

Genius 431

Chapter 431: LV8! Eight Extremes Fist Grandmaster_1

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This night was destined for Qin Fang to not have a peaceful sleep until the morning.

When Luo Xi came to call for Qin Fang in the morning, she found his eyes to be red and his face showing considerable fatigue. It was obvious that he hadn't slept well all night.

"Didn't sleep well?"

Even though Luo Xi really wanted to look down on Qin Fang, she ultimately did not do so. The words that reached her mouth were forcibly choked back. Seeing Qin Fang in such a state, she felt an inexplicable twinge of heartache.

"Maybe I got too excited and couldn't fall asleep..."

Qin Fang found himself a very lame excuse, something nobody would believe upon hearing it.

"Why don't you go back and rest a bit more?"

Luo Xi naturally couldn't believe it, but seeing Qin Fang looking so dejected, she couldn't help but suggest it. Mainly because at that moment, Qin Fang appeared quite dispirited.

"That's not necessary; I just need to wash my face! What did you need me for?"

Qin Fang shook his head. He indeed hadn't slept well. Anyone with a Sword of Damocles hanging over their head wouldn't be in the mood to sleep.

But since things had already come to this, the fact had been sealed, and no matter how worried Qin Fang was, it was useless.

To better complete this ultimate mission, Qin Fang spent the entire night studying the rules of the Assassin's Alliance, as well as some information about the assassin trading platform.

Even though he hadn't started accepting missions yet, he had already gained a considerable understanding of this terrifying killer organization.

The task of becoming the King of Assassins was abnormally extreme, but the benefits were also very abundant. If he ever achieved the day he became the King of Assassins, then he, Qin Fang, would be the king of the entire Underground World.

Although such status couldn't be displayed openly, his slightest moves would tug at the hearts of many big shots all over the world. No one could guarantee that such a terrifying king wouldn't decide to bring down his blade upon them.

With such prospects in mind, coupled with the System's coercion, Qin Fang had no choice but to face the music.

While this mission currently had no time limit, the Assassin's Alliance itself did have restrictions. Unless one declared retirement, one had to follow the Alliance's rules and accept missions within a certain time frame. Moreover, for missions nearby and suitable for the assassin's skill set, the Assassin's Alliance might also actively submit them to the assassin.

With these restrictions, there was no way for Qin Fang to slack off. The idea of using time to drag out the task was utterly unfeasible.

"Your grandparents asked me to call you; they're all waiting for you..."

Luo Xi then remembered the purpose of her visit and stopped persuading Qin Fang to get more rest. After all, a few senior elders were still waiting for him.

Although she was favored by Old Master Wu, she couldn't afford to act arrogantly and upset the other seniors.

"Oh, I'll be right there! I just need to wash my face..."

Qin Fang immediately nodded. When he returned yesterday, he had heard that Elder Ma had arrived and once treated Old Master Wu, temporarily stabilizing his condition.

Qin Fang had wanted to visit him, but it was too late last night, and with the notebook on his mind, he naturally didn't need to go there.

Now that Old Master Wu had sent Luo Xi to call for him, it was clear that several elderly figures must have gathered, and he naturally had to hurry over.

Qin Fang went to wash up while the violent policewoman unexpectedly went to tidy up his room in a rather ladylike manner, which surprised Qin Fang.

Fortunately, there wasn't anything shameful in his room; the laptop had already been tossed into the Props Box, and he had no plans to keep such important items in a safe the way Chen Liang did.

If Qin Fang could pry open a safe, then other stealing experts could do the same.

If one day his safe was tampered with and the notebook stolen, then Qin Fang would be completely finished. The assassins who accepted cleaning missions not only targeted thieves, but the original owner of the notebook—the assassin from the Assassin's Alliance—also bore absolute responsibility and fell within the scope of cleaning.

If that happened, Qin Fang wouldn't even dream of ascending to the throne of the King of Assassins; he might be wiped out by an assassin's cleaning before he even climbed the ranks.

Being summoned by the seniors, Qin Fang naturally dared not delay any longer. He quickly finished his washing up, changed into clean clothes, and hurried over.

When Qin Fang arrived, he indeed saw the three seniors there, plus another elderly person of similar age to the others, whom Qin Fang did not recognize.

"Xiao Qin, come over quickly..."

Elder Ma was the first to see Qin Fang and immediately waved him over while calling out.

"Master, Elder Ma, Old Master Wu, Senior, good morning..."

Qin Fang naturally hurried a few steps to catch up and greeted the elders with the utmost politeness.

"Good! Good... Xiao Qin, let me introduce you, this is Elder Niu Zhensheng, the Grandmaster of Eight Extremes Fist!"

Elder Ma seemed to like Qin Fang even more than Cai Pingyuan did, and before Qin Fang's master Cai Pingyuan had the chance to greet him, Elder Ma had already introduced the smiling, silent elder seated nearby to Qin Fang.

"Greetings, Elder Niu!"

Qin Fang quickly greeted him and couldn't resist sending over a Scouting Skill.

Even though Elder Ma had already informed Qin Fang that Elder Niu was a Grandmaster of Eight Extremes Fist, and that all grandmaster-level experts were at least Level 7,

Qin Fang still found himself facing a grandmaster-level expert for the first time today and couldn't help but cast a Detection Skill.

Now that his level had reached Level 4, his Intermediate Detection Skill allowed him to detect information about experts up to 3 levels above his own, meaning anyone up to Level 7 was within his detection range.

Qin Fang wanted to show off his newly advanced level, but he was quickly dumbfounded...

"Level unknown!"

What the heck, undetectable?

Impossible!

Could there have been a mistake?

Qin Fang immediately wondered and, not willing to give up, cast another Detection Skill, but the result remained—"Level unknown." This time, Qin Fang was completely stunned.

This was not the first time Qin Fang encountered such a situation.

On the contrary, it had happened quite frequently, especially at lower levels, but as his level increased, occurrences like this became less frequent.

Yet, unexpectedly, before ascending to Level 4, Qin Fang was unable to detect Old Master Wu's level, and now, having just advanced to Level 4, he encountered another undetectable Elder Niu...

This was a significant blow to Qin Fang, indeed causing him considerable frustration.

However, Qin Fang was someone who could let go as easily as he picked things up, and he quickly recovered. The world was never short of experts; even though he was currently a registered rookie at the Assassin's Alliance, a one-star Rookie Assassin with a pitiful score of zero and a completion rate of zero,

his goal was the supreme and invincible King of Assassins, the peak powerhouse with a consistent success rate of one hundred percent; that's why he named himself "Supreme."

At Level 4 with an Intermediate Detection Skill unable to detect, there was no doubt this amiable-looking Elder Niu possessed the strongest power among the four elders present, at least a Level 8 expert.

Of course, Qin Fang did not forget to cast a Detection Skill on Old Master Wu, and the result did not disappoint him—Old Master Wu was indeed Level 7, although he was currently extremely weak, probably not even able to perform at the level of Level 3 or 4.

"Hmm, not bad..."

As Qin Fang was assessing Elder Niu, Elder Niu was likewise observing Qin Fang.

He and Old Master Wu, Elder Ma, and Master Cai were old friends for many years with a very harmonious relationship. Elder Niu had intended to visit when Old Master Wu was injured but stayed behind to prepare for the Martial World Conference, of which he was one of the organizers. He was, however, extremely worried in his heart.

Upon hearing that Old Master Wu had been struck by a strange poison, yet someone miraculously cured it, and his condition began to improve gradually, saving his life, he immediately hurried over without stopping, and the four of them gathered together.

The other three old friends unanimously expressed high praise for Qin Fang, a young man—an occurrence not seen for many years. They naturally also wanted to see for themselves what Qin Fang was like.

Upon meeting, Qin Fang was very polite, spoke appropriately, and showed both grace and etiquette, which impressed the senior generations greatly; Qin Fang made an excellent first impression on Elder Niu.

Hearing Elder Niu's evaluation, Qin Fang merely bowed slightly, a gesture of great humility.

For a mighty figure like Elder Niu to evaluate him so positively was indeed very gracious.

However, Qin Fang did not know much about Elder Niu, a person whose strength was incredibly formidable, whose temper was as fierce as the Martial Way he practiced, intolerant of any slight or fault.

Moreover, he had an uncanny ability to judge people accurately, often determining a person's achievements with just a few words. While not always hundred percent precise, his judgments were certainly more than eighty percent correct.

Therefore, many young people in the Martial World hoped to receive even a word of praise from Elder Niu, as it seemed to promise them a very bright future, not realizing that every expert was forged through rigorous cultivation.

If one's ultimate achievements could really be determined by a couple of sentences, wouldn't all of Elder Niu's disciples become grandmaster-level experts?

In fact, Elder Niu's disciples had not particularly stood out, which was a source of some frustration for the old master, and it was often a point of criticism among some martial elders.

But Qin Fang was unaware of these subtleties. To him, at least for the present, Elder Niu was an elite expert to be looked up to, a target to strive and catch up with in the future. Moreover, Qin Fang was

convinced that he would definitely surpass such a Level 8 expert one day and become an even stronger or perhaps the strongest existence!

Chapter 432 Tian Nan Four Shows_1

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"Qin Fang, come over here and sit down...."

Finally, it was Cai Pingyuan's turn to speak; he immediately patted the chair beside him and asked Qin Fang to sit down, while the other elders remained silent, seemingly approving the request.

He had not spoken up before, letting several old friends speak first. Now that his disciple Qin Fang had made him so proud, he finally began to speak, not without a hint of showing off.

Among the four people, in terms of status and position, he was the one who had fared the worst, although the brothers didn't care about such things, but it had always been somewhat frustrating for him in previous years.

Having finally taken on such an excellent disciple as Qin Fang, he immediately brought him out, ostensibly to attend the Martial World conference and gain some exposure, but in reality, it was also about earning some reputation for himself.

And Qin Fang indeed had the ability to hold his own; in just a few days after coming out, he secured the support of a powerful family like the Wu Family, and now everyone from the Wu Family was grateful to Qin Fang.

As for Elder Ma, it goes without saying that the Nine Revival Needles had profoundly impressed him.

Now even Elder Niu, one of the respected seniors in the Martial World, was showing favoritism toward Qin Fang, which made him even happier.

Although the master had spoken, Qin Fang looked around and noticed that several other young people were standing beside the elders. They were of similar age to Qin Fang or even older but stood obediently aside, without the privilege of sitting down.

"Master, I'd rather stand! It keeps me more alert..."

Qin Fang didn't take a seat but instead said playfully and took his place behind Cai Pingyuan, not becoming arrogant with favoritism.

This drew some smiles from the other youths, with a couple of them even nodding politely towards Qin Fang, and Qin Fang returned the gesture with a courteous smile, maintaining a pleasant impression without speaking.

However, there was an exception.

For example, the sturdy young man standing behind Elder Niu, the Grandmaster of Eight Extremes Fist, didn't seem to appreciate Qin Fang's gesture at all and frowned, looking at Qin Fang with seeming displeasure.

But Qin Fang wasn't inclined to let his enthusiasm meet others' cold indifference; as if he had seen nothing, he listened attentively to the elders' conversation.

"Elder Ma, how is Old Master Wu's condition?"

