

King Hall 1001

Chapter 1001: Does the No. 1 Hidden Dragon Have No Hope?

Soon after, Jian Ruyan also finished her seclusion.

"Little Yanzi, here, play with this."

Mu Jinyu opened the stone gate, let Jian Ruyan in, and casually grabbed the Little Phoenix, tossing it to Jian Ruyan.

"What is this thing?"

Jian Ruyan was startled to see a bald thing flying towards her. Instinctively, she wanted to dodge, but it looked somewhat familiar, so she reached out to catch it.

"This is... a Demon Phoenix?"

Jian Ruyan held the bald Little Phoenix, paused for a moment, then quickly recognized its identity, and looked at Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou in surprise.

She didn't expect that the Phoenix egg would actually hatch under Wen Rou's care.

"Hmm? You recognize it?"

Mu Jinyu initially intended to tease Jian Ruyan but was surprised when she instantly identified the Little Phoenix.

Jian Ruyan nodded and said, "I once saw a newly hatched Demon Phoenix that looked similar."

"I see." Mu Jinyu, hearing this, nodded thoughtfully. Knowing Jian Ruyan wouldn't say more, he didn't ask further.

He then noticed the Little Demon Phoenix was not resisting Jian Ruyan as it did with Wen Rou, although not entirely comfortable, and said, "For now, why don't you help me take care of this little fellow?"

"Alright." Jian Ruyan agreed with a nod.

She knew the Hidden Dragon Conference was about to begin, and since Mu Jinyu didn't have a Spirit Beast Bag for proper Beast Mastery, he needed someone else to care for the Little Demon Phoenix.

Otherwise, taking it onto the Combat Platform, and accidentally getting it killed would be a significant loss.

The three of them chatted for a while longer; Mu Jinyu offered the two women some advice on their cultivation insights. Then, realizing they weren't planning to cultivate any further, they left the cultivation room and went downstairs to check out.

The original plan was to cultivate for a month, but they finished refining the Phoenix Saliva Grass in just twenty-five days, so Mu Jinyu saw no need to continue.

After receiving the refunded eighteen hundred superior-grade spirit stones, Mu Jinyu took Wen Rou and the other woman to a nearby restaurant for a good meal.

Upon arriving at the restaurant, Mu Jinyu ordered a table full of good food and listened to the discussions of other diners while waiting for the dishes.

"Hey, what do you think about that strange phenomenon just now?"

"The rolling thunder, the Fire Qi of cultivators in the city going out of control, this phenomenon seemed quite powerful. Maybe a disciple of a hidden sect has emerged?"

"Speaking of which, there's only seven days left until the Hidden Dragon Conference begins. Most of the Heaven's Pride and Monsters from all countries have arrived, but those from hidden sects and super clans haven't shown up much."

"Indeed, there were rumors about disciples from the Dragon Elephant Sect and the Xuanyuan Clan, but we haven't seen them in the imperial capital yet."

"If these monsters don't come to the Hidden Dragon Conference, do you think the one who caused the phenomenon earlier could claim the first place on the Hidden Dragon List and become the True Dragon?"

"If those monsters don't show up, the chances of them claiming first aren't that high, because even if the hidden sects' and super clans' disciples don't appear, the Crown Prince of the Dayan Dynasty, Ji Changxin, isn't to be underestimated!"

"Yeah, you're right..."

Listening to their discussion, Mu Jinyu's mind was set in motion, and when he spotted someone, his eyes lit up. He approached and asked, "Brother Wu, what happened in the imperial capital just now?"

"Oh, Brother Mu, what a coincidence to see you here." The person looked up at Mu Jinyu's greeting, their eyes lighting up and spoke with a smile.

This person was Wu Zhiming, the number one Heaven's Pride of the Wu Kingdom, whom Mu Jinyu had met in Demon Slaying City.

Unexpectedly, they were dining in the same tavern.

After recalling Mu Jinyu's question, Wu Zhiming looked at him quizzically and said, "You don't know what happened?"

Mu Jinyu shook his head and said, "I was in seclusion until just now, so I'm not very clear."

Understanding, Wu Zhiming nodded and proceeded to recount what had happened in the Dayan Imperial Capital to Mu Jinyu.

After listening, Mu Jinyu calculated his timing of leaving seclusion and felt it was too coincidental.

Could the phenomenon have been caused by the hatching of the Demon Phoenix, triggering the Hundred Birds Worshiping the Phoenix?

Something didn't feel quite right.

If it were a Demon Phoenix at the Merging Paths stage causing such a phenomenon, it would be understandable.

But this Little Demon Phoenix had just been born, with no real power, easily handled by Jian Ruyan. How could it cause such a phenomenon?

Was it caused by consuming the Phoenix Saliva Grass?

This thought crossed Mu Jinyu's mind, but he then laughed it off.

He had only just reached the early sixth layer of the Fanxu Realm—how could he cause such a phenomenon?

At this moment, Wu Zhiming, having calmed from his reunion with Mu Jinyu, looked him up and down in shock.

"Mu... Brother Mu, you've... broken through to the sixth layer of the Fanxu Realm?"

Wu Zhiming's voice trembled with disbelief.

A month ago, when they parted in Demon Slaying City, Mu Jinyu, though capable of easily slaying Demon Kings at the late stage of the Fanxu Realm, was still at the peak of the third layer of the Fanxu Realm.

How had he jumped from the peak third layer to the sixth layer in just a month?

That was too quick!

At the time, Wu Zhiming himself was at the peak fifth layer, yet after a month, he hadn't managed to break through to the sixth layer!

This left Wu Zhiming struggling to accept it.

Hearing Wu Zhiming's exclamation, Mu Jinyu realized he couldn't explain much, so he just laughed, "Actually, I was hiding my strength before. I was already at the Peak Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm and only recently broke through to the sixth layer."

"Is that so? Then it's no wonder..."

Hearing this, Wu Zhiming instantly felt he could understand everything, and he sighed with relief.

Indeed, if Mu Jinyu had jumped from the third to the sixth layer in a month, it would have been a tremendous pressure.

But if Mu Jinyu was originally at the peak of the fifth layer, it was understandable and acceptable.

This also clarified why, when he and the city lord struggled against the Five Great Demon Kings, Mu Jinyu, supposedly only at the peak third layer, could slay the Demon Kings effortlessly!

And when confronting emissaries from the Heavenly Palace, he could still hold the upper hand!

This clarification made everything suddenly clear for him.

Wu Zhiming then congratulated Mu Jinyu, "Congratulations Brother Mu, on your advancement in strength. You should achieve a good rank in the upcoming Hidden Dragon Conference."

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing this, glanced at Wu Zhiming and smiled, "Just a good rank? Does that mean there's no hope for first?!"

Wu Zhiming smiled wryly, shaking his head, "Brother Mu, it's not to underestimate you. This Hidden Dragon Conference is said to have even more outstanding prodigies than before. Your current strength, in previous times, would have secured first place without a doubt, but now it's more challenging..."

Chapter 1002: The Dragon Elephant Sect Successor Appears!

"Oh? Then tell me, who are the monsters with potential to win first place in this Hidden Dragon Conference? Just so I can prepare myself mentally."

Mu Jinyu heard Wu Zhiming's words and didn't get annoyed. He smiled and asked.

He was really quite curious about the strength of those Heaven's Pride monsters who were about to become his opponents.

This was a good opportunity to ask Wu Zhiming.

Wu Zhiming pondered for a moment before introducing, "Just recently, in the Zhao Kingdom near your Yan Kingdom, there appeared a super monster. He seems to be around thirty years old? His exact age is unclear, but he should be under sixty."

"For some unknown reason, he had a falling out with someone and was besieged by seven Sixth Layer Fanxu Realm experts. In the end, relying on a single sword, he slaughtered all seven experts."

"Witnesses said that his cultivation was only at the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, but his aura was terrifying, much more so than any Ninth Layer Fanxu Realm individuals the witnesses had ever encountered."

After a pause, he continued to introduce:

"As for another monster, he's a Heaven's Pride from the Chu Kingdom, the second-largest nation in the Kunlun Ruins, only after the Dayan Dynasty. His name is Chu Xingyun. Five years ago, to obtain a sword manual, he bloodily massacred an entire noble family, only to end up imprisoned in a death cell awaiting execution in the autumn!"

"But his comprehension was so defiant of natural law that even after being tortured in the death cell, he managed to grasp that sword manual and even killed the warden of the death cell, ultimately fleeing the Chu Kingdom!"

"At that time, his cultivation was only at the Seventh Layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm, while the warden was at the Second Layer of the Fanxu Realm. It was a sensation throughout the Kunlun Ruins!"

