

Genius 1941

Chapter 1941 - Provocation! Arrogance!

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On the mountain of the Liangye Hot Spring Hotel, Qin Fang and his group were leisurely heading to the other side of the mountain, not too fast, mainly waiting for Ji Xiang to send over any messages.

However, while Ji Xiang was still gathering information, Qin Fang's group had already made contact with the other party first...

When Qin Fang and the others drove up to the mountain top, admiring the lake and mountain views around them, they immediately felt a sense of tranquility and delight.

However, at the pavilion on the mountaintop, they happened to run into another group of people.

"Kitatori Kojirou... you actually dare to appear in front of me again!"

Before Qin Fang and his group could react, the other side suddenly launched an attack, almost pointing at Qin Fang's nose and delivering a barrage of insults.

The one hurling insults wasn't very old, estimated to be about the same age as Kitatori Kojirou, but his physique was quite burly... at least from a visual standpoint.

As for his abilities... Qin Fang only responded with a calm smile, as this guy was basically on par with Kitatori Kojirou and could be mostly ignored.

"Tianchuang Xiong..."

Qin Fang's scouting skill activated, immediately identifying him as a profligate offspring from Sakata Shrine, with a status similar to Kitatori Kojirou's at Anping Shrine.

This Tianchuang Xiong was the grandson of Sakata Shrine's sect master, Tianchuang Naohide, in his twenties but with little cultivation, though he held the identity of Sakata Shrine's crown prince, which prevented many from daring to provoke him easily.

Of course, it's not that no one dared to mess with this guy; in the martial world, any remotely competent expert could easily crush him.

It's just that they gave him some face because of the powerful Sakata Shrine backing him up... but if things escalated, someone would still lay hands on him.

As for the older generation from the Six Great Holy Lands, dealing with an unruly junior like him wouldn't be a problem at all, although they usually wouldn't bother with him.

But the younger generation from the Six Great Holy Lands was a different story; people like Hattori Hisanari, the future core members, would beat him up as casually as eating or drinking, and even if they did, there'd be no chance for retaliation...

Although Tianchuang Xiong and Kitatori Kojirou had experts accompanying them, these experts at most would only protect their master but wouldn't dare make a move against future cores of the Holy Lands like Hattori Hisanari, as that would cause significant trouble.

If something serious happened, it could even trigger a violent conflict between two Holy Lands, making it a bloody battlefield...

For any Holy Land, it would be a losing deal to create such chaos over a mere profligate heir!

Because of this, people like Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong often only bullied ordinary disciples, and when they saw people like Hattori Hisanari, they would typically turn and leave without even daring to say hello.

Unfortunately, the person standing in front of Tianchuang Xiong wasn't Anping Shrine's Kitatori Kazuo, but Kitatori Kojirou... someone who had previously been defeated by him.

"Tianchuang Xiong, did you get your head bitten by a dog when you left the house today? Why are you spewing nonsense as soon as you open your mouth?"

Although Qin Fang wasn't very clear about the past between Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong, the appearance of Tianchuang Xiong was extremely advantageous to Qin Fang in this situation.

Therefore, Qin Fang unceremoniously cursed back, directly using foul language, and even considered further insulting the other party's ancestors...

"Baka!"

Hearing Qin Fang's blatant cursing, Tianchuang Xiong was stunned for a moment, but quickly reacted and became extremely angry.

With a furious roar, this guy somehow drew out a Sleeve Sword and aimed it at Qin Fang's chest, as if intending to attack.

"Kitatori, are you planning to violate the previous bet?"

Of course, Tianchuang Xiong had no real intention to stab, as both were of similar status, and a bit of scuffling wasn't a big deal, but if it turned deadly, the problem would be significant.

Despite the fact that both of their sects were rather low-ranking, they were family members of the sect masters, belonging to a privileged class. If someone killed them, the ramifications would be substantial.

Whoever did it would essentially be sentenced to death in compensation...

Tianchuang Xiong clearly didn't think he had lived enough; he was only in his twenties, with three-quarters of his life still to enjoy, so why would he risk his life over a single word?

Despite holding a knife, he had absolutely no intention of using it, only expressing his anger.

"A bet? What bet... I don't remember!"

Qin Fang simply smiled calmly and ambiguously responded.

He was telling the truth, not knowing anything about any bet, because he wasn't really Kitatori Kojirou... he was merely disguised as Kitatori Kojirou and knew nothing of his memories!

"Baka~~"

Hearing Qin Fang's words, Tianchuang Xiong was instantly enraged, his hand gripping the sword started to tremble violently, veins bulging out, clearly becoming quite agitated.

"Kitatori, are you provoking me!"

Yet he still suppressed the rage in his heart, almost gritting his teeth as he shouted.

"Haha, don't be so worked up! Just joking..."

Qin Fang chuckled, gently moved the sword's tip aside, and leisurely said.

"Since you said so, I'll leave right away then..."

Not only was his tone much more courteous, but Qin Fang also immediately turned to leave, giving up the spot to Tianchuang Xiong and his men, and several companions behind him were about to step away.

"Wait..."

Just as Qin Fang and his companions turned, Tianchuang Xiong suddenly called out, and quickly rushed beside Qin Fang, using his body to block Qin Zi.

"You all can leave! But she... must stay!"

And Tianchuang Xiong very domineeringly demanded, his gaze at Qin Zi filled with fiery passion, even started drooling unconsciously.

If not for Qin Fang and others not having left, he might have pounced immediately.

"Little beauty, from today on, you better stick with this young master, much better than following that useless wimp... See that? I told him to scram, and he scrambled immediately!"

Tianchuang Xiong was quite domineering, not only blocking Qin Zi, but also verbally assaulting her, as if only trampling the opponent into mud would satisfy him.

Simultaneously, Tianchuang Xiong, mesmerized by lust, stretched his chubby hand towards Qin Zi's tender white skin...

"Tianchuang, don't go too far..."

At this moment, Qin Fang stopped and his expression turned more somber, speaking in a voice with a chilling edge, clearly genuinely angry.

"Are you provoking?"

And Qin Fang solemnly stated his stance, his tone resolute.

"What if I am?"

Tianchuang Xiong sneered disdainfully, his gaze full of contempt, entirely dismissing Qin Fang, that superiority was truly irritating enough to make one want to punch him.

"So, you're insisting on this?"

Qin Fang's expression instantly became stern, his tone carried an icy coldness, devoid of any emotional flavor, sending chills down one's spine.

This sudden change made several from the opposite Sakata Shrine furrow their brows, especially the middle-aged martial artist behind Tianchuang Xiong gazed at Qin Fang with a peculiar look.

Most people knew what kind of capability Kitatori Kojirou had, especially those like Tianchuang Xiong who were on similar levels and had conflicts, they knew each other well.

This was natural, otherwise, in conflicts, the weaker party would undoubtedly suffer greatly!

If they didn't want to suffer, they must have comparable strength, otherwise, constantly being bullied was quite a disgrace.

Truth be told, Tianchuang Xiong was slightly stronger than Kitatori Kojirou, although almost negligible, but in a real fight, Tianchuang Xiong still had a considerable advantage.

Their bodyguards were equally strong, keeping watch on each other, but rarely came to blows.

But now, the usually inconspicuous Kitatori Kojirou suddenly emitted an aura that made even a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert like him take notice... though no aura was released, it felt like this Kitatori Kojirou was quite extraordinary.

"Young master, enough is enough!"

Perhaps sensing Qin Fang's uniqueness, the guard hesitated but eventually tugged Tianchuang Xiong's sleeve and whispered.

"This has nothing to do with you, step aside..."

But Tianchuang Xiong was completely unappreciative, he glanced around briefly, seeing the Red Devil Asakura Ken was not present, who was typically Kitatori Kojirou's follower.