Elder Niu was naturally very concerned about Old Master Wu's condition, or he wouldn't have come specially.

"His condition has stabilized broadly; he just needs to recuperate carefully for a while to fully recover! Speaking of which, I really must thank Xiao Qin. If it hadn't been for him detecting the Five Poisons Powder's deadly poison in Old Master Wu's body, I would have been truly helpless..."

Elder Ma gave a brief update on Old Master Wu's condition but didn't forget to credit Qin Fang.

This was indeed the case; Elder Ma had already examined Old Master Wu and felt something was amiss, yet the Five Poisons Powder's potent stealth made it undetectable even with a silver needle. For this reason, he had rushed back to the Ninghai Old House, searching through various medical texts to find records for such a complicated case, hoping to find a cure.

Cai Pingyuan taking Qin Fang to the Martial World conference was something Elder Ma knew about. He hadn't thought much of it later but in the face of hopelessness, somewhat like grasping at straws, he had Cai Pingyuan bring Qin Fang to Lushan, testing whether Qin Fang's Nine Revival Needles could work miracles.

Yet this casual decision actually played out greatly in Qin Fang's favor, and he even concocted a miraculous Detoxification Pill, eliminating the toxicity of the Five Poisons Powder from Old Master Wu's body. Elder Ma arrived immediately, as he was better equipped to handle the subsequent treatment.

"Elder Ma, you're too kind. It was just good luck, I happened upon it..."

Qin Fang modestly stated.

His words were true; if he hadn't hatched that little creature in advance, he wouldn't have been able to detect the Five Poisons Powder in Old Master Wu, given that he was just a half-baked doctor who had learned a little of the craft.

"That's not true; luck is also a manifestation of one's abilities! If you didn't truly have the skills, no amount of luck would matter..."

Elder Ma disagreed with Qin Fang's modesty, not because he thought Qin Fang was being insincere, but it was a very direct compliment.

Qin Fang indeed had fortune on his side, but his Nine Revival Needles had played a significant role, and during the detoxification process, he couldn't be sure that no one in the world could have neutralized the deadly poison of the Five Poison Powder, but at least in terms of speed and methods, it was unlikely that anyone could surpass Qin Fang.

While Qin Fang could only humbly accept compliments from his elders, it wouldn't be right to refuse them. However, Elder Ma seemed to glance at the other three young people nearby as he spoke, making Qin Fang feel somewhat uneasy.

"Forget it, you seem to be in distress! Why don't you young people go and have fun..."

As Elder Ma was busy speaking, Qin Fang could barely keep up with the conversation, but the other three were a bit bored, especially the one standing behind Elder Niu, who tried to speak several times but didn't know what to say. In the end, he could only vent his frustration on Qin Fang, glaring at him fiercely.

"Yes! Elders, please continue your conversation..."

Qin Fang immediately nodded, finding it quite taxing to converse with the group of old gentlemen. It was indeed not as relaxed as talking with peers, and maintaining politeness was not easy.

The other three young people also respectfully bid farewell before they all retreated.

"Senior Brother Qin, I'm Tian Youzhi, pleased to meet you!"

"I'm Ma Yu..."

Once the four of them stepped back, the two young men who had previously shown friendliness towards Qin Fang immediately took the initiative to greet him. The other one, however, huffed coldly and walked directly to the side, appearing quite unsociable.

"The two senior brothers are too courteous. I'm new here and should be the one asking for your guidance!"

Upon hearing these two names, Qin Fang immediately knew who they were.

Tian Youzhi was the youngest Inner Chamber Disciple of Old Master Wu, and with Old Master Wu's current health, he basically could also be considered a Closed-door Disciple. Qin Fang had heard Luo Xi mention before that Tian Youzhi's martial talent was also quite remarkable. He was just over twenty but already much stronger than Luo Xi.

Seeing him now, Qin Fang realized it was true: Tian Youzhi was already a Level 5 expert. Among his peers, the only other person Qin Fang knew who could match him was Cai Qing.

As for the other, Ma Yu, he was only Level 3, slightly beneath Qin Fang himself. However, Qin Fang quickly remembered that Ma Yu was from the Divine Doctor Ma Family and was one of Old Master Wu's nephews, mainly focused on developing his medical arts. It was said that Ma Family's Jia Yi Acupuncture Technique had already reached a certain level of proficiency, making him one of the most promising youths in the Ma Family. He might well be the one to inherit the position of Family Head in the future.

Of course, that would be excluding Ma Yunzhi, who would marry out of the family; the succession would then have to be reconsidered.

Ma Yu wasn't much older than Qin Fang, maybe by just two or three years. He also seemed quite humble and sincere, which Qin Fang could tell was not the evasive type, making him a potentially good friend.

Tian Youzhi was a friendly person by nature and quite chatty. Moreover, he was very grateful to Qin Fang for saving his most respected Master, so he was exceedingly polite to Qin Fang.

However, this did not affect the brotherhood among the three men, and they quickly became more familiar with each other.

Ma Yu glanced at the young man who seemed very lonely and unsociable and couldn't help but murmur, "Brother Tian, who is that person? He seems to think quite highly of himself!"

"Oh, him? Just a self-important fellow..."

Tian Youzhi curled his lip, speaking in an obviously contemptuous tone. It was apparent that he was quite displeased with this individual.

"What's the matter? Does Brother Tian have a history with this lad?"

Ma Yu, who was somewhat puzzled, asked. Although he could only be considered half involved in the Martial World, being born into a family of traditional medicine, he hadn't had many interactions with martial artists and did not recognize this young person.

Naturally, he and Tian Youzhi were quite familiar with each other. The two were of a similar age and had known each other for some time, their temperaments also well-matched.

"This youngster is called Su Yang, and together with three other fellows, they go by the name 'Tian Nan Four Shows.' They claim to be the strongest among the young generation in the Martial World... What masters! If it weren't because he's a disciple of Elder Niu, he would've been beaten so badly that even his mother wouldn't recognize him!"

Tian Youzhi curled his lip as he introduced the identity of the young man, his tone conveying distinct irritation.

"He is one of the 'One of the Four Tiansouthern Showmen'?"

This time it was Ma Yu's turn to be surprised. Obviously, he had heard of the name; in the younger generation of the Martial World, the reputation of the Tian Nan Four Shows was quite notable.

"Tian Nan Four Shows?"

Qin Fang, who hadn't said much until then, couldn't help but murmur as well.

"Senior Brother Qin, you might be new to the Martial World and not very familiar with it, but the title of the Tian Nan Four Shows carries significant renown there. Each one of them has a powerful master, and their own strengths are also quite formidable, plus all of them are... "

The name of the Tian Nan Four Shows sounded rather awkward to hear, somewhat akin to the Qingcheng Four Shows from 'The Smiling, Proud Wanderer,' famous for their "Ping Sha Luo Yan Style."

Quite coincidentally, Qingcheng Mountain was located within Xishu Province, and although the Tian Nan Four Shows did not belong to the same sect, all four were from the southern regions; notably, this Su Yang was indeed from Xishu.

It remained unknown if their personalities were as overbearing, cunning, sly, and ruthless as the Qingcheng Four Shows depicted in the novel...

At this moment, based on the impression that Su Yang gave Qin Fang and the others, they knew he was rather arrogant and clearly not an easy person to befriend. They all preferred not to associate with such a character.

Chapter 433: Ping Sha Luo Yan Style with the Bottom Pushed Back_1

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Both Ma Yu and Qin Fang didn't look too fondly upon Su Yang. Qin Fang was somewhat better, at most furrowing his brows. He felt that Su Yang seemed particularly indifferent towards him, perhaps because he had stolen the limelight in front of the seniors.

But Ma Yu, clearly overflowing with youthful vigor, and not being entirely of the Martial World, didn't bother with such considerations. The Divine Doctor Ma Family held a special status in the Martial World because of their courage, and Ma Yu wore his displeasure openly on his face.

"With Senior Tian's cultivation, isn't he stronger than him?"

Ma Yu couldn't help but ask this, voicing the question Qin Fang had wanted to ask.

Tian Youzhi was quite strong, already a Level 5 Expert. Qin Fang felt he probably wasn't his match, but then he cast a Scouting Skill at Su Yang and determined that he was also a Level 5 Expert. Thus, their strengths should be on the same level.

"I'm a bit weaker than him..."

Although Tian Youzhi was vocally unimpressed by Su Yang, when Ma Yu asked him, he reluctantly admitted this. From this, it was clear that Tian Youzhi could both hold and let go of his pride, a trait Qin Fang found admirable.

"The Eight Extremes Fist is an incredibly powerful martial art, consisting of fierce short-range punching techniques, known for its unparalleled ferocity and explosive power. There's an ancient saying: 'With Tai Chi, literature pacifies the world; with Eight Extremes Fist, martial arts stabilize Qian Kun.' Especially the killer technique of the Eight Extremes Fist, the Mountain Lean, is extremely formidable! Our Wu Family's Tiger Fist and Uncle Master Cai's Cannon Fist are considered extremely fierce styles, but if faced with the Eight Extremes Fist's Mountain Lean, aside from the Wu Family's secret technique Tiger's Rush that can compete with it, ordinary moves tend to be weaker..."

Tian Youzhi briefly explained this to Ma Yu while Qin Fang listened attentively on the side.

When it came to Eight Extremes Fist, although Qin Fang wasn't too familiar with it, he wasn't unfamiliar either. It's a commonly seen martial art among those who practice martial arts, but for most, it's simply a way to strengthen the body, similar to Tai Chi.

The true essence of Eight Extremes Fist wasn't taught lightly. It was truly a formidable martial art. For example, Elder Niu, Niu Zhensheng, his cultivation far surpassing Old Master Wu and Master Cai, owed much to his practice of the Eight Extremes Fist.

The Eight Extremes Fist, unlike the Xingyi Fist, doesn't have as many factions like the Xingyi Twelve Branches. The Eight Extremes Fist's finishing move, Mountain Lean, is a universal technique. The real difference lies in its application.

Unquestionably, Elder Niu's lineage possessed extraordinary skills, and Su Yang's cultivation was quite impressive, allowing him to defeat contemporaries and earn the title of One of the Tian Nan Four Shows, greatly honoring his sect.

The Tian Nan Four Shows was not a title Su Yang and his peers claimed for themselves, but rather, an honorary aura imposed on them by enthusiastic members of the Martial World.

In the beginning, they were all quite humble and modest, assuming a demeanor of being unworthy of such accolades. However, as their strength grew, the situation changed completely, and this title gradually became a badge of arrogance for them.

In the younger generation of the Martial World, there might be some whose strength is comparable, but they're not as young; others may be the same age, but their strength is obviously weaker.

In such a comparison, these four individuals undoubtedly stand out.

Furthermore, the fact that each of their masters is an old and renowned figure in the Martial World also imperceptibly elevated their status, increasingly solidifying their standing among young experts.

It can be said that, by now, many well-established and famous experts might have greater strength, but they can't compare to the fame of these four.

And among the Tian Nan Four Shows, Su Yang is undoubtedly one of the best.

He was a disciple of the Eight Extremes Fist Grandmaster Niu Zhensheng, known among martial artists since his youth. By the age of sixteen, he had already made a name for himself, and at twenty, he stepped into the Martial World, achieving substantial fame in just four years. Many people praised Elder Niu as a teacher who could recognize talent and produce outstanding disciples, which to some extent softened the criticism that he 'judged people accurately but couldn't teach good disciples.'