"Many people wanted to find him and force him to reveal that sword manual, but Chu Xingyun vanished without a trace, as if he had evaporated from the world!"

"Recently, Chu Xingyun reappeared. His strength is now at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm, and with one slash, he killed a Ninth Layer Fanxu Realm expert, and it's said he even once confronted a Hedao Realm expert!"

"But the Hedao Realm expert was wary of his ability to leap across cultivation levels and kill, and in the end, didn't make a move."

After finishing, Wu Zhiming sighed deeply, his sigh full of helplessness and longing, then continued to introduce:

"Lastly, there is the Crown Prince of the Dayan Dynasty, Ji Changxin!"

"His cultivation is at the Eighth Level of the Fanxu Realm. Not long ago, with a single point of his finger, he killed a Peak Ninth Layer Fanxu Realm expert."

"And compared to Chu Xingyun, who merely confronted a Hedao Realm expert without actually fighting, he truly fought with an expert at the early phase of the Hedao Stage and defeated him. Although his

opponent had only just advanced to the Hedao Realm, this nevertheless shows how terrifying Ji Changxin is!"

"Everyone says that Ji Changxin's natural talent does not lose to the current Son of Heaven of the Dayan Dynasty and that he will, like his grandfather, seize first place on this year's Hidden Dragon List!"

"Reviving the Dayan Dynasty's Dragon Vein of a hundred years!"

As he spoke, Wu Zhiming gently shook his head and said, "The young Heaven's Pride monsters of this generation I know of are just these few, with some others yet unverified, like the heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect, the heir of the Xuanyuan Clan, and the unknown figure who just caused a phenomenon to appear over the Imperial Capital, so I won't say more..."

Looking up at Mu Jinyu, Wu Zhiming smiled wryly and said, "Brother Mu, with so many monsters emerging, do you feel any pressure? Has the difficulty of winning first place increased significantly?"

"Indeed." Mu Jinyu nodded lightly and said, "It's true. According to what you said, if it's all true, then there's going to be a good fight waiting for me..."

He shook his head slightly, with no hint of fear in his tone, "Although I'm not sure if I can win first place, I'm not truly afraid of them either. Let's see who will have the last laugh!"

Suddenly, a voice full of disdain and mockery sounded beside Mu Jinyu and Wu Zhiming.

"Hmph, oblivious to how high the heavens are and how wide the earth is. With just your level of cultivation, you dream of winning first on the Hidden Dragon List? You might as well go home and dream!"

"Hmm?!"

Mu Jinyu and Wu Zhiming, upon hearing such unpleasant words, couldn't help but turn to look at the onlookers.

They saw a man standing nine feet tall, extremely large, with his upper body bare, exposing muscles knotted like dragons, full of explosive power.

The man's appearance was ordinary, but his eyes were as large as copper bells, flashing with intimidating light. At this moment, he looked at Mu Jinyu with disdain. Although Wu Zhiming wasn't his primary target, he also felt a tremendous oppressive force, almost bringing him to his knees!

What made Wu Zhiming more apprehensive was that the opponent's cultivation seemed to be at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm!

This level of strength, if among the younger generation, would certainly qualify them as a top-grade monster!

In ordinary countries, Heaven's Pride such as those Mu Jinyu encountered in the Yan Kingdom Royal City were generally only at the Third or Fourth Levels of the Fanxu Realm, whereas the more formidable ones, like Wu Zhiming, would be at the Fifth or Sixth Layer!

Reaching the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm meant entering the late stage of the Fanxu Realm, and generally, except for exceptions like Chu Xingyun and Dragon Vein inheritors like Ji Changxin, only the heirs of Hidden Sects and Super Clans could be cultivated to this point!

And this person now has the oppressive power of the late stage of the Fanxu Realm, showing he's extraordinary!

"Who are you?"

Mu Jinyu snorted lightly, dispersing the overwhelming oppressive force. He then coldly asked the man.

"Heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect, Gu Rulong!"

The tall and strong man saw that Mu Jinyu could actually dispel his oppression. A strange gleam flashed in his eyes, and then he answered arrogantly.

"What!"

"Heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect?!"

"Has the heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect really emerged?"

"Judging by his aura, he's indeed at the late stage of the Fanxu Realm; it should be true!"

"I didn't expect the heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect to actually emerge; then the emergence of the heir of the Xuanyuan Clan should also be true, right?"

"Wow, it seems this Hidden Dragon Conference is really going to be difficult!"

"Strange, why would the heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect get involved with them?"

"I think I heard earlier that it was that fellow at the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm who said he wanted to compete for first on the Hidden Dragon List? That's why Gu Rulong couldn't stand it and came to confront him?"

"Haha, with his early Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm strength, he even dreams of competing for first on the Hidden Dragon List? He must be out of his mind, right?"

"That's just saying trouble comes from the mouth, alas..."

The appearance of the heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect immediately made the inn, already lively, even more animated.

There were those watching for spectacle, those feeling passionately excited, and others who felt pity for Mu Jinyu.

Gu Rulong, however, paid no mind to the crowd's words. He looked directly at Mu Jinyu, peculiarly curious as to why Mu Jinyu felt so familiar to him.

With a slight shake of his head, Gu Rulong dispelled that familiar feeling, then coldly said to Mu Jinyu, "You have some ability. No wonder you dared to speak so boldly and dream of surpassing your peers to win the Hidden Dragon List top spot!"

"I'll be honest with you. I don't like you. Stand up. If you can take one punch from me, I will acknowledge you have the qualification to compete with us. Otherwise, I'll ensure you don't even qualify to enter the Hidden Dragon Conference!"

Chapter 1003: Repelling Gu Rulong!

"Why should I take your punch to be convinced?"

Mu Jinyu found Gu Rulong's words rather baffling. Wasn't this guy's head malfunctioning?

Gu Rulong's face darkened slightly and said, "Because if you don't want to take my punch, I will beat you punch by punch until all your bones are shattered. Your choice!"

He added, "Don't worry, I won't use True Yuan, just pure physical strength!"

Mu Jinyu scoffed after hearing this and laughed, "Shatter all my bones? Do you have the ability? Sorry, I choose neither of your options. Instead, you take my punch!"

"Sure!" Gu Rulong sneered after hearing Mu Jinyu's words, "Then let me take your punch. If you can push me back half a step, I'll admit defeat and acknowledge your qualification to vie for the top of the Hidden Dragon List!"

Mu Jinyu didn't feel like wasting words on him.

Did he need his acknowledgment to qualify for the top of the Hidden Dragon List?

He just needed to knock down all his opponents; others' acknowledgment was useless!

Just to get rid of this annoying pest, Mu Jinyu couldn't be bothered to say more. He stood up straight and punched towards Gu Rulong!

"Whoosh!"

The punch, thrown without any use of True Essence Power, wasn't particularly impressive, producing only a mild sound of breaking through the air!

The people in the inn, upon seeing Mu Jinyu's punch, sneered disdainfully.

Gu Rulong, after all, was a disciple of the Dragon Elephant Sect, cultivated the orthodox "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture," born with Divine Power. None among the many demons of Kunlun Ruins dared to take his pure physical punch!

And Mu Jinyu, not understanding any of this, dared to use only pure physical strength after hearing Gu Rulong's words—wasn't that courting death?

It seemed like not only would his punch fail to harm Gu Rulong, but he might also cripple his own arm.

Gu Rulong's thoughts mirrored those of the crowd—his face bore a disdainful smile.

He thought Mu Jinyu might have some ability, but it turned out he was just an ignorant youngster; a little lesson was in order.

With that thought, Gu Rulong lifted his hand, ready to catch Mu Jinyu's fist with his palm the size of a fan, then twist the arm like a pretzel, crippling it!

So he would remember not to act so rashly against the disciples of the Dragon Elephant Sect!

However, just as Gu Rulong's hand was about to meet Mu Jinyu's punch, he suddenly sensed something and his face changed drastically.

At this moment, it was too late to hastily gather True Yuan.

Then, with a "crack" sound!

Mu Jinyu's fist collided with Gu Rulong's palm. To everyone's surprise, rather than Mu Jinyu's arm twisting like a pretzel, a crisp sound of bone cracking came from Gu Rulong's arm. Face pale, he staggered back several steps!

"Puff!"

Gu Rulong's throat rolled a few times, unable to suppress the blood coming up. He opened his mouth and spat it out!

The originally noisy inn fell into pin-drop silence upon witnessing Gu Rulong's miserable state.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Those who had prepared to watch Mu Jinyu's demise with mocking smiles had their expressions turn into a blend of contempt and shock, looking particularly ridiculous and absurd.

"How is this possible?!"

This was the common sentiment among everyone present.