Although Qin Fang's group had an old man, Tianchuang Xiong didn't recognize him, presumably not someone renowned from Anping Shrine, he didn't take it seriously.

"Kitatori, from now on this woman is mine, if I see you again, I'll beat you every time..."

Some say to show mercy when possible, but Tianchuang Xiong was relentlessly causing trouble, becoming more and more arrogant.

"Alas, I didn't intend to make a fuss, but since you insist, I have no reason to hold back..."

Chapter 1942 - Mongrels and Fools!

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The situation had come to this point, and a faint smile emerged on Qin Fang's previously gloomy face, with a hint of mockery in his eyes.

"You were the one who provoked first, so if I strike back a bit, nobody should complain, right..."

Qin Fang looked calmly at Tianchuang Xiong, who was shouting in front of him, and said with a smiling gaze.

"What, still want to fight me again?"

Tianchuang Xiong was surprised for a moment, but then his expression became even more arrogant, even rolling up his sleeves with a wild laugh, saying, "Come on, come on, see how I beat you so hard your own mother won't recognize you today..."

Don't be fooled; although Tianchuang Xiong wasn't bothered by his own strength, that was relative. When facing someone like Kitatori Kojirou, he wasn't afraid at all; in fact, he seemed particularly excited.

"Speaking of which, I almost forgot, your mother really is something! She even got involved with your brother... Tsk, tsk, I wonder if he should call you brother or son! Hahaha..."

Just then, Tianchuang Xiong added this line.

For Kitatori Kojirou, this was an open secret, even within the Anping Shrine, many people knew about it.

Other shrines likely had their channels to find out such news, but generally, they just knew about it and rarely brought it up.

But Tianchuang Xiong didn't care about these things; as long as he could attack Kitatori Kojirou, he wouldn't hold back, wishing he could spill it all out.

But he managed to get one thing wrong: the person in front of him wasn't the real Kitatori Kojirou, but Qin Fang.

Qin Fang's father was trapped on Devil's Island and still couldn't escape, and Qin Fang himself was almost entirely raised with his mother, Qin Qing, so he cherished and respected his mom Qin Qing the most.

But now Tianchuang Xiong was insulting his mother... Even if Tianchuang Xiong was probably cursing that old woman from the Demon Sect, Qin Fang could not just let this matter be.

Almost as soon as these words came out, not only Qin Fang but the others were all taken aback, with faces turning much colder.

"I originally didn't want to kill you, but your mouth got you into trouble..."

This time, Qin Fang was truly furious, extremely furious, and his entire demeanor suddenly became overwhelmingly terrifying. Almost as soon as he finished speaking, he reached out and grabbed Tianchuang Xiong's neck.

"Watch out!"

This turn of events happened almost instantly, so much so that many people didn't expect things to escalate this way, even Tianchuang Xiong's bodyguard only managed to shout a brief warning.

But it was too late for him to rescue him...

The Kitatori Kojirou, who had always been bullied, seemed to have completely changed, exuding a dangerous aura that even a grandmaster-level expert like his bodyguard couldn't help but glance at Qin Fang in astonishment.

However... the bodyguard didn't hesitate a bit and launched the most violent attack on Qin Fang.

Qin Fang's aura was unusual and seemed quite dangerous, and since he intended to harm Tianchuang Xiong, as the bodyguard, he absolutely couldn't let this happen, so naturally, he wanted to force Qin Fang to retreat with a violent attack!

Crack~~

Unfortunately, Qin Fang's movements were too fast, and before the bodyguard's fist could arrive, Qin Fang had already seized Tianchuang Xiong's throat.

Moreover, his other hand wasn't idle either, seizing and twisting the Sleeve Sword from Tianchuang Xiong's hand with fluency, effortlessly stabbing it into the depths of Tianchuang Xiong's heart!

"Uh..."

This scene left all the people from Sakata Shrine dumbstruck; the fights between Tianchuang Xiong and Kitatori Kojirou weren't new at all.

Although every fight ended miserably, it never escalated to murder... so they weren't worried when Tianchuang Xiong had a Sleeve Sword in hand.

But this time, they all miscalculated... Tianchuang Xiong didn't harm Kitatori Kojirou, but Kitatori Kojirou struck at Tianchuang Xiong!

But by the time they reacted, it was too late, as the Sleeve Sword had already pierced deep into Tianchuang Xiong's heart.

The Sleeve Sword wasn't very long, but it was quite nimble, and its sharpness was undeniable; this strike pierced Tianchuang Xiong through and through.

Yet, as Tianchuang Xiong grimaced in pain, he clung tightly to Qin Fang's clothes, seemingly unable to believe how things had turned out.

"Baka! Young Master..."

Sadly, now Tianchuang Xiong had no more chances; his life had practically begun its countdown... the bodyguard charged in even more furiously.

Boom~~

However, when he passed by Qin Zi, who appeared weak and frail, an exceptionally violent and terrifying aura exploded from her, not inferior to his own at all.

Moreover, a jade-like hand struck fiercely at his side... a terrifying force erupted violently.

The overwhelmingly powerful strength crashed into his body, making him feel as if all his internal organs had been displaced.

Puh~~

With almost no suspense, the bodyguard immediately felt a surge of reverse blood rising suddenly. He tried to suppress it, but he utterly failed.

Immediately, his mouth opened, and a mist of blood filled the air...

Not only that, but the fierce strike he launched also instantly collapsed, and he was utterly destroyed by Qin Zi's attack.

His body flew through the air for a moment and landed heavily on the ground not far away, his entire face turning a pale gold, looking extremely pitiful.

There were still traces of blood at the corners of his mouth, not just a bright red, but hints of black and some fragments, showing that Qin Zi's strike was truly terrifying and had seriously injured the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard.

"Well, do you want to try again?"

Qin Fang looked at him with an amused expression, as if disregarding his previous attack, or rather, he had been waiting for him to do exactly that.

Qin Zi seemed gentle and weak, but her strength was incredibly terrifying, not at all weaker than the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard.

If there was any weakness, it was her slight lack of combat experience, but that wasn't something that could be achieved overnight and had to be gradually accumulated personally.

Because of this, Qin Zi rarely took action, preferring to stand aside like a weak woman, staying outside whenever possible.

But at the most crucial moments, Qin Zi would unleash the most terrifying combat power, achieving the most unexpected results!

This time was no exception. Neither Tianchuang Xiong, who tried to monopolize and flirt with the beauty, nor the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard had any idea.

Qin Zi's age was too deceptive; no one could imagine that such a young beauty could possess such terrifying strength.

Back then, Asakura Ken didn't realize, Sakura didn't realize, and now even the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard didn't realize...

"Qin Zi, well done!"

This time, Qin Zi's strike was very effective; the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard had lost more than half of his combat power.

Although he was still a challenging opponent, he was now just a toothless tiger; no matter how much he wanted to cause trouble, there was nothing he could do...

"Thank you, Young Master, for the praise!"

Qin Zi smiled radiantly, responding cheerfully.

However, instead of approaching, she moved toward the mid-stage Grandmaster-level bodyguard since he was the strongest among them.

As they say, a starving camel is still bigger than a horse; as long as he still had a breath left, he couldn't be underestimated. He had to be closely watched.

"Kill!"

Qin Fang and his side were stabilized, but the others were not as peaceful. Hattori Sanzo, Monk Wukong, and Song Qingshan wasted no time dealing a deadly blow to Tianchuang Xiong's followers...

This group was similar to Kitatori Kojirou back then, just a bunch of second-rate characters. Though a few of them were quite capable, facing several wolf-like Grandmaster-level experts, their numbers were meaningless, and they could only meet their end.

