

## King Hall 851

Chapter 851: Escaping the Predicament!

Mu Jinyu seemed to draw lines in the ground to imprison Yun Ge in a wooden cage.

"Bang bang bang!"

Trapped inside, Yun Ge kept casting techniques and divine skills, trying to destroy the wooden cage and escape.

Unfortunately, no matter how many techniques and divine skills Yun Ge used, he couldn't shake the cage.

It seemed indestructible.

"This..."

"Brother Yun, does this count as a loss?"

"Not really, since Brother Mu couldn't defeat Brother Yun either, he could only trap him!"

"Nonsense, if Brother Mu really wanted to defeat Brother Yun, he would have done so long ago. He only trapped Yun Ge because they're good friends and wanted him to admit defeat voluntarily..."

The spectators below couldn't help but buzz as they watched the wooden cage trembling slightly on the combat platform.

Some thought Yun Ge had already lost to Mu Jinyu.

Others believed this wasn't a loss, that they just fought to a draw, leading to arguments and almost to a physical fight!

If not for the examiner elder standing by, keeping the peace, they might truly have lost control.

The examiner elder looked worriedly at Yun Ge, who was trapped, then noticed Mu Jinyu standing at the edge of the platform, not intending to continue.

After thinking for a moment, he stepped onto the platform and asked Mu Jinyu, "How is Yun Ge? Is he in any danger?"

Seeing Mu Jinyu's strange posture and unsure of his intentions, he asked the question.

Mu Jinyu shook his head, saying, "No danger at all, rather, he'll benefit from this. He'll know when he comes out."

Turning his head to the examiner elder, he said, "I won't continue from here, could I step down to rest and wait for Brother Yun to emerge?"

Mu Jinyu thought it was pointless to keep standing up there, better to step down and let other challengers proceed with their actual combat assessments.

No point wasting time.

Seeing Yun Ge still continuously bombard the wooden cage, the examiner elder realized Yun Ge was indeed safe inside and nodded, "Alright then."

"Okay."

Mu Jinyu acknowledged and stepped down from the combat platform leisurely.

As Mu Jinyu stepped down, the spectators who were arguing intensely went silent immediately.

If Mu Jinyu hadn't won, how could he step down?

It seemed the examiner elder also judged Yun Ge lost to Mu Jinyu.

Yun Ge's supporters felt sadness knowing that.

Chen Qiuqiao stared blankly, feeling extremely disappointed, "That guy, he finally claimed the top place!"

While Mu Jinyu's supporters excitedly discussed: "Brother Mu easily defeated Brother Yun, does that mean he has the strength of third place on Four Sects' Genius Ranking now?"

"No, he has replaced Brother Yun and now holds the third place on Four Sects' Genius Ranking!"

"Just wait for the Four Sects Martial Meeting to begin, Brother Mu will climb even higher!"

"Perhaps, Brother Mu might even aim for the first place on the Genius Ranking?"

"That's uncertain, after all, the first-ranked Dao Wuming and second-ranked Lin Tianxue aren't easy opponents! Although Brother Mu is the top of our Heavenly Sword Faction, he might not be able to compete against Blood Sword Sect's and Beixue Mountain Villa's best!"

"True, Brother Yun has always had some distance from those monsters, especially Dao Wuming of the Blood Sword Sect, who's a monster among monsters. Although Brother Mu defeated Brother Yun, he may have a chance against Lin Tianxue of Beixue Mountain Villa, but against Dao Wuming, it's difficult..."

The conversation shifted from debating Yun Ge's loss to discussing Yun Ge's two long-time rivals.

Especially when mentioning Dao Wuming, everyone showed a mix of fear and admiration.

"Dao Wuming? Lin Tianxue? Interesting..."

Mu Jinyu ignored the meaningless chatter, but he did take some interest in the first and second on Four Sects' Genius Ranking.

Yet, only a slight interest.

Having never met them, he couldn't possibly feel intimidated or fearful just because of their reputation.

Mu Jinyu walked over to Wen Rou and the other two girls.

The examiner elder announced on the platform, "Because of the unexpected situation in Mu Jinyu and Yun Ge's challenge, an outcome couldn't be determined, and the match couldn't continue, so we'll pause for now. Any challengers can proceed with their actual combat assessments."