They couldn't imagine that Gu Rulong, the heir of a Hidden Sect, despite not being able to sweep the world, should have easily crushed any random guy he met in an inn.

How could he, instead, be injured by the opponent with a single punch?

Moreover, Mu Jinyu did not even use True Yuan!

What does this signify?

It signifies that Mu Jinyu's physical strength in body refining surpasses that of Gu Rulong, a disciple of the Dragon Elephant Sect!

He completely overwhelmed the opposing side in Gu Rulong's area of advantage!

Mu Jinyu withdrew his fist after repelling Gu Rulong, glanced at him disdainfully, and said, "Is that it?"

"You talk big about me taking your punch? Can take it, you'll acknowledge my qualifications?"

With a sneer, Mu Jinyu said, "Do I need your recognition?"

After finishing, Mu Jinyu called Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou, and under the startled gaze of the crowd, swaggered out of the inn.

Gu Rulong looked grim, clutching his broken arm but dared not stop Mu Jinyu.

He was feeling waves of disbelief and insecurity.

Even though he had somewhat mastered the "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture," his pure physical strength had reached the level of Five Elephant Force, yet why couldn't he withstand a single punch from Mu Jinyu?

This indicates that Mu Jinyu's punch had reached at least the force of Six Elephants or more; otherwise, such an overwhelming attack would be impossible!

But the "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture" is the top body refinement technique in Kunlun Ruins. Why does he have such a terrifying physique?

No, wait...

Gu Rulong recalled the widespread "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," a body refinement technique available in many Great Sects.

But it was a mere fragment of lower Yellow Grade.

Could it be that he trained with the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" to achieve such a formidable physique?

No way!

Among the many disciples who practiced the complete "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture" in the Dragon Elephant Sect, few had reached his level.

If Mu Jinyu only practiced the incomplete "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," how could he achieve more than him?

But if that were true...

Doesn't it mean that Mu Jinyu has a special physique suitable for the "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture," and if he were to practice the complete version, how powerful would he become?

Could he lead the Dragon Elephant Sect to become the second power in Kunlun Ruins?

With changing expressions, Gu Rulong finally said nothing and left the inn.

He needs to consult the sect elders about any body refining technique stronger than the "Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture" in Kunlun Ruins.

At the same time, he needs some healing ointment to treat his fractured arm; otherwise, he won't be fit to contend for the top three as the Hidden Dragon Conference begins.

And after Gu Rulong left.

The silent inn finally had someone speak gradually.

"Damn, who is that guy who could make Gu Rulong vomit blood with one punch?"

"I'm beginning to doubt whether that person is the true heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect!"

"He is indeed from the Dragon Elephant Sect, achieving the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm isn't trivial, but the man's strength just now surpassed even Gu Rulong!"

"Indeed, this Hidden Dragon Conference sees Heaven's Pride and monsters arising together, making me more eager for its commencement."

"Hey, do you guys think that person might be the unknown monster who triggered phenomena in the Imperial Capital?"

Chapter 1004: Ye Wushuang Appears!

This speculation, once suggested, immediately led the inn, which was once again abuzz with chatter, to quiet down significantly.

"It's possible."

After a few minutes, people began to speak one after another.

"It's somewhat possible, but I feel it's not right."

"Hmm, firstly, to cause such a grand phenomenon, it's not due to breaking into the Unity Realm Stage, but rather advancing to the peak of the Ninth Layer of the Fanxu Realm. And that person is only at the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, so the likelihood is relatively low."

"Furthermore, at the time, everyone within the city, whether geniuses with a fire spirit root or those who refined fire elemental energy, all experienced True Yuan out of control. This indicates that the unknown prodigy must have a fire-system spirit root, but the person just now had True Yuan fluctuations more akin to wood attributed true essence than fire attributed true essence, so it's even less likely they are the same person."

"That makes sense indeed!"

"To think, without even realizing it, there are already so many prodigies in the imperial capital, and I wonder how many more remain hidden and haven't revealed themselves..."

In the days that followed.

It seemed that with the bold emergence of Mu Jinyu and Gu Rulong, more hidden prodigies began to lose patience and started testing each other.

But every time they couldn't fight to their heart's content, as the city guard soldiers upholding order in the imperial capital intercepted them.

It's impossible to determine who is stronger or weaker, but without exception, their power is formidable beyond the imagination of ordinary people.

And in the last few days leading up to the Hidden Dragon Conference, the rumored heirs from hidden sects and super clans began to appear one after another.

Still the same inn where Mu Jinyu and Gu Rulong had their showdown.

On this day, Gu Rulong appeared again, sitting alone at a table, ordering a table full of fine wine and dishes, and began to drink and eat by himself.

Others recognized his identity as an heir of the Dragon Elephant Sect and wanted to approach him to build good relations. However, without exception, anyone who tried to do so was eventually forced to retreat awkwardly due to his oppressive aura, as heavy as a mountain.

At this time, a handsome young man in a green robe walked into the inn, looked around, and upon seeing Gu Rulong, began to slowly step towards him.

Everyone in the inn, upon seeing him, immediately showed schadenfreude expressions.

Everyone wanted to see how this unfamiliar person would embarrass himself when he failed to withstand Gu Rulong's terrifying pressure and fell to the ground disgracefully.

Contrary to everyone's expectations, as the green-robed young man stepped into Gu Rulong's table area, he seemed completely unaffected by the supposed pressure and leisurely sat on a stool next to Gu Rulong.

Then, he directly picked up a chicken leg and started gnawing on it.

Initially surprised, everyone witnessed this scene, and although they couldn't fathom how this green-robed guy resisted Gu Rulong's pressure, they nevertheless felt the schadenfreude on their faces intensifying as he began acting recklessly again.

This guy might seriously think that just because he can resist Gu Rulong's pressure, he can befriend him and eat his food freely?

What a way to court death!

However, the following scene left everyone even more stunned.

Gu Rulong, after having the chicken leg snatched away by the green-robed man, turned slightly to look at him, without a hint of aggravation on his face, and softly said, "Why are you here too?"

The green-robed man, hearing Gu Rulong's words, continued to munch on the chicken leg, mumbling in response: "The Hidden Dragon Conference is only three days away, if I didn't come, I'd miss the opportunity, wouldn't I? Do you think I'm stupid, Lingxiao?"

Gu Rulong didn't continue the conversation, seemingly not in the best of moods.

The people present, witnessing this scene, after a slight daze, felt a wave of shock rise in their hearts again.

Speaking in such a manner with Gu Rulong, this indicates that the other person is most likely also an heir from a hidden sect, or if not, a peerless genius recognized by Gu Rulong for his strength.

Otherwise, such familiar chatting wouldn't occur between them.

'Another prodigy has emerged!'

'With the Hidden Dragon Conference starting, who knows how exciting it'll be!'

The crowd thought to themselves.

At this moment, Lingxiao took a hefty drink from the wine jug, put it down, burped, seemingly a bit tipsy, and laughed: "Old Gu, I heard that not long ago you had a fight with someone, and as a result, you got punched so hard you vomited blood?"

"Yeah." Gu Rulong, upon hearing this, although his face didn't look very good, still nodded openly.

Lingxiao chuckled and asked: "Who was the opponent? Being able to make a big guy like you vomit blood with pure physical strength seems kind of mythical!"

Gu Rulong shook his head: "Not sure, my martial uncle guessed he might have a divine body and also practiced our Dragon Elephant Sect's externally circulated 'Dragon Elephant Prison Suppression Scripture', which is why he's so brutal?"

"I see!" Lingxiao nodded thoughtfully.

"Da da da..."

At this moment, a series of light footsteps suddenly sounded from the entrance.

Except for Gu Rulong and Lingxiao, everyone else in the inn looked towards the entrance.

They saw two young men, one after the other, entering the inn.

After some arduous cultivation, now appearing much younger, Ye Wushuang entered the inn, glanced around, frowning slightly.

Because the inn was already packed with no extra seats available.

At this time, Ye Wushuang saw the table with Gu Rulong and Lingxiao.

There were only two people at this table, if they squeezed a bit, he and Li Zhexiong could still sit.

Thus, without saying a word, Ye Wushuang, leading the somewhat dazed Li Zhexiong, walked toward the table of Gu Rulong!

Gu Rulong and Lingxiao heard the commotion of Ye Wushuang walking towards them but continued to pour and drink their own wine, not even casting a glance their way.

However, contrary to what Gu Rulong, Lingxiao, and everyone present expected, Ye Wushuang, who appeared to be in the early Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, didn't seem bothered at all by Gu Rulong's pressure and simply sat at the table across from them.

Even more perplexing to everyone was that not only did Ye Wushuang manage this, but the white-haired youth with vacant eyes, seemingly only in the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, also ignored Gu Rulong's pressure and followed suit to sit down.