As for the instigator, Tianchuang Xiong, he was in Qin Fang's grip, with a sword pierced through his heart. He had already been dead for a while, and his body was gradually growing cold.

With his meager strength, he could never shake Qin Fang... ending in such a tragic way; his death was truly a grievous injustice!

"Bastard~~ I'll fight you to the bitter end!"

Seeing this scene, the bodyguard was filled with rage, as he was Tianchuang Xiong's bodyguard; now that his master had perished, he couldn't explain it to his sect.

Moreover, he was seriously injured himself, having lost nearly half of his cultivation. The opponents had several Grandmaster-level experts, pushing him to the brink of despair.

However, this guy was also ruthless; he pulled out a thick golden needle from his body and stabbed it fiercely into several acupoints on his body.

Buzz~~~

Suddenly, the aura of this little devil completely changed; not only did his injuries recover, but his combat power seemed to reach its peak state.

"Oh, so you even know such a secret technique... not bad, not bad!"

Seeing the guy using something akin to the Heavenly Demon Disintegration secret technique, temporarily suppressing his injuries, even Qin Fang couldn't help but exclaim in admiration.

Chapter 1943 - So What If I Let You Escape!

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Under the enhancement of this secret technique, the power of this adversary gradually recovered to its peak, returning to the Grandmaster Mid-Stage cultivation.

Of course, this secret technique is not without side effects; in fact, the side effects are quite significant...

The better the effect of the secret technique, the greater the price to be paid...

Watching the Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert in front of him recover his former strength, Qin Fang's expression showed not a hint of worry but rather a playful look as he gazed at him.

"Tsk tsk, he really plans to fight us to the death!"

The feedback from the Scouting Skill indicated that while the Grandmaster expert appeared normal, his situation was actually quite dire, with his life almost entering a countdown.

It seems the secret technique he practiced had extremely fatal flaws. Now, he forcibly used the secret technique to return to the peak, at the cost of his life!

"Even if I die, I'll drag you down with me!"

However, when the adversary becomes ruthless, it's a terrifying thing, and such reckless methods are quite common.

"I'm afraid you don't have the capability..."

Looking at the near-fierce face, Qin Fang just smiled casually.

To force a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert to this extent, their actions haven't been too unsuccessful... Moreover, this adversary, though currently formidable, has only a very short life force left to wield!

"Qin Zi, leave it to you... Just hold him off!"

Qin Fang didn't even bother to act himself, instead instructing Qin Zi by his side, while he stayed out of the fray.

"Baka!"

Hearing Qin Fang's words, the adversary immediately flew into a rage, charging rapidly towards Qin Fang!

In his eyes, Qin Fang currently held the identity of Kitatori Kojirou from Anping Shrine, and Kitatori Kojirou had killed his master, Tianchuang Xiong.

Just on this account, taking down Kitatori Kojirou was justified, standing on the side of reason, and even if conflicts erupted between the two great Holy Lands, they wouldn't suffer losses, and might even gain some advantages!

Of course, he wouldn't see how it would play out; utilizing this secret technique passed down by his sect, he basically couldn't preserve his life!

Unless, before his death, he could take some spiritual medicine that increases vitality...

Unfortunately, spiritual medicines are too scarce, each one extraordinarily precious, meticulously protected by the great sects, fearing any slight mishap.

Because they're precious, even more attention is paid to their effects, it's something foundational to the sect's heritage, how could it possibly be used for someone?

Even if Sakata Shrine had spiritual medicine, it definitely wouldn't be used to save his life...

Neither he as a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert, nor Tianchuang Xiong's grandson, nor even Sakata Shrine's Sect Master, Tianchuang Naohide, could make arbitrary decisions.

"Your opponent is me..."

Seeing the adversary charge directly at Qin Fang, Qin Zi's expression turned dark, she shouted and immediately stepped forward, intercepting him.

Being both Grandmaster Mid-Stage experts, Qin Zi's strength was also not to be underestimated, with a wave of her palm, a surging energy aura followed.

Perhaps because she used Miyamoto Musashi's Earth Ninja Token, and Miyamoto Musashi himself was a peak Master Level expert, almost just one step away from Great Grandmaster Level, the effect of this Earth Ninja Token was exceptionally good.

It allowed Qin Zi not only to directly enter the Grandmaster level but also leap past the Grandmaster-level Initial Stage, straight into the Grandmaster Mid-Stage. Her cultivation was so profound that she wasn't much weaker than a Master Level Late-Stage expert.

With this, when her palm wind drove, the profound energy aura surged, immediately changing the adversary's complexion... Although he was now fighting for his life, with half his life force soon to perish, it didn't mean he wanted to be recklessly hit by such a fierce blow, while forcibly advancing on Qin Fang.

Moreover, Qin Fang's calm demeanor surely indicated he had his own trump card; definitely not someone easy to deal with.

Even he couldn't withstand a deadly strike from an expert of the same level... Though the secret technique was astonishing, it had limits.

If pushed beyond these limits, his life could end even sooner!

"Baka!"

The adversary was frustrated but helpless, could only mutter an angry curse under his breath, slightly shifting his body, simultaneously meeting Qin Zi with his own palm.

Bam~~

The two palms collided fiercely, the two equally violent energy auras clashed, creating a terrifying stream of energy aura.

The violent energy aura swept around, almost instantly vacating the surrounding airwaves, and the ground felt as though it was compacted, faintly producing a cracking sound.

"So strong!"

Qin Zi slightly stepped back three to five paces before barely steadying herself, while the opponent similarly retreated two to three steps.

It seemed as if the adversary had a slight advantage, but that was not the case. At least at this moment, the adversary's face turned extremely ugly, can't help but utter these two words from his mouth.

Chapter 1944 - So What If I Let You Escape!

Qin Zi looks extraordinarily young, around twenty years old, yet her cultivation is slightly above that of even seasoned experts.

The two had just exchanged blows, and in terms of pure strength, he actually lost to Qin Zi... The fact that Qin Zi retreated a step or two seemed more due to her lack of combat experience rather than her being weaker!

Upon such a realization, the man felt a sudden urge to cough up blood.

Dealing with just Qin Fang was challenging enough, but he hadn't expected Qin Fang's companion to also be such a formidable expert... and so young!

"What on earth is this woman's background?"

This was evidently the biggest question in his mind; it was truly surprising how someone as young as Qin Zi could possess such powerful abilities... Comparing purely on personal strength, none of the six young experts from the Six Great Holy Lands could match Qin Zi.

Not only did they lack the cultivation, but even in terms of age, Qin Zi was the youngest!

Being so young and yet possessing such terrifying cultivation, she could not possibly be an average person's disciple, unless Qin Zi herself was backed by an immense sect...

The recent head-on clash had left Qin Fang quite apprehensive, almost worried that he couldn't withstand it, harboring a bit of fear inside.

But after gritting her teeth and persevering, she was surprised to find... that the Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert was actually nothing more than a paper tiger, much less formidable than imagined!

Indeed, in the previous exchange, Qin Zi could sense the opponent's weakness...

With this realization, Qin Zi's confidence rapidly grew. When looking at the adversary, her gaze was no longer one of a competitor but rather of a punching bag!

"Again!"

As the adversary was brooding and hesitant, Qin Zi shouted coquettishly and immediately charged again with a palm strike...

The palm wind swept up, energy aura surged, and an overwhelmingly terrifying pressure quickly expanded, carrying an imposing aura that seemed to oversee the world.

"I'm not afraid of you..."

The adversary's face turned beet red. It was one thing to not gain anything from an encounter with a younger person, but being treated like a target was infuriating. His mood couldn't possibly improve!

Seeing Qin Zi charge once more, the adversary roared in anger and prepared to meet the palm strike...

