

## Genius 851

Chapter 851 - Another Hundred Million in the Hole

...

Liu Xianhe sternly reprimanded his coaches and disciples, and he did it right in front of Qin Fang, which was a bit surprising to him.

However, Qin Fang did admire one aspect of Liu Xianhe, that being his ability to take things in stride...

But his son, Liu Junhao, certainly did not seem to share his father's broad-mindedness. When Qin Fang's gaze inadvertently swept across Liu Junhao's face, he also noticed something unusual in his eyes.

Especially in the moment their eyes met, Qin Fang could very clearly feel the resentment in his...

Perhaps Liu Junhao was not the only exception; there were many others who glared at Qin Fang with similar looks, but in the end, they were not taken seriously by Qin Fang.

Qin Fang did not stay any longer. After exchanging a few more words with Liu Xianhe and exchanging contact information, Liu Xianhe also warmly invited Qin Fang to visit Korea and the Ryu Family whenever he was free. Qin Fang readily agreed, as he had such plans himself, not to mention anything else, just for the Thousand-Year Cold Jade that was hidden somewhere, Qin Fang was very eager to get his hands on it.

After achieving his first epiphany, Qin Fang was essentially grasping the stepping stone to enter the Grandmaster Level. Although it was not guaranteed he would succeed, at least he had a much greater chance of success than those martial artists who couldn't even find the doorway, and his likelihood of success was much higher.

With the Thousand-Year Cold Jade as an aid, not only would the success rate of advancing to Grandmaster Level be further increased, but his Inner Breath would also become more refined, resulting in a greater leap in his strength as well.

However, searching for the Thousand-Year Cold Jade in Korea was something Qin Fang didn't have the energy for at the moment, and his strength was still at Level 4, not even having reached Level 5 yet, so advancing to Level 6 Grandmaster was still quite out of reach for him.

Speaking of leveling up, Qin Fang inevitably had to check his current experience points. It had been a while since he had reached Level 4, and during this time, he had earned quite a lot of experience, especially during the gun battle with the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps a few days ago; though it had been a near-death experience for Qin Fang, the experience points were quite substantial.

Up to now, Qin Fang still didn't understand how the System calculated experience points. Previously, if he killed people or creatures relying solely on his martial abilities, he could gain full experience points, but if he used firearms, the experience points were halved or even reduced further...

Yet this time, Qin Fang nearly received full experience points... which he found rather strange.

Fortunately, with such a wealth of experience, plus the points he had earned before, Qin Fang's Level 4 experience had exceeded 80%. He needed less than five thousand more points to be promoted to Level 5, a goal he believed he could achieve before long.

That's because he was about to start accepting assassin tasks. Otherwise, with his points in the Assassin's Alliance cleared, he would face being purged by the Alliance, which was clearly not what he wanted.

Li Enhui had come here to collect the Yunluo Tea. Now that she had the tea and Liu Xianhe had been defeated by Qin Fang, there was no need for them to stay any longer. After saying goodbye to Liu Xianhe, they left.

"Thank you..."

They walked out of the Taekwondo Dojang safely, and Li Enhui spoke with genuine gratitude.

"Thank me for what?"

Qin Fang smiled. Although he had been used, this trip was not in vain and he didn't really come out behind.

"Thank you for helping me out with a big problem..."

Li Enhui, of course, was unaware of Qin Fang's thoughts. She had a clear sense of gratitude and grudges. Qin Fang had beaten up Liu Junhao and even defeated his father, Liu Xianhe, successfully drawing away Liu Junhao's hatred. Li Enhui guessed that there were many years of friendship between the Li Family and the Ryu Family. With just a subtle hint, she immediately extricated herself from the situation.

Liu Junhao was extremely resentful towards Qin Fang, which was something Li Enhui knew well, but she didn't care too much. Qin Fang and Liu Junhao were mere acquaintances; even if Liu Junhao wanted revenge, it would be very inconvenient on Dragon Country's turf; and even in Korea, considering Liu Xianhe's recent attitude towards Qin Fang, Liu Junhao wouldn't dare cause any trouble, not to mention that Qin Fang was far stronger than Liu Junhao...

Of course, with her insight, she could easily see that Qin Fang didn't take someone like Liu Junhao seriously at all; they were not on the same level.

"Oh, in that case, you should really thank me properly... How do you plan to thank me?"

Seeing Li Enhui's seriousness, Qin Fang couldn't help but tease her. However, no matter how you heard it, his words sounded like a flirtation.

"How about... I offer myself to you?"

But Li Enhui was not someone to be trifled with, having the power to solely manage the Seven Stars Group's Dragon Country division at a young age. Her eyebrows lifted slightly, her arm wrapped around Qin Fang's tightened a bit, and she pressed her shapely figure a bit closer to him... and with seductive eyes, her voice was filled with allure as she made her proposition...

"Let's...forget about that!"

Qin Fang was suddenly speechless. This Korean beauty really wasn't easy to deal with, resorting to such tactics... Although she appeared to play hard to get, Qin Fang knew very well that if he showed any sign of eagerness, he might end up with nothing in the end.

On the contrary, with the distance made clear, Qin Fang could still catch a bit of advantage... For instance, at this moment, Li Enhui's full and tempting bosom was rubbing against Qin Fang's arm, a touch that was undeniably delightful.

"Hmph... Coward!"

Li Enhui muttered something in Korean under her breath, thinking Qin Fang wouldn't understand, but little did she know that not only did he understand Korean, he could even speak it simply.

Faced with such an assessment, Qin Fang could only rub his nose in silence, a gesture of his helplessness... He didn't mind getting a bit more intimate with this Korean beauty, Li Enhui, but if things progressed to that point, he wouldn't have the heart to take advantage of her.

But he really was waiting to exchange the technology in his hands for money, and he couldn't afford to be distracted by short-term gains... As for women, he already had his fair share; it was better not to entangle himself with Li Enhui.

"If Miss Li really wants to thank me, it would be more beneficial to raise your price a few percentage points..."

Offering herself was clearly out of the question, but gaining a small advantage in other areas was still possible, such as a slight increase in the acquisition price Seven Stars Group was offering for Qin Fang's technology, which could result in him earning a bit more money.

"Don't... That money isn't mine alone to decide!"

When it came to business matters, Li Enhui's expression became more serious.

This was something Qin Fang truly admired—she clearly differentiated between personal and professional matters, and wouldn't be biased towards him just because he had helped her.

Qin Fang spoke casually about increasing the price by a few percentage points, which seemed like a very small number, but when added up to the base amount, it was not a trivial sum.

The agreement price that Qin Fang reached with the Seven Stars Group was naturally not as high as the initial contract with the Japanese party, but it was still one billion.

A few percentage points of one billion was several million, a sum that might not seem very large to the immense Seven Stars Group, but in their hands, such a sum could easily double in profit...

No one would complain about having too much money, nor would they willingly give money away without reason!

"If that's the case, then don't bother with thanks..."

Qin Fang shrugged his shoulders, speaking quite indifferently!

By now, Qin Fang was himself a billionaire, at least until not so long ago... But now, as his business ventures began to expand, there were plenty of expenses, and it wouldn't take long before the two billion in his hands was spent.

The biopharmaceutical laboratory that Chu Yunxuan was overseeing was constructed, the investment in which was also a significant number. Even if they developed the drug's composition, with the factory production and other considerations, a substantial investment would be needed... Although this was a surefire profitable venture, it was impossible without initial capital investment.

Therefore, Qin Fang chose to finalize the deal with Li Enhui as quickly as possible, to get the money and invest it in industries that needed it more urgently.

The two returned to the Han River Barbecue, where Li Enhui had specifically booked a private room. Apart from Qin Fang and Li Enhui, there were also legal advisors, security consultants, and technical advisors from the Seven Stars Group. Li Enhui had brought almost half a team with her, indicating how seriously she took this transaction.

Technical data verification, contract negotiation, and signing all took place in this private room. Only after both parties had no more disputes did Li Enhui, representing the Seven Stars Group, and Qin Fang, the owner of the technical data, sign the technology transfer agreement.

And once the contract was signed, Qin Fang handed over the completed lithium battery technology data to Li Enhui, and the one billion in transfer funds was quickly transferred into Qin Fang's Swiss Bank account...

"I wish your Seven Stars Group all the best, to crush the competition, beat the Japanese, and climb to the top!"

When it was all over, and Qin Fang and Li Enhui raised a toast to celebrate, he congratulated her with a smile on his face.

"I shall take your kind words to heart!"

Li Enhui also smiled brightly, seemingly looking forward to that day...

Yet, she couldn't have anticipated that whether it was the Japanese or the Koreans like her, they were all part of Qin Fang's grand scheme. Qin Fang had already nearly completed his research on the third set of technologies, and through Qiao Zhenfei, he had found a partner ready to rejuvenate Dragon Country's lithium battery energy industry...

Chapter 852 - Kidnapping! Trap!

...

After securing the one hundred million, Qin Fang finally relaxed. He had a few more drinks with Li Enhui, chatted for a bit, and that's how he passed the time.

By the time he left Han River Barbecue, it was already past ten in the evening.

In the end, Qin Fang naturally didn't get a chance to have some fun with Li Enhui, the Korean beauty. She left with her company colleagues as it seemed she still had to report back to the head office—her strong woman demeanor was evident.