As Tian Youzhi spoke, Qin Fang simply listened quietly. When the topic turned to the Wu Family's Tiger Fist and the Cai Family's Cannon Fist, Qin Fang couldn't help but straighten up, even though these two styles had no advantage against Elder Niu's lineage of the Eight Extremes Fist.

The reason was simple: the Cai Family's Cannon Fist was a fierce martial art, its secret techniques being special ways of exerting force, allowing strength to be used more cunningly. Similarly, the Wu Family's Tiger Fist was just as powerful, its only superiority over the Cai Family's Xingyi Fist being the secret technique Tiger's Rush.

Qin Fang had already deeply felt the power of Tiger's Rush, which was extremely dominant.

If Tiger's Rush could clash with Elder Niu's Eight Extremes Fist Mountain Lean, it also proved Su Yang's strength from another perspective. Qin Fang had experienced Tiger's Rush at Chen Liang's Level 4, and it had nearly cost him his life. Even if Qin Fang himself had ascended to Level 4, facing Chen Liang's Tiger's Rush again, he didn't believe his chances of survival would be much improved.

If Level 4 Chen Liang was already that formidable, then what about Level 5 Su Yang?

Undoubtedly, Level 5 Su Yang would be far more terrifying than Level 4 Chen Liang, even much more so.

Having understood this, Qin Fang had a more intuitive feeling of the reputation of the Tian Nan Four Shows. They truly did not gain their dominance among the younger generation of experts for nothing. "You're Qin Fang?"

What Qin Fang hadn't expected was that without him initiating anything, Su Yang was the one to come to him first, and the tone, demeanor, and expression he used were exactly the kind that made one look highly deserving of a slap—almost as though someone owed him millions.

"Su Yang, what do you mean by this?"

Tian Youzhi's face changed slightly. Although his cultivation was not on par with Su Yang's, it certainly didn't mean that he was really afraid of Su Yang, especially since this was Wu Family territory, his home ground. He couldn't possibly show any weakness and immediately responded with a brusque retort.

"Loser!"

However, Su Yang wasn't showing much of an expression as he glanced sideways at Tian Youzhi and simply spit out these few words, instantly causing Tian Youzhi's face to flush with an angry crimson.

"You..."

Enraged to his core, Tian Youzhi had indeed suffered defeat at Su Yang's hands before, which was why he admitted he couldn't better Su Yang. Even years later, he still wasn't confident about defeating Su Yang.

"Senior Brother Tian, let me handle this... that's right, I am Qin Fang. May I ask for your noteworthy name?"

Qin Fang stepped forward, pulling back the fuming Tian Youzhi before arrogantly turning to address Su Yang.

In truth, with the scene getting stirred up like this, anyone could tell that Su Yang was looking for trouble with Qin Fang and that he was quite arrogant and disrespectful. This didn't sit well with Qin Fang, and with such an attitude, Qin Fang naturally had no intention of showing any courtesy.

His response was rather interesting; Su Yang's otherwise handsome face suddenly looked surprised, then bewildered, and finally turned an iron blue.

Despite Su Yang's initial disinterest in approaching their trio from afar, he was still aware of the other three people pointing and whispering about him. He knew they were discussing him, so as one of the finest young experts of the Southern Martial Arts World and one of the Tian Nan Four Shows, Su Yang certainly wanted them to first admire his renown. That way, when he made his entrance, his presence would be much more imposing than his opponents'.

But he hadn't expected Qin Fang, younger and weaker than him, and yet more doted upon by the seniors, to show him such disrespect.

Qin Fang obviously knew his name, as even Tian Youzhi had just called him Su Yang right to his face, yet Qin Fang acted as if he hadn't heard at all and came back with that response. It was nothing short of a slap in the face, a slap to Su Yang's face!

Su Yang's complexion changed dramatically, prompting a surprised pause from both the angry Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu, who were both brimming with discontent. They soon couldn't help but beam with pleasure, looking at Qin Fang with admiration shining in their eyes.

"Ahem... Junior Martial Brother Qin, you may not be aware of this!"

Su Yang was effectively silenced by Qin Fang's retort. To introduce himself now would mean a loss of face, but to remain silent would look like a lack of magnanimity. Just as he was about to speak, Tian Youzhi suddenly interrupted, blocking him again.

"This senior brother here is Su Yang, a closed-door disciple of Elder Niu. Despite his young age, his cultivation is truly astonishing. Having earned the title of one of the Four Tiansouthern Showmen, he is one of the most outstanding experts among our Southern Martial Arts World's younger generation..."

Tian Youzhi's words sounded so genuine that no matter how one listened, it seemed like he was singing Su Yang's praises. Even Su Yang gave it some thought and couldn't detect anything odd, eventually sending a 'good, you know your place' look to Tian Youzhi while a proud smile appeared on his face. He unconsciously raised his chin a little, as if it was only right for him to accept the admiration of his peers.

That look was wasted. Tian Youzhi was only looking at Qin Fang and didn't pay any attention to him. He was still seething inside—do him a favor? What a joke... Just wait until you're crying!

Su Yang didn't mind it, though. Compared to Qin Fang, who was favored by several seniors, Tian Youzhi might have been somewhat weaker, but he still didn't catch Su Yang's eye.

Unfortunately for Su Yang, before he could savor his happiness for too long, Qin Fang spoke up. However, the tone of Qin Fang's words sounded rather off.

"Tian Nan Four Shows? Never heard of them. The Qingcheng Four Shows, on the other hand, I do know. The 'Ping Sha Luo Yan Style' with the butt sticking out..."

Splutter~~

Unquestionably, both Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu couldn't help but burst out in laughter simultaneously.

Even though they had anticipated Qin Fang would not be courteous to Su Yang, they hadn't expected him to come out with such a remark right off the bat. It was brutally harsh.

Chapter 434: Qin Fang PK Tian Nan Four Shows: Su Yang_1

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Now the fun really begins!

Stumbling backward in a Ping Sha Luo Yan Style... This effectively lumped one of the renowned young experts from the Southern Martial Arts World, one of the Four Tiansouthern Showmen, with the notoriously infamous Qingcheng Four Shows from "The Smiling, Proud Wanderer."

This time, there was no way Su Yang could restrain himself even if he wanted to.

"You... It seems Junior Martial Brother Qin has quite the problem with me!"

At this moment, Su Yang's face became exceedingly unsightly. That's how young people are—young, impulsive, and add to that martial artists with temperaments that could hardly be summed up as merely explosive. Instances of fighting at the drop of a hat were far too common.

Even Su Yang, one of the Tian Nan Four Shows, had encountered this sort of situation before. He had been responsible for injuring no less than eighty if not a hundred people.

However, usually, it was him bullying others; this was the first time he was so viciously slapped in the face, almost like being struck from both sides, which left him grinding his teeth furiously.

"No hard feelings, just thought I'd give Elder Martial Brother Su a heads-up. You'd better find a good ophthalmologist and get your eyes checked out. If you keep going like this, you're bound to have serious problems with them..."

Compared to Su Yang's livid face, Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu were grinning mischievously, while Qin Fang seemed much more composed. His tone of voice was light, as if his words were genuinely meant as friendly advice for Su Yang.

"Problems with my eyes?"

Su Yang was momentarily stunned, a bit confused, "My eyesight has always been fine, both are 2.0..."

Pfft~~

While he was pondering this, Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu beside him couldn't hold back their laughter anymore. They burst into uncontrollable laughter, clutching their bellies on the side.

Ma Yu was even more direct, giving Qin Fang a huge thumbs up. Tian Youzhi might still have some reservations about Su Yang, but Ma Yu didn't care about that. He had long found Su Yang irritating, and with Qin Fang having toyed with Su Yang twice in a row, it felt like he had gotten his revenge.

After laughing for a while, Tian Youzhi suddenly came to his senses. Su Yang was not known for his good temper. This guy was notoriously petty and taking such mockery would most likely result in him resorting to violence promptly.

And that's exactly what happened. Su Yang was by no means a broad-minded person. After years of being on top, he could no longer tolerate such discrimination and ridicule from his peers. Casting aside his previous pretense, he unhesitatingly made a move against Qin Fang.

"Qin Fang, be careful..."

Tian Youzhi wanted to intervene, but he was a few beats too slow and powerless to do anything more than shout a warning, though his urgency was unmistakable in his voice.

Bang~~~

His voice was quick, but still not as fast as fists and feet. Almost as soon as he spoke, there was a dull thud.

Without a doubt, someone had already made their move, and with extraordinary speed, even faster than Tian Youzhi's reaction.

Compared to Tian Youzhi's quick reaction, Ma Yu was significantly slower. He only realized what was happening after Tian Youzhi shouted, looking towards Qin Fang with a tense face.

Although he also despised Su Yang, he was still reputed as one of the Tian Nan Four Shows, a top-notch expert among the young generation.

But the brothers quickly realized something was amiss. Qin Fang stood tall, showing no sign of disturbance. On the contrary... it was Su Yang, one of the Four Tiansouthern Showmen, who had been sent flying.

Even more crucial was Su Yang's current posture—bent over facing down on the ground, in a position akin to a dog eating shit!

Dammit, it really was Ping Sha Luo Yan Style with the butt sticking out...

"You... are asking for death!"

Clearly, an enraged Su Yang not only failed to gain the upper hand but was instead caught squarely by a sudden kick from Qin Fang, plunging face-first to the ground in an outright loss of face and dignity.

At this point, Su Yang's face wasn't just red with anger or ashen with rage; it was a mix of both colors, plus the dust from the ground and some greenish moss from Green Stone Mountain, making it multicolored in an instant.

Su Yang was thoroughly enraged, using his arms to push himself up with a carp's flip and standing up straight. Without a moment's hesitation, he charged towards Qin Fang.

His footwork was impressively quick, and his movements were quite agile. One fist clenched lightly and launched a furious assault on Qin Fang's ribs, while his other hand stayed close to his waist, already charging up—the real killer move was being prepared.

Qin Fang couldn't help but scoff coldly, realizing when Su Yang's body glowed red that he was about to attack. Therefore, he decisively struck first, kicking and knocking Su Yang down. As for the result being a

Ping Sha Luo Yan Style with a backward butt stumble, that was a surprise even to him, a testament to just how weak Su Yang's foundation was.

Once bitten, twice shy.

Su Yang's reputation as one of the Tian Nan Four Shows was not just due to the prestige of his sect. His own strength was also quite formidable.

As a Level 5 expert, he was clearly much more powerful than Qin Fang, who had just stepped into Level 4, except...

Qin Fang was exceptionally slippery; a +20 in Agility was not for nothing. He was so fast that Su Yang felt dazzled and couldn't keep up with the pace. Each time Su Yang threw a punch, he did so with all his strength, yet every time he thought he would land a hit on Qin Fang, Qin Fang would simply tilt his head slightly and evade.

Meanwhile, Qin Fang's fierce offensive immediately targeted his lower stance!

Having discovered his opponent's weakness, it would have been a true waste not to take advantage of it, especially against an opponent whose strength far surpassed his own.

