participated in the previous Heavenly Pride List ranking battle.

"Zou Qing, come out."

The man in black robes immediately called out.

On the side of Heavenly Jade Sect, a man with thick eyebrows scowled, unable to pretend he hadn't heard his name being called out so directly.

"This situation looks like it's going to turn into a direct fight."

Chen Yu couldn't help but smile.

"Black Demon Valley and Heavenly Jade Sect have too many grudges. Usually, when the geniuses from both sects meet, most of the time, a fight breaks out, let alone now with the Heavenly Pride List ranking battle approaching. It's quite normal for them to exchange moves," said Tu Zhixiang nonchalantly.

"Let's see if you've improved over the past few years!"

As soon as the man in black robes finished speaking, his arms vibrated, a pattern of black and blue light undulated, and stones flew about as the power of the realm was unleashed but kept within a certain range.

Whoosh!

He waved his palm, and a black and blue light blade, stirring up a wild tempest, sliced through the air.

"This man's strength is comparable to that of He Yunwang."

Chen Yu muttered to himself.

It appeared that most people didn't usually compete for the list and instead waited for the Heavenly Pride List ranking battle to reveal their true capabilities and gain fame in one fell swoop.

This man in black robes had the strength for the "Heavenly Pride List," yet was not on the list.

The man with thick eyebrows refused to be outdone, as he represented Heavenly Jade Sect at that moment.

With his sword drawn, a flash of blue sword light appeared, slicing through the dim surroundings to create a continuous swath of blue sword aurora, cleaving through the air.

Before the sword aurora even arrived, a vast and sharp invisible Sword Intent rippled in all directions, piercing the souls of the onlookers.

"This person is also strong."

Tu Zhixiang whispered, then turned to Chen Yu, "Junior Brother, what's your goal for this battle? The ranking battle hasn't started yet, you can go and check out the geniuses who currently stand at your goal and see how strong they really are."

For instance, Tu Zhixiang's goal was the top forty, so she would soon go to observe geniuses around rank forty. Perhaps she would witness them in action to gauge whether she had a chance of victory.

"Right, I'll go and take a look later."

Chen Yu felt it was quite necessary.

He had encountered few of the people on the "Heavenly Pride List," mostly having only heard of them.

Thus, Chen Yu couldn't be sure of his own strength among the many geniuses, nor could he confidently set a target.

As they spoke, the battle between the man in black robes and the thick-eyebrowed man concluded, with the man in black robes gaining a slight advantage and leaving a wound on the thick-eyebrowed man's shoulder.

"Hahaha, is this what the geniuses of Heavenly Jade Sect amount to? I think you'd be better off returning home now to avoid further embarrassment."

Shen Ji, now with the upper hand, held the geniuses of Heavenly Jade Sect in even lower regard.

As soon as he finished speaking, many geniuses from Heavenly Jade Sect stomped their feet in anger.

Two of them were ready to step forward right away to regain face.

"Not convinced?"

But Shen Ji spoke first, "In that case, Junior Brother Chen, why don't you also give a lesson to the trash of Heavenly Jade Sect?"

Chapter 723: Old Friend

"...Junior Brother Chen, why don't you also give some pointers to the trash from the Heavenly Jade Sect."

At this moment, Shen Ji proactively brought up Chen Yu.

As a member of the Black Demon Valley and a disciple of the Silent Blood King, now that the talents of the Heavenly Jade Sect and the Black Demon Valley were at odds, with the focus falling on Chen Yu, how could he not step forward?

Yet, these words were spoken by Shen Ji. If Chen Yu were to immediately stand out, it would seem as though he was acting upon Shen Ji's orders.

Many in the Black Demon Valley knew that there had been tensions between Chen Yu, Tu Zhixiang, and Shen Ji.

If Chen Yu were to quietly do as Shen Ji said, then he would have already lost.

Shen Ji might act ruthlessly, but he was also someone with a brain.

"This guy!"

Tu Zhixiang frowned, inwardly cursing Shen Ji.

On the other side, the disciples of the Heavenly Jade Sect glared at Chen Yu one after another.

Shen Ji had insulted the Heavenly Jade Sect so openly; they had to save face and harshly humiliate Chen Yu, or else their resentment could not be quelled.

Meanwhile, some in the Black Demon Valley waited to see how Chen Yu would handle this.

Chen Yu glanced at Shen Ji and said impassively, "Since they are trash, why should I bother to give them pointers?"

Shen Ji's gaze faltered slightly. He anticipated that Chen Yu might obediently comply, or perhaps curse a couple of times, but he never expected Chen Yu to respond like this.

The disciples of the Black Demon Valley also gaped in shock.

They could tell that Shen Ji was trying to praise Chen Yu grandly, but who praises themselves this way?

Not only that, Chen Yu had put himself on a pedestal.

However, Chen Yu's boast resolved the complication posed by Shen Ji.

On the side of the Heavenly Jade Sect, like a volcanic eruption, dozens of Heavenly Jade Sect prodigies, red-faced and infuriated, wanted to fight Chen Yu to the death.

"A warrior may be killed, but not insulted!"

"I'll be damned, you're too arrogant!"

"You two bastards, I, Dong Quanjian, challenge you!"

There was a constant stream of curses from the Heavenly Jade Sect's side, drawing the attention of many forces around them.

Although I'm unwilling to give pointers to trash, out of respect for your courage, I accept your challenge!"

Chen Yu immediately said, his gaze landing on a man wearing a jade crown and embracing a treasured sword, who had the look of a swordsman about him.

"You're Dong Quanjian, right? It's you!"

Chen Yu called him out by name.

Although he had resolved the complication from Shen Ji, if he did not fight, Shen Ji might use other methods.

Coincidentally, the talents from the Heavenly Jade Sect were all crazed, shouting insults, with one yelling out a challenge to himself, yet his feet made no move forward.

Chen Yu immediately accepted this man's challenge.

It was the same act of going into battle, but one was following Shen Ji's arrangement, while the other was choosing to accept another's challenge, and the meanings were entirely different.

"What?"

Dong Quanjian's eyes widened, questioning if he had misheard.

He had only bluffed along with his sect brothers and sisters, speaking nonsense.

His cultivation was in the early stage of the Sky Sea Realm, with only average strength among the elites of the Heavenly Jade Sect; he was not confident in defeating Chen Yu, nor did he intend to truly challenge him.

Yet, Chen Yu took his bluff seriously and accepted the challenge.

Dong Quanjian was somewhat disgruntled inside. You said you disdained to give pointers, so what are you doing now?

The others from the Heavenly Jade Sect also had peculiar expressions on their faces.

Dong Quanjian had a seemingly good reputation in the Heavenly Jade Sect, but it was all hearsay, and they had no clue about his actual strength.

However, with Chen Yu having defeated He Yunwang, Dong Quanjian's strength should not be far from his, making the outcome uncertain.

"Did you perhaps misunderstand just now?"

Dong Quanjian asked seriously, with a commanding presence, yet a flicker of uncertainty in his eyes.

At this point, a female disciple from the Heavenly Jade Sect stepped forward, "Go on, Brother Dong. Be sure to teach Chen Yu a harsh lesson."

This was one of the women Dong Quanjian favored on an ordinary day, and now she was taking the initiative to speak to him, leaving Dong Quanjian at a loss for words.

"I did not misunderstand!"

Chen Yu replied affirmatively.

Having reached this point, Dong Quanjian stood forth.

"Indeed, you did not misunderstand me. I, Dong Quanjian, challenge you, to make you regret your words just now!"

"I, Dong Quanjian, may not have made it into the 'Proud Sky List,' but that's because I've dedicated myself to the Sword Dao. My goal for this Proud Sky List ranking battle is the top eighty!"

Dong Quanjian stated solemnly, displaying immense confidence as he prepared to psychologically pressure Chen Yu.

"Let's get started."

Chen Yu said concisely, the True Yuan in his feet bursting forth as he leaped out.

Seeing this, Dong Quanjian immediately fell silent, his treasured sword flew out, surrounded by purple Sword Qi.

He stretched out a finger, and the purple treasured sword traced a brilliant arc, Sword Intent condensing, furiously slashing downward.

Chen Yu charged towards Dong Quanjian, and when the sword slashed down, it struck Chen Yu directly.

Boom!

An explosion erupted on the spot, Sword Qi surged, ultimately collapsing and spreading.

"Easily blocking Dong Quanjian's strike, it seems Chen Yu did defeat He Yunwang with true skill."

"However, Dong Quanjian's strength is also considerable among us; there's still a chance for victory."

Some from the Heavenly Jade Sect side shifted their expressions slightly.

From behind, Shen Ji looked down upon Chen Yu with indifferent eyes that carried a hint of scorn, "His defensive power is not bad, but that's about all he has."

The dust settled.

Chen Yu stood up with a smile, "Thank you for the courtesy."

Then he turned around and returned to the Black Demon Valley camp.

This scene left the prodigies from both camps startled and confused.

Did Chen Yu think that an exchange of pointers was only about one move?

Dong Quanjian looked astonished, gazing down at his own arm.

His sleeve had sprouted a small hole, and suddenly it was permeated with crimson.

He was injured!

Already defeated!

Dong Quanjian felt as if an extremely yin and soft power was continuously wandering inside his body, like an incurable disease of the bone, devouring blood and vital essence.

This caused him some panic in his heart.

Dong Quanjian's actions attracted everyone's attention, and when they saw the wounds on his body, everyone's faces showed shock and they were lost for words.

"Dong Quanjian is injured? How did it happen?"

"That kid didn't launch an attack just now, did I see wrong?"

The people from the Heavenly Jade Sect whispered in alarm.

"The aim of the Taiyin Sword Point is too poor, it seems that this technique is too yin and soft, completely different from the Yangming Sword Point, so the technique of launching the point must be changed."

Chen Yu summarized in his heart.

He had approached Dong Quanjian just now, and while blocking the other party's sword, he executed the Taiyin Sword Point with his right thumb.

The yin-attributed Sword Point emphasizes subtlety and surprise.

Everyone thought there would be a fierce battle, but the fight ended as soon as it started, so the majority of people missed this scene.

"Sword Point?"

Luo Qiumei's clear and piercing eyes fell on Chen Yu's fingers.

Sword Point is also related to Sword Dao, but the difficulty of Sword Point is greater; the more powerful the Sword Point secret technique, the higher the requirements for finger strength, and it could even lead to disability.

"However, a Sword Point of this level has no effect on me at all."

Luo Qiumei shook her head slightly, not taking it to heart.

Yet, the people from Heavenly Jade Sect had lost again, which displeased her.

Shen Ji's gaze turned slightly stern, and people around felt an inexplicable sense of oppression.

This time, Chen Yu not only resolved his own troubles but also easily defeated the people from Heavenly Jade Sect, almost like slapping them in the face.

"Tao Yu, it's your turn, we must win back a round!"

Luo Qiumei's cold eyes swept across a petite woman beside her.

The competition between the Heavenly Jade Sect and the Black Demon Valley was still ongoing.

But Chen Yu was not interested in such level of contests.

He was interested in the strong talents like "Sky Dragon Spear Shangguan Feiyun," "Traceless Sword Jiang Zhengyue," as well as the top contenders rumored before, "Thunder Prince Duan Xiao," "Absolute Sword Immortal Guan Aoxue," and the number one person of the Evil Moon Sect in the rumors, "Fallen Moon Venerable."

Suddenly, many geniuses on the scene felt something and looked up into the distance.

