

King Hall 811

Chapter 811: Elder Cheng's Surprise!

"Nothing."

Mu Jinyu's face showed discomfort, and he shook his head, not explaining much.

His heart was bleeding.

Because the pill formula he just looked at was exactly the three elixirs he had spent three hundred Contribution Points to buy from the Treasure Pavilion.

Originally, he planned to continue analyzing the refining techniques of this elixir after he finished deciphering the Rush Yuan Pill.

But because of the arrival of the Outer Gate exams, he had to put it aside for the time being.

Who knew that the pill formula was in Elder Chen's hands, and he directly gave it to him.

Mu Jinyu felt so heartbroken that he couldn't breathe when he thought of those three hundred Contribution Points just flying away like that.

'Forget it, having the pill formula is even better, no need to waste Spiritual Medicine, I should be content.' Mu Jinyu kept comforting himself in his heart.

Soon, Mu Jinyu adjusted his mindset and said, "Teacher, I've just reviewed a pill formula, and now I'm eager to try alchemy."

"Very well... go ahead and try it." Elder Cheng was still pondering. Even if he couldn't see Mu Jinyu refine fine elixirs, watching him refine pills was also good. So when Mu Jinyu offered to refine pills, he agreed wholeheartedly.

"There's enough Spiritual Medicine in the storage bag. Whatever elixir you want to refine, go ahead and try, don't fear failure..." Elder Cheng encouraged.

"Thank you, Teacher."

Mu Jinyu expressed his gratitude.

He was hesitant, not really wanting to refine pills in front of Elder Cheng for fear of being disturbed, but thinking about how good Elder Cheng had been to him, what harm was there in letting him see the refining process?

Even if he was disturbed and the elixir failed, the loss was not significant.

Moreover, he often refined pills in front of many people on Yinlong Mountain, and although startled at times, he didn't think there would be major issues.

Elder Cheng saw the hesitation in Mu Jinyu's eyes and understood his thoughts.

Many alchemists did not like to refine pills in front of others, fearing disturbance.

Though a bit disappointed, Elder Cheng still nodded in understanding and said, "You can refine in my cave residence; I'll step out first..."

Mu Jinyu called out, "No need, Teacher. You can stay here to guide me; this way I can learn faster."

Elder Cheng froze upon hearing this, his movements stiffening, then looked at Mu Jinyu with a relieved expression.

"Alright, I'll watch from the side. I won't speak to disturb you; once you finish a batch, I'll point out any mistakes."

"Good, thank you, Teacher." Mu Jinyu nodded, then took out the best Alchemy Furnace from the storage bag Elder Cheng had just given him, and then took out the Spiritual Medicine needed to refine a batch of elixirs.

"Boom!"

Placing the Alchemy Furnace on the ground with a heavy thud, Mu Jinyu raised both hands to press on the furnace, urging the Taoist fire to start heating the furnace.

While refining the furnace, making it recognize him as its master and easier to maneuver, he also familiarised himself with the furnace to avoid any obstruction during the pill refining process.

Quickly.

Mu Jinyu made the furnace recognize him as its master.

And he knew its name.

Qingyang Cauldron!

A top-grade Alchemy Furnace, said to be the best furnace in Elder Cheng's possession!

But Elder Cheng gave it to him without hesitation.

Mu Jinyu felt a bit touched.

Then, he shook his head slightly, dispelling distractions, and activated the Taoist fire again to cover the entire Qingyang Cauldron, then began single-mindedly placing Spiritual Medicine into it!

The elixir he wanted to refine was called the Gathering Spirit Pill, which had a better effect than the Rush Yuan Pill, and naturally, the refining techniques were more intricate.

But these differences did not matter much to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu was very focused on refining and did not pay attention to Elder Cheng.

But Elder Cheng closely observed Mu Jinyu's alchemy techniques, watching him competently refine the medicinal materials into medicinal liquid, then merge them...

The whole process was smooth and fluent, as if he had practiced it hundreds or thousands of times, with such proficiency.

'How is it possible? He should be encountering the Gathering Spirit Pill for the first time, how can he be so smooth? Could it be the Wood Spirit Root is really this suited for alchemy?'

Elder Cheng wondered silently with confusion.

Soon, Elder Cheng stopped pondering these doubts and concentrated on watching Mu Jinyu's alchemy process.

A quarter-hour later.

"Boom!"

Mu Jinyu suddenly opened his eyes, a flash of clarity in them, then raised his hand and patted the Qingyang Cauldron, and the lid flew up.

"Swish, swish!!"

Then, four round and full elixirs flew out, with dan fragrance filling the air, invigorating the spirit of those who caught its scent.

"Wow!"

Mu Jinyu certainly wouldn't let the elixirs escape; he raised his right hand and caught all four elixirs.

"So fast..."

Elder Cheng, waking from a state of immersion, was stunned by Mu Jinyu's alchemy speed, unable to believe it.

His alchemy speed was much faster and smoother than his own!

And he directly refined four elixirs in one batch, making Elder Cheng feel deeply ashamed!

"Have you refined the Gathering Spirit Pill before?" Elder Cheng couldn't help but ask.

Mu Jinyu shook his head, "This is my first time refining the Gathering Spirit Pill, I haven't even tasted it before."

"Then you are truly an alchemy genius." Elder Cheng replied, filled with mixed emotions, praising him and then, thinking of something, hurriedly said, "Spread out your hand, let me see the quality of the elixirs."

"Yes."

Mu Jinyu answered, then spread out his palms.

Only to see four pristine white elixirs lying quietly in Mu Jinyu's palm, with three to four faint but mysterious Taoist Patterns glowing on their surfaces.

"This... to have three, even four Taoist Patterns on his first try refining the Gathering Spirit Pill... heavens!"

Elder Cheng's eyes bulged, overwhelmed by shock.

Previously, seeing the fine elixirs Mu Jinyu gave to others, he was stunned and skeptical, not having witnessed the process of such high-quality elixirs being made; the shock was somewhat lessened.

Moreover, he held some doubt whether these elixirs were indeed refined by Mu Jinyu or acquired elsewhere.

But now, Mu Jinyu brought out four fine elixirs with Taoist Patterns in one batch, completely shattering his perceptions.

So alchemy could be as easy as drinking water?

So there were so many auxiliary techniques to better integrate medicinal power?

Elder Cheng was filled with images of Mu Jinyu's alchemy process, and then he couldn't help but say, "Jinyu, I'd like to try refining a batch..."

"Alright." Mu Jinyu, seeing Elder Cheng's eagerness to try, nodded and stepped aside.

Later, Elder Cheng took out an Alchemy Furnace and started refining the Gathering Spirit Pill.

Throughout the process, Mu Jinyu occasionally reminded Elder Cheng of what to do.

However, Elder Cheng's talent in alchemy was not particularly high.

He would pause a bit after hearing Mu Jinyu's pointers, adjusting slowly, by which time considerable medicinal power had already dissipated.

Several attempts later, more medicinal power and properties were lost.

Finally, two hours later.

Elder Cheng lifted the lid, and two Gathering Spirit Pills flew out.

He excitedly grabbed them and then held them out to inspect, seeing both had two Taoist Patterns!

"Hahaha... I can actually refine two elixirs at once, with two Taoist Patterns each..."

Elder Cheng was overjoyed.

Chapter 812: Chen Qiuqiao's Backer!

Elder Cheng had never once refined multiple Elixirs with accompanying Danwen.

When he practiced alchemy, it was either quantity without quality, or some quality without quantity.

Unexpectedly, today, after merely watching Mu Jinyu's alchemy process and being occasionally guided by him, he successfully refined a furnace of Elixirs that had both quantity and quality.

This was despite the fact that during his previous attempts, even with Mu Jinyu's guidance, he still made several mistakes. If he could fully digest Mu Jinyu's earlier alchemy insights, wouldn't this mean he could eventually refine a furnace of Four Pills with Four Danwen?

Elder Cheng was overwhelmingly excited, tears streaming down his face.

Mu Jinyu stood to the side, seeing Elder Cheng's excitement, and felt a bit speechless, not understanding his state.

It's just two Elixirs with two Danwen, is it worth getting so excited?

Mu Jinyu truly didn't understand.

If Mu Jinyu knew Elder Cheng's thought process, thinking that this furnace was high quality and in large quantity, he would probably be even more speechless.

Just two Elixirs, not even reaching the fine quality line, how could that be considered quantity and quality?

After his initial excitement, Elder Cheng finally snapped back to reality. He turned his head, eyes flashing with an inexplicable light, staring straight at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu felt a bit uneasy under his gaze.

