

King Hall 821

Chapter 821: Pure Physical Strength!

Huang Kun hurriedly returned to his residence.

His servant saw his unusual expression and was about to ask what happened.

Huang Kun suddenly spat out a large mouthful of fresh blood.

His essence, qi, and spirit instantly deflated, his face turning pale, completely devoid of color, his left arm twisted like a noodle.

"Quick, go find Junior Brother Luo."

Huang Kun spoke weakly, struggling to keep his breath, and instructed his servant.

After speaking, he couldn't hold his breath anymore, his eyes rolled back, and he fainted immediately.

The servant, seeing this, panicked and didn't bother to change Huang Kun's clothes, but ran quickly to find Junior Brother Luo.

Soon, the servant found Junior Brother Luo.

Junior Brother Luo was a physician, and quite skilled at that.

He walked into the room, saw Huang Kun's miserable state, and was startled. He instructed the servant to stay outside and started treating Huang Kun.

After half a day.

Huang Kun opened his eyes, looking feeble and extremely weak, his eyes filled with confusion as he stared at the ceiling.

He hadn't yet remembered what had just happened.

At this moment, Junior Brother Luo started complaining: "Wow, Senior Brother Huang, how did you end up like this, with a crushed left arm and displaced five viscera and six bowels, such severe injuries, how did this happen?"

As he spoke, he muttered skeptically: "But in the Heavenly Sword Faction, who could injure you this badly with pure physical strength?"

Huang Kun snapped back to reality, recalling the scene from half a day ago when he exchanged blows with Mu Jinyu, his lips moving a few times before he responded: "It's nothing, I met a junior brother, our acquaintance felt like old friends, and we couldn't resist sparring a bit, evenly matched..."

...

Let's not mention what happened after Huang Kun left.

On Mu Jinyu's side, after Huang Kun left, he glanced around; the surrounding spectators dared not meet his eyes, and quickly looked away, pretending not to see.

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, couldn't be bothered with them.

Afterward, he walked to the center of the practice field.

There, several stone locks of different sizes were placed.

These stone locks made of special materials looked not very large, but were incredibly heavy, even a small piece weighing hundreds of catties!

These were specifically for those who cultivated Body Refining Technique to test their pure physical strength.

Mu Jinyu walked to the smallest stone lock, looked at the label on it, and found it to weigh a thousand catties.

Mu Jinyu murmured: "Generally, martial artists cultivate Force Energy, even Energy Transformation Warriors who can kill cattle and horses with a finger rely on Energy Transformation; pure physical strength hardly reaches over a thousand catties with a single punch. After reaching the Divinity Transformation Realm, they focus more on cultivating True Yuan and performing techniques instead. Pure physical strength rarely exceeds two thousand catties, unless they specifically cultivate Body Refining Technique."

"Boxing King Tyson, at his peak, could punch with a force of eight hundred kilograms, sixteen hundred catties. If an Energy Transformation Warrior didn't use transformation to dissipate his force, they'd likely be killed by Tyson's punch."

"I never focused much on pure physical strength; my punch wouldn't reach a thousand catties. Now, having cultivated the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique, I wonder how much it's improved."

"I hope I can achieve three thousand catties!"

Saying this, Mu Jinyu bent down to lift the stone lock before him.

As expected,

He easily lifted the thousand-catties stone lock overhead.

"Hey, looks like he's testing his physical strength!"

"No wonder, just now, when Huang Kun punched, he easily took it. His physical strength is indeed impressive!"

The crowd had been secretly observing Mu Jinyu, and seeing him lift the thousand-catties stone lock, couldn't help but whisper.

"What do you think his limit is for lifting stone locks?"

"Judging by Huang Kun's miserable exit, he must have suffered a hidden loss. Huang Kun's pure physical strength is already over five thousand catties, equivalent to the strength of five horses. I reckon Mu Jinyu should have the strength of six or seven horses!"

"Yes, I agree; his limit might be around the strength of eight horses!"

"Wow, what a freak, he possesses a spirit root and his strength has soared so rapidly, and his physical strength is also formidable, is there any hope for others?"

"..."

The crowd murmured, their tone filled with envy, jealousy, and resentment toward Mu Jinyu.

As for their discussions about the strength of five horses, these were classifications of pure physical strength in the Kunlun Ruins.

Pure physical strength reaching a thousand catties is equivalent to the strength of one horse, ten horses equal one elephant, ten elephants equal one flood dragon, and ten flood dragons equal one dragon!

In the legends of Kunlun Ruins, if a martial artist cultivates pure physical strength to the level of one dragon, possessing a million catties of immense power, they would be akin to a true dragon.

A person with a million catties of strength would essentially be a human-shaped tyrannosaurus!

Even an invincible being at the Unity Realm Stage would find it hard to withstand a punch from them!

However, throughout the history of the Kunlun Ruins, there's no record of anyone cultivating to the power of one dragon!

Those who have cultivated to the power of one flood dragon are extremely rare!

Let's put aside the crowd's envy and jealousy.

After easily lifting the thousand-catties stone lock, Mu Jinyu put it down and moved to lift the two-thousand-catties stone lock.

He felt equally unstrained, with no sense of difficulty.

Upon lifting the three-thousand-catties stone lock effortlessly, Mu Jinyu sensed something was off, "I miscalculated my potential; it seems my capability far exceeds this!"

He smiled indifferently and muttered to himself: "Of course, having consumed nearly five thousand elixirs and cultivated in the Heavenly Sword Pool for three days, if it only increased by two thousand catties, it wouldn't make sense!"

Afterward, Mu Jinyu proceeded to lift the four-thousand to nine-thousand-catties stone locks, until he reached the ten-thousand-catties stone lock, only then feeling a slight strain.

Unfortunately, there were no stone locks weighing eleven thousand, twelve thousand catties; only twenty thousand and thirty thousand catties, making it impossible for Mu Jinyu to determine his exact limit, as he was unable to lift the twenty-thousand-catties stone lock.

"Boom!!"

As he set down the ten-thousand-catties stone lock, it made a huge noise, raising dust. Mu Jinyu sighed:

"Seems I currently possess over ten thousand catties of strength, equivalent to the power of one elephant."

Mu Jinyu had been in the Heavenly Sword Faction for almost a month, and naturally understood the classification of pure physical strength in the Kunlun Ruins.

"The Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique truly lives up to its name; it can indeed cultivate one to the power of one elephant!"

"Unfortunately, cultivating Dragon Power seems like a fantasy!"

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly, somewhat regretfully, and left the practice field under the dazed gazes of the crowd.

The crowd, astonished, found it hard to believe their eyes, looking at the slightly moved ten-thousand-catties stone lock, they rubbed their eyes.

"Wow, this guy has reached ten thousand catties of strength, equivalent to the power of one elephant!"

"That's terrifying. No wonder Huang Kun looked so miserable after exchanging blows; his arm must have been broken, yet he dare claimed it was evenly matched!"

"So, Mu Jinyu should now be the number one in body refinement within the Heavenly Sword Faction? It's been years since anyone in the faction reached the power of one elephant."

"Indeed, purely in physical strength, even Senior Brother Yun Ge wouldn't dare to compete with him head-on!"

Chapter 822: Striking at the Inner Gate List of Outstanding Talents!

Mu Jinyu returned to his courtyard after testing the strength of his pure physical power post-cultivation of the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique.

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan were still in secluded cultivation, diligently training.

Mu Jinyu didn't disturb them, using this time to practice the last body technique manual he hadn't started yet.

Ten Steps Move!

After spending more than three days, Mu Jinyu finally learned the Ten Steps Move technique.

Back of Tianlan Peak.

In a bamboo forest.

Mu Jinyu exhibited the Ten Steps Move, immediately his feet erupted with murderous aura, kicking up dust and sand everywhere. His figure, as swift as a specter, dashed more than ten meters away in the blink of an eye.

"Boom, boom, boom!"

Along the way, a dozen green bamboos were inexplicably assaulted by murderous aura, exploding into countless fragments!

Mu Jinyu stomped the ground again, his figure flipped, instantaneously darting twenty meters away, leaving chaos behind with dust and wood splinters flying everywhere!

Mu Jinyu took the third step of Ten Steps Move, darting thirty meters away once more with murderous aura sweeping through, leaving nothing intact; even the giant rocks blocking the way were blasted to pieces!

In a flash, Mu Jinyu exhibited all ten steps of the Ten Steps Move, leaving him somewhat breathless.

A vast stretch of the bamboo forest had turned unrecognizable, with hardly any intact bamboo remaining!

"This Ten Steps Move is really tough to practice, it took three days to barely manage to complete all ten steps!"

Mu Jinyu, panting slightly, leaned on an intact bamboo, muttering to himself as he looked at the chaotic scene before him.

If anyone else had heard his words, they would have been desperate to punch him to death before shamefully committing suicide!

