

Genius 1871

Chapter 1871 - Taking the Elixirs! Advancement! Three Grandmasters! (Part 2)

Even so, Qin Fang prepared ten drops for everyone, fearing it might not be enough...

Each of the three, Ji Xiang, took a Cultivating Yuan Pill, carried the jade vial filled with Golden Dragon Saliva, returned to their previous positions, prepared briefly, and then immediately ingested the Cultivating Yuan Pill.

Qin Fang did the same. Although he felt that trying to reach the Grandmaster level with this Cultivating Yuan Pill was unlikely, it wasn't a waste either. Enhancing his strength, even if he couldn't cross that threshold, would still give him the power to compete against Grandmaster-level experts...

Just like before, the deeper the accumulation, the greater the benefits during advancement, so Qin Fang wasn't in a hurry.

Holding the Cultivating Yuan Pill, he swallowed it in one gulp and slowly channeled the abundant True Qi in his body to start refining the pill...

The True Qi from Qin Fang himself, the True Qi from practicing Joyous Zen, the True Qi brought by the Heavenly Demon Divine Art from the Demon Sect, and even the True Qi from the Dark Demon Divine Technique from the Shadow Demon God Manuscript Qin Fang had just cultivated...

Although Qin Fang practiced many internal cultivation methods, these True Qi sources never conflicted with each other, harmoniously blending together within Qin Fang's body... This was the advantage brought by Qin Fang's mysterious and powerful Skill System.

For anyone else, they would probably have died from an internal explosion due to the collision of so many different True Qi sources!

The Cultivating Yuan Pill was slowly refined, turning into a scorching True Qi that merged into Qin Fang's vast and profound True Qi, instantly making his whole body feel an indescribably powerful impact!

This True Qi wasn't particularly strong, at least not compared to Qin Fang's vast True Qi... But the amount of this True Qi was more than a quarter of Qin Fang's original total True Qi!

The key was that this True Qi wasn't inherently strong, but as it circulated through Qin Fang's body, it also stimulated other hidden, not yet fully integrated True Qi within him.

Especially the medicinal power of the Spiritual Medicine that wasn't fully assimilated... it was also activated all at once!

And this became truly terrifying.

Qin Fang even clearly felt the changes in his body, as if a massive balloon was roaming within, seemingly about to explode at any moment.

However, Qin Fang didn't panic. This balloon was just the vast amount of True Qi brought by the Cultivating Yuan Pill, and what he had to do now was fully refine and integrate this True Qi into his body...

Qin Fang maintained a steady mind, all kinds of cultivation methods operating rapidly within him, carefully extracting True Qi from the mass and refining it, yet without any conflict among them...

Gradually, Qin Fang entered a meditative state, immersing himself completely, disregarding everything around him, truly reaching a realm of unity and oblivion to self and environment.

After an unknown period, Qin Fang finally refined all the True Qi mass, his meridians full of True Qi.

"Alas, as expected, it was still a bit lacking..."

Though Qin Fang attempted to break through to the Grandmaster level, he soon gave up, helplessly smiling bitterly.

As he had anticipated earlier, although his total True Qi amount was almost comparable to the Grandmaster-level tier, he was still constrained by this bottleneck.

"Though unable to advance, I shouldn't be much weaker than a Grandmaster-level expert now..."

Not advancing was something Qin Fang expected, but the abundant True Qi vibrating through his whole body, the feeling of being filled with power, made Qin Fang understand that he was definitely not weaker than a Grandmaster-level strongman now...

If defeating Hattori Sanzo back then was a stroke of opportunistic skill, now... Qin Fang was confident he could beat Hattori Sanzo so badly his own mother wouldn't recognize him with just his own strength!

Though Qin Fang's True Qi was slightly weaker in "quality," the "quantity" more than compensated for this gap.

Buzz~~

Just as Qin Fang was thinking this, he suddenly felt a powerful aura rising from afar, even causing him to feel an inexplicable pressure.

"This... Monk!"

Feeling this immensely strong aura, Qin Fang wasn't surprised; he even felt it was natural, as all of them had reached the critical point of advancement, just a step away from breakthrough.

However, Qin Fang simply discerned that this aura carried the righteous and harmonious aura of Buddhist Divine Power, and he knew this was Monk Wukong's doing.

Fortunately, this formidable aura quickly subsided, gradually being retracted into Monk Wukong's body...

At the same time, Monk Wukong also awakened from his meditative state.

As he opened his eyes, he saw Qin Fang standing quietly in front of him, with a smile, congratulating him, "Congratulations..."

"Whew~~ I didn't waste your treasures!"

Monk Wukong couldn't help but let out a long sigh of relief, then spoke cheerfully.

The combination of Cultivating Yuan Pill and the Golden Dragon Saliva was such a potent combination for a semi-Grandmaster like him. If he couldn't succeed in advancing, he'd lose face as a monk.

"By the way, where are the other two? How are they doing?"

However, Monk Wukong soon reacted and couldn't help but ask, given they had all taken the Cultivating Yuan Pill together. Qin Fang was present, but the other two were nowhere to be seen.

"They are also trying to reach the Grandmaster level... Ji Xiang should almost be there, but Qing Mountain is having some trouble!"

Saying this, Qin Fang's smile faded a bit and he spoke with some concern.

He had briefly checked earlier. Ji Xiang had no major issues; his strength was second only to Qin Fang and Monk Wukong, though not a semi-Grandmaster, he wasn't far off.

However, Song Qingshan was struggling a bit; his strength was originally the weakest among them, having just recently reached the Master Level Peak, was already hastily trying to break through to the Grandmaster level, indeed a bit too hasty.

Moreover, Ji Xiang and Monk Wukong were consuming the Golden Dragon Saliva for the first time, so its potency was strong. Song Qingshan had taken it once before; while the potency wouldn't weaken much, it still had some impact.

Buzz~~~

Almost as soon as Qin Fang finished speaking, a strong aura shot upwards again. The aura of the Grandmaster level immediately stirred up; it was Ji Xiang successfully breaking through.

Ji Xiang soon awakened, excitedly came over, and everyone gathered around Song Qingshan.

At this time, Song Qingshan's attempt to break through had reached the most critical moment; his complexion was changing constantly, and his body trembled violently, showcasing the difficulty he was experiencing.

"Not good..."

Very soon, Qin Fang couldn't help but exclaim. With his scouting skills, he found that Song Qingshan was in a very dangerous situation.