The sky was gloomy and heavy, with dense lightning spreading all around.

Many felt an inexplicable unease and restlessness.

Swish!

A bright white light appeared in everyone's field of vision and gradually enlarged.

In the next instant, thunder surged wildly as a massive bolt of thunder descended.

This thunderbolt moved faster than the Demon Horn Warship that Chen Yu was riding, and its powerful destructive force was even greater.

Buzz crackle!

Thunder spread throughout the world, and lightning flashed in every direction.

Many people shuddered, looking around cautiously, afraid of being affected by the lightning.

"Canglei Palace, a three-star peak force from the Southern Domain!"

Tu Zhixiang remarked after a brief pause.

Swoosh—

Dozens of figures leaped down from the thunderbolt, each surrounded by electricity, striking fear into the hearts of onlookers.

The leader of Canglei Palace was a man clad in white with white hair. His face was fair and handsome, and his demeanor was extraordinary. However, the addition of lightning gave him an imposing presence.

His dark and deep eyes occasionally flashed with lightning, making onlookers' hearts skip a beat.

"Duan Xiao!"

Shen Ji and Luo Qiumei's eyes settled on him, both with a mixture of seriousness and combativeness.

Further away, top talents from various forces, including Sky Dragon Spear Shangguan Feiyun, also watched.

Buzz crackle!

A flash of lightning, thrilling and heart-stopping.

Duan Xiao landed on the ground, the focus of countless gazes around him, yet he remained unruffled, wearing a light smile.

"Is this the strength of the top five?"

Chen Yu felt the power of the lightning, and his heart actually beat more forcefully.

"He's too strong. Facing Duan Xiao, I can probably only withstand one move at most."

Tu Zhixiang took a deep breath and then sighed.

Thunder Prince Duan Xiao lived up to his reputation; just seeing him bestowed immense pressure on those around, with some already burying fear in their hearts, fearing that in the future just seeing Duan Xiao would make them subconsciously bow their heads.

"Haha, Senior Brother Duan, you're too frightening."

A large man couldn't help but laugh.

"Not at all, Senior Brother is clearly very gentle."

Another tall and strikingly beautiful woman with extraordinary presence slowly lowered her eyes, stealing a glance at Duan Xiao.

"Canglei Palace, as a three-star peak force with a long heritage, isn't known only for Young Master Cang Lei Duan Xiao. The male and female beside him are also outstanding True Disciples."

Tu Zhixiang continued.

At that moment, from another direction, roiling black fog drifted over, carrying an eerie chill.

Within the fog, several sinister and evil figures were faintly visible.

However, currently, everyone's attention was on Canglei Palace, so not many people paid attention to this three-star force called the Ancient Ghost Temple.

Amongst the black fog, the talents of Ancient Ghost Temple also focused on the strong members of Canglei Palace.

Thunder Dao was their nemesis.

"Eh?"

Chen Yu glanced at Ancient Ghost Temple without much thought, but his gaze suddenly fixated on one person.

Dressed in black, the figure had a handsome face, tranquil and profound eyes, and a mouth curved with a mischievous smile.

"Situ Lin Yu?"

Chapter 724: Middle Ancient Clan

"Situ Lin Yu?"

Chen Yu looked toward a man within the Ancient Ghost Temple faction, inevitably reminded of an old acquaintance from the Kunyun Realm.

Situ Lin Yu and Chen Yu both came from the No Demon Academy and later entered the Kunyun Sacred Land. But afterwards, Situ Lin Yu went to the Blood Star Realm and never returned, being declared dead.

But now, how could Situ Lin Yu appear here?

Chen Yu had originally thought the two men just looked similar.

But atop the sinister black clouds, Situ Lin Yu suddenly looked toward Chen Yu, and his face, with a faint smile, revealed a look of surprise.

"Who would have thought that I would encounter an acquaintance in the Great Yu Realm."

Situ Lin Yu recalled some faces from the Kunyun Realm, among which Chen Yu had made a lasting impression on him.

It could even be said that the two had a strange fate.

Entering the No Demon Academy together, entering the Kunyun Sacred Land, entering the Blood Star Realm, and now meeting again in the Great Yu Realm.

The relationship between the two men could not be said to be very good, for they had been opponents during the academy's talent ranking.

But how many could walk together to this day?

Beside them, a man in a black robe, as thin as a skeleton, with cold and dark eyes, looked at Situ Lin Yu, his gaze deep and filled with hostility.

He had been the most outstanding disciple of the Ancient Ghost Temple, but two years ago, Situ Lin Yu had suddenly emerged and quickly drew the attention of the higher-ups, and after not too long, he climbed to the same heights as him.

He also held a nameless fear toward Situ Lin Yu.

"This person's past is unknown, and he has no known relatives; it seems he just saw an acquaintance..."

The man in the black robe, "Luo Ran," scanned the area with his grim and terrifying eyes.

But with so many geniuses, and since Situ Lin Yu and Chen Yu had no obvious interaction, Luo Ran had not identified a target.

Chen Yu prepared to go forward and greet him; after all, it was rare to see an acquaintance from the Great Yu Realm.

However, just then, a conversation not far away drew his attention.

Sky Dragon Spear wielder Shangguan Feiyun, dressed in a green robe, was tall and straight, his eyes sharp, his presence unstoppable.

Facing Shangguan Feiyun, a young man with curly hair and dressed in a dark green robe, his eyes clear, watched Shangguan Feiyun with an excited smile.

Just now, this curly-haired man had challenged Shangguan Feiyun to a sparring match!

"Where did this kid come from, daring to challenge Shangguan Feiyun!"

"Hehe, probably hasn't seen much of the world."

Many disciples of the Wind Fire Sect laughed in unison.

The rules of the ranking battle of geniuses allowed anyone under the age of fifty to participate, so some Loose Cultivators and those from reclusive sects would join for excitement, but such people were not comparable to the geniuses from the great sects.

"Kid, not just anyone can challenge Brother Shangguan," a man with a pointy mouth said mockingly as he stepped out. "If Brother Shangguan fought everyone who challenged him, it would take ten days and a half months to finish."

"Then you play with me first, if I win, then let Shangguan Feiyun come up, how about that?"

The curly-haired man smiled casually.

At those words, everyone around was stunned, thinking to themselves what a brash statement this kid had made.

The man with the pointy mouth felt he had given friendly advice, but this kid, not only unappreciative, had also provoked him, provoked Shangguan Feiyun.

"Fine, I'll play with you!"

The man with the pointy mouth sneered coldly and stepped out.

"My strength, unable to withstand five moves from Brother Shangguan, once you lose to me, you will realize the gap between you and Brother Shangguan, as vast as heaven and earth."

He said with a smirk.

By saying this, when the curly-haired man suffered defeat later on, he would clearly realize his own foolishness just now, and the impact would be even greater.

"Why are you so weak?"

However, what the curly-haired man focused on was the first part of the sentence, and he subconsciously asked.

The man with the pointy mouth's face turned iron-blue as he leaped out, True Yuan bursting from within him, whipping up a violent wind within a dozen yards like countless large knives, slaughtering everything.

"Die!"

The man with the pointy mouth struck with his palm, turning the palm wind into a dark wind blade, ten yards long, and chopped down.

At this place where geniuses exchanged and sparred, they all controlled the range of their attacks, given that too many people were nearby, all of them remarkable geniuses.

Faced with the powerful strike from the man with the pointy mouth, the curly-haired man's gaze sparkled, and the space around him strangely fluctuated for a moment.

Swoosh!

The curly-haired man pointed out, a dazzling silver finger light flashing, striking the dark wind blade and piercing it in an instant.

Boom!

The deadly move of the man with the pointy mouth disintegrated on the spot, and even the surrounding realm power dissipated layer by layer.

Bang!

One finger descended, and the man with the pointy mouth was knocked flying, no severe wounds on the surface, but he could not get up again.

"What?"

Everyone exclaimed, and a brief silence fell.

The man with the pointy mouth, of mid-to-upper skill among the Wind Fire Sect's geniuses, was defeated by a single finger by this mysterious curly-haired man.

Now, they all understood that this kid was not some naïve simpleton who had not seen the world, but a hidden master.

"Spatial Realm Power..."

Chen Yu looked at the curly-haired man again.

The Great Yu Realm was teeming with talents, and he finally encountered another genius who had comprehended the power of the Spatial Realm.

Not only that, the other's finger technique was also quite mystical, as if it could target weaknesses, unravel attacks, and the like.

Sky Dragon Spear wielder Shangguan Feiyun, with a sharp look in his eyes as if they could pierce through one's heart, looked squarely at the curly-haired man.

But the curly-haired man seemed completely unaware, meeting his gaze with a faint smile.

"Your strength is extraordinary, and you have comprehended the power of the Spatial Realm. I, Shangguan Feiyun, will come and meet you."

Shangguan Feiyun leaped out, a golden spear over a yard long appearing in his hand, and a momentum of golden brilliance and fierce wind swept in all directions, rushing to the sky.

His figure was as tall and straight as the golden spear in his hand, upright and sharp!

"Shangguan Feiyun is very strong!"

Chen Yu's gaze sharpened.

"Sky Dragon Spear Shangguan Feiyun!"

"What happened?"

The commotion here caught the attention of people further away.

Shangguan Feiyun was well-known, a hot contender in the top twenty of the "Young Heroes List". Now that he was making a move, many gathered around.

The crowd did not recognize the curly-haired man who challenged Shangguan Feiyun, but they didn't think much of it, focusing their attention on Shangguan Feiyun instead.

Battle was imminent.

Shangguan Feiyun swept his golden spear across, and the dazzling golden radiance turned into a sky filled with spear shadows that shot out.

The curly-haired man's expression became slightly more serious. He struck out with a finger, the silver light shimmering and fluctuating between reality and illusion, darting back and forth rapidly.

Whiz-plop!

A portion of the sky filled with golden light was shattered by the dazzling silver finger light, leaving a large gap.

This scene shocked the onlookers, as the curly-haired man had easily broken Shangguan Feiyun's attack.

The curly-haired man leaped forward, leaving a green afterimage as he slipped through the gap.

"He actually wants to engage Shangguan Feiyun in close combat?"

"In close quarters, once Shangguan Feiyun unleashes his deadly moves, this kid won't even be able to dodge."

The crowd shook their heads slightly. The curly-haired man was strong, but he wasn't a Body Cultivation disciple, yet he chose to approach Shangguan Feiyun.

Upon getting closer to Shangguan Feiyun, the curly-haired man became even fiercer, though his eyes remained calm as still water.

Whiz! Whiz! Whiz!

His attacks sped up, finger techniques unceasing, with silver auroras shuttling back and forth around him.

Shangguan Feiyun felt like he was facing a formidable enemy. He danced his golden spear furiously, with a golden dragon's silhouette slowly taking shape behind him.

But for some reason, the golden dragon's silhouette did not materialize and eventually vanished without a trace. Shangguan Feiyun's onslaught weakened more and more, no longer fierce and domineering, but rather becoming chaotic.

After a few moves, the curly-haired man struck out with a palm, breaking through the True Yuan defense and landing on Shangguan Feiyun.

Thud, thud, thud!

Shangguan Feiyun was forced to take three steps back, coming to a halt.

An eerie silence fell around them, as the crowd looked on with wide eyes, some in disbelief.

Shangguan Feiyun had lost!

Moreover, they felt that Shangguan Feiyun had not used his full strength, as if he had intentionally held back.

Just then, several figures flew over from the distance, each with a powerful aura, and all were unfamiliar faces.