Qin Fang really didn't have much interest in the so-called Korean delicacy—kimchi. The barbecue was just tolerable, but he preferred eating kebabs and drinking draft beer at street stalls, finding that more comfortable.

Qin Fang's tolerance for alcohol was quite formidable now; even if he did get truly drunk, it wouldn't really affect his driving...

However, shortly after leaving Sanlitun Bar Street, an unexpected text message arrived—"Your woman is in my hands. If you don't want her to die, come alone to the peak of Fragrant Hills at midnight 12 o'clock! Otherwise, tomorrow's newspapers will feature news of a female corpse found naked on the peak of Fragrant Hills..."

The number was a string of random digits, similar to those used by scammers on SMS platforms or online.

"Crazy!"

Upon seeing such a message, Qin Fang's first reaction was to scoff and swear before tossing his phone aside and continuing to drive back to the Chang'an Club.

He was going to fly out of Capital City back to Ninghai the next day and had no time to deal with these scamming texts...

After all, those scammers didn't even understand his identity before sending such messages. Qin Fang wasn't a local from Capital City, and although he had several women, none of them were in Capital City at the moment. So where did this abduction come from? Surely they couldn't abduct someone from Ninghai and bring them to Capital City?

That's why Qin Fang immediately dismissed the text as a scammer's trick and chose to ignore it...

But as he focused on driving, he thought back to the message and felt there was something off about it... Upon further consideration, he immediately felt the problem was even bigger.

The intent behind the message was clear: someone had kidnapped Qin Fang's woman and was trying to extort him, demanding he meet at the peak of Fragrant Hills...

But if the goal was extortion, why wasn't there any mention of money at all? The sender simply asked Qin Fang to come to the peak of Fragrant Hills... This was highly unusual and didn't sound like extortion!

If not for extortion, then why kidnap someone?

There was only one possibility left—revenge!

Did Qin Fang have enemies in Capital City?

The answer was becoming quite clear. The list of people Qin Fang had offended was not short, including Capital City's aristocrats like Xu Ling, Young Master Miao Qi, Chen Shijie, Young Master Yang, to the extent of Lei Peng from the Lei Family and his uncle—a Grandmaster-level expert from the Heavenly Pool Sect, Shangguan Tianling...

These people all had serious conflicts with Qin Fang, some of whom wouldn't hesitate to eliminate him if given the chance, like...

At this point, Qin Fang suddenly had a guess about who was after him.

"Lei Peng! Shangguan Tianling!"

Without a doubt, the one targeting him had to be Lei Peng.

The reason he ruled out the likes of Xu Ling and other aristocratic young masters was that, although they also hated Qin Fang, Qin Fang's engagement to Tang Feifei had become a certainty. With the Tang Family's mantle on his shoulders, they would have to consider the Tang Family's reaction before making a move against him; thus, they might target Qin Fang but definitely wouldn't resort to such despicable tactics as kidnapping...

Which left only Lei Peng and his uncle...

Whether Shangguan Tianling was involved in the kidnapping was unclear to Qin Fang, and perhaps he might refrain from acting personally due to his status. But if Qin Fang were to go to Fragrant Hills alone, it would certainly be Shangguan Tianling waiting for him—who else but Lei Peng, who stood no chance against Qin Fang?

"Who did they kidnap?"

If the message was real, then Qin Fang was sure these two were behind it, but he frowned, unable to understand who the uncle and nephew might have kidnapped.

Qin Fang's women were few—Tang Feifei, Xiao Muxue, and Wen Yan were all far in Ninghai, usually together. If any of them were kidnapped, they would have informed Qin Fang long ago, not to mention the distance was too great for Lei Peng and his uncle to abduct someone from Ninghai and bring them to Capital City.

Fan Ning was abroad and had not returned, making her impossible for Lei Peng to kidnap...

Miao Yue was also unlikely, as she was performing in Hong Kong, constantly watched by paparazzi with her agent always by her side, increasing the difficulty of kidnapping her.

As for the girl next door, Tao Juanjuan, that was even more improbable. Their affair was only known to the two of them; no one else knew, so that could be ruled out...

Excluding these, Qin Fang truly couldn't think of anyone else. His women were just these few, and others like Ning Yumo and Cai Qing had already left Capital City for Ninghai.

After ruling them out, Qin Fang felt this was probably just a ploy by Lei Peng and his uncle to lure him to Fragrant Hills. Qin Fang wasn't a fool—knowing it was a trap, why would he willingly jump into it?

"Wait a second..."

Just when Qin Fang thought he wouldn't be fooled, he suddenly recalled a person, or to be more precise, the only woman in Capital City who had an ambiguous relationship with him at present.

Li Yuerong!

Qin Fang suddenly thought of this girl.

Not because she was beautiful, or because their relationship was ambiguous, but because Li Yuerong was a key figure who had triggered the failure of Lei Peng and his uncle's plan.

If she hadn't appeared, Shangguan Hao would never have fallen into Qin Fang's hands. Not only had he been tortured in various ways, but he had also become even more twisted. Only now did Qin Fang remember that, according to the timeline, Shangguan Hao should have already been retrieved by Shangguan Tianling... and that meant Li Yuerong was in danger!

Initially, Qin Fang had hidden Li Yuerong in the Chang'an Club, where even with all their capability, neither Lei Peng nor Shangguan Tianling would be able to find her. Unfortunately, Li Yuerong had an exam at school today, and given that Shangguan Hao himself was a student at Normal University, getting Li Yuerong's information was far too easy...

Having realized this, Qin Fang took out his phone, searched for Li Yuerong's number, and immediately called her... The Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps had destroyed his car, but fortunately, items like his phone were saved and had made it back into Qin Fang's hands; otherwise, he would have had trouble locating Li Yuerong's contact information with a different phone.

"I'm sorry, the phone you are trying to reach has been turned off..."

As expected, the voice prompt from the phone indicated it was turned off, instantly causing Qin Fang's brows to furrow.

But then he remembered that Li Yuerong's roommate had once called him for help, so he dialed that number...

"Rongrong? She's not here, I haven't seen her since we finished the exam..."

The result made Qin Fang feel even more certain that something was wrong; her roommate didn't know her whereabouts either.

"No, she hasn't come to work for several days..."

Qin Fang then called the Moonlight Bar to ask Lan Yue, and the answer was still the same.

Qin Fang might not know Li Yuerong very well, but considering her family background and her personality, she was a girl who led a very simple life and had a strong sense of self-respect and self-love.

It was already past ten o'clock in the evening, and even the university would have been in rest mode by now, but Li Yuerong was neither at the Moonlight Bar for work nor in her dorm, and her phone was turned off... This was certainly problematic.

Combined with Qin Fang's speculation, one conclusion was becoming increasingly obvious and inevitable.

"Damn it..."

Although Qin Fang really didn't want to curse, at the moment, he was indeed inclined to swear.

It truly seemed that being too beautiful was a crime. In the few days that Qin Fang had known Li Yuerong, she had been kidnapped three times in total.

First, she was coerced by the local Big Boss Black, using her brother's situation as leverage, to return and become his mistress – that was the first kidnapping...

Then she was forcibly taken away by Shangguan Hao, narrowly preserving her chastity – that was the second.

And now, she had encountered a third kidnapping, likely by Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling...

To save, or not to save?

Although there was no concrete information yet to confirm that Li Yuerong had indeed been kidnapped by Lei Peng, the likelihood was high, almost a sure bet. And so, Qin Fang was now faced with a choice.

Not to save,

Then Li Yuerong was doomed to fall into the hands of Shangguan Hao and Lei Peng. Given the character of these two, the threats in the text message about a female corpse found naked at the peak of Fragrant Hills weren't merely verbal intimidation; they were very likely to become reality...

To save,

The Fragrant Hills at this time were clearly a trap prepared for Qin Fang, just waiting for him to jump into voluntarily.

Lei Peng wasn't fearsome; Qin Fang could have defeated him before, and now, having had an epiphany and significantly improving his realm, Qin Fang had left Lei Peng far behind. If he fought Lei Peng again,

Qin Fang believed that even without using The Nine Revival Needles, he could still defeat Lei Peng with martial power.

However, Qin Fang was well aware of this, and naturally, so was Lei Peng. They wanted Qin Fang to have no return, and to ensure foolproof plan, the real killer move was certain to come from Grandmaster-level expert Shangguan Tianling.

Qin Fang might claim to be invincible below Grandmaster level, but facing a Grandmaster-level expert, his chances of winning were greatly reduced. Even if Shangguan Tianling was only at the early stage of Master Level, he was still far beyond the current Qin Fang's ability to contend with...

Chapter 853 - The Confident Shangguan Tianling

...

Facing such a multiple-choice question, no one could make an immediate decision, as it involved the lives of one or even several people, and one had to be extremely cautious.

Call the police?

That option was directly disregarded by Qin Fang.

Regardless of the high case-solving rate of the Capital City police, the enemy involved in this kidnapping was extraordinarily complicated.

While those in the Martial World might not be as depicted in martial arts novels, moving incredibly fast, scaling walls, leaving no footprints in snow, and appearing and disappearing without a trace... in an area

as large as Fragrant Hills, capturing these people would be impossible unless thousands of troops were mobilized for a siege.