"Teacher..." Mu Jinyu opened his mouth, not knowing what Elder Cheng wanted.

The light in Elder Cheng's eyes grew brighter, though his expression appeared somewhat hesitant and a bit embarrassed.

Finally, he gritted his teeth and said in a low voice, "Why don't you stop calling me teacher? I truly have nothing to teach you, those Sacred Wood Branches and Pill Formulas, just consider them my apprenticeship gift. Can you be my teacher instead?!"

"Ah?"

Upon hearing Elder Cheng's words, Mu Jinyu was momentarily stunned. When he realized what Elder Cheng was proposing, he felt a wave of dizziness and almost fainted.

"Teacher, please don't say that. How could I be your teacher? I'm not capable..." Mu Jinyu quickly shook his head in refusal.

It was not out of humility or embarrassment.

Rather, he had only been practicing alchemy for a short time himself, and his purpose in coming to the Kunlun Ruins was not to promote the Alchemy Dao, but to help Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou reclaim their bodies.

He was currently staying at the Heavenly Sword Faction just to gather more information and prepare for the upcoming Hidden Dragon Conference.

If he were to become Elder Cheng's teacher, how would he find time to cultivate?

Since he couldn't provide meticulous guidance, it was naturally impossible for him to become Elder Cheng's teacher.

"Oh..." Hearing Mu Jinyu's hasty refusal, Elder Cheng couldn't help but show a look of disappointment.

His thought process was genuinely feeling that he had nothing to teach Mu Jinyu and would rather learn alchemy from Mu Jinyu. As such, he couldn't shamelessly continue to have Mu Jinyu call him teacher, so he lowered his face to propose recognizing Mu Jinyu as his teacher instead.

But alas, he was unceremoniously refused.

Elder Cheng also felt quite embarrassed, not knowing how to approach Mu Jinyu for alchemy techniques in the future.

Mu Jinyu thought for a moment and realized that turning down Elder Cheng outright could strain their relationship, but it was truly impossible for him to be Elder Cheng's teacher. So, he proposed:

"Teacher, let's not address the issue of who is whose teacher. How about this, we exchange ideas, mutually discuss the Alchemy Dao, you can ponder the Pill Formulas, and I'll exchange alchemy experiences and techniques with you, does that work?"

"Really?" Elder Cheng's eyes lit up at Mu Jinyu's words, replying excitedly, "Good, good, then in the future let's exchange ideas whenever we have time, haha..."

Elder Cheng laughed heartily, sweeping away his previous gloom.

To be honest, after seeing Mu Jinyu's alchemy skills, he really couldn't shamelessly act as Mu Jinyu's teacher. But, due to various reasons, Mu Jinyu didn't want to be his teacher either. Now, turning into mutual Alchemy Dao partners seemed perfectly fitting.

He found it entirely acceptable and didn't feel devalued from being Mu Jinyu's teacher to just a Dao partner!

After that, the atmosphere between them no longer felt so awkward. Mu Jinyu continued to ponder the Pill Formulas given by Elder Cheng and proceeded with his alchemy.

After completing a batch of Elixirs, he would summarize the previous mistakes and continue to exchange insights with Elder Cheng, then let the other attempt alchemy while occasionally offering suggestions, minimizing Elder Cheng's errors.

...

While Mu Jinyu was studying various Pill Formulas and exchanging ideas with Elder Cheng.

At Tianlan Peak, on the mountain path leading to the residences of the Inner Gate disciples on the List of Outstanding Talents.

Chen Qiuqiao, who had just completed the Inner Gate formalities, was heading towards the summit with an Inner Gate Senior Brother!

"Qiu Qiao, what happened today? Why didn't you even make it into the top three of the grand exam?"

As the Inner Gate Senior Brother guided Chen Qiuqiao along the mountain path, he asked curiously.

Chen Qiuqiao remained silent, his face darkening, fists clenching tight, making cracking sounds upon hearing his brother's words.

Seeing this, the Senior Brother raised an eyebrow, asking, "Did you perhaps encounter that Spirit Root prodigy ahead of time?"

Upon hearing this, Chen Qiuqiao's expression became even more unpleasant.

At this moment, he would have rather lost to Mu Jinyu like Wu Lei in the first round, rather than being defeated by Jian Ruyan.

Losing to Mu Jinyu wouldn't have drawn much ridicule due to the vast difference in their abilities. However, losing to Jian Ruyan made others question his reputation as one of the Outer Gate's top three experts!

Chen Qiuqiao's current mood was one of intense regret!

If he had known the outcome would be like this, he would have preferred failing the initial selection test rather than suffering this second humiliation!

Seeing Chen Qiuqiao's worsening expression and his silence, the Senior Brother sighed, "Qiu Qiao, your performance really was poor. Now as we go to visit Senior Brother Fang, I don't know if he'll still want to take you in, sigh..."

"Remember, don't be as aloof as you were in the Outer Gate. In the Inner Gate, especially among the List of Outstanding Talents' senior brothers, you should be more obedient and say pleasant things to Senior Brother Fang. Maybe he'll allow you to stay at the Tianlan Peak Summit if he feels pleased."

The Senior Brother earnestly advised.

"Mm, I understand..." Chen Qiuqiao nodded lightly, responding bitterly.

Like Li Xiaoxiao, Chen Qiuqiao, one of the Outer Gate's top three experts, also had his own backing in the Inner Gate.

This Senior Brother was actually his cousin from the same clan.

His strength was not particularly outstanding but he worked for a talent ranked in the fifties on the List of Outstanding Talents.

Now that Chen Qiuqiao had entered the Inner Gate, his cousin helped with all the formalities, leading him up to visit Senior Brother Fang at the Tianlan Peak Summit, hoping that Chen Qiuqiao, as one of the Outer Gate's top three experts, would catch Senior Brother Fang's eye and become his confidant.

Seeing Chen Qiuqiao finally respond, his cousin smiled, patting his shoulder encouragingly, "Mm, you must perform well. If you follow Senior Brother Fang, you won't have to fear anyone in the Inner Gate except the List of Outstanding Talents' senior brothers and sisters!"

"If that Spirit Root prodigy bothers you again, maybe Senior Brother Fang will even help you teach him a lesson!"

Chapter 813: Blasted Out!

Chen Qiuqiao quickly followed her cousin to Senior Brother Fang's courtyard.

Since they had already informed in advance, after verifying the information with the identity token, the defensive formation opened, allowing the two of them to enter.

As Chen Qiuqiao's cousin led her into the courtyard, he sighed, "Every time I come to Senior Brother Fang's home, I wish I could live here permanently."

He looked at Chen Qiuqiao's complicated expression and said, "What do you think? The courtyard for disciples ranked on the List of Outstanding Talents is much better than the quarters on the mountainside, isn't it?"

"Yes," Chen Qiuqiao nodded slightly, with a hint of envy in her eyes.

Her cousin said, "Then you must work hard in the future. Our Chen Family is counting on you to make it to the List of Outstanding Talents. If you manage to live here, your cousin can share in the good fortune."

Chen Qiuqiao responded, "I will work hard!"

The two of them passed through the front yard, entered the main building, and were greeted by Senior Brother Fang's servant, who showed them to the living room.

"The master is cultivating; please wait a moment," the servant explained softly, serving them tea and snacks.

"Alright," they naturally had no objections.

An hour later.

Senior Brother Fang finally finished cultivating and came to the living room to see Chen Qiuqiao and her cousin.

"Sorry to have kept you waiting."

As he entered the living room, Senior Brother Fang first apologized to them before taking a seat in the main position.

"No problem, Senior Brother Fang. Your cultivation is important, we don't mind,"

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin replied with a flattering smile, waving his hand dismissively.

Noticing Senior Brother Fang's gaze drifting towards Chen Qiuqiao, he immediately stood up and prompted Chen Qiuqiao to do the same, introducing her, "Senior Brother Fang, this is my cousin, Chen Qiuqiao, one of the top three disciples of the Outer Gate. She's got quite a talent; as soon as she entered the Inner Gate, I brought her to you."

Senior Brother Fang examined Chen Qiuqiao for a moment, then nodded and said, "Hmm, not bad. Quite an extraordinary root bone, indeed a jadeite. But I heard that you didn't rank in the top three in the Outer Gate examination this time, did you?"

"Uh..." Chen Qiuqiao's cousin's mind raced, looking to explain.

Chen Qiuqiao's face turned pale then flushed.

What's the deal? Can't you just let this go?

Damn it, do you have to bring it up every time you see someone? It's irritating!