"Brother Chen? You're here and you didn't join us?"

A woman approached the curly-haired man, complaining.

"Wasn't I looking for them? I searched for half a day and didn't find anyone from the Hou Clan."

The curly-haired man spoke with a cheerful laugh, but his eyes seemed to dodge, indicating he was likely telling a lie.

"The Hou Clan? Could it be..."

Shangguan Feiyun's gaze flickered, and he felt somewhat relieved in his heart.

If he had been defeated by a nobody, he couldn't have accepted it, but losing to a prodigy of the Hou Clan was a different matter.

"The Hou Clan, so it's someone from the six Ancient Clans."

A man next to Chen Yu had a look of sudden realization.

The six Ancient Clans of the Great Yu Realm had all been handed down from the Middle Ages, and history had seen Emperor Level powerhouses born from each!

The six Ancient Clans also had the Middle Ancient Clan and Emperor Clan as designations.

After the person from the Middle Ancient Hou Clan left, a disciple from the Wind Fire Sect stepped forward and asked, "Brother Shangguan, why didn't you give it your all just now?"

"Give it my all?"

Shangguan Feiyun smiled helplessly. It wasn't that he didn't give it his all; he simply couldn't.

During the battle, the curly-haired man "Meng Chen" had used the Hou Clan's secret technique, the Mystical Void Finger Technique, which invisibly severed many meridians within his body.

Without saying much more, Shangguan Feiyun returned to his camp to heal.

With two days left until the Young Heroes List ranking battle, sects and other forces were arriving one after another, as were Loose Cultivators and hidden solitary practitioners.

At a certain moment, a huge green ship sped through the sky.

"This symbol..."

Chen Yu looked at the sect symbol on the green ship, feeling somewhat familiar.

Suddenly, he saw a woman at the bow of the ship. Her features were graceful, with autumn-like eyebrows and classic elegance, utterly beautiful.

Her gaze carried a cold depth as she scanned below, seemingly searching for something.

"Fang Yanling... so it's the Carefree Palace!"

Chen Yu chuckled awkwardly, blending discreetly into the crowd.

Half a day later, an immense pressure descended suddenly, accompanied by strange, ethereal music that filled the heavens and earth, captivating the spirit.

Boom!

Dark clouds churned as a colossal structure appeared out of nowhere.

It was a colossal palace, pitch-black and solemn, with music emanating from within, giving off a somewhat eerie and peculiar feeling.

The palace hung in the sky, its invisible might daunting all directions!

Many down below from different factions looked up, and the exchanges that were ongoing came to a stop.

"The Evil Moon Sect has finally arrived!"

"This is the Evil Moon Sect? A four-star ruling-class force!"

Chen Yu's heart trembled as he watched the enormous palace.

For some reason, when he looked at this palace, he felt a sense of familiarity.

The structure of the black palace seemed to share some similarities with the "Blood Moon Hall" he had encountered in the Kunyun Realm.

Chapter 725: Heavenly Pride Garden

The layout of the Evil Moon Sect's black palace was somewhat similar to the "Blood Moon Hall" that Chen Yu had first encountered in the Kunyun Realm.

Even the sect's symbol felt almost the same.

Perhaps there was indeed some connection between the two.

Boom!

The black palace landed directly at the rear of the building complex.

Subsequently, figures of both men and women emerged from within, each with powerful, unnoticeable auras and impressive appearances, most of their talents inscrutable from the surface alone.

Leading the group were two women, one dressed in black with dark skin and deep eyes, exuding a mature and alluring aura, sporting a black moon mark on her brow.

Beside her, another woman in white, with skin as smooth as cream and a faint smile on her lips, bore a white moon mark on her brow.

"Yin Yang Twin Moons!"

A man's gaze focused intently on the two women, who appeared different yet uniquely captivating.

The two women walked slowly without emitting any distinct Cultivation Technique aura. On one side of them, it was dark and gloomy, while on the other, it was bright and clear.

Side by side, one dark and one light, they presented a stark contrast yet an inexplicably harmonious aesthetic.

"These twins practice the Evil Moon Sect's 'Yin Yang Moon Technique.' When alone, each is among the top ten of the 'Heavenly Pride List.' However, if they join forces, their strength might be comparable to the 'Fallen Moon Venerable' from the Evil Moon Sect."

"By the way, where is the Fallen Moon Venerable? Why haven't I seen him?"

Fallen Moon Venerable, a once-in-a-millennium prodigy of the Evil Moon Sect, was second in the last ranking battle of the Heavenly Pride List.

After two years of closure, he reappeared in the Southern Domain and conquered the former number one in ten moves, taking his place!

To this date, the Fallen Moon Venerable had occupied the throne of the Heavenly Pride List's number one for three years.

Just at that moment—

From behind the crowd, a startling and sharp Sword Intent burst forth.

Swoosh!

A figure in white floated forward from the rear and landed on a solitary stone.

Her black hair flowed like a waterfall, her eyes were serene, and though she held no sword, invisible Sword Rays wandered around her. The stone beneath her feet and the surrounding ground suddenly displayed terrifying Sword Marks.

This scene shocked the people nearby. What was this unseen sword about?

"Guan Aoxue, don't tell me you want to challenge us before the ranking battle?"

The Yin Yang Twin Moons spoke in unison, their overlapping voices creating a strangely mesmerizing yet eerie illusion.

The arrival was the popular top-five candidate, Absolute Sword Immortal Guan Aoxue!

At that moment, the three exceptionally beautiful women seemed to be engaged in an invisible skirmish.

"Is that the Absolute Sword Immortal Guan Aoxue?"

Chen Yu couldn't help but scrutinize her carefully; he had heard numerous rumors about her during his travels.

Suddenly, his mind conjured up an image of a figure in white.

"There's some resemblance... I wonder how Ye Luofeng is doing now..."

Seeing Guan Aoxue reminded Chen Yu of someone, a piece of the past, stirring a flood of emotions in him.

If Ye Luofeng were safe, she should have gone to the Eastern Domain with that unreliable, handsome man—Chen Yu wondered how she was faring now...

"Engaging me now, you still stand a chance, but in a one-on-one ranking battle, you're bound to lose."

Guan Aoxue's voice was cold and provoking, yet it carried no emotional fluctuations.

The eyebrows of the Yin Yang Twin Moons furrowed at the same time, finding Guan Aoxue, a person devoid of emotions interested in nothing but the sword, exceedingly dull.

Unable to witness a fight between the three women, the bystanders also felt quite regretful. The Absolute Sword Immortal and the Yin Yang Twin Moons were both top contenders in this ranking battle, not to mention top-tier beauties.

Guan Aoxue's gaze passed over the Yin Yang Twin Moons and many of the talented members of the Evil Moon Sect, settling on the black hall.

Before the hall stood a man with his hands behind his back, his features rugged, his eyes an eerie yellow, conveying a sense of vast antiquity.

"Fallen Moon Venerable!"

Luo Qiumei and Shen Ji also directed their gazes toward him.

Fallen Moon Venerable stood in the distance, far away yet exuding an invisible oppression over all the prodigies, causing their inner energy to stagnate and making them involuntarily hold their breath.

Fallen Moon Venerable's gaze lightly swept across the crowd before retracting, his face revealing a bored expression.

Then, he returned to the grand hall.

"This guy only thinks we're not worth observing or talking to, doesn't he?"

Shen Ji's expression turned slightly angry, his fists involuntarily clenching!

"But he has the capital to do so."

Luo Qiumei's eyes showed a touch of disappointment.

Compared with the four-star ruling power, Fallen Moon Venerable, she was like a firefly next to a bright moon.

"Is this the legendary number one of the Heavenly List?"

Chen Yu was continuously shocked.

Fallen Moon Venerable felt less like a peer and more like an old predecessor.

Clearly, Fallen Moon Venerable's cultivation was solid, his Cultivation Techniques profound, and his spirit equally vast and powerful—in all aspects, nearly flawless.

Only a very few prodigies on-site could match him in individual aspects.

Overall, Chen Yu hadn't found anyone who could equal Fallen Moon Venerable.

Although the Heavenly List ranking battle hadn't yet begun, Chen Yu had already witnessed all kinds of talents from the Southern Domain, his emotions rising and falling.

"This ranking battle, I just need to give it my all."

Chen Yu's mind suddenly steadied, and he walked into the Demon Horn Warship, no longer affected by external influences, fully focusing on preparing for the coming battle!

Just then, within the Carefree Palace camp, Fang Yanling's gaze landed on Chen Yu.

"Thief, I must avenge my brother!"

In Fang Yanling's calm eyes, a cold light suddenly appeared.

"Fang, did you see that person?"

Next to her, a handsome man in a blue robe walked out.

As the leader of this excursion to the Carefree Palace, at his inquiry, the Master had informed Chen Yu of the relevant matters and instructed him not to disclose them.

Upon hearing of Chen Yu's connection with the Carefree Palace, Li Wenyi felt a slight undulation in his heart.

He had not expected that the Carefree Palace, to which he belonged, had once clashed with a nobody from a minor realm and suffered a disastrous defeat!

Fang Yanling nodded slightly without speaking.

"This time at the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle, I will definitely defeat him."

Li Wenyi's eyes brimmed with utter confidence.

In the secret room, Chen Yu calmed his heart and sat cross-legged on the Earth Element Crystal, sensing the universe.

Two hours later, his mental state suddenly soared, reaching a new height!

"My mental realm has also reached the Peak of the Early-stage Sky Sea Realm!"

Chen Yu could not help but smile.

This included the auxiliary effects of the Blood Star Holy Pill, Moon Spirit Ore Mother, and the Earth Element Crystal, as well as the pressure Chen Yu faced from the ranking battle.

In any case, his strength had advanced a step further.

He looked forward with anticipation, to see where he could reach step by step...

Time slowly passed by.

In the final moments, only a very few individuals, either grouped or alone, arrived.

The next day.

At a certain moment, an elder in a gray-black robe flew out of the black palace of the Evil Moon Sect, his beard dragging along the ground, holding a wooden cane.

The appearance of this man disturbed the heavens and the earth, changing the colors of the sky and causing invisible forces to stir up the space.

"The Southern Domain Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle begins now."

A simple phrase thundered like a clap of lightning.

Swoosh—

From many buildings, figures dashed out, everyone looking up towards the sky simultaneously.

The moment had finally arrived!

"Right ahead is the site for the first stage of the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle, 'Heavenly Pride Garden'."

In that enormous circular building in the distance, the power of the Array suddenly activated, and a layer of colorful membrane emerged.

Through the membrane, one could see a magnificent new world inside!

This feeling was wondrous, as if viewing another world in the water from land, except the proportions of the two differed.

"This is a land demarcated by the top powers of various major sects from the Southern Domain using supreme Divine Skills in the desolate ancient lands, serving as the site for the first stage of the Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle!"

An elder from the Black Demon Valley explained.

Using supreme Divine Skills, they had captured a piece of land and merged it with the Array to form a separate space!

Chen Yu listened, his mind shaking with awe, suspecting that perhaps not even a single Condensed Star King could achieve this.

"The first stage of the Southern Domain Heavenly Pride Ranking Battle begins now!"

The long-bearded elder from the Evil Moon Sect solemnly announced.

"Just touching the Array will enable entry into the competition site of the first stage."

An elder from Canglei Palace stepped forward and spoke.

The grand comparison of the Southern Domain's Heavenly Pride involved a joint effort of various powerful factions, where sects rated three stars and above could participate, though less powerful sects had lower discursive power.