Su Yang, after all, was a young expert with many years of renown, and his experience in combat was far richer than Qin Fang's. After an initial period of discomfort, he quickly adapted to Qin Fang's attacking rhythm. After a few hard clashes, he disrupted the rhythm Qin Fang had struggled to establish by relying on the subtlety of the Eight Extremes Fist and his formidable strength.

The gap between Level 5 and Level 4 was still significant, and the suppression of levels was very clear. Furthermore, Su Yang was an absolutely formidable figure even among Level 5 experts. Qin Fang could feel this gap very clearly, and his expression grew increasingly serious.

Su Yang began to control the pace, and his restless mood gradually stabilized. This is a quality necessary for a high-level martial artist.

Although Elder Niu, an Level 8 Grandmaster, had never produced any particularly notable disciples, he always considered the qualities of a martial artist as an essential part of his teachings.

Confidence, bravery, calmness, composure!

These were the words that Elder Niu repeated over and over again. Over the past decade, they had deeply engraved themselves in Su Yang's heart, allowing him to gradually recover after a brief period of rage.

Of course, while Elder Niu taught Su Yang enough skills for his martial journey, he failed to properly instill in him the principles of martial ethics. Thus, Su Yang had developed a somewhat arrogant and unruly attitude.

However, given Su Yang's narrow-minded nature, even if Elder Niu had truly taught him about martial ethics, it's likely Su Yang would have let it go in one ear and out the other, without taking it to heart.

All these matters had little to do with Qin Fang; what he needed to focus on was how to handle Su Yang's increasingly fierce offense.

At this moment, Qin Fang's expression was extremely grave. The situation was decidedly unfavorable for him. Su Yang was eroding the advantage Qin Fang had worked so hard to build up, and Su Yang's domineering Eight Extremes Fist strikes were making Qin Fang's arms go numb. In head-to-head confrontations, he hadn't gained any advantage and was actually at a slight loss.

"No, I must use my killer move!"

Qin Fang quickly realized he had to make this decision.

Considering the rage Su Yang had shown towards him, Qin Fang didn't believe this narrow-minded man would simply stop at the point of contact. If Qin Fang's defenses slackened, he would certainly face a barrage of attacks from Su Yang.

If he thought of it, he would do it—this was always Qin Fang's principle.

Knowing he couldn't overcome his opponent directly, he had to use the appropriate strategy.

Direct confrontation wasn't a viable option, so he had to employ unexpected tactics.

This time, Su Yang launched a fierce elbow strike, and Qin Fang naturally countered with the same technique. However, it seemed Qin Fang couldn't withstand it this time, leaving a huge opening in his defense.

Su Yang's eyes lit up with the prospect of a great opportunity. Without a second thought, he took a quick step forward and completed his charge.

Tie Shan Kao!

It was just the starting form of the Eight Extremes Fist's killer move, and it was nearly impossible for Qin Fang to dodge at this point.

But as Su Yang struck, he failed to notice the slight smile at the corner of Qin Fang's mouth—a smile that hinted at a successful scheme.

"Die!!!"

Su Yang finally seized his chance, and the Tie Shan Kao of the Eight Extremes Fist launched forth. He had practiced this move until it was extremely refined, mastering every aspect of the force applied. It had won him much honor in the countless times he had executed it.

This time was no exception!

It seemed he already saw Qin Fang beaten and breathing feebly, a smug smile appearing on Su Yang's face.

But then...

"Tiger's Rush!"

Tian Youzhi's gaze almost immediately froze. His heart had been in his throat, especially when he saw Su Yang prepare the starting form of Tie Shan Kao—he felt as if his heart might leap out. But Qin Fang's technique was oh so familiar, the three words almost slipping out without thought.

Chapter 435 Tie Shan Kao VS Tiger's Rush_1

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By this time, Tian Youzhi had already been dumbfounded.

Tiger's Rush, ah!

That was the goal I aimed to strike for in my life!

Don't look at me as a Level 5 expert now, just a step away from stepping into Level 6, but in reality, there's still an incredibly huge gap.

Level 6, also known as Grandmaster Level, is a massive hurdle.

If you cross it, you then become a Martial Arts Master of a generation. In those ancient times when martial arts flourished, only those who reached this level were qualified to open a school and take on disciples. Those below this level simply weren't qualified to accept disciples at all.

And once you cross the threshold of Level 6 Grandmaster Level, you reach Level 7 Grandmaster Level, where experts at the Grandmaster Level are granted the qualification to establish their own martial sect.

As for levels above that, it's hard to say...

Tian Youzhi's talent was not bad, otherwise, he wouldn't have been taken in as an Inner Chamber Disciple by Old Master Wu, and he was indeed a talented martial artist with great hope of striking at the Master Level and cultivating the secret technique Tiger's Rush.

However, Qin Fang's strength was clearly somewhat weaker than his, yet he suddenly used the Tiger's Rush that he might never have the hope of mastering in his lifetime. Such a blow was truly massive, making his head a bit too busy to cope.

...

"Eh... Isn't that Old Master Wu's family secret technique, Tiger's Rush?"

Elder Niu muttered in surprise.

As Qin Fang and Su Yang engaged in combat, in fact, the several old grandmasters had already taken notice. Such sparring was very common, and even though they were elders, they would not intentionally prevent it.

This was like how Qin Fang was always bullied by Cai Qing at Cai Family's Xingyi Martial Arts Hall, and Cai Pingyuan had never deliberately stopped them, even when Qin Fang was really weak.

General martial arts contests in the Martial World are very common, and if even this had to be managed, then it might as well be better to go back and practice the kind of Tai Chi that's good for health.

The four old masters initially thought Qin Fang and Su Yang were simply having an intense fight, but to their surprise, as they watched, something seemed off. Especially since both started to act increasingly fierce. Now Su Yang burst forth with his secret technique Tie Shan Kao, while Qin Fang used the Wu Family's Tiger-shaped Fist secret technique, Tiger's Rush.

Tie Shan Kao VS Tiger's Rush!

Both terrifyingly fierce and unmatched secret attacks, this time it was definitely a head-on collision!

They four old fellows had been good friends for many years, and the number of times they had sparred with each other was too many to count.

There was a time when Old Master Wu's Tiger's Rush clashed hard against his Eight Extremes Tie Shan Kao, which was an absolutely peak matchup that had left them extremely exhilarated.

In comparison, Elder Niu's Eight Extremes and Master Cai's Cannon Fist clashing seemed to be a notch below in level.

However, at their age, the chance to unleash their ultimate techniques without reservation had become exceedingly rare, especially for Elder Niu, who had gone a step further and entered the Level 8 echelon. His strength was clearly a notch higher than Old Master Wu's, and so the two had even fewer occasions to fight so wholeheartedly.

But they never expected that, instead, it would be the younger disciples who would fight.

This was not something they would mind; those who practiced martial arts, if they did not often spar, how could they possibly improve quickly? However, what surprised Elder Niu was that the Wu Family's Tiger's Rush did not appear in the hands of Old Master Wu's successor, but rather in the unrelated Qin Fang's hands.

And with his eyesight as a Grandmaster-level Expert, how could he not tell that Qin Fang's strength was clearly weaker than Su Yang's, not just by a single level, and that Qin Fang's Tiger's Rush was obviously in its initial learning stages? Yet now the slightly less powerful Qin Fang was relying on his extremely nimble bodywork and that amazing evasive stepping like an antelope hanging its horns, managing to not fall short at all.

"Isn't Qin Fang Elder Cai's disciple?"

Elder Niu's heart suddenly murmured this, and he couldn't help but look towards Cai Pingyuan beside him, as if trying to get an answer from him.

"Don't ask me, I don't know either..."

Cai Pingyuan seemed to already know what Elder Niu was thinking. Actually, at this time, Elder Ma also looked his way. He knew that Cai Pingyuan held his disciple Qin Fang in high regard. He had tried several times to poach Qin Fang, wanting to pull him over to learn medicine from him, but had not succeeded. How could Qin Fang suddenly become a disciple of Old Master Wu?

It was known that the Wu Family also took on disciples, but unlike Cai Pingyuan's open teaching at a hall, the Wu Family's foundations were vast, and they had quite a number of their own people. The Wu Family Tiger-shaped Fist was mostly passed on within the Wu Family itself, especially the secret technique Tiger's Rush, which only Inner Chamber Disciples were eligible to cultivate.

If Qin Fang knew this secret technique, it meant he had become a disciple under Old Master Wu, which was impossible.

In ancient times, switching masters was already a disdained act, and even more so nowadays. Even if Old Master Wu really wanted to take Qin Fang as a disciple, it was highly unlikely that he would pass on Tiger's Rush to Qin Fang so quickly.

Moreover...

"Isn't the Wu Family's Tiger's Rush something only those who reach Grandmaster Level can cultivate?"

At this point, the three old men were all stunned and looked towards Old Master Wu who was comparatively calm.

This was a fact well known to all these old men, which was why, despite the fame of the Wu Family's Tiger-shaped Fist in the martial world, it was relatively unheard of among the ordinary elite fighters.

Yet Qin Fang's strength was obviously not that strong. Far from reaching the master level, how could he possibly use Tiger's Rush?

And they all saw it very clearly, Qin Fang was indeed using Tiger's Rush!

"Look at me, I'm halfway in the grave, can I still teach a disciple?"

Grand Elder Wu was also very meaningful, gesturing towards his frail body. He could now only half lie there, and any movement would aggravate the wounds in his chest, making it indeed quite unlikely for him to teach a disciple anymore.

Especially Cai Pingyuan knew well that Qin Fang had only been at the Wu Family for five days, and before that, he hadn't even heard of the Wu Family's name.

Moreover, Grand Elder Wu's life had been saved only in the last two or three days. He had always been by his old brother's side, hardly leaving, making it even less possible to have imparted the secret technique of Tiger's Rush to Qin Fang.

"Wait a second... The murderer Qin Fang killed yesterday!"

However, Elder Cai, relatively speaking, still knew Qin Fang best and immediately thought of a crucial point, that being the deceased Chen Liang.

While speaking, his gaze instantly shifted to Old Master Wu. The grand elder, too, looked surprised, not having expected Elder Cai to think of the key so quickly.

"I'm not very clear on the details, but according to what Wu Ming and You Heng said, when Qin Fang fought with that Chen Liang, he learned the technique on the spot... I just didn't expect that in one night, he would have practiced Tiger's Rush to such proficiency!"

Grand Elder Wu also spoke with astonishment.

"Haha... I was wondering why this kid's eyes were so red early in the morning! I thought it might be because he was a bit uncomfortable after killing someone, but it turns out he was practicing all night!"

However, Elder Cai suddenly laughed, attributing Qin Fang's bleary-eyed appearance to practicing all night, "Hehe, let me tell you, my disciple is no simpleton; he learns very quickly! Guess how long it took him to completely learn all the little tricks this old man knows?"

"Three hours! It took him only three hours!"

As Cai Pingyuan said this, he felt quite resentful towards his other disciples who had been practicing for over a decade without grasping the essence, yet Qin Fang had become proficient in just three hours.

So what if Tiger's Rush is a Wu Family secret technique?

My disciple can learn it overnight and already uses it so masterfully.

