

Genius 1641

Chapter 1641 - Two Grandmasters!

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No matter how Steward Fu speculates, these have little to do with Qin Fang, and Qin Fang is happy to stay out of it. Even if the Fu Family and Cui Family start fighting, Qin Fang will just watch the excitement as a bystander.

The results of the two blood samples came out quickly. One naturally belonged to Shi Yuan Yilang, and although Steward Fu didn't get a DNA sample of Cui Zhimin for comparison, it's basically certain to be him.

The whole matter has now become much clearer...

Shi Yuan was obviously killed by Qin Fang, and there is a high possibility that Cui Zhimin also died at Qin Fang's hands.

As for their previous speculation about unidentified armed men infiltrating Bagong Mountain, perhaps they estimated wrong, or maybe these people were actually after the Fu Family's secrets. But it's clear these people were not sent by the Cui Family...

Even if the Cui Family had really lost their minds, they wouldn't sacrifice a key figure like Cui Zhimin just to cover up their conspiracy.

The secret of the Fu Family has existed for a long time, and the Cui Family is well aware of it. The two even alternated their research for hundreds of years without finding any clues. There is no way they would lose Cui Zhimin for this now.

Steward Fu might have grasped the general idea of the matter, but at most he would just inform the Fu Family Head Fu Qinglin. As for explaining it to the Cui Family... that's absolutely impossible.

The Sword Tournament is still ongoing and is now reaching a fever pitch. The young experts of the two families are fighting fiercely, striving for victory for their respective families, almost to the point of exhaustion...

In one of the matches, a young expert from the Fu Family, disgruntled over his failure, brazenly used a sneak attack, leading to the young victorious expert from the Cui Family suffering a sudden severe injury...

Qin Fang watched coldly. The injured contestant was in a critical condition, almost at death's door. If Qin Fang intervened, he could definitely save his life.

However... Qin Fang didn't do so, pretending nothing had happened and watching with indifference, without even a change in expression.

The result of this was... the enmity between the Fu Family and the Cui Family deepened once again, as could be seen from the way the Cui Family members looked at the Fu Family.

Although the match ended with the Cui Family's victory, they couldn't rejoice because the injured Cui Family expert might not survive. Even if he miraculously did, his future prospects were bleak.

This was truly horrific news; they had just learned of Cui Zhimin's disappearance, and now the younger generation suffered such a heavy blow, further fueling the fire.

The day's matches soon concluded, with four out of five matches completed, leaving only the last one... which would decide the final victory.

In the first four matches, the Cui Family and the Fu Family had each won two, resulting in a tie. Although Cui Mingjun and Fu Junhao were eliminated after challenging Qin Fang, this didn't significantly affect the competition, which led to the decisive fifth match...

The final result of the competition actually had little to do with Qin Fang and the judges; they were really there for the Yi Sword Stone, or simply to maintain face with the two families. As for the final result, they didn't care at all. They were indifferent to who won or lost since their treatment would ultimately be the same.

"I heard the Cui Family Head, Cui Haoyu, is already on his way... It seems he wants an explanation from the Fu Family!"

Qin Fang didn't care about the outcome of the match, but he was slightly surprised to hear this news.

The Cui Family Head Cui Haoyu is one of the two strongest Grandmaster-level experts in Korea, second only to the Fu Family's Fu Qinglin, and almost unmatched in Korea.

Of course, as Qin Fang knew, Korea seemed to have some Grandmaster-level experts who lived under hidden identities. For example, in the secret land of the Ryu Family, there might be an expert who could be even stronger than Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin...

Cui Haoyu is the head of the Cui Family, and like Fu Qinglin, he rarely leaves his family, usually retreating to cultivate. Only very important matters could bring them out.

The Sword Tournament is indeed a very important event for the two families, yet in reality, neither Fu Qinglin nor Cui Haoyu have shown themselves.

This shows that while the Sword Tournament is a great opportunity for young experts, it holds little significance for these Grandmaster-level experts.

But now, Cui Haoyu, who seldom goes out, suddenly rushing here suggests there's more to it, and Qin Fang is clearly skeptical.

"It's getting more and more interesting..."

Whether Cui Haoyu came for the Cui Family's victory or because of Cui Zhimin's disappearance, Qin Fang was not sure, nor was he concerned.

Not to mention whether the Cui Family could trace this to him, even if they did, given his current cultivation, while defeating a real Grandmaster-level expert like Cui Haoyu was improbable, it was equally improbable for Cui Haoyu to do anything to him...

Chapter 1642 - Two Great Grandmasters! (2)

If Qin Fang was really pushed too far, he wouldn't mind making Cui Haoyu, a grandmaster-level expert, follow in Cui Zhimin's footsteps and have a "heart-to-heart" with bullets...

Korea is very small, so much so that you can basically appear anywhere within a day. Although Incheon is not particularly large, it's still very convenient to come here.

The news Qin Fang and his group received that evening was that Cui Haoyu had arrived at the Fu Family's Bagong Mountain that night, though they didn't actually see him.

The night was quite peaceful. With Shi Yuan and Cui Zhimin dead, Qin Fang's small courtyard was much quieter, and no one came to disturb them.

The third day of the Yi Sword Tournament was also the day to decide the final victory. Qin Fang and his team arrived at the venue early. Once this match concluded, their task as judges would be complete, and they could leave after receiving the Yi Sword Stone from the Fu and Cui families.

Of course, if they wished to stay, the Fu Family wouldn't stop them. In fact, they would continue to provide good food and drink and treat them with great respect.

However, today's atmosphere was noticeably tenser than the previous days. Both families and the spectators were a bit anxious and excited.

In contrast, Qin Fang and his team of judges appeared quite calm...

Even though the two final contestants were above the grandmaster level, they were only at the master level early stage—far from the level of these judges.

It might take these two contestants ten or twenty years to reach this level, if they could achieve it at all.

How could one expect these judges to take such contestants seriously?

However, what was different about today's match was that a seemingly high-status middle-aged man appeared separately in the Fu and Cui Family stands.

Fu Qinglin!

Cui Haoyu!

The appearance of the two top experts of Korea at the Yi Sword Tournament was undoubtedly the most shocking news of the day.

Elder Mu mentioned that the last time these two experts were present at the Yi Sword Tournament was over ten years ago when they faced each other in the finals.

Since then, Fu Qinglin and Cui Haoyu had almost never appeared at the tournament, and it was rare for them to be seen together anywhere.

But now, not only had Cui Haoyu come from the Cui Family, but the injured Fu Qinglin, rumored to be in seclusion, had also arrived, making it clear that sparks between the Fu and Cui families were intensifying.