"Waiter, get me ten pounds of beef in sauce, and ten jugs of good wine..."

Paying no mind to the shocked gazes of those present, Ye Wushuang turned to the nearby inn waiter and ordered.

"This...I..."

The inn waiter was a bit unsure of what to do, appearing confused and hesitant.

After all, Gu Rulong and Lingxiao were formidable figures; now these two seem to have offended them. Who knows if a fight will break out, and whether ordering food is even an option.

Moreover, these two also seem quite formidable. Others couldn't even approach to greet them, yet they could sit directly at this table, and it didn't seem wise to offend them either.

"Hmm?!"

While the inn waiter hesitated, Gu Rulong finally reacted, his eyes narrowing, unleashing an even more overwhelming aura, like Mount Tai crashing down, towards Ye Wushuang and Li Zhexiong!

The neighboring tables, though not the primary targets of Gu Rulong's force, could still feel the aftermath of this aura, nearly suffocating them.

Chapter 1005: No Fight, No Acquaintance!

"Bang!!"

The terrifying pressure, like Mount Tai descending, surged forward, impacting the tables next to Gu Rulong, breaking wine jars and dishes instantly.

The aura was frightening!

However, sitting across from them, Nameless and Li Zhexiong seemed unfazed by the overwhelming pressure, remaining calm and composed.

The people present were shocked, realizing these were two monster-level individuals!

Indeed, as the Hidden Dragon Conference approached, more monsters appeared!

"It's just about sharing a table, why go to such lengths?"

At this moment, Nameless noticed that the inn waiter's hesitation, and knowing that the two facing them were formidable, sighed softly and turned to Gu Rulong.

"Hmph." Gu Rulong snorted coldly, saying, "I don't like sharing with strangers! Leave, or face the consequences!"

"Strangers once, familiar twice, once we've drunk, we won't be strangers,"

Suddenly, Li Zhexiong came to his senses, spoke softly, then grabbed the exquisite wine jar from the table, broke the seal with a swift motion, tilted his head, and poured the amber liquid into his mouth.

Those witnessing this scene admired his boldness.

It's one thing to share a table with Gu Rulong, but to drink his wine as well, let's see if Gu Rulong will let this pass.

To the crowd's surprise, neither Gu Rulong nor Lingxiao reacted to Li Zhexiong seizing the wine; instead, their faces bore mockery.

Gu Rulong didn't stop Li Zhexiong from drinking his wine, secretly mocking him for his ignorance.

The Dragon Elephant Sect's wine was not for ordinary people!

This kind of wine was extremely strong and could refine the body, but only those above the Power of the Three Elephants could manage more than a small sip.

Even Lingxiao wouldn't dare drink an entire jar, only daring to drink a few mouthfuls.

This was because his body refinement wasn't strong enough; drinking too much could lead to the body bursting apart!

Now, this person at the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm dared drink this way, just wait for his body to explode!

However, contrary to Gu Rulong's expectations, Li Zhexiong quickly finished the entire jar of strong wine without showing any signs of bursting.

Lingxiao's expression turned solemn.

Gu Rulong's expression darkened, exclaiming, "Who are you?"

Li Zhexiong put down the wine jar, wiped the wine from his mouth, burped slightly drunkenly, and said, "I am Li Zhexiong, just a nameless swordsman."

"Hmm?!"

Upon hearing 'Nameless Swordsman,' Lingxiao seemed to recall something, his eyes sharpened, a gleam of light burst forth, then a bright sword light swept out, aiming directly at Li Zhexiong's throat!

The intimidating sword light, cold and shining, made those at neighboring tables feel as if their skin was being cut by the scattered Sword Qi.

It's unimaginable how terrifying the Sword Intent felt by Li Zhexiong in the center of the Sword Light must be!

"Clang!"

At a critical moment, Li Zhexiong's drunken eyes suddenly turned hollow, he raised two fingers and caught Lingxiao's Spirit Sword.

"Is there really a need to be so aggressive?"

Li Zhexiong spoke, his tone now cold and emotionless, like a cold wind sweeping through.

"Hmm?! Again!"

Lingxiao saw Li Zhexiong catch his sword, his eyes gleamed with intrigue, he withdrew the Spirit Sword instantly, and attacked once more, targeting Li Zhexiong's heart, eyes, throat, and other vital points!

"Clang! Clang! Clang!!"

Li Zhexiong's fingertips moved rapidly, as if playing a musical instrument, repeatedly blocking Lingxiao's Slaughter Sword!

"Good, good, good..."

Lingxiao praised continuously, his Spirit Sword flickered with light, the killing intent intensified.

As he was about to expand his Domain to duel Li Zhexiong.

"Whoosh!"

An immensely powerful aura suddenly descended into the inn.

With this aura's appearance, the originally outstanding four like Yue in the sky, instantly seemed like candles in the wind, their aura greatly diminished, teetering under the opponent's pressure, unable to resist.

This was the intervention of a Hedao Realm expert from the Dayan Imperial Capital!

The people present instantly realized this.

Indeed, recently there had been several clashes between Heaven's Pride, with experts from the Hedao Realm intervening to suppress them.

Since Li Zhexiong and Lingxiao's fight lasted about a minute, drawing the attention of Hedao Realm experts in the Imperial City, and their intervention was quite normal.

"No more fighting in the Imperial Capital; violators will be expelled from the Imperial City!"

A cold voice echoed in the inn.

Simultaneously, the aura of Li Zhexiong and Lingxiao was suppressed, and they sat back in their original seats.

The place calmed down.

But the owner of the cold voice did not show himself, nor did he speak again, presumably already left.

"Whew..."

Lingxiao, feeling the suppression from the Hedao Realm great power, did not show any dissatisfaction; his emotions stable, he didn't dwell on it but refrained from further action.

After exhaling lightly, he looked at Li Zhexiong, his eyes filled with admiration, "To reach such a level with the Selfless State, truly remarkable, you are worthy of sharing our table."

Li Zhexiong's eyes gradually became unfocused, hearing Lingxiao's words, did not respond, instead took another unopened wine jar, broke the seal, and drank alone.

Seeing this, Gu Rulong frowned slightly, looked at Yue, and spoke, "Is he the one rumored some time ago to be at the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, who was besieged by seven experts at the late stage of the Fanxu Realm, yet killed all seven with a single sword?"

Hearing Gu Rulong's words, everyone who had perked up their ears to listen also recalled this event.

Their eyes filled with astonishment.

To think the rumor was true, the person not only came to the Imperial City but engaged with Gu Rulong's friend, seemingly ending in a tie!

Yue chuckled softly at Gu Rulong's words, shaking his head, "It's not him."

With these words, both Gu Rulong and Lingxiao frowned in disappointment.

Those present also felt disappointed.

Yue continued leisurely, "The one who acted that day was me."

Upon hearing this, Gu Rulong's eyes lit up, looking directly at Yue and asked, "It's you?"

"Yes, it's me." Yue nodded and admitted, "If it were my brother who acted, it wouldn't be possible for them to encircle him. However, my skills have improved since then, and if it were to happen again, I could handle it better!"

"Brother..." Gu Rulong murmured, then looked deeply at Li Zhexiong and Yue, laughed heartily, shoved a wine jar in front of Yue, and said, "Come, drink!"

Chapter 1006: Jian Ruyan's Strange Behavior!

Time slowly passed.

At last, today marks the start of the Hidden Dragon Conference.

On July 7th, when the dragon raises its head, is also the day when the Dragon Gate opens for the conference.

Outside the Imperial City.

In a hidden cave.

A young man, clothed in simple attire with disheveled hair, stood holding a crimson long knife, looking with cold eyes at the four or five young men and women before him.

And these four or five young men and women were not in a good state, their breaths were weak, and their hands and feet were bound with specially made shackles, preventing the True Yuan within them from flowing smoothly.

Beneath them, there was a circle of strange and mysterious runes carved onto the ground.

This was a mysterious formation, but its purpose was unknown!

Yet it made people feel extremely uneasy.

Anyone familiar who was present would surely recognize that these four or five young men and women were the strongest descendants of this generation from the Hidden Sects and Super Clans!

They had been kidnapped to this cave.

Who was the one who kidnapped them?

"Chu Xingyun, you actually dared to kidnap us all, once our sects and families find out, you will be dead without doubt!"

"Let us go quickly, we won't argue with you, don't continue down this wrong path of self-harm!"

Knowing that today was the day the Dragon Gate opened, with expressions of unease, several of them began to shout angrily at Chu Xingyun.

It turned out that the one who kidnapped them was that ruthless Chu Xingyun, who sought the One-Sword Manual using extreme methods!