With his current strength, attempting to break through to the Grandmaster level was a bit forced, but Song Qingshan was unwilling to give up and risked trying to break through. However, he was now out of steam and might just suffer from a Qi deviation!

"Everyone, lend Qing Mountain a hand!"

Faced with this situation, Qin Fang couldn't help his expression change, immediately shouting, then pressing a palm against Song Qingshan's back, transferring powerful True Qi into him to help him overcome the barrier...

Monk Wukong and Ji Xiang, unwilling to lag behind, though newly advanced and their cultivation not fully stabilized, recognized the urgency and set aside other concerns, each placing a palm on Song Qingshan from either side, transferring their abundant True Qi...

The three transferred Grandmaster-level True Qi provided a strong stimulant to Song Qingshan; without hesitation, Song Qingshan accepted the three True Qis, and with all his strength, fused them into a sharp arrow, piercing through the strong barrier!

Boom~~~

With a loud noise, the once-strong barrier was shattered into pieces, as Song Qingshan's True Qi surged as if flowing from the Yangtze River into the sea, becoming much more fluid...

Chapter 1872 - Spiritual Beast Snow Fox Ferret!

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"Finally..."

When that feeling of exhilaration came, Song Qingshan genuinely felt like crying. He knew he had finally crossed that daunting threshold he had almost lost hope of overcoming.

Song Qingshan quickly calmed himself and began to adjust his breathing, fully vibrating the True Qi within his body, absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi around him, and refining those Golden Dragon Saliva spiritual medicines to stabilize his newly achieved breakthrough...

Compared to Ji Xiang and Monk Wukong's swift breakthroughs, Song Qingshan took slightly longer; after all, his foundation was a bit weak, and he needed to proceed steadily and surely.

Especially since, during his breakthrough, he relied on the external True Qi of Qin Fang and the others. Now that he had succeeded in breaking through, the first matter at hand was not expressing gratitude but refining all the True Qi that surged into his body.

That's how martial artists are. External True Qi might be used temporarily, but it should not remain inside for long; otherwise, it brings endless harm instead of benefits.

Only when all these exotic True Qi are refined into one's own True Qi can it be safe and sound...

Before Song Qingshan's breakthrough, he would have found it difficult to refine all three forms of external True Qi at once; even if he managed, it would require considerable time.

But now it was different—having stepped into the Grandmaster Level, his strength had qualitatively leapfrogged. Although Ji Xiang and Monk Wukong were also Grandmaster-level experts, Song Qingshan had the advantage of fighting on home ground and could naturally refine it all, albeit with a little effort.

This is why Song Qingshan needs a bit more time to stabilize his cultivation.

"Alright, mission accomplished..."

Qin Fang and the others felt the vibrating aura on Song Qingshan and knew their efforts had paid off as Song Qingshan had successfully broken through.

Ji Xiang and Monk Wukong couldn't help but have smiles on their faces; after all, the four of them were a team, and seeing Song Qingshan also break through was naturally very pleasing.

"Right, why haven't you made a breakthrough?"

However, turning back, Monk Wukong was somewhat puzzled.

By rights, Qin Fang's strength should have been similar to his, perhaps even stronger, but now even Song Qingshan had made a breakthrough, while Qin Fang remained at the Master Level, which was indeed unusual.

Especially considering they all clearly knew that Qin Fang possessed Cultivating Yuan Pills and even quite a lot of Golden Dragon Saliva, superb spiritual medicine, which should have facilitated a breakthrough.

"Ah, don't mention it..."

Qin Fang shook his head with a bitter smile.

His situation was different from the others; not breaking through was expected, but truly breaking through would be the real miracle.

"Could it be..."

Although Qin Fang did not disclose the real reason, it didn't stop the others from imagining things. Monk Wukong and Ji Xiang exchanged glances, surprise flashing in their eyes, catching on to something faint.

Especially Monk Wukong, whose eyes glinted with profound surprise and peculiarity mixed with considerable envy...

Indeed, envy!

Because Monk Wukong had suddenly recalled a legendary exception within the martial world!

Qin Fang's current situation seemed to fit perfectly!

Seeing their expressions, acting as though they had unraveled the truth, Qin Fang could only helplessly smile, shaking his head without further explanation.

Saying more now wouldn't help; it would only make them think he was trying to obscure the situation... making it harder to explain.

"Chirp chirp chirp chirp~~"

At this moment, a small creature's sound suddenly piped up by Qin Fang's ear. The little Snow Fox Ferret had somehow managed to sneak onto Lake Heart Island.

This very moment, the pitiful-looking Snow Fox Ferret was eyeing him while rubbing its little belly...

"Hungry?"

Qin Fang just then recalled how they all returned to the lake shore last night, but the Snow Fox Ferret immediately disappeared, only showing up now, leaving him wondering where it had gone throughout the night.

"Chirp chirp chirp chirp~~~"

Upon Qin Fang's inquiry, the Snow Fox Ferret eagerly nodded, pairing it with quite exaggerated gestures, leaving Qin Fang clear on its meaning—it was saying it's nearly starving.

"Eat up..."

With a gentle flick of Qin Fang's wrist, some steaming hot meat baozi appeared, beckoning toward the Snow Fox Ferret.

Despite using Blood Replenishing Pills to heal during fights now, he still carried quite a few baozi as backup, which could serve as food as well.

"Chirp chirp chirp chirp~~~"

The Snow Fox Ferret didn't hold back, quickly charging to Qin Fang's side, grabbing a meat baozi, and squatting down to munch.

Whether it was starving, or the baozi suited its taste, it devoured a baozi in a few rapid bites.

Moments later, after a blink, all baozi Qin Fang provided were gone, leaving the little creature patting its rounded belly and letting out a satiated burp!

"Chirp chirp chirp chirp~~~~"

But post-baozi, it didn't just scamper off; it bounced onto Qin Fang's shoulder, its adorable little tongue licking Qin Fang's cheek—it looked incredibly cute, even playing coy... leaving Qin Fang utterly speechless.

Chapter 1873 - Spiritual Beast—Snow Fox Ferret! (Part 2)

"You little guy..."

Qin Fang was very fond of this intelligent little mink. Suddenly, an idea struck him. He immediately took out a jade vial and poured out a Cultivating Yuan Pill, handing it to the little mink, "This is for you..."

The little mink tilted its head, looking at the pill with curiosity. It sniffed it with its little nose, and its eyes suddenly lit up. Quickly, it extended its tiny paws and snatched the pill.