Though two great experts were present, the match relied on individual strength. Which of the two contestants would win ultimately depended on their skills and performance.

"Let the match begin..."

With a command from Steward Fu, the young experts from both families shouted fiercely and unleashed their full combat power against their opponents.

Compared to previous matches, the duel between these master-level contestants was much more engaging, as both carried heavy responsibilities and felt significant pressure. They clashed fiercely right from the start, with genuine intensity.

While the match didn't greatly interest Qin Fang and the judges, the spectators were thoroughly captivated.

Korea, being a barren land for martial arts, considered grandmaster-level experts the pinnacle, with numbers that could be counted on one hand.

Though there were slightly more master-level experts, their numbers were still very limited, mainly from the Fu and Cui families.

As a result, among the spectators, even though most were martial artists, less than thirty percent reached the master level. Most hadn't even reached that level.

Therefore, this desperate duel between master-level experts immediately captivated most, engrossing them as if they had become the contestants themselves...

This match was one of the most thrilling yet. The contestants were evenly matched and had mastered their family skills well.

Though a bit weaker than Cui Mingjun and Fu Junhao from the judges' perspective, they performed admirably.

The two fought intensely, displaying superb moves, but their skills were so evenly matched that hundreds of exchanges couldn't determine a winner.

After a thousand moves, both were exhausting themselves, their punches and kicks noticeably weaker, appearing light.

After another hundred moves, they were nearly depleted. They seemed to gather all their remaining strength, as if aiming for mutual destruction.

But their remaining strength seemed barely enough to swat a mosquito. Though they managed to knock each other to the ground, it was more like collapsing from exhaustion than delivering a knockout punch.

Chapter 1643 - Two Great Grandmasters! (3)

Both fighters fell exhausted on the arena, and each side sent a judge to inspect them, only to find that neither had the strength to lift a finger.

Thus, the match came to an end, but who emerged victorious?

"We ask the judges to vote and decide the outcome of the match!"

Steward Fu adhered to the long-standing rules of the Swordsmanship Tournament, using a voting method to determine the winner when there was a tie.

When Steward Fu proposed this, many subconsciously paused for a moment, and then instinctively counted the number of judges on the panel.

Originally, eight judges were supposed to be present, four from each side, but due to Shi Yuan's "absence," there were now only seven judges, making the decision easier.

Four to three!

Without surprise, the Fu Family defeated the Cui Family with a score of four to three, ultimately winning this Swordsmanship Tournament.

Qin Fang and the other three were invited by the Fu Family and had always received "special treatment." Not counting other considerations, the least they could do was give face, so naturally, they voted for the Fu Family.

The Swordsmanship Tournament concluded with such a dramatic ending. The faces of the Cui Family members were quite unpleasant, as Shi Yuan Yilang's absence left them to swallow the bitter pill of defeat.

However, compared to this loss, Cui Zhimin's disappearance and the death of a young disciple with a promising future nearly made their hearts bleed...

On the other side, the Fu Family not only won the match in the Swordsmanship Tournament, but their contestants were all fine, with no significant losses, achieving an almost complete victory.

Yet, such a comparison only made the Cui Family feel more aggrieved, and thus...

Some hot-tempered members of the Fu Family and Cui Family were already causing some unrest privately, and some even started fighting directly.

In fact, such unrest almost always occurs after every Swordsmanship Tournament; the losing side does not simply accept the result peacefully.

The feud between the two families has lasted for hundreds of years, naturally not easy to resolve. Soon, the conflict expanded considerably.

To calm both sides down, the Fu Family and the Cui Family quickly sent experts to intervene. Even if they actually started fighting, it was wise to try to contain the conflict within certain limits...

If the two families were to fully go to war, the outcome would be hard to predict. They might end up destroying each other, vanishing in the river of history, and be replaced by other families.

However, these matters were not much related to Qin Fang. They were troubles for the two families to worry about, while Qin Fang and the other judges were quite relieved, as the match had ended, and they didn't even bother to mediate...

What surprised Qin Fang was that despite the two families having already begun fighting, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, the family heads of both families, not only did not stop it, but after the match, they actually gathered together to greet the judges.

"Are you Qin Fang?"

Especially when they saw the young and astonishingly talented Qin Fang, their eyes flickered with peculiar light. After scrutinizing Qin Fang several times, they still couldn't quite believe it and asked.

"As genuine as can be..."

Qin Fang could only touch his nose, helplessly confirming his identity.

"To have such extraordinary cultivation at such a young age, you are indeed an outstanding young talent from Dragon Country... This old fellow must admit his age!"

Cui Haoyu, facing the young man in front of him, who might be less than half his age, showed a rather peculiar expression, but his words were courteously flattering.

Beside him, Fu Qinglin, although not as direct as Cui Haoyu, carried almost the same sentiment. What puzzled Qin Fang was that these two supposedly had a tense relationship, yet now seemed devoid of any sign of that tension...

Qin Fang's unique physique had strong deceptive power; despite reaching Master Level Peak in reality, to the two Grandmaster-level experts, Qin Fang appeared average. As long as Qin Fang didn't use True Qi, he seemed no different from an ordinary person.

Even with Qin Fang slightly using some True Qi, he displayed a cultivation of Master Level Early Stage overall...

However, these two Grandmaster-level experts were not ordinary, and they didn't believe Qin Fang's strength was just at Master Level Early Stage... After all, Qin Fang had easily defeated two early-stage experts among the Master Level elites, and later exchanged blows with Master Level Peak Shi Yuan Yilang and remained undefeated,

"Senior Cui is a renowned Grandmaster expert, while Qin is merely a junior who has just stepped over the threshold, undeserving of such praise from the senior... I'm overwhelmed, really embarrassed!"

Regarding Cui Haoyu's compliment, Qin Fang casually smiled, lightly deflecting it.

Facing these two Grandmaster-level experts, Qin Fang showed no trace of fear, although their cultivation was formidable, very strong...

But only limited to Grandmaster-level Initial Stage. Although they were quite close to Grandmaster Mid-Stage, crossing that step wasn't easy.

Judging by the feeling they gave Qin Fang, their strength seemed comparable to Elder Alai of The Green Gang, slightly weaker than the Bloody-handed Demon Tu San and the old Grandmaster from the Liu Family Secret Ground...

With this calculation, Qin Fang was still somewhat wary of these two Grandmaster-level experts, though not to the extent of avoiding them altogether.