It took just three short days to learn a body technique, and a top-quality profound rank Ten Steps Move at that. How could others live with that!

It's known that they struggled to comprehend even a yellow-grade body technique manual in three days, let alone completely perform it.

Yet, Mu Jinyu was still unsatisfied.

Truly, comparisons can be exasperating!

But Mu Jinyu wasn't intentionally showing off. After all, be it the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art or the Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi and Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique learned in the Heavenly Sword Faction, he only took a day or two to master.

In ten days, he achieved masterful skill in the Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi.

Thus, taking three days to barely complete all ten steps of the Ten Steps Move was just an initial insight into the cultivation path for him, so how could he be satisfied?

Looking at the chaotic scene before him, Mu Jinyu smiled bitterly and said: "I suppose when I can perform the Ten Steps Move lightly, restraining the murderous aura and not destroying everything along the way, that's when I've truly mastered it."

"Masterful skill probably means being able to sprint a thousand miles using the Ten Steps Move without getting breathless, right?"

Mu Jinyu speculated.

Then, Mu Jinyu used Life Source Energy to restore the shattered bamboo, quickly returning the forest to its original dense state.

In these three days, Mu Jinyu performed the Ten Steps Move hundreds of times, each time wrecking the bamboo forest.

If not for the Life Source Energy derived from the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art which could accelerate plant growth, he would have faced a scolding upon being discovered for the forest's state!

One step of Ten Steps Move covers over ten meters, but it releases murderous aura, devastating everything along the ground. Mu Jinyu identified this issue right when he started cultivating.

This is likely why the Ten Steps Move is considered the first in close-range profound rank movement techniques for sudden assaults.

This also results in an unimaginable consumption of True Yuan for the performer!

"The Four Sects Martial Meeting seems to be approaching, I need to quickly master Ten Steps Move. Then I can secure a good rank on the Heaven's Pride list and obtain resource rewards to start advancing to the Fanxu Realm!"

After catching his breath slightly, Mu Jinyu restarted cultivating Ten Steps Move!

In a flash.

Another three days passed.

In the same bamboo forest.

"Whew!"

Mu Jinyu performed the Ten Steps Move again, his body light as a flying swallow, darting tens of meters away in an instant without any bamboo being destroyed by his murderous aura.

"Whew whew whew..."

Mu Jinyu continued performing Ten Steps Move, his figure moving swiftly like lightning, leaving behind countless residual images that, upon a rough count, totaled at least a thousand.

Within ten seconds, he ran out over a thousand steps, demonstrating a terrifying speed!

"Whew!"

Mu Jinyu stopped and returned to his original spot; none of the bamboo around him were destroyed.

Indeed, he had mastered Ten Steps Move, achieving integration and effortless performance.

"Finally succeeded."

Mu Jinyu smiled softly as he watched the dense cluster of residual images gradually disappear.

...

At the entrance to the summit of Tianlan Peak.

Mu Jinyu stood in front of the stele displaying the ranking of the Inner Gate List of Outstanding Talents.

He was observing the rankings.

The top ten remained unshaken, Yun Ge standing firmly at the first place.

Beyond the top ten, the rankings had changed significantly from Mu Jinyu's first observation; some had moved up a few spots, while others dropped several positions.

The changes were dramatic.

As for Huang Kun, who once ranked thirteenth, he had fallen to the twenties!

Mu Jinyu didn't see Huang Daochen's name in the rankings, probably he couldn't make it up there anymore. Huang Daotian, who was forty-fifth before, now lingered outside the top fifty.

Mu Jinyu glanced at their names briefly before focusing back on the top ten!

"Tenth place, Wei Qingfeng, Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, reportedly holding the tenth position for three months now!"

"Ninth place, Xuu Changfu, Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, rumored to be holding the ninth place for two months?"

"Eighth place, Gu Qianqiu, Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, apparently in the rankings for half a year?"

"..."

Mu Jinyu silently studied these names, recalling their information, pondering whom to challenge next.

Yes, Mu Jinyu planned to challenge someone in the top ten of the ranking.

Inner Sect disciples closer to the top of the ranking receive more cultivation resources. For the top ten, they get to cultivate in the Heavenly Sword Pool for a day each month. Mu Jinyu wouldn't settle for staying at the forty-fifth spot forever!

His cultivation had broken through to the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm continuously in the Heavenly Sword Pool. Having learned the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique and Ten Steps Move body technique, he had virtually no weaknesses left. Naturally, he intended to challenge the top ten on the ranking.

Being at the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, Mu Jinyu didn't think he was lacking compared to them!

Soon, Mu Jinyu chose his opponent.

It was Gu Qianqiu, ranked eighth.

This person having stayed in the top rankings for half a year must possess unfathomable strength. Just right to test his skills and see the strength of those at the top of the list.

If he fought evenly with Gu Qianqiu, it would mean progressing further would be difficult. If he overcame with ease, he might even try for the top three spots.

Chapter 823: Today I'll disable one of your arms to teach you a lesson!

Mu Jinyu retracted his gaze, left the stele, and walked towards a nearby residence.

"What was he doing staring at the List of Outstanding Talents just now? Is he preparing to challenge it?"

"Probably. When he first entered the Inner Gate, he was provoked by the Huang brothers, but he defeated Huang Daotian and took the forty-fifth place on the list. At that time, he was at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. Now, having cultivated to the Eighth Layer of the Divine

Transformation Realm, he's likely learned several techniques and his strength has increased substantially. He must be unable to hold back any longer."

As soon as Mu Jinyu walked away, several disciples who had been secretly observing him immediately began discussing in low voices.

They concluded that Mu Jinyu was definitely seeking to challenge someone.

So, they followed behind Mu Jinyu to see whom he intended to challenge.

Would he challenge them?

They weren't worried at all.

Because they were quite weak, ranking around the sixtieth place on the List of Outstanding Talents. Naturally, Mu Jinyu wouldn't target them.

For the first time, they felt that being perceived as unremarkable wasn't so bad.

After trailing behind Mu Jinyu for a while, they saw him stop in front of a courtyard door from a distance.

"Hey, isn't that Senior Brother Gu's house? Could he be..."

"No way, is he really planning to challenge Senior Brother Gu? Senior Brother Gu is ranked eighth on the List of Outstanding Talents! His West-most Geng Metal Twelve Swords are masterful. He wouldn't dare, would he?"

Seeing this scene, everyone's pupils contracted in surprise.

They had assumed Mu Jinyu would conservatively choose to challenge someone ranked around twentieth place since he was only ranked forty-fifth himself.

Who could have guessed he intended to challenge the eighth rank directly? This seemed quite audacious.

However, considering Mu Jinyu had never failed any of his actions since joining the Heavenly Sword Faction...

Perhaps he really could leap upwards and become the eighth on the List of Outstanding Talents?

With this thought, everyone's eyes shone with excitement as they looked at Mu Jinyu's back.

Mu Jinyu stood before Gu Qianqiu's courtyard, gently knocking on the door.

"Knock, knock, knock."

The sound wasn't loud, but if Gu Qianqiu was at home, he would definitely hear it.

The reason Mu Jinyu didn't kick the door open like last time was because he had no enmity with Gu Qianqiu. There was no need to be so aggressive and leave no room for maneuver.

Inside the courtyard.

Gu Qianqiu was sitting cross-legged on the ground, a treasured sword placed across his knees, eyes closed in meditation.

"Knock, knock, knock."

The knocking sound stirred ripples in Gu Qianqiu's previously calm state of mind.

He suddenly opened his eyes, sensing something, a glint of sharpness flashing in his eyes.

"Knock, knock, knock."

"Senior Brother Gu, it is I, Mu Jinyu, ranked forty-fifth on the List of Outstanding Talents, here to seek your guidance. I humbly request your instruction."

Mu Jinyu's voice penetrated the Defensive Formation, drifting into the courtyard.

"Ranked forty-fifth? The Metal Spirit Root prodigy?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Gu Qianqiu immediately knew who he was.

"Hmph, he seeks to challenge me just after exiting seclusion. Let's see how strong he really is!"

Feeling somewhat insulted, thinking Mu Jinyu underestimated him as an easy target, Gu Qianqiu prepared to teach him a lesson!

Gu Qianqiu stood up suddenly, gripping his treasured sword, and walked straight to the courtyard door, opening it all at once.

"You are the Spirit Root prodigy?"

Gu Qianqiu opened the door, looking at Mu Jinyu with a cold expression.

"Yes." Mu Jinyu nodded slightly and said, "However, I'd prefer not to be called the Spirit Root prodigy all the time. I have a name, Mu Jinyu..."

"Let's go to the practice field!"

Gu Qianqiu didn't bother with pleasantries, gripping his sword tightly, striding towards the practice field.

"Alright." Seeing his decisive approach, Mu Jinyu didn't say anything further and followed him.