The other three elders were all dumbfounded. The Cai Family's Xingyi Fist might not be as prestigious as their own secret techniques, but it certainly couldn't be mastered in mere three hours. If it were that simple, Xingyi Martial Arts Hall would have closed its doors long ago.

At this moment, their views of Qin Fang had changed. With such demonic talent, even Chen Qingsong of the past pales in comparison.

And just at that moment, Qin Fang and Su Yang's powerful moves had both been executed, and it had come to the most critical moment of the actual exchange of blows.

Tie Shan Kao!

Tiger's Rush!

Both individuals leaned forward slightly, then launched into a vicious elbow strike, fiercely attacking each other's bodies.

Su Yang's body was very sturdy, his muscles were quite firm, appearing as solid as rock, the result of over a decade of training. The practice targets for Tie Shan Kao were those very solid wooden stakes, and he had been cultivating it from a young age.

Such a strike was extremely fierce. Elder Niu was said to have used this move to punch right through a robust ox.

But clearly, Su Yang could not match Elder Niu's terrifying strength, and Qin Fang's physical robustness was unlikely to compare to that of a sturdy ox.

The strength disparity between the two was quite apparent, yet under the full force of their ultimate moves, it came down to confidence and courage, as well as a heart fearless of death.

Bang~~

The two finally collided, emitting an incredibly muffled sound, accompanied by a clear tearing noise. Then the clothes on both Su Yang and Qin Fang could no longer withstand the fierce impact and began to crack and shatter.

Elbow to elbow, force expelled...

With equally intense fist techniques and both employing their most powerful moves after a build-up of energy.

At this point, neither had the privilege to retreat, nor was it possible to do so.

To move forward was to harbor hope for victory.

To retreat was to accept certain defeat, resulting in severe injury or even death... Such is the terror of these ferocious and powerful moves!

When narrow paths cross, it is the brave who prevails!

The forces collided and then... both men were sent flying backwards, each staggering back two or three meters before managing to stabilize themselves. However, by that time, both were gasping for air, neither retaining the strength to continue the fight.

Chapter 436 - A Year's Agreement_1

...

Applause~~~

A series of crisp claps came from not far away, reaching the ears of Su Yang and Qin Fang.

Both turned towards the sound and noticed several elders had been paying attention to them, having been so immersed in their fight that they outright forgot about the people around.

In such an intense battle, they couldn't afford the slightest distraction.

Qin Fang was like this, and so was Su Yang, if anyone dared to be distracted, they would surely be seized by the opponent and attacked with moves like Tie Shan Kao or Tiger's Rush, which could finish off their opponent in a split second.

However, despite their bitter and nearly life-threatening struggle, the elders seemed to have no dissatisfaction, their faces instead brimming with radiant smiles.

"Alright, come over here..."

Ultimately, it was Elder Niu who waved over Qin Fang and Su Yang.

Su Yang was still panting heavily, but after a slight adjustment of his body, he struggled yet managed to stand, even though his breathing was clearly unstable, appearing quite chaotic.

The outbreak of energy had been almost total, and he had also borne the brunt of Qin Fang's full assault. The inner breath became chaotic, and to rashly engage it at this time would mean courting trouble not with an opponent, but with oneself.

Seeing Su Yang capable of standing, Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu were extremely anxious. Although Qin Fang appeared to have fought Su Yang to a draw, anyone could tell that Qin Fang was in an absolute disadvantage.

This was evident by simply looking at the inch-long cracked skin on Qin Fang's elbow, a result of excessive force and impact. At the moment, Qin Fang couldn't stand like Su Yang did, which proved this from another angle.

Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu hesitated, then decided to go and help Qin Fang up.

However, just as they took a step forward, they were stunned by the scene before them...

Qin Fang actually stood up!

Without anyone's aid, he supported his trembling body to stand, though he looked like he could be blown over by a gust of wind at any moment.

Yet... he truly rose on his own power and will.

Su Yang, who was walking towards Elder Niu, paused and turned back to look at Qin Fang who had steadied himself. His expression froze, filled with disbelief.

Just like Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu, he hadn't believed Qin Fang could stand again, but the truth shattered his illusion. Qin Fang was indeed up and now... his steps were moving towards him.

Qin Fang's gait wasn't as steady as his own, but his adaptability seemed especially strong. After about seven or eight steps, he gradually adapted to walking like this, and in the blink of an eye, he had approached him.

This scene left not only Su Yang and the younger generation dumbfounded but also old masters like Old Master Wu, Elder Niu, Master Cai, and Elder Ma were all surprised. With their sharp eyesight, they had long realized Qin Fang was at his limit, remaining upright by willpower alone.

But now, not only did he stand up, but he could also walk so sturdily, something not possible by sheer will alone.

All four eyes were filled with shock, clearly Qin Fang's monstrous degree far exceeded their imaginations.

And in fact...

"Damn, Tie Shan Kao is truly awesome!"

Seeing his Tough Skin Technique skill proficiency rise by twenty percent in an instant, Qin Fang didn't know whether to shout excitedly or feel lucky that his luck was exceptionally strong.

The killer move Tie Shan Kao was indeed overpowering, especially when unleashed by a Level 5 Expert like Su Yang. Even though Qin Fang's full-powered Tiger's Rush canceled out a large portion of the impact, it still wasn't fully resisted.

But at the critical moment, Qin Fang's seemingly unresponsive Tough Skin Technique suddenly activated, and the instant spike in defense allowed him to withstand the blow, with the terrifying force from Tie Shan Kao continually hitting him, actually increasing his proficiency by twenty percent.

The battle left Qin Fang thoroughly exhausted, barely able to move, every inch of his body as if groaning in pain.

The rampant forces had invaded his entire body, causing significant pain, and his life points dropped sharply as well.

Fortunately, Qin Fang was prepared this time. The number dropped at once was far less than Chen Liang's hit yesterday, less than 10 points. For Qin Fang with now 27 life points, it was not a big deal.

However, the pain was persistent, affecting his life points, which continued to decrease slowly.

Yet, this could not perplex Qin Fang. His Props Box contained hundreds of Superior Soup Dumplings, each restoring +3 life points, posing no threat to the gradual decrease.

After devouring five Superior Soup Dumplings in quick succession, Qin Fang's life points returned to full. The pain persisted, but his physical strength rapidly recovered, and the lost strength gradually returned to Qin Fang's body.

It was because of this that Qin Fang had the strength to stand and move.

As his Life Points and strength gradually recovered, his pace also became more steady, which then elicited the utmost astonishment from everyone's eyes.

Su Yang did not continue walking, but simply stood there quietly with a hint of a smile on his face, as if waiting for Qin Fang's arrival.

Soon, Qin Fang had already approached, looking somewhat strangely at Su Yang, one of the Tian Nan Four Shows.

"You're very strong!"

Contrary to Qin Fang's expectations, the opponent who had just been fighting fiercely, surprisingly reached out to him actively and gave such praise.

At this moment, Su Yang no longer had his previous arrogance and conceit, but rather became humble and polite, almost causing Qin Fang to think he had mistaken the person.

The fierce battle just now had fully demonstrated this point, that he had underestimated Qin Fang, had not gone all out in the fight, and being caught off guard by Qin Fang's sneak attack made him extremely irritable and angry, seriously affecting his judgment.

One miscalculation after another allowed Qin Fang to seize the initiative and step by step set the trap, luring him into it.

If it were not for his strength ultimately being more than one grade above Qin Fang, the loser would definitely have been Su Yang, and not Qin Fang.

From this point of view, it was not a true draw, but rather a loss for Su Yang, a loss for him known as one of the Tian Nan Four Shows, and it was a devastating and face-losing defeat.

However, Su Yang's experience was not without gains.

This failure allowed him to truly comprehend the profound mysteries of the Martial Way, where underestimating the enemy equated to defeat.

The encounter was just a sparring between two individuals, although both exerted their full strength and were heavy-handed, it was not fatally so.

But had such complacency occurred against a ferocious opponent, then it was very likely that Su Yang might have already become a cold corpse by now.

Conversely, Qin Fang, who had been very vigilant and cautious, would most likely have survived, even when facing an opponent far stronger than himself.

Qin Fang, now looking at Su Yang who seemed to have completely changed into another person, wore a face full of sincere expression; at least the current Su Yang was not as disagreeable as before.

A martial artist who can truly regard their opponent becomes capable of walking further on this path.

"You are stronger than me!"

Qin Fang reached out his hand and clasped it with Su Yang's, also speaking earnestly,

This was an undeniable fact, even if Qin Fang did not want to admit it. No matter how well he had fought just now, it could not change such a fact, and it was something he had to recognize.

"Right now, you are not my match! One year, after one year, I, Su Yang, will come to challenge you!"

Su Yang said this with great determination; it seemed not to allow any objection from Qin Fang.

One year is neither long nor short to express.

For Su Yang, who had just entered Level 5, a year meant that he could make his foundation more solid in preparation for the upcoming challenge to reach Level 6 Grandmaster.

He was still young and had long been prepared for the challenge of the Grandmaster Level, but he understood that this was not something that could be achieved in a short time. Otherwise, Chen Qingsong breaking through to the Grandmaster Level before thirty would not have been considered such an extraordinary feat at the time.

And this year was the time he had given to Qin Fang.

The gap between Qin Fang's current strength and his was obvious; had it not been for his complacency and several mishaps, Qin Fang would have already fallen.

But next time, he would not repeat such mistakes, and then Qin Fang would definitely not be his match.

And since he had been defeated this time, it was necessary to have another opportunity for a rematch.

In one year, Qin Fang's strength would inevitably leap forward dramatically. This was something Su Yang did not doubt in the slightest, and he was well aware that Qin Fang's martial talent far exceeded his own.

With such talent, Qin Fang after a year would stand at a position comparable to his own, making for a evenly matched contest.

He knew that if he delayed any further, he might never have another chance, as he would have to face an opponent that required a great deal of time and effort to catch up to, one who was ascending at a high speed.

This situation was somewhat akin to the past between Master Cai and Elder Niu. Only, it seemed that in the generation of their disciples, the roles had directly reversed.

"All right! I accept! In one year's time, we will fight again!"

Looking at Su Yang before him, Qin Fang knew that such an opponent was worthy of respect, and how could he possibly refuse such a challenge?

The agreement for one year started from today!

Chapter 437: Grandmaster's Careful Guidance, Proficiency Skyrockets!_1

...

When the two hands clasped together, that agreement was formally established.

Before this duel, nobody probably thought such an agreement would be made; nobody was optimistic that Qin Fang could fight a battle with Su Yang and still walk away unscathed.

But the reality made everyone's eyes pop.

Two completely unequal opponents managed to fight a battle that was thoroughly enjoyable, and it ended in a draw, which was an outcome no one anticipated.

"Master, I'd like to return to the sect first...,"

After releasing their hands, Su Yang turned to address Elder Niu who wasn't far away.

"Hmm, you go back then!"

Seeing his own disciple able to accept defeat gracefully, a proud look appeared on Elder Niu's face and he agreed without any hesitation.

There was a time when he noticed some bad habits in his disciple, especially that arrogant attitude that worried him a lot, but the problem was that he couldn't find the right way to solve it.

The idea of beating Su Yang up, like Qin Fang did, had crossed his mind, but who would do it, and how? It was a rather troublesome problem.