"The competition rules are simple; upon entering 'Heavenly Pride Garden,' each of you will receive a mark, and the rule is to rob others of their mark."

"Once the number of people with marks drops below five hundred, the first stage ends!"

The first stage aimed to eliminate all the idle participants among the gathered prodigies, reducing the count to five hundred.

The vast extent of the Southern Domain was indescribable, teeming with countless sects and families, far exceeding even five thousand individuals.

The main purpose of the first stage was to weed out the numerous filler participants who came just for the excitement.

"The first stage seems quite dangerous; the desolate ancient lands are known to be one of the perilous places in the Southern Domain, with no fewer than ten forbidden areas; forget it, I won't participate."

"I think the danger isn't the desolate ancient lands, but those bloodthirsty elite prodigies; the first stage didn't say killing isn't allowed..."

Immediately, some chose to give up.

Yet in that moment, countless others leapt up, approaching the massive Array.

Chen Yu and Tu Zhixiang, without any hesitation, flew toward it.

Buzz!

The moment Chen Yu touched the Array, an enigmatic force pervaded his entire body.

He saw someone nearby approach the Array and promptly get shocked away by it; that person awkwardly departed.

"It seems this Array also possesses the ability to check age," Chen Yu mused silently.

After all, this was the only unchanging rule of the Heavenly Pride Rankings.

Buzz!

A beam of light materialized, turning into a white pentagon and imprinting itself on the back of Chen Yu's hand.

In the next instant, Chen Yu's form, enveloped in a brilliant dazzle of colors, vanished without trace.

Simultaneously, an additional figure appeared within Heavenly Pride Garden.

Chen Yu stood in a forest, the ancient, mottled scent of primordial air flooding his nostrils.

He looked up; the sky appeared normal, only the external world was out of sight.

However, this was preferable—if they could see innumerable spectators upon looking up, it might have caused pressure instead.

"In the first stage, as long as I retain the mark, I won't be eliminated. But the purpose of the mark must be more than just that; otherwise, would it not make the robbery of marks meaningless?"

"There must be other roles associated with the number of marks in the first stage."

Chen Yu thought deeply.

Chapter 726: Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade

"Perhaps the number of imprints in the first part has other uses," Chen Yu thought, and others could think of this too.

Although the rules didn't specify the uses of the imprints, in such a situation, the powerful would definitely choose to collect more imprints, perhaps they will be useful later.

The ranking of the Always Proud List always required wit and bravery, along with a factor of luck.

That's why more people would lose their imprints.

When only five hundred remain, this stage would end.

Chen Yu didn't think too much, started to act, and robbed imprints.

This area was still part of the ancient poor mountains, perilous and not to be underestimated.

Suddenly.

Roar!

An angry roar came from the distance, making the sky and earth tremble, followed by a foul wind and murderous aura sweeping across, with grass and stones rolling around.

"What a strong aura, it's a Sky Sea Ancient Beast!"

Chen Yu felt the pressure but decided to check it out.

Although the ancient poor mountains were dangerous, they also held great opportunities.

This was a chance to change the final rankings.

After carefully moving through the forest, that oppressive aura grew stronger, and occasional bursts of wild foul wind, mingled with traces of blade light, scattered around.

Soon, Chen Yu saw a small valley, within it, a massive figure was faintly visible.

It was a huge Golden Bear, its torso, back, and arms covered with golden scale armor.

It roared furiously, the valley shook, and the storm raged.

Bang!

The bear was enveloped in a violent, destructive aura; with a swing of its giant paw, a tremendously powerful golden claw light tore through the air.

The person exchanging blows with it was a genius participating in the ranking battle, wearing a gray robe, holding a slightly fierce long knife.

"Could this person be 'Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade Sun Xin Hao' from the Always Proud List at seventy-two?" Chen Yu secretly observed the gray-robed man.

However, even if it was Sun Xin Hao, he could only dodge against this Golden Armored Giant Bear's domineering strike.

Pfft!

That claw strike hit the nearby rock wall, leaving five massive ravines, with debris falling.

"This Golden Armored Giant Bear's cultivation has reached the mid-stage of Sky Sea Realm!" Chen Yu was slightly shocked; the danger in this first stage area wasn't small.

"Chaotic Wind Blade!"

Sun Xin Hao seized an opportunity; his large knife suddenly cleaved out. In the blink of an eye, hundreds of blade shadows chopped out, the might impressive as if intending to chop the enemy in front into pieces.

The Golden Armored Giant Bear sensed Sun Xin Hao's remarkable blade and immediately curled its body, turning its back toward Sun Xin Hao's attack.

Ding ding bang bang!

All of Sun Xin Hao's attacks landed on the golden light scale armor on the back of the Golden Armored Giant Bear, sparking countless blade light sparks and emitting dense metallic clanging sounds.

"Damn it, you stupid bear, even learning from turtles and snails, wearing a shell!" Sun Xin Hao cursed as his strike landed, leaving the Golden Armored Giant Bear unscathed.

Hearing this, the Golden Armored Giant Bear became furious, with volleying Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and sand and stones flying.

But when it came to cursing, it clearly couldn't match Sun Xin Hao, only managing to spit out four words:
"Stupid human beings!"

After its rage, the Golden Armored Giant Bear's strength increased, the terrifying ancient beast's pressure making Sun Xin Hao's expression solemn.

Ding bang!

After clashing for two moves, Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade Sun Xin Hao turned and ran.

"Stupid bear, wait for Mr. Sun, one day, I will definitely remove the turtle shell from your body."

Sun Xin Hao left a harsh threat as he fled.

"Go die, scum!"

The Golden Armored Giant Bear roared and pounced, its momentum terrifying.

Bang! Bang!

The sounds of battle gradually faded.

"Sun Xin Hao wouldn't provoke the Golden Armored Giant Bear without reason," Chen Yu thought and leapt into the valley.

Due to the recent battle, the entire valley was wrecked beyond recognition.

But next to a cave, there were virtually no signs of battle; it seemed that the Golden Armored Giant Bear deliberately avoided this area during the fight.

As Chen Yu approached the cave, he suddenly sensed something, his gaze flicked to the side, and he threw a punch.

Bang!

Before the punch even landed, a pile of rocks suddenly twisted, revealing a large yellow snake that darted away, dodging Chen Yu's attack.

This yellow snake seemed to have the ability to change color, blending perfectly with its surroundings.

"It seems there really is treasure here."

Otherwise, why else would other demon beasts be hiding here?

As Chen Yu approached the cave entrance, he sensed something unusual again.

Whoosh—

A burst of golden spikes suddenly sprung from the ground, and at such a short distance, there was no way to dodge.

Whir!

He immediately activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body, a robust body's oppressive force spreading in all directions.

Ting chi!

The golden spikes landed on Chen Yu, making a piercing sharp noise.

"This must be a trap left by the Golden Armored Giant Bear."

Chen Yu's heart tightened as he looked at the five wounds on his body. If it had been an actual claw strike from the Golden Armored Giant Bear itself, the injuries would have been much more severe.

The wounds were minor, but since the Golden Armored Giant Bear's trap had been triggered, it would definitely be aware.

Whoosh!

Chen Yu quickly darted into the cave, finding it full of colorful plants, fruits, and leaves.

These were not ordinary goods but rather precious materials, likely food that the Golden Armored Giant Bear had scavenged from nearby.

"Wood Spirit Ganoderma, Blood Spirit Fruit..." Chen Yu identified each one.

Most of the materials here were valued at several thousand Grade Essence Stones.

Suddenly, Chen Yu smelled a sweet fragrance, and his mind and body immediately relaxed in pleasure.

"What is that?"

His gaze turned to a wooden jar in the corner.

Upon closer inspection, the jar contained a golden elixir, crystal clear and very scant in quantity.

"Could this be 'Hundred Flowers Honey'?"

A slight joy rose in Chen Yu's heart.

Hundred Flowers Honey was honey brewed by the Heavenly Poison Bee.

The venom of the Heavenly Poison Bee was incredibly potent, capable of severely injuring or even killing those of the same rank if they were stung.

However, the effects of Hundred Flowers Honey were formidable, enhancing not only one's physique but also advancing one's cultivation.

Therefore, some powerful adventure teams still risked venturing into the bees' nests to collect the honey.

Without another word, Chen Yu first stored the Hundred Flowers Honey in his spatial storage, then continued to scavenge for other treasures.

Suddenly, Chen Yu felt a slight tremor in the earth, and an inexplicable sense of crisis descended.

"Not good, the Golden Armored Giant Bear is back."

Leaving behind half of the treasure he hadn't collected, Chen Yu immediately retreated, swiftly moving away.

Securing the Hundred Flowers Honey made the venture worthwhile.

Sometimes, being too greedy can cost one their life.

Just after Chen Yu left, a massive golden figure returned to the canyon. Seeing the state of the cave, it unleashed a furious roar that intimidated all living beings within several miles.

"Haha, worth it."

Chen Yu, having escaped a distance, confirmed that the Golden Armored Giant Bear hadn't followed and couldn't help but laugh.

This time he had scavenged a good amount of resources and even the Hundred Flowers Honey without having to do much, feeling incredibly lucky.

"This bear has a keen nose, better keep a distance."

Chen Yu was still not reassured, especially since he had taken the Golden Armored Giant Bear's favorite Hundred Flowers Honey.

After flying some more, he suddenly stopped.

In another direction, a man with small eyes, who was running, suddenly spotted someone and immediately tensed, simultaneously slowing his pace.

"Ranked ninety-four on the 'Talents List', Chen Yu!"

After observing Chen Yu for a moment, the man with small eyes recalled some information.

"Bad luck, running into someone from the 'Talents List'."

The man with small eyes cursed inwardly.

He was only in the Early-stage Sky Sea, which put him a notch below the geniuses on the 'Talents List'.

"Brother Chen, let's not fight."

The man with small eyes immediately spoke up.

"The first phase of the rules is to plunder tokens, but one's personal strength is certainly limited. Why don't we join forces? This would greatly increase the speed of plundering tokens."

The man offered his idea.

This way, he wouldn't have to be an enemy of Chen Yu, avoiding the risk of losing his token in defeat.

"You make a good point," Chen Yu nodded.

The first phase was too loose, with no requirement to act alone.

Teaming up would indeed enhance the ability to plunder tokens.

"I am Wu Xiao'er. Brother Chen, I look forward to learning from you."

The man with small eyes immediately approached with a smile.

"But..."

Chen Yu suddenly spoke, causing the man's face to stiffen slightly, unsure of what he would say next.

"...you don't qualify to team up with me," Chen Yu finished.

While team efficiency was indeed high, it was a different matter if your teammate was too weak.

There's a saying, fear not the godlike opponent, but the pig-like teammate.

"This..."

The man with small eyes was stunned for a moment, then his face grew incredibly angry.

Though he wasn't as famous as Chen Yu, he was still among the best of the younger generation in the Southern Domain and a once-in-a-century genius in his family.

Chen Yu's reason for refusal massively trampled on his pride.

"Chen Yu, aren't you being too arrogant? I, Wu Xiao'er, may not be on the 'Talents List', but my strength isn't weak. If given a chance, my name would appear on the 'Talents List' too!"

Wu Xiao'er retorted with a furious expression.

"Really?"

Chen Yu asked softly.

Boom!

Demon Qi whirled around, releasing the power of the Spatial Realm; within a hundred yards, a formidable oppressive force descended on Wu Xiao'er.