Chapter 1644 - Chess Sword Formation Remnant

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"Indeed, you're a young talent from Dragon Country; just your presence alone far surpasses the young people from our own country. Ashamed, truly ashamed..."

To Qin Fang's surprise, even though he was being polite, Cui Haoyu earnestly praised him, leaving Qin Fang somewhat perplexed.

However, Cui Haoyu's face showed no signs of insincerity, as if his words came from the heart. Yet, the more genuine he appeared, the more suspicious Qin Fang felt.

"What are Young Master Qin's plans next?"

Before Qin Fang could respond, Cui Haoyu casually inquired.

"The chess sword tournament has ended, and I should be leaving. If there's an opportunity in the future, I will surely visit both of you..."

Even though these grandmaster-level experts appeared friendly, Qin Fang felt some apprehension towards them, suspecting that they might have ulterior motives.

Since the chess sword tournament was over and he had obtained the seemingly inconspicuous Yi Sword Stone, Qin Fang saw no reason to stay and truly intended to leave.

As for whether to return to the Mainland of the Dragon Country, head directly to Japan, or accept an invitation to visit Little Island, those decisions could wait. For now, Qin Fang just wanted to leave the place quickly.

"Leaving already?"

Hearing Qin Fang's response, Cui Haoyu didn't seem surprised but looked slightly regretful as he softly spoke.

"That's quite unfortunate... I was planning to invite Young Master Qin to participate in the chess sword tournament that our Cui and Fu families have been holding for centuries! What a pity!"

His face showed deep regret, as if Qin Fang's absence would significantly diminish the grandeur of the event.

"Chess sword tournament? Hasn't it already concluded?"

Qin Fang was puzzled, expressing surprise. Everyone knew the tournament was over, yet Cui Haoyu's words implied something else.

"Have I traveled back in time to a few days ago?"

Clearly, that wasn't possible... But observing Cui Haoyu's calm demeanor, Qin Fang sensed that this tournament wasn't as straightforward as it seemed.

"It's merely a small competition, not even involving any swordplay; how can that be called a chess sword tournament... the real tournament is just about to begin!"

Cui Haoyu exchanged a glance with Fu Qinglin and quietly explained to Qin Fang.

"As you might know, Young Master Qin, our Cui and Fu families inherited the legacy of Master Fu Cailin. The Fu family descends from the Patriarch's lineage, while the Cui family comes from the disciples..."

Cui Haoyu briefly introduced the relationship between the Cui and Fu families and Master Fu Cailin, though Qin Fang already knew some of it.

"Bagong Mountain was where the Patriarch secluded himself in his later years. Deep within the mountain lies a secret place, the 'Sword Forest,' created by the Patriarch himself, containing nearly all his swordsmanship essence... Ah, the Yi Sword Stone in your hand was taken from that Sword Forest..."

Though Qin Fang had gathered some of this from Cui Haoyu's earlier remarks, as the details unfolded, he was still somewhat shocked.

"The true chess sword tournament isn't just a simplistic contest. Within the Sword Forest lies the unresolved chess game laid out by the Patriarch centuries ago... If anyone can unravel this game, they can grasp the true essence of the Patriarch's Yijian swordsmanship!"

Noticing that Qin Fang was showing signs of interest, Cui Haoyu further revealed a bit of the secret that the Cui and Fu families had been guarding for centuries.

"Even if one cannot solve the game, letting young disciples train inside the unresolved chess game can yield remarkable results... If they gain something, breaking through to the grandmaster level becomes effortless, and even hitting the grandmaster-level expert isn't out of reach!"

Being descendants of Master Fu Cailin, they were well aware of the benefits of this unresolved chess game. In fact, both Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin had experienced it themselves in their youth during the tournament.

The results were predictable; most attempts to solve the game failed, but they gained significant benefits, which, coupled with their later efforts, allowed them to rise as grandmaster-level experts among their family members.

Master Fu Cailin is considered a legendary figure. Despite being titled a master, his true cultivation far surpassed that, likely reaching and even exceeding the mythical Level 9...

Such guidance from a top-tier master, even just essences of swordsmanship, is invaluable to a grandmaster-level martial artist, providing important insights and opportunities.

Though Master Fu Cailin passed away centuries ago, even a sliver of his swordsmanship essence could greatly benefit a martial artist, making breaking through to the grandmaster level trivial and significantly boosting the chances of reaching the grandmaster-level expert...

Chapter 1645 - Chess Sword Formation Remnant (Part 2)

"Since that's the case, why don't you send more disciples to tackle this Chess Sword Formation Remnant? Maybe someone might just happen to break it?"

Upon hearing Cui Haoyu discuss this Chess Sword Formation Remnant, Qin Fang's first thought was of the Zhenlong Chess Formation from novels, which seemed quite similar.

And this Chess Sword Formation Remnant was clearly related to chess, so there might be a similar method to solve it... Qin Fang even speculated that Elder Master Jin might have designed the Zhenlong Chess Formation by referencing this Chess Sword Formation Remnant.

"If it were truly that simple, we two old fellows wouldn't be so troubled... Over hundreds of years, at least a thousand people from our families have attempted the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, but none succeeded; all unfortunately failed! The only one who came closest to victory became the strongest expert of our two families after our Patriarch..."

Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin both showed peculiar expressions upon hearing Qin Fang's words. After a moment's hesitation, Cui Haoyu replied wistfully.

"The Chess Sword Formation Remnant is very special; everyone only has one chance to solve it. Once you fail, you can never enter again... Furthermore, over the centuries, the Chess Sword Formation Remnant has experienced several changes. Initially, it was accessible once a year, but now it's only once every three years, and the number of entrants has become fewer and fewer, with a maximum of five people now able to enter."

Cui Haoyu seemed intent on revealing his deepest secrets to Qin Fang, explaining everything thoroughly even though they were barely acquainted. Qin Fang didn't understand why the heads of these two great families seemed so courteous towards him.

"Five people... Is this the reason why your two families organized this Chess Sword Competition?"

Upon Cui Haoyu's explanation, Qin Fang suddenly associated it with the just-concluded contest and couldn't help but inquire, as intuition told him there was some connection between the two events.

"Exactly..."

Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin exchanged a glance, nodding as they said, "Every three years, our two families select five candidates based on their strength, talent, and such, who then compete against each other. The winner earns the chance to attempt the Chess Sword Formation Remnant..."

As Qin Fang suspected, these two openly secretive Chess Sword Competitions were indeed closely connected, yet only certain insiders from the two families were aware of these details.

"However, due to someone's misconduct this time, resulting in the death of a victor from my Cui family, the Fu family had to voluntarily give up a spot!"