Seeing their uncomfortable expressions, Senior Brother Fang smiled and waved, "It's fine, no need to be nervous. I also heard that this year's Outer Gate examination was quite special, with several geniuses, especially that one with the talent that even made the Sect Leader want to take a disciple. I understand why you couldn't make it to the top three."

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin breathed a sigh of relief and then smiled, "Yes, indeed. My cousin Qiuqiao is actually very capable. If it weren't for being schemed against by that spirit-root genius, she would definitely have made it into the top three!"

"Oh?" Senior Brother Fang's eyes glimmered with a strange light as he calmly asked, "Schemed against by that spirit-root genius? What happened?"

Chen Qiuqiao's expression grew even darker, but she restrained herself. She dared not lose control, for if she did, Senior Brother Fang could easily deal with them.

Her cousin, seeing Senior Brother Fang inquire about this matter, eyes gleaming, immediately began to embellish and recount how Mu Jinyu had schemed against Chen Qiuqiao.

He hoped that Senior Brother Fang would stand up for them and teach Mu Jinyu a lesson.

Who would have thought that, after hearing his embellished complaint, Senior Brother Fang's face would change dramatically, and he would angrily slam the table, standing up and roaring, "Outrageous! Get out of here!"

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin, seeing Senior Brother Fang's furious expression, and only hearing the first part of his outburst, secretly smiled and prepared to pretend to calm Senior Brother Fang down.

"Smack!"

Senior Brother Fang, seeing the obsequious smile on Chen Qiuqiao's cousin's face, grew even more infuriated. With a swift motion, he slapped him hard!

"Bang!"

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin spun several times from the force of the slap, stars dancing before his eyes, finally spitting out a mouthful of blood mixed with a few teeth before collapsing, unable to rise.

"Cousin!"

Chen Qiuqiao, realizing what had happened, cried out in shock and rushed to help her cousin up!

"Get out!!!"

Senior Brother Fang, still seething, flicked his sleeve, enveloping the pair in a surge of powerful True Essence Power and threw them out!

After expelling them from his home, Senior Brother Fang instinctively patted his chest, his face slightly pale, muttering in fear:

"Damn it, they tried to deceive me, using me to deal with Senior Brother Mu. They really don't know their place!"

Who did they think he was? How could he not see through Chen Qiuqiao's cousin's petty schemes?

In the past, he turned a blind eye to some minor manipulations, but using him to confront Mu Jinyu? That was asking for trouble!

Didn't they know he was only ranked in the fifties on the List of Outstanding Talents? Didn't they know Huang Daotian, ranked forty-fifth, was defeated by Mu Jinyu with just one strike?

"You bastards, trying to provoke discord between Senior Brother Mu and me. If I see you again, I'll beat you every time!"

...

"Bang!!"

Chen Qiuqiao and her cousin were tossed onto the street outside, writhing in pain. To make matters worse, bystanders whispered mockingly at their plight, further adding to their humiliation.

"Cousin, are you alright?"

Ignoring their shame, Chen Qiuqiao immediately tended to her cousin, shaking him to bring him back to consciousness.

"Ugh..."

Her cousin, after being shaken several times, finally woke up with a pained groan.

"I'm fine, stop shaking."

Chen Qiuqiao stopped immediately, worriedly asking, "Cousin, what do we do now? Should we leave?"

Her cousin, not understanding why Senior Brother Fang had turned on them so suddenly, shook his head quickly, "No, we mustn't leave!"

With a glint of determination, he said, "Since Fang Yuan treated me so coldly, I won't hesitate to turn to someone else!"

He stood up and, pulling Chen Qiuqiao, headed towards another courtyard nearby, saying:

"Let's go, Qiuqiao. I'll take you to see another Senior Brother Huang. His ranking on the List of Outstanding Talents is much higher than Fang Yuan's. He sits at forty-fifth. He once invited me to work for him, but I declined because I thought Fang Yuan treated me well."

"It turns out I was blind to follow Fang Yuan!"

His cousin gritted his teeth, his voice filled with regret.

Chapter 814: Return to the Scripture Pavilion!

Not long after.

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin brought Chen Qiuqiao to stand in front of Huang Daotian's courtyard and gently knocked on the door.

"I don't know if Senior Brother Huang is home. If he is, he should open the door soon."

Although his knocking was soft, with the Defensive Formation in place, people inside would clearly know someone was visiting.

Sure enough.

Just a few knocks, the courtyard door opened, and two stunningly beautiful girls came out.

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin was momentarily stunned by their beauty.

He stared blankly for a moment, then, realizing his rudeness, smiled and said: "You must be the new maids Senior Brother Huang hired? Is he home now?"

He completely missed the look of shock on his cousin's face when the door opened and the two girls stepped out.

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, upon hearing the knock, thought Mu Jinyu had returned. But when they opened the door, they saw it was Chen Qiuqiao and an unfamiliar man.

Cautious, they wondered if Chen Qiuqiao had brought someone for revenge.

But when they heard the cousin's words, Jian Ruyan rolled her eyes and said coldly, "Senior Brother Huang? Are you talking about Huang Daotian? Sorry, we're not his maids, and he moved out long ago!"

"Moved out?" Chen Qiuqiao's cousin was bewildered. Hearing Jian Ruyan's words, he paused and then said happily, "Senior Brother Huang advanced a few more spots on the List of Outstanding Talents? Great! Tell me, where has he moved to?"

Jian Ruyan responded coldly, "He didn't move to another courtyard, nor did he advance on the List of Outstanding Talents. He was defeated by my... my brother and has moved to a residence halfway up Tianlan Peak!"

After saying this, she didn't bother with him any further and pulled Wen Rou along, slamming the courtyard door closed!

"Hey, what do you mean?!"

Chen Qiuqiao's cousin still wanted to ask more, but Jian Ruyan had already closed the door. He didn't dare to knock again, fearing angering the courtyard owner.

"What's going on? How did Senior Brother Huang get defeated?" he muttered in confusion.

Just as he turned to explain to Chen Qiuqiao, he saw Chen Qiuqiao's face was even more distressed, staring at the courtyard door in a daze.

It seemed he was mesmerized by the two girls and couldn't look away.

His cousin laughed, "Hey, stop staring, they're already gone."

"Mm." Chen Qiuqiao snapped out of it, responding gloomily. His spirits were thoroughly crushed by Mu Jinyu's success, and he kept replaying Jian Ruyan's words in his mind.

Huang Daotian had been defeated by Mu Jinyu and moved from the summit of Tianlan Peak... Why...

They both just entered the Inner Gate, yet Mu Jinyu replaced Huang Daotian and became a top expert on the List of Outstanding Talents, while he had to visit those on the list, looking for backing...

Chen Qiuqiao was filled with extreme unwillingness.

But he no longer felt the fighting spirit he had when he left the Scripture Pavilion, planning to reclaim his honor from Mu Jinyu!

Only a sense of despair and defeat remained!

His cousin sensed something was off and asked, "You know them?"

Chen Qiuqiao replied softly, "Yes, they are the second and fourth places in the Outer Gate exam..."

His cousin was shocked, his face changing dramatically, "You told me earlier that the second and fourth places are that person's wife and sister?!"

Chen Qiuqiao nodded bitterly, "Yes, the one who defeated Senior Brother Huang is probably Mu Jinyu!"

His cousin felt a bomb explode in his mind.

His face went white, he staggered back several steps and almost fell.

Chen Qiuqiao caught him just in time, his cousin muttered in disbelief, "It's him? No wonder, no wonder Fang Yuan chased me away!"

Fear gripped him!

He finally understood why Fang Yuan threw them out after hearing they were plotting against Mu Jinyu!

It turns out, Mu Jinyu became a top expert on the List of Outstanding Talents, ranking higher than both Fang Yuan and Huang Daotian, as soon as he entered the Inner Gate!

If he were Fang Yuan and heard someone urging him to go against Mu Jinyu, he would also want to beat that person to death!

After the fear passed, his cousin turned serious and warned Chen Qiuqiao, "Qiu Qiao, never dwell on this shame again, forget it, or else we... or even the Chen Family, will suffer!"

"I understand." Chen Qiuqiao nodded despondently, his former confidence gone!

...

Meanwhile, unaware of Chen Qiuqiao's visit to Tianlan Peak, Mu Jinyu continued his alchemy.

He spent a day refining all the pill formulas Elder Cheng gave.

Of course, he only refined them once, producing three or four forming elixirs each time, with three or four danwen each.

If he refined them again, the outcomes would undoubtedly be better.

But Mu Jinyu didn't want to attract trouble. It made sense to say that low grade elixirs are easier to refine with familiar formulas.