Chen Yu threw a punch, True Yuan surged, and demonic energies swirled, transforming into a giant black demon claw that struck down with overwhelming force.

"How strong..."

Feeling a chill, Wu Xiao'er wanted to dodge but felt an inevitable hit coming.

In haste, he drew a white broadsword and struck.

Thud!

The black demon claw fell, instantly shattering Wu Xiao'er's attack, and sent him flying, smashing a giant tree and coughing up blood.

"So strong, is this the strength of a 'Talents List' genius?"

Wu Xiao'er was incredibly alarmed. Being at the same Early-stage Sky Sea Realm, he couldn't withstand even one move from Chen Yu.

Were the talents on the 'Talents List' really that powerful?

Or was Chen Yu's true strength beyond just a ninety-four ranking?

"Hand over your token."

Chen Yu looked down, his gaze coldly overseeing.

"I'll hand it over..."

Wu Xiao'er clenched his teeth and reluctantly admitted defeat.

Just then,

The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around them oddly surged, a powerful aura rapidly approaching.

"Chen Yu, you shameless thief! How dare you take advantage while Mr. Sun lured the dumb bear away and steal the treasures from the cave!"

A voice like a huge bell shouted.

Chapter 727: A Dark Horse

"Chen Yu, you shameless thief! How dare you steal the cave treasures while Mr. Sun led away that stupid bear!"

Hearing that voice, Chen Yu guessed that the newcomer was Sun Xin Hao, ranked seventieth on the Heavenly Pride List.

However, he had not revealed himself.

How then did the other party know that Chen Yu had entered the cave and looted the treasures after he led away the Golden Armored Giant Bear?

Whoosh whoosh!

The fierce wind howled like sharp blades, slicing through the trees, which were uniformly cut down, leaving behind a swath of slicing marks on the ground.

Boom!

A tree behind the small-eyed man collapsed with a thunderous crash, and he immediately jumped up to dodge, narrowly avoiding being crushed beneath it.

"Who's this now?"

Still unsettled, the small-eyed man watched the distance and saw a figure in grey robes swiftly approaching, wielding a large, ferociously shaped blade in hand.

"Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade, Sun Xin Hao!"

The small-eyed man's heart jolted, his face turning deathly pale.

Chen Yu, ranked ninety-fourth on the Heavenly Pride List, had defeated him with just a single move, whereas Sun Xin Hao's ranking was over twenty places higher than Chen Yu's.

On the entire Heavenly Pride List, there were only one hundred spots, making this twenty-spot difference quite significant.

"No, wait, Sun Xin Hao is here for Chen Yu's problem; I can take this opportunity to escape."

A realization broke through the small-eyed man's fear.

Sun Xin Hao was strong, but he was after Chen Yu.

With Chen Yu's strength, he should be able to exchange a few moves with Sun Xin Hao, and that could be his chance to run away.

Suddenly, Sun Xin Hao arrived, hovering behind Chen Yu.

In the woods, a green snake slithered over, hissing its cold tongue at Chen Yu.

Although the snake had changed color, Chen Yu recognized it at a glance as the same one he had encountered in the canyon.

He suddenly had a realization and understood why Sun Xin Hao had left, yet knew he had slipped into the cave afterward.

"Chen Yu, hand over what you stole and your marks, and Mr. Sun may spare your life,"

Sun Xin Hao said, his disdainful gaze falling on Chen Yu, commanding in a very domineering tone.

Then, he turned to the small-eyed man, his tone even more scornful, "Give your marks to Mr. Sun, and then get lost."

"It's over."

The small-eyed man fell into despair once again.

Sun Xin Hao did not directly attack Chen Yu, instead opting to first clear him, an outsider, from the equation.

Just as the small-eyed man was about to hand over his marks, Chen Yu suddenly spoke up, "Your marks are mine!"

The small-eyed man froze, and upon realizing what was said, looked at Chen Yu as if he were looking at a fool.

Chen Yu was in grave danger and was still thinking about the marks in his hand.

Even if Chen Yu took the marks, wouldn't he still have to obediently hand them over to Sun Xin Hao? Why bother?

Behind them, Sun Xin Hao's gaze flickered, and a sharp, strong aura spread out.

"Interesting, Chen Yu, do you really think you can escape from Mr. Sun's grasp?"

Sun Xin Hao asked with interest, a cold smile curling at his mouth.

"Escape?"

Chen Yu turned to look at Sun Xin Hao, similarly revealing a slight smile.

His next words left the small-eyed man dumbstruck and caused Sun Xin Hao to pause a beat, "Hand over your marks, or I, Chen Yu, won't let you leave easily."

"Hahaha, bold words, but let's see if you have the strength to back them up,"

Sun Xin Hao laughed heartily as a wild wind rose around him, countless blade edges whirling at high speed, turning everything within tens of feet into dust.

"Too terrifying, these two lunatics."

The small-eyed man shivered all over, no longer daring to stay.

The white pentagon on the back of his hand floated out, twinkling faintly in the air.

Swoosh!

Sun Xin Hao's figure flashed like a tornado charging forward to grasp the mark.

But Chen Yu was closer to the mark, reaching it first and grabbing hold of it!

Buzz~

Instantly, the pentagon mark broke into tiny flecks of starlight, merging into the triangle on Chen Yu's hand, making it shine a few shades brighter.

"Courting death!"

When Sun Xin Hao failed to snatch it, his brows twitched, and he slashed out with his blade.

A startlingly bright blade light appeared.

Before the blade light reached him, several twister-like winds cut through the air.

Chen Yu stood his ground, motionless, as True Yuan and Demonic Qi converged around him, forming layers of black waves to block the assault.

Hiss!

In the next moment, the blade light descended, instantly splitting the black waves into two halves.

Almost simultaneously, Chen Yu's fist swung up, his power erupting. His pale skin glowed with swirling Demonic patterns, exuding a heart-palpitating presence.

Against Sun Xin Hao's extremely strong strike, Chen Yu suddenly made his move, with just a simple punch.

Boom!

The black fist collided with the white blade light, unleashing an unrefined and overpowering force, causing the void to tremble violently.

If Chen Yu's Secret Pattern Demon Body had not reached the peak of the Early Sky Sea Realm, he wouldn't have dared to take such a risk, especially since his opponent was a prodigy from the Heavenly Pride List.

On the other hand, before the start of the first round, he had witnessed the strength of various prodigies, his emotions peaking as he set his goals even higher.

The seventy-second rank on the Heavenly Pride List was merely a stepping stone for him!

Crack~

The blade light shattered, turning into countless tiny white blades that shot to the sides.

A surge of brute force mixed with Demonic True Essence blasted out, heading straight for Sun Xin Hao!

"What?"

Sun Xin Hao's expression changed drastically, that blow had been exchanged in an instant, and he had not expected that Chen Yu would possess such strength.

And the small-eyed man, who had just left, suddenly found himself being chased by a flurry of snowy-white knife blades, which scared him into hopping up and down and dodging repeatedly.

He turned around and saw a scene that shocked him so much that he almost crashed headfirst into a tree ahead.

"It looks like number ninety-two on the 'Talent Ranking' does not reflect your true strength."

Sun Xin Hao's eyes gleamed slightly with interest, and a surging True Yuan poured out, funneling into the big blade in his hand.

With a single slash, he produced hundreds of blade shadows that crisscrossed and shattered the residual force of Chen Yu's punch.

Chen Yu did not respond--the only way to make Sun Xin Hao hand over the seal was to beat him into submission.

Swish!

His feet burst with True Yuan, transforming into a black light as he dragged a dark dragon tail behind him, closing in on Sun Xin Hao.

"Hehe, I, Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade Sun Xin Hao, am not afraid of close combat."

Sun Xin Hao sneered, his blade dancing in his hand.

"Wind-breaking Blade!"

Boom!

A snowy-white blade light suddenly flashed, and a tornado rose all around, containing countless snowy blade shadows within. If one carelessly approached, they would likely be sliced into countless pieces in an instant.

"Break!"

Chen Yu let out a low shout, and an astonishing demonic intent suddenly erupted, with pitch-black Demonic Qi rolling around him.

Amidst the black Demonic Qi, a huge shadow of a Demon Fist and a ferocious, ancient Demon Claw struck out together.

Bang!

A thunderous explosion resounded as the tornado formed by the countless snowy blade shadows was abruptly blasted apart.

Sun Xin Hao, who had been hiding within it, was suddenly exposed in front of Chen Yu.

"This..."

Sun Xin Hao saw Chen Yu and looked as if he had seen a ghost.

His own killing move had been so easily broken by Chen Yu!

At that moment, he finally realized that he had paid too much attention to Chen Yu's ranking on the 'Talent Ranking' and consequently underestimated him.

Sun Xin Hao immediately slashed out with his blade. The snowy-white blade light formed countless edges around him, striking towards Chen Yu.

He himself retreated immediately.

"He is a Body Cultivator and is even better at close combat. I'll distance myself from him for now. If I can exhaust and wound him from a range, then I still have a chance to win."

Sun Xin Hao had a plan in his mind.

Being ranked seventy-two on the 'Talent Ranking,' which was much higher than Chen Yu's ranking, he wouldn't run away easily.

However, as Sun Xin Hao retreated, he suddenly sensed something and hastily dodged.

Puff!

It was a step too late—a dark red, cold flame-like energy drilled into his back.

"What is this?"

Panic began to stir in Sun Xin Hao's heart.

He felt as if a frigid flame had entered his body, spreading rapidly, wandering along his meridians, devouring his vitality.

Sun Xin Hao, who had originally planned for an attrition battle, suddenly looked distressed.

If he didn't take time to expel the cold flame from his body, his vitality would continue to be consumed, and there would be no point in fighting a battle of attrition.

After exchanging two more moves with Chen Yu, Sun Xin Hao felt the formidable ferocity and strength of his opponent.

Swish!

He abandoned his original plan and turned to flee directly.

Behind him, Chen Yu blocked all of Sun Xin Hao's blade attacks and immediately gave chase.

"Hand over the seal, or don't blame me, Chen Yu, for being ruthless."

Chen Yu would not let Sun Xin Hao escape and, employing Demon Dragon Shadow Control, he immediately burst forth.

Meanwhile, the small-eyed man had only managed to escape a few hundred yards.

"Is it over?"

Seeing the storm of battle behind him suddenly disappear, the small-eyed man couldn't help but feel puzzled.

Swish!

He flew up, looking out into the distance.

He saw two figures—one chasing, the other fleeing—growing further apart.

The small-eyed man blinked his small eyes vigorously, wondering if he was seeing things.

"Sun Xin Hao is actually being chased down!"

...

In an ancient and desolate mountain area, a round building a thousand yards wide was surrounded by countless flying artifacts, along with numerous onlookers.

"In the first round, there was actually a formidable ancient beast from the Late Stage Sky Sea Realm!"

Shortly after the start of the first round, two disciples accidentally wandered into danger and angered an ancient beast from the Late Stage Sky Sea Realm level, which crushed them to death.

"Look quickly, Absolute Sword Immortal Guan Aoxue has already defeated five people and seized five seals!"

"Apart from Fallen Moon Venerable, she ranks second in the number of seals."

When mentioning Fallen Moon Venerable, people around sighed continuously, wishing that such a talent had come from their own family or faction.

"Eh, Chen Yu, ranked ninety-four on the 'Talent Ranking,' is actually chasing down Sun Xin Hao, who is ranked seventy-two!"

"How is that possible? The two differ by twenty-two ranks."