But what was he planning to do today by kidnapping these heirs from Hidden Sects and Super Clans?

Chu Xingyun listened to their insults and gave a cold sneer, saying, "So-called heirs of Hidden Sects and Super Clans, is this all you're capable of? Easily captured by me, and still dare to scorn me like this!"

"If I dared to capture you, naturally I'm prepared to become enemies with the forces behind you, so you might as well save your breath!"

Ignoring their furious curses and desperate screams, Chu Xingyun's expression did not change as he tightened his grip on his knife and then revealed a smile both cruel and seemingly merciful.

"You should have guessed my purpose for capturing you, right? Indeed, I've reached a bottleneck in my cultivation of this sword manual, and in the short term, it's difficult to break through. As heirs of Hidden Sects and Super Clans, you grew up surrounded by Spiritual Medicine, your Essence Blood filled with medicinal properties, which can aid me!"

Upon hearing Chu Xingyun's words, the group was both shocked and angry, shouting, "You wouldn't dare?!"

Chu Xingyun replied with a laugh, "The Dragon Gate will soon open, I won't waste any more time with you. Your participation today makes me deeply grateful. Once I claim the top spot at the Hidden Dragon Conference and become the True Dragon of this Kunlun Ruins, I will strike against your backing forces, eliminate them one by one, so all your peers and family can accompany you below!"

"Slash!"

With that, ignoring their enraged curses and pleas, Chu Xingyun swiftly drew his knife from its sheath, a crimson blade light instantly flashed!

The terror and despair in their eyes were frozen in place!

Splatters of blood sprayed out, dripping onto the formation below them, causing the mysterious ancient runes to emit a brilliant red glow!

In no time, the dark cave was filled with red light!

Followed by Chu Xingyun's wild and rampant laughter!

...

Inside the Dayan Imperial Palace.

Eastern purple qi filled the skies, and above the Imperial City, a golden dragon could vaguely be seen carving through the sky before vanishing into a room within the palace.

There was the sleeping chamber of Ji Yuan, a lord of the Dayan Dynasty, and the top-ranked of the previous Hidden Dragon List.

At that moment, the door to the chamber opened, and a handsome youth clad in a golden python robe stepped out slowly.

Just as he took a few steps, a cold yet somewhat affectionate voice came from behind him.

"Xin, this Hidden Dragon Conference is teeming with monsters, even stronger than the last one I attended alone. Are you confident to claim the top spot and renew another century of Dragon Qi for our Dayan Dynasty?"

The youth in the python robe paused in his steps, his expression confident and composed, "Don't worry, Grandfather, whether it's Gu Rulong of the Dragon Elephant Sect, Lingxiao of the Lingxiao Sword Sect, or Xuanyuan Qianqiu of the Xuanyuan Clan, I have never taken them seriously!"

"This time, I am determined to take the top spot, renewing another hundred years of Dragon Vein for our Dayan Dynasty!"

Ji Changxin's voice echoed with confidence, filled with determination.

And indeed, he had that confidence. Whether it was Gu Rulong, Lingxiao, Xuanyuan Qianqiu, or Chu Xingyun, they were all just at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm.

He, however, was at the Eighth Level of Fanxu Realm, and had even clashed with experts of the Hedao Realm!

Such a brilliant record was surely enough for him to look down on Heaven's Pride of his generation!

...

In an inn.

Mu Jinyu finished washing up, and after having breakfast with Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou, headed towards the largest square within the Imperial City.

There was the battlefield for the Hidden Dragon Conference!

Just then.

Jian Ruyan abruptly stopped, pulled out two veils, and handed one to Wen Rou, saying, "Xiaorou, put this on."

"Hmm? Why?" Wen Rou was taken aback upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words, then asked puzzledly.

They had never worn veils to conceal themselves when going out, so why did Jian Ruyan now want her to wear one?

Jian Ruyan replied calmly, "I once had some grievances with a few people from the Heavenly Palace. Once the Hidden Dragon Conference begins, members of the Heavenly Palace will be present. I don't know if they still remember me, so to be on the safe side, let's wear veils."

"Oh, then I should just wear a veil. Why do you need to wear one too?" Wen Rou nodded, then asked somewhat curiously.

Jian Ruyan said, "Do you remember when your mother visited Dragon King Hall for you? I seem to recall that Kunlun Ruins has a Super Clan named the Chen Family, I don't know if it's your mother's family. Anyway, the Hidden Dragon Conference is rather chaotic; let's be cautious."

"Oh oh, I understand..."

Upon hearing Jian Ruyan's explanation, Wen Rou's gaze dimmed, then she reached out to take the veil that Jian Ruyan offered and donned it on her "Jian Ruyan" face.

Jian Ruyan then also put a veil on her "Wen Rou" face, to prevent detection by Chen Family People.

Seeing them wearing the veils, Mu Jinyu noticed their graceful figures, ethereal disposition, and the hidden faces beneath mist-like veils that only exposed a pair of starlight-like beautiful eyes, appearing to add a touch of mysterious allure.

He extended his Divine Sense, attempting to see through their veils, catch a glimpse of their true faces, but found it impossible.

Indeed, Jian Ruyan wouldn't use ordinary veils to conceal someone's true identity.

Mu Jinyu thought to himself quietly.

'But is it really just because she had some conflicts with the people of the Heavenly Palace?'

Mu Jinyu thought disbelievingly.

Back when Jian Ruyan was at Dragon King Hall, her strength hadn't even reached the Divinity Transformation Realm, only the weakest Body Refining Realm. Even if the Heavenly Palace had disciples of such strength, their status wouldn't be that high!

And what a crucial event the Hidden Dragon Conference is, how could they possibly come along?

The ones from Heavenly Palace would undeniably be top-tier figures!

Yet Jian Ruyan worried about being recognized.

Recalling the tragic childhood happening at Xiang Mantang's family, and Jian Ruyan being taken away.

Mu Jinyu could deduce that the one who took Jian Ruyan away, must have been from Kunlun Ruins' greatest force, the Heavenly Palace!

Chapter 1007: The Hidden Dragon Conference Begins, Enter the Dragon Gate!

Quickly, Mu Jinyu followed the tide of people and arrived at the Hidden Dragon Square.

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan stood outside the square, not following inside, watching Mu Jinyu step into the Hidden Dragon Square.

This Hidden Dragon Square is as large as four or five football fields, but no matter how big, it only allows the geniuses participating in the Hidden Dragon Conference to enter.

After all, if even the spectators could enter, now in the Dayan Imperial Capital, there are at least hundreds of thousands of spectators, and this is after being filtered by a city entrance fee of one high quality spirit stone, there are still so many people.

If spectators were allowed to enter and watch, how could a Hidden Dragon Square possibly accommodate so many people?

Mu Jinyu stepped into the Hidden Dragon Square, at this moment, the square already had hundreds of people proudly standing apart.

Mu Jinyu glanced over these people, the weakest cultivation among them was the Second Layer of the Fanxu Realm, like Yun Ge with only the First Layer of the Fanxu Realm, weren't even present.

Among these people, some looked familiar to Mu Jinyu, as if met in the Yan Kingdom Royal City before, crushed under his pressure, with cultivation only around the Third and Fourth Levels of the Fanxu Realm.

These people coming to participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference naturally wouldn't think about snatching the top of the Hidden Dragon List.

Their purpose is to obtain part of the Dragon Qi to bring a blessing to the sects and families behind them.

And most people, Mu Jinyu did not recognize, but there were indeed many with strong abilities, like Wu Zhiming of the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, Mu Jinyu saw seven or eight of such level.

These people all aspire to compete for the top ten of the Hidden Dragon List, but this session of the Hidden Dragon Conference seems to have too many monsters emerging, they might end up not making it to the top ten, probably around top twenty.

Seeing Mu Jinyu appear, stepping into the Hidden Dragon Square, the cultivators of the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm present couldn't help but darken their expressions slightly.

Another monster of the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm showed up!

At this time, they hoped not to have a few more monsters like Mu Jinyu appear.

Because each additional monster appearing made their chances of vying for the top ten more slim.

Unfortunately, the grandeur of the Hidden Dragon Conference wouldn't change with his will.

As time passed slowly, more and more Fourth and Fifth Layers of the Fanxu Realm geniuses appeared.

Then those top-grade monsters of the Sixth and Seventh Layers of the Fanxu Realm also successively appeared.

At that moment, a commotion suddenly erupted outside the square.

"That's Gu Rulong, said to be a descendant of the Hidden Sect Dragon Elephant Sect, practicing body refinement divine skill, and his pure physical strength has reached the Five Elephant Force!"