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh~~~

The wind howled, its sound knife-like. Hearing it was enough to make anyone's face change, clearly indicating fury had been incited, and the palm strikes were merciless.

Even Qin Fang couldn't help but have his expression change, wanting to remind Qin Zi, for she still lacked considerable experience.

"Good timing..."

However, before Qin Fang could speak, Qin Zi had already moved swiftly, sliding two meters sideways from her original position.

As a result, the adversary's attack felt like hitting soft cotton; unable to exert force, he almost lost his footing.

"Baka!"

To his great surprise, despite Qin Zi being a relatively novice expert, with little battle experience, her impromptu reaction was unexpected, instinctively avoiding his terrifying palm strike.

This full-force palm was almost his limit, yet it struck nothing, while he...

Puff~~

A mouthful of blood spewed wildly from his mouth, forming a blood mist before him, looking particularly pitiable.

Whether this was due to his internal injuries or being toyed with by Qin Zi, that remained a mystery.

"Tch, is this the so-called Sakata Shrine expert?... Looks mediocre to me!"

At this point, Qin Fang made a rather unkind comment. The sarcasm in his words was clear, piercing the adversary's ears, making him so angry that he wanted to tear Qin Fang apart!

"Again..."

Unfortunately, his injuries were severe and worsening. If he didn't take a slight breather, he might succumb to old wounds and collapse.

However, he had barely rested when Qin Zi didn't give him the chance, shouting coquettishly and charging once more.

"Baka~~"

Faced with such a relentless woman, the adversary was helpless and enraged, feeling like pinning Qin Zi down and ruthlessly dealing with her.

But the problem was... did he have the capability?

Obviously, he did not!

Especially now, heavily injured and deteriorating, he surely couldn't achieve that...

"I'll fight!!"

Being pushed to such a degree, he certainly hadn't anticipated it beforehand.

But what could he do? Things had gotten to this point, and even if he wanted a change, it was beyond his control.

With no other choice, the adversary could only confront Qin Zi directly, clashing palms with her, biting his teeth as they collided head-on.

Bam~~

This collision was equally powerful, with both exerting their full strength, seemingly intending to settle it once and for all.

Chapter 1945 - So What If I Let You Escape! (Part 3)

The violent energy surged, with a strong power swelling up, directly separating the two people in the middle and swiftly shaking past.

This time, both of them had almost exerted their full strength, and the equally violent forces clashed together. This was definitely no easy moment.

Thunk thunk thunk thunk~~~

Qin Zi rapidly retreated backwards, leaving footprint after footprint on the ground.

This was a mountainous area, and the ground was not loose soil, but hard rock...

Yet now, this stone mountain had one footprint after another imprinted on it, each more than half an inch deep, which was truly terrifying.

But after releasing the pressure like this, although Qin Zi's face was slightly pale, in other aspects, she seemed quite normal.

Puh~~

Qin Zi was not much worse off, at most just having expended some True Qi, whereas the Japanese expert was clearly much worse off.

As soon as he opened his mouth, blood flowed freely, turning into a mist of blood that sprayed out...

Thankfully, Qin Zi had been forced back, otherwise she might have been covered in this Japanese fighter's blood!

However, Qin Zi's palm energy this time was also extremely terrifying, and the Japanese expert spitting blood was just the first reaction.

At the same time, he was lifted off the ground, flying rapidly backwards with such speed that it was almost on par with that of common Qinggong experts.

"Not good..."

Witnessing such a scene, Qin Zi suddenly exclaimed, as if realizing something, her expression turning somewhat grim.

Almost as Qin Zi cried out, it was already slightly too late, as this Grandmaster-level expert borrowed the counterforce to quickly turn around and dash down the mountain.

The full-speed run of a Grandmaster-level expert reaches the ultimate speed, especially on such a downhill path...

Among these people, only Qin Fang's Snow Traversing Step and Monk Wukong's Reed Crossing River Technique could keep up; the others were quite inferior.

After all, by using such a secret technique, not only could the damaged body temporarily recover normalcy, but the injured areas would merely temporarily suppress the pain, and to some extent, it also enhanced a certain strength...

For example, this Japanese expert, seeing his rapidly receding figure, Qin Fang could tell his speed had seemingly greatly increased!

"Trying to escape? Get back here..."

Seeing this Japanese expert actually not continuing the fight, but rather turning to flee, Qin Zi was quite infuriated and instinctively wanted to chase him down.

"Qin Zi, come back, don't chase..."

However, as Qin Zi just moved, Qin Fang's voice came, forcibly stopping Qin Zi from pursuing and hunting him down.

"Yes, Young Master!"

Qin Zi was very obedient, although she felt it was a pity to let the Grandmaster-level expert escape, she always followed Qin Fang's orders without exception.

At this time, the others also finished their battles, and a few of them gathered, naturally having seen the scene of the Japanese expert fleeing.

"Are we just going to let him run away like that?"

Watching the Japanese's distant figure, neither Qin Fang nor Qin Zi showed any intention to pursue, prompting Ji Xiang to ask somewhat curiously.

After all, that was a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert, and if he escaped, the consequences could be disastrous. While anyone around Tianchuang Xiong could flee, this person absolutely had to be captured.

If he escaped this time, then next time he would definitely become a formidable enemy!

"No big deal, his escape actually serves to send a message for us..."

Qin Fang smiled, nonchalantly saying.

The reason this Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert could retreat so calmly was not because Qin Fang and Qin Zi were too weak, but because they did it on purpose.

Qin Fang set up this scenario to create conflict between Sakata Shrine and Anping Shrine, especially since it involved the death of the Sakata Shrine Sect Master's own grandson, Tianchuang Xiong.

"As for his life... unless there's spiritual medicine to prolong it, he's dead for sure! But this spiritual medicine... hehehe!"

Of course, Qin Fang was willing to let this expert go for his own reasons; the use of that secret technique would exact a heavy toll, possibly costing his life.

There was currently only one way to save him... and that was using a spiritual medicine to increase his vitality.

"Spiritual medicine?"

Hearing Qin Fang's words, Ji Xiang and the others were momentarily stunned, then chuckled self-deprecatingly, understanding the meaning behind Qin Fang's words.

Spiritual medicine was a rare treasure, now exceedingly scarce and definitely considered a priceless treasure... the emergence of any spiritual medicine would bring an extreme storm of bloodshed.

Exactly because of its immense value, far greater than a human life, it's absolutely impossible to use spiritual medicine to save someone... perhaps saving a Supreme-level expert would pay off greatly; saving a Great Grandmaster-level expert might at least break even, but comparatively speaking, it may result in a slight loss!

Using spiritual medicine to save someone who hasn't even reached Great Grandmaster level, who might never achieve it in their lifetime, isn't merely a simple loss—it's a colossal mistake...

"It seems my worries were somewhat unnecessary..."

Precisely because of the rarity of spiritual medicine, it's impossible to use it to save a few dying individuals, absolutely impossible.

Without such spiritual medicine to prolong life, continued survival is almost impossible; even temporarily postponing death takes considerable struggle...

Chapter 1946 - Godlike Framing!

...

The South Garden Hot Spring Hotel is where the experts of Anping Shrine reside, including top figures like Kitatori Kazuo.

But then...

Just as everyone was preparing to eat, a disciple dressed in the Anping Shrine attire suddenly rushed in from outside, showing a look of panic on his face.

"Something's happened, something's happened..."

Upon entering the hotel lobby, he saw several people from Anping Shrine and couldn't help but cry out in alarm. He was so out of breath and exhausted that he could barely speak.

"What happened?"

A high-level disciple of Anping Shrine's expression immediately turned extremely somber, reprimanding fiercely. If the disciple hadn't looked so exhausted, he probably would have slapped him away directly.