However, if he effortlessly produced fine elixirs of higher grades, it would be suspicious.

So, even though he trusted Elder Cheng, he didn't show his full capabilities.

Elder Cheng, through their interaction, gained significant insights.

Previously, he could frequently produce elixirs with one danwen, and with luck or a good state, get two danwen.

Now, he could steadily produce elixirs with two danwen and occasionally even three.

It felt like a dream.

He couldn't believe he achieved such a forming elixir rate!

"Alright, teacher, I think that's enough alchemy for today. I'll head to the second layer of the Scripture Pavilion..."

Mu Jinyu saw Elder Cheng's ecstatic look and suggested.

"Ah? Oh, sure, go ahead. I'll keep pondering..."

Elder Cheng, though surprised, showed no disappointment and let Mu Jinyu leave.

Despite just a day's time, Mu Jinyu had taught him so much he still hadn't fully absorbed.

If Mu Jinyu stayed longer, it wouldn't make much difference.

He planned to ponder alone and see what he could achieve without Mu Jinyu's guidance.

Seeing no displeasure, Mu Jinyu relaxed, bid farewell, and left.

Leaving Elder Cheng's cave residence, Mu Jinyu didn't return to the Tianlan Peak Summit but headed to the Scripture Pavilion.

The reward for first place in the Outer Gate exam shouldn't be wasted.

Moreover, as the 45th on the List of Outstanding Talents, Mu Jinyu realized his shortcomings in movement technique compared to Huang Daochen.

He needed to find a suitable movement technique!

Chapter 815 - 815 "Walk in 10 Steps"!

Returning once again to the Scripture Pavilion.

Mu Jinyu still greeted the Guardian Elder before entering the interior of the Scripture Pavilion.

After Mu Jinyu entered, the Guardian Elder opened his eyes, and a trace of sharp light flashed through his murky old eyes.

"Not bad, he's already advanced to the Inner Gate. Judging by the slight changes in his True Yuan, it seems that 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi' has been cultivated to the point of initial insight."

The Guardian Elder praised to himself, "If the Heavenly Sword Faction could continue to produce such talented geniuses with excellent root bones and astonishing comprehension, how could our faction not flourish, how could we not rise beyond this small land of the Yan Kingdom?"

What he didn't know was that Mu Jinyu had not merely cultivated the 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi' to the initial insight level but had reached masterful skill!

If he knew, he probably wouldn't be sighing like this but would say that with Mu Jinyu, the Heavenly Sword Faction could flourish for a hundred years with just one person!

Mu Jinyu was unaware of the Guardian Elder's evaluation of him. Relying on his Inner Gate disciple's attire, he directly walked up to the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion.

Although it had only been a short half month since he came to the Scripture Pavilion to choose 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi,' far from reaching the time to reselect a secret manual once a month.

But don't forget, Mu Jinyu was no longer an Outer Gate disciple; he was now an Inner Gate disciple. So he could not only rely on the reward for winning first place in the Outer Gate grand competition to freely choose a manual from the second floor but also use his Inner Gate disciple qualification to select another one.

So he could choose a total of two manuals.

Soon, Mu Jinyu came to the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion and, after asking around, found the section for Qinggong and body technique manuals.

"'Inch Step,' Top Yellow Grade movement technique, within a square inch, no one can approach; within the same inch, no one can escape the kill..."

"'Secret of the Phantom Gale Wind,' Lower Profound Rank movement technique, upon execution, instantaneously covers a hundred meters, countless afterimages, like wind and lightning, when cultivated to transcendence, each afterimage can become a clone..."

"'Heavenly Dragon Step,' Lower Profound Rank movement technique..."

"'Eight Steps Chasing Cicadas,' Top Yellow Grade movement technique..."

This was Mu Jinyu's first time encountering body technique manuals, and for a moment, he felt a bit dazzled, with each one seeming excellent, each one he wanted to learn, not knowing which to choose.

After a good while, Mu Jinyu finally looked through all the body technique manuals, calmed himself slightly, and ensured he wouldn't lose himself.

He began to analyze the pros and cons of these body technique manuals. Some were suitable for long-distance travel and consumed little True Yuan, like 'Heavenly Dragon Step' and 'Secret of the Phantom Gale Wind,' but were not as useful in close combat as 'Eight Steps Chasing Cicadas' and 'Inch Step!'

'Eight Steps Chasing Cicadas' and 'Inch Step' were explosive body techniques, once executed, the leap to kill made it hard for the opponent to react, catching them off guard.

However, they consumed a great deal of True Yuan. Over long distances, after running for some time, their True Yuan would be exhausted, making them have to stop to recover True Yuan.

If they were being chased, this point would be crucial!

"My advantage is that I do not lack for True Yuan..."

Mu Jinyu analyzed the differences among these body techniques and found there wasn't one that was perfectly balanced. He then began to analyze his strengths.

He remembered the mystical little tree rooted in his mind, which made his True Yuan consumption negligible, and his consumption could barely keep up with the replenishment.

If that was the case, there was no need to choose 'Heavenly Dragon Step' or 'Secret of the Phantom Gale Wind' just for the sake of long-distance travel or to avoid being chased.

He could long execute 'Inch Step' and 'Eight Steps Chasing Cicadas.' Wouldn't the speed be faster than 'Heavenly Dragon Step' and 'Secret of the Phantom Gale Wind'?

Since he had a stronger advantage than others, why not choose the immediate benefit?

Mu Jinyu made a decision and then picked up a manual.

'Ten Steps Move,' Top Profound Rank movement technique, similar in nature to 'Inch Step,' it's a type that rises to kill within a square inch, invincible. It can be considered an advanced version of 'Inch Step,' not limited to close-range killing, but also effective for long-distance kills.

The downside was its massive consumption of True Yuan!

A cultivator at the Mid-Stage of Divinity Transformation Realm would exhaust their True Yuan after running four or five miles. An Advanced Divine Realm cultivator would run about ten miles before their True Yuan was depleted.

"Others' weakness is not my weakness. With the mystical little tree, I can master this technique and achieve the ability to kill with every ten steps, traveling thousands of miles without stopping..."

Mu Jinyu whispered to himself, picked 'Ten Steps Move,' and then continued to wander the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion.

He could choose another manual yet had not decided which type.

If it were someone like Wu Lei or Li Xiaoxiao among the Outer Gate disciples, upon entering the Inner Gate, they would not have such dilemmas. They would immediately rush to pick cultivation technique manuals instead of body technique or technique manuals!

Because the strength of a cultivation technique determines the strength of a cultivator's True Yuan, its recovery speed, refining speed, etc.

Outer Gate disciples could cultivate with cultivation techniques on the first floor, mostly yellow-grade techniques. Upon entering the Inner Gate, they could go to the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion. Who would continue to cultivate yellow-grade techniques without urgently switching to profound-grade techniques?

But this iron rule did not apply to Mu Jinyu.

Cultivating one of the Five Emperors Techniques, 'Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art,' Mu Jinyu didn't know what rank these techniques were, but he was sure it was a Heaven Rank technique. Did he still need to switch to another cultivation technique?

Therefore, he didn't need to switch cultivation techniques at the moment. Regarding technique and supernatural powers, even though he hadn't mastered 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi,' there was no need to rush to learn more. Excessive learning could lead to poor digestion.

Then... what should he choose?

Mu Jinyu wandered around and eventually stopped beside a particular bookshelf.

"This is..."

Mu Jinyu looked at the signs on this bookshelf, understanding that these manuals were different from cultivation, body technique, technique, or divine skills manuals.

They were about energy exertion methods and body tempering techniques!

Mu Jinyu immediately thought of Martial Artists in the mortal world, with some cultivating internal martial arts and others cultivating external martial arts, like 'Golden Bell Cover' and 'Iron Cloth.'

"Hmm, this is good. I've always had skinny arms and legs, looking weak. I should cultivate some external martial arts to look more manly."

Mu Jinyu stared for a few moments, his eyes brightened, and he quickly walked to the bookshelf, beginning to search for suitable body tempering manuals!

'Great Strength Bull Demon Fist,' Mid-Profound Rank Body Refining Technique, using the blood of the Bull Demon to temper the body daily. Upon mastery, it increases punching power by 3,650 jin!

'Vajra Subduing Demon Palm,' Superior Profound Rank Body Refining Technique, upon mastery, gives bronze skin and iron bones, and the power to carry mountains...

'Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique,' Top-Profound Rank Body Refining Technique, upon mastery, bestows the power of a dragon and an elephant, feared by even the supernatural!

Chapter 816: Can You Compare with Him?