As Cui Haoyu mentioned this, he cast a fierce glare at Fu Qinglin. Those selected to compete undoubtedly were the family's outstanding disciples. Their current prowess may not suffice, but their future prospects were limitless.

Unexpectedly, despite having won the match, the victor was killed by the opponent's envious sneak attack, leaving Cui Haoyu with no small amount of frustration.

The Fu family fared no better. They had initially secured three victories but, due to a sneak attack from one of their own disciples, not only did the opponent retain their victory, but one victory had to be stripped from their own achievements, leaving Fu Qinglin visibly displeased.

"Given the current tension between our two families, though the Fu family surrendered this spot, I've decided not to let it fall to us, the Cui family, so..."

Even though Fu Qinglin stood there silently for most of the conversation, his presence itself spoke volumes. Especially as Cui Haoyu voiced his plan, Fu Qinglin's expression markedly improved...

When Fu Qinglin initially learned about how a promising Fu family contestant's jealous sneak attack resulted in an opponent's death, his face turned green with rage, immediately sending the family disciple off for disciplinary action. Despite the disciple's notable talent, whether he could leave the family's Hall of Enforcement alive remained uncertain...

"So, you mean... I can participate in the Chess Sword Competition and attempt the Chess Sword Formation Remnant?"

After hearing Cui Haoyu's explanation, Qin Fang was taken aback and hesitantly questioned, despite the notion appearing rather absurd to him.

The Chess Sword Formation in the Sword Forest was undoubtedly one of the biggest secrets of the Cui and Fu families, and they went to great lengths to hold this competition for the extra spot.

However, an unexpected problem arose during the usually calm competition, resulting in the death of a victor, forcing the Fu family to relinquish a hard-earned victory, leaving Fu Qinglin severely discomfited.

Had Cui Haoyu not persuaded him, Fu Qinglin wouldn't have been so civil, appearing alongside Cui Haoyu here...

As for the reasons behind the persuasion, besides necessary compensation, it was also because they decided to offer the extra slot to an outsider unrelated to the two families.

Thus, the two powerful family heads immediately began the selection process among the many young talents who had attended the Chess Sword Competition.

Unquestionably, Qin Fang, whose strength reached the Grandmaster Level Peak, easily caught the attention of the two Grandmasters, leading to the current situation.

"Precisely, after some consideration, we've decided that Young Master Qin is the best candidate... First, your cultivation is already the strongest among past entrants to the Chess Sword Formation. Secondly, as a person from Dragon Country, you have no ties to our two families, which can help avoid some unnecessary troubles..."

Cui Haoyu wasn't holding anything back and candidly shared their thoughts, noting both Qin Fang's strength and his background.

There are only five spots in total; with each family having two, securing the remaining spot is no trivial matter.

However, with this spot landing in Qin Fang's lap under such inconceivable circumstances, it somewhat served to mediate the conflict and tensions between the Cui and Fu families.

Yet, by the same token, obtaining this spot meant many in the Cui and Fu families would inevitably harbor ill will towards Qin Fang.

Opportunities to enter appear only once every three years, not to mention obtaining the swordsmanship essence from Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, which is far easier than facing a mere Qin Fang.

"Since both of you are so graciously inviting, then I, Qin Fang, would be remiss to decline..."

Faced with such an opportunity, doing nothing would be rather ignorant; some might even call it foolish, as chances like this were far from common.

Now that Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin personally came to invite Qin Fang and laid out the situation so clearly, it would indeed be unwise for Qin Fang to insist on leaving.

The mere thought of the Sword Forest and the mythical Chess Sword Formation Remnant already made Qin Fang feel much more at ease... and equally full of anticipation.

The Sword Forest wasn't extraordinary, perhaps merely revealing scant signs of equipment or such. The most mysterious element was undoubtedly that daunting Chess Sword Formation Remnant.

Even though no one has managed to solve this Chess Sword Formation to date, it doesn't preclude the possibility that someone might fulfill this nearly impossible task!

Thus, Qin Fang, initially intending to leave promptly, decided to stay and get a better grasp of the situation here

Chapter 1646 - Sword Forest!

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In the end, the visible part of the Emissary Sword Tournament ended, and the judges invited by the two major families all bid farewell and left, but Qin Fang chose to stay.

Declining the gracious invitations from Elder Mu, Fang Zonglin, and others, Qin Fang did not leave with them.

However, Qin Fang did accept Fang Zonglin's invitation, expressing that when he had some free time, he would definitely visit the Little Island and the Tian Nan Sect to experience this unique atmosphere.

Regarding Qin Fang's decision to stay, the Cui and Fu families maintained a fairly polite attitude. Steward Fu even personally entertained Qin Fang, treating him as a distinguished guest.

Although he knew that Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin would never give him such a big advantage without reason, Qin Fang still decided to stay. At least this Emissary Sword Tournament held some attraction for him.

Qin Fang wasn't hoping to unravel the Chess Sword Formation Remnant left by Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin; he was only thinking of gaining some benefits from it.

As of now, he was already at the Master Level Peak in terms of cultivation, but crossing over to the Grandmaster Level posed an incredibly huge chasm.

To fill this chasm, in addition to the grind of time, an enormous opportunity is also needed... this Chess Sword Formation Remnant undoubtedly belongs to such an opportunity.

With such a big advantage, to the extent that the two families would fight life and death for a single spot, it's simply handed to Qin Fang for free. If he said there wasn't any trickery involved, Qin Fang wouldn't believe it even if he died. As for Cui Haoyu's so-called bullshit reason, Qin Fang didn't take it seriously at all.

With such a reason, perhaps it might be enough to fool a child, but taking it to Qin Fang here, only a fool would believe Cui Haoyu's words.

If only the Mind Reading Technique worked on Cui Haoyu, Qin Fang would have already extracted all the nonsense from his mind.

Given an advantage for nothing, Qin Fang knew there must be an issue here, and he even suspected that Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin might have specially designed this trap against him.

The deaths of Shi Yuan Yilang and Cui Zhimin, others might not be able to find out anything, but the joint efforts of these two families could definitely guess something, and they might have some hatred towards him already.

However, regardless of what happens, this Chess Sword Formation Remnant is a rare opportunity. If he can gain something from it, it would substantially aid Qin Fang in breaking into the Grandmaster Level.

As for danger, while Qin Fang would maintain caution, he wouldn't be overly cautious... unless the two Great Grandmaster Level experts, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, team up to besiege him, perhaps then his life might truly be at risk.

Otherwise... Qin Fang was confident that his capacity for self-preservation would still pose no problem at all.