"The young master is dead... The young master has been killed!"

As soon as the weary disciple struggled to squeeze these words out of his teeth, everyone present couldn't help but gasp.

"How could it be?"

Almost everyone couldn't help but wonder internally. Although Kitatori Kojirou was disliked and overly arrogant and domineering, even within Anping Shrine, many people were displeased with him... many wanted to get rid of him, but none succeeded.

Kitatori Kojirou himself wasn't terrifying, but what was terrifying was the Grandmaster-level Mid-Stage expert, Red Devil Asakura Ken, who followed him...

To kill Kitatori Kojirou would almost mean you had to defeat Asakura Ken, but killing a Grandmaster-level Mid-Stage expert is certainly not easy.

At the very least, you would need an expert on par with Asakura Ken to achieve this, and Asakura Ken was quite famous in the Assassin's Alliance, not just any expert could kill him, unless the opponent was extremely difficult, or at a great cost...

But now, Kitatori Kojirou was killed, so what happened to Asakura Ken?

Everyone couldn't help but have this question in their minds.

"Baka~~~"

At that moment, a stern shout came, and then Kitatori Kazuo walked out with an extremely somber expression, heading straight to the disciple who brought the news.

"Is what you said true?"

At this moment, Kitatori Kazuo was like a fierce tiger out of the gate, extraordinarily fierce, and his powerful aura seemed to make the disciple, who just stepped into the Grandmaster Level, unable to breathe.

Gulp~~~

Swallowing with extreme difficulty, the disciple forced himself to stay composed, saying excitedly and timidly, "Young master, I found the bodies of the young master and others on the mountain. They seemed to have just died not long ago..."

He was originally a disciple sent by Anping Shrine to watch the mountain, fearing any action from Sakata Shrine. Unexpectedly, he stumbled upon the bodies of Kitatori Kojirou and others on the mountain, all recently deceased.

Who was Kitatori Kojirou?

He was the grandson of the master of Anping Shrine, although a playboy, his identity was complex and significant, not to mention his brother, Kitatori Kazuo, was the future heir of Anping Shrine and possibly the Great Divine Priest of the Dao Shen Sect.

Therefore, this matter was exceptionally important, and he didn't dare continue his watch but hurriedly ran to report it.

"What about Asakura Ken?"

Kitatori Kazuo's face immediately turned ashen. Even if Kitatori Kojirou was his own younger brother, being killed like this, how could he let this pass?

Moreover, Kitatori Kojirou's mother was his lover, and she played a crucial role in shaping him into his current status.

For this reason, Kitatori Kojiro's death was a very significant matter for Kitatori Kazuo, almost lighting a fire of rage within him.

Fortunately, he was still rational enough to inquire about Red Devil Asakura Ken's whereabouts, given that Kitatori Kojiro should have been under his protection.

"He too is dead... stabbed through the heart by a sword! Then he was beaten to death..."

The disciple hesitated for a moment but eventually told the truth.

"At the scene where the young master was killed, besides the usual followers of the young master, some corpses of outsiders were also found..."

After a moment's hesitation, the disciple quickly reported the other information he knew, as Kitatori Kazuo's face looked extremely unpleasant, and his aura was getting agitated. He feared if he delayed, Kitatori Kazuo might directly kill him.

"Hmm? Who are they?"

Upon hearing this, Kitatori Kazuo was startled, then asked sharply with piercing eyes.

"The people of Sakata Shrine...including Tianchuang Xiong of Sakata Shrine!"

The disciple answered with a hardened resolve, and this answer induced a collective gasp from everyone present.

Although they were not from Sakata Shrine, the name Tianchuang Xiong was not unfamiliar to them; he was just as infamous as Kitatori Kojirou, notorious and untouchable!

The relationship between Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong was not good; they fought countless times, too many to count on two hands.

Despite numerous clashes, they mostly ended up with bruised faces or bloody noses, the worst being a fracture, nothing more.

Yet now, not only is Kitatori Kojirou dead, even Tianchuang Xiong is dead...this matter has indeed escalated.

"Take me to see..."

Kitatori Kazuo naturally understood the severity of the situation, especially with both Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong dead together; something was off here.

It seemed like a vendetta, but he suspected things were not so simple...

A single word from the disciple wasn't enough for Kitatori Kazuo to make a judgment; he assembled his men and charged up the mountain.

Revenge and retribution could wait, but at the very least, they needed to retrieve Kitatori Kojirou's body.

For the respectable grandson of the Sect Master of Anping Shrine to die in the wilderness was a slap to their face.

And so, a large team charged up the mountain quickly, led by Kitatori Kazuo along with several Grandmaster-level Experts; their formation was formidable, even more so than the team that Qin and the others had wiped out at Mantian Shrine.

From the hotel at the foot of the mountain to the summit would take quite some time for ordinary people, but this team comprised of Grandmaster-level Experts moved rapidly, reaching the top in just over ten minutes.

Almost as soon as they reached the summit and saw the bodies strewn across the ground, another team appeared on the mountain's other side.

"Kitatori Kazuo!"

An incredibly soft yet malevolent voice rang out from the opposing team, and a powerful killing intent surged instantly.

"Tian Gang Chunyi!!"

Kitatori Kazuo's complexion turned extremely sour; he glared at the opponent in astonishment, while his aura intensified as he gritted out the other's name.

Clang~~

With the sound from both men, their respective teams immediately drew their weapons, ready to confront each other, looking like a fight could break out at any moment.

Between the two groups lay over a dozen bodies, some from Anping Shrine, some from Sakata Shrine.

The most critical ones were, of course, the three bodies of Kitatori Kojirou, Asakura Ken, and Tianchuang Xiong...

"Tian Gang Chunyi, your Sakata Shrine bullies us too much..."

Seeing these bodies, especially those of Kitatori Kojirou and Asakura Ken, Kitatori Kazuo was instantly furious, "How dare you kill my brother!!"

"Bakayaro! Nonsense...it was clearly your brother who killed my junior brother Tianchuang Xiong!"

Upon seeing Kitatori Kojirou's body, Tian Gang Chunyi also paused for a moment, instinctively glancing back, clearly surprised by the situation.

Nevertheless, he would not back down, immediately retorting, clearly unwilling to admit such a thing...

He was equally puzzled, as the information came from a Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert on the brink of death, how could it be false?

However, Kitatori Kojirou's body lay there, as did the undeniably real body of Asakura Ken.

Kitatori Kojirou aside, to them, he was just a worthless playboy; dead or alive, it didn't matter much.

But Asakura Ken was different; he was a genuine Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert, holding high status in Anping Shrine and having the potential for even greater achievements in the future.

Perhaps the matter of Kitatori Kojirou killing Tianchuang Xiong was too big for Anping Shrine, prompting them to destroy evidence prematurely, but they would never harm Asakura Ken...it takes a substantial amount of time to cultivate an expert to Grandmaster Mid-Stage, not to mention the astronomical resources invested!

Such experts are invaluable, not something to be discarded like a dog...

However, the facts lay bare; not only was Kitatori Kojirou dead, but even his bodyguard, Asakura Ken, had also died with him...

"Nonsense! My brother and Asakura Ken are dead here, Tianchuang Xiong is dead, but where is his bodyguard...where has he gone?"

Kitatori Kazuo, quite the formidable adversary, noticed Tian Gang Chunyi's gesture and quickly scanned the group from Sakata Shrine, catching sight of someone lying on a stretcher.

He swiftly glanced at the bodies, quickly seizing on an opening, immediately challenging Tian Gang Chunyi...

Chapter 1947 - The Great Melee!

...

Although Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong are just playboys, their status is quite extraordinary, much higher than that of ordinary disciples.