Before Qin Fang could react, the little mink swallowed it without hesitation, not caring if its belly was already full...

Initially, Qin Fang was a bit worried. However, after seeing the little mink consume the pill and the immense elemental energy erupting from it, he was surprised that it didn't even burp as it digested it effortlessly.

Of course, that didn't mean there was no reaction at all. The little mink soon leaned against Qin Fang's shoulder, closed its little eyes, and seemed to fall asleep...

Although it looked like it was asleep, its body was firmly perched on Qin Fang's shoulder, without a single movement, which was rather peculiar.

"Old Qin, this little guy... it's not simple at all!"

Monk Wukong noticed something, looking at the Snow Fox Ferret with some curiosity, and spoke with a hint of envy.

Qin Fang also noticed. Though the little mink was asleep, its grey fur was slowly shedding, giving way to the snow-white fur that had been hidden beneath...

"Oh? What do you mean?"

Qin Fang was taken aback. His scouting skill, though formidable, was still limited at the grandmaster level and couldn't reveal everything.

Judging from Monk Wukong's words, it seemed there was more information unknown to him, so he couldn't help but ask.

"If my guess is correct, this Snow Fox Ferret of yours might be a variant breed, perhaps possessing some spiritual beast or even divine beast lineage..."

Monk Wukong explained his suspicion without reservation. "In our Shaolin Temple, we also have a variant spiritual beast that possesses the bloodline of the divine beast White Tiger, making it far stronger than its kind from birth..."

"Is that so?"

Qin Fang was momentarily stunned. It seemed unexpected for the little mink to have such uniqueness.

However, after a brief recollection, it didn't seem that strange. After all, it had driven out the fierce Xuan Shui Python from its centuries-old lair. How could this little mink be ordinary?

If it weren't for Qin Fang having the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword, breaking through the python's defense would have been impossible. Given the python's might, even a grandmaster-level expert might have lamented in defeat.

Such a formidable creature was driven away by a Snow Fox Ferret a fraction of its size, much to Qin Fang's disbelief if it wasn't for the reality of the situation.

Moreover, the fact that Little Dragon, who was of divine beast level, which commonly disregarded most beings, chose to subdue this little creature personally, besides assisting Qin Fang, also implied its own interest in the little guy.

"It seems that in the future, any good stuff shouldn't exclude this little one..."

Staring back at the Snow Fox Ferret, Qin Fang couldn't help but murmur. This little creature had an extraordinary origin and great potential for the future. If nurtured well, it could become a significant asset.

The key issue is that, although Qin Fang had Little Dragon, a divine beast, as a protector, the external environment greatly restricted Little Dragon, unlike the little mink, which was far more practical.

Given this, Qin Fang pondered the idea of training the little mink toward the spiritual beast's path, ensuring it received a share of any good items, which might help it quickly advance!

Also, Qin Fang remembered one thing: there was actually a spiritual beast in the Shaolin Temple, and it was a variant as well...

Spiritual beasts, like spiritual medicine, were extremely rare, and even more scarce than spiritual medicine, nearly impossible to come by.

The primary difference is that while spiritual medicine is rare yet harvestable upon discovery, a spiritual beast differs...

Spiritual beasts are inherently powerful, with even the weakest having strength at least at the master level peak of cultivation, and that's among those not known for combat.

If it's those more ferocious spiritual beasts, their strength would indeed be incredibly terrifying...

The Shaolin Temple's variant spiritual beast was not to be mentioned, as Qin Fang had not seen it and could not comment.

However, in this hidden sanctuary behind them, the fierce beast concealed within the dark chamber, although Monk Wukong couldn't precisely estimate its strength, could be confirmed as an extremely powerful spiritual beast, and of supreme level...

To obtain a spiritual beast, unless raised from young, most have to be captured by oneself...

The scenario of raising spiritual beasts from young is extremely rare, with the young of spiritual beasts being incredibly few and far between. Perhaps one or two appear across the world within decades, given their much longer life span than humans, surviving for hundreds to thousands of years as if it's child's play, and their offspring being astonishingly rare.

For capturing them, the first condition is to possess the strength to subdue the spiritual beast, and then also to win its submission and willingness to follow...

Chapter 1874 - Spiritual Beast Snow Fox Ferret

The practice of forced buying and selling does happen quite often, but even spiritual beasts have their dignity. Those with a fiercer disposition sometimes commit suicide, which isn't uncommon.

Therefore, acquiring a spiritual beast is indeed unimaginably difficult...

Even so, there is such a spiritual beast in the Shaolin Temple, a heritage that Qin Fang had to respect.

"Truly, a thousand-year sect is not something simple..."

Thinking of this, Qin Fang couldn't help but feel a touch of awe. The Shaolin Temple has a spiritual beast, and if he's not mistaken, other sects like Kunlun, Snow Mountain, Shu Mountain, and Tang Sect also likely have spiritual beasts in their possession... Without such heritage, how could they dare to claim to be a thousand-year sect?

"Your luck... it's truly unbeatable!"

Although the Snow Fox Ferret hasn't yet become a spiritual beast, that's surely because it's still quite young—likely still in its juvenile phase. With just a bit of nurturing, it can immediately be elevated to the ranks of spiritual beasts.

Especially since Qin Fang holds so many wonderful items, such as the Cultivating Yuan Pill and Golden Dragon Saliva, which can greatly accelerate the growth of the Snow Fox Ferret.

Once the Snow Fox Ferret becomes a spiritual beast, its speed and strong venom make it an unrivaled presence even among Grandmaster-level experts, and it could even use special methods to take down a Great Grandmaster-level expert...

Faced with Qin Fang's kind of luck, how could Monk Wukong not be envious? He even wished he could trade places with Qin Fang...

"My luck has always been quite good!"

Qin Fang wasn't modest at all about it, responding with a cheerful smile.

His luck certainly was quite good, acquiring numerous valuable items, some of which other martial artists wouldn't even dare dream of, yet in his hands, they seemed quite ordinary.

"Oh, if you can, you should let it have some of your spiritual medicine... Look at its fur; once these gray hairs completely shed, it should officially enter its mature phase!"

Although Monk Wukong was envious of Qin Fang's luck, as a monk, he was free of such covetousness. Especially as a friend and brother who had faced life and death together, he felt it necessary to offer this advice.

Even though he couldn't get a spiritual beast himself, watching one grow before his eyes was an equally joyous occasion...