A martial artist, even one barely considered a beginner at Level 3, would not be someone the police could catch if he decided to flee.

Recalling his first capture of two fugitives with Ning Yumo, whose abilities were merely at Level 3, Qin Fang knew it was difficult to catch them as they remained elusive despite their frequent offenses.

Those were just two minor characters at Level 3, yet now, Qin Fang faced the people of Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, far beyond the comparison to those minor characters.

Lei Peng, from the well-known martial arts family of the Lei Family in Capital City, had cultivation at the Peak of Level 5, and naturally had some strong subordinates. Considering they were up against Qin Fang, the weakest he would have brought with him would be Level 5 experts....

As for Shangguan Tianling, there was even less to be said. A disciple of the Heavenly Pool Sect, and the Shangguan Family was a very significant branch within the Sect, possessing numerous powerful disciples. Look at the two bodyguards assigned to Shangguan Hao, each a standout among Level 5 experts.

If even a weakling like Shangguan Hao had Level 5 experts as bodyguards, then those who came to capture Qin Fang would undoubtedly be even stronger.

Facing such formidable enemies, let alone that Qin Fang had not yet reached the Grandmaster Level and had no way of contending with Shangguan Tianling on martial prowess, there were others involved in

the ambush, making it a rather troublesome multiple-choice question set by Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling for Qin Fang...

"Ah, this girl is really unlucky..."

Qin Fang shook his head and sighed, truly feeling that Li Yuerong, the beauty, was very unfortunate. Within a few days, her life had been continuously turned upside down, tormented repeatedly. Just as she began to settle down, trouble would strike again, this time even threatening her life.

Despite the sigh, Qin Fang wasn't someone with a very hard heart. Knowing full well the perilous risks of this endeavor, he still did not wish for Li Yuerong to die so young, to vanish like a faded flower...

"Shangguan Tianling, Grandmaster-level expert... I hope you don't disappoint me!"

Qin Fang turned the car around and immediately headed toward Fragrant Hills, muttering to himself... Clearly, he was more concerned about Shangguan Tianling, the Grandmaster-level expert; as for Lei Peng... a defeated general is not worth mentioning.

Fragrant Hills, located in the western outskirts of Haidian in Capital City, 25 kilometers from the city center, has now become a famous forest park in Capital City, a very famous tourist destination. A few days after arriving in Capital City, Tang Feifei had accompanied Qin Fang on a brief tour, so Qin Fang had some understanding of the general environment there, not completely ignorant like a blind man finding his way.

Fragrant Hills is said to be named after the highest peak's stalagmite which resembles an incense burner, hence the name Incense Burner Mountain, and consequently shortened to Fragrant Hills, while the location mentioned in the message was naturally the peak of Incense Burner Peak.

With a highest altitude of 557 meters, Incense Burner Peak also housed a building known as the Double Ninth Pavilion, named for the tradition of ascending heights on the Double Ninth Festival to gaze at the Capital City.

But now, being a bustling metropolis, despite the height of Fragrant Hills, one could only see a corner amid the many skyscrapers blocking the view.

Qin Fang's visit was not for enjoying the panoramic view of Capital City, especially since it was past eleven at night, and the park was already closed, with not a single tourist inside.

Of course, the high walls were no obstacle for Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, who could easily climb over to enter the forest park.

Similarly, at this late hour, with hardly anyone around, they could turn the place upside down without anyone knowing, ultimately killing Qin Fang here, so putting on a façade would naturally go undetected...

Qin Fang was well aware of the uncles and nephew's plan, but he could not just stand by and watch as they maliciously killed the innocent Li Yuerong, likely through despicable means. Thus, even knowing this place was a trap, Qin Fang decided to take the risk.

The agreed time was midnight. Qin Fang arrived from Sanlitun quite fast, sneaking quietly into Xiangshan Forest Park around half-past eleven, then cautiously headed toward the peak of Incense Burner Peak.

Along the way, Qin Fang was very careful, continually scouting his surroundings, checking whether Shangguan Tianling's hidden stakes were lurking among the trees.

Being alone, Qin Fang knew he was outmatched, and even with his group combat skills, he couldn't be too confident facing an expert like Shangguan Tianling. Therefore, he had to eliminate Shangguan Tianling's minions before formally confronting him.

Chapter 854 - The Confident Shangguan Tianling\_2

To prevent any accidents, Qin Fang changed his appearance and made himself look like an ordinary person who had sneaked in. This way, he could minimize the chances of being discovered and guarded against by Shangguan Tianling!

At the peak of Xiangshan.

Outside the Double Ninth Pavilion, Li Yuerong's body was firmly bound with thick hemp ropes, making it impossible for her to so much as move.

Although she was not scantily clad, being tied up like this fully showcased her extremely perfect figure, especially her proud chest, which was quite prominent.

Shangguan Hao was leaning close to Li Yuerong, his eyes fixated on her, unable to stop the drool that glistened at the corners of his mouth, and in his eyes, desire was rising, wishing he could pounce on Li Yuerong then and there and ravage her mercilessly.

However, he clearly lacked the courage to do so, knowing that this beautiful woman belonged to Qin Fang, who had instilled a fear in him that was hard to forget to this day.

Just thinking about that Silver Needle with its magical power that could easily subject him to the tortures akin to the Eighteen Levels of Hell made his body shudder unconsciously, and deep-seated fear welled up in his heart.

Without a doubt, Qin Fang had become the nightmare in his mind.

But, he felt that he wouldn't need to be afraid for much longer, as this time his cousin Lei Peng and his father Shangguan Tianling would take action. They were planning to brutally torment Qin Fang here, not to mention to torment him to death... and he would also use this opportunity to expel the fear of Qin Fang from his heart.

Once Qin Fang was dead, then the woman before his eyes...

At this thought, Shangguan Hao felt a twitch in his heart, yet he dared not to act on Li Yuerong right now, so he retreated to a corner and couldn't help but instinctively fiddle with that tube in his hand...

In comparison to the lecherous Shangguan Hao, Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling appeared much more composed. Both were formidable martial artists who did not place much importance on femininity.

Lei Peng was somewhat better. His practice of the Lei Family Bear Fist was extraordinarily firm and forceful, and the vigorous Inner Breath it generated brought an excess of Yang Qi, which indeed required the company of women to temper.

But at the same time, he also practiced the Tianchi Sect's Changbai Ice Palm, which was a rather soft Palm Energy, with even its Inner Breath leaning towards the cold yin, counterbalancing the Lei Family's Bear Fist with yin and yang, firmness and softness, complementing each other and neutralizing the excess Yang Qi. Therefore, his need for women was much less than other members of the Lei Family.

Shangguan Tianling needed no further discussion, as he cultivated the Tianchi Sect's yin and cold Inner Breath, naturally abundant in Yin Qi, and regarded female charms as quite trivial. If not for the sake of passing on his lineage, he would not even want to waste his Yang Qi... as the essence of a man's Yang Qi was the most potent!

It was precisely because of this reason that although Li Yuerong was captured and bound, none of the men had laid a hand on her, simply leaving her tied there.

Of course, if Qin Fang was late, then such a beauty would naturally benefit that perverse Shangguan Hao. With the extent of that young man's perversion, one could imagine the grim fate that awaited Li Yuerong... it would definitely be extremely tragic...

"Uncle, why didn't we arrange for more people and troops? This kid is very strong. If he realizes something's amiss and tries to escape..."

There was still a little bit of time before twelve o'clock, but Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling were already waiting here early. The two men stood at the peak of the mountain, and it was then that Lei Peng oddly asked.

"You think I can't keep him here?"

Shangguan Tianling snorted coldly, clearly annoyed by the question.

"Of course not! Uncle, you are a Grandmaster-level Expert, and even if that kid fights for his life, he's no match for you. I just..."

With just a single cold hum, Lei Peng immediately felt a powerful imposing force bearing down on him, and even with his Level 5 Peak cultivation, he couldn't help but feel his breath catch momentarily.

This is the oppressiveness of a grandmaster-level expert's aura, a complete qualitative change that simply can't be spoken of in the same breath.

The barrier between the grandmaster level and level 5 peak might be thin, but the gap between the two can be likened to heaven and earth, absolutely incomparable.

Just as Lei Peng had said, even if Qin Fang risked his life to unleash his strongest power, he couldn't possibly contend with Shangguan Tianling...

Unless he used the Shaolin Temple's secret, the Great Rejuvenation Pill, which could instantly increase one's Inner Breath by tenfold, then he would definitely stand a chance against Shangguan Tianling.

However, whether the Great Rejuvenation Pill still existed was unclear even to Lei Peng, and an Inner Breath surge by ten times was definitely not something an average person's meridians could withstand. They would probably explode and die before even engaging in battle.

Besides, it was impossible for Qin Fang to possess such an extraordinary elixir as the Great Rejuvenation Pill, so the possibility of Qin Fang defeating Shangguan Tianling was zero...

Lei Peng was concerned because he had crossed hands with Qin Fang before and understood Qin Fang's strengths: his unpredictable speed, formidable strength, strange Inner Strength, and mysterious Acupuncture Secret Technique, among others...

If Qin Fang realized something was wrong and focused solely on fleeing for his life, it was possible that the two of them couldn't guarantee stopping him, and once Qin Fang got away, there might not be such a good opportunity to deal with him again.