When he became the number one on the List of Outstanding Talents, and even the Four Sects' Genius Ranking, no one would call him by such dismissive titles again!

Seeing Mu Jinyu and Gu Qianqiu heading towards the practice field, the bystanders' eyes lit up with excitement.

"There's going to be a good show! Let's go watch!"

They followed along while calling out to friends, inviting them to watch the duel.

By the time Mu Jinyu and Gu Qianqiu reached the practice field.

A dozen or so people had gathered behind them, having put aside their tasks to witness Mu Jinyu's challenge to Gu Qianqiu.

Gu Qianqiu stood in the middle of the practice field, suddenly turning to face Mu Jinyu with eyes sharp as swords, saying, "Let's begin!"

With that, he drew his sword swiftly, the bright blade streaking through the air like a shooting star, his form following the sword as he lunged directly at Mu Jinyu!

"Swish, swish, swish!"

Mu Jinyu didn't expect Gu Qianqiu to start the fight with barely any words, presumably angered by being chosen as the first target.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu flicked his fingers, summoning three-foot-long bamboo swords that encircled Gu Qianqiu!

"There it is, his renowned Wood Attribute Divine Power, the masterful 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi'!"

"Gu Qianqiu's 'West-most Geng Metal Twelve Swords' are formidable too. Though he lacks a Metal Spirit Root to turn his Sword Qi into true Geng Metal Sword Qi, its sharpness isn't far off. This fight will be a fierce battle!"

The onlookers whispered among themselves as they saw Mu Jinyu and Gu Qianqiu clash.

"Bang, bang, bang!!"

In the field, seeing Mu Jinyu wield the 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi' to manifest numerous bamboo swords, Gu Qianqiu's eyes gleamed coldly as he waved his sword.

In an instant, sharp Geng Metal Sword Qi burst forth, destroying the bamboo swords completely!

The bamboo swords were shattered like dry wood, and Gu Qianqiu pressed on, swiftly closing in on Mu Jinyu, raising his sword to strike down while shouting angrily:

"Geng Metal Unmatched Slash!"

"Swoosh!"

As soon as he spoke.

A sword Qi nearly three meters long slashed from his blade, cutting straight towards Mu Jinyu!

"Good!"

Mu Jinyu saw, without fear, and shouted in approval. Gripping a peculiar bone whip, he brought it forth.

The Sacred Wood Branch given by Elder Cheng was powerful, but Mu Jinyu didn't want to rely on it unnecessarily.

So he brought out the bone whip magic treasure, forged from the Dragon Bone found in the Dragon Marrow Immortal Spring, to challenge Gu Qianqiu!

"Snap!"

Mu Jinyu swung the bone whip fiercely at the enormous sword Qi in front of him!

"Boom!!"

While swinging the bone whip treasure, Mu Jinyu continued using 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi'.

He first invoked tree trunks from the Sword Qi to block, then swung the bone whip to strike the trunks hard!

With a thunderous crash, the trunks exploded, unleashing a fierce Heavenly Wood Sword Qi that clashed violently with the Geng Metal Unmatched Slash.

Both shockwaves annihilated each other!

Seeing this, Gu Qianqiu showed a hint of surprise, then his sword once again unleashed sharp Sword Qi as he thrust towards Mu Jinyu!

At this moment, Mu Jinyu suddenly put away the bone whip treasure, employing 'Ten Steps Move,' advancing like a descending tiger, exuding an unstoppable and terrifying force, and formed a Fist Seal, punching directly at Gu Qianqiu's sword!

Gu Qianqiu saw this and showed a trace of disdain.

To use a fist against his sword—truly courting death.

Today, he would cripple Mu Jinyu's arm to teach him a lesson!

Chapter 824: 3 Moves!

The two of them rapidly closed in on each other.

All the spectators couldn't help but hold their breath, continuing to watch without even daring to blink.

"Boom!!"

Fist and sword clashed, and in an instant, it was like a thunderstorm erupted on a clear day. The massive thunderous sound made everyone feel as if their eardrums were about to be pierced.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!!"

Following that, the crowd was horrified to see that Gu Qianqiu's killing blow did not cripple Mu Jinyu's arm. Instead, Mu Jinyu, in a highly eye-catching manner, used his fist to shatter Gu Qianqiu's treasured sword into pieces, sending the shards flying!

"How is this possible?!"

Gu Qianqiu watched in disbelief as his treasured sword shattered under Mu Jinyu's iron fist. His pupils contracted sharply, and he screamed in his mind in disbelief.

"Boom!!"

However, before Gu Qianqiu could react and retreat from Mu Jinyu's overwhelming attack, Mu Jinyu had already closed in. With a straightforward punch, he struck Gu Qianqiu in the chest and abdomen!

Gu Qianqiu's body arched like a broken kite and was sent flying backwards!

In mid-air, he kept spitting blood, which spilled down in a crimson rain!

The spectators gasped at the sight, exclaiming in unbelievable shock:

"Hiss!!"

"My heavens, the rumors are indeed true. Mu Jinyu actually possesses the strength of One Elephant!"

"This is terrifying. Gu Qianqiu's sword is a Superior Grade magic treasure, yet it was shattered by his punch. Is this guy even human?!"

"He's been in the Inner Gate for just ten days, and he's already made it to the top ten of the List of Outstanding Talents. What have I been doing with my life?!"

"..."

Mu Jinyu defeated Gu Qianqiu with one punch, stood in place, blew on his fist, and murmured, "Indeed, after learning the Body Refining Technique and movement technique, my combat power has increased several times over."

Having said that, Mu Jinyu looked up at the fallen, convulsing, yet futilely struggling Gu Qianqiu in the distance. He walked towards him slowly and spoke, "Senior Brother Gu, thanks for the match."

Gu Qianqiu was in excruciating pain, feeling as if his bones were shattered, but he was unwilling to concede defeat to Mu Jinyu. He had only just demonstrated the first move of the "West-most Geng Metal Twelve Swords". Struggling, he attempted to stand up and continue fighting Mu Jinyu!

Unfortunately, it was in vain. Severely injured, he could not stand up in a short time.

Watching Mu Jinyu walk step by step towards him, finally taking his Identity Token and destroying it in one blow, Gu Qianqiu's eyes were filled with despair.

Unable to accept this fact, his eyes rolled back, and he fainted.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu sighed softly, turned around, and addressed the onlookers, "You all, come and carry Senior Brother Gu back."

"Yes!"

The spectators, startled by Mu Jinyu's words, immediately straightened up and responded affirmatively.

They then scrambled to carry Gu Qianqiu back to his residence.

Since Gu Qianqiu's Identity Token had been destroyed by Mu Jinyu, removing him from the List of Outstanding Talents, he could no longer stay at the summit of Tianlan Peak. Given his injuries, it was unlikely he'd reclaim his spot on the list soon, so they thought of taking him to their own residences to avoid the shame of lodging him halfway up the mountain.

Each one vied to take Gu Qianqiu to their place, thinking that despite his current misery, he still had the strength of a top ten talent. If they could befriend him now, it would bring great benefits later.

In the end, they almost came to blows over who would take Gu Qianqiu in.

But seeing Mu Jinyu's displeased expression, they restrained themselves, and a shrewd fellow carried Gu Qianqiu away.

Others, though disappointed, turned their attention back to Mu Jinyu with hopeful looks in their eyes.

Since Mu Jinyu could easily defeat Gu Qianqiu, who was ranked eighth, wouldn't it be just as easy for him to defeat the higher-ranked individuals?

Mu Jinyu had just started challenging the List of Outstanding Talents since joining the Inner Gate, and it was obvious he wouldn't stop at defeating Gu Qianqiu.

They still had a chance. Once Mu Jinyu defeated the higher-ranked senior brothers and sisters, they could step in to take care of them...

If the top ten of the List of Outstanding Talents knew their thoughts, they would be furious.

These guys hoped they would lose to Mu Jinyu so they could take advantage of them, thinking they would be grateful in the future. What a joke.

The first thing they'd do once recovered would be to tear these fellows' homes apart!

Mu Jinyu, unaware of their thoughts, just found their gazes odd.

Did they have a masochistic tendency and wanted to be beaten half to death like Gu Qianqiu?

However, their rankings on the List of Outstanding Talents were too low, and Mu Jinyu couldn't be bothered with them.

Ignoring them, Mu Jinyu took a step back, heading to find his next target.

Wei Qingfeng, ranked third on the List of Outstanding Talents.

Starting with him, the strength of the next two ranked disciples would rise from the Divine Transformation Realm Eighth Layer to the Ninth Layer.

This was a watershed moment, so after defeating Gu Qianqiu with one punch, Mu Jinyu set his sights on Wei Qingfeng.

Soon, Mu Jinyu reached the gate of Wei Qingfeng's courtyard.

Following Mu Jinyu, the spectators widened their eyes and held their breath, not daring to make a sound.