"That's a must..."

Though the Golden Dragon Saliva is incredibly precious, Qin Fang was never one to waste or be stingy when needed.

Just like earlier, when Monk Wukong, Ji Xiang, and Song Qingshan, including himself, needed it to break through, he didn't hesitate to provide a significant amount for them.

With so much spiritual medicine, it could help many Level 5 Peak martial artists reach the Master Level, yet Qin Fang didn't even bat an eye while giving it all away.

The case with the Snow Fox Ferret was the same; the value of a spiritual beast far surpasses that of a Grandmaster-level expert, even unparalleled compared to a Great Grandmaster-level expert.

Spiritual beasts differ from humans in that while human intentions may change, beasts are much purer. They might never forget your kindness for their entire life.

A human's life might last a century at most, but spiritual beasts live much longer, easily lasting several centuries.

Perhaps the beast's original master has long passed, but the beast might stay to guard the master's descendants until the day it dies.

It's said that the spiritual beast in the Shaolin Temple stayed for this reason, after being saved by a revered monk, remaining in Shaolin for hundreds of years, becoming one of its hidden guardian gods.

The Shaolin Temple, with its thousand-year heritage, has not been without crises threatening its existence, once even facing an existential threat.

But at the most critical moment, it was the guardian spiritual beast that emerged, pulling the temple back from the brink, preserving Shaolin Temple's thousand-year legacy.

Though Qin Fang had no plans to establish a sect, having such a spiritual beast by his side offered immense benefits...

Little Dragon's origins are mysterious and it can only remain within his body, perhaps due to his connection with this mysterious system.

But should he meet his end one day, for whatever reason, whether it would still exist...this remains unknown.

However, as for the Snow Fox Ferret, as long as he nurtures it well and they form a deep bond, the possibility of a long-term companionship isn't out of the question.

"Perhaps not now... it's still young, and one Cultivating Yuan Pill is enough to keep it nourished for a while!"

Qin Fang certainly hoped the Snow Fox Ferret could grow up quickly, but the little fellow was still in its juvenile phase. Although the gray fur was beginning to shed, this process required some time.

After consuming a Cultivating Yuan Pill, the Little Mink didn't exhibit any significant changes immediately, but its shedding fur marked a good start.

Qin Fang wouldn't force things prematurely; the pill's effect was sufficient to sustain it for a time. Only once it fully absorbed and stabilized could they count it a true success.

If at that moment, Golden Dragon Saliva was forcibly fed to the Snow Fox Ferret... its gluttonous nature means it wouldn't hesitate to consume it... but regardless of whether it could handle it, ingesting too much without proper digestion would be wasteful and inefficient, naturally making it an unwise choice.

"As long as you understand... I'm looking forward to your good news!"

Monk Wukong nodded in agreement, sharing the same idea while eagerly anticipating the true power of the Snow Fox Ferret once it becomes a spiritual beast...

Chapter 1875 - Encountering the Red Oni!

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"Qing Mountain is almost done over there..."

In just the time it took for the two of them to speak, Song Qingshan had also reached the end of his process, with his previously restless aura gradually calming down.

A few more minutes passed, and Song Qingshan finally opened his eyes. His Grandmaster-level aura was much more restrained, and he appeared more composed overall.

"Thank you, brothers!"

Song Qingshan walked over and expressed his deep gratitude to Qin Fang and the others.

He was more aware of the situation than anyone else; without the help of Qin Fang and the other three, he wouldn't have succeeded in breaking through this time.

If he failed this time, his hopes of advancing within the next few years would be slim, given how precious such an opportunity was.

This kind of elixir for enhancing skills is most effective when taken for the first time, with the best results, especially with the aid of Golden Dragon Saliva; this advancement opportunity was undoubtedly ideal.

If he missed this chance, even if Song Qingshan still had elixirs and Golden Dragon Saliva, the effectiveness would be greatly reduced, making it even more difficult.

"We're brothers; don't mention it..."

Faced with Song Qingshan's genuine gratitude, Qin Fang and the other three understood his feelings, but they didn't respond in the same formal way. After all, they ventured into Japan together, entrusting their lives to one another, making such words unnecessary and a bit of a barrier if said too much...

"Yes, we are brothers!"

Song Qingshan nodded seriously with a beaming smile.

"Alright, everyone has gained something, so we can all be happy. Quite some time has passed; let's head back..."

Qin Fang grinned; they had been out for a few hours, and it wasn't far from noon, so it was indeed time to return.

After all, their mission was finally complete... although Qin Fang hadn't yet fully fused with the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword, he was wary of causing too much of a sensation!

The emergence of the Divine Sword is no small affair; it's said that even heaven and earth would change. While Qin Fang wasn't entirely convinced, the old legends insisted on such, so he had to be cautious.

The secret land was the ideal location for fusion, but ultimately Qin Fang decided against it—as with refining elixirs, Qin Fang feared that the commotion might attract the Supreme Fierce Beast.

If it reached that point, even with six Grandmaster-level experts, they might not be a match for the Supreme Fierce Beast.

The terror of a top-tier spiritual beast's power isn't something Qin Fang could assess; it's an absolutely fearsome existence.

"Forget it, find a hidden place to fuse when needed..."

However, Qin Fang reconsidered, as the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword was already a divine weapon-level armament. Though it might not compare to the Ten Great Divine Weapons, few could rival it.

Unless luck was really against them, encountering treasures of the Ten Great Divine Weapons' level, the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword would generally not be at a disadvantage.

So there was no rush for fusion, and Qin Fang temporarily set it aside.

The matters concerning the four of them concluded, and each had made significant progress, especially the three who reached the Grandmaster-level, with their strength instantly soaring.

Although Qin Fang hadn't advanced, his strength also took a substantial leap. In a simple sparring with Monk Wukong, without using their ultimate killer moves, the two ended in a draw.

And even in a deadly duel with all their killer moves unleashed, the result would probably be the same... Monk Wukong had his killer secret techniques, but Qin Fang was also adept at secret techniques.

Ji Xiang naturally joined the sparring since he had just stepped into the Grandmaster-level, though the outcome left him quite disgraced.

Even before advancing, he wasn't a match for Qin Fang. Now, after reaching the Grandmaster-level, despite the qualitative leap in his strength closing the gap with Qin Fang, he was still beaten by an unadvanced Qin Fang...

