Eternal Heart 94

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Chapter 94: Sparring Among Fellow Disciples
He returned to his residence.
Chen Yu took out three Fierce Snake King Gallbladders, two High Grade Body Nourishing Pills, and one Hundred-year-old Earth Spirit Ginseng, a smile appearing on his face.
Among these, the most precious was the Hundred-year-old Earth Spirit Ginseng.
The three Fierce Snake King Gallbladders also saved Chen Yu a lot of effort.
Furthermore,
The confirmation of his next task allowed Chen Yu to breathe a sigh of relief.
The invasion of the Bone Demon Palace was slowly sweeping across the whole Chu Country, and would eventually lead to an unprecedented life-and-death battle.
Subtly, disciples like Chen Yu were faced with a significant "survival crisis."

Chen Yu had only one goal at present—to survive this catastrophe and accumulate some strength before the final battle.
Luckily,
The next task was relatively leisurely and safe, significantly less dangerous.
Of course, under the current circumstances, there could be no absolutely safe tasks. There were traitors within the sect, and even Yunyue Mountain Gate could not guarantee absolute safety.
But secular tasks, at least, greatly reduced the chance of encountering secret disciples or Qi Transformation Realm experts from the Bone Demon Palace.
Moreover, wars among cultivation sects generally did not affect the secular world, as per the established customary rules.
In the following days,
Chen Yu began to meditate quietly. The practice of "Cloud Evil Fist" and "Copper Statue Technique" had entered a lull and would hardly see rapid breakthroughs for a short time.
This aspect required accumulation and settling.

Luckily, Chen Yu devoted most of his attention to the martial arts and swordsmanship.
Now,
Chen Yu's "Iron Gang Sword" had reached its peak perfection, and he had comprehended its true essence, gradually freeing himself from the original martial arts moves' constraints.
Another mid-level sword technique, "Wind-cutting Sword," was also beginning to reveal some of its essence.
The two sword techniques had entirely opposite artistic conceptions.
One focused on being light, fast, and dexterous, while the other emphasized being heavy, forceful, and stable.
The contrasting styles of these two sword techniques corroborated each other, and through further realization of his previous life-and-death battles, Chen Yu had some insights.
But they were just some insights.

It was not so simple to achieve a breakthrough or integration based on these two sword techniques!
However,
Gradually, a concept began to form in Chen Yu's mind.
"The 'Iron Gang Sword' should for now be paired with the heavy sword, and the 'Wind-cutting Sword' with the Dark Snake Sword
Chen Yu muttered to himself.
The first step was to ensure the maximized power of the sword techniques and the treasures.
Both matching strategies were excellent and could adapt to a variety of situations.
The second step,
Was to try a reverse approach: using the heavy Xuan Heavy Sword for the light, fast, and dexterous "Wind-cutting Sword"; using the short Dark Snake Sword for the heavy, forceful, and stable "Iron Gang Sword."

Chen Yu faintly believed that this idea might work.
In martial arts, there was a realm called "making the heavy feel light."
When the artistic essence of martial arts was no longer limited by the external aspects of weapons, one might reach a new level.
In the days that followed,
Chen Yu indeed tried this.
Using the Xuan Heavy Sword for the "Wind-cutting Sword," and the Dark Snake Sword for the "Iron Gang Sword."
The result,
Despite both sword techniques being nearly at their peak, there was still a slight awkwardness and contradiction in execution.
Strangely,

Within that awkwardness and contradiction, Chen Yu gained an indescribable insight.
It was quite apparent that both sword techniques became increasingly refined.
"It seems this method works."
Chen Yu nodded.
From now on, he would use this reverse approach to enhance the two sword techniques.
That day,
While Chen Yu was gaining insights into the sword techniques, two senior brothers, Li Dakui and Wu Yu, came looking for him.
"Tonight, all five of us brothers will be together."
Wu Yu explained the purpose of their visit.

It turned out,
Elder Mao's five disciples were rarely assembled all at once, and there would be a small sect gathering.
These small gatherings were quite rare.
At that time,
Elder Mao would examine the martial arts of the few disciples and provide some guidance. The brothers among the disciples would have a friendly sparring to enhance their relations.
"Good."
Chen Yu looked forward to it.
That evening, at the Elder Mansion.
In front of a flat sandy ground, all five disciples of Elder Mao arrived.