They couldn't believe Mu Jinyu was aiming directly for the third rank after defeating the eighth. Wasn't this too much?

"Knock, knock, knock!"

While they speculated that Mu Jinyu might have stopped at Wei Qingfeng's door because he was tired, Mu Jinyu suddenly raised his hand and gently knocked a few times.

The knocking sounded as if it struck their hearts, accelerating their heartbeats and making their faces flush with excitement and shock.

"Brother Wei, I am Mu Jinyu, ranked eighth on the List of Outstanding Talents. I came to ask for your guidance. Please grant me this opportunity."

"Creak!"

Soon, the courtyard door opened, and Wei Qingfeng, dressed in simple cloth, walked out with a solemn expression.

Looking at Mu Jinyu standing at the door, a flicker of surprise flashed in his eyes, and he said, "Did you defeat Gu Qianqiu?"

"Yes, I just became the eighth on the List of Outstanding Talents." Mu Jinyu nodded calmly.

Wei Qingfeng stared at Mu Jinyu in silence for a long time, then said, "Don't you think you're taking too big a step and might fall hard later?"

He then began to close the courtyard door, refusing to accept Mu Jinyu's challenge.

The meaning was clear: he would only accept Mu Jinyu's challenge if he became the fourth.

Mu Jinyu said calmly, "Three moves."

Wei Qingfeng paused and asked in a deep voice, "What do you mean?"

Mu Jinyu replied, "I defeated Gu Qianqiu in just three moves."

Hearing this, Wei Qingfeng's face changed slightly. He looked deeply at Mu Jinyu and said, "Alright, let's go to the practice field!"

Chapter 825: The First Encounter with Yun Ge!

Practice field.

As the news of Mu Jinyu challenging Wei Qingfeng spread, almost all the top experts on the List of Outstanding Talents came to watch, except for those who were out on training missions.

Most of the top ten also arrived.

When they learned that Mu Jinyu had already defeated Gu Qianqiu and became the eighth on the list before challenging Wei Qingfeng, their expressions grew complicated.

There was a bit of anger and a bit of relief.

Their anger stemmed from not being chosen by Mu Jinyu, feeling slighted by him, leading to a sense of unwillingness!

Their relief came from the fact that since even Gu Qianqiu was defeated by Mu Jinyu in three moves, they felt that if they had faced Mu Jinyu, it would have been difficult to emerge unscathed. Thus, they were somewhat thankful for preserving their dignity by not being chosen.

"Let's begin!"

Wei Qingfeng did not wait for more onlookers for the battle with Mu Jinyu; he was merely adjusting to his optimal state for the clash.

Thus, with many people gathered, he and Mu Jinyu had yet to start fighting.

At this moment, feeling he was in a good state, he opened his eyes and signaled to Mu Jinyu to commence.

"Then, pardon my offense."

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu was about to make his move.

Suddenly, from the direction of the onlookers, came exclamations of extreme surprise, causing their actions to pause.

"No way! Brother Yun actually came to watch!"

"Oh my gosh, it's been so long since I last saw Brother Yun. He's still as elegant and handsome as ever. If only I were a girl..."

Hearing these voices, Mu Jinyu and Wei Qingfeng instinctively halted their actions.

They turned their heads towards the direction from which the voices came.

There stood a man in white, elegant and handsome, like a peerless young master, holding a folding fan, leisurely appearing on the practice field.

It was none other than the foremost member of the younger generation of the Heavenly Sword Faction.

The only True Disciple of the first Supreme Elder of the Heavenly Sword Faction.

Yun Ge!

Yun Ge, with a faint smile, greeted everyone cordially while walking towards the practice field.

He showed no airs of being the top-rank Inner Gate member and the third-ranked on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking.

He appeared very affable, like an elder brother next door.

"So he is Yun Ge? The number one of the Heavenly Sword Faction."

Mu Jinyu paused, looking at this leading figure of the younger generation of the Heavenly Sword Faction, his eyes filled with curiosity.

"Brother Yun, you actually came!"

Wei Qingfeng, respectful towards Yun Ge, was taken aback by his appearance and quickly greeted and saluted him respectfully.

Yun Ge, seeing this, waved his hand, a gentle stream of True Yuan lifting Wei Qingfeng as he said, "No need for such formalities. I just heard there was a duel here and came to take a look."

Saying so, he turned to look at Mu Jinyu with a warm smile, "You must be the renowned Mu Jinyu who refused to become the Sect Leader's disciple? Truly extraordinary!"

Hearing Yun Ge's words, Mu Jinyu unconsciously felt a good impression towards him from being addressed as Mu Jinyu, rather than a 'Spirit Root prodigy'.

Mu Jinyu nodded lightly and said, "Indeed, please excuse the embarrassment, Brother Yun."

Yun Ge waved his hand and then said, "Alright, you two continue. Don't waste time and delay the important matters because of me."

"Yes, Brother Yun," Wei Qingfeng said respectfully.

Then, Wei Qingfeng turned to Mu Jinyu, his previously indifferent eyes now blazing with the fire of combat, "Come, let me see what gives you the confidence to challenge me!"

Mu Jinyu withdrew his gaze from Yun Ge, looked at Wei Qingfeng, nodded and said solemnly, "Then, pardon my offense!"

"Hah!"

With that word,

Mu Jinyu immediately unleashed the "Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi," conjuring an endless barrage of giant wood swords crashing towards Wei Qingfeng, as if to crush him into pulp!

Then, he performed the "Ten Steps Move" to evade Wei Qingfeng's attack, seeking an opportunity to deliver a powerful punch!

"Hah!!"

Upon seeing Mu Jinyu unleash the Heavenly Wood Sword Qi, Wei Qingfeng gave a light shout, drew his sword, and its radiance instantly illuminated like a new moon rising, with moonlight scattering.

That endless Heavenly Wood Sword shattered like ice meeting the warm sun, melting in an instant.

"Scorching Sun Sword Intent!"

Wei Qingfeng shattered Mu Jinyu's "Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi" with a single strike, giving Mu Jinyu no chance to continue. He shouted loudly, raising his sword which emitted brilliant, dazzling light.

For a moment, his sword in hand seemed to become another sun hanging in the sky.

The brilliance was blinding, forcing everyone to look away, tears streaming from their eyes.

Onlookers, averting their gazes, murmured softly, "Wow, Brother Wei used his Sword Intent right from the start, he's taking Mu Jinyu very seriously!"

"How could he not take it seriously? With Brother Yun watching, if he carelessly lost to Mu Jinyu, he'd lose all face!"

"Did you notice? Brother Wei's Scorching Sun Sword Intent seems to have strengthened considerably, almost reaching the Completion Stage of Sword Intent!"

"Indeed, though the Scorching Sun Double-edged Sword Technique is only a Top Yellow Grade Sword Technique, he has trained it to a transcendent level. With the addition of near-completion level Scorching Sun Sword Intent, even a top-quality Profound Rank defense Divine Skill might not withstand it!"

In Martial Techniques, the rank alone does not always determine the actual power.

After all, Martial Techniques also vary in proficiency from Initial Insight to Transcendence stages.

If one masters a Yellow Grade Sword Technique to the level of Transcendence and adds almost completed Sword Intent, the opponent, even with an Earth Rank Sword Technique but only at an Initial Insight, has a higher chance of defeat!

Such was the case with Wei Qingfeng. His Scorching Sun Double-edged Sword Technique was of Top Yellow Grade, but he mastered it to a transcendental level. Coupled with near-completion level Scorching Sun Sword Intent, his sword strike was almost more powerful than an Earth Rank Sword Technique!

Yun Ge watched as Wei Qingfeng unleashed a near-completion Scorching Sun Sword Intent with a look of mild appreciation.

Then he looked at Mu Jinyu, curious to see how he would counter this attack.

"Using the 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi' again would clearly be ineffective, so will he break through directly with the sheer brute force of the 'Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique'?"

Yun Ge silently pondered, filled with anticipation and curiosity about Mu Jinyu's next move.

In the heat of battle, seeing Wei Qingfeng incessantly gathering energy, Mu Jinyu knew he must not let him accumulate strength, or the consequences would be dire. He attempted to throw several Heavenly Wood Sword Qi at him.

Unfortunately, it was to no avail.

After all, fire conquers wood. Moreover, his mastery of Heavenly Wood Sword Qi was only at a masterful skill level.

This juxtaposition weakened his Heavenly Wood Sword Qi, fueling the Scorching Sun Sword Intent to grow even stronger!

Yun Ge saw this, showing a trace of disappointment, thinking Mu Jinyu might be nothing more than what his reputation suggested.

However, at this instant, the scene that ensued made Yun Ge's pupils involuntarily constrict slightly.

Chapter 826 - 826 My Way State of Mind!

Mu Jinyu, after trying the Heavenly Wood Sword Qi and realizing he couldn't break it, decided to give up on using Wood Attribute Divine Power.