"The person beside him is Lingxiao, the contemporary senior brother of the Lingxiao Sword Sect, whose strength is also frightening, reaching the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm, with a unique Sword Domain insight!"

"The two people beside them are unfamiliar, who are they?"

"Seems like they're called Li Zhexiong and Ye Wushuang, a pair of senior and junior brothers, likely from a Hidden Sect as well? Lingxiao and Gu Rulong once had a match with them but couldn't determine a winner, then they became friends through the battle..."

"Wow, it looks like this session of the Hidden Dragon Conference, will be quite exciting!"

"..."

Hearing the discussions and the commotion outside the square, Mu Jinyu's eyes slightly narrowed, with a sudden flash of killing intent in his eyes.

"Ye Wushuang? Li Zhexiong?"

"The two guys responsible for Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan's current situation?"

Mu Jinyu felt familiar hearing these two names, with an uncontrollable fire of anger and killing intent surging in his heart!

After all, if it weren't for Ye Wushuang's sneak attack, why would he have to leave early with Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan to the Kunlun Ruins, and be separated from Gu Xiyan and Mei Yinxue for nearly half a year?

And then, he was unable to chase after Ye Wushuang because he was saving Jian Ruyan, he remembered destroying his Dantian, so he wasn't eager to hunt him down worldwide!

Could it be him?

But wasn't Ye Wushuang's Dantian destroyed by himself?

Moreover, he should be a figure from a hundred years ago at least, lacking the bone age requirement to attend the Hidden Dragon Conference, no?

Mu Jinyu's heart was guessing undecided, and his gaze was tightly fixed on the area causing the commotion.

Soon, the figures of Gu Rulong and a strange youth appeared in his sight.

Mu Jinyu recognized Gu Rulong, who was punched by him and spat blood recently, as for the other person he did not, probably that senior brother Lingxiao of the Lingxiao Sword Sect.

Then, Mu Jinyu's gaze remained locked onto the area behind them, filled with anticipation and killing intent!

Moments later, two familiar figures finally appeared in Mu Jinyu's sight!

Although they seemed younger, Mu Jinyu recognized them at once, indeed, they were the culprits Ye Wushuang and Li Zhexiong!

"So it really is you guys..."

When Mu Jinyu saw the two figures appear, despite the inner rage, he did not lose control nor rush over to kill them!

In this moment, he unexpectedly calmed down, the corner of his mouth curling into a cruel smile!

He's not in a hurry to immediately kill these two!

After all, they have already come to the Hidden Dragon Conference, and he has time to deal with them slowly!

Walking behind Gu Rulong and Lingxiao, Ye Wushuang and Li Zhexiong in that moment also sensed a pair of eyes filled with killing intent staring at them.

They felt uneasy, then looked up, sharply glancing towards the source of that gaze.

"Huh?!"

Ye Wushuang and Li Zhexiong were suddenly startled.

'He's actually here too!'

Ye Wushuang felt his mind buzzing, countless complex emotions surged into his heart instantly, there was resentment over the murder of his disciple by Mu Jinyu, jealousy of Mu Jinyu's talent, and fear of almost being killed by Mu Jinyu...

Soon, Ye Wushuang also calmed down, suppressing the various negative emotions emerging in his heart, looking at Mu Jinyu, the corner of his mouth slightly pulled up, revealing the same cruel smile filled with killing intent!

Although he doesn't know how Mu Jinyu got to the Kunlun Ruins, or how during this year his cultivation also broke through to the early Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm!

But now, he's no longer the Ye Wushuang of before!

Now he's practiced the Profound Sword Art, using the sword as the Dantian, he can even kill his way out of an encirclement by powerful enemies of the Seventh and Eighth Layers of the Fanxu Realm, counter-killing back.

What is a mere Mu Jinyu compared to that!

And as Ye Wushuang and the four arrived at the Hidden Dragon Square.

More and more descendants of Hidden Sects and Super Clans also appeared.

"That is a descendant of the Xuanyuan Clan, Xuanyuan Qianqiu."

"That is Chen Huaiyu, of the super clan Chen Family!"

"..."

Before long, a handsome young man in Python Robe also hurriedly appeared at the last moment before the start of the Hidden Dragon Conference.

"Wow!"

With the appearance of Ji Changxin, the scene's atmosphere was almost exploded to the extreme, and the spectators' expressions became even more feverish.

And in secret, the elders of one of the super families and hidden sects frowned tightly and secretly exclaimed: "What's going on?!"

Their faces changed dramatically, full of disbelief, when they received the message, all the life medallions of the few Heaven's Pride cultivators attending the conference from their place had shattered!

"What's going on?!" These elders received the message and their complexions changed drastically, full of disbelief.

And at this moment, a man in cloth also hurried to the Hidden Dragon Conference moments before its commencement.

"Buzz!"

"With a faint hum, a layer of golden protective shield instantly enveloped the Hidden Dragon Square.

"Simultaneously, a cold voice rang out.

"The Hidden Dragon Conference is about to begin, prepare to enter the Dragon Gate!"

.....

Chapter 1008: Dragon Gate Testing, Ye Wushuang's Nervousness!

As this cold voice echoed, the four dragon pillars standing around the Hidden Dragon Square suddenly burst forth with brilliant golden light!

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!!"

Then, dazzling beams of light suddenly shot out from the dragon pillars, converging at the center of the square.

Before long, these beams of light fused together, forming a grand golden gate!

This is the Dragon Gate!

Just like how a carp must leap over the dragon gate to become a true dragon.

To participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference, one must first pass through the Dragon Gate.

The Dragon Gate itself is not particularly special; its function is to test if the bone age of the one entering exceeds sixty years old, and if so, they will be expelled from the Hidden Dragon Square!

After passing through the Dragon Gate's test, the trial-goers then have the qualification to absorb the Dragon Vein Qi that has been accumulating here for hundreds of years to form their own Dragon Vein Physique!

And finally, they compete to devour Dragon Qi, giving birth to one True Dragon and ten Flood Dragons!

"Roar!"

As the Dragon Gate materialized!

With a thunderous dragon roar, a majestic golden dragon, a hundred feet long, descended mightily from the rolling purple qi in the sky and coiled around the Hidden Dragon Square!

This is the Kunlun Ruins Dragon Vein that has been lurking in the Dayan Dynasty for over a hundred years, ever since the current Son of Heaven of the Dayan Dynasty claimed the True Dragon's position in the previous conference!

Today, with the reopening of the Hidden Dragon Conference, it too has awakened from its slumber, ready to once again bless a new generation of unparalleled Heaven's Pride!

"The Dragon Gate is open, let's move!"

The many Heaven's Pride within the Hidden Dragon Square saw the Dragon Gate forming, their expressions varied, and those in a hurry immediately rushed toward the Dragon Gate!

Mu Jinyu noticed that Ye Wushuang's expression became somewhat stiff at that moment, his eyes carrying a trace of nervousness.

At this time, Ye Wushuang was indeed very anxious; how could he not be?

After all, he was already over a hundred years old and, according to the rules, fundamentally unqualified to participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference.

But with the help of Li Zhexiong, he regained his youth, greatly advanced his cultivation, and this gave him the confidence to join the conference.

However, now that the Dragon Gate appeared, his fragile confidence shattered instantly.

He was again afraid that, at this critical moment, he might be found out during the Dragon Gate test and disqualified due to his bone age, ultimately driven out of the Hidden Dragon Square.

That would be utterly humiliating!

How could he not be nervous about this?

In contrast to Ye Wushuang's tension, his companion Li Zhexiong seemed very calm.

Or rather, it wasn't calm but that he was lost in a daze, mumbling something indistinct under his breath.

"This madman."

Mu Jinyu cursed silently in his heart, wary of this fellow Li Zhexiong.

He never gave Ye Wushuang much consideration, but Li Zhexiong was different; from the first meeting, he felt this madman was terrifying!

Later, learning about Li Zhexiong's reputation from Wu Zhiming and others, he became even more cautious.

"Buzz!"

By now, the first person had passed through the Dragon Gate, causing the golden gate to tremble slightly.

Moments later, the cold voice suddenly resounded throughout the Hidden Dragon Square!

"Bone age fifty-six, qualified!"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu turned to look at the first person who passed through the gate, whose cultivation was at the Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm.

A fifty-six-year-old at the Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm, in a small place like the Yan Kingdom, is quite impressive.

But among the various Heaven's Pride and monsters present, they seemed quite insignificant.

Naturally, the pass-holder's expression was not one of pride after passing the Dragon Gate's test but rather held a trace of awkwardness.

He probably didn't expect that after the Dragon Gate, his bone age would be announced!

He had just told newly made friends that he was only forty-six!

This revelation was extremely embarrassing.