What frustrated him most was that the secret technique from the Shadow Demon God Manuscript he had just mastered, Qin Fang somehow also learned it, and even... seemed to have mastered a complete version, while his own was an inferior one!

Given the situation, Qin Fang generously supplemented the missing parts for Ji Xiang. As for the origin of this complete secret technique, Qin Fang didn't elaborate, and Ji Xiang didn't inquire further.

Originally the weakest, Song Qingshan gained the most during this trip to Japan, unequivocally!

Before coming to Japan, Song Qingshan's ability was at the late Master Level, nearing its peak. But now, he was a steady Grandmaster-level expert, and due to taking the Buddha's Hand Vajra, his Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Cover bodily defenses were formidable enough that even Grandmaster Mid-Stage experts struggled to break through...

Indeed, because of this, Ji Xiang, itching for a fight, gave up the desire to spar with Song Qingshan, and even Qin Fang and Monk Wukong refrained, knowing better than to endure futile beatings!

Among them, Qin Fang still had the strongest attack power, but when it came to defense, Song Qingshan was undoubtedly the best.

Chapter 1876 - Encounter with the Red Oni! (Part 2)

No matter what, Qin Fang and the others returned from Lake Heart Island, and they followed the marks left by Hattori Sanzo to find them.

Since they came to the grassland to play, they naturally couldn't stay in one place, so Qin Fang and the other four went to handle some matters, while Hattori Sanzo was responsible for protecting the two beauties as they played on the grassland.

Just to ensure contact between both sides, Hattori Sanzo would use some special marks to leave messages for Qin Fang and the others...

Qin Fang and the others just needed to follow these marks to find them; it wasn't too troublesome given the vastness of the grassland. By standing slightly higher, they could have a view spanning over ten kilometers!

"Over there..."

Qin Fang and his group returned to the shore, traced the marks to look for the other three, found a high ground to check, and immediately discovered their whereabouts.

"Hmm... it seems like they've run into trouble!"

However, when Qin Fang used the binoculars to take a look, he found that Hattori Sanzo and the two seemed to be encountering some trouble, and even a conflict had occurred.

"Let's go see..."

The guys didn't worry much; Hattori Sanzo was a Grandmaster-level expert, and although he had lost the use of one hand, slightly diminishing his strength, he still wasn't someone ordinary people could contend with.

Even if he ran into some trouble, he could easily handle it...

That's what they thought, but when Qin Fang and the others arrived, they realized things weren't as simple as they had imagined.

"Old man, if you don't want to die, get out of the way. If you dare stop us again, I'll skin you alive today..."

An arrogant young man, appearing to be just twenty-five or twenty-six years old, was spraying spittle at Hattori Sanzo, while more than a dozen young men around him were looking at Qin Zi and Sakura with lewd eyes, wandering up and down their bodies...

Strangely, although Hattori Sanzo was being scolded like this, his face was not pleasant, he didn't retaliate, merely observing coldly while shielding Qin Zi and Sakura behind him.

Only when Qin Fang and his group appeared did Hattori Sanzo's expression slightly relax.

"Young Master..."

Seeing Qin Fang, Qin Zi immediately smiled and rushed towards him, like a young swallow returning to the forest.

Sakura hesitated slightly, with a complicated look in her eyes, but eventually, she also moved lightly to Qin Fang's side.

This seemingly casual action surprised Qin Fang greatly, so much so that he gave Sakura a deep look.

Sadly, this beauty only lowered her head, seemingly looking at her toes, without exchanging a glance with him...

Qin Fang didn't mind; after all, their relationship wasn't harmonious, more like adversaries. Not glaring angrily at each other was already a significant improvement.

"What's going on?"

Still, Qin Fang was a bit puzzled, observing the group, then looking at Hattori Sanzo with slight displeasure, obviously dissatisfied with his handling of the situation.

"Young Master Qin, here's what happened..."

Feeling rather aggrieved, Hattori Sanzo quickly stood by Qin Fang's side, whispering the entire story into his ear.

"Asakura Ken?"

Upon hearing the situation, Qin Fang understood what was happening and why Hattori Sanzo had acted this way...

Nevertheless, Qin Fang's expression didn't change much, merely savoring the name mentioned by Hattori Sanzo with interest.

Meanwhile, Qin Fang's gaze shifted from the young man who had spoken to another person within the crowd beside him.

The person looked ordinary, perhaps not young, but well-maintained, appearing about thirty or so in age, yet assuredly older.

This wasn't the focus; Qin Fang's attention was drawn to his hands, with long, slender, and fair fingers, seemingly like a woman's hands.

But, those very hands had taken countless lives...

Even though the man's overwhelming, almost tangible aura of blood had been strongly suppressed, it couldn't escape Qin Fang's notice.

This man was the very Red Devil Asakura Ken whom Hattori Sanzo had warned Qin Fang to be cautious of... Also, he was the disciple of Kitatori Shinichi, the chief of Anping Shrine, one of the Japan Taoist Church's Six Great Holy Lands, and the bodyguard of Kitatori Shinichi's favorite grandson, Kitatori Kojirou!

"Are you Kitatori Kojirou?"

Qin Fang's gaze moved away from Asakura Ken and back to the twenty-year-old fair-skinned young man with an intrigued expression.

In fact, there was no need to ask — Qin Fang naturally knew this was Kitatori Kojirou. Besides him, there was seemingly no one else who warranted the protective presence of Red Devil Asakura Ken.

Despite being so young, Kitatori Kojirou's pale face and unsteady steps betrayed him as a wastrel, a man hollowed out by wine and women.

But unlike others, Kitatori Kojirou wasn't from a powerful family or a wealthy home, but rather a martial family...

"Hmm? You know who I am?"

Kitatori Kojirou stood amidst the crowd with a faint grin on his pale face, unable to conceal the greed in his eyes.

Chapter 1877 - Encounter with the Red Oni! (Part 3)

As for what he's greedy for, it's actually quite clear, of course, it's beauty... Even though Qin Zi and Sakura's appearances have been altered, they are still rare beauties.

Given the style of that little pervert Kitatori Kojirou, how could he be polite when coming across them on such a vast, deserted grassland?

But unexpectedly to this kid, his martial uncle and bodyguard Asakura Ken didn't take immediate action. Instead, he discreetly informed him of one situation... That old man with the severed palm is an expert nearly as strong as him.

Perhaps that's also the reason why Hattori Sanzo is wary of Asakura Ken, and why Asakura Ken is unsure if he can take down Hattori Sanzo, leading to them confronting each other here.