He was even certain that if these two Great Grandmaster Level experts really intended him harm, while he might indeed be in danger, they would also fail to benefit much from it.

Anyway, since Qin Fang had decided to stay, naturally he needed to focus and make some preparations for the upcoming Chess Sword Formation Remnant.

"Sharpening the axe won't delay the woodcutting." Taking advantage of this opportunity, Qin Fang sorted out the items in his Props Box, preparing some necessary equipment in advance to avoid finding what he needs later on, which would be too time-consuming.

"Young Master Qin, please..."

After Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin had sent off the invited judges from Bagong Mountain, they returned together and entered the next process, specially dispatching Steward Fu to invite Qin Fang.

These two Great Grandmasters naturally cared about their reputation. Their joint invitation was already quite an honor, and it was impossible for them to come personally to invite Qin Fang on his journey.

"Steward Fu, is the Sword Forest also in this mountain?"

Steward Fu led the way ahead, guiding Qin Fang deep into Bagong Mountain. The path was eerily quiet, devoid of even a ghostly shadow. This made Qin Fang feel quite uneasy, as if the old steward wasn't leading him to the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, but instead was luring him deep into the mountains for some other purpose...

It was precisely because of this that Qin Fang couldn't help but ask. After all, during his battle with Shi Yuan Yilang and the pursuit of Cui Zhimin, he had run through many areas of the mountain and hadn't noticed any particular locations.

This could be because Cui Zhimin knew the location of the Sword Forest and feared the secret would be exposed, so he purposely led Qin Fang astray... but Qin Fang still felt there was something off.

"Indeed... it's in the mountain!"

Steward Fu seemed to perceive Qin Fang's doubt and lightly nodded, saying, "The location of the Sword Forest is very secluded, and except for a very few people, not even our two families know exactly where it is... It's like this Emissary Sword Tournament; many people thought it was over, but actually, only some elders of the two families and several winning disciples in the contest will go to the Sword Forest, hence the absence of people along the way!"

"So that's the case..."

Hearing Steward Fu's explanation, although Qin Fang couldn't tell its authenticity, at least the logic held up.

The Sword Forest is a secret location of the two major families, and ideally, as few people as possible should know about it; otherwise, it would be difficult to maintain its mysteriousness.

This is the same as the secret location of the Ryu Family. Besides the Family Head, not even the elders of the family know where it is actually located...

If the secret location is exposed, then a lot of experts are bound to flock there. Although the Chess Sword Formation Remnant has restrictions set up to limit the number of people entering, it's hard to prevent some experts, who couldn't get in, from deliberately causing trouble.

If some destructive restriction is triggered that completely destroys this secret place, it's likely that the people of the Cui and Fu Families wouldn't even be able to cry about it.

Despite Steward Fu's reasonable explanation, Qin Fang still remained quite vigilant about it, as this matter exuded a deep sense of conspiracy.

The mountain was extraordinarily quiet. After all, this was Fu Family's territory. Besides the Fu Family members, almost no one else came here...

And now, from the Fu Family's side, those who knew about the Chess Sword Formation Remnant had already gone to the Sword Forest. Those who didn't know were celebrating the Fu Family's victory.

Naturally, on the way, Qin Fang and his companions found the place eerily empty, without anyone to interfere with them.

"Young Master Qin, forgive my bluntness, but the Sword Forest is Fu Family's forbidden place, and the way to enter it is extremely secretive, so..."

When they reached a dense forest, Steward Fu suddenly stopped, pulled out a black blindfold, and courteously expressed this.

"No problem..."

Qin Fang glanced at the surrounding environment but couldn't discern anything unusual. Yet, there was no one around, and not a sound could be heard. He wondered if there was something special about the location of the Sword Forest.

However, since Steward Fu had put it this way, Qin Fang didn't refuse and took the blindfold, directly putting it over his eyes, making his surroundings turn pitch black.

Then Steward Fu handed Qin Fang something like a rope, "Young Master Qin, you hold onto this rope. I will walk in front, and you just need to follow me..."

Of course, Qin Fang assented, and this way, he became a "half-blind man," unable to see and needing guidance to walk.

Naturally, Qin Fang dared to do this because he had his own reliance.

Even though his eyes couldn't see, his mini-map function was still available. If anyone showed up around him, or if Steward Fu tried to harm him, Qin Fang could detect it instantly.

So, he wasn't afraid of Steward Fu playing tricks, hence he had no reason to refuse his request...

Once everything was ready, Steward Fu immediately set out, with Qin Fang holding onto the rope, following step by step slowly behind him.

Steward Fu wasn't walking very fast, but not too slow either, changing directions after every few meters, repeating this back and forth...

Qin Fang had a quite good sense of direction, but with his eyes unable to see, he quickly got disoriented with the constant change of directions.

Luckily, Qin Fang's mini-map had its own direction indicator, regardless of how often Steward Fu changed directions, Qin Fang could always grasp the current position they were heading towards.

Time ticked away, with Steward Fu leading Qin Fang through the mountains for over twenty minutes already. Had it been anyone else, they'd likely have grown impatient by now, but Qin Fang maintained complete composure.

He kept a close watch on his surroundings, constantly using his Scouting Skill. Although his eyes couldn't see, he still had everything within his control.

He even mentally noted the location of every tree and stone, gradually drawing a route map in his mind according to Steward Fu's directions...

This route map, though not precise to every single point, was still close enough for Qin Fang to roughly estimate, with an error margin not exceeding one meter; it was already quite accurate.

Buzz~~

Just as Qin Fang was silently drafting this route map in his mind, the mini-map suddenly underwent a major change. What was originally an empty map now displayed more than ten red dots, indicating that suddenly over ten people appeared around them...

"Young Master Qin, we've arrived... You may take off your blindfold!"

Just as Qin Fang was heightening his vigilance, Steward Fu's voice sounded in his ears. Clearly, they had arrived at their destination... the Sword Forest.

"Is this the Sword Forest?"

When Qin Fang took off the blindfold and somewhat regained his vision, he looked around, a deep astonishment filled his eyes. He almost couldn't believe it and inquired in disbelief, evidently shocked by the scene in front of him...

Chapter 1647 - Entering the Game!

...

"That's correct, this is Sword Forest... the place where the Patriarch practiced swordsmanship back in the day!"

Almost as soon as Qin Fang asked this question in amazement, someone beside him immediately replied in a loud voice, it was none other than Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin who had arrived earlier than him.

Besides them, there were approximately ten other people in Sword Forest, divided into two factions, presumably from the Fu Family and the Cui Family.