With this announcement, those who originally prepared to be the second to pass through the Dragon Gate hesitated.

Evidently, they too did not realize the Dragon Gate would reveal this, and like that person, they also exaggerated their bone age when bragging!

However, no matter the embarrassment and awkwardness, it was impossible for them to give up participating in the Hidden Dragon Conference.

Eventually, after a brief moment of awkwardness, they successively went through the Dragon Gate.

Subsequently, bouts of teasing resounded in the Hidden Dragon Square.

"Ha-ha, Brother Li, didn't you say you were only thirty? How come you're forty-one?"

"Ha-ha, a man is a flower at forty-one; actually, I believe I'm only eighteen!"

"You are truly shameless!"

"Likewise, likewise!"

As everyone teased each other, the embarrassment of fibbing about their ages gradually dissipated.

After all, if only one person fibbed about their bone age, they would surely be despised and scorned by all.

But since most people fibbed, they all laughed it off together, feeling less awkward.

At this point, another person nervously passed through the Dragon Gate.

Soon after, the Dragon Gate swayed lightly a few times!

Suddenly, a golden dragon qi appeared, whipping at the person like a lash, instantly sending them flying out of the Hidden Dragon Square!

"Bone age sixty, unqualified!"

The cold voice echoed once again through the Hidden Dragon Square, informing everyone why the person was expelled.

Yet some were puzzled and wondered, "That's strange, wasn't there just someone who was sixty too? He wasn't expelled, so why was this one?"

"Could it be the artifact spirit of this Heaven-reaching spiritual treasure malfunctioned?"

The crowd speculated, feeling some sympathy for the expelled person.

At this, Ji Changxin opened his mouth to explain, "The artifact spirit would not malfunction. Normally, testers with a bone age of sixty can pass the Dragon Gate's examination, but the reason this person was expelled is most likely because he was over sixty but not yet sixty-one!"

"So this is also unqualified!"

Upon hearing Ji Changxin's explanation, the crowd was dumbfounded.

"Wow, that's so strict. I remember that person mentioned he just had his birthday yesterday!"

"So, does it mean he's sixty years and one day old, and that's also unqualified?"

Listening to these speeches, Ye Wushuang standing aside became even more tense.

Damn, they were only one day over sixty, yet that also counted as unqualified, and they were expelled.

Can he even pass the Dragon Gate's inspection with this?

He turned to glance at Li Zhexiong beside him, but seeing him still with a vacant look, he was left with no alternative.

"Buzz!"

Then, seeing those in the Fourth and Fifth Layers of the Fanxu Realm had all passed the Dragon Gate test, and with the surrounding Heaven's Pride still observing, Gu Rulong chuckled and confidently strode towards the Dragon Gate!

Soon, he passed through the Dragon Gate.

Then, the cold voice announced again.

"Bone age forty-seven, excellent!"

Hearing this announcement, some found it odd and said, "Huh, why was someone with a bone age of forty-seven just qualified?"

Others rolled their eyes, reminding them, "Oh my, don't you think about it, what was the cultivation of the previous forty-seven-year-old, and what is Gu Rulong's cultivation!"

"At forty-seven, with Gu Rulong's cultivation at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm, if that's not excellent, who else deserves the excellent rating?"

Chapter 1009: Mu Jinyu Tests Bone Age! Shocking Everyone!

As soon as these words were spoken, the skeptics fell silent.

Indeed, at the same age of forty-seven, Gu Rulong is at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm, while the other person is at the Third Layer, the late stage versus the early stage. Gu Rulong is clearly on a whole different level. How could he only be considered qualified?

As Gu Rulong began his test, Lingxiao chuckled softly and followed, lightly stepping through the Dragon Gate.

"Buzz!"

The Dragon Gate trembled slightly, followed by an indifferent voice.

"Bone age forty-five, excellent!"

The crowd was taken aback upon hearing Lingxiao's age.

"Wow, the heir of the Lingxiao Sword Sect is actually three years younger than Gu Rulong!"

"It's quite normal; Gu Rulong doesn't just cultivate, he also tempers his body, which takes extra time."

"Hmm, they can indeed be considered monsters of the same caliber!"

Subsequently, Xuanyuan Qianqiu, Chen Huaiyu, and other noble family scions and sect heirs stepped forward, beginning their tests.

Their ages were mostly around forty, with the youngest being Chen Huaiyu, at forty-one!

This made Gu Rulong and his peers uneasy, not daring to underestimate this heir of the Chen Family!

Finally, the Crown Prince of the Dayan Dynasty, possessing strength at the Eighth Level of the Fanxu Realm, Ji Changxin, stepped forward with a calm expression, passing through the Dragon Gate!

"Buzz!!!"

The Dragon Gate, composed of golden Dragon Qi, immediately quivered violently.

Then that originally indifferent voice seemed to become less cold.

"Bone age thirty-seven, excellent!"

This announcement caused an uproar at the scene.

Everyone knew Ji Changxin was most qualified to claim the top spot on the Hidden Dragon List, but they all thought he was taking advantage of his age, having cultivated to the Eighth Level of the Fanxu Realm early, otherwise, he wouldn't have such a huge advantage!

But now, the report from the Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure Spirit was like a slap in their faces!

As it turned out, Ji Changxin wasn't older than them at all, but much younger.

Younger than Gu Rulong by ten years!

Yet his cultivation level was one layer higher than theirs!

Indeed, Ji Changxin is worthy of being the number one monster of the younger generation in the Kunlun Ruins!

The crowd felt a wave of discouragement.

Even the previously self-satisfied Chen Huaiyu, thinking he was the youngest Heaven's Pride present, had his smile disappear, looking somewhat embarrassed.

At this moment, those who hadn't yet passed the Dragon Gate test were only Mu Jinyu, Ye Wushuang, and Li Zhexiong.

All eyes then turned to these last three.

Li Zhexiong was the least noticeable, being only at the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, his head full of white hair made him look older, obviously belonging to the mediocre talent category.

But Mu Jinyu and Ye Wushuang were more anticipated.

Mu Jinyu had, before, crossed hands with Gu Rulong, allegedly making Gu Rulong cough up blood.

Although both only used their pure physical strength without True Yuan, otherwise, the Seventh Layer against the Sixth Layer, the outcome would still be uncertain.

But it was enough to prove Mu Jinyu's strength.

Li Zhexiong seemed to be awakened by everyone's gaze, shook his head, returned to his senses, and muttered, "Is it our turn?"

With that, he stepped toward the Dragon Gate.

Seeing this, Ye Wushuang could only follow, filled with apprehension and unease!

At this moment, he was extremely nervous and regretful.

He shouldn't have stalled until now, being the center of attention.

If he had gone earlier for the test, even if found to be ineligible due to a bone age over sixty and got expelled, it would have been a bit embarrassing initially.

But with Ji Changxin's presence, all attention would have shifted from his embarrassment to Ji Changxin.

Then he wouldn't be so awkward.

Yet now, with Ji Changxin having passed, only he, his senior brother, and that Mu Jinyu were left.

If he and his senior brother were found ineligible, the embarrassment would be tremendous!

While Ye Wushuang was full of regret, Li Zhexiong leisurely passed through the Dragon Gate.

Then, amid Ye Wushuang's anxious waiting.

The indifferent voice spoke up.

"Bone age sixty, qualified!"

Hearing this verdict, Ye Wushuang almost jumped excitedly to cheer for his senior brother.

At this moment, that voice seemed less cold and emotionless, making Ye Wushuang feel it had a human touch!

"Truly mediocre, Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, age sixty."

Xuanyuan Qianqiu, Chen Huaiyu, and others, upon hearing Li Zhexiong's bone age determination, shook their heads slightly, then closed their eyes, uninterested in the evaluations of Ye Wushuang and Mu Jinyu.

At this point, Ye Wushuang regained his confidence, straightening his back and striding boldly through the golden Dragon Gate.

"Buzz!"

The Dragon Gate slightly trembled, followed by the voice announcing:

"Bone age fifty-two, qualified!"

Ye Wushuang let out a long sigh of relief in his mind.

Upon hearing Ye Wushuang's bone age judgment, those top-grade monsters at the age of forty in the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm, who still had some expectations for him and Mu Jinyu, lost interest in Mu Jinyu as well.

They just deemed these last three as mere clowns!

Clearly of mediocre aptitude, yet insisting on making a late appearance, just to attract attention!

By now, only Gu Rulong and Lingxiao still paid attention to Mu Jinyu among the top-grade monsters.

Gu Rulong had crossed hands with Mu Jinyu, knowing he wasn't simple.

Lingxiao also understood Gu Rulong's potential, thus paying more attention to Mu Jinyu!