After all, Qin Fang's true base was in Ninghai; he couldn't often come to the Capital City. Lei Peng's influence was mainly around the Capital City, and even the powerful Heavenly Pool Sect could at most extend their reach to nearby areas like Beijing-Tianjin, Hebei, and Liaoning, which was still far from Ninghai.

"Lei Peng, although you are my nephew, you also can't be too... As a grandmaster in cultivation, it's already beneath my dignity to kill a junior, and you still want this to be known by the whole world?"

Shangguan Tianling immediately frowned, showing clear displeasure. He had wanted to scold Lei Peng, but after glancing at his son Shangguan Hao, who was hiding and sulking in a corner, he couldn't help but sigh softly.

"I'm sorry, uncle..."

Lei Peng's voice also faltered slightly; he indeed had not considered this point.

In the Martial World, those who could truly be called experts were actually those above level 6 grandmaster level, and only such grandmaster-level experts had the qualification to open doors, accept disciples, and pass on their art...

This was a rule that had been passed down for many years. Although it had been broken to a shapeless mess in modern times, and many martial artists of inadequate strength, levels 5 and even level 4, dared to open martial arts schools to accept disciples.

But in the end, it is only experts above the grandmaster level who are the real foundation of the Dragon Country Martial World, and martial artists below this level are just considered inconsequential juniors, regardless of their age.

Qin Fang had not yet stepped into the grandmaster level while Shangguan Tianling was already a grandmaster. Whether by age or strength, Qin Fang was considered Shangguan Tianling's junior. But now Shangguan Tianling was scheming to execute Qin Fang, which is something that would lower his own status. If word got out, he would surely be laughed at...

That was the reason why Shangguan Tianling and Lei Peng could actually mobilize many people to pursue Qin Fang, and Qin Fang would have encountered countless assassination attempts the moment he entered Xiangshan Forest Park...

However, Shangguan Tianling didn't do this. He only brought his son Shangguan Hao and his nephew Lei Peng along, without calling anyone else, because there are no walls in this world that do not leak. His disciples might listen to him and temporarily not spread the news...

But there are always exceptions, and if the word got out, Shangguan Tianling's name would be dragged through the mud, and he would certainly become a laughingstock in the Martial World, possibly even implicating the Heavenly Pool Sect — Shangguan Tianling, of course, wouldn't let such a thing happen.

Moreover, Shangguan Tianling was very confident in his own strength!

If a grandmaster-level expert could be easily defeated, then the title of grandmaster wouldn't be worth anything...

Chapter 855 - Stunned...

...

"Not a single person?"

Shangguan Tianling, for the sake of his own face, hadn't arranged for too many to pursue and blockade Qin Fang. Qin Fang had made his way up cautiously but hadn't seen even half a person, which was quite frustrating to him.

Because this was simply too unreasonable. Even if it was a clash against a grandmaster-level expert like Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang winning was definitely hopeless. But if the goal was to escape, even two Shangguan Tianlings might not be able to stop him.

So, if Qin Fang were in charge of this operation, he would have made extremely thorough arrangements. Perhaps not to kill from the moment Qin Fang started climbing, at the very least they would seal off all possible escape routes down the mountain; otherwise, all plans and arrangements would be in vain...

Despite having a hundred, a thousand reasons not to understand, the fact was that the whole of the empty Fragrant Hills, except for Qin Fang himself, seemed to have no second person.

Of course, this was for the best.

Qin Fang came to rescue someone. If there were too many enemies, he would be hard-pressed by their numbers, and it would be very difficult to rescue the person safely.

But the fewer people there were, the higher the success rate of the rescue. Qin Fang even pondered whether to take out Shangguan Tianling and Lei Peng along the way, which would make the rescue much easier. Still, if he really did that, Qin Fang's trouble would also be quite significant.

Lei Peng was the direct descendent of the Lei Family and among the Seven Tigers of the Lei Family, the young martial arts expert with the most hope of reaching the grandmaster level. Even though what he did recently had greatly dissatisfied the Lei Family, he was still Elder Lei's grandson, and the care afforded to him was considerable.

As for Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang was even more wary of him. Who let the Heavenly Pool Sect behind Shangguan Tianling be a lineage of a very ancient and prestigious sect, with clouds of experts inside? If they were offended, Qin Fang's future would definitely be tough!

"Rongrong, it seems that that Qin person won't be coming to save you. Tonight... hehe, you still can't escape from the palm of my hand!"

Having his father Shangguan Tianling and cousin Lei Peng backing him, Shangguan Hao was quite afraid of Qin Fang, but it didn't hinder his lustful gaze toward Li Yuerong. He went to Li Yuerong and stared at her figure, even more enchanting and bewitching because of the bonds.

"Pah! Beast..."

Li Yuerong's complexion was miserable, clearly also feeling helpless about the unfairness of her fate. But as soon as she saw Shangguan Hao's face, which made her want to vomit, coming closer, she immediately spat at him without courtesy and scolded very rudely.

"Hehe, curse if you want to curse... I won't lose a piece of flesh..."

A pervert like Shangguan Hao, how could he take other people's insults to heart? The more fiercely you curse, the happier he feels in his heart. Otherwise, how could he be called a pervert?

"You..."

Facing such an unashamed pervert, Li Yuerong clearly had no better approach. She could only fiercely glare at Shangguan Hao, turning her head away, ignoring him further.

"Don't be like this, give some face, will you? Otherwise... then I'll really be sorry!"

Seeing such a scene, the smile on Shangguan Hao's face became even brighter as he continued to verbally harass Li Yuerong. And seeing that Li Yuerong was not cooperating, he actually sneakily began to take off his own pants.

"You were hoping that the Qin guy would come to save you, right? Save it... Even if he dares not come, even if he really did, see over there? My father and my cousin are both renowned martial arts experts in the Martial World. To crush that Qin guy is as simple as crushing an ant..."

The fact that Lei Peng was defeated by Qin Fang was only circulated within the Lei Family. Someone like Shangguan Hao, who was not a Lei family member, obviously did not know these details.

It was a humiliating event. Neither Lei Peng nor Shangguan Tianling had the face to tell him of such a failure, so Shangguan Hao still maintained this sense of superiority.

"Hmph..."

Li Yuerong snorted coldly, but her brows revealed considerable anxiety.

She was kidnapped by Lei Peng's men. And as a poor girl from a family without money, other than being pretty, she didn't seem to have much value.

But when she thought about Qin Fang, with his extraordinary worth and mysterious background, not only had he saved her brother Li Jun, but he had also rescued her from Shangguan Hao's grasp once. The grace she owed was higher than the sky, but facing these two very formidable martial arts experts, how could she not worry?

She struggled lightly, but the rope was strong and tied tight. She had no strength to even budge, completely bound.

"Don't bother struggling, it's no use..."

Shangguan Hao was quite composed, as he was the one who personally tied the ropes. As a bondage enthusiast, he certainly knew how to tie up Li Yuerong to accentuate her perfect physique yet prevent her from escaping.

During their short conversation, Shangguan Hao's pants were completely pulled down, and the cold, gentle breeze blew over his lower body, chilling it to the point where one might think his manhood would freeze off.

With his pants down, his limp member was immediately exposed... A little serpent hung between his legs, not exactly grand in scale, even somewhat short and small, yet Shangguan Hao felt no embarrassment but rather a perverse pride.

Just like now, the young man crouched and rushed over to Li Yuerong, holding his member with one hand, unabashedly flaunting his little toy to her.

"You... bastard!"

Li Yuerong, a virgin who had yet to marry, could hardly bear such provocation. Her face turned pale, and her lips turned purple as she berated him.

It was not shyness but rage...

"Pfft, right now you're my prisoner, and I'll play with you however I want..."

Perhaps because it was getting closer to midnight, and Qin Fang had not yet appeared, Shangguan Hao was somewhat surprised. However, the fear in his heart also dissipated a lot. Looking at the enticing Li Yuerong in front of him, he began to harbor lustful thoughts...

The young bastard even pulled out his little bird and shamelessly started jerking off in front of Li Yuerong!

Li Yuerong was both embarrassed and enraged, wishing desperately to untie the ropes and stab Shangguan Hao dozens of times... But no matter how much Li Yuerong tried to dodge, she couldn't move her body and could only turn away every time Shangguan Hao appeared on one side.

But she still underestimated the depths of Shangguan Hao's shamelessness. His pale buttocks were incredibly conspicuous in the cover of night, visible from a great distance.

Masturbating in front of a beautiful woman was not something new for Shangguan Hao, having done it countless times before in front of computer screen AV actresses. As he bedded more and more women,

he relaxed quite a bit. But looking at Li Yuerong's alluring looks now, his heart felt scratched by a cat's claws, unbearably itchy...

He couldn't bed Li Yuerong just yet, but if Qin Fang lost, then Shangguan Hao could have what he desired... He even felt the matter was as good as settled.

"Ah... Ah... Ah..."

Li Yuerong was still bound tightly to the pillar, writhing from time to time. She wasn't peeking; it was Shangguan Hao's shouts that sounded like a boar in heat, earth-shattering, to the point of bringing tears to ghosts and gods...

And the bastard kept moving closer to Li Yuerong as if he intended to spray his vile passion onto her!