Now that Qin Fang and the others have arrived and called out Kitatori Kojirou's name, how could he not be surprised?

Even though he causes trouble everywhere he goes, he rarely uses his real name, even if something happens that brings disgrace to Anping Shrine.

But unexpectedly, Qin Fang still managed to shout out his name, so Kitatori Kojirou's surprise was not surprising... However, Asakura Ken seemed quite calm, as if he had anticipated this.

"Is it you who wants to steal my woman?"

Qin Fang, however, ignored Kitatori Kojirou, his expression turning cold, and his tone becoming sharp as he shouted sternly.

With those words, a blush immediately spread across Qin Zi's fair face, and her eyes glimmered with surprise and delight.

Sakura, on the other hand, frowned slightly, a trace of displeasure flashing in her eyes, but also quite helpless...

"Old man, hit him..."

Even before Kitatori Kojirou could react, he gave Hattori Sanzo the order to attack.

"Yes!"

Hattori Sanzo had long been displeased with this boy, his own skills were terrible, yet he was showing off in front of him, a dignified grandmaster-level expert.

If Asakura Ken hadn't been standing there, instilling a certain dread, he would have acted long ago...

But now that Qin Fang and the others had arrived, his hesitation vanished completely. Hearing Qin Fang's command, Hattori Sanzo let out a cold shout and immediately moved straight towards Kitatori Kojiro.

"Baka!"

Witnessing such a scene, Kitatori Kojiro was petrified, not knowing how to react, while Asakura Ken's expression darkened. With a cold shout, he quickly moved towards Kitatori Kojiro.

Of course, he wasn't attacking Kitatori Kojiro, but intended to intercept the suddenly attacking Hattori Sanzo.

He had long realized that Hattori Sanzo's strength was formidable. Perhaps a bit weaker than himself, but undoubtedly a difficult opponent.

But at this moment, he couldn't afford to hesitate. His responsibility was to protect Kitatori Kojiro. If anything happened to him, it would be hard to account for to his master.

However, Asakura Ken seemed to have underestimated the situation. As soon as he made his move, he immediately sensed a terrifying aura approaching from his side, evidently of the grandmaster-level tier... Even though not matching his skill, it carried a significant threat.

Crucially, this aura was not coming from the frontal Hattori Sanzo, but from someone else!

"Hehe, your opponent is me..."

Seeing Asakura Ken make a move, Ji Xiang immediately let out a strange cry and instantly mobilized his palm energy, ready to launch a sneak attack on Asakura Ken.

As a newly rising genius assassin of the Assassin's Alliance, codenamed Black Night, Ji Xiang had long been renowned for this legendary assassin, Red Devil Asakura.

Perhaps he would have had some admiration before, but now...

"Let me see if the assassin Red Devil is really as formidable as the rumors?"

As he spoke, Ji Xiang dared not show any contempt, unleashing his killer moves, aiming directly at the vital points of Red Devil Asakura Ken.

With the immense True Qi of the Shadow Demon God Manuscript circulating, it even seemed to lower the surrounding temperature, and Ji Xiang's eerie aura intensified significantly.

Even Asakura Ken, such a grandmaster-level expert, couldn't help being moved upon sensing this powerful aura, especially as Ji Xiang attacked with killer moves, forcing him to abandon the rescue of Kitatori Kojirou.

Even though Kitatori Kojirou was important, his own life was equally crucial, if not more so... His life was even more critical.

Indeed, Kitatori Kojirou was Kitatori Shinichi's most beloved grandson, yet he was a good-for-nothing playboy. His skill wasn't great, and he might die on a woman's belly someday.

But for grandmaster-level experts like him, it's a different story. Although Anping Shrine is one of Japan's Six Great Holy Lands, grandmaster-level experts are still few, only about a dozen in total within the entire Holy Land.

A loss of even such a scarce few grandmaster-level experts would be a significant blow... Let alone one as highly talented and remarkably skilled as Asakura Ken.

Out of a sense of danger awareness and self-preservation, facing Ji Xiang's deadly assault, the Red Devil Asakura Ken had no choice but to temporarily retreat.

Pa~~

But just as Asakura Ken retreated, Hattori Sanzo had already reached Kitatori Kojirou's side. He slapped Kitatori Kojirou's pale face with a resounding smack.

The strike was crisp and loud, imbued with a vigorous True Qi. With Kitatori Kojirou's frail body, Hattori Sanzo directly slapped him flying. His body, weighing over a hundred pounds, was sent airborne, his pale, thin face instantly swelling into a half-slap of a large meat bun.

"Ah~~~"

Only after being sent flying did his agonizing scream slowly emerge, and that sound was truly heart-wrenching, making those who heard it shiver uncontrollably...

Chapter 1878 - 1461: Legendary Assassin? Utter Domination!

...

Such a scene was both expected and unexpected...

However, for Qin Fang, it was naturally an anticipated event. If a Grandmaster-level Expert like Hattori Sanzo couldn't deal with such a playboy, then there would truly be no reason to live.

Yet, the unexpected part was for Asakura Ken; he never expected Qin Fang's group to be so ferocious, striking mercilessly the moment they met.

"Baka..."

Seeing Kitatori Kojirou being beaten like this by Hattori Sanzo, even if that slap didn't use much force, it almost took half of that wastrel Kitatori Kojirou's life.

At this moment, the kid lay on the ground howling in agony, his voice weak and feeble, as if he already had one foot across the Gates of Hell.

If this scene were to be seen by his grandfather Kitatori Shinichi, who knows how furious that old man would become.

Asakura Ken, though not highly regarding this playboy, couldn't watch Qin Fang and others beat Kitatori Kojirou like this before his eyes. Immediately enraged, he moved subtly, swiftly pushing Ji Xiang away and rushed towards Kitatori Kojirou.

However, Asakura Ken's thoughts were good, and his movements were swift. As a former legendary assassin, his speed was quite astonishing as well.

While Qin Fang hadn't discovered any secret movement technique from him, his speed was quite formidable, even surpassing Ji Xiang by a bit...

However, if he thought speed alone could save Kitatori Kojirou, then Asakura Ken was oversimplifying the situation a bit.

Just as Asakura Ken was about to reach Kitatori Kojirou, a golden figure suddenly flashed in front of him, with True Qi vibrating and an aggressive aura fully locking onto him, instantly blocking his advance...

"Baka!"