Mu Jinyu carefully selected and finally chose the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique."

Although the description of the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" is somewhat vague, its status as a top-quality grade body refining technique is enough to make one excited.

"It's about time to go back." THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY NOvelFire.net

As he spoke, Mu Jinyu's heart suddenly stirred, and he took out the manual for "Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi" that was in his storage bag.

"Although I can still keep this manual for half a month, I've already mastered it, so there's no point in keeping it. I should return it sooner rather than later."

After saying that, Mu Jinyu took the three manuals and walked down from the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion to find the Guardian Elder to register.

There were a few inner sect disciples on the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion, selecting secret manuals.

When they saw Mu Jinyu holding three manuals and walking downstairs, they were stunned.

One of them laughed, "This guy is quite interesting, actually picking three manuals at once!"

"Indeed interesting, let's go see if the Guardian Elder will kick him out!"

Both of them liked to watch the excitement and had time to slowly select manuals. Seeing Mu Jinyu take so many manuals, they knew there would be something entertaining to watch, so they hurriedly followed him downstairs!

Mu Jinyu didn't know that his action of picking two manuals and preparing to return one was seen as a foolish move by others.

He quickly reached the entrance of the Scripture Pavilion and said to the Guardian Elder, "Elder, I have finished selecting."

The Guardian Elder saw Mu Jinyu holding three manuals and was stunned. Then he said helplessly, "Did you take too many? Or are you unsure which manual is most suitable and want me to give you some references?"

If it were anyone else doing this, the Guardian Elder would have scolded them angrily.

But because Mu Jinyu was one of his favored disciples, he restrained himself and spoke kindly to Mu Jinyu.

"No, I selected two manuals, and the other one was chosen when I was an Outer Sect Disciple, so I'm here to return it," Mu Jinyu said, shaking his head. After explaining, he handed the token from winning first place in the Outer Gate exams to the Guardian Elder.

"Elder, since I have been promoted to Inner Sect Disciple, the chance to select manuals from the Scripture Pavilion once a month has been reset. This token is my reward for winning first place in the Outer Gate exams, allowing me to select a manual from the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion, so I can choose two in total."

Mu Jinyu was afraid the Guardian Elder wouldn't understand why he could select two manuals, so he explained again.

Upon hearing this, the Guardian Elder took Mu Jinyu's token and used his divine sense to inspect it, confirming that Mu Jinyu hadn't lied.

Then he took the three manuals Mu Jinyu handed over for inspection and found that they were indeed two manuals from the second floor of the Scripture Pavilion and one manual of "Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi" borrowed not long ago by Mu Jinyu.

"Yes, I was mistaken."

The Guardian Elder's old face reddened slightly, then he couldn't help but ask, "Although you have trained the 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi' to the level of an initial insight into the path, it hasn't been a month. You can keep it for a while longer and don't have to return it so quickly."

"It's okay." Mu Jinyu shook his head, "I have already reached the masterful skill level, and the remaining stages can't be understood just by studying the manual. Keeping it isn't meaningful, so I'll return it directly to avoid forgetting and being punished."

"What? You've reached the masterful skill level?"

The Guardian Elder was shocked upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words. Then, his cloudy eyes brightened with excitement, and he repeatedly said, "Show me your skills."

"Okay." Mu Jinyu was not someone who liked to show off, but considering the Guardian Elder was important, he couldn't be casual. He flicked his finger and transformed a wisp of Heavenly Wood Sword Qi into various shapes.

"Good! Good! Good! It is truly masterful Heavenly Wood Sword Qi!"

The Guardian Elder was moved to tears, wildly exclaiming in his heart, 'With this child here, the Heavenly Sword Faction finally has hope. Heaven indeed blesses our Heavenly Sword Faction!'

Mu Jinyu was startled by the Guardian Elder's excitement, thinking, "Is it necessary to be this excited?"

"Guardian Elder, can I leave now, or should I first return the manual?" Mu Jinyu asked cautiously.

The Guardian Elder said, "It's okay, you can leave. I will return the manual later."

"Alright, thank you, Guardian Elder."

After speaking, Mu Jinyu left with the "Ten Steps Move" and the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" manuals.

The two inner sect disciples who had been secretly watching from the Scripture Pavilion's first floor lobby were stunned when they saw Mu Jinyu leaving with two manuals.

"What happened? The Guardian Elder has such a bad temper, why didn't he scold him and even let him leave with two manuals?"

"Uh, I just remembered, isn't today the Outer Gate exams? The first place winner of the Outer Gate exams can select one more manual from the first floor of the Scripture Pavilion, so he must be this year's first place winner."

"I see." Upon hearing the explanation, the other disciple understood.

Then they looked at each other excitedly, "It seems the Guardian Elder is in a good mood today, so he didn't scold that guy. How about we take this chance to grab a few more manuals we are unsure about and ask the Guardian Elder for advice?"

They understood why Mu Jinyu could take two manuals, but they didn't know Mu Jinyu was returning one manual rather than asking for guidance.

So, they excitedly rushed to the second floor and took several manuals they were unsure about, then ran to the Guardian Elder.

"Elder, please help us choose, which of these movement techniques is more suitable for me. The cultivation technique I practice is..."

"Elder, please look at what I should choose. My cultivation level is at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. The last cultivation technique I selected doesn't seem suitable, but I want to learn a divine skill..."

The Guardian Elder, still moved by Mu Jinyu's potential benefit for the Heavenly Sword Faction, was annoyed by the constant buzzing of the two disciples.

His good mood instantly vanished, and he scolded, "Get out! I don't have time to advise each of you. If you keep bothering me, I'll cancel your selection privilege for this month!"

"Ah?!"

The two disciples were stunned, unable to believe the Guardian Elder's sudden change in mood.

One of them pointed in the direction Mu Jinyu had left and stammered, "But he just, why could he...?"

The Guardian Elder knew they were referring to Mu Jinyu, glanced at them disdainfully, and couldn't be bothered to explain. "Do you think you can compare with him?"

"If you can train a divine skill to a masterful level within ten days, I'll advise you anytime, but can you?"

"What? How's that possible?!"

They were dumbfounded, unable to imagine such a genius who could master a divine skill to a masterful level in just ten days.

"Get back and choose your manuals slowly!" The Guardian Elder snorted coldly.

They immediately scrambled away with their manuals.

Chapter 817: Heavenly Sword Pool!

Mu Jinyu didn't realize that after he left the Scripture Pavilion, there were still people who misunderstood his previous actions and followed suit, only to be thoroughly scolded by the Guardian Elder.

After leaving the Scripture Pavilion, he returned to his residence at the summit of Tianlan Peak.

Walking through the plaza, Mu Jinyu occasionally saw fellow inner sect disciples from the Heroes Rank pointing at him and whispering:

"That's him, yesterday he just entered the inner sect and defeated Huang Daotian, what a fierce force."

"So powerful, I remember Senior Brother Yunge didn't have such prowess when he joined the inner sect, did he?"

"Yeah, only at the fourth layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm, yet he can defeat Huang Daotian at the seventh layer, I can't believe it! No wonder the Sect Leader wants to take him as a disciple!"

"If he reaches the seventh layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm, even Senior Brother Yunge might not be his match!"

"True, in a few years, the top young disciple of the Heaven Sword Sect won't be Senior Brother Yunge but him!"

"..."

Listening to these whispers, Mu Jinyu didn't care about their comments on him but was more intrigued by this Senior Brother Yunge.

Yunge, the top young disciple of the Heaven Sword Sect, with a cultivation at the ninth layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm, first on the inner sect Heroes Rank, and third on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking!

His ranking on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking was from a few years back when he was still at the eighth layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm. Now, being at the ninth layer, many believe he has the potential to vie for the top position!

Of course, the top individuals from the other four sects aren't pushovers, and it's uncertain if Yunge would smoothly claim the top spot.

Nevertheless, he is a highly talented and gifted prodigy.

One who has earned the admiration of everyone at the Heaven Sword Sect.

Today's comparison between him and Mu Jinyu shows how much they fear and are astonished by Mu Jinyu's feat of defeating Huang Daotian and leaping to the forty-fifth spot on the Heroes Rank yesterday.

"Yunge, I look forward to our battle soon."

As Mu Jinyu walked towards his courtyard, he whispered to himself.

He knew that choosing to participate in the Hidden Dragon Tournament would inevitably require him to defeat countless opponents along the way.

The current top disciple of the Heaven Sword Sect is far from comparable to the many geniuses in the Hidden Dragon Tournament, so he can only be a small goal while the endpoint is far more distant!