Moreover, as Qin Fang briefly glanced around, some of these people were relatively familiar to him, such as the four young experts from the two victorious families, and also Cui Zheming from the Cui Family along with Fu Qingyang from the Fu Family... The rest were unknown to Qin Fang.

Yet, the strength of these people was almost uniform in that none were weak, all were above Grandmaster level, and even in the Master Level Late Stage...

Hence, it was not hard to see why the Fu Family and the Cui Family could become the two top-tier families in Korea. Besides their excellent inheritance, their familial foundation was evidently much stronger than those second-tier families.

Consider Jin Zhengming from the J Family, who had just stepped into the Master Level Late Stage and was already acting arrogantly as though he was the number one in the world, whereas in front of the two families here, there were at least five experts far more powerful than Jin Zhengming.

And this only included the experts present; there were others in the Master Level Early and Mid Stages who did not even qualify to come here and were therefore not counted...

Such strength, combined with each having a Grandmaster-level expert, allowed these two families to dominate in Korea, indeed having substantial foundations.

Of course, this was not what astonished Qin Fang. Though such strength might be considered decent in Korea, it was not sufficient in Dragon Country, not even comparable to some Martial Arts Clans.

For instance, the Lei Family from Capital City, not well-related to Qin Fang, where Elder Lei is a Grandmaster-level expert. Although there aren't many Grandmaster-level experts, one of Elder Lei's nephews has also stepped into the Grandmaster level, making this 'one family with two Grandmasters' significantly stronger than the two families before him.

The foundations of the Cui Family and Fu Family were insufficient to shock Qin Fang greatly. What truly astonished Qin Fang was this Sword Forest in front of him... it really could be deemed a "Sword Forest."

Sword Forest is located somewhere on Bagong Mountain, presumably concealed by some formation, making it inaccessible from the outside... only those who understand formations can enter here.

Qin Fang knew this because the mountain peak before him was evidently invisible from the outside, clearly artificially concealed, and Sword Forest was located beneath this peak.

On a surface area approximately two or three hundred square meters, there were hard rocks everywhere, seeming as if they had been sculpted by knives and axes, with originally jagged rocks now transformed into perfectly flat surfaces.

What poured into Qin Fang's heart with immense astonishment were at least hundreds of long swords embedded upon the broad flat stone surface...

These swords appeared quite timeworn; some had even broken, becoming discarded broken swords, yet they were embedded like this into the exceedingly hard stone, with hundreds of them placed there, creating quite a shocking sight...

Hence, the name of this Sword Forest was indeed genuine!

"Senior Cui, regarding the swords in Sword Forest..."

Qin Fang glanced slightly, his facial expression growing somewhat unnatural because he found quite a number of these swords to be Dragon Country's longswords, or regarded as prestigious swords within Dragon Country... yet they were inserted here now!

As a Dragon Country person, Qin Fang wasn't too fond of these Koreans, but not particularly opposed either; however, seeing such a scene, his complexion slightly changed.

"These swords belonged to those who once challenged the Patriarch and failed, left here as a result... In his later years, the Patriarch collected these over the years, thereby creating this Sword Forest!"

Seeing Qin Fang's complexion turn somewhat unpleasant, Cui Haoyu courteously explained, "However, these swords have endured the tempering of hundreds of years and have gained some spiritual essence, and if one has fate, perhaps one could take away a fine sword from here..."

"Can I too?"

Upon hearing Cui Haoyu's explanation, although the exact truth was unverifiable, Qin Fang's expression was not as unpleasant as before.

Ancient knights were much more formidable than today's; many lived by the sword, dying alongside it, and some would lose their weapons upon defeat in combat, unable to retrieve them unless they won another challenge...

Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin, was already considered among the apex of martial arts summit in the past, with very few capable of equating with him; challenging him carried more fatal intent than mere words could fit, leaving Qin Fang unsure of how best to describe it...

Reflecting such, leaving these weapons here seemed really a matter of helplessness, but what truly amazed Qin Fang was Cao Haoyu's statement.

"Certainly, if Young Master Qin finds a sword aligning with fate, you may freely try... as long as you can draw the sword from the stone, it will belong to you..."

Cui Haoyu cheerfully responded, appearing entirely indifferent, seemingly not considering these treasured swords within the Sword Forest as private assets of the Cui or Fu families.

Chapter 1648 - Entering the Game! (Part 2)

"However, I must remind you of one thing. Although the Sword Forest seems to contain only swords, in reality, the Patriarch set up a sword formation. Unless someone destined can draw out the treasured sword without harm, anyone else who forcibly attempts to draw a sword will trigger a restriction, and the sword formation will immediately activate..."

Qin Fang was confident in his own strength; even if these longswords were embedded in stone, he was sure he could pull them out. Moreover, with his scouting skill—such an extraordinary skill—he could easily discern the best sword among these hundreds of treasured swords.

Yet, before Qin Fang had a chance to rejoice and was ready to step into the Sword Forest to retrieve a sword, Cui Haoyu unexpectedly added a remark.

"For many years, no one has ever come out of this sword formation alive... Not even a grandmaster!"

Especially Cui Haoyu's words were like a basin of cold water poured over him, causing Qin Fang to break out in a cold sweat...

Master of Yijian Fu Cailin was probably a top-level expert at Level 9, and the sword formation he set up in his later years was definitely the pinnacle of his swordsmanship.

Once such a sword formation is triggered, it's difficult for even a grandmaster or great grandmaster to enter and leave unscathed, let alone Qin Fang, who is only at a grandmaster level now.

"Well... I'll give it a try!"

Qin Fang naturally didn't doubt the truth of Cui Haoyu's words; he was willing to let Qin Fang have a go, suggesting that he was quite confident about it as well.

Moreover, although there were hundreds of treasured swords planted in the Sword Forest, very few had been taken. Only a few sword slots were empty; most remained intact.

For hundreds of years, both the Cui and Fu families had passed down through at least a dozen generations, with at least a hundred grandmaster-level experts and more than a dozen grandmaster-level experts.

Yet, with so many experts, only twenty or thirty treasured swords had been taken at most. The vast majority remained in their original places, which spoke volumes.

"Let's not talk about this for now; there's plenty of time. Let's head over there..."

Cui Haoyu chuckled, pulling on Qin Fang, who was about to enter the Sword Forest to seek opportunities, and gestured toward the group not far away.

Since the host had made such a request, Qin Fang couldn't refuse. After all, his current identity was quite special—joining at the host's discretion; otherwise, he wouldn't have known about the Sword Forest's existence.

"Why is he here?"