If the beating was too light, it would have no effect.

If it was too harsh, it could shake the disciple's confidence, which wasn't acceptable either.

Today, Qin Fang taught Su Yang a tough lesson. Although it hurt Su Yang's confidence to some extent, what Elder Niu saw was a blazing fire of determination burning in Su Yang's eyes.

Today, Su Yang was ranked among the Tian Nan Four Shows, the young talents of the southern martial arts world, and his strength was even considered a bit weaker than the other three; however, Elder Niu knew that a year from now, Su Yang would definitely surpass the other three, and even far exceed his fellow peers.

As for Qin Fang...

Elder Niu didn't know how to assess him anymore.

The first time they met, he felt that Qin Fang was quite impressive, and although he seemed very ordinary, he couldn't hide the spiritual nature that indicated outstanding talent that could help him progress quickly on this path.

But the battle just now revealed a completely new side of Qin Fang to Elder Niu and the other grand elders: an unyielding will and determination, the courage to face fears head-on, and an unwavering belief in victory. These were all qualities needed to become a strong fighter.

As for diligence, Qin Fang didn't seem to be lacking it either. After all, there are not many martial artists who could stay up all night excitedly just to master a newly acquired technique to perfection.

With his master's permission, Su Yang respectfully bowed to the other three grand elders and then slowly began to walk down the mountain. He was still a bit weak, but it no longer affected his body, and the grand elders didn't feel the need to send anyone to follow him.

Without a doubt, the grand elders had noticed the changes in Su Yang, including a shift in his mental state. At least after this incident, Su Yang had truly matured, and his future was boundless.

"Qin Fang, not bad..."

Among the grand elders, the happiest was undoubtedly Qin Fang's master, Cai Pingyuan. Among his peers, it was his strength that was considered the weakest, particularly when compared to the strongest, Elder Niu. Though he was reluctant to admit it, he often felt quite discouraged.

However, his disciple now did him proud by forcefully repelling the most outstanding disciple of Elder Niu's, despite being outpowered, which was a breath of fresh air for him as a master.

Seeing that his disciple hadn't fully recovered, Cai Pingyuan was exceedingly concerned and even offered his own chair, expecting Qin Fang to sit down and rest. He doted on him as if he were treasured, and even Cai Qing who hurried over upon hearing the news was green with envy.

"Master, no need; I'm much better now!"

Qin Fang was unwilling to take the seat from Cai Pingyuan and quickly expressed as much, even taking a few steps to show he was in good health.

"Xiao Qin, did you really learn the Tiger's Rush from Chen Liang by sneaking a look?"

After Qin Fang had a moment to rest, Grand Elder Wu finally spoke. Although Qin Fang had anticipated the question, he couldn't help feeling a bit nervous when it was actually asked.

"Yes!"

Qin Fang nodded, his tone very firm.

His Tiger's Rush did indeed come from Chen Liang, not by stealthy observation, but as a Skill Book that dropped when Chen Liang died. All Qin Fang had to do was choose to learn it, and it would become an instinctive part of his body.

"I practiced it all night, and it was quite difficult to master. I'm not even sure if I messed up somewhere because I felt like I couldn't exert any strength earlier..."

This was not actually Qin Fang's true feelings; in reality, it was a tiny flaw that had appeared after Chen Qingsong revised the Tiger's Rush. However, once this modified Tiger's Rush skill became a Skill Book, this small flaw would gradually be overcome.

It was just not right now—at least not until Qin Fang could truly master the Tiger's Rush skill... Still, it was very useful for handling the troublesome situation he currently faced.

"Oh? Then demonstrate it for me..."

Old Master Wu's face didn't show any displeasure, but instead, he wore a faint smile, as if he was quite interested in the Tiger's Rush that Qin Fang practiced.

"Okay..."

Qin Fang nodded his head. Even though he hadn't fully recovered his strength, a simple routine demonstration wasn't a problem and wouldn't involve Inner Breath, so it wouldn't affect his body.

He stood up, took a slight breath, and his gaze started to focus more intensely; Qin Fang's movements gradually stretched out.

The Tiger's Rush was actually just a simple move; the real difficulty lay in its different methods of exerting strength, sometimes making a strike possible even in an unadjustable posture, achieving true surprise.

Qin Fang's movements were quite smooth, and everyone present was a martial arts expert. Even Elder Ma, the divine healer, also had Grandmaster-level skills.

Grand Elder Wu's eyes constantly followed each of Qin Fang's movements, and his brows were tightly knit as if pondering something. Before long, his expression would relax again, but sometimes when he saw a certain move of Qin Fang's, his eyes would shine as if he was deeply impressed.

The routine didn't take too long, not more than a minute and a half in total, and that was because Qin Fang deliberately slowed down to allow Old Master Wu to see it more clearly.

"Not bad..."

The Grand Elder Wu's face had an even brighter smile, and his somewhat cloudy eyes shone with a keen light, looking at Qin Fang as if seeing a treasure.

"Xiao Qin, what you have learned is indeed the Tiger's Rush from the Wu Family, but it has been modified. The power difference isn't too great, yet there are considerable changes in some details. I just took a close look, and some of the modifications are like strokes of genius, while others seem quite rough. In general, the merits outweigh the flaws, but those flaws still affect the power output of Tiger's Rush somewhat, which I think must be the reason why you said sometimes you can't muster strength..."

Quickly after, Grand Elder Wu commented on Qin Fang's recent routine, which was basically in line with the description in the Skill Book.

Qin Fang looked at his master, Cai Pingyuan, beside him, and hesitated before speaking, "Your disciple is unworthy; I kindly ask Old Master Wu for more guidance..."

These flawed places, Qin Fang actually didn't need to care too much about them for now. Once his Proficiency increased, these small flaws would naturally be covered up, but that would still take some time.

So, Qin Fang wondered if he could find out these flaws in advance and correct them so he could make better use of the power of Tiger's Rush.

"Good! Perform it again..."

Old Master Wu did not refuse and even showed considerable appreciation for Qin Fang's actions, immediately agreeing.

Qin Fang then started his second practice. This time, his movements were slower and more meticulous, as that would allow Old Master Wu to watch more closely and detect flaws more comprehensively.

"Here... here your fist must be tightened, and the arm should be kept close to the body, yes, just like that!"

"Stop! Go back, now you can exert force... Yes, just like that, very good, quite good indeed!"

"This movement needs to be practiced until it's even more proficient; it's really like a stroke of genius, very nice..."

For the time afterward, Old Master Wu seriously adjusted each and every one of Qin Fang's moves that contained flaws or mistakes. He continued until Qin Fang was sure there were no issues, then he proceeded to the next movement.

"Skill flaw has been restored!"

"Skill flaw has been restored!"

"Skill flaw has been restored"

"..."

"Under the meticulous guidance of Level 7 Grandmaster Wu Mingyuan, your Xingyi Fist (Intermediate) Skill Proficiency has increased by 30%!"

With Old Master Wu's guidance, prompts like this constantly appeared in Qin Fang's mind; each time he corrected a flaw in his technique, he would receive such a notification, and the Tiger's Rush skill content would be adjusted accordingly.

Only after Qin Fang completed all the routines and the flawed areas had been adjusted, a prompt suddenly came to his mind.

Qin Fang had not expected that his skill Proficiency could soar like this, with only a few crucial pieces of advice from a Grandmaster-level expert like Old Master Wu being enough.

Thinking about this, Qin Fang couldn't help but sneak a glance at Elder Niu. This elder was a Level 8 Grandmaster, an even more formidable Grandmaster-level expert than Grand Elder Wu. If he could receive his thorough coaching, wouldn't his Proficiency grow even faster?

Of course, that was just a beautiful fantasy of Qin Fang's own, unlikely to become reality—or at least, it was something that could not be considered for now.

Chapter 438 Troops Set Off from Jian Ge _1

...

"Thank you so much, Old Master Wu!"

At this moment, the gratitude Qin Fang felt for Old Master Wu was truly beyond words. Without any hesitation, he knelt down and kowtowed three times with resounding thuds.

Now being a part of the martial world, Qin Fang was also aware of what Old Master Wu's selfless assistance signified, yet he truly had nothing that could perfectly express his feelings at this time.

He couldn't possibly take Old Master Wu as his master, so these three kowtows were extremely serious and earnest. The other three elders also silently nodded in approval, and Qin Fang's own master, Cai Pingyuan, was quite pleased with his sensible disciple.

This was Qin Fang's way of expressing his thanks, but it also interpreted, from another perspective, his resolve to refuse joining another sect.

Old Master Wu nodded in happiness as well but didn't say much else. Or perhaps, he simply didn't have the energy to speak at the moment, considering his body was still not recovered, and he had already said so much.

Qin Fang stepped back from the elders and was immediately grabbed by Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu. The two were as curious as babies right now, almost treating Qin Fang as if he were Superman with red underwear on the outside.

"Junior Martial Brother Qin, you really are... truly... truly too awesome!"

Tian Youzhi was truly excited. He had once confidently sparred with Su Yang, but the result was utterly tragic, turning his face green from the loss. Whenever they met after that, he felt humiliated, even on his home turf, he seemed somewhat subdued.

But what about Qin Fang?

In terms of strength, let's not even talk about comparing with Su Yang; he was even slightly weaker than Tian Youzhi. Yet, Qin Fang managed to force Su Yang into a draw and even, at the beginning, had Su Yang lose face with the Ping Sha Luo Yan Style as he stumbled backwards.

In this regard, Tian Youzhi also couldn't compare with Qin Fang.

Tian Youzhi was relatively open-minded, with a much broader heart than Su Yang. He quickly got over it and was simply happy to have such a friend.

On the other hand, Ma Yu's face was covered in joy, but there was a hint of frustration as well, which puzzled Qin Fang a bit. It seemed to him that this matter had nothing to do with Ma Yu, so why did Ma Yu feel frustrated when Qin Fang won?

Tian Youzhi then explained it to him—it turned out that Ma Yu regretted not capturing that pivotal moment when Su Yang stumbled backward with the Ping Sha Luo Yan Style, too occupied with watching the excitement to even think of recording it.

For this, Qin Fang merely smiled lightly, not in a position to comment. Maybe he had a low opinion of Su Yang before, but now he actually admired him a bit. At least Su Yang's change in that moment posed a subtle threat to Qin Fang.

Not a threat of life and death, but a challenge!

Qin Fang had to admit that he quite liked such challenges; it was precisely this kind of pressure that provided the best motivation for him to improve.

"It really isn't obvious at all..."

Compared to Tian Youzhi and Ma Yu's excitement, Luo Xi and Cai Qing, who had arrived later, only witnessed the scene where Qin Fang and Su Yang each fended off their opponent with a strong move, causing their hearts to clench in that instant.

However, they interpreted this change as a kind of instinctual reaction from two people practicing martial arts, similar to how one might become unintentionally immersed in a thrilling and suspenseful movie.

"It's just luck..."

Qin Fang said with a smile, modestly.

That he could fight to a draw with Su Yang, who was much stronger than himself, was indeed a matter of luck. Su Yang's repeated mistakes were all seized upon by Qin Fang, leading to such a result.

If they were to fight again now, Qin Fang would surely be beaten so badly that even his mother wouldn't recognize him.