Such a thing immediately enraged Asakura Ken. As a Grandmaster-level expert and a famously skilled martial artist from Japan, he was usually the one bullying others, never having been humiliated like this.

With a furious shout from his mouth, followed by the vibration of True Qi on his body, he immediately swung his palm to attack the person blocking his path...

The opponent seemed a bit slow to react, or perhaps Asakura Ken's attack was too fast. At this moment, there was no time to dodge, forcing him to take Asakura Ken's heavy strike head-on!

Asakura Ken's strike, even though not utilizing his full strength, still carried about eighty percent strength... As a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert, he was quite confident in his Attack Power, even if the opponent was also a Grandmaster-level expert, they would surely suffer a substantial loss.

Seeing that the opponent could not dodge, Asakura Ken couldn't help but show some smugness on his face, while his eyes became sharply focused, almost anticipating the outcome...

Bang!!

Asakura Ken's palm struck the opponent's chest, and the overwhelming Palm Energy instantly unleashed, stirring up the surrounding Qi and blowing with a strong gust...

However, the sound of this palm strike on the body was inexplicably bizarre, emitting a sound akin to a giant drum, as if Asakura Ken's strike didn't land on a human but struck some large drum...

Even faintly, a hidden metallic clashing sound could be heard, exceedingly strange.

"How could this be..."

Asakura Ken was stunned, as his resentful palm, despite not being at full power, possessed extreme lethality. Generally, any peer hit directly would undoubtedly be injured and retreat.

But this person in front of him... their body didn't budge an inch, aside from the clothes fluttered by the gale just now, not even a minor piece was damaged.

Moreover, Asakura Ken noticed, on the opponent's ordinary, stern face, there was a mocking smile at this moment, and then... a sharp gust of wind attacked, immediately making Asakura Ken feel a strong sense of crisis, even threatening his life!

"Not good..."

Asakura Ken wasn't stupid. To carve out such a resounding reputation in the Assassin's Alliance, besides having formidable strength, he must have a sharp mind, especially a keener sense towards danger than the average Martial Artist.

Realizing something was off, Asakura Ken's first reaction was to quickly withdraw and escape, fearing that a slower reaction could be life-threatening.

Whoosh~~

It's undeniable, Asakura Ken's profound experience from years of being an assassin was indeed incredibly useful; it was precisely his critical reaction that allowed him to avoid the tragedy of severe injury or even death!

Even so, the sharp gust of wind still grazed Asakura Ken's body, tearing a corner of his clothing into strips, even leaving several blood marks on his body... though the wounds were not deep, causing no major problems!

"Baka..."

Although Asakura Ken dodged this deadly blow, such an outcome was clearly not what he wanted to see, not even remembering how many years it had been since he was treated like this.

At this moment, Asakura Ken was utterly enraged...

Chapter 1879 - Legendary Assassin? Utter Domination! (Part 2)

However, the enraged Asakura Ken seemed to calm down instead. He didn't rush to save Kitatori Kojirou, but rather backed off a certain distance, carefully watching Qin Fang and the others.

"Who exactly are you people?"

From the brief encounter just now, Asakura Ken was fiercely shocked by the opponent's strength, and his facial expressions kept changing.

Originally, Hattori Sanzo, who was slightly weaker than him, was enough to make him wary, but unexpectedly, several young men in their twenties showed up, each stronger than the last.

Not to mention Ji Xiang, as soon as he made a move, Asakura Ken knew he must be an assassin, using combat techniques he was quite familiar with, which allowed him to dodge smoothly.

Even if he truly engaged in a fight with Ji Xiang, he could still handle him, though it would take some effort and time...

But this suddenly formidable young man made Asakura Ken's expression turn exceptionally grim... This man's body was enveloped in a faint golden glow, likely from cultivation of some formidable body-strengthening technique, and his physical defense was so strong that even Asakura Ken's Grandmaster Mid-Stage strength couldn't break through it, which was truly terrifying.

There were seven people on the other side. Except for the two women who seemed utterly defenseless, three of the five men had already made a move.

Yet, all three of them turned out to be Grandmaster-level Experts...

Since when were Grandmaster-level Experts so worthless?

Even at Anping Shrine, one of Japan's Six Great Holy Lands, there were only about a dozen Grandmaster-level Experts, and most of them were already quite old.

A Grandmaster-level Expert like Ji Xiang or Song Qingshan in their twenties or thirties was absolutely a prodigy among prodigies... Even the young talents in Japan's martial world who were eligible to compete for the throne of Great Priest of the Dao Shen Sect seemed to have similar strength!

But those people were almost all considered treasures by their respective Holy Lands, all arrogant and conceited, and hardly ever gathered together, so how could they appear like this before us...

"Who are we? Hahahaha... Asakura Ken, are you out of your mind? Asking us who we are only now?"

Upon hearing Asakura Ken's words, Qin Fang, who had been standing aside, finally spoke.

When he spoke, it nearly drove Asakura Ken to rush over and fight him... The insult was too direct.

"Baka!"

Asakura Ken was indeed infuriated.

But at this moment, he could only suppress his anger helplessly, looking at Qin Fang with a face full of fury, then glancing at Kitatori Kojirou groaning on the ground, with strange glints flashing in his eyes.

He seemed to realize that among this group of seven, the real leader was not the three Grandmaster-level Experts he found most threatening, but this unknown Qin Fang.

As for the bald man beside Qin Fang, who looked relaxed and unconcerned, Asakura Ken figured he might not be that simple either.

He even...he suddenly felt that these five men before him might not be easy to deal with, and there might not be a single weak one among them!

Although Qin Fang and Monk Wukong hadn't made a move yet, Asakura Ken vaguely guessed their potential and found himself at a dilemma.

"Old man, what are you waiting for! Continue the attack... We don't need anyone alive!"

However, Qin Fang clearly wouldn't give him too much time to think, directly ordering Hattori Sanzo beside him. This Kitatori Kojirou... must not be spared! Nor is there a need to!

"Hai!"

This old Hattori Sanzo was now determined to follow Qin Fang. Perhaps he used to despise people from Dragon Country and be lenient toward those from his country, but now...things were completely different.

Although Kitatori Kojirou was his compatriot, Hattori Sanzo showed no mercy while making his move, quickly closing in on the Kitatori Kojirou lying on the ground and delivering a ruthless kick...