Soon, Mu Jinyu returned to his courtyard.

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan heard the commotion and came out.

"Little Mu, Chen Qiuqiao came looking for us just now," Wen Rou said.

"Hmm? What did he want with us?" Mu Jinyu asked in surprise.

Wen Rou explained, "No, he wasn't looking for us but for the former owner of the room, Huang Daotian. He didn't expect us to open the door."

"Oh, seeking backing? Ignore him," Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly, not caring about Chen Qiuqiao's small interruption.

Chen Qiuqiao was never in Mu Jinyu's eyes; since Mu Jinyu entered the inner sect, Chen Qiuqiao would no longer have the chance to compete with him.

Mu Jinyu's goals in the Hidden Dragon Tournament would keep moving further away, while Chen Qiuqiao would be left far behind.

Jian Ruyan suddenly asked, "What was your gain after going to refine elixirs yesterday?"

"Hmm, not bad. I acquired quite a few pill formulas and have learned them. I plan to refine for a few days and then go for closed-door training at the Heaven Cave Blessed Land of the Heaven Sword Sect," Mu Jinyu said.

Continuing, Mu Jinyu reminded, "By the way, now that you're inner sect disciples too, you can go to the Scripture Pavilion to choose a secret manual for cultivation. You can go later if you have time."

"Okay," Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou nodded.

After chatting with them for a few more moments, Mu Jinyu returned to his room to prepare for alchemy.

Elder Cheng had given him plenty of spiritual medicine, and his life source energy could accelerate the growth of plants, so as long as there were seeds, Mu Jinyu wouldn't lack medicinal herbs.

For three consecutive days, Mu Jinyu was immersed in alchemy.

On the third day, when he finally came out of his room, the number of elixirs in his storage bag was enough to make the Heaven Sword Sect and even the Four Sects of Yan Kingdom feel overwhelmed.

The four great sects' ten-year consumption of elixirs wouldn't match the amount he had refined in three days.

After coming out, Mu Jinyu found Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan and gave them each a thousand elixirs suitable for their current realm.

"Here, take these."

Mu Jinyu handed them two storage bags, reminding them, "Be cautious not to let anyone discover these elixirs."

These elixirs, each with six paths elixir patterns, were second-grade fine elixirs. Once leaked, they would cause an even bigger sensation than the elixirs he unintentionally leaked a while ago.

"Okay, we understand," Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou took the storage bags and nodded, promising not to consume the elixirs in front of anyone.

Mu Jinyu said, "Alright, I'm now going to the Heaven Cave Blessed Land of the Heaven Sword Sect for three days of closed-door training. Sadly, I can't take you along, but with these elixirs, you should be able to progress as well. Hopefully, when I return, you've reached the fifth layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm!"

Although Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan's soul and body mismatch had slowed their cultivation, with enough elixirs, they could still advance rapidly!

"We'll do our best to keep up with you!" Jian Ruyan, gripping the storage bag tightly, flashed a determined look.

Her unusual acceptance of Mu Jinyu's gift without resistance indicated a sense of pressure, driving her to elevate her strength quickly.

...

After bidding them farewell, Mu Jinyu headed to the summit of the main peak of the Heaven Sword Sect.

The Heaven Cave Blessed Land, the Heavenly Sword Pool, was situated here.

However, several Supreme Elders guarded this place, making it nearly impossible for anyone to enter easily.

Mu Jinyu arrived at the summit and presented the token allowing three days of cultivation in the Heavenly Sword Pool to the two Supreme Elders guarding the gate.

"Hmm, the limit is three days. You may enter."

The two elders took the token, gave Mu Jinyu a cold glance, and said flatly.

These Supreme Elders guarding the Heavenly Sword Pool knew Mu Jinyu had permission to enter for three days of cultivation.

They had expected that Mu Jinyu would rush to start cultivation on the first day he got the token.

To their surprise, it took four days for Mu Jinyu to finally come.

When did the Heavenly Sword Pool lose its appeal?

Mu Jinyu's indifferent attitude slightly irritated them, leading to their cold demeanor towards him.

"Thank you, elders."

Mu Jinyu didn't care whether the elders were warm or cold. After expressing his gratitude, he stepped into the garden where the Heavenly Sword Pool was located.

Upon entering the garden, Mu Jinyu immediately felt an exceptionally rich spiritual energy.

It's richness was two to three times stronger than Yinlong Mountain. Indeed, it deserved to be the Heaven Cave Blessed Land of the Heaven Sword Sect, with few granted access for cultivation.

"Swish, swish, swish..."

Fine raindrops continued falling from the sky. Bathing in it, Mu Jinyu felt comfortable all over, and his true yuan flow accelerated noticeably.

This rain wasn't ordinary but formed due to the dense spiritual energy, known as spiritual rain!

Chapter 818 - 818 Cultivation Madness!

Bathed in spiritual rain, Mu Jinyu walked slowly to the pond at the center of the garden.

This pond was the Heavenly Sword Pool.

The pond contained an extremely dense and powerful Heavenly and Earthly Spiritual Power, so thick that it almost transformed into a viscous spiritual paste...

It looked a bit like jelly, bouncy and elastic.

But don't let its appearance fool you into thinking this jelly-like spiritual paste can be easily absorbed and refined.

It had been said before that the Heavenly Sword Mountain was transformed from an Immortal Sword, so the mountains here were infused with a certain Sword Intent.

Even the best cultivation spot in the Heavenly Sword Faction was imbued with strands of Sword Qi within it.

Cultivators entering the Heavenly Sword Pool for cultivation must endure the excruciating pain of having Sword Qi slicing through their bodies.

It was impossible to stay submerged in cultivation for long, as one would need to jump out of the pool periodically to refine the accumulated Sword Qi in their bodies before continuing.

Of course, the torment of Sword Qi was not without benefits.

If one was exceptionally talented, they could not only temper their bodies with the Sword Qi but also comprehend the Sword Intent from it!

Mu Jinyu chose the second secret manual, "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," for this very reason!

Mu Jinyu glanced at the Heavenly Sword Pool and, without further delay, jumped straight into the viscous spiritual liquid!

Then he struggled to sit down in the pool, crossed his legs, and began to operate the "Green Emperor's Wood Sovereignty Technique" to absorb the immense spiritual power in the pool!

"Hiss!!"

As threads of dense Sword Qi, along with the spiritual liquid, poured into his body, Mu Jinyu felt the slicing pain of a thousand cuts.

But he endured the pain and used the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" to guide the Sword Qi to temper his body!

"Sizzle!!"

"Pfft!"

In an instant, Mu Jinyu's skin split open, blood all over his body, causing him to stifle a groan.

He then gritted his teeth and pushed through.

He continued to multitask, using the "Green Emperor's Wood Sovereignty Technique" to devour the immense spiritual power, converting it into True Yuan to improve his cultivation, while also using the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" to guide the Sword Qi to temper his body!

The Heavenly Sword Pool, the greatest Heaven Cave Blessed land in the Heavenly Sword Faction, had already helped Mu Jinyu break through the bottleneck of the Seventh Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm to the Late Divine Transformation Realm after just ten minutes of cultivation!

Though the Sixth and Seventh Layers of the Divine Transformation Realm were only a minor realm apart, there was a vast difference between the Mid and the Late stages in terms of power, unimaginable for someone at the Sixth Layer.

"Great, in just about ten minutes, I've broken through to the later stage of the Divine Transformation Realm. I still have three days; if luck holds, reaching the Eighth Layer isn't a problem!"

Feeling the breakthrough in his strength, Mu Jinyu joyfully muttered to himself.

"However, the Sword Qi tempering really hurts!"

Mu Jinyu operated the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" to guide the Sword Qi to temper his body, the gut-wrenching pain contorting his face.

"The Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique is the best technique available to Inner Sect Disciples; it shouldn't be this simple..."

"Prison Suppression, Prison Suppression... What does it take to truly suppress the prison?!"

As Mu Jinyu struggled with the pain, almost wanting to jump out of the Heavenly Sword Pool for relief, a mirage suddenly appeared in his mind.

With a dragon coiled on his left arm, an elephant supported by his right hand, his body covered in injuries, bleeding profusely, as if he had endured countless cuts.

Yet, there was no trace of pain in his blurred face; his expression was calm and serene, as if no suffering could overwhelm him!

He could subdue both dragon and elephant, so how could mere physical pain fail to be subdued or suppressed?!

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu felt as if a bolt of lightning had struck his heart, dispelling all his suffering and confusion.

"Eliminate all suffering!"

Mu Jinyu softly murmured.