After some thought, Mu Jinyu also gave up on using the Divine Body tempered by the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique to fight Wei Qingfeng head-on.

Although he was confident in using the Ten Steps Move to charge at Wei Qingfeng and punch him away with a force of ten thousand pounds,

the scorching heat of the Scorching Sun Sword Intent could also cause him significant harm.

Such an exchange of injuries was meaningless.

After all, he had many other means to deal with opponents; unless it was a last resort, exchanging injury for injury was not advisable.

Subsequently, Mu Jinyu pulled out the Sacred Wood Branch.

Holding the Sacred Wood Branch, Mu Jinyu treated it like a sword and recalled the unique sword intent he had absorbed in the Heavenly Sword Pool, his eyes suddenly becoming incredibly sharp.

As he scanned around, a domineering and unrivaled aura emanated from him, exuding a sense of supremacy both above and below!

At this moment, Yun Ge saw Mu Jinyu's eyes and was startled, his pupils involuntarily contracting.

"Is this... My Way Sword Intent?!"

"No!"

Yun Ge shook his head sharply in his mind, "This is the My Way State of Mind!"

"But how is this possible? He's so young and just reached the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm not long ago; how could he so quickly comprehend the State of Mind?!"

No wonder Yun Ge was so shocked and filled with disbelief.

After all, the State of Mind is something that shouldn't be comprehensible to someone at the Divine Transformation Realm level.

The State of Mind is completely different from Sword Intent.

Sword Intent, to put it simply, can only be manifested with a sword in hand.

Whether it's Wu Lei's beginner-level Cloud Sea Sword Intent or Solitary Peak Sword Intent, or Wei Qingfeng's nearly complete Scorching Sun Sword Intent, they all require a sword to display the Sword Intent.

But the State of Mind is entirely different. For instance, Wei Qingfeng's Scorching Sun Sword Intent, if upgraded to the Scorching Sun State of Mind, could be executed with a sword, a blade, or even a fist, showing the Scorching Sun Sword Intent, Scorching Sun Sword Intent, and Scorching Sun Fist Intent!

Whereas now, Wei Qingfeng's Scorching Sun Sword Intent cannot exert much power if used with a blade or fist.

This is the difference between Sword Intent and the State of Mind!

Generally speaking, only Fanxu Realm experts can barely comprehend the essence of the State of Mind, transforming Sword Intent and Blade Intent into the State of Mind.

Yun Ge, now at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm and close to the Fanxu Realm, has grasped many Sword and Fist Intentions but has yet to understand the State of Mind.

So, seeing Mu Jinyu, with his newly attained Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm's strength, display the State of Mind, how could he not be moved?

Mu Jinyu did not understand the difference in the sword intention he grasped from the Heavenly Sword Pool that left Yun Ge in shock.

After taking out the Sacred Wood Branch, he instinctively used the profound Sword Intention, soon entering a very peculiar state.

Mu Jinyu's eyes radiated disdain, coldly looking at Wei Qingfeng, who was still gathering Scorching Sun Sword Intention, and sneered, "Sword Intention, I can do it too!"

With that, he lightly swung the Sacred Wood Branch forward!

A terrifying scene ensued!

"Boom!!"

Wei Qingfeng's blazing sword, radiating endless light like a scorching sun, was shattered by Mu Jinyu's casual slash, and the flames were out.

The Scorching Sun Sword Intention was directly broken.

"Sizzle!"

Then, the residual force of Mu Jinyu's sword swept towards the stunned Wei Qingfeng!!

"Rip!!"

Wei Qingfeng's top-quality grade defensive inner armor was torn apart by the Sword Qi on the spot, then it slashed open Wei Qingfeng's abdomen!

"Poof!!"

Instantly, Wei Qingfeng's chest and abdomen burst open, with blood splattering everywhere!

Fortunately, his high-level defensive inner armor neutralized most of Mu Jinyu's fearsome Sword Qi; otherwise, he would have been split in two!

"Holy shit!"

"What's going on?!"

"Brother Wei was disemboweled, almost cut in half?!"

The spectators, who had expected the formidable power of Wei Qingfeng's near-complete Scorching Sun Sword Intent, were stunned by the sudden change on the battlefield, with Wei Qingfeng disemboweled before even directly confronting Mu Jinyu!

They felt their eyes were about to pop out of their sockets.

They could hardly believe what they were seeing!

After performing a slash with My Way Sword Intent, the disdain in Mu Jinyu's eyes vanished instantly. He looked at the disemboweled, blood-soaked Wei Qingfeng and was also startled.

"Am I really this powerful?"

Without time to think, Mu Jinyu quickly put away the Sacred Wood Branch, rushed to Wei Qingfeng's side, pried open his mouth, and stuffed a pill into it, then swiftly activated Life Source Energy to heal Wei Qingfeng's terrible injuries.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

Soon, Wei Qingfeng's disemboweled wound healed, his once-fading breath returned to steady, then followed by a few coughs, he slowly woke up.

"I... I'm not dead?"

Wei Qingfeng stared blankly at Mu Jinyu, muttering in confusion.

His mind was still replaying the earlier scenes.

His near-complete Scorching Sun Sword Intent, upon clashing with Mu Jinyu's bizarre Sword Intent, was utterly broken without resistance; he didn't even have a chance to dodge and was disemboweled!

Under such circumstances, him being alive was a miracle!

"Junior Brother Wei, you're alright now. It was Junior Brother Mu who gave you a life-saving elixir, healing your wounds," Yun Ge reminded, seeing Wei Qingfeng still a bit dazed.

"Huh?"

Hearing Yun Ge's words, Wei Qingfeng hastily checked his body and found himself completely unscathed.

Then, he felt deep shame. As the third on the List of Outstanding Talents, he couldn't even withstand a single sword from Mu Jinyu and needed Mu Jinyu's life-saving elixir!

He wished he could bury his head in shame!

"Senior Brother Mu... Thank you..."

Suppressing his unwillingness, Wei Qingfeng looked up and said to Mu Jinyu with a trembling voice.

Mu Jinyu quickly waved his hand, "Oh, don't thank me. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have been so badly injured. Giving you the elixir to save your life was the least I could do. You don't need to worry about it."

Wei Qingfeng said no more.

Not worry about it?

How could he not worry about it?

Losing is losing, and he would remember this humiliation and avenge it in the future...

Wei Qingfeng was about to vow in his mind to avenge his humiliation, but recalling Mu Jinyu's earlier sword, he found himself unable to voice it, feeling utterly defeated!

He no longer dared face Mu Jinyu's sword!

"Ha ha..."

With a self-deprecating laugh, Wei Qingfeng took out his identity token and threw it to Mu Jinyu.

"Bang!"

Mu Jinyu, not knowing what Wei Qingfeng was throwing, thought it was a surprise attack, so he flicked his finger and destroyed it.

Then, Mu Jinyu's identity token lit up, and he realized that it was Wei Qingfeng conceding, giving his third place on the List of Outstanding Talents to him!

Chapter 827: Your Journey, to the Starry Sea!

"Senior Brother, this..."

Mu Jinyu looked at the broken identity token on the ground, his eyes dazed, unable to understand why Wei Qingfeng would do such a thing.

He had almost killed Wei Qingfeng earlier, feeling deeply ashamed. Such a ruthless move during a sparring session between brothers was truly inappropriate.

So he hadn't considered taking the third place position on the List of Outstanding Talents from Wei Qingfeng. Who could have guessed that Wei Qingfeng would voluntarily throw the token to be destroyed?

This made Mu Jinyu feel complex and conflicted, yet very ashamed.

Wei Qingfeng did not explain; losing is losing. He was not someone who could not accept defeat, especially with Yun Ge present.

"Brother Yun, I will be leaving first." Wei Qingfeng did not speak to Mu Jinyu but bade farewell to Yun Ge before getting up and walking away, never looking back.

Mu Jinyu stared blankly at Wei Qingfeng's departing figure, his heart full of complexity.

At this time, Yun Ge spoke: "Junior Brother Mu, let's step aside and talk."

"Ah? Alright." Mu Jinyu came to his senses. Although he didn't know why Yun Ge wanted to speak with him, he nodded in agreement.

Then Yun Ge gestured for Mu Jinyu to follow him, and they both walked away, disappearing within the practice field.

The spectators were still immersed in the shock of Mu Jinyu earlier nearly slashing Wei Qingfeng into two halves with a sword.

Although Wei Qingfeng did not die in the end, it could be said that from now on, within the Inner Gate of the Heavenly Sword Faction, it would no longer be Yun Ge alone dominating the scene.

They had been prepared, knowing that Mu Jinyu, who possessed a Spirit Root, would eventually rise up one day, but they hadn't expected it to happen so quickly.

Mu Jinyu had entered the Inner Gate for only half a month, and joined the Heavenly Sword Faction merely a month ago, yet he had come this far.