Even though Hattori Sanzo was a Swordsman, his skills had reached a level where he could find parallels between seemingly disparate areas. This kick seemed ordinary, but it concealed an extremely sharp killer move, a potentially lethal strike...

"Baka!"

Seeing Hattori Sanzo use a killer move on the half-dead Kitatori Kojirou, Asakura Ken's expression immediately changed drastically, cursing loudly as he rushed to save him!

However, with Ji Xiang and Song Qingshan responsible for obstruction, how could they possibly let him succeed?

Song Qingshan's body blocked Asakura Ken's path, while Ji Xiang launched a lethal attack from behind. Both of their moves were incredibly fierce, full of murderous intent with each strike.

"Murder...murder!"

Seeing these people so vicious, the young ones who had been following Kitatori Kojirou were already stunned with fear.

But witnessing Hattori Sanzo use a killer move against Kitatori Kojirou and preparing to eliminate him, they finally began to recover, their faces turning deathly pale, and someone even voiced this desperate cry. A particularly timid one even turned around and ran away...

No other choice, the scene before them was too much for them to handle... Once one started running, a second, a third soon followed, and the group immediately fell apart, choosing to flee, caring nothing for Kitatori Kojirou's fate.

Chapter 1880 - Legendary Assassin? Utter Defeat!

"Monk, I'll leave these people to you..."

Having witnessed this scene before, Qin Fang simply curled his lips and said this to Monk Wukong, who was equally idle beside him.

"Light or heavy?"

Monk Wukong nodded but still asked simply.

"Not of our kind..."

Qin Fang didn't look at him, just said as if talking to himself, his voice not very loud.

"Understood!"

However, Monk Wukong smiled faintly, then lightly tapped his foot, causing a small stone to rise into the air. Monk Wukong himself then turned into an arrow shot from a bow, quickly chasing after it, lightly tapping on the flying stone with his toes, and his whole body sped out like lightning...

This scene naturally fell into the eyes of Asakura Ken, who was besieged by two Grandmaster-level experts, causing his pupils to involuntarily contract.

Although Monk Wukong only showed his light body technique, the speed and depth he displayed were absolutely not inferior to the other three Grandmaster-level experts...

"Four... Grandmasters!"

At this moment, Asakura Ken's eyes were filled with bitterness.

He had always protected Kitatori Kojirou. Basically, every time this guy caused trouble, Asakura Ken was responsible for cleaning up the mess. They had indeed gotten into quite troublesome matters, even clashing with a big shot from a Holy Land... but he, Asakura Ken, still managed to handle everything.

But compared to this time, even those troubles paled in comparison...

At least, when clashing with a big shot from some Holy Land, the opponent was only a Grandmaster-level expert, and Asakura Ken was not much weaker, plus he had the strong backing of the Anping Shrine and Kitatori Shinichi, so things eventually went unresolved.

But now?

Reality seemed a bit too harsh.

Firstly, Asakura Ken still didn't know the opponent's background by now. He seemed to have never heard of these people's matters... After all, four Grandmaster-level experts gathering together and following one person was too unusual.

Not knowing the opponent's background, but they clearly knew theirs so well and still acted without hesitation, then they definitely didn't care about the backing of Anping Shrine or the great expert Kitatori Shinichi behind them...

Secondly, the opponent's strikes were extremely ruthless, leaving no room for maneuver, nor did they intend to... Kitatori Kojirou's life was basically not safe, and even he himself was in danger.

"Ah~~"

At this moment, the useless Kitatori Kojirou finally let out the last... or rather, half of a sound in his life. The scream only came out halfway before he breathed his last.

"Baka... We can't stay here any longer!"

Seeing Kitatori Kojiro fall silent made Asakura Ken realize that he seemed to have died.

If Kitatori Kojiro were still alive, Asakura Ken would naturally try to save him desperately; otherwise, it would be even harder to explain if he escaped. But now... there was no longer a need for rescue, so survival naturally became the priority.

Realizing this, Asakura Ken dared not hesitate at all.

Bang~~

He directly met Song Qingshan's attacking palm with his palm, and once their palms collided... Asakura Ken was directly blasted away by Song Qingshan!

To be precise, Asakura Ken used the impact from Song Qingshan's palm to propel himself swiftly to one side.

Although Ji Xiang was ready to launch a sneak attack, he also feared being accidentally injured, maintaining a slight distance. However, this sudden occurrence confused him a bit.

In this instant of hesitation, Ji Xiang's body stiffened slightly, which allowed Asakura Ken to seize the opportunity!

"Run!"

Asakura Ken turned the situation to his advantage. His palm seemed to exert great force, seemingly bursting with full strength, actively drawing Song Qingshan's full response.

Unexpectedly, this was a feint, and he took advantage of the momentum to retreat...

A person's potential is incalculable, especially at certain moments, when it suddenly bursts out.

A legendary assassin like Asakura Ken is no different. In times of crisis, the power they unleash is often astounding.

In this moment, he started fleeing in haste, his speed skyrocketing, dashing several meters in an instant, breaking away from Ji Xiang and Song Qingshan's encirclement.

But could he truly escape?

"Trying to escape?"

Qin Fang had been keeping an eye on Asakura Ken's movements, and the moment he saw Ken try to flee, a strange smile appeared on his face.

"Did you ask me?"

Almost as Asakura Ken thought he had escaped, Qin Fang's voice echoed in his ears, and a figure appeared not far ahead of him.

To be precise, this figure had originally been far behind him, but was now catching up, and was even about to surpass him...

"Baka!"

Asakura Ken's face turned green. This newcomer was, of course, Qin Fang, whose sudden burst of speed hit Asakura Ken hard.

At the same time, Asakura Ken also realized that Qin Fang's strength was unexpectedly strong...

Though the two hadn't exchanged blows, just in terms of light body technique, Asakura Ken was utterly outclassed, likely indicating that Qin Fang's skills were no weaker than those of the others!

"Five... Grandmasters!"

Asakura Ken's eyes were filled with bitterness, frightened by Kitatori Kojirou's pitiful knack for causing trouble.

Casually provoking a few people, and among them, all five men turned out to be Grandmaster-level experts... perhaps these individuals were only at the Grandmaster-level initial stage, but the problem was that five Grandmaster-level experts fighting against him was something he couldn't possibly withstand.

Moreover, several of them displayed strengths that may not even pale in comparison to his...

He couldn't break through Song Qingshan's defense with his attack power, and his speed was several times overtaken by Qin Fang... What else did he have left to stand on?