The 'Talent Ranking' only had one hundred spots, and a difference of twenty-two ranks was already quite significant.

For example, Sky Dragon Spear Shangguan Feiyun, within ten moves, could defeat a talent ranked in the forties.

But now, Sun Xin Hao, who was ranked even higher, was actually being chased down by Chen Yu!

"This could be considered a dark horse."

Every time when the 'Talent Ranking' is contested, dark horses emerge; sometimes, even two or three.

Without a doubt, Chen Yu was the first dark horse to emerge in this 'Talent Ranking' competition!

Seeing Chen Yu's performance, the high-level members of Black Demon Valley were also astonished, obviously not expecting Chen Yu to have such strength.

Chapter 728: Bloodthirsty Massacre

Sun Xin Hao was surrounded by fierce winds howling, moving at an astonishingly fast speed, shooting forward like a sharply honed mad blade.

Speed was also one of his strong suits.

He assumed that Chen Yu, as a body cultivator, probably wouldn't be as fast as him.

However, after a few moments,

Sun Xin Hao realized the oppressive demon power still lurking behind him hadn't shaken off at all. Instead, it seemed to be closing in slowly!

A sweep of his spiritual sense.

Sun Xin Hao then saw Chen Yu draped in a purple wind-patterned cloak, stirring up a dark purple demonic wind and approaching him at a speed slightly surpassing his own.

"Purple Cloud Cloak!"

Sun Xin Hao recognized the item; it was the spiritual artifact of the Purple-clothed Demon.

"Damn, this little bastard has attack power, defensive power, and speed all surpassing me! With such strength, he should at least be within the top sixty of the 'Celestial Pride' list. He's only ranked ninety-four, he must be feigning incompetence to fool Mr. Sun!"

Sun Xin Hao cursed Chen Yu in his mind over and over.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two were in a chase, one fleeing, the other pursuing, as they streaked by.

From a nearby forest, a head popped out, staring in astonishment at the distance.

"Isn't that Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade Sun Xin Hao? Why is he being chased by Chen Yu?"

He was filled with shock and confusion but didn't dare meddle too much and immediately left the scene.

Suddenly,

While running, Sun Xin Hao felt a faint chilly breeze coming from behind and immediately tried to dodge.

Pfft!

But he was still a step too late. A dark red, cold flame-like energy pierced into his back.

"What is this finger technique? It's so bizarre."

Sun Xin Hao was slightly shocked.

The finger technique deployed by Chen Yu was very subtle; without being fully alert, it was hard to dodge.

Once it hit, the power of the technique quickly spread, wandering through the body, devouring vitality and life force, making it even harder to expel!

With this ongoing consumption, Sun Xin Hao was undoubtedly doomed, with no escape possible.

He was conflicted for a moment, thinking about just handing over the imprint to Chen Yu since the first stage had just begun.

But Sun Xin Hao suddenly noticed Chen Yu was slowing down. Following this trend, the likelihood of catching up with him wasn't high.

"Eh? Could this kid be suffering from some hidden illness, or something else that prevents him from flying at full strength?"

Sun Xin Hao pondered internally.

If that was indeed the case, he might still have a chance to turn defeat into victory.

He decided to observe a bit longer.

But what happened next completely despaired Sun Xin Hao.

Behind him, Chen Yu intermittently launched attacks of Taiyin Sword Point, which were elusive and unpredictable.

Additionally, he felt Chen Yu's finger technique skills improving progressively.

Sun Xin Hao finally realized Chen Yu was intentionally slowing down, and the reason seemed to be using him for practice!

"Damn it, Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade Sun Xin Hao, and this bastard uses me as a practice target for his secret techniques!"

Sun Xin Hao's anger erupted as he furiously scolded.

Chen Yu turned a deaf ear to his curses.

Sun Xin Hao was not weak, and he might have some hidden cards up his sleeve. Even if Chen Yu caught up, a fight would be inevitable.

In that case, it was better to use this 'Celestial Pride' expert to practice "Taiyin Sword Point."

Since the opponent was strong and would energetically dodge, it increased the difficulty of the training, making it more effective.

After several attempts, Chen Yu found his finger technique skills had improved significantly.

By this point, Sun Xin Hao looked utterly weakened, as if his body had been hollowed out, moving much slower than before, struggling to keep up.

"Sun Xin Hao, hand over the imprint obediently."

Chen Yu bellowed.

Sun Xin Hao's troubled face twisted into an expression mixed with laughter and tears.

In fact, he had already planned to do this.

But Chen Yu had been relentlessly chasing him, solely focused on practicing his finger technique, without requesting the imprint.

Was he supposed to willingly offer it up himself?

Then, his reputation as Chaotic Breaking Mad Blade would be utterly destroyed.

Thus, Sun Xin Hao had been waiting for Chen Yu to finally make the demand, which felt like a drought meeting sweet rain when it came.

But just then,

"Ah ah!"

"Run..."

In the forest ahead, two screams of agony and fright echoed.

Boom!

A violent force suddenly burst forth, bathing the world in blood-red at that moment, spreading a sinister and eerie air.

A giant blood-colored blade light, with a ferocious stance, swept across, creating a blood-colored storm with terrifying momentum.

Instantly, Chen Yu and Sun Xin Hao felt the life signals abruptly disappear.

"There's another one, Second, you go kill him!"

A rough, booming voice called out.

"Yes!"

A man in leather armor, with dark skin and wielding a blood axe, laughed wickedly as he flew to one side.

In that direction, a severely injured woman lay on the ground, looking alarmed and terrified.

Tears streaming down her panic-stricken face, she pleaded, "I've already given you the imprint, please spare me!"

"Hehe, none who fall into the hands of the Bloodthirsty Double Kill have ever left alive,"

The leather-armored brute revealed a cruel smile, his body emitting an astonishing mist of blood.

Following that, the woman, powerless to resist, was sliced into over a dozen pieces by the leather-armored brute.

"This is bad... The Bloodthirsty Double Kill!"

Sun Xin Hao's complexion instantly turned pale as a sheet.

Originally cultivators of a three-star righteous sect, the Bloodthirsty Double Kill were brothers who, by chance, received the inheritance of a Blood Path Great Power and thus embarked on a bloody and murderous path, resulting in their expulsion from their sect.

Their infamy was well-known for their bloodthirsty and brutal acts.

Among them, Bloodthirsty Leader was ranked thirtieth, and Bloodthirsty Second was ranked thirty-sixth on the "Ranking of the Proud."

Together, their combat power was even stronger.

Furthermore, their ranking was from a year ago, making it difficult to estimate their current strength.

However, Sun Xin Hao recognized that the woman whom Bloodthirsty Second had sliced into pieces was also ranked eighty-sixth on the "Ranking of the Proud."

"I'll hand over the mark to you."

Sun Xin Hao's gaze was filled with fear as he tossed the five-pointed star mark from the back of his hand.

Chen Yu received Sun Xin Hao's mark and noticed that the latter must have plundered two marks, as the star's glow was slightly brighter than his own.

But the moment he received Sun Xin Hao's mark, the two merged, brightening further.

"Hehe, seems like someone is coming; I'm going to tear him apart."

The booming voice rose again.

"This is bad!"

Sun Xin Hao felt chills all over, his scalp nearly bursting as he, despite his frailty, burst out with a speed far exceeding his previous one and swiftly fled.

"Let's go!"

Observing the two vicious brutes surrounded by overwhelming Evil Qi, Chen Yu turned and left.

He had confidence in his own strength, but facing two such highly ranked individuals from the "Ranking of the Proud" likely meant a fierce battle.

If he didn't kill Chen Yu, the Bloodthirsty Double Kill's ruthless bloodlust, incomprehensible by conventional reasoning, might follow Chen Yu incessantly.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Chen Yu and Sun Xin Hao quickly withdrew in opposite directions.

From the distant forest, a loud boom echoed.

Swoosh!

A massive and terrifying blood light shot forth, carrying a towering wave of Blood Evil Qi, striking directly at their souls.

At that moment, Chen Yu and Sun Xin Hao both staggered, their minds wavering.

"Ha ha, there are actually two."

The Bloodthirsty Leader let out a peak-like laugh and then shouted, "Second, come quickly, one for each!"

Following that, True Yuan boiled up inside Bloodthirsty Leader, the Blood Sea around him churning, transforming into several fierce Blood Pythons, causing a bone-chilling terror.

Boom!

Bloodthirsty Leader threw a palm strike, causing the Blood Sea to ripple violently, the blood wave surging with dozens of fierce Blood Pythons tearing toward Sun Xin Hao.

Sun Xin Hao's forehead was covered in cold sweat.

A bright white blade light flared, transforming into hundreds of Tornado Blade Slash strikes, cleaving through the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The numerous fierce serpentine pythons twisted their vast bodies, wildly dancing and smashing the Tornado Blade Slash into dust, a blood mist charging forward to strike Sun Xin Hao first.

Sun Xin Hao's True Yuan defense on the surface was enveloped by this blood mist, emitting a "sizzling" sound, eventually corroded completely.

Then, those dozens of gigantic pythons surged forward, each ten Zhang long, their gaping maws large enough to swallow a small house.

Boom!

Sun Xin Hao seemingly used a trump card, unleashing a shocking heavenly white blade strike that soared skyward, fiercely slashing across with world-shaking blade intent.

"Good lad, you have some skills."

Bloodthirsty Leader said with a grim smile, quickly unleashing a second and third palm strike!

The blood light engulfed a hundred Zhang radius, with Sun Xin Hao surrounded by the serpentine group, emitting a series of shrill and miserable screams...

"Indeed worthy of the thirtieth rank on the 'Ranking of the Proud,' such formidable strength."

Of course, Bloodthirsty Leader's ability to rapidly kill Sun Xin Hao was also because Sun Xin Hao had been previously wounded by Chen Yu, greatly weakening him.

Chen Yu turned tail and ran, leaving behind a trail of dark purple wind patterns.

"Hehe, where are you running to, leave your little life behind, I might give you a quick death, otherwise I'll make you wish you were dead!"

A leather-armored brute chased after Chen Yu with a sinister laugh.

He was none other than Bloodthirsty Second, ranked thirty-sixth on the "Ranking of the Proud."

Jointly, the strength of the Bloodthirsty Double Kill could likely contend with those ranked within the top twenty of the "Ranking of the Proud!"

Chen Yu saw no need to clash with such powerful foes; it would be a waste of time with nothing to gain.

Ignoring everything else, it was best to shake off Bloodthirsty Second first.

After collecting Sun Xin Hao's spoils of war, Bloodthirsty Leader noticed Chen Yu and his brother and couldn't help but say, "Eh? Isn't that Chen Yu, ranked ninety-fourth on the 'Ranking of the Proud'? He's quite fast."

He and his brother, both at the peak of the Early Stage Sky Sea Realm and ranked high on the "Ranking of the Proud," were immensely powerful.

The woman ranked eighty-sixth saw the two brothers and fled, but she was caught within five breaths and dead after ten breaths in the Netherworld!

It could be said, those ranked beyond fifty on the "Ranking of the Proud" had practically no chance of resisting them!

Bloodthirsty Leader found Chen Yu a bit suspicious, so he followed.

Outside the first segment's venue, more and more spectators were gathering, brushing shoulders.

"Shen Ji fought against Hao Liang, ranked nineteenth, and repelled him in five moves; Little Demon King's strength is far beyond our imagination!"

"Quick, look, Sun Xin Hao is dead!"

Someone suddenly exclaimed.