...

Mu Jinyu and Yun Ge left the practice field and came to the back mountain.

Yun Ge stood firmly in a small stone pavilion, looking out at the distant mountains with their poetic and picturesque misty landscapes, without speaking.

Mu Jinyu didn't know why Yun Ge had called him here, and he didn't know Yun Ge well, so he quietly watched the scenery as Yun Ge remained silent.

Organizing his thoughts, Yun Ge turned to look at Mu Jinyu and softly asked, "Junior Brother Mu, may I ask, when did you comprehend the My Way State of Mind?"

"Intent Domain?!" Mu Jinyu was startled upon hearing this, looking at Yun Ge in bewilderment, "What Intent Domain? Are you talking about Sword Intent?"

Mu Jinyu didn't understand what an Intent Domain was; even Sword Intent was something he gradually began to understand after coming to Kunlun Ruins.

So upon hearing Yun Ge's words, he thought Yun Ge was referring to Sword Intent.

Not waiting for Yun Ge to respond, Mu Jinyu answered directly, "I don't even know what Sword Intent it is; it wasn't something I comprehended from the 'Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi.' It was just a few days ago at the Heavenly Sword Pool where I inexplicably comprehended it. I barely understand it, making you laugh, Senior Brother."

Yun Ge was about to explain the difference between Intent Domain and Sword Intent when Mu Jinyu's words caused his expression to suddenly change.

"What? Do you mean that you comprehended your My Way State of Mind from the Heavenly Sword Pool?!"

He lost his composure, his voice trembling slightly with disbelief.

It was not surprising that he reacted this way, as since the founding of the Heavenly Sword Faction, several individuals had barely comprehended Sword Intent and then went to the Heavenly Sword Pool to cultivate, eventually successfully grasping the Sword Intent of their learned Martial Art.

But never before had anyone comprehended a Sword Intent they had never encountered before at the Heavenly Sword Pool, let alone Mu Jinyu's My Way State of Mind!

Just the My Way Sword Intent alone was a hundred times stronger than any Cloud Sea Sword Intent, Solitary Peak Sword Intent, or Scorching Sun Double-edged Sword Intent, and he possessed the My Way State of Mind!

"Yes, is there a problem?"

Mu Jinyu noticed Yun Ge's abnormal reaction and vaguely understood that his "Sword Intent" seemed quite extraordinary, making him realize he shouldn't have spoken about it so casually.

But now that he had already mentioned it, there was no point in hiding it further. He braced himself to wait for Yun Ge's explanation.

Yun Ge deeply looked at Mu Jinyu, a wry smile tugging at his lips as he shook his head and said, "Junior Brother Mu, you truly make me envious!"

As he spoke, he explained the differences between Sword Intent and Intent Domain to Mu Jinyu, further telling him that although he comprehended multiple Sword Intents, Fist Intents, and even Blade Intents, he hadn't even approached the threshold of Intent Domain.

"Is that so?" Mu Jinyu hesitated after Yun Ge's explanation, feeling a bit embarrassed. "Then it seems I have good luck, haha..."

Yun Ge let out a long sigh, his tone complex as he said, "Junior Brother Mu truly is blessed with great fortune, possessing a Spirit Root and excellent comprehension. The future leadership of the Heavenly Sword Faction will be yours to shoulder."

Yun Ge's emotions were indeed complex, with feelings of envy, loss, and a sense of relief.

Originally, he didn't mind the internal remarks about Mu Jinyu being his great rival within the Heavenly Sword Faction. He even wished Mu Jinyu would rise quickly to take up the faction's mantle.

Yet, at the same time, deep down he subconsciously felt that although Mu Jinyu, with his Spirit Root, would inevitably rise to great heights, he wouldn't achieve prominence so soon.

But he hadn't anticipated that in just a month, Mu Jinyu would advance from the Fourth Layer to the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, surpassing him in Intent Domain comprehension even if there was still a cultivation gap.

If they were to clash, Yun Ge might not be his match.

Thus, Yun Ge was immensely envious of Mu Jinyu's aptitude and comprehension, feeling a sense of loss in his own situation but also a hint of relief.

This relief stemmed from being the top figure in the Heavenly Sword Faction's Inner Gate, shouldering numerous responsibilities of the sect. Despite the burdens sometimes overwhelming him, he had no choice but to bear them alone due to the lack of supportive peers.

With the emergence of a prodigy like Mu Jinyu in the Heavenly Sword Faction, some responsibilities would inevitably be shared, promising a lighter future for him.

Mu Jinyu heard Yun Ge's words and saw him looking at him with a gratified expression, immediately smiling wryly, "Senior Brother, I don't have the merit to shoulder the sect's leadership..."

Yun Ge immediately interrupted solemnly, "Junior Brother Mu, you must not belittle yourself. With your current strength and comprehension of the My Way State of Mind, you are qualified to vie for the top rank on the Heaven's Pride list in the upcoming Four Sects Martial Meeting, securing a significant resource for the next decade for our Heavenly Sword Faction. Isn't that taking on the mantle?"

"I..." Mu Jinyu was left speechless.

Originally, he didn't intend to involve himself in so many matters; he joined the Heavenly Sword Faction merely to gather information and obtain pill formulas to accelerate his cultivation.

But he indeed benefited greatly from the Heavenly Sword Faction, and leaving without reciprocating felt lacking in gratitude. After some thought, Mu Jinyu finally nodded in agreement.

Seeing Mu Jinyu nod, Yun Ge's face lit up with a delighted smile. He patted Mu Jinyu's shoulder and said, "Let's strive together. The position of Sect Leader in the future Heavenly Sword Faction will surely be yours, and I will assist you diligently, giving our Heavenly Sword Faction a chance to reach beyond the Yan Kingdom."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu immediately shook his head, "No, no, Senior Brother, don't say that. My ambition is not in the Sect Leader's position. I can act for the faction's benefit, but I truly don't desire to be Sect Leader."

Yun Ge, understanding Mu Jinyu's words, revealed a look of realization and yearning, nodding, "Yes, yes, it was my oversight. With your talent, Junior Brother, the small confines of the Heavenly Sword Faction cannot restrict your path."

"Your journey lies in the Starry Sea; the Heavenly Sword Faction is too small to constrain you for long. Rest assured, the Sect Leader and others understand righteousness and will not bind your steps with duty."

Chapter 828: The Monthly Rewards for Disciples on the List of Outstanding Talents!

Mu Jinyu watched Yun Ge leave with regret, speechless for a long time.

He felt quite speechless. How could he have such lofty ambitions to conquer the starry sea?

His wish was actually very simple. He just wanted his family to live a peaceful life, without so many dangers.

Unfortunately, this simple wish had always been hard to realize.

"Sigh..."

Mu Jinyu sighed, then turned and left the back mountain, returning home.

Back at Courtyard No. 45, Mu Jinyu found that Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan had both come out from their retreat. They were drinking tea and eating snacks, looking very leisurely.

Mu Jinyu walked over and sat down beside them, picked up a piece of snack and took a bite, mumbling, "Out of retreat?"

"Yes." Wen Rou put down her teacup and said, "Although I couldn't break through to the Fifth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, my cultivation still increased a lot. Cultivation needs a balance of work and rest. Since it's impossible to break through in a short time, it's better to come out and relax. Maybe it will help me break through faster."

Jian Ruyan's and Wen Rou's physiques were different from Mu Jinyu's. Although Mu Jinyu had given each of them a thousand Second-Grade Elixirs, they couldn't absorb all that medicinal power to break through.

Because they couldn't refine such a vast amount of medicinal power, it would only make them burst from the inside.

Only Mu Jinyu, with his Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Body, and practicing the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique, could swallow more than five thousand pills, refine all of Tian Jian Chi's resources, and still come out unscathed.

Jian Ruyan glanced at Mu Jinyu, sipped her tea, and said, "Are you the third on the List of Outstanding Talents now?"

"Hmm?" Mu Jinyu was taken aback upon hearing this, then smiled wryly, "How did you know?"

Wen Rou smiled and said, "When we got out and saw you weren't home, we went out for a walk and heard others talking about you. They said you defeated the eighth on the list, and then the third. We didn't believe it at first, so we went to check, and it was true..."

As she spoke, Wen Rou looked at Mu Jinyu with admiration and said, "Little Mu, you're amazing! You became the third so quickly!"

Mu Jinyu felt quite pleased with Wen Rou's admiration, smiled modestly, "Not bad, but it's still not first, so it's just okay."

After that, the three of them continued chatting and drinking tea. Mu Jinyu also told them about his recent conversation with Yun Ge.

Wen Rou naturally supported any decision Mu Jinyu made, and Jian Ruyan didn't oppose either, encouraging Mu Jinyu that if he wanted to participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference, he should keep striving and strive for the luck of every sect's Heaven's Pride disciples, which would be more beneficial for his competition in the Hidden Dragon Conference.