Clearly, this was something Li Yuerong couldn't accept, yet unable to move, she felt incredibly anxious.

"That must be the top of Incense Burner Peak's Ninefold Pavilion... It looks like there is someone there!"

Of course, Qin Fang didn't take the main path up the mountain's peak. That would allow Shangguan Tianling to quickly spot his whereabouts. Instead, Qin Fang changed his appearance and used a very covert trail to sneak up the mountain slowly...

Located at the top of Incense Burner Peak, the Ninefold Pavilion was not an easy spot from the mountaintop forest for Lei Peng and his men to notice Qin Fang's movements. Instead, Qin Fang could watch them from the shadows.

Initially, Qin Fang truly dared not act rashly, but from afar, he could see Shangguan Hao harassing Li Yuerong. His pale buttocks were so clear in the night, almost as bright as a giant light bulb, making it difficult for him to pretend not to see.

After a moment's hesitation, Qin Fang decided to take the risk and rescue Li Yuerong. He certainly didn't want a pervert like Shangguan Hao to harm such a good girl.

He reverted to his original appearance and then used his Stealth Skill to quickly sneak toward the Ninefold Pavilion.

It didn't take long for Qin Fang to draw near Shangguan Hao, aided by the cover of night...

"Ah~~ Oh~~~ Yeah~~"

Faced with a top-tier beauty like Li Yuerong, Shangguan Hao's member became as hard as a scorching pillar, looking particularly ferocious despite being slightly modest in size.

But...

As Shangguan Hao was excitedly pleasuring himself because of the stunning sight of Li Yuerong, he shifted his gaze slightly to the side, drawn by something there. He instinctively glanced in that direction and immediately trembled when he saw the kind and amiable face of Qin Fang. His little brother, as if shocked by something, shuddered and then uncontrollably ejaculated like bullets...

#### Chapter 856 - Grandmaster Level Strength

...

When Shangguan Hao suddenly saw Qin Fang's face, his expression almost instantly stiffened, his fear of Qin Fang had reached an extreme.

In front of the beauty he had always dreamed of, while engaging in his favorite leisure activity—masturbating, which was supposed to make him very happy, excited, and eager, he had waited for this day for a very long time.

But just when he had finally gotten his wish and was getting into the mood, preparing to show the beauty in front of him his strength, the very thing he feared and dreaded the most suddenly appeared before him...

Although the beauty was appealing, the thought of that unbearable, torturous experience left him utterly devoid of courage, especially when at the moment he wanted to cry out in terror, a silver needle shimmering in the darkness suddenly extended toward him, causing his heart and liver to tremble with fear.

As for his penis, an organ not controlled by the brain, it went limp immediately because of this psychological change...

But then, thinking of his father and cousin, both grandmaster-level experts present, what could a mere Qin Fang count for? Shangguan Hao suddenly felt a surge of courage, his eyes lifted confidently, and he opened his mouth to call for help...

However...

Although speaking is fast, it still takes a moment, and just as he was about to speak, Qin Fang had already charged in front of Shangguan Hao like lightning, giving him no chance at all, as three silver needles in a product formation pierced around Shangguan Hao's heart...

"Ah~~~"

Instantly, Shangguan Hao let out an extremely miserable scream, immediately alerting Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling nearby, who were slightly startled and quickly noticed an extra person nearby—

Qin Fang!

He had arrived!

The person of course was Qin Fang,

While Shangguan Tianling was still confident in his ability to defeat Qin Fang, he was shocked to discover that his son, Shangguan Hao, seemed to have fallen into Qin Fang's hands once again.

"Seeking death!"

Shangguan Tianling was immediately enraged and let out a thunderous roar. His steps shifted rapidly, and in just a few breaths, Shangguan Tianling had already reached Qin Fang...

Qin Fang ignored him and quickly used the sharp military dagger he carried to cut the ropes binding Li Yuerong, setting her free!

"Mr. Qin..."

Seeing Qin Fang truly come to her rescue, Li Yuerong was of course very excited, moved, and nervous... After all, this was the third time Qin Fang had saved her, yet he asked for no payment at all!

"This place is dangerous; you need to leave quickly..."

Qin Fang didn't have time to talk much, as Shangguan Tianling was already attacking him. He was already struggling to cope alone; if Li Yuerong, who was a liability, added to the burden, it would be even more dangerous.

Li Yuerong knew no martial arts and was just an ordinary girl. Among the five people there, she was the one with no fighting capability; anyone could knock her down with a single slap, including Shangguan Hao, so Qin Fang had to take extra care of her...

"Shangguan Tianling... come on, let me see the power of a grandmaster-level expert!"

Having said that, Qin Fang didn't have time to say much more to Li Yuerong, as Shangguan Tianling was already upon him. Qin Fang had no way out; his only choice was to stand and fight with Shangguan Tianling!

With a slight movement of his feet, facing Shangguan Tianling's fierce attack, Qin Fang did not retreat but advanced, charging directly toward Shangguan Tianling.

"I..."

Li Yuerong intended to say she wanted to stay and help, but realizing her own helplessness against these robust and skilled martial artists, just the horrifying pressure released by Shangguan Tianling's palm was enough to press her to the ground...

Rather than staying and burdening Qin Fang, it was better to leave first, quickly leave and call for help...

"I'm leaving now! Mr. Qin... take care of yourself!"

Having realized this, Li Yuerong bid farewell to Qin Fang and tried to leave the place. Only if she left, freeing Qin Fang of this burden, could he either fight and survive or even escape if defeated!

"Thinking of leaving? It won't be that easy..."

On Qin Fang's side, there were only Li Yuerong and him, whereas the opponents numbered three. Even though Shangguan Hao was temporarily incapacitated, behind Shangguan Tianling was Lei Peng, a level 5 peak martial artist!

Lei Peng's strength was not much less than Qin Fang's, a quasi-grandmaster-level expert. Qin Fang would need to exert himself to deal with him, and Li Yuerong had absolutely no chance of resisting.

This bastard really is shameless, seeing that Shangguan Tianling was dealing with Qin Fang, he knew he was no match for Qin Fang. Unable to help his uncle Shangguan Tianling sneak attack Qin Fang, he simply decided to go after Li Yuerong...

"Damn it! Lei Peng, is that all you've got... Your opponent is me!"

Qin Fang angrily cursed, Lei Peng was truly despicable, being a Quasi Grandmaster-level expert yet targeting a defenseless woman... If this were to spread, Lei Peng would surely become the laughingstock of the Martial World.

Although there once was a nobody who, after a few days of practice, dared to claim he could "punch the South Mountain Nursing Home and kick the North Sea Kindergarten" ... but that was just to grab attention. A real martial artist with a sense of identity would hardly stoop to strike such a defenseless woman.

If it was lowering for Shangguan Tianling, as a Grandmaster-level expert, to face Qin Fang, then Lei Peng chasing after the defenseless Li Yuerong was utterly contemptible.

Even Shangguan Tianling frowned upon hearing Lei Peng's words, clearly expressing his dissatisfaction...

But just as he heard that Qin Fang was fighting him and had also intercepted Lei Peng, Shangguan Tianling, being a Grandmaster, was considerably dissatisfied, and the power of his blows instantly doubled!

As for Lei Peng,

following behind Shangguan Tianling, the moment Shangguan Tianling made his move, he intended to capture Li Yuerong, but just as he took a step forward, Qin Fang's fist was already greeting him.

Once bitten by a ghost, still not afraid of the dark?

Lei Peng had previously lost to Qin Fang, mysteriously defeated only knowing that he had fallen for Qin Fang's trick, struck by Qin Fang's Silver Needle in a critical acupoint, leading to his ultimate defeat.

Having learned from that lesson, Lei Peng certainly wouldn't give Qin Fang such an opportunity again.

Li Yuerong was just a minor character, her role was to lure Qin Fang here to rescue her, then they could keep him here forever.

One-on-one, Qin Fang might have begrudgingly accepted.

Although he could defeat Lei Peng, it would require some effort, not as easily as dealing with Liu Xianhe, whom he could finish with one move, considering the significant gap between Liu Xianhe and Lei Peng!

Facing a Grandmaster-level expert like Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang had no chance at all, especially since Shangguan Tianling's palm strike was launched with resentment at a remarkably swift speed towards Qin Fang.

Qin Fang had successfully intercepted Lei Peng, but he also put himself in danger, with Shangguan Tianling's Changbai Ice Palm already very close...

At that moment, dodging was no longer possible, Qin Fang could only hastily circulate his Palm Energy and ferociously collided his palm with Shangguan Tianling's.

Bang~~

A deeply muffled sound, the direct confrontation of the two palm energies, the collision of Inner Breath emitted a sound that stirred up a significant Energy Aura.

Splat~~

A spray of crimson Blood Arrow that was almost completely unstoppable burst forth from Qin Fang's mouth, turning into a mist of blood in mid-air.

Qin Fang's body was then like a cannonball, blasted away by the violent palm force, flying horizontally at a terrifying speed.

After traveling five or six meters in mid-air, he then heavily landed on the ground, motionless, his life hanging by a thread.

Grandmaster-level experts represent a qualitative change, not only does the strength of Inner Breath suddenly increase, becoming purer, but also the body's strength, agility, defense, and so on, all take a qualitative leap.