Second brother Li Dakui, third brother Wu Yu, that goes without saying.
Fourth junior brother Chang Xuan, Chen Yu also knew him.
By age, Chang Xuan was similar to Chen Yu, not much older, and had a clean, pale face, yet dressed in a black robe, embodying a cool demeanor.
That day, the scene of Chang Xuan employing the "Blood Frenzy Secret Blade" remained vivid.
"Chen Yu, this is your eldest brother, Qin Feng."
Elder Mao introduced.
A young man of average stature, dressed in worn leather armor, gave Chen Yu a friendly smile.
"Nice to meet you, eldest brother."
This was the first time Chen Yu met the eldest disciple "Qin Feng."

Qin Feng had been one of Elder Mao's earlier apprentices, nearly thirty years old, and his cultivation had reached the Peak of Refining, making him one of the Law Enforcers in the sect.
Eldest disciple, Qin Feng.
Second disciple, Li Dakui.
Third disciple, Wu Yu.
Fourth disciple, Chang Xuan.
Fifth disciple, Chen Yu.
All of Elder Mao's disciples were now present.
"Today, during this gathering, if you have any doubts about your cultivation, feel free to ask your teacher."
Elder Mao smiled lightly.

His gaze swept across the five disciples.
Chen Yu noticed that Elder Mao's gaze lingered on Chang Xuan the longest, his eyes filled with affection and anticipation.
Chang Xuan was the only True Disciple present!
His aptitude and talent were the highest among the five disciples.
In the following two hours,
The five disciples raised various doubts about their cultivation practices.
The eldest disciple, Qin Feng, focused his questions on the difficulties of breaking through to the Qi Transformation Realm.
"To break through the Qi Transformation Realm, besides the factor of Spiritual Body aptitude, the key lies in 'enlightenment'. Qin Feng, you are cultivating the 'Sky Mountain Palm', and while circulating the Inner Breath Heart Method, your mental state must comprehend a sense matching the vastness of the heavens and earth and the profound solidity of the mountains. Only then can you refine your inner breath into the corresponding Sky Mountain True Qi
Elder Mao stated.

During this process, Chen Yu and others listened intently.
Afterward,
Elder Mao checked the state of Qin Feng's inner breath and frowned, "Your body has absorbed some mixed Qi from precious materials and spirit pills, which diminishes the purity of your inner breath and its alignment with the true essence of martial arts by a slight margin."
Breaking through the Qi Transformation Realm involved many factors.
Aptitude, foundation, spiritual perception, purity of inner breath each was indispensable.
"Disciple hasted the breakthrough to the Qi Transformation Realm in the past two attempts and indeed consumed several genius treasures and auxiliary spirit pills."
Qin Feng stated with a face of embarrassment.
"Polish your temperament well, and for the next half year, it's best not to casually consume precious materials and spirit pills. However, you may take Clearing Qi Pills and Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills to expel impurities and refine your inner breath

Elder Mao's brow furrowed.
Qin Feng's condition somewhat disappointed him.
Clearing Qi Pills, Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills?
Qin Feng couldn't help but smile bitterly; such spirit pills were hard to find. Especially the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills, which had the effect of transforming one's physique, were many times more precious than Primordial Qi Pills and Clearing Qi Pills.
Subsequently,
Elder Mao resolved the doubts of Li Dakui, Wu Yu, and Chang Xuan, one by one.
He was not quite satisfied with the condition of Li Dakui and Wu Yu.
On the other hand, he praised Chang Xuan a few times.
"Xuan'er, after the gamble battle last time, you consumed 'Purple Jade Liquid', and your cultivation technique aura has become more refined. You seem close to touching the late stage of Organ Refining."