In fact, when Qin Fang appeared at the Sword Forest, many from the Cui and Fu families looked genuinely surprised, not understanding how Qin Fang ended up there.

Their gazes toward Qin Fang were strange. In terms of age, Qin Fang was even younger than the few winning contestants, yet in terms of skill, only the grandmaster-level experts Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin could surely defeat him, while experts like Steward Fu and Cui Zheming didn't dare to claim they could certainly overcome Qin Fang.

A few days ago, the battle between Qin Fang and Shi Yuan Yilang revealed much, especially since Shi Yuan Yilang mysteriously disappeared afterward. Although the Fu family never found his corpse, they guessed that Shi Yuan Yilang was likely ended by Qin Fang...

As for the missing body, though Bagong Mountain wasn't large, finding a place to hide a body wasn't difficult, so it wasn't surprising they couldn't find it.

But the issue was that this was an internal Yijian assembly of the two families, involving the most secretive matters, yet Qin Fang was called in, which was quite surprising.

"This gentleman, you must all be familiar with him—Young Master Qin from Dragon Country—and today he will participate in the Chess Sword Formation Remnant with four junior disciples from our two families..."

Cui Haoyu brought Qin Fang to the front of the crowd and immediately answered everyone's inner questions with this statement.

"What? Let him participate..."

However, the crowd from the two families was puzzled upon hearing this, almost everyone was stunned and stood there gawking, unable to comprehend for a long time.

"Ahem ahem..."

Fortunately, Cui Haoyu expected this kind of reaction and quickly coughed, awakening everyone from their shock.

"Family Head..."

A hesitant elder from the Cui Family seemed on the verge of speaking up.

But just as he was about to speak, Cui Haoyu waved his hand impatiently, saying, "This matter has been decided, so the elders need not say more. Lead these younger ones to prepare, as the remnant will soon begin..."

"Yes, Family Head..."

Although a few elders from the Cui Family looked as though they had more to say, with Cui Haoyu's decision, they had no choice but to agree reluctantly and began leading people to prepare.

Seeing this scene, Qin Fang wondered a bit, because it seemed these people were too compliant, not making any fuss.

What Qin Fang didn't know was that the two families usually revered their family heads; once a decision was made by the head, it was rarely overturned.

Even though both families had many elders, and the Council of Elders held significant power, sometimes even overthrowing a family head...

But those were rare occurrences, as anyone who could become a family head was undeniably the first master of the family. Though the elders had significant power, without matching the head's strength, disputes would end up being pointless. The head could even charge dissenting elders with uprising and handle them decisively, without anyone saying a word!

Currently, in both the Cui and Fu families, only the two family heads were grandmaster-level experts, so the elders could only obey; otherwise, one disciplinary action would suffice as punishment.

So, upon hearing that Qin Fang had taken a spot meant for a Cui Family member to solve the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, even though they were very unwilling, Cui Haoyu's words quelled them immediately.

Of course, the main objections were from the Cui family's side; the Fu family was much quieter...

Although they were the victors in the competition, due to one contestant's breach of rules requiring a slot to be given to the Cui family, they were quite upset.

But it was an unchangeable matter; rules set a thousand years ago couldn't be altered, or the two families would indeed clash.

Unhappy as they were, they had to swallow it down, feeling most only internal disdain. However, with the slot, initially meant for the Cui family, now going to Qin Fang, an outsider, they were surprised but somewhat accepting.

In fact, they even felt a slight delight—seeing the Cui family upset turned their discontent into satisfaction!

"Young Master Qin, sorry for the spectacle..."

Seeing his family's obvious dissatisfaction, Cui Haoyu awkwardly spoke, appearing very humble, making Qin Fang feel slightly embarrassed.

"Senior Cui, you truly... make this junior feel ashamed!"

Qin Fang politely replied, though he couldn't let go of the opportunity, especially as he suspected Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin might not have purely good intentions, possibly harboring some unknown motive, so Qin Fang naturally had to approach it carefully.

Everything now seemed like Cui Haoyu's sugar-coated bullet, and Qin Fang's plan was to peel off the sugar coating and throw the bullet back...

"I won't say much more. Soon, Qinglin and I will initiate the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, and you will enter with four other disciples... Like I said, it all depends on your fate. If you manage to solve the remnant left by the Patriarch, you might inherit the Patriarch's Sword Dao legacy! Maybe, by then, we two will have to call you 'Master Grandfather'..."

Cui Haoyu patted Qin Fang's shoulder, speaking with a cheerful grin.

Chapter 1649 - Epiphany! Endgame!

...

To Qin Fang, the words of Cui Haoyu were nothing, like a breeze that passed without a trace.

Originally, Qin Fang felt there was some hidden scheme behind this matter, but it was just a vague guess before. Now, hearing these words, he suddenly felt certain of it.

What bullshit ancestors, if Qin Fang really solved this Chess Sword Formation Remnant, the first to turn against him would definitely be Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin.

"Elder Cui really knows how to joke..."

Qin Fang laughed it off, intent on not showing anger. Cui Haoyu treated him quite well, and even though he suspected ulterior motives, now was not the time to fall out. Qin Fang could only deal with it slowly.

"Haha, no more jokes then, get ready quickly..."

Cui Haoyu laughed and didn't say more. Whether he was truly busy or feared saying too much, he waved to Qin Fang and walked to the side with Fu Qinglin.

Qin Fang naturally joined the other four disciples from the Fu and Cui families, who were to enter the Chess Sword Formation Remnant with him. They walked to a stone wall in the corner of the Sword Forest.

It was then that Qin Fang noticed the stone wall, flat and seemingly artificially smooth, was inscribed with two characters—"Yijian" (Chess Sword).

The script was in Chinese characters, not the Korean script used today. It's understandable, as Korea was a vassal state of the Dragon Country hundreds of years ago, and even Koreans created their words by de-sinicizing.

These two characters had existed for a considerable time, possibly hundreds or thousands of years. If nothing unexpected, they were likely the work of the Master Yijian, Fu Cailin. The timing matched quite well.

Moreover, the person who carved these characters was evidently a master of calligraphy, with robust strokes like iron hooks, exuding a stunning Sword Intent at first sight.

However, this Sword Intent was unusually strong, yet it wasn't filled with killing intent. Instead, it emanated an extremely gentle aura, as if there was a sense of balancing rigidity and softness.

Qin Fang quietly stood before the stone wall, gazing at the two characters, feeling completely immersed. Unconsciously, he experienced a sense of Epiphany.

It was a profound state, nearly indescribable by words, feeling as if he'd transcended centuries yet simultaneously experiencing only a fleeting moment.