Just like Shangguan Tianling's palm, its energy was formidable, Inner Breath surging, explosive power astonishing, even if Qin Fang had fully prepared his power to counter, the result would not have changed much from what it now was.

But Qin Fang's response was even more hastily made this time, far from reaching the peak in spirit, energy, or essence, even if he had faced Lei Peng, he was bound to be at a disadvantage, not to mention the gap with Shangguan Tianling that was even greater...

"Hmph, overestimating yourself..."

Looking at Qin Fang, who lay motionless on the ground, Shangguan Tianling disdainfully said, "The power of a Grandmaster-level expert is something you cannot comprehend, yet you still thought you could fight two at once, utterly foolish..."

With the strength of a Grandmaster-level expert like Shangguan Tianling, dealing with someone like Qin Fang was already certain of victory. Although killing him might still require a bit of effort, it wasn't really a difficult task, and could even be considered a minor task easily done, for the gap between a Grandmaster-level and non-Grandmaster-level was just too vast.

Qin Fang, already no match for Shangguan Tianling, was delusionally attempting to fight two at once, which was indeed very foolish.

Lacking strength and hastily defending, with Shangguan Tianling's resentful strike, below Grandmaster-level experts, there are probably very few who could survive it.

Shangguan Tianling was still very confident; he was quite clear about his own strength, and fully aware of the power of that palm. Even the thick-skinned Lei Peng would be completely disabled after taking that hit, perhaps in the entire Martial World only Song Qingshan could survive such a blow without dying, yet he would also lose his ability to fight.

"So, this is how powerful a Grandmaster-level is... cough cough cough..."

Chapter 857 - Assassinating a Master Level Fighter

...

Just when Shangguan Tianling was brimming with confidence, feeling that his recent palm strike had almost certainly finished off Qin Fang, a sinister voice suddenly resounded around them.

This voice appeared abruptly, as if it belonged to a ghost or spirit, making it incredibly eerie and terrifying, especially at the summit of such a mountain.

"Who's there? Show yourself..."

Shangguan Tianling was obviously no ordinary person, but a powerful grandmaster-level martial artist. He was not afraid of ghosts or spirits, and he knew well that there were no real ghosts; the voice must have been made by someone.

"Uncle... Uncle..."

Compared to Shangguan Tianling's arrogance, Lei Peng clearly did not possess such a strong aura and seemed a bit cautious. However, when his gaze suddenly fixed on a certain direction, his eyes froze, and he could not help but swallow his saliva and carefully called out to Shangguan Tianling, who was standing beside him.

"Hmm?"

While Shangguan Tianling was still confronting the unknown "ghost," he suddenly heard Lei Peng's voice and hummed displeasedly.

But his gaze was diverted and he noticed Lei Peng's slightly fearful face and rigid eyes. He then followed Lei Peng's line of sight.

Suddenly...

Shangguan Tianling's eyes narrowed instantly, showing a trace of disbelief and even a desire to rub his eyes to see if everything happening before him was real.

Because...

Qin Fang, who should have been dead or severely injured from that incredibly fierce palm strike, was now standing up as if nothing had happened, looking at them uncle and nephew with a very ironic and mocking gaze.

"This... this is impossible!"

Although Shangguan Tianling was extremely resolute, as a grandmaster-level expert, it was rare for anything to make him lose his composure so drastically.

But the scene before him was so out of the ordinary that even other grandmaster-level experts might not have fared much better than Shangguan Tianling.

The palm strike Shangguan Tianling had used earlier did not employ his full strength, yet seventy percent of his palm energy was definitely exerted. The attack power was several times stronger than the Explosive Bear Strike unleashed by Lei Laohu.

Such was the vast gulf between grandmaster-level experts and those who were not...

Previously, Qin Fang had taken Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike without any apparent damage, but a force multiplied several times over was something the previous Qin Fang would definitely not have withstood.

Yet this time, not only did Qin Fang withstand such a fearsome attack, but he also appeared to have suffered virtually no damage...

Of course, his injuries were not visible; wasn't it just spitting out some blood? Eating two Baozi would fully replenish it, as if there had been no loss at all.

"Idiot! Nothing is impossible... With such little strength, you can't hurt me..."

Seeing Shangguan Tianling staring dumbfounded like an idiot, Qin Fang was obviously very satisfied and immediately delivered a severe taunt with a disdainful look, as if Shangguan Tianling was indeed the biggest fool under heaven.

"You..."

Shangguan Tianling was instantly furious, his rage soaring to the skies. Since he had risen to the grandmaster level, no younger martial artist below that level had dared to speak to him in such a tone, especially using such language, which made him furiously livid.

"I'm going to kill you..."

The furious Shangguan Tianling immediately launched an even more ferocious attack, his feet erupting suddenly, his whole figure moving as swiftly as a black eagle, like lightning speeding toward Qin Fang, his powerful palm energy whistling and bringing up waves of terrifying cold air.

Qin Fang was a good five or six meters away from Shangguan Tianling, but to Shangguan Tianling, this distance was as if right in front of him, nearly closing the gap with a single explosive step, just a step away from reaching Qin Fang...

The Changbai Ice Palm, the unique technique of the Heavenly Pool Sect, wielded extremely yin and soft palm energy, subtly imbued with a hint of frosty air, due to the cult's location at the Summit of Tianchi, where each disciple of the Heavenly Pool Sect cultivated in such an environment, absorbing a considerable amount of the frosty air, which substantially increased the power when unleashed.

Shangguan Tianling, being a grandmaster-level martial artist, was far stronger than an ordinary disciple of the Heavenly Pool Sect. Now, in his fierce eruption, that terrifying energy aura, even before reaching close, had already made Qin Fang's face feel cold.

"Let me experience the unique technique of the Heavenly Pool Sect..."

Yet Qin Fang, who had clearly not reached the grandmaster level, appeared even calmer than before, as if completely indifferent to the terrifying palm energy, and spoke very calmly and coldly.

"Presumptuous fool! Seek death..."

Such an expression and reaction further infuriated Shangguan Tianling, prompting his fierce palm energy to surge even more tumultuously as it attacked Qin Fang.

"Bring it on! Watch my ultimate move..."

As the palm energy got closer and closer, not only was there no sign of panic on Qin Fang's face, but his eyes even seemed to brighten more.

Just as Shangguan Tianling's palm energy was about to reach him, Qin Fang, as if mad, bellowed such a phrase, and with a fist clenched, he met Shangguan Tianling head-on, ready to pull him down with him if it meant his demise!

#### Chapter 858 - Assassination of a Master Level Fighter\_2

"Idiot! Think you have a chance to fight for your life? You don't stand a chance... Watch as I break every bone in your body!"

Shangguan Tianling originally thought Qin Fang might truly have some trump card up his sleeve, but now, seeing Qin Fang's desperate tactics, he realized that Qin Fang's so-called ultimate move was nothing but a bluff, entirely non-existent. To him, Qin Fang was now just a paper tiger, utterly lacking any real threat.

Time and time again, the mocking and teasing had caused Shangguan Tianling to forget completely about his and Qin Fang's status. All he wanted to do now was to torment Qin Fang mercilessly, then finish him off with a single palm strike...

At his age, Shangguan Tianling had never been ridiculed repeatedly like he was today, and with his arrogant and proud nature, he was absolutely unable to tolerate it.

"Die..."

As the distance between the two grew closer and closer, Qin Fang's fists, though desperate and ferocious, were unlikely to cause him any fatal damage, but if he were completely unguarded, he might still end up with some troublesome injuries...

However, Shangguan Tianling's strength was far superior to Qin Fang's, a qualitative change, so he could easily switch techniques. For example, he could use the power of his palm to instantly break Qin Fang's arm, rendering the fist nontreatening.

With this thought in mind, a wicked smile appeared on the corners of Shangguan Tianling's mouth, and his palm, brimming with vigour and strength, immediately met with Qin Fang's fist.

As everyone in the Martial World knows, "fist beats finger, finger beats palm, palm beats fist."

Therefore, for Shangguan Tianling to use his palm against Qin Fang's fist was the wisest choice. Even if their strengths had been equal, Qin Fang would still be at a disadvantage, not to mention that the two opposing each other were evidently not on the same level.

To counter Shangguan Tianling's palm energy, typically one would use finger strikes, using precision to overcome a wide area, to repel the opponent... but with Shangguan Tianling's vigorous palm energy, if Qin Fang were to switch from fist to fingers, his fingers would probably snap on impact...

But since Qin Fang dared to challenge Shangguan Tianling in such a way, it was impossible that he didn't have some kind of technique up his sleeve!

As Shangguan Tianling's palm and Qin Fang's fist were about to collide, Qin Fang, whose face had always been serious, suddenly displayed a strange smirk, his mouth curving upwards slightly.

"You've been fooled..."

Not only that, but Qin Fang also opened his mouth and uttered this at such a critical moment.

"Hm?"

Shangguan Tianling was momentarily stunned, clearly disoriented by Qin Fang's sudden change. With victory within reach, he didn't think there was any issue.

But seeing Qin Fang's confident demeanor, Shangguan Tianling felt that something might be amiss.

What exactly was amiss?

Just as this thought surfaced in Shangguan Tianling's mind, a strange sense of apprehension suddenly pulsed through his heart.