So whenever they cause trouble outside, there is always someone to clean up their mess. Equipping them with a powerful bodyguard is a very common practice among the Great Sects.

The stronger the sect, the more formidable the expert they assign...

Kitatori Kojirou and Tianchuang Xiong are from one of the Six Great Holy Lands, with relatives as the Holy Land Sect Masters, which is very prestigious, so their bodyguards are Grandmaster-level Experts, at the Grandmaster Mid-Stage...

Asakura Ken was one, and the expert who escaped was as well!

However, only Asakura Ken's corpse was left on the scene, but the body of the Grandmaster-level expert protecting Tianchuang Xiong was nowhere to be seen.

"Baka~~~"

Tian Gang Chunyi's face turned black in an instant. Kitatori Kazuo had hit the nail right at the most crucial spot.

Not to mention that Kitatori Kazuo had his suspicions, even Tian Gang Chunyi himself, seeing the scene before him, couldn't help but have the same thoughts in his mind.

"Kitatori Kazuo, your brother killing my junior is a cold, hard fact, don't try to change the topic with me..."

But regardless of the facts, Tian Gang Chunyi would absolutely not admit that Sakata Shrine acted first, firmly insisting that Kitatori Kojirou made the first move.

As long as they hold this point, no matter what trouble arises, Sakata Shrine would have more reason on their side, thus suffering less loss.

"Hmph, cut the crap... I'll get you the evidence right now!"

Kitatori Kazuo's face was gloomy, but he was not planning to continue arguing with Tian Gang Chunyi, because the other side seemed to have realized something and was quietly moving the injured person away...

"Uncle Master, please lend a hand..."

Seeing this scene, Kitatori Kazuo was furious, but instead of acting himself, he cupped his hands toward an elderly man beside him.

"Asakura Ken's strength is something you are most aware of. To kill him, one would need to pay a heavy price... I believe that person, even if not dead, must be severely injured!"

As he spoke, Kitatori Kazuo directly pointed at the place where the other group's malicious activities appeared.

Whoosh~~

Almost as soon as Kitatori Kazuo finished speaking, the old man immediately turned into a shadowy figure and charged swiftly toward the other group's crowd.

"Baka! You old fool Fujiwara, do you think Sakata Shrine has no one?"

However, Sakata Shrine was not to be taken lightly either. Perhaps knowing they had to face many experts, Tian Gang Chunyi also brought many experts with him.

As soon as the expert from Anping Shrine made a move, an old man from Sakata Shrine immediately emerged and intercepted this expert called Fujiwara.

And the two immediately tangled with each other, fighting ferociously, each using killer moves mercilessly.

Both are quite powerful experts in their respective sects, both being at the Master Level Late-Stage, though not quite at the Master Level Peak, but not far off either.

The Master Level Peak is a group standing at the very top of the Martial World, yet there are very few who can truly enter into this realm.

These two are exceptional talents, and they are entrusted with significant responsibilities, personally coming to protect young disciples like Kitatori Kazuo and Tian Gang Chunyi.

The Martial World isn't a huge place, and the higher you go, the fewer people there are, so the proportion of acquaintances is also higher.

Just like the two in front of us, they are about the same age and have similar strength, and have been rivals almost since decades ago.

Unexpectedly, they met again this time, so naturally, a fierce fight is inevitable!

"Tian Gang Chunyi, you go too far..."

Seeing his own expert being intercepted, and with the two having comparable strength, it's hard to determine the outcome in a short time, yet the other side was accelerating to carry away the dying Grandmaster-level expert, causing Kitatori Kazuo to explode in rage, shouting angrily as he rushed toward Tian Gang Chunyi...

"Hmph, like I'm afraid of you!"

Tian Gang Chunyi was also a proud person, how could he back down?

Seeing Kitatori Kazuo charging over, he was equally unyielding, meeting him head-on.

"Kill them!"

"Avenge the young master!"

The leaders on both sides had already clashed, and the others knew that this matter couldn't be resolved peacefully. So, after a few unconscious shouts from one disciple, the two groups immediately engaged in a bloody battle... Dozens fought together, and the scene suddenly became incredibly lively.

Blood, corpses, severed limbs; they immediately became the main theme here. The fierce fight officially commenced.

Both sides were composed entirely of experts, with the weakest having Master Level cultivation, and each side having several Grandmaster-level experts.

Right now, both sides were searching for their opponents to fight fiercely, and as bloodshed and corpses increased, this chaotic battle became even more disorderly.

Soon, both sides were genuinely enraged, choosing desperate moves and launching a wild offensive frenzy.

However, about five hundred meters away on another hill, a group of people lounged leisurely, holding binoculars and admiring this tumultuous battle.

"Tsk tsk, who'd have thought, the foundation of these two Great Holy Lands isn't weak at all... They're much stronger than the Musashi School, even the Iga School pales in comparison!"

This group, of course, was Qin Fang and his companions; Qin Fang himself was speaking those mocking words. Right now, he was just an onlooker, only needing to observe from afar without getting involved in the action.

"It seems your plan has completely succeeded..."

Monk Wukong and the others were also focused on the development here. Seeing both groups already fighting, drawing blood and causing deaths, it was hard for this matter to conclude peacefully.

Calculating like this, Qin Fang's earlier established plan was considered a total success, though pitiful Kitatori Kojirou had been dead for days, yet Qin Fang still used him.

Who knows if this kid, knowing from the afterlife, would crawl up and strangle Qin Fang to death...

Unfortunately, that clearly wasn't possible. Qin Fang's plan, while not flawless, utilized conditions quite aptly.

After killing Tianchuang Xiong and others, Qin Fang intentionally let that Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert escape to report. To ensure that guy lived until the plan's execution, Qin Fang even administered an injection before he left, temporarily sustaining his life.

Thus, although that Grandmaster-level expert was already exhausted, he was barely alive because Qin Fang was waiting for events to reach this point.

With Tianchuang Xiong dead, that bodyguard naturally returned to report. Tian Gang Chunyi immediately led people to investigate, making Tianchuang Xiong's death particularly significant.

However, upon arrival, they found that not only had Kitatori Kojirou killed Tianchuang Xiong, but he was also dead, and even their own experts hadn't heard that Asakura Ken was dead too.

Especially Asakura Ken's death condition, the unwilling and anger in his eyes were clearly indicative... The reason seemed multifaceted, but mostly inclined towards him being sneak attacked!

Asakura Ken was a Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert, and to successfully sneak attack him to death required significant strength, definitely not weak.

Sneak attacking and killing a Grandmaster-level Expert required at least a Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert's ability, someone weak couldn't even break his defense!

Among the crowd, it seemed the only suspect was the Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert who went to report.

With both strength and motive...

It almost conclusively pinned the blame for Kitatori Kojirou's murder on him, and even Asakura Ken's death counted on his head.

Initially, Tian Gang Chunyi planned to secretly transport the man away. Anyway, this expert used Sakata Shrine's secret technique, draining his vitality to restore injuries and boost cultivation, practically taking half his life. Plus, with his injuries, he wouldn't live long.

Anyone capable of pushing a Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert to such a degree was surely of the same tier at minimum...

This considered, Kitatori Kojirou's side only had Asakura Ken as the most fitting candidate.

Using forbidden secret techniques, successfully sneak attacking Asakura Ken allowed complete execution, yet he himself had only half a life left.

From Tian Gang Chunyi's perspective, this explanation was much more reasonable, especially since Kitatori Kojirou first killed Tianchuang Xiong!

Yet now, the truth no longer mattered. Since people started falling, this chaotic battle was doomed not to end easily.

At this point, there was absolutely no room for maneuver; both sides were genuinely enraged, unwilling to back down.