"It's the Bloodthirsty Double Kill, no wonder, but such a pity for a genius."

With the Bloodthirsty Double Kill's notorious cruelty, this person commented nonchalantly.

"It's not just one genius that's a pity, Chen Yu is now also being chased by the Bloodthirsty Double Kill!"

Chapter 729: A Moonless, Windy Night Perfect for Murder

Bloodthirsty Second closely pursued Chen Yu, and at the beginning, he quickly closed the gap.

But in the next instant, Chen Yu's speed suddenly increased, widening the distance between them.

"As expected of the prodigy ranked thirty-sixth on the 'Prodigy Rankings', his speed is so fast."

Chen Yu was slightly shocked within his mind, having underestimated the speed of Bloodthirsty Second.

He had just activated his Purple Cloud Cloak and, with the stored power in his heart, managed to outpace Bloodthirsty Second and quickly create a gap.

Little did he know, Bloodthirsty Second was even more astonished.

He had killed countless people and very few of his peers could exceed his speed. Each chase also wouldn't last long!

However, this time,

If things continued this way, he would be left behind by Chen Yu.

"Boy, the more you struggle, the more fun I'll have tormenting you later!"

Bloodthirsty Second sneered, his face twitching with bands of flesh.

Whirring~

The true essence of blood around him diffused, forming circles of blood-colored swirls rotating around him.

Whoosh—

Bloodthirsty Second's speed suddenly increased by about sixty percent, transforming into a blur of blood-red shadow, charging out with intimidating momentum.

Chen Yu's Spiritual Sense swept over the accelerated Bloodthirsty Second, who had unknowingly deployed some secret technique that caused a sudden surge in speed.

At this rate, he would be caught by the other party, unless he used some of his trump cards.

Boom!

With Bloodthirsty Second rapidly approaching, the intense Blood Evil Qi shot straight towards Chen Yu's mind, affecting him for an instant.

Then, Bloodthirsty Second swung his axe, creating a twenty-zhang-long shadow of a blood axe, chopping down with an aura of Blood Evil that could instill fear in those with weaker spiritual power, diminishing their resistance.

But Chen Yu, as a Demon Cultivator and possessing an overbearing demonic intent, had reached the peak of the Early-stage Sky Sea Realm with his spiritual power. It was very pure and refined, thanks to the Moon Spirit Ore Mother and half a Jade Pendant.

He was not affected at all and immediately launched a counterattack.

The True Yuan Sea boiled as Demon Pattern True Essence surged crazily, gathering on Chen Yu's left arm, merging with a black and eerie demonic pattern.

At this moment, the Demonic Qi around Chen Yu was overwhelming, casting a menacing demonic aura as he struck back.

Bloodthirsty Second felt a slight trembling in his spirit and blood, his own imposing presence reduced a notch.

He was inwardly startled, as he now sensed the feeling of facing an opponent of the same level as himself!

Swallowing Cloud Demon Fist!

A massive pitch-black Demon Fist rose into the sky, crazily devouring the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Demonic Qi, continuously growing in size.

Bang!

Two tyrannical and crazed forces collided fiercely.

Nearby mountains and forests were flattened.

"Not good, this kid is tricky!"

From behind, Bloodthirsty Leader suddenly saw the earth-shattering explosion in the distance and felt something was amiss.

Although he was cruel and bloodthirsty, he was not brainless; otherwise, he wouldn't have survived to this day.

Immediately, Bloodthirsty Leader sped up, heading over.

Thud, thud!

Chen Yu took a few steps back to stabilize his figure, feeling a powerful surge of Blood Evil Qi rushing into his body, stirring wildly.

However, Chen Yu's physique was extremely formidable, and he forced it out of his body in an instant.

On the other side, Bloodthirsty Second took three steps back, his face filled with astonishment.

He hadn't expected such an outcome!

At that moment, he even doubted if he had remembered Chen Yu's ranking on the "Prodigy Rankings" incorrectly.

"Good lad, to be able to confront me head-on, it seems your strength far exceeds your rank. But this makes it even more interesting."

Bloodthirsty Second's expression returned to normal, once again revealing a cruel smile.

Chen Yu looked directly at Bloodthirsty Second, and from that strike, he was able to roughly gauge the other's bottom line. If he were to use some of his trump cards, he could win.

However, at that moment, he sensed a strong fluctuation of True Yuan rapidly approaching him.

"It's Bloodthirsty Leader."

Chen Yu thought inwardly.

Bloodthirsty Leader was stronger than Bloodthirsty Second. If the two joined forces, that would be the true Bloodthirsty Double Kill, unstoppable by anyone!

Swoosh!

Chen Yu turned to leave, leaving behind a trail of black and purple Qi flow.

"Don't run, you rascal!"

Bloodthirsty Second immediately gave chase.

He had taken an interest in Chen Yu and would not let go easily.

If he didn't tear Chen Yu to pieces this time, he would feel he didn't live up to his name.

...

The vast circular arena was like a painting scroll, displaying a variety of brilliant confrontations.

"As expected of Fallen Moon Venerable, the rightful number one on the 'Prodigy Rankings', with the highest number of imprints so far."

As the number one ranked on the "Prodigy Rankings," about seventy percent of the people present were paying attention to Fallen Moon Venerable's moves.

"Eh, that seems to be Li Wenyi from Carefree Palace, he actually repelled Xiao Qian, who is ranked twentieth!"

"Bloodthirsty Second has caught up to Chen Yu!"

A plump middle-aged man from Heavenly Jade Sect chuckled.

He was the Great Elder of Heavenly Jade Sect's Heavenly Feather Peak lineage, and Zhuo Buhuan was his disciple.

Zhuo Buhuan's death was not directly related to Chen Yu, but it had a significant impact on the Heavenly Feather Peak branch, hence he harbored discontent towards Chen Yu.

Beside him, the higher-ups of Black Demon Valley looked somewhat tense.

Chen Yu was Silent Blood King's disciple, with high expectations, and in the next "Prodigy Rankings" event, he might compete for the top ten or even the top five.

"This Bloodthirsty Double Kill has a lot of nerve to dare to hunt down a True Disciple of my Black Demon Valley."

An elder with a long beard snorted.

"The Prodigy Rankings battle is, by nature, a cruel competition, where the strong rise and the weak are eliminated. I hope the older generation of Black Demon Valley won't seek personal revenge when the time comes."

The plump middle-aged man said with a smile.

At this moment, within the Array world, Chen Yu and Bloodthirsty Second clashed with each strike!

Surrounded by the outside world, everyone could only rely on their eyes to observe, unable to detect any aura, even the Condensed Star King was no exception.

Therefore, they could only see Chen Yu clash with the Bloodthirsty Second in a hard hit, seemingly unscathed.

The surprised expression of the rotund middle-aged man softened slightly, his eyebrows furrowing momentarily before he regained his composure.

"Ha ha, Elder Zheng is right, but please don't underestimate the True Disciple of Black Demon Valley."

The bearded elder immediately stroked his beard and laughed, slightly proud.

But in his heart, he was also very surprised, had Chen Yu's strength reached the point where he could compete with the Bloodthirsty Second?

That was the power ranked thirty-sixth on the "Genius List"!

The standoff between the elders of Black Demon Valley and Heavenly Jade Sect attracted quite a bit of attention.

"I think Chen Yu might have used some secret technique to block Bloodthirsty Second's hit, look how he ran off immediately!"

"However, Chen Yu won't be able to escape. Bloodthirsty Second will never let him get away alive!"

The rest of the crowd commented on the confrontation between the two geniuses as they watched.

Time passed, and after the time it took to brew a cup of tea, Bloodthirsty Second still had not caught up to Chen Yu.

This pursuit attracted the attention of many talented individuals.

During this time, Bloodthirsty Leader encountered Shangguan Feiyun wielding the Sky Dragon Spear and, after a few exchanges of blows, Bloodthirsty Leader retreated and went to look for the Second's trail.

"Chen Yu is quite smart, playing hide and seek with Bloodthirsty Second. With his Purple Cloud Cloak, he is even more agile, choosing areas with obstacles to lead Bloodthirsty Second on a wild goose chase!"

"Amazing, ranked ninety-four on the 'Genius List', he has been able to keep up with Bloodthirsty Second for so long!"

Hearing the surrounding conversations, the facial expression of the Heavenly Jade Sect's rotund middle-aged man grew slightly sterner.

An hour passed.

Bloodthirsty Second still hadn't caught up with Chen Yu, the distance between them growing larger and larger.

"You damned brat, have the guts to fight me, what's with all this hiding!" shouted Bloodthirsty Second, cursing out loud.

The Bloodthirsty Double Kill had an extreme lust for killing and would always eliminate their target, so Bloodthirsty Second pursued Chen Yu relentlessly.

But Chen Yu was running circles around him. As a Body Cultivator, his agility far surpassed Bloodthirsty Second's, and aided by the Purple Cloud Cloak, with occasional charging of his heart, Chen Yu didn't have to worry about Bloodthirsty Second's threats at all.

"I haven't seen Bloodthirsty Leader for half a day now, what's going on?" Chen Yu wondered.

Normally, the Bloodthirsty Double Kill should have joined forces against him by now.

"Can't be careless, the Bloodthirsty Double Kill are not only murderous but also cunning and deceitful!" Chen Yu silently cautioned himself.

"However, it's almost dark."

Half an hour later, the sky grew dark.

Chen Yu kept increasing the distance from Bloodthirsty Second, yet the latter was still able to track his movements.

"This guy, he just won't give up."

Chen Yu looked at Bloodthirsty Second with slight annoyance, the man was like an annoying bug.

His goal was not just to be among the top forty on the "Genius List", not even the top thirty!

At a certain moment, Chen Yu made a decision!

After more running around in circles, night fell.

"The moon is dark, and the wind is high...a night for a killing!"

Chen Yu suddenly stopped, standing on a tree branch, perfectly still, concealing his breath.

In an instant, a mysterious dark power permeated the area.

Chen Yu's skin began to darken and seemed to shimmer with a black light.

In a single breath, Chen Yu became pitch-black, and his surroundings were even darker; if he remained motionless, he might as well merge with the dark.

This was the bloodline power of the Night Winged Wolf!

Whoosh!

Bloodthirsty Second suddenly stopped mid-air, his eyes full of confusion as he scanned the surroundings, releasing his Spiritual Sense.

"Where did this kid go?" he thought to himself.

Had he lost him?

If Big Brother knew about this, it would be so embarrassing!

Chasing down someone of lower cultivation and ranking, and still letting him escape.

Suddenly!

Bloodthirsty Second felt an eerie chill on his back.

At first, he didn't take it seriously, but when he turned around, his expression changed drastically, and goosebumps stood up all over his body as he swung his blood axe.

Whoosh!

A dark shadow rushed at him, fast as lightning.

Only when the shadow drew near did Bloodthirsty Second manage to see it clearly, his face revealing even more shock.

This person... was Chen Yu!

Clang!

He swung his blood axe to meet Chen Yu's fist, and in the silent night, a loud, sharp clash of metal rang out.

Step, step, step...

Bloodthirsty Second retreated eight steps, his arms numb and sweaty palms cold.

In this exchange, he had been completely overpowered by Chen Yu!

And for a moment, he even felt a sense of crisis!

Bloodthirsty Second gathered his True Yuan, readying his blood axe.

But after the one exchange, Chen Yu had already vanished without a trace.

Suddenly.

Bloodthirsty Second noticed a pain in his shoulder, and upon looking, there was a blood hole that wasn't there before.