After discussing these matters, Mu Jinyu also gave them some pointers on their cultivation questions before they went their separate ways to train.

Two days later.

Mu Jinyu was sitting in his room, quietly meditating, when he heard a faint knocking at the door.

Mu Jinyu woke from his cultivation, went out, and opened the courtyard door.

Outside the door stood an Inner Sect Disciple, holding a cloth bag, looking at him with a bit of fear.

"What's the matter?" Mu Jinyu asked.

The Inner Sect Disciple handed the cloth bag to Mu Jinyu and said, "Senior Brother Mu, this is your monthly reward for being the third on the List of Outstanding Talents. Please accept it."

"Oh?"

Mu Jinyu was a bit surprised when he heard this, and also recalled that Yan Ran had mentioned to him that being on the List of Outstanding Talents comes with substantial monthly rewards.

To encourage disciples to strive for the List of Outstanding Talents, strive for the Four Sects' Genius Ranking!

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu took the cloth bag leisurely, used his Divine Sense to inspect, and found that inside the bag were only fifty superior-grade spirit stones and a bottle of Second-Grade Elixirs.

Mu Jinyu felt a bit strange.

Was that all the superior-grade spirit stones he got for being third on the List of Outstanding Talents each month?

It was only a bit more than what he had gotten for winning first place in the Outer Gate exam.

As for the bottle of elixirs, he ignored it out of habit.

The Inner Sect Disciple noticed Mu Jinyu's confusion and explained, "Senior Brother, don't think it's too little. Superior-grade spirit stones are still quite precious. The fact that you got a total of forty-one from the Outer Gate exam was an exception. Generally, they wouldn't reward that many."

"Senior Brother, think about it. After becoming a disciple on the List of Outstanding Talents, you get fifty superior-grade spirit stones and a bottle of Second-Grade Elixirs every month without doing anything. Isn't that satisfying enough?"

"Also, as a disciple in the top ten of the List of Outstanding Talents, you get the privilege to train in Tian Jian Chi for a day. This reward is actually very generous."

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu also thought it made sense. These rewards might not mean much to him, but they were indeed substantial for other disciples.

Especially the reward of training in Tian Jian Chi, which made even him tempted. Naturally, the other disciples would be even more motivated.

Mu Jinyu thought about the fact that he could go train in Tian Jian Chi for another day, and figured even if he couldn't break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm within a day, he would be close by then. So he asked, "Can I go train in Tian Jian Chi for a day now, or do I need to wait in line?"

After all, the top ten on the List of Outstanding Talents all had the privilege to train in Tian Jian Chi. He wasn't sure about the specifics and assumed there might already be people lining up for it.

The disciple's expression turned peculiar when he heard Mu Jinyu's question, and after a moment of hesitation, he shook his head and said, "For the next three years, the top ten on the List of Outstanding Talents won't have the reward of training in Tian Jian Chi."

"Ah? Why?" Mu Jinyu was puzzled and then got a bit angry.

The disciple was startled by Mu Jinyu's expression and explained nervously, "Because... because Senior Brother, not long ago, you drained all the spiritual liquid in Tian Jian Chi during your training. Now there's no more spiritual liquid in Tian Jian Chi. It will take at least three years for it to recover to its former level..."

"Ah? How did that happen?"

Mu Jinyu found it unbelievable and felt like the disciple was pulling his leg.

When did he drain Tian Jian Chi during his training?

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu felt something was off. When his training ended, he was sent out by the formation in Tian Jian Chi without seeing its state.

Could it be that he really drained Tian Jian Chi?

The disciple saw that Mu Jinyu didn't believe him and understood that Mu Jinyu probably didn't see Tian Jian Chi's state before being sent out. He explained again, "I'm not lying, Senior Brother. After you left, two Supreme Elders personally inspected Tian Jian Chi and found that the spiritual liquid was completely dried up and couldn't be used for training. It will take three years to recover..."

"Is that so?" Mu Jinyu finally believed him. He felt a bit embarrassed afterward.

In the past, other top ten disciples on the List of Outstanding Talents would at least consume Tian Jian Chi's resources for ten days, but never drained its spiritual liquid. He just went in for three days and drained it all!

How terrifying! Was that necessary?

Chapter 829 - 829 Tragedy in Mingyue Valley!

This disciple saw that Mu Jinyu finally believed his words and felt a bit embarrassed. He then struck while the iron was hot:

"Senior brother... because of you... because of you..."

His speech became stuttered, clearly worried that the following words might upset Mu Jinyu and hesitated to say them.

Mu Jinyu frowned and said, "Because of what? Is there any punishment? Just say it directly, whatever the punishment is, I will bear it."

The disciple saw Mu Jinyu so determined, he immediately felt relieved and said in one breath, "Uh, because senior brother destroyed the Heavenly Sword Pool, causing others to be unable to cultivate in it. Although it wasn't your original intention, after a discussion between the sect leader and the elders, they decided to give you a punishment..."

"What punishment, just say it directly," said Mu Jinyu indifferently.

The disciple then said, "It's a sect mission, to go deep into the Yuntian Mountain Range and find..."

Mu Jinyu found the disciple's words amusing and then nodded, "Fine, I'll take on this mission. Go back and tell them."

The disciple, upon hearing this, performed a respectful gesture towards Mu Jinyu and then left.

Mu Jinyu still found it amusing in his mind. The sect's punishment mission wasn't really a punishment at all.

Going to the Yuntian Mountain Range to find a Spirit Fruit, though challenging, wasn't too difficult, and there was no deadline to complete it. Clearly, it was just an excuse to appease the anger of the other top ten disciples on the List of Outstanding Talents.

However, since Mu Jinyu agreed, he naturally wouldn't fail to complete it.

"Another sect mission?"

At this moment, Wen Rou, who was also awakened by the noise, came out and looked at Mu Jinyu, asking.

"Yes, I accidentally messed up something, so I have to give an account to the sect. But it's no big deal; I'll be back in a few days," Mu Jinyu said with a smile, reaching out to rub Wen Rou's head.

"Then be careful," Wen Rou looked around cautiously, and not seeing Jian Ruyan, she snuggled into Mu Jinyu's chest and softly said.

Wen Rou didn't know that Jian Ruyan was actually in her room, using her divine sense to observe how she was snuggled up with Mu Jinyu.

Her face didn't show any unbearable expression, but it was somewhat complex.

...

Southwest of Yan Kingdom.

Once a valley full of birds' songs and fragrant flowers, now has undergone an unexpected change.

"Kill!!!"

"Kill them all!"

"Show no mercy, leave no one alive!"

"For the Liuyun Sect, for the Four Great Sects!"

The battle cries resounded, as now and then the heads of Mingyue Valley disciples were severed by Liuyun Sect disciples, blood splattering, eyes wide open with resentment and unwillingness as they died unable to close their eyes.

"Damn it, you'll all die terribly!!"

The elders of Mingyue Valley were trapped in a killing formation set up by the elders of Liuyun Sect with an array plate. Their cultivation was mostly exhausted and they were no match for the Liuyun Sect elders. After a bloody battle, they were becoming increasingly exhausted.

They could only watch helplessly as the disciples of Mingyue Valley were slaughtered by the increasingly fierce Liuyun Sect disciples!

"Haha, the plan was a success. Today, we'll annihilate Mingyue Valley in one fell swoop. From now on, the Four Great Sects of Yan Kingdom will be replaced by us, the Liuyun Sect."

In a small grove outside Mingyue Valley, the sect leader of Liuyun Sect was watching the scene of slaughter in Mingyue Valley and said proudly to Di Shitian.

Di Shitian's expression was indifferent. He wasn't as excited as the sect leader, as he was once a prince. The Four Great Sects of Yan Kingdom meant little to him.

Seeing the sect leader getting carried away, Di Shitian reminded, "Sect leader, it's dangerous to be overly complacent. Although Mingyue Valley is the weakest among the Four Great Sects, there are a few Fanxu Realm experts in the sect. Our elders, although armed with 'spiritual treasures', might fail if they are not cautious."

"Yes, yes, I know. Don't worry," the sect leader nodded.

Although Liuyun Sect had been operating meticulously for nearly twenty years, aiming to become one of the Four Great Sects of Yan Kingdom, there was still a significant gap between them and the weakest Mingyue Valley in terms of heritage.

The strength disparity between the sect leaders and the Supreme Elders of both sides was significant. The sect leader and Supreme Elders of Mingyue Valley were undoubtedly Fanxu Realm experts, whereas Liuyun Sect had only reached the eighth or ninth layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!

The reason they were able to fight like this was because the Liuyun Sect leader had obtained many "spiritual treasures" in a fortuitous opportunity!

Just as cultivation techniques and elixirs have ranks, weapons and armor also have different levels. The weakest are magic artifacts, followed by magic treasures, and above them are spiritual treasures.