"Don't be so modest. Su Yang is one of the 'Tian Nan Four Shows,' one of the strongest in the Southern Martial Arts World. Very few of his peers can go over a hundred moves without losing to him. Yet you managed a draw with your obviously weaker strength, tsk tsk... Are you trying to compliment yourself, or are you trying to belittle the rest of us?"

After several days of getting to know each other better, they were no longer strangers and spoke more freely. Seeing Qin Fang being so modest Luo Xi couldn't help but tease him a bit.

"Don't keep praising me. If you do, I'll be blown right up to the sky..."

Qin Fang smiled and had no desire to continue bantering with them. Instead, he returned to his own room to rest. However, as he passed by the silent Cai Qing, he faintly noticed that there was something off about Cai Qing's gaze and expression.

Qin Fang did not bother to delve deeper into it. Having just received Old Master Wu's careful guidance, all the flaws in Tiger's Rush had been fixed. Although it might not have reached the most perfect form, it was clearly much better than before. He needed to take this opportunity to familiarize himself with it.

Now that the skill had been completely corrected, Qin Fang's practice was based on the new skills and techniques. There was no need for an adjustment period like others might require. He could proceed with normal cultivation, and mastering it was relatively much easier.

When Qin Fang calmed down and reflected on the day's events, particularly the entire process of his fierce fight with Su Yang, every movement and every technique used by both fighters, Qin Fang reviewed them all in his mind while also analyzing every exchange of moves.

Martial arts is not just about hard practice; responding to an opponent's moves is fundamental. As long as one can neutralize the opponent's techniques, even a spontaneous flash of inspiration can be a very good move.

Conversely, if it does not lead to overcoming the enemy, no matter how formidable the secret technique or routine, it all amounts to nothing.

Therefore, Qin Fang would carefully reflect on his gains and losses after a battle, learn from the opponent's strengths, and make up for his own deficiencies. Only by doing this, could he truly improve himself, while also understanding both himself and the opponent.

"Su Yang seemed to have something to look for me about..."

However, as Qin Fang pondered, he suddenly realized that he had overlooked an issue.

From the moment Su Yang first saw Qin Fang, he already showed a touch of hostility. Qin Fang had assumed it was because he had been more favored in front of the elders. Now thinking about it, it seemed that was not the case.

And the first conversation between Qin Fang and Su Yang had been initiated by Su Yang. His tone indeed made one feel quite uncomfortable, but it seemed he was seeking out Qin Fang directly.

Qin Fang had overlooked these details, and coupled with his own lack of affection for Su Yang, their exchange had been a bit too intense, which then led to their fight.

Afterward, Su Yang left the Wu Family and returned to his sect to train hard, preparing to challenge Qin Fang again after a year.

"Forget it, why think so much about it? If there was something important, Su Yang wouldn't have left without saying anything..."

The open-minded Qin Fang was not inclined to ponder over these inscrutable matters any longer, instead focusing wholeheartedly on cultivating his martial arts.

...

With Chen Liang's death, Grand Elder Wu's condition gradually stabilized, and the matters concerning the Wu Family came to a close for the time being. Also, after several days' delay, the date of the Martial World Conference was drawing increasingly near.

The elders were old friends of many years and naturally could not resist indulging in merry drinking. Thus, most of the vintage wine that Qin Fang had brought over was quickly consumed. Qin Fang also benefited by enjoying a few cups of the truly excellent wine.

In this way, the time filled with laughter and merriment passed quickly, and the opening day of the Martial World Conference was soon upon them.

"Depart..."

Following the command from Cai Pingyuan, Qin Fang's Audi Q7 hit the road once again, carrying Cai Pingyuan and his granddaughter towards Xishu Province, the venue for the Martial World Conference. Accompanying them was Elder Niu, a Grandmaster of the Eight Extremes Fist.

Driving ahead of Qin Fang's Audi Q7 were several cars from the Wu Family, who, as representatives of Wu Family Boxing, were also participating in this Martial World Conference.

With Grand Elder Wu's injuries not yet fully healed and Elder Ma remaining to continue his treatment, Wu Ming, as the person in charge of the Wu Family, was not suitable to leave. Therefore, Second Brother Wu Hai led the Wu Family team, which also included Tian Youzhi, Luo Xi, and a few other younger members whose names Qin Fang could not recall.

The venue for this Martial World Conference was located in Jian Ge, northern Xishu Province, a small city quite famous in the country. Didn't Li Bai, the sword immortal, write about such a diminutive city in "The Difficulty of the Shu Path"?

Although small, Jian Ge held a significant place in the Southern Martial Arts World, boasting a long history. Over this extended period, many celebrated heroes had emerged from here.

Li Bai, known as the Poet Immortal, gained wider recognition in the Martial World as the Sword Immortal. It was said that this seemingly delicate scholar possessed swordsmanship cultivation not inferior to that of a grandmaster-level expert.

If not for the chaotic times and his own aspiration to contribute to the world, leading to his tragic end, he might have become the Patriarch of a swordsmanship sect.

This had little to do with Qin Fang. Swordsmanship might have been a formidable fighting technique in ancient times, but in an era dominated by firearms, even a masterfully wielded longsword wouldn't be able to block the spray of an enemy's machine gun.

Moreover, longswords are inconvenient to carry around. Blunt swords are at best used by the elderly to exercise, while sharpened ones are controlled weapons. Carrying one in public would certainly lead to arrest by the police.

Wu Hai, having attended several Martial World Conferences, was quite familiar with Jian Ge despite its frequent relocation. He was a martial enthusiast who had often gone to Jian Ge to seek opponents for battles. With him leading the way, Qin Fang had much less to worry about, and their convoy set off imposingly toward their destination.

Chapter 439: Martial World Conference_1

...

The Martial Arts Tournament is a major event in the Southern Martial Arts World. Although it is held every five years, the hosting alternates between the north and the south, with the last tournament held in the Southern Martial Arts World being ten years ago.

Ten years is not a short period; a person only has so many decades in their life, so each Martial Arts Tournament excites the heroes and righteous figures of the martial arts community.

However, the Martial Arts Tournament is not open to everyone. If it were, it would not be a tournament for the martial artists, but more like a variety show organized by some television station.

Those showy performances, in the words of the novice fighter Ma Yu, are like those so-called boxing and sanda champions – "I could slap three or five of them to death with just one slap!"

This is the vast chasm of strength. Those ordinary people who learn a bit of sanda, even if they manage to level up to Level 3 or Level 4, still stand no chance against the truly powerful experts and are doomed to be thrashed.

Therefore, the Martial Arts Tournament has stringent requirements for its participants. Martial artists who have not been invited have no qualification to participate, not even to watch as spectators.

The temperament of those who practice martial arts is often not very calm.

Fights erupt at the drop of a hat; if ordinary people were mixed in, an accidental slap from a master or unintended collateral damage would leave the organizers with considerable responsibility.

This Martial Arts Tournament is not an official event. Put bluntly, it's a grand assembly of powerful fighters. If nothing happens, all is well, but any incident could immediately cause trouble, and it wouldn't be impossible for someone to make a big issue out of a mass brawl.

Of course, those who have the qualifications to organize the tournament are invariably the famous and venerable elders of the martial arts community, who also possess considerable power and influence in the region.

With strength comes wealth!

Especially in an era like this, those who diligently practice martial arts are hardly ever short on money. With so many people flocking to a place, spending is inevitable, and it can drive the local economy.

All of that is beside the point. In short, when the Martial Arts Tournament is held, martial arts experts from all over the country will gather here.

Young experts who wish to make a name for themselves will find this the best path. The Tian Nan Four Shows gained their fame here, though they had not yet reached their current level of renown.

Five years have passed, and the Martial Arts Tournament has moved from the North to the South. Many new young experts have emerged, eager to show off their skills at this tournament and then return home gloriously, thereby making a name for themselves in the martial world.

Qin Fang arrived with his master, Cai Pingyuan. Although Cai Pingyuan's prestige might be slightly less than that of people like Elder Niu or Old Master Wu, being a senior and a veteran, taking two people with him was not a problem.

Elder Niu is one of the organizers of this tournament. With his reputation, even if Qin Fang and the others were a bit more numerous, it wouldn't be a problem. That back door can still be opened; after all, those who can come with Elder Niu to participate are definitely not ordinary people.

Old Master Wu was originally an advisor judge requested by the organizers. Although he was not a judge, he had certain supervisory powers. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend due to injuries, and Elder Niu used his own influence to pull in Comrade Elder Cai.

Though Elder Cai's strength may be lacking, his qualifications were enough. Adding an advisor rather than a judge significantly decreased the opposition, and as soon as Elder Niu suggested it, the other organizing representatives immediately agreed. These matters were already prearranged; it was just a matter of filling the spot when someone was missing.

"Xiao Qin, during the Martial Arts Tournament, Elder Cai and I will have many matters to attend to and might not always be by your side. There are many experts here, and there's no need to provoke anyone unless it's necessary..."

Without Elder Cai around, Qin Fang and the others had to take care of themselves. Originally, Wu Hai, being the eldest, should lead the group. Unfortunately, being a martial arts enthusiast, he disappeared as soon as they reached Jian Ge, undoubtedly off to meet martial friends.

"Elder Niu, Master, don't worry, we'll take care of ourselves!"

Qin Fang immediately patted his chest, reassuring them. With these old gentlemen busy with their matters, he could not afford to cause them trouble.

The remaining people, which included Qin Fang, Cai Qing, Luo Xi, Tian Youzhi, Ma Yu, and several juniors from the Wu Family—Qin Fang and Cai Qing, as martial siblings, would surely stick together and watch out for each other.

Tian Youzhi was leading the Wu Family's juniors, his apprentices' juniors. He could not leave them, as they represented the Wu Family. At the Martial Arts Tournament, they had to mingle with some sects and noble families with whom they had good relationships, hence they would likely not stick with Qin Fang and the others.

"Don't look at me; I'm following Sister Qing!"

In the end, everyone's focus landed on Luo Xi, and Luo Xi made it clear that she was siding with Qin Fang.

Tian Youzhi and the others didn't find it strange at all. They just gave Qin Fang a knowing look and then led the Wu Family group away.

On the contrary, it somewhat depressed Qin Fang. Since that night, it seemed Luo Xi had taken an interest in him, and he found her hard to shake off.

"Could it be another side effect?"

Qin Fang couldn't help but feel a headache coming on. Ever since he got that Pet Egg, he had been experiencing such side effects, and now Luo Xi seemed to have developed this tendency.

However, her reasoning was fairly legitimate. The Wu Family had brought only men with them, with Luo Xi as the sole girl. After all, there weren't many girls who genuinely enjoyed handling guns and weapons; Luo Xi and Cai Qing were quite rare in that regard. Together they were a bit safer.

As a result, Qin Fang didn't have a reason to object. Moreover, the two girls together made for good company, and it would be more convenient for him to leave if there were something he needed to attend to.

The location of the Martial Arts Tournament was none other than Jianmen Pass, Jian Ge's most famous site, though it has likely been converted into a national forest park and turned into a tourist attraction by now.