Elder Mao spoke with a smile.
Chang Xuan had made significant progress, surpassing Qin Feng and the other two.
Purple Jade Liquid could help in comprehending mental states and even aid in breaking through the Qi Transformation Realm.
Chen Yu distinctly felt that the strong aura emitting from Chang Xuan seemed to narrowly surpass that of the purple-haired youth from the Bone Demon Palace.
Finally, it was Chen Yu's turn.
Elder Mao looked at Chen Yu, a smile on his face.
It seemed that since Chen Yu had advanced his 'Copper Statue Technique' to the copper bone level, Elder Mao had begun to give him special attention.
"Master, can you check if the lingering effects from my last advancement to the Late-stage Meridian Passage are still present?"
Chen Yu quickly spoke.

"Hmm."
Elder Mao placed his hand on Chen Yu's wrist, and Innate True Qi instantly merged into his body.
Suddenly,
Elder Mao opened his eyes, looking at Chen Yu with a strange expression.
"Master, how does it look?" Chen Yu anxiously waited.
"The effect of the 'Clearing Qi Pill' is surprisingly good! The Evil Qi within your Cloud Evil Inner Breath is extremely dense yet pure and far surpasses those of the same stage. Such a foundation is not commonly solid."
Elder Mao's face showed surprise.
He had sensed Chen Yu's mental state; despite the strong Evil Qi, his divine light was clear without the slightest hidden danger from practicing the 'Cloud Evil Fist'.

"Could it be because of the 'Copper Statue Technique', which has a certain effect of transforming physique and improving constitution, coupled with the 'Ice Heart Tears
Elder Mao muttered.
He could only attribute this to the lost body cultivation technique.
"Yu'er, your current state is very good. With another year and a half of hard cultivation, Organ Refining is within reach!"
Elder Mao praised.
Chen Yu was overjoyed upon hearing this. As long as the lingering effects from the previous Blood Pool opportunity were resolved, not affecting his future prospects, he was greatly relieved.
After answering some doubts,
The fellow disciples engaged in friendly sparring.
Among them,

Chang Xuan and the eldest disciple, Qin Feng, had a fight. Despite being at the Mid-stage of Organ Refining, Chang Xuan did not lose to Qin Feng, who was at the Peak of Refining.
This was still Chang Xuan not using the 'Blood Frenzy Secret Blade'.
Afterward,
Li Dakui, Wu Yu, and Chen Yu also sparred with each other.
Among them,
Li Dakui, with his cultivation and treasure advantage, naturally defeated Wu Yu, who was at the Early Stage of Organ Refining.
Following Wu Yu's defeat, he sparred with Chen Yu.
He originally thought he could gain an advantage against Chen Yu, but the outcome was unexpected.
"Wind-cutting Sword!"

Chen Yu, holding a heavy sword, executed the swift and clever 'Wind-cutting Sword'.
Puchi-puchi!
The Xuan Heavy Sword, at an astonishing speed, conjured a flurry of wind-breaking sword shadows, with occasional faint silver wind-like sword flashes slashing swiftly, almost impossible to guard against.
The fellow disciples present all felt a sense of contradiction from the swordsmanship.
Yet Wu Yu was suppressed to the point of being breathless.
After dozens of moves,
Wu Yu ended up losing in embarrassment, half of his sleeve sliced off by Chen Yu's sword.
This was still with Chen Yu holding back his strength; otherwise, he would have injured Wu Yu earlier.
"Conceded."
Chen Yu, after winning, decided to leave well enough alone.

He had used the recent sparring to test his own swordsmanship.
"Dakui, you try now."
Unexpectedly, a gleam flickered in Elder Mao's eyes, instructing the second disciple Li Dakui to step forward.
"Ha ha! Isn't this a bit too bullying?"
Li Dakui grinned broadly.
Although he said this on the surface, deep inside, he held a grudge against Chen Yu for not trading Qi Storage Pills previously.
He was determined to make Chen Yu embarrass himself in this sparring session.
"Here it comes."
Li Dakui swung his treasure blade, and a ripple-like surge of wild blade light and shadow leapt toward Chen Yu, striking through the space between them.

As soon as he made a move, he attacked Chen Yu from a distance with his treasure blade.
Obviously,
Li Dakui was aware of Chen Yu's advantage in body cultivation.
Chen Yu immediately felt a pressure far exceeding Wu Yu's; with Li Dakui at the Mid-stage of Organ Refining and holding a treasure weapon, his cultivation technique was also stronger.