"Not good..."

As a formidable Grandmaster-level Martial Artist, he had an innate premonition of danger, which could manifest as some very peculiar sensations.

For example, if Qin Fang sensed imminent danger, he might feel a sudden coldness on his back or a jolt in his heart, and Shangguan Tianling was no exception. Before the peculiar heart palpitations could even appear, he immediately sensed that something was off.

But it was already too late for him to retract his move!

As his palm was about to make contact with Qin Fang's fist, he saw that Qin Fang's seemingly empty hand suddenly produced a very sharp object.

The object appeared incredibly suddenly, as if it had materialized out of thin air; it was something Shangguan Tianling had never expected, and by the time he realized, it was too late.

The sharp "weapon" pierced through Shangguan Tianling's palm, propelled by the acceleration from Qin Fang and the terrifying strength of Shangguan Tianling himself.

An intense agony spread from the palm of Shangguan Tianling's hand. Despite his resilience, akin to a sturdy mountain, his complexion inevitably underwent a drastic change.

However, the appearance of this weapon did little to alter the situation; Qin Fang's fist still couldn't withstand Shangguan Tianling's palm energy. With a crackling sound, Qin Fang's arm was instantly diagnosed as broken, and his fist was repelled back, the robust palm energy impacting his body.

Thud~~

Another muffled sound echoed as Qin Fang's body once again surged in midair, rapidly flying backwards.

Splutter~~

Just like before, blood spurted out as if it cost nothing, gushing from his mouth and turning into misty clouds of crimson.

It was a pity that it was the middle of the night, and only the faint light from above the Ninefold Pavilion shone down, making it impossible to see the true color of the blood mist.

Qin Fang hit the ground hard, his injuries evidently more severe than last time; he lay face down, immobile, identical to the previous occurrence.

Shangguan Tianling had intended to check whether Qin Fang had indeed suffered severe injuries or had even died, but the pain emanating from his palm made him furrow his brows tightly.

As martial arts experts certainly cultivate their Inner Breath, which is essentially cultivating Qi, it differs from the martial arts novels; there isn't anything such as the legendary True Qi protecting the body or Gang Qi shielding it.

Even if one has attained Grandmaster-level or Grandmaster-level strength, they remain mortals at the end of the day. At most, their Inner Breath is more potent, granting them greater strength, faster speed, and an enhanced endurance to blows. As for skills like being impervious to knives and guns or catching bullets with bare hands, those do not exist.

Standard weapons, when coupled with the cultivation of more domineering external cultivation techniques such as Song Qingshan's Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield, if practiced to an extremely high level, can indeed make one abnormally resistant, impervious to the likes of swords and blades... Needless to say, bullets would still penetrate.

But Shangguan Tianling clearly hadn't cultivated such external body-protecting divine skills. His body was indeed more formidable than that of an average person's because he possessed Grandmaster-level Inner Breath.

Yet such a body was still vulnerable to the slash of swords, not to mention the military spike used by Qin Fang in his sneak attack, which was extremely sharp. Featuring a bloodletting groove and a triangular design, it was more than sufficient to deal Shangguan Tianling a serious blow.

This was just a pierced palm; if it had been his abdomen, chest, or other critical areas, it could have been fatal for Shangguan Tianling... But Qin Fang knew that was impossible; even with a surprise attack, he had no chance of inflicting a wound on such vital parts of Shangguan Tianling.

Shangguan Tianling truly hadn't expected Qin Fang to be so insidious. Enduring the pain, he yanked the triangular military spike from his palm, tearing out some flesh in the process, and blood continued to pour out wildly...

Such a bloodletting groove is specifically designed for killing, and with a wound almost as thick as a finger, even after removing the military spike, Shangguan Tianling's situation was still far from good.

"Uncle..."

Lei Peng, who had been an onlooker all this while, hurried over at this point. Seeing the wound on Shangguan Tianling, he was considerably worried, too.

A Grandmaster-level martial artist being schemed against by someone below that level – Shangguan Tianling had lost face in a significant way. Yet, seeing such a grave injury, Lei Peng's face paled as well. A military spike adept at causing severe bleeding and such a large wound could potentially be fatal to a Grandmaster-level expert.

"I'm not dead yet..."

But Shangguan Tianling was not someone easily dealt with. He took out a small jade vial from his person, removed the stopper, and poured out a pitch-black pill. He crushed it and applied it to the wound, and the bleeding from the wound slowed down markedly, until... it stopped completely.

## Chapter 859 - The Indestructible Xiao Qiang!

...

Although the elixir used by Shangguan Tianling might seem unremarkable, its potency was indeed formidable, able to stop the bleeding of such a wound so quickly.

Lei Peng, who stood aside, watched the gradually vanishing elixir with an intensely fervent look in his eyes.

This type of elixir was an extremely rare healing sacred medicine that could quickly stop the bleeding for almost any injury that wasn't fatal, and it could even facilitate the rapid healing of wounds.

Ordinary people in the Martial World wouldn't even know of such healing medicine's existence. It was something that only centuries-old major sects like the Heavenly Pool Sect possessed, and only a very few elite disciples were qualified to have it.

The Shangguan Family was a very influential family within the Heavenly Pool Sect, and Shangguan Tianling was an important figure in the Shangguan Family; naturally, he was qualified to hold such a medicine. As for Lei Peng, even though he was greatly favored by Shangguan Tianling, he wasn't qualified to have it. After all, his status in the Heavenly Pool Sect wasn't that high, was it?

Perhaps once he officially entered the realm of a grandmaster-level expert, Shangguan Tianling might help him apply to the Heavenly Pool Sect for such an elixir, though it wasn't certain that he would get it...

It was precisely because this elixir was so precious that even Shangguan Tianling was reluctant to waste it like this. For instance, when Lei Peng was previously controlled and made to cough blood by Qin Fang using his acupuncture secret technique, Shangguan Tianling wasn't willing to use it to save Lei Peng...

However, it was this time that Shangguan Tianling himself felt an urge to vomit blood; the wound was too deep, and the bleeding was difficult to stop, so he had to reluctantly use the elixir. His heart harbored an even greater hatred for Qin Fang!

But just as he thought about how Qin Fang had been struck by his near-full-strength palm and had almost no chance of survival, he felt a bit better. At least it hadn't been a total waste; there was some gain.

"Uncle, look..."

But it seemed Shangguan Tianling celebrated too early. His smile had not fully spread across his face when he suddenly heard Lei Peng beside him exclaim in utter surprise, his hand tremblingly pointing not far away.

Shangguan Tianling immediately looked over and saw Qin Fang, whom he thought he had killed with a single palm strike, sitting up again, smiling at the nephew and uncle...

Despite the crimson blood still present at the corner of Qin Fang's mouth, his complexion wasn't the pallor of someone with grave injuries; rather, it appeared somewhat rosy, almost as if he had just taken some kind of healing sacred medicine!

"This... this... this is impossible!"

Even though Shangguan Tianling was a master level fighter, faced with such a bizarre scenario, his eyes widened in shock, the disbelief in his gaze growing even thicker, and he stuttered the words out as if he found them incredibly hard to accept.

If Qin Fang's ability to stand up last time was attributed by Shangguan Tianling to Qin Fang's willpower forcibly holding on, intending to take Qin Fang down with him in his last breath, then this time... it was truly something Shangguan Tianling couldn't accept!

Lei Peng was hardly less shocked than Shangguan Tianling. Shangguan Tianling, his uncle, would spar with him from time to time, and he considered himself not much weaker than Qin Fang. But when he himself sparred with Shangguan Tianling, it was almost without any power to fight back...

Naturally, he thought Qin Fang would be about the same against Shangguan Tianling!

But the reality was hard for him to accept. Qin Fang had withstood two palm strikes in a row. If it were any other expert below the grandmaster level, they would have been down long ago. Even Song Qingshan, with his Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield, would likely have been severely injured if not dead. This was the vast gap between a master-level fighter and those below that level.

But now, Qin Fang had somehow made such an improbable fact reality... If it was indeed true, didn't that mean he, Lei Peng, was far weaker than Qin Fang?

"I already told you, there's no such thing as impossible..."

Qin Fang naturally saw all the astonished, incredulous, and disbelieving looks, expressions, and words from the nephew and uncle. His face showed a touch of a smile, and he spoke with great composure, sarcasm evident as if his strength had indeed become formidable enough to hold his own against Shangguan Tianling.

What about the reality, though?

Qin Fang had his own pains to bear.

The gap between the grandmaster level and non-grandmaster level wasn't simply a numerical difference like between Level 5 and Level 6; it was a qualitative transformation.

Actually, Shangguan Tianling's first palm strike almost took Qin Fang's life. The hit was heavy and landed squarely on Qin Fang's back. At that time, Qin Fang needed to intercept Lei Peng to chase after Li Yuerong, and he had no way to guard against Shangguan Tianling. The robust palm energy penetrated his body; the violent force could even shatter Qin Fang's heart...

Yet, Qin Fang grimly held on. In a critical moment, he suddenly thought of a cheating skill that even he found extremely perverse - Move Flowers and Join the Trees.

The specific principle remained a mystery to Qin Fang himself, but as for the effectiveness, he was extremely surprised and excited this time.