Amid the majority considering him a clown, Mu Jinyu remained calm, with a faint smile, then stepped towards the golden Dragon Gate.

Soon, Mu Jinyu passed through the Dragon Gate.

"Buzz!!"

As soon as his body crossed through the gate!

The entire Dragon Gate started trembling violently, as if it would collapse at any moment!

Then, for the first time, that always indifferent voice appeared to waver, as if encountering something unbelievable.

"Bone age... eighteen! Superior!"

With the Spirit's announcement of the Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure.

The previously silent site was like a calm pan, suddenly doused with a large basin of cold water, erupting into uproar and commotion.

Even those who had already closed their eyes, uninterested in Mu Jinyu's bone age test, Ji Changxin, Xuanyuan Qianqiu, Chen Huaiyu, and other monstrous figures, opened their eyes in shock, filled with disbelief!

"How is this possible?!"

"Eighteen years old? Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm?!"

"I've never seen a superior rating before; is this guy even human?"

"Could it be the Artifact Spirit made a mistake? Is this guy not actually eighteen?"

In the uproar, people couldn't accept the fact that Mu Jinyu was eighteen and at the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm.

Some even began questioning the Artifact Spirit's judgment.

In this situation, Mu Jinyu smiled lightly, said nothing, and stepped back through the now stable Dragon Gate!

"Buzz!"

The Dragon Gate trembled violently once more.

"Bone age eighteen, superior!!"

Silence reigned over the whole area.

Not a sound was heard.

Chapter 1010: True Dragon Art, Dragon Qi Tidal Wave!

After a moment of silence.

Finally, someone couldn't hold back any longer, leaping towards the Dragon Gate.

"Bone age forty-eight, qualified!"

The Artifact Spirit announced this person's bone age, just as it had judged before, unchanged.

This time, no one doubted that there was an issue with the Artifact Spirit.

Rather, Mu Jinyu's age was truly only eighteen, and at that age had cultivated to the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm!

What a terrifying achievement!

While the crowd was still reeling from the shock of Mu Jinyu's age and cultivation level,

"Roar!"

the massive Golden Dragon coiled around Hidden Dragon Square suddenly let out a roar, and then its golden body, as if cast from molten gold, shattered explosively.

It transformed into an endless stream of golden energy, surging throughout Hidden Dragon Square.

"Pass the Dragon Gate, forge a Dragon Soul!"

Ji Changxin, as the Crown Prince of the Dayan Dynasty, quickly snapped out of his shock. He forcefully suppressed his astonishment, then sat cross-legged without further hesitation, activated his Profound Skill, and began to absorb the surging Dragon Qi!

As Ji Changxin began to absorb the Dragon Qi and forge his Dragon Soul, the rest of the crowd snapped out of their daze, disregarded the amazement at Mu Jinyu's age, and quickly sat down cross-legged to vie for the Dragon Qi.

Mu Jinyu understood that passing the Dragon Gate was merely to check whether one was qualified in terms of bone age, and was not particularly important in the Hidden Dragon Conference.

In contrast, the current competition for Dragon Qi was the most crucial part of the Hidden Dragon Conference, the more Dragon Qi one could seize at this stage, the greater the chance for subsequent contests to acquire Dragon Qi and forge a True Dragon body!

Hence, Mu Jinyu didn't waste much time, immediately sat cross-legged and began to operate the "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art," frantically seizing the surrounding Dragon Qi!

As soon as he started to operate the Profound Skill to compete for Dragon Qi, Mu Jinyu felt a sense of stagnation.

The surrounding Dragon Qi was completely different from nature's spiritual energy or Heaven and Earth Vital Energy.

If Spiritual Energy and Elemental Qi were like water, then the operation of Cultivation Technique, the strong absorbent refining ability, would be like a straw drawing water, how much you absorb depends on the effectiveness of your Cultivation Technique!

But Dragon Qi was entirely different from water, it was like molten copper, molten iron, how could an ordinary straw possibly draw up molten copper or iron?

Even if you somehow managed to draw a bit, would anyone dare to swallow it? Could they withstand it?

At this moment, Mu Jinyu felt that when using the "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art", he found it hard to affect the vast Dragon Qi around him, hardly attracting much into his body.

Even if threads of Dragon Qi occasionally entered his body, he couldn't refine it at all, his body seemed like a damaged wooden barrel, the water he fetched simply flowed away.

And even a few strands of Dragon Qi he managed to refine felt extremely hot and scalding, making his body feel uncomfortable.

"What's going on? How can I compete for Dragon Qi this way?"

Mu Jinyu only operated his Profound Skill for a few minutes, finally couldn't endure it, opened his eyes, wanting to see if others were experiencing the same thing.

Then, he heard a group of people discussing this inexplicably, with indignant voices.

"What's going on? Why can't I attract any of the surrounding Dragon Qi?"

"Same here, only a bit of Dragon Qi is attracted. I heard it's a secret, the Dragon Vein Qi Luck is different from nature's spiritual energy and Heaven and Earth Vital Energy, it requires a special method to absorb, also those with special bloodline are stronger than ordinary people like us."

"Shit, I'm cultivating a top-quality grade Earth-rank Cultivation Technique, my True Yuan is almost depleted, normally I can recover True Yuan after cultivating for an hour, yet I can't absorb much Dragon Qi at all, how am I supposed to forge a Dragon body this way?"

"Heh, don't fool yourself, the main players of the Hidden Dragon Conference were never us, but those monsters, we're just here to get some scraps, aren't you satisfied?"

"I'm not reconciled, my fate is mine to control!"

One person shouted wildly, face full of unwillingness, then forcefully activated his Profound Skill to crazily devour the surrounding Dragon Qi.

But not a moment later.

"Pfft!"

As if suffering a backlash, he suddenly turned pale as gold paper, spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion instantly waning.

"Boom!!"

Then, the surrounding Dragon Qi coagulated, turning into a whip, whipped towards him!

With a "snap" sound, this person, already incredibly weak, couldn't dodge at all, was whipped out of Hidden Dragon Square by the Dragon Qi whip.

As this person was whipped away, those originally tempted to try some dubious techniques didn't dare to act anymore.

'What did this guy do to be driven away? Or was it simply that forcibly absorbing Dragon Qi triggered a backlash, crippling his Cultivation Body, thus being expelled?'

Mu Jinyu couldn't comprehend these things, then turned to look at Ji Changxin, Xuanyuan Qianqiu, Gu Rulong, and others.

Seeing them enveloped in a layer of golden Dragon Qi, absorbing and refining it in an orderly manner.

"Hmm? How can this be?"

Mu Jinyu saw this scene, was astonished, then understood that as successors of Hidden Sects and Super Clans, naturally their backing forces had already grasped the rules of the Hidden Dragon Conference, knew how to absorb and refine Dragon Qi, and forge a Dragon Soul!

It was only himself who was completely ignorant of the rules of the Hidden Dragon Conference, rashly ventured in.

Then, Mu Jinyu thought of those who also struggled to absorb Dragon Qi, his opponents.

They seemed to say that a special method was required to absorb and refine Dragon Qi? And having a special bloodline, would be better?

Mu Jinyu's heart stirred, he suddenly remembered he had the Azure Dragon Bloodline, as well as the "True Dragon Art" that could awaken his bloodline and enhance his cultivation!

'I wonder if the "True Dragon Art" would be more effective than the "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art" in this situation?'

Mu Jinyu wasn't sure, but he had to try.

Thus, he closed his eyes, began to tentatively activate the "True Dragon Art" to awaken his Azure Dragon Bloodline, to see if he could absorb and refine Dragon Qi smoothly like Ji Changxin and them!

While Mu Jinyu was trying.

Those cultivators at the first and second layers of the Fanxu Realm were completely unable to affect the surrounding Dragon Qi, bored, they turned to look around, then noticed Mu Jinyu who was in a completely different situation from Ji Changxin and the others!

"Hey, that guy, seems like us, can't absorb and refine Dragon Qi either?"

"Haha, I get it, Ji Changxin, Gu Rulong, Xuanyuan Qianqiu, all have a huge backing, this guy seems to have no backing, though I don't know how he reached the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm at eighteen, without a special method, he's likely stuck with us, unable to forge a Dragon Soul!"

"Wow, so if even a monster like him is like us, doesn't that mean I'm a monster too? Hehehe..."

But just then.

Mu Jinyu suddenly erupted in a brilliant azure light, instantly, a clear and melodious dragon chant emerged around Mu Jinyu.

"Roar!"

Then, in everyone's incredulous gazes, the surging, hard-to-shake vast Dragon Qi suddenly formed into a Little Golden Dragon, then rushed towards Mu Jinyu!

As if Mu Jinyu became a massive vortex at that moment.