As these words were spoken, Mu Jinyu no longer felt the excruciating pain of Sword Qi tempering his body, and his contorted face gradually relaxed.

He appeared serene and harmonious.

Mu Jinyu had succeeded.

He had successfully cultivated the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique" to the stage of initial insight.

From then on, he no longer needed to endure the pain while cultivating in the Heavenly Sword Pool, nor did he need to jump out periodically to refine Sword Qi as others did.

"Huff, huff, huff!"

No longer feeling pain, Mu Jinyu began to feel dissatisfied with the spiritual power of the Heavenly Sword Pool, finding the Sword Qi tempering too slow. He summoned his storage bag, from which dozens of Second-Grade Elixirs with Six Paths Elixir Patterns flew into his mouth!

Mu Jinyu quickly swallowed them, and the spiritual power once again surged wildly within him, almost overwhelming his body!

But he didn't care about this pain at all and continued to cultivate calmly.

His True Yuan kept skyrocketing, and his originally not-so-strong body grew increasingly robust with the integration of Sword Qi tempering and spiritual power.

The three days passed in such cultivation in the blink of an eye.

When it was time, Mu Jinyu, still immersed in cultivation, was gently forced out of the garden by a soft power.

"Time's up?"

Mu Jinyu quickly noticed that he couldn't absorb such a vast amount of spiritual power anymore; he opened his eyes and said somewhat confusedly.

"Yes, three days are up, you may leave now."

The two Supreme Elders guarding the Heavenly Sword Pool looked at Mu Jinyu in astonishment as he was sent out and spoke.

"Alright, thank you both, elders."

Mu Jinyu snapped back to reality, thanked the two Supreme Elders, and began to check his condition.

Indeed, his cultivation had reached the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, though he was still some distance from the Ninth Layer—not too regretful that being driven out of the Heavenly Sword Pool might have almost led him to the Ninth Layer.

Then, Mu Jinyu saw that his physique had become much stronger than three days ago.

Though not overly muscular, it appeared balanced and perfect, with terrifying power hidden beneath his muscles!

From the occasional glimmer of white fluorescence in his healing flesh, one could glimpse that strength.

Soon, the wounds on Mu Jinyu's skin, caused by the Sword Qi tempering, healed, hiding the white light within his flesh.

After finishing his inspection, Mu Jinyu bade the two Supreme Elders farewell once more and started heading home.

The two Supreme Elders watched Mu Jinyu leave, then were shocked to exclaim, "Such terrifying potential, to advance from the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm to the Eighth Layer in just three days of training in the Heavenly Sword Pool!"

"And it seems he also successfully cultivated the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique!"

"Incredible, absolutely incredible!"

Mu Jinyu had always hidden his strength, suppressing his cultivation from the Sixth Layer to the Fourth Layer, but this time, having left seclusion, he naturally did not use the Concealment Art, so the two Supreme Elders could clearly see his cultivation at the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!

They were filled with amazement!

After their admiration, they suddenly sensed something was amiss.

No one else was cultivating in the garden where the Heavenly Sword Pool was, so why was the spiritual power still so low?

So, they looked at each other and said, "Let's go check how much spiritual paste he consumed from the pool..."

The two quickly entered the garden, and soon, there were wails and cries of anguish...

Chapter 819: Practice Field!

The two Supreme Elders looked at the nearly depleted Spiritual Paste in the Heavenly Sword Pool and let out a wail like pigs being led to slaughter.

"That damn brat actually absorbed so much of the Spiritual Paste from the Heavenly Sword Pool!"

"It's over. The Heavenly Sword Pool will take at least a year or two to recover to its original state. But the Four Sects Martial Meeting is near; Yun Ge won't be able to come here for seclusion anymore!"

"This won't do. We need to report to the Sect Leader!"

Deeply pained, they hurriedly abandoned the nearly emptied Heavenly Sword Pool and rushed towards the Sect Leader's residence after opening the restrictions.

Soon, they found the Sect Leader and informed him of the Heavenly Sword Pool disaster.

Upon hearing their report, the Sect Leader's face lit up with joy, showing no signs of annoyance or despair.

"Sect Leader, why are you..."

Seeing the Sect Leader's reaction, the two looked puzzled.

The Sect Leader suppressed his smile and softly said, "You two must be thinking that with the Four Sects Martial Meeting approaching, Yun Ge should have another seclusion in the Heavenly Sword Pool to secure the first place, right?"

"Isn't that so?"

"With the Spiritual Paste in the Heavenly Sword Pool gone, Yun Ge can't further improve his strength. This might affect our results in the Four Sects Martial Meeting!"

The two Supreme Elders said with worried expressions.

The Sect Leader chuckled, "You don't need to worry about that. Yun Ge is already at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. Even if he continued secluded cultivation in the Heavenly Sword Pool, he couldn't break through to the Fanxu Realm. So, whether he goes in again or not makes no difference."

Hearing this, the two Supreme Elders were stunned but gradually understood, their furrowed brows easing up.

The Sect Leader continued, "Instead, we should look at Mu Jinyu. He was originally only at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. Although he could leap levels and defeat Huang Daotian, who was at the Seventh Layer, his cultivation would have made it difficult to achieve anything significant in the Four Sects Martial Meeting. But now, he has broken through to the Eighth Layer, significantly changing the situation!"

"It's likely that an ordinary Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm wouldn't be his opponent!"

"With both him and Yun Ge representing our Heavenly Sword Faction, this year's Four Sects Martial Meeting will undoubtedly be our stage!"

The Sect Leader laughed heartily.

It was as if he could already see the Heavenly Sword Faction securing the first place in the Four Sects Martial Meeting and being allocated the most resources in Yan Kingdom for the next ten years.

The two Supreme Elders, however, were left in a daze.

"Sect Leader, did you just say that he defeated Huang Daotian at the Seventh Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm while he was only at the Fourth Layer?"

"Did I hear that right?"

As Supreme Elders and custodians of the Heavenly Sword Pool, they rarely had visitors and knew about Mu Jinyu only because someone notified them when he obtained the token for three days of training in the Heavenly Sword Pool. Otherwise, they wouldn't even have heard of him!

Moreover, they hadn't heard about Mu Jinyu entering the Inner Gate and quickly climbing to the forty-fifth position on the List of Outstanding Talents.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have been so alarmed at seeing Mu Jinyu's cultivation rise to the Eighth Layer and depleting the Heavenly Sword Pool's Spiritual Paste.

"Yes..." The Sect Leader, hearing their questions, smiled and recounted Mu Jinyu's achievements in the Inner Gate.

After understanding, the worried expressions on the two elders completely disappeared, and they laughed heartily, "Excellent, excellent, truly heaven-blessed for our Heavenly Sword Faction. With such a prodigy joining us, we need not worry about the Four Sects Martial Meeting or even the Hidden Dragon Conference!"

They no longer cared that Mu Jinyu had depleted the Spiritual Paste of the Heavenly Sword Pool. Instead, they wished for another Heavenly Sword Pool for Mu Jinyu to train and breakthrough to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm in one go!

...

Mu Jinyu had no idea that after he left, the two Supreme Elders went to the Sect Leader to complain.

Nor did he know that in just three days of training, he had emptied the Heavenly Sword Pool.

As he walked towards the Tianlan Peak summit, he checked the elixirs in his storage bag.

He wanted to see how many elixirs he had consumed during his cultivation.

But upon checking, he was stunned.

He found that out of more than five thousand second-grade elixirs in his storage bag, only a little over a hundred were left!

"I consumed so many elixirs just to break through to the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm? This is ridiculous!"

Mu Jinyu couldn't accept such consumption and murmured in confusion.

During his three days of continuous elixir refinement without rest, he had only made over seven thousand second-grade elixirs.

He had given Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou a thousand each and kept the remaining five thousand-plus for himself, thinking they'd last him a long time. But after three days, they were nearly gone.

"It doesn't make sense. With so many elixirs and training in the Heavenly Sword Pool, I should have broken through to a higher level than the Eighth Layer. Something must be off."

Mu Jinyu looked down at his arm. The muscle lines were incredibly smooth and elegant, exuding a captivating strength and beauty. His skin, white as snow with visible capillaries, bore a faint glow.

"Could it be that the 'Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique' used most of the elixir's spiritual power to refine my body?"

Mu Jinyu guessed, suspecting this to be the case.

Shaking his head slightly, Mu Jinyu decided to examine his physical body's strength later.

Soon, he reached his residence at the summit of Tianlan Peak, intending to inform Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan of his return, only to find that they, too, were in seclusion after receiving the elixirs.