Spiritual treasures are essentially exclusive to Fanxu Realm experts, with immense power that renders magic treasures insignificant in comparison.

Although the sect leaders and Supreme Elders of the Four Great Sects of Yan Kingdom were typically at the Fanxu Realm, they were only at the first or second layer, at most the third layer.

This level of strength made it impossible for them to refine spiritual treasures themselves, nor could they afford to buy any.

This led to the current situation, where the elders of Mingyue Valley were being defeated by elders from Liuyun Sect wielding spiritual treasures!

"Boom!!"

At this moment, a thunderous roar suddenly erupted from Mingyue Valley, which had been trapped and unable to escape!

"Disciples of Mingyue Valley, listen up. Escape from this side now, we will create a path for you!"

The Liuyun Sect leader and Di Shitian heard these words, along with several subsequent vibrations from within Mingyue Valley, causing their expressions to change.

"Damn it, these wretched women dare to self-destruct to allow their disciples to escape, intending to preserve Mingyue Valley's legacy?!"

When the Liuyun Sect leader heard the thunderous noise and saw the killing formation being torn open, he knew what had happened inside.

It was the Supreme Elders of Mingyue Valley, self-destructing with their Fanxu Realm cultivation to forcefully open a bloody path to allow the sect's disciples to escape.

"Kill them all, leave no one alive!"

The sect leader couldn't hold back anymore, shouted a kill order, and soared into the sky to intercept the fleeing Mingyue Valley disciples who were making a break for it after the opening was blasted open.

Di Shitian did not join the pursuit. He had foreseen this happening.

After all, the Supreme Elders of Mingyue Valley were trapped in the killing formation and unable to leave, also being forced to their deaths by Liuyun Sect elders armed with spiritual treasures. Faced with inevitable death, it was better to create a path to survival for their disciples.

"Crunch, crunch!!"

Di Shitian closed his eyes and involuntarily clenched his fists!

This scene was too familiar to him!

Years ago, he had gone through the same ordeal. His father, mother, elder brother, and elder sister... all sacrificed themselves to forge a path for him and Di Yin.

Alas, though he had grown strong now, his younger brother... had perished in the outside world!

Perhaps because of this shared grief, Di Shitian did not participate in the slaughter of the Mingyue Valley disciples; instead, he turned around and left the grove...

Chapter 830: Cultivation in the Deep Mountains!

Deep in the Yuntian Mountain Range.

Mu Jinyu once again came here alone.

However, after searching for two days, he still could not find the "Dragon Saliva Celestial Origin Fruit" required for this mission.

Gradually, Mu Jinyu began to venture into the domain of third-rank ferocious beasts.

These beasts possessed strength equivalent to that of humans in the Fanxu Realm.

"Hiss! Hiss!"

A giant python over thirty meters long, upon seeing Mu Jinyu in its territory, immediately became enraged and let out an earth-shattering roar!

This was a low-level third-rank ferocious beast!

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu frowned slightly but then quickly relaxed before suddenly charging toward the giant python!

"Boom!"

Mu Jinyu executed the movement technique "Ten Steps Move" and simultaneously urged "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art" and "True Dragon Art" to activate his Azure Dragon Bloodline. Instantly, his cultivation rose from the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm to nearly the Ninth Layer under the Bloodline Power's enhancement!

Thereafter, Mu Jinyu threw a punch with the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," using his plain Physical Strength to deliver a terrifying force of tens of thousands of pounds straight to the python's head!

"Bang!!"

A loud noise erupted, like a thunderclap from a clear sky, shaking the surrounding area hundreds of miles around vigorously.

Fortunately, in the domain of third-rank ferocious beasts, other beasts were normally not allowed to reside. Otherwise, this commotion would have caused hundreds of birds to fly and thousands of beasts to flee...

"Bang! Bang! Bang!!"

The python was sent flying forty-five meters away by Mu Jinyu's punch, rolling and convulsing before it stood up again, glaring furiously at Mu Jinyu.

"Hiss... Hiss..."

It extended its forked tongue, extremely angry but not greatly injured, and then lunged at Mu Jinyu, swift as lightning, flickering past.

"You have tough bones, huh?"

Seeing the python unscathed, Mu Jinyu wasn't surprised, considering it was a third-rank ferocious beast.

Under the Bloodline enhancement of "True Dragon Art," his cultivation had barely reached the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, so how could a single punch kill it?

He was just using it to test his skills, to see how much he was lacking compared to the Fanxu Realm.

Besides, with "Ten Steps Move," he could surely escape even if he couldn't defeat it.

"Boom!"

The python, fast as lightning, lunged at Mu Jinyu within moments and opened its mouth to bite.

Mu Jinyu performed "Ten Steps Move," instantly darting dozens of meters away to avoid the python's attack.

"Whoosh!"

"Bang!!"

However, just as Mu Jinyu retreated dozens of meters, the python performed a "Dragon Tail Swing," its tail whipping toward him!

"Damn, it's so fierce?"

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu cursed silently and swiftly executed the second step of "Ten Steps Move," fleeing dozens of meters further and narrowly dodging the python's tail!

"Crack!!"

A sound like a whip cracked through the air as the snake's tail smashed a nearby cluster of trees and left a three to four meters wide crack in the ground!

"Ha!!"

As Mu Jinyu steadied himself, still reeling from the fright, the python had already fixed its gaze on him, opening its huge maw and letting out a soul-shaking roar!

Mu Jinyu's head pounded with pain, and he silently cursed his bad luck. This giant python also knew spiritual attacks?

"Whoosh!!"

The python finished roaring and spat out a black, near two-meter-wide venomous liquid at Mu Jinyu!

This was snake venom!

At this moment, Mu Jinyu's spiritual thoughts were still dazed by the python's attack, leaving him standing there dumbfounded, unaware of how to dodge!

"Hum..."

Just as it seemed Mu Jinyu would fall to the python's successive attacks, a gentle power surged from the mystical little tree in his Sea of Consciousness, soothing his injured soul.

Mu Jinyu immediately felt a refreshing sensation in his spirit, easing his dizziness.

He regained his senses and instantly realized the present lethal threat, breaking out in a cold sweat.

Without hesitation, Mu Jinyu quickly performed "Ten Steps Move" again, clumsily evading the python's venomous spray!

"Too dangerous, third-rank ferocious beasts indeed live up to their name!"

Still trembling from fear, Mu Jinyu dashed back another hundred meters with several more steps of "Ten Steps Move."

He now realized that the third-rank ferocious beast was beyond his ability to handle. His first punch had only connected because the python didn't expect him to attack.

Afterward, the python quickly retaliated with a series of unrelenting attacks, leaving him defenseless.

If not for the mystical little tree's timely intervention in his Sea of Consciousness, he would have been severely wounded or even worse by the snake venom.

"Although it's dangerous and I can't fend off the python, as long as I am careful, it can't do much to me either. This is a rare opportunity to hone my 'Ten Steps Move,'" he thought.

Gazing at the advancing python from a hundred meters away, Mu Jinyu's eyes flickered determinately as he made a bold decision.

Since he perfected the "Ten Steps Move" to an almost effortless level behind Tianlan Peak, progress had stagnated.

Mu Jinyu had surmised this was due to a lack of real-combat experience. Though he sought sparring partners, "Ten Steps Move" made him an unmatched force in close combat, always getting the upper hand easily.

Hence, real battle refinement was hard to come by.

The sudden encounter with the third-rank giant python proved extremely perilous, but each use of "Ten Steps Move" barely allowed him to escape its strike zone, a true test for his movement technique.

"Boom!!"

Not long after making his decision, the python closed the distance in a frenzied rush and decimated a large swath of trees with a tail smash.

Mu Jinyu quickly evaded, heart pumping with excitement, his mission to find the "Dragon Saliva Celestial Origin Fruit" momentarily forgotten as he engaged the python in a fierce skirmish, darting in and out of combat.

In a flash, half a day passed.

Throughout this time, Mu Jinyu was entangled in combat and fleeting escapes with the python.

Though he looked battered, he elevated his skills in "Great Freedom Heavenly Wood Sword Qi," "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," and "Ten Steps Move" to new heights.

The process was treacherous. Mu Jinyu faced death countless times, but he always pulled through.

Gradually, Mu Jinyu fought more fiercely, while the python showed signs of exhaustion.

It was natural. Mu Jinyu had not only mastered his martial arts and supernatural powers to a masterful level; his True Essence Power quickly replenished by the mystical little tree, and physical tiredness mitigated by Life Source Energy.

The third-rank ferocious beast had no such advantages.

After half a day of continuous fighting, the python's energy and True Yuan were massively depleted, leaving it increasingly exhausted.

"Hiss!!"

The python let out a final hiss, whipped its tail to force Mu Jinyu back dozens of meters, then turned and fled!

It decided to escape instead of continuing the battle with Mu Jinyu.