A cold flame entered his body, spreading everywhere, devouring his life force!

"I've been injured by him!" Bloodthirsty Second found it hard to believe.

At that moment.

From the darkness, a weak, cold breath once again assaulted him...

Chapter 730: A Punch to the Head

In the darkness, a faint, chilling breath came at him once more.

"Chen Yu, go to hell!"

Bloodthirsty Second roared, turned around, and the blood axe cleaved through the air. A twenty-zhang-long blood-colored axe shadow burst forth, carrying an overwhelming evil Qi.

Boom!

Straight ahead, a dark red cold light was instantly crushed by the blood axe.

"It's not Chen Yu!"

Bloodthirsty Second's heart jolted, and his scalp exploded.

The Taiyin Sword Point was gentle and erratic, unlike the direct and forceful Yangming Sword Point, making it easy to control and change the sword point's direction.

At this moment, Chen Yu used this method, exposing Bloodthirsty Second's flaw.

Behind Bloodthirsty Second, a shadow suddenly drew close.

As Chen Yu neared Bloodthirsty Second, confident his attack wouldn't miss, a violent Demonic True Essence power surged from his fist.

His target was Bloodthirsty Second's head!

"Not good!"

Sensing the threat of death, Bloodthirsty Second panickedly circulated his True Yuan, summoning a powerful force deep within his body.

Boom!

As Chen Yu's fist came crashing down, a burst of blood light erupted from the nape of Bloodthirsty Second's neck, transforming into a viscous and flexible blood curtain, like concentrated blood.

The punch landed with no effect, its force dispersed by the blood curtain.

At the same time, the sticky blood curtain reached out to envelop Chen Yu.

Swish!

Chen Yu activated the Bloodline Power of the Night Winged Wolf, greatly enhancing his agility and perception, and swiftly retreated to dodge.

Gurgle, gurgle...

The sticky blood curtain wrapped around Bloodthirsty Second's body, protecting him as if alive.

"Chen Yu, I will tear you to pieces!"

Bloodthirsty Second's features twisted fiercely, his eyes threaded with blood.

He couldn't tolerate the fact that he nearly died at Chen Yu's hand, let alone being utterly terrified.

For this ranking battle on the prodigy list, he had prepared his trump card, using it in the first stage and against Chen Yu, no less.

If he didn't flay and dismember Chen Yu, his hatred wouldn't be appeased.

"Indeed, among all the geniuses in the Southern Domain, those who stand out and rank high on the prodigy list aren't so easily killed."

Defeating Bloodthirsty Second wasn't difficult for Chen Yu if that was his goal.

Moreover, by forcing Bloodthirsty Second to use his life-saving technique, Chen Yu was one step closer to his objective.

Chen Yu's strong perception allowed him to sense that the blood light screen surrounding Bloodthirsty Second was slowly fading, which clearly couldn't last much longer.

He held his breath and hid in the darkness, quietly waiting.

"The spectators from the outside world probably can't detect the Bloodline Power I used."

He speculated in his mind.

The venue for the first stage was a separately created mini-world.

For the people of the outer world to observe this world was remarkable indeed.

Furthermore, by activating the Night Winged Wolf's Bloodline Power, Chen Yu merged with the darkness, making it difficult for even the nearby Bloodthirsty Second to detect him, not to mention the spectators who were further away and separated by a spatial barrier.

...

Outside, it was also night, yet colorful lights shined brightly as if it were day.

"It's amazing, the Holy Sanctuary Sky Realm Formation can even change the day and night cycle within its interior mini-world."

"Though there are many unfair aspects in the ranking battle of the prodigies, there are also many efforts to seek fairness, such as the night being the main stage for agile types, assassins, and Mechanical Masters!"

Most geniuses, after a day of running and fighting, chose to rest and recuperate at night.

Yet some prodigies concealed themselves during the day, springing into action only when night fell.

On the other side.

The upper echelons of Heavenly Jade Sect and Black Demon Valley were paying close attention to Chen Yu and Bloodthirsty Second's situation.

When they witnessed Chen Yu not continuing to flee, but instead engaging in combat with Bloodthirsty Second, many were surprised, inwardly wondering if Chen Yu had lost his mind.

However, the subsequent battle became incomprehensible to them.

Chen Yu seemed to become a different person in the night, appearing and disappearing unpredictably, causing Bloodthirsty Second to fall completely into the defensive.

At night, their vision was not very clear.

Additionally, since Chen Yu activated his Secret Pattern Demon Body, which was entirely black, no one in the audience could tell that he was using the Night Winged Wolf's Bloodline Power.

"What's the matter with that Bloodthirsty Second? Can't he handle Chen Yu?"

The plump middle-aged man's brows furrowed slightly.

During the day, although Bloodthirsty Second was led on a wild goose chase by Chen Yu, he still had the upper hand in a head-on fight.

But at night, Bloodthirsty Second was thoroughly on the defensive.

"Could it be that Chen Yu has cultivated the Assassination Path?" the plump middle-aged man suspected.

Elder Long-bearded of Black Demon Valley, on the other hand, was worried about Chen Yu.

Logically speaking, the likelihood of Chen Yu escaping should have been greater with the coming of night, but he chose to fight instead.

"Ah, Bloodthirsty Second's secret technique is about to dissipate."

He suddenly noticed that the sticky blood curtain always surrounding Bloodthirsty Second was shrinking bit by bit, finally disappearing.

...

"Chen Yu, come out, you coward hiding in your shell!"

Bloodthirsty Second roared. His axe swung continuously, cutting through the air with devastating blood light shadows that traveled everywhere, destroying everything around.

His secret technique was about to disappear, and yet Chen Yu remained hidden in the darkness instead of striking again.

Bloodthirsty Second was growing anxious.

Chen Yu continued to wait, concealing himself among the broken stones and logs.

At a certain moment.

The sticky blood curtain around Bloodthirsty Second completely dissipated!

Boom!

Not far off, the ground suddenly burst open, stones and broken branches flew into the air, catapulted into chaos.

Bloodthirsty Second's entire body immediately tensed up.

It was unimaginable that Chen Yu's mere creation of some chaotic environment had frightened the notoriously fierce and brutal Bloodthirsty Second to such an extent.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Chen Yu's heart entered an explosive state, his blood surged vibrantly within, full of vitality, yet all of this was concealed by the bloodline of the Night Winged Wolf, completely undetectable to the average person!

The Holy Beast Night Winged Wolf excelled in hunting enemies from the darkness, and even more in waiting for the right moment to strike with full force!

When Chen Yu approached within sixty feet of Bloodthirsty Second, the latter suddenly sensed it and turned around to swing his giant axe, a vicious blood-colored arc accompanied by roaring clouds of Evil Qi whooshed through the air.

Swoosh!

Chen Yu remained hidden and did not reveal himself, relying on his current agility and nimbleness to dodge and draw even closer to Bloodthirsty Second.

With his heart erupting and his Bloodline Power boosting him, Chen Yu reached an inconceivable speed, incredibly difficult to capture.

"So fast!"

Bloodthirsty Second realized Chen Yu had vanished from sight in the blink of an eye.

With danger descending, Bloodthirsty Second instinctively controlled his Spiritual Artifact to chop down.

Buzz-bang!

A pitch-black fist, akin to a black hole, carrying terrifying force and surging with demonic intent, suddenly burst forth!

This fist seemed to cover all surroundings, causing Bloodthirsty Second's eyes to bulge out in horror and disbelief.

Clang!

The attack from the axe-shaped Spiritual Artifact hadn't been fully executed before it was smashed by Chen Yu's fist, flying off into the distance.

Following that, the Dark Demon Fist crashed down on Bloodthirsty Second's head.

Bloodthirsty Second had nowhere to dodge!

Thud!

A blood-stained head flew into the air, belonging to Bloodthirsty Second.

His eyes nearly protruded from their sockets, filled with shock and disbelief.

The moment Bloodthirsty Second was killed, Chen Yu took the storage space and mark from his body, picked up the axe lying not far away, and dashed towards a quiet forest in the distance.

Then, the power of his bloodline dissipated.

Those outside who witnessed this scene were dumbfounded.

Bloodthirsty Second had his head sent flying with a punch by Chen Yu, who had suddenly emerged from hiding!

Was this still the Bloodthirsty Second who ranked thirty-sixth in the "Celestial List" and whose notoriety spread far and wide, feared like a demonic ghost?

"Holy shit, a one-punch decapitation!"

"Am I seeing things? Is that guy really Chen Yu?"

"It should be."

However, the night was too dark, Chen Yu was covered in blackness, and on top of that his speed was so fast, no one could definitively confirm that it was he who had slain Bloodthirsty Second.

"Leaping from ninety-fourth to thirty-sixth on the 'Celestial List,' this is just... unbelievable."

A moment later.

Swoosh!

A red shadow accompanied by astonishing Evil Qi descended on the place where Bloodthirsty Second had fallen.

"Second brother!"

Bloodthirsty Leader, upon seeing the body and the nearby head, suddenly stood frozen in place, his mind buzzing.

A dark red oppressive aura of blood filled the air, as if countless snakes and pythons were writhing within, eerily horrifying.

Bloodthirsty Leader thought about Chen Yu perhaps having a hidden strength, making Second Brother unable to kill him alone, but he never imagined that the one to die would be his brother.

"Chen... Yu!"

After a short while, a chilling and vicious bloodlust radiated from Bloodthirsty Leader's eyes as he uttered each syllable with a biting intensity.

...

In the dark night, Chen Yu moved stealthily, remaining vigilant of his surroundings.

Here, the night could be more dangerous than the day.

"A cave?"

Chen Yu found a concealed cave and slew the fierce beast that was sound asleep inside, taking over the enclosure.

After sitting down cross-legged, he let out a slight sigh of relief.

"If it weren't for Bloodthirsty Second's hidden card, I would have killed him earlier and not wasted Bloodline Power."

Chen Yu felt somewhat pained by the expenditure.

Actually, with the power of the Night Winged Wolf's bloodline combined with the explosive force of his heart, Chen Yu was more than a match for a Mid-stage Sky Sea Realm Venerable.

Bloodthirsty Second's other methods would not have been enough to stop Chen Yu.

Therefore, with just one blow, Chen Yu had slain him.

"Fortunately, Bloodthirsty Second had quite a number of marks on him, at least seven have accumulated."

Chen Yu looked at the exceptionally bright pentagram on the back of his hand.

He then picked up Bloodthirsty Second's Blood Axe and after inspecting it, confirmed it was a Top-grade Spirit Artifact.

"I hope the items in the storage space don't disappoint!"

Bloodthirsty Second's storage space was a peculiar blood-colored ring.

The ring's body was forged by a Blood Snake, with its head biting its own tail.

As Chen Yu's consciousness permeated into it, he was pushed back by an invisible barrier, but given his strong spiritual power, he wasn't overly affected.

"It actually has a protective mechanism; this is a master-recognized storage space tool."

Chen Yu was secretly pleased.

This was far superior to the storage artifact he owned, and it should contain plenty of treasures.

Chen Yu proceeded without rush, channeling his spiritual power and Demon Pattern True Essence into the ring, gradually erasing the marks left by Bloodthirsty Second.

Bloodthirsty Second's strength was not that much higher than Chen Yu's, and he was not adept at the Soul Path.

In just half an hour, Chen Yu had unraveled it.

Buzz!

The ring suddenly burst into a dizzying blood-red glow.

This time, Chen Yu's consciousness smoothly entered the internal space.