"Impressive..."

Unsure how much time passed, Qin Fang awoke from the Epiphany, involuntarily sighing, as the Sword Intent was grand and powerful. This was the majestic Sword Intent belonging to the Master of Yijian from centuries ago, still astounding after all these years.

But the four people around Qin Fang appeared extremely shocked, each staring at him with somewhat unpleasant expressions.

Qin Fang even noticed that one unfortunate Cui family kid seemed to have been severely bullied; his clothes now strands of cloth.

In Qin Fang's memory, before his Epiphany, the kid's clothes were intact, not in this beggar-like state...

"What happened?"

Seeing the strangely puzzled looks on their faces, especially the beggar-looking one flushed red with a purple hue, Qin Fang asked in bewilderment.

Unfortunately, none of them spoke, and they even willingly kept their distance from Qin Fang.

What Qin Fang didn't know was that while he entered the Epiphany, afar Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin were watching the scene with complex expressions.

"As expected of a Martial Arts genius from the Dragon Country, to achieve Epiphany so quickly..."

The once gentle Cui Haoyu's eyes now appeared rather sinister, casting a somewhat chilling glance at Qin Fang.

Beside him, Fu Qinglin couldn't help but sigh, as if he anticipated Qin Fang might have an Epiphany, but it seemed too soon.

But before the two could react, they saw the closest Cui family disciple make a sudden move, seemingly intending to act against Qin Fang.

Epiphany is a fortuitous opportunity, impossible to seek deliberately. But similarly, if disturbed during it, it would be a great pity.

This Cui family disciple intended to disrupt Qin Fang's Epiphany; seeing this, Cui Haoyu was slightly stunned, his expression turning bizarre instantly.

However...

Just as the Cui family disciple was about to touch Qin Fang, incredible changes occurred. Standing there with closed eyes, Qin Fang, in the state of Epiphany, suddenly unleashed startling Sword Qi.

The Cui family disciple had no time to react, instantly engulfed by the overwhelming Sword Qi, leaving no escape...

As the Sword Qi swept in, the disciple was almost petrified, a master in cultivation yet like a lonely boat in a storm, shakily at risk of being capsized by giant waves!

Chapter 1650 - Epiphany! The Endgame! (Part 2)

Cui Haoyu's face also changed drastically, almost instinctively wanting to rescue. After all, a young disciple with Master Level cultivation was an essential successor within the Cui Family. Since Qin Fang nearly crippled Cui Mingjun, it would be hard for him, as Family Head, to explain if another incident occurred.

However, before he could act, Fu Qinglin held him back and quietly shook his head, whispering, "Everything should be for the sake of the greater good!"

Upon hearing Fu Qinglin's words, Cui Haoyu paused his actions, deciding against intervening. Obviously, they both deemed their greater mission far more important than a talented successor.

Swish, swish, swish~~

With sword Qi sweeping across the sky, the Cui Family disciple's face turned pale, lacking any hint of blood as he conceded to fate, awaiting death.

For he clearly felt that against such immense sword Qi offensives, he couldn't muster even a trace of resistance...

It wasn't surprising; this Cui Family disciple was merely at the Master Level Early Stage, significantly inferior to Qin Fang's Master Level Peak strength.

And now, this sudden burst of sword Qi was clearly Qin Fang's epiphany, though not fully unleashed, was easily enough to deal with a minor Master Level Early Stage.

After a series of piercing noises, the crowd was astonished to find the Cui Family disciple alive, although his clothes had been sliced to ribbons by the sword Qi.

Once everything settled, the Cui Family disciple, almost in a state of collapse, sat down heavily, relieved to be an expert at the Master Level, with decent mental resilience, preventing a complete breakdown and avoiding the disgrace of losing control physically.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief at the outcome, thankful no lives were lost; otherwise, it would have been challenging to manage.

The pervasive sword Qi vanished, but Qin Fang remained unchanged, seemingly uninvolved with what just occurred, still immersed in his epiphany.

The remaining disciples from Cui and Fu families distanced themselves from Qin Fang, while the unfortunate one watched the still-enlightened Qin Fang with a face turned pallid violet.

The sharp sword Qi had assaulted his body, and that sensation of blades upon him was something he would remember for life. He understood clearly enough that any attempt at resistance would have meant being shredded by the sword Qi...

"Looks like his talent is even greater than we anticipated..."

When all was over, Cui Haoyu breathed a sigh of relief, while Fu Qinglin's gaze turned somewhat sinister, his complexion a bit unhappy as he commented.

"Humph, the greater his talent, the better for us... Do you think our combined forces couldn't handle a mere Master Level opponent like him?"

Cui Haoyu's expression wasn't great either, yet he didn't seem to hold Qin Fang in high regard either, as both believed that two Great Grandmaster Level experts joining might make escape impossible for any expert at near Master Level.

"Just hope nothing unexpected happens..."

Fu Qinglin subtly shook his head, despite sharing Cui Haoyu's view, he felt a strange unease inside.

And as they conversed, Qin Fang awoke from his epiphany, observing the surrounding group with a peculiarly amused expression.

"Congratulations Young Master Qin, your achievements are remarkable even before entering the Chess Sword Formation Remnant!"

Fu Qinglin and Cui Haoyu promptly moved forward to congratulate, while the "beggar outfit" was tragically ignored, leaving the poor child bitterly mouthing unspeakable woes, ultimately squatting aside in shame and frustration...

"Senior Cui, you've overpraised me, it's mere luck..."

Qin Fang calmly replied. Being able to attain enlightenment from the sword intent here was indeed unexpected to him, but at least it brought considerable gains.

Qin Fang even considered that the benefits from this single epiphany made staying worth it, even exceedingly so.

This Sword Forest, true to its reputation as Fu Cailin's training place, had inscribed everywhere the sword intent of this top Sword Dao expert, far more stunning than the Yi Sword Stone Qin Fang held.

If the Yi Sword Stone might help a martial artist reach a higher level, like the Grandmaster Level, then understanding these two characters' sword intent made stepping into the Grandmaster Level hardly challenging.

Of course, lacking difficulty didn't imply Qin Fang could take that step now; substantial accumulation was necessary to breach that barrier.

Breakthrough was only a matter of time, which Qin Fang knew, now affirmed even more clearly...

Therefore, in comparison to the sword intent's gains, Qin Fang felt exhilarated from having inadvertently grasped a sword Qi during his epiphany!

Yes, a sword Qi! A mysterious and profound sword Qi...

If there hadn't been so many people, Qin Fang thought he would have liked to test this sword Qi's power immediately!