Furthermore, neither side considered the root of the problem being on their part, even though the parties involved had already perished...

One sought revenge, the other sought revenge while avoiding false accusations, forcing this battle to continue fiercely.

"Which side do you think will ultimately win?"

Meanwhile, Qin Fang and his men sat on the distant hill, barbequing carelessly while watching the commotion.

Realistically, they instigated this, but the ensuing development hardly concerned them, simply the people from the two Great Holy Lands acting independently... Not strictly following Qin Fang's script!

Nonetheless, the outcome seemed satisfactory... At least much better than Qin Fang anticipated!

Chapter 1948 - Formidable Rival!

...

"Only heaven knows..."

Qin Fang shrugged his shoulders, shook his head nonchalantly, and said, "But ideally, if both groups were wiped out, it would be much easier for us to take advantage..."

The forces of both groups were extremely formidable and not vastly different in strength, essentially making it an evenly matched battle, a stalemate.

It's really hard to say which side could ultimately win. Anyone could emerge victorious...

With so many experts involved in the melee, including some at the Grandmaster-level Tier, if they were all wiped out, just scavenging from the dead could yield a small fortune.

Of course, Qin Fang wasn't just interested in making money; the bodies of these people could be used for greater purposes.

Just like how Qin Fang made use of the bodies of Kitatori Kojirou and others, his Props Box is practically a cheat-level divine artifact.

"Unfortunately, that's impossible!"

Qin Fang was well aware of this. Despite the two groups fighting fiercely, with many already killed, in the end, they would still cease fire.

Perhaps they'd stop because of heavy casualties, or perhaps a master from either side would step in to suppress the conflict, or for other reasons, but this bloody battle would eventually come to a halt.

The purpose of the two major Holy Lands coming to Sapporo was for the Priest Trial. If the heirs of the two Holy Lands were to die before the trial even began, it would only benefit the other holy sites. They certainly wouldn't do something so foolish...

The reason for the intense battle now is merely out of anger. Once things calm down, it's not entirely impossible to sit down and negotiate.

After all, both key figures behind this incident, Tianchuang Xiong and Kitatori Kojirou, are already dead. With two powerful Grandmaster Mid-Stage experts, Asakura Ken has died, and the other is not long for this world. So with everyone essentially dead, it's hard to claim any side as having suffered a greater loss...

"Old Qin, what do we do next?"

Qin Fang and his group understood this well, so they were somewhat puzzled about their next move.

Ji Xiang had already retreated from Sakata Shrine, having noticed that Tian Gang Chunyi led so many people up the mountain, which prompted his return.

After reuniting with Qin Fang's group, he found out they had orchestrated such an elaborate scene... However, this required them to modify their previous plan once more.

Now, as the two groups are in a fierce melee, killing each other brutally, Qin Fang's group could only observe from the sidelines, as seizing advantages was certainly not feasible at this time.

"Old Ji, what's the situation over at Sakata Shrine?"

Qin Fang's brow furrowed slightly. While this side of the plan was executed well, he was still undecided about their next course of action.

After a moment's hesitation, Qin Fang couldn't help but turn to Ji Xiang to inquire about the intelligence he had gathered.

"Tian Gang Chunyi has brought out more than half of Sakata Shrine's elites, leaving only a small number of experts behind to guard the place... However, it seems there's still a master stationed there!"

Ji Xiang briefly explained the gathered intelligence. While not particularly detailed, it was already enough...

In fact, this intelligence gathering wasn't achieved by Ji Xiang alone. There was also a hacker, Lai Wen, who had been assisting from behind the scenes.

With Sakata Shrine's people residing in the North Garden of Liangye Hot Spring Hotel, Lai Wen secretly gained control over all hotel surveillance, naturally allowing him to monitor the movements of Sakata Shrine's experts.

However, this kind of surveillance only provided selective visuals, with many blind spots and obvious limitations, leading to this analysis.

"Then we'll wait, for that master to make an appearance..."

Qin Fang nodded, although Ji Xiang was only speculating, he was quite impressed. Even the Iga School dispatched a Grandmaster Peak Strongman to protect Hattori Hisanari, so it was unthinkable that Sakata Shrine and Anping Shrine wouldn't have similar experts.

As for Anping Shrine, Qin Fang had already given up on it because the identity of that old woman was too special, and even Qin Fang didn't want to provoke her lightly.

Moreover, her strength was astonishingly formidable, already reaching the Grandmaster Level Peak, comparable to Miyamoto Musashi.

Especially as she cultivated the most advanced secret technique of the Baihua Demon Sect. Though she rarely acted, she was definitely not a simple character.

Since Anping Shrine was out of reach, Qin Fang's focus naturally shifted to targeting Sakata Shrine...

Tian Gang Chunyi brought along many Sakata Shrine experts, including some at the Grandmaster Mid-Stage and Late-Stage, but notably, the Grandmaster Peak Strongman hadn't shown up, indicating their presence still at the hotel.

If Qin Fang's group planned to act against Sakata Shrine, it would have to be when that Grandmaster Peak Strongman was absent; otherwise, it would be like throwing a baozi at a dog, with no return!

Qin Fang had already dealt with two Grandmaster Peak Strongmen: one poisoned by Little Dragon and another who fell to his death... None were directly confronted by Qin Fang. It's the same situation now.

"With such a lively fight here, he should make an appearance any time now..."

Chapter 1949 - Formidable Rival! (Part 2)

Ji Xiang smiled and said,

As long as that Grandmaster Peak Strongman isn't an idiot, he would have noticed Tian Gang Chunyi hasn't appeared yet, and that someone from the Sakata Shrine has gone back to report. If he doesn't come quickly, things will get even bigger.

Especially if anyone among Tian Gang Chunyi or Kitatori Kazuo is in trouble, the two Holy Lands definitely won't let things rest.

"Well, they are indeed coming out..."

Almost as Ji Xiang finished speaking, his phone rang. He then raised his phone and smiled.

It was obvious that news from Lai Wen, who was monitoring the movements of the two Holy Lands, got through, indicating that an old man suspected to be a Grandmaster Peak Strongman immediately transformed into a black shadow to rush up the mountain after receiving the news from his disciple.

To confirm this, Lai Wen had specially sent this surveillance footage to Ji Xiang's phone, allowing Qin Fang and them to make their own judgment.

"People from the Anping Shrine are also coming out..."

Almost simultaneously, another video was sent over, but this time it was from the Anping Shrine, showing that experts had also been dispatched from there.

"It's time! Move out..."

At this point, a deep smile appeared on Qin Fang's face, and he immediately issued orders to his people.

Thus, under Qin Fang's leadership, a group of Grandmaster-level Experts immediately headed from the narrow path towards the North Garden of the Hot Spring Hotel, the base of the Sakata Shrine.

"Brothers, just one thing: protect yourselves, kill without mercy!"

With that Grandmaster Peak Strongman gone, the remaining strength at the Sakata Shrine is significantly weaker, with only about three or four Grandmaster-level Masters left, and the rest are just some Master Level ones, which are not worrisome.

Qin Fang and the others only needed to focus on dealing with these Grandmaster-level experts, ignoring the others... Of course, their main objective was to kill or seriously injure the targets, aiming to eliminate the experts at the Sakata Shrine.

Upon reaching the Sakata Shrine's base, the group split up, with Qin Fang giving only a brief word of instruction before.

Due to time constraints, their efficiency would be higher by splitting up, though it was also more dangerous since some strong experts still remained here.

For the remaining Grandmaster-level experts, those at the early or mid-stages could still be dealt with, but encountering a Master Level Late-Stage expert would be quite troublesome.

"Little Mink, be ready to provide support at any time..."

At that time, Qin Fang wasn't entirely without means to deal with experts of that level, as he still had a Quasi-Spirit Beast at his disposal.