But that didn't present a problem for the organizers of the Martial Arts Tournament. Some of them were locals from Jian Ge. Although they might not have as much influence as the Wu Family in Jiujiang, they were definitely counted among the local powerful families.

With their influence, the organizers managed to secure a special entrance for the Martial Arts Tournament at a side gate a considerable distance from the main entrance of the park, which only those with a Martial Arts Tournament access card could enter through.

And the venue for the Martial Arts Tournament was separated from the Jianmen Pass scenic area. People could enter the scenic area from the tournament grounds, but other tourists in the scenic area couldn't enter here.

By the time Qin Fang and his party arrived, all the necessary facilities and stages for the competition had already been fully set up.

Calling it a Martial Arts Tournament was essentially just providing a place for martial arts competition. The Southern and Northern Martial Arts Worlds didn't get along, and while they weren't quite enemies, there was definitely some animosity. Each side thought they were the strongest in the Dragon Country Martial World, and neither looked favorably upon the other.

But now society was governed by law, and the kind of slashing and killing that was common in the past was clearly inappropriate. Yet, victory couldn't be claimed by words alone, so the Martial Arts Tournament was organized to select some mighty experts for a grand showdown between the Southern and Northern Martial Arts Worlds.

This was the main event and the highlight of the entire Martial Arts Tournament.

Before that, however, there were some rather appealing appetizers: contests between young martial artists. Some lesser-known young experts could also rise to fame from this platform.

Of course, some powerful sects also took this opportunity to scout for promising young talent. After all, there were still some loose cultivators in the Martial World who did not belong to any specific sect or family. They might not be particularly strong, but with a bit of luck, they could take in a disciple with good potential. Subsequently, if the large sects and families took interest in them, it would reflect well on their mentor, who with just a slight polish, could make them stand out.

Moreover, apart from the carefully trained disciples, most other disciples were just like those from martial arts schools. While the concept of respecting the master and valuing their teachings existed, it certainly wasn't as profound as one might imagine, making it relatively easy to poach people.

The Martial Arts Tournament hadn't officially opened yet, but many people had already arrived. Even the stage had several martial artists sparring, with quite a few observers around.

"Qin Fang, do you want to go up and give it a try?"

Whether it was the intimacy of that night that changed Luo Xi's personality or the attraction of Qin Fang boldly repelling Su Yang, Luo Xi now seemed entirely different from the cold, iron-blooded female cop he had first met. If it weren't for the fact that they shared the same beautiful face, he would seriously consider peeling off this layer to see if it was the same person underneath.

"Me? Better not..."

Upon hearing her, Qin Fang looked over at the nearby stage, where two young martial artists were fighting passionately and working very hard.

Unfortunately, their strength was relatively weak, both just Level 3. In some local areas, given their proficient combat skills, they could be considered fairly good, but at a gathering of superior martial artists like the Martial Arts Tournament, they were somewhat insignificant.

Qin Fang was very self-aware. To make a name for oneself here, one needed at least Level 5 cultivation. It was wiser to remain a spectator, to learn the techniques and dismantling skills of the masters. Rushing onto the stage for a match could result in embarrassment, not to mention the possibility of a more humiliating defeat.

Chapter 440 Tian Nan Four Shows: Ding Song_1

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Qin Fang had no interest in going up to demonstrate martial arts as if this were a circus. This was a martial arts tournament, and he had no intention of not getting involved himself.

Fighting Su Yang to a standstill, maintaining an even, undefeated stance, did not make Qin Fang complacent. On the contrary, it made him more wary of such a martial world.

Experts were not as scarce as he had imagined. In fact, there were far more than he had anticipated, with a considerable number of young masters alone.

Su Yang, one of the younger generation from the Southern Martial Arts World and known as one of the Tian Nan Four Shows, was truly exceptional. His strength was absolutely solid, and there were at least three other young masters of his caliber.

Then there were those slightly less skilled than Su Yang, like Tian Youzhi, who were even more numerous. And this was just the Southern Martial Arts World, not to mention the North, where experts were similarly in abundance.

Extending this further to include experts of all ages, the number was indeed significant.

Even Cai Pingyuan, who was close to the peak of Level 6, clearly stated that there were over a hundred experts comparable to his strength, and a considerable number of martial arts masters just a step below.

With the vast population of Dragon Country, even if the proportion of martial practitioners was less than one thousandth, that still amounted to hundreds of thousands, perhaps nearly a million. Among them, the truly outstanding were certainly few, but those who reached the middle and upper echelons could be quite numerous, even a few hundred wouldn't be strange.

It was for this reason that Qin Fang appeared rather low-key, planning to observe primarily and reluctant to get too involved.

...

The martial arts tournament had not yet officially commenced. Qin Fang and the others went to familiarize themselves with the venue and to collect their respective entry cards, afterwards they drove to their pre-booked lodging.

Important figures from both the Northern and Southern Martial Arts Worlds, such as venerated elders and tournament judges and advisors, were all accommodated separately by the organizers, not mixed with others.

Most of them were older and preferred tranquility. Many were old friends, living nearby meant they could chat, drink together, and

Others had to fend for themselves, like Qin Fang and company who arrived later. The Wu Family had taken care of the arrangements early on, booking rooms at the best resort in Jian Ge.

This resort was right next to the Jianmen Pass scenic area, its facilities were quite impressive. Located near the scenery, the environment was serene, and only a select few with connections could book rooms there.

It was only upon arrival that they learned the three of them would have just two rooms. Having one room per person was out of the question since there were too many people already.

Due to the tournament, Jian Ge was exceptionally lively. Hotels and guest houses had been booked full well in advance. Those arriving late or without significant local connections had to find their own solutions.

Those who drove there were fortunate, able to make do with their cars. Others without cars or who couldn't find lodging had to resort to travelling back to the county town to stay, commuting by taxi every day.

In this light, Qin Fang and his group were quite fortunate to have two rooms reserved for them. If there had only been one room, Qin Fang would have had to sleep in his car, since he obviously couldn't share a room with two women.

If it had been a situation of "one dragon with two phoenixes", Qin Fang might have gritted his teeth and accepted it, but Luo Xi was a regular woman, and Cai Qing...

Just the thought gave Qin Fang a headache; such a beautiful woman but preferring the same sex, and even playing the male role - wasn't that like stealing Qin Fang's bread-winning job?

With two rooms and one man with two women, Qin Fang quite luckily hogged one room for himself. As for the other, Cai Qing and Luo Xi shared it.

However, it was only when they got to their accommodations they discovered that the "two rooms" were actually within one suite—essentially, it was all in one space, even sharing the same bathroom and toilet...

Qin Fang was immediately dumbfounded. It seemed his brief moment of elation had been for naught; he was still ending up living with two women.

"Qin Fang, I'm warning you! Don't go wandering around at night, especially while we two girls are bathing or sleeping... If you dare have any improper thoughts, I'll make sure you regret it!"

After touring the suite, Cai Qing promptly issued a warning to Qin Fang, with Luo Xi signaling her support with the snip of scissors gestures.

If it had been two separate rooms, at least they could have been somewhat reassured. But with the three of them staying in one living space, the wooden door that seemed secure offered little resistance to someone like Qin Fang, a martial artist.

"Look here, ladies, even if you gave me ten times the courage, I wouldn't dare do anything to you!"

Qin Fang could only force a bitter smile and thought to himself that he didn't want to live with them either.

Both beauties seemed delicate, but each was extremely violent by nature. Luo Xi might only have Level 4 strength, but she was raised by the Grandmaster-level Expert Old Master Wu. Her skills were quite formidable. Just the other day, she had pestered Qin Fang to teach her the modified version of Tiger's Rush. Although she was still a beginner, her power, once unleashed, was ferocious.

As for Cai Qing, there was even less to say—she was like a female Tyrannosaurus. Unable to cultivate Inner Breath, she had nevertheless put in tremendous effort mastering fighting skills. Her punches and kicks were incredibly powerful, and with her being a Level 5 expert, she had an advantage over Qin Fang because of her higher rank.

If these two violent beauties really set out to deal with him, Qin Fang's only option would be to run for his life.

"Glad you understand..."

Seeing Qin Fang's attitude, the two beauties were clearly satisfied.

With only one suite available, they certainly couldn't have both women in one room and force Qin Fang to sleep in the car. If Elder Cai found out, it wouldn't go down well for Cai Qing.

After some light-hearted banter and packing up, and as evening approached, the trio headed to the resort's restaurant to dine.

The resort was rather upmarket, and the restaurant was decorated with a certain refinement and style. Soft, soothing music played that seemed perfect for couples or lovers coming to dine.

Unfortunately, due to the Martial Arts Conference, those who checked in were all martial artists, most of whom looked quite sturdy. The men were in the majority, with only a few women mingling among them—it wasn't clear whether they were wives, lovers, or mistresses. The loud clinking of these burly men's glasses was a definite mood killer.

Despite the spoiled ambiance, Qin Fang and his companions had no plans to have a romantic meal there; they were just there for a simple dinner.

"Miss Cai! I really didn't expect to see you here again, what a surprise..."

Just as the three were about to eat, someone passed by their side. Spotting the two beauties, he couldn't help but stare a few moments longer. He was just looking, but then abruptly called out.

Qin Fang and the women all looked up in surprise at the man speaking. He appeared quite young, around twenty-five or twenty-six, dressed in very casual Versace. Qin Fang owned a similar outfit, bought for him by Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue, but he was reluctant to wear it.

"Miss Luo, I didn't expect to see you here..."

The young man had first noticed Cai Qing, but when Luo Xi looked up, he quickly recognized her and greeted her with similar excitement.

As for Qin Fang... unfortunately, he was ignored.

Ignored wasn't quite accurate—at least the young man gave Qin Fang a disdainful look, clearly looking down on him, much like Su Yang had done.

Qin Fang couldn't help but cast his Scouting Skill on the young man.

"Ding Song, Level 5?"

The young man's strength was quite impressive, being Level 5 as well. As for his name, it was Ding Song, but there was nothing else particularly noteworthy about him.

He also practiced Xingyi Fist, which meant he was somewhat a fellow practitioner with Qin Fang, Cai Qing, and Luo Xi.

"Could he be another one of the Four Tian Nan Showmen?"

Observing carefully, Qin Fang noticed that this Ding Song shared a resemblance with Su Yang. His demeanor was arrogant, and even though his eyes were filled with desire for Cai Qing and Luo Xi and his tone was polite, there was an air about him that seemed hard to change.

"So it's Senior Brother Ding ..."

The two women responded differently; Cai Qing just coldly glanced up before continuing with her meal, indifferent to men, which Qin Fang knew all too well. Unfortunately, Ding Song was not aware and wasted his smiles trying to be courteous. Luo Xi, however, acknowledged him. Her grandfather being Old Master Wu, a Grandmaster, she had to maintain certain appearances, yet her response was evidently cool and distant.

"Qin Fang, let me introduce you. This is Senior Brother Ding Song of the renowned Four Tian Nan Showmen..."

Whether Luo Xi was intentional or not, she didn't speak to Ding Song but introduced the young man to Qin Fang instead, with mischief in her eyes, especially when she emphasized the term "Four Tian Nan Showmen" with deliberate weight.

Even Cai Qing, who was eating, couldn't help but pause her chopsticks. Her amused smirk made it obvious she felt like chuckling too.