It claimed to be Move Flowers and Join the Trees, but that wasn't entirely accurate; it didn't actually remove or dissipate Shangguan Tianling's palm energy. That powerful force still impacted Qin Fang's body. However, in that instant, it spread evenly across every part of Qin Fang's body, or was directed to a specific part...

If the force of Shangguan Tianling's palm strike was as much as two thousand kilograms and hit a vital part of the body, it could almost instantly claim someone's life... Transferred to other, less critical parts, such a force could still cripple that area.

But if these two thousand kilograms were distributed throughout the entire body, then each area would suffer much less from the attack. Thus, it could achieve a process of diminishing from large to small, and finally to nothing...

There was a drawback to this method, though: the force couldn't be too great. After all, parts like the heart, brain, Dantian, and genitals couldn't withstand too much trauma.

For instance, with Shangguan Tianling's two palms strikes, while two thousand kilograms of force might have been weakened when dispersed, areas like the genitals and Dantian would still be problematic. Qin Fang wouldn't dare to take that risk, so this time he redirected all of Shangguan Tianling's palm energy to a single location on his body—his other idle left arm!

Such a move wouldn't have been particularly effective for ordinary people, because such terrifying force, regardless of where it landed, would cripple a part of the body. Take the arms, for example; Qin Fang's left arm was almost instantly shattered, despite his considerable defensive strength.

But there was a significant difference for Qin Fang between being hurt in the chest and in the arm...

A chest wound would have resulted in a loss of Life Points that absolutely exceeded Qin Fang's maximum Life Points. It was a vital area and naturally sustained more damage.

An arm wound, even if the entire arm was completely ruined, wouldn't be considered a fatal injury by the System. While the loss of Life Points was still high, with blood loss exceeding 30 points, it wasn't fatal... The System classified it as a severe injury, with remaining Life Points below 20%.

Qin Fang wasn't concerned with whether the loss of Life Points from such a severe injury was large or small; as long as one strike couldn't kill him, he could catch his breath, eat baozi, and quickly restore his Life Points.

It was during the time Shangguan Tianling was using Healing Pills to stop his bleeding that Qin Fang also took the opportunity to restore his Life Points back to full...

With Life Points fully restored, the injured arm naturally healed. Although the pain nearly made Qin Fang break into a cold sweat, compared to losing his life, this wasn't really a big deal.

"Hmph... I refuse to believe you still have the strength to fight!"

Of course, Shangguan Tianling wasn't so easily fooled. He was very confident about the palm strike he'd just delivered. Even a grandmaster-level expert would have been seriously injured by it.

Although Qin Fang was already considered virtually invincible below the grandmaster level, the gap to a master-level fighter was still significant. It was impossible for him to be completely unharmed after taking two palm strikes, so Shangguan Tianling thought Qin Fang was just putting on an act...

"If you don't believe me, let's fight again!"

Yet, Qin Fang didn't end up as Shangguan Tianling assumed, unable to even stand. Instead, he leapt from the ground with a bound, and even performed some stretches in front of the uncle and nephew, looking so relaxed and comfortable that it was impossible to associate him with someone severely injured and nearly dying; he appeared to be completely unharmed...

"This... this... this is absurd!"

Shangguan Tianling's eyes were wide open, looking stunned, while Lei Peng was in an even worse state, stammering for a while with a ghost-seeing expression, involuntarily rubbing his eyes, thinking he was seeing things.

But the reality disappointed both the uncle and nephew. Qin Fang indeed seemed to be completely uninjured, not only possessing the strength to fight, but it also appeared as though he was intending to gradually wear Shangguan Tianling down...

Such a scene was too bizarre, completely beyond the comprehension of the uncle-nephew duo, or to put it another way, it contradicted everything they knew and understood... It was like facing a Xiao Qiang that could not be killed!

Xiao Qiang!

A term suddenly popped into Lei Peng's mind.

As a young person, he knew full well what Xiao Qiang meant. He never thought someone could survive with such a huge disparity in strength like Xiao Qiang...

But the Qin Fang before him had done just that, not only appearing entirely unharmed but even seemed to be growing stronger as the battle went on!

With strengths waxing and waning, although Shangguan Tianling was much stronger than Qin Fang, such a bizarre turn of events cast a shadow over the heart of this grandmaster-level expert...

Chapter 860 - Defeat Shangguan Tianling

...

Shangguan Tianling, of Grandmaster Level, facing off against the non-Grandmaster Level, Qin Fang, originally seemed like a battle without suspense, even poised to be a one-sided affair.

In the eyes of any martial arts expert, the outcome would be the same, for the two combatants were simply not on the same level.

But today, Qin Fang showed Shangguan Tianling with facts that things were not set in stone. His strength might indeed be far weaker than Shangguan Tianling's, yet killing him was outright impossible for Shangguan Tianling.

"Impossible! He must be bluffing..."

Shangguan Tianling obviously couldn't bring himself to believe what was happening before him, his mind constantly telling him that everything he was seeing was fake, an illusion.

"I don't believe you can withstand a few more of my palms..."

Shangguan Tianling was an incredibly arrogant and prideful individual. The disparity in strength was clear, which was indisputable, and the fact that Qin Fang was sent flying twice by his strikes only confirmed this. In terms of palm energy alone, Qin Fang couldn't catch up with Shangguan Tianling, not even if he were to gallop at full speed.

After a brief analysis, Shangguan Tianling realized that every time he had seriously injured or sent Qin Fang flying, he had not followed up with a "coup de grâce," allowing Qin Fang brief moments of respite.

He had Healing Sacred Medicine on him, but perhaps Qin Fang was in possession of a similar treasure. Such a breathing space was enough for Qin Fang to recover his wounds...

If one attempt was not enough, then twice, thrice would suffice. This time, he would not give Qin Fang any time to breathe; he would ensure Qin Fang's death at the earliest opportunity to prevent any mishaps!

One had to admit, Shangguan Tianling, as a well-known expert, quickly identified the crux of the problem. Although he found it unbelievable that Qin Fang had so many miraculous healing medicines—

considering wild medicinal herbs had become incredibly scarce over the years, and healing elixirs, once used, were gone forever, not to be consumed like common food. These were highly valued and not to be used unless absolutely necessary.

The pill Shangguan Tianling just used was one such rarity, a reward given out by the Tanchi Sect when he broke through to the Grandmaster Level; he only had that one, after which he would have no more, unless, by some miracle, he managed to break through to the Grandmaster Level... Of course, that was an absolute impossibility.

Whether Qin Fang truly had such healing medicine, Shangguan Tianling was not certain, but considering all possible explanations, this seemed to be the most logical conclusion. If that was not the case, nothing else made sense.

Such miraculous healing medicine was incredibly scarce. Even the wealthiest of orthodox sects would not allow a disciple to carry a large number of them, especially those of lower strength—those below the Grandmaster Level. This was not meant for saving disciples' lives, it was almost like sending them to their deaths.

The martial world was never harmonious; even in current society, the allure of treasures remains constant over time.

The more he thought about it, the more Shangguan Tianling felt this conjecture was likely. Now, his gaze towards Qin Fang was no longer filled with shock, but instead a bare, covetous greed, as though Qin Fang had become as inviting as a plump Tang Seng...

While speaking, Shangguan Tianling immediately charged towards Qin Fang, his speed faster than ever, even swifter and more terrifying than his previous palm strike, with equally vicious and malicious techniques.

Though his previous palm strikes aimed to be fatal, coming from an orthodox sect, Shangguan Tianling still held some restraint, refraining from using the more unsavory techniques, which would be beneath his dignity.

But this time was different, it was purely about killing, with techniques not just vicious, but utterly merciless...

He had been caught off-guard by Qin Fang once already, and if not for his healing medicine, the situation would have been quite troublesome! He would not make the same mistake a second time. It was absolutely impossible for Qin Fang to catch him off-guard again...

But would Qin Fang still resort to underhanded tactics this time?

"Idiot! Now you'll taste my true power..."

Obviously not!

Watching Shangguan Tianling rapidly approach like a bolt of lightning, Qin Fang was not even slightly panicked, and even held a hint of disdain and sarcasm in his heart.

It was not that his Thousand Skills—Move Flowers and Join the Trees could make him indestructible like Xiao Qiang. If Shangguan Tianling didn't give him a chance to catch a break, he would only need two moves to finish Qin Fang.

Shangguan Tianling was certainly no fool; having already slipped up twice, if he had not realized the problem, it would have been impossible for him to achieve his current Grandmaster Level. Therefore, in his latest assault, Qin Fang could feel the intense aggression, clearly laced with even stronger killer moves. With two consecutive strikes, Qin Fang would be without a doubt doomed!

And yet, despite all this, Qin Fang was not rattled, not even...

"Bring it on!"

Qin Fang suddenly exerted force from his feet, not retreating but advancing, swiftly moving to confront Shangguan Tianling head-on.

"Did you think I would make the same mistake again?"

Shangguan Tianling was immediately enraged. He had been outmaneuvered by Qin Fang once already, and the pain in the palm of his hand still throbbed. But as he said, he would not repeat the same error twice.

The distance between them closed rapidly, and in the blink of an eye, Shangguan Tianling had reached him. With a slight movement, he shifted from facing Qin Fang to being at his side, his palm energy shooting forth in a swift smack aimed directly at Qin Fang's ribs.