"Chirp chirp chirp chirp~~~"

Unexpectedly, Little Mink agreed but started bargaining with Qin Fang, gesturing in the air with its small paws.

"Alright! As long as you complete the task perfectly this time, it will be yours..."

Watching Little Mink's gestures, Qin Fang stayed silent for a while before understanding, a slight smile appearing on his face as he readily agreed.

What did Little Mink want?

In fact, what Little Mink wanted was the Lingyuan Fruit that Qin Fang had just acquired, borne from a stalk of Lingyuan Grass...

The Lingyuan Fruit is the fruit borne by a spiritual medicine, a spirit fruit, the essence of Lingyuan Grass condensed over hundreds of years. It is of strong appeal to both Martial Artists and Spiritual Beasts.

Little Mink is now a Quasi-Spirit Beast, and crossing that threshold could officially elevate it to the level of a Spirit Beast.

Once it becomes a Spirit Beast, it formally enters the ranks of experts, with even the weakest at the Grandmaster-level Tier, and those a bit stronger could step into the Grandmaster Realm, with some extremely terrifying Spirit Beasts even reaching the Supreme Realm...

For instance, in one hidden place discovered by Qin Fang and his group, a Fierce Beast of the Supreme Realm was lurking...

Such Spirit Beasts or Fierce Beasts have extremely long lifespans. Humans might live just a little over a hundred years, but Spirit Beasts can easily live for hundreds or even thousands of years.

"Perhaps, I really could create a Spirit Beast..."

Actually, Qin Fang wasn't sure how to deal with the Lingyuan Fruit; he originally intended to use it in alchemy but lacked a suitable formula, and his skills weren't enough, making wastage of spiritual medicine likely...

Discovering that Little Mink actually wanted the Lingyuan Fruit lit up Qin Fang's eyes, bringing even a bit of joy.

Since acquiring Little Mink, Qin Fang had been pondering how to help it cross that threshold, but was clueless about it, leaving him at a loss.

But Little Mink, having already gained some intelligence, knew to seek out a treasure, indicating its strong desire for the Lingyuan Fruit.

The Lingyuan Fruit is effective, mainly due to its juice containing abundant spiritual energy, but Qin Fang had a better Peerless Elixir Golden Dragon Saliva, making the Lingyuan Fruit seem less appealing...

However, to Spirit Beasts, the Lingyuan Fruit, teeming with spiritual energy, is much better than the Golden Dragon Saliva. That's why, despite Little Mink's desire for the Golden Dragon Saliva, its need wasn't as strong, but upon seeing the Lingyuan Fruit, it immediately became restless.

Chapter 1950 - Formidable Foe! (Part 3)

Perhaps it was because Qin Fang was not very familiar, so he didn't dare to ask Qin Fang for help, but now that there's a chance, he can't help it.

"Go... you won't miss out on the benefits!"

However, this wasn't the time to bargain with Little Mink, so it was immediately sent out. With its spirituality, it could naturally be of great help to them.

"Charge in and kill!"

A few people quickly assigned tasks and then split up to attack the hotel's North Garden. Especially Ji Xiang, Qin Fang, and Qin Zi, they were the most at ease, heading directly to the deepest part.

This is understandable, Qin Fang and Ji Xiang are themselves assassins from the Assassin's Alliance, and assassination is their forte.

Although Qin Zi is not an assassin, she is a ninja, and an Earth Nin at that... Ninjas are a profession recognized as natural-born assassins, and their forte is also stealth killing.

So the three of them directly charged into the deepest part, leaving the periphery to the comparatively struggling Song Qingshan, Monk Wukong, and Hattori Sanzo.

Thud~~

The Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in Qin Fang's hand flickered with a captivating cold light. As the light flashed, a martial artist dressed in Sakata Shrine attire was instantly killed.

Fresh blood spurted over three meters high, appearing extraordinarily shocking, yet Qin Fang didn't even bother to glance at it, collecting his sword and leaving!

Naturally, when encountering one or two ninja martial artists, he would conveniently take their Ninja Tokens as well... ordinary Upper Ninja Tokens may not be worth much, but they're better than nothing.

After all, under Qin Fang's command, there are many people, like Brother Da and his group. Although they are all former special forces, their individual combat power is greatly limited. If everyone could reach the master level, forming an assault team, their power would be much stronger.

In fact, Qin Fang is contemplating shaping them into a mercenary organization comparable to the Hand of the Devil Mercenary Corps.

Moreover, such an organization would naturally have more influence in the Underground World! This would be an important military force for Qin Fang to ascend to the throne of the King of Assassins!

However, for now, this is just a plan for Qin Fang. After all, Qin Fang's two ultimate tasks are still in their preliminary stages, and these preparatory forces need to be accumulated slowly without haste!

The slaughter continues...

Qin Fang and his group are all Grandmaster-level experts. When it comes to killing, each is more ruthless than the last. As the saying goes, for those who are not of our race, their hearts must be different. For these little devils, Qin Fang and his company are utterly merciless!

Of course, Qin Fang and his group are not complete butchers. They only target the experts of Sakata Shrine, and for ordinary hotel people, like some hotel staff, they do not touch them.

Not only do they refrain from killing, but they also try to avoid these people as much as possible. If unavoidable, they merely knock them out but do not take their lives.

Though they are assassins, they are not butchers!

In this respect, they are much more humane than the little devils back then... Who knows how many Dragon Country people they killed during their rampage in Dragon Country!

"Who are you?"

The people left in the Sakata Shrine are not particularly many, mainly middle to lower levels, and most are master level, with only a few being Grandmaster-level experts.

As Qin Fang and his group made their way through, they killed quite enjoyably. With their current strength, master-level experts, no matter how genius, could be easily obliterated in a single strike.

But such a situation cannot last forever. Soon they encountered a Grandmaster-level expert...

Qin Fang wasn't particularly clear about other situations, but on his side, he directly faced a Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert, and a late-stage expert at that!

"The person who kills you..."

Qin Fang didn't even want to waste words, his Flowing Shadow Divine Sword moved, the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique rapidly operated, and he reached the Grandmaster Mid-Stage Expert in no time.

A sharp and unparalleled attack instantly came, almost catching the opponent off guard...

"Bastard!!"

However, there are no weaklings among Grandmaster Mid-Stage Experts. He immediately roared in anger, his protective true qi vibrated swiftly, and a tremendously fierce murderous aura erupted, making Qin Fang's heart tremble a bit.

"Strong! A formidable expert..."

To be honest, feeling this enormous aura, Qin Fang realized he faced a tough opponent. This expert is definitely stronger than Red Devil Asakura Ken, almost having one foot into the Late Grandmaster Level... an absolute formidable foe for Qin Fang!

"So what if it's Late Grandmaster Level... let alone the fact you're not even there yet!"

Qin Fang's expression turned serious, his mind steadied significantly, and his gaze towards this expert became rather calm and composed.

Yet internally, he reminded himself that although the opponent is strong, they are not utterly invincible...

In a face-off between experts, strength is one aspect, but other factors like psychology and luck also need consideration.

To falter before the battle even begins is already to lose. Even if one perseveres, it wouldn't change much...

"Fight!"

Facing this formidable expert, Qin Fang immediately urged his true qi throughout his body, showcasing all his strength without reservation. He intended to combat this Quasi-Late-Grandmaster Level expert with his most powerful form...

If there is a gap in the realm, then there will be a huge strength disparity. This is an ironclad rule in the Martial World!

But there are always some monstrous geniuses who can ignore such rules, and with a relatively weak stance still manage to kill higher-realm experts...

Now, Qin Fang plans to use his current state to battle a Quasi-Late-Grandmaster Level expert...