"Never mind, since they're also cultivating, I won't disturb them. I'll head to the practice field to test my body's strength."

Mu Jinyu wasn't disappointed. After all, he couldn't get intimate with Wen Rou anyway.

Soon, Mu Jinyu left his residence and headed to the practice field!

The practice field, as the name suggests, is where cultivators come to test newly mastered martial techniques, spells, and divine skills without wrecking their homes.

The field is equipped with specialized tools for testing effects!

Mu Jinyu arrived at the practice field and saw many people demonstrating their techniques and divine skills, testing their effects.

When they noticed Mu Jinyu, they paused their actions to watch him.

One of them, a burly man with knotted muscles as strong as an ox, noticed Mu Jinyu's cultivation reaching the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm and showed a hint of astonishment!

"Unbelievable! He was just at the Fourth Layer a few days ago, and now he's at the Eighth? What kind of elixirs did he take to advance so rapidly?"

"Could he have been hiding his true strength all along? That's how he managed to knock out Huang Daotian with one strike?"

"I don't think so. If he had been concealing his cultivation, we wouldn't have missed it, and neither would the Sect Leader. Word has it that the first-place reward in the Outer Gate's recent examination was three days of training in the Heavenly Sword Pool. Maybe those three days did the trick."

"That's impossible!"

"They say he came from a small place with poor cultivation conditions. His first exposure to a Heaven Cave like the Heavenly Sword Pool might indeed have had a significant impact!"

Listening to the whispered discussions, the burly man realized Mu Jinyu's rapid rise couldn't be stopped. It wouldn't be long before he matched Yun Ge's fame or even surpassed him!

So, he thought it might be best to challenge Mu Jinyu now while he's still on the rise. That way, even if Mu Jinyu surpassed him later, he could boast about having once defeated him.

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Thinking this, the burly man felt a rush of excitement in his heart and took the initiative to walk towards Mu Jinyu.

The crowd saw the burly man proactively walking towards Mu Jinyu, and they couldn't help but exclaim:

"Look, Huang Kun is walking towards him."

"Does he find that guy too arrogant and want to teach him a lesson?"

"It's possible. I heard Huang Kun is related to the Huang family brothers!"

"Hehe, this will be interesting. Who do you think is stronger, Huang Kun or Mu Jinyu?"

"Huang Kun is ranked thirteenth on the List of Outstanding Talents. Mu Jinyu is a rising star, though he recently defeated Huang Daotian. But he should not be a match for Huang Kun!"

"You're wrong. When Mu Jinyu defeated Huang Kun recently, he was only at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. Now he's at the Eighth Layer, equal to Huang Kun. I think Huang Kun may not be his opponent!"

"That's uncertain too. Mu Jinyu is newly advanced to the Eighth Layer, his cultivation is not yet stable, while Huang Kun has been at the Eighth Layer for a long time and is close to the Ninth Layer!"

"Besides, Huang Kun has also cultivated the Body Refining Technique. He can throw mountains with his strength and kill elephants with a finger. In a real fight, nothing is certain!"

"..."

Amidst the crowd's chattering, Huang Kun walked up to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu was thinking about testing his strength when he saw Huang Kun coming towards him. He heard the crowd's discussions, his eyes flickered, he stopped and looked at Huang Tian, saying, "What, are you here to avenge your relatives?"

Huang Kun was shocked. He had no intention of avenging the Huang family brothers and quickly shook his head, "No, no, I have no relation with them. I just see you also seem to have cultivated the Body Refining Technique and wanted to spar with you."

"Spar, huh?" Mu Jinyu noted Huang Kun's sincere tone. It didn't seem like he was lying. Seeing his muscles knotting and faint evil qi, Mu Jinyu assumed he too practiced the Body Refining Technique. Feeling itchy in his hands, he nodded, "Alright, let's do it!"

"Thank you, Junior Brother Mu, for the opportunity!"

Huang Kun smiled heartily, though his brutish face made it seem more menacing.

He noticed that Mu Jinyu indeed practiced the Body Refining Technique, but he knew Mu Jinyu had just started, so he didn't take him seriously at all.

He planned to use his advantage to let Mu Jinyu suffer a small loss. Even if he was no longer a match for Mu Jinyu in the future, he would have a story to tell.

"Junior Brother Mu, be careful. Senior Brother here has cultivated the 'Tiger Demon Sky-breaking Fist.' My single arm has a strength of fifty-eight hundred pounds, can easily throw mountains. Be careful!"

Huang Kun threw a punch towards Mu Jinyu's face while speaking as a reminder.

It seemed well-intentioned, not a deliberate attack, but in a rush, anyone would have trouble blocking it.

Huang Kun was confident that Mu Jinyu would either end up with his face disfigured or have his arms broken trying to block it...

In short, he would definitely become a stumbling block on Mu Jinyu's path, making a memorable story!

Mu Jinyu quietly watched Huang Kun's fist coming at him. To others, it seemed like he was scared stiff.

Just when Huang Kun thought that Mu Jinyu was really scared stiff, showing a trace of pride on his face...

Mu Jinyu suddenly raised his hand and caught Huang Kun's fist!

Everything calmed down.

Mu Jinyu's arm didn't break, there was no blood spurt, he didn't stagger back, breaking several green bricks...

It was as if Huang Kun's punch had no power at all, weak like a woman's scratch.

"Huh, what's Huang Kun doing? Testing him?"

"It must be. He just reminded Mu Jinyu to prepare for the next move."

The crowd speculated, thinking they were right. How could they know, at that moment, Huang Kun's heart was filled with shock and fury, even a bit of fear.

This punch wasn't a test; it was his full strength. Even if a mountain were in front of him, it would be blasted through by this punch.

But such a fearsome punch was caught by Mu Jinyu's hand, the fifty-eight hundred pounds of force vanished like a mud ox into the sea.

Huang Kun instantly realized the unfathomable depth of Mu Jinyu's strength and felt fear rising, regretting that he had come over to use Mu Jinyu to boost his own reputation.

"Mu... Junior Brother Mu, let go. I admit defeat..."

Huang Kun used all his strength to try to free his fist from Mu Jinyu's grip but couldn't, so he had to speak up.

"Fine."

Mu Jinyu calmly said and let go of his hand.

"Thud, thud, thud..."

Huang Kun didn't expect Mu Jinyu to let go so suddenly. He was pulling back his fist hard and staggered back a few steps, almost falling.

Seeing Huang Kun's state, the crowd fell silent.

They realized that this wasn't a test but Huang Kun being overwhelmed in this seemingly calm contest!

Below the surface, the undercurrent was turbulent!

Huang Kun almost fell, then quickly straightened up, looking very embarrassed. He felt his reputation was ruined in this test with Mu Jinyu.

If Mu Jinyu really rose in the future, he would become a laughingstock.

Not daring to say more, he prepared to leave quietly.

"Senior Brother, wait a moment."

Mu Jinyu suddenly spoke.

Huang Kun immediately stopped, standing with his back to Mu Jinyu, body stiffening, then reluctantly turned around and forced a smile, "Does Junior Brother Mu need something?"

Mu Jinyu said indifferently, "As the saying goes, courtesy demands reciprocity. You sparred with me, I caught your move. Now I want to exchange a move too, see if you can take it."

"This..." Huang Kun's face turned pale as ashes, stammering, "This is not good..."

But Mu Jinyu wasn't negotiating, just informing him!

As soon as he finished speaking, Mu Jinyu stepped forward, raised his fist, and struck towards Huang Kun's abdomen!

He worried that Huang Kun's qinggong and movement technique might be advanced, while his 'Ten Steps Move' hadn't started yet, making it hard to chase him if he ran!

"Hah!"

Seeing this, Huang Kun broke into a cold sweat, not daring to be careless, quickly raising his hand to block Mu Jinyu's punch.

"Boom!"

Their fists clashed, and as expected, Huang Kun staggered back several steps, his face turning red then pale. His throat moved a few times, almost spitting out blood.

His left arm hung limply, looking grotesquely twisted.

Huang Kun looked up at Mu Jinyu with a pale face, seeing his surprised look but noticing he didn't intend to pursue further, so he forced a smile and said:

"Junior Brother Mu is indeed extraordinary. Today we exchanged a move, evenly matched. This will become a great story, widely spread. I have important matters to attend to, so I'll take my leave. Farewell!"

After saying that, Huang Kun immediately turned and flew towards his residence!

"Hey, Senior Brother Huang, weren't you going to teach me the 'Tiger Demon Sky-breaking Fist'? Why are you leaving?"

Huang Kun seemed not to hear, leaving without looking back.