Yun Ge's little supporter girls felt relieved hearing this, knowing Brother Yun hadn't lost.

Others felt puzzled, wondering why Mu Jinyu trapped Yun Ge without directly defeating him.

Wei Qingfeng and other top challengers on the List of Outstanding Talents knew well that Yun Ge was no match for Mu Jinyu!

Mu Jinyu could defeat Yun Ge effortlessly, why did he do this?

Without understanding, they couldn't ask Mu Jinyu anyway.

As the actual combat assessments continued, they switched to another combat platform for challenges.

Mu Jinyu showed little interest in these challenges, still focused on Yun Ge in the wooden cage on the original platform.

Jian Ruyan noticed and asked, "What did you do to him?"

Mu Jinyu smiled and said, "He lacks confidence. I gave him a hand, you'll see shortly."

"Playing mysterious." Jian Ruyan, annoyed by Mu Jinyu's refusal to explain, stopped asking.

On the other combat platform, few watched the wooden cage where Yun Ge was undergoing a transformation.

Initially, Yun Ge thought Mu Jinyu was humiliating him on purpose, igniting his unyielding fighting spirit, refusing to submit, and constantly casting techniques and divine skills to smash the cage!

Wanting to leave and continue fighting Mu Jinyu.

But as he bombarded the cage, sword qi surged in, Yun Ge cut through these sword qi, seeming to absorb something from them.

His expression changed, becoming less anxious and resentful, resembling Mu Jinyu's confidence.

"I see..."

When no more sword qi shot at Yun Ge in the cage, his gaze turned confident and proud. He whispered and pointed at the cage!

"Boom!"

With a loud explosion, the seemingly indestructible wooden cage vanished instantly!

Yun Ge's figure reappeared before everyone.

"Brother Yun is out!"

"He doesn't look tired, will he and Brother Mu continue the fight?"

The commotion on this combat platform drew the attention of those watching the other platform's battles.

Seeing Yun Ge emerge, looking refreshed and vigorous, everyone anticipated the continuation of his duel with Mu Jinyu!

Chapter 852: Unexpected!

Unfortunately, what was unexpected by everyone happened.

When Yun Ge broke free from the cage and reappeared on the combat platform, his eyes shone brightly as he looked at Mu Jinyu, but he had no intention of making a move.

Instead...

He actually bowed respectfully to Mu Jinyu, his voice full of gratitude as he said, "Thank you, Junior Brother Mu, for your help today..."

"Wow!"

The crowd was instantly abuzz with Yun Ge's actions.

They really couldn't understand why Yun Ge did this.

After being trapped by Mu Jinyu for so long, he actually thanked him after getting out?

Mu Jinyu waved his hand and said with a smile, "No need to be so polite. The fact that Brother Yun could understand everything shows that you were just one step away. I was just giving you a nudge."

Yun Ge smiled bitterly and said, "Even though it was just a nudge, if I had to figure it out on my own, it would probably take me one to two years to understand!"

As the crowd listened to their conversation, they became more and more confused, utterly unable to comprehend what they were talking about.

Only the Examiner Elder slightly furrowed his brows, then quickly relaxed and revealed an excited expression.

From their conversation, the Examiner Elder guessed that Yun Ge must have realized something, and since there was no sign of advancing to the Fanxu Realm, it meant he had understood Intent Domain, just like Wei Ziping!

If that was the case, then since the top three of the Heavenly Sword Faction's List of Outstanding Talents had all understood Intent Domain, wouldn't the chances of winning first place at the upcoming Four Sects Martial Meeting be even more assured?

Someone couldn't help but shout, "Hey, enough with the chatter. Brother Yun, are you going to fight Senior Brother Mu or not?"

Hearing this, Yun Ge shook his head slightly and said, "There's no need to. I am not Junior Brother Mu's opponent, I admit defeat."

He spoke with utmost composure and calm, showing no shame or embarrassment.

The crowd was once again taken aback by Yun Ge's words.

No one had expected Yun Ge to say such a thing.

He, as the most senior disciple of the Inner Gate, did not fight Mu Jinyu to the end and admitted defeat halfway through?

Is this really appropriate, ending it so abruptly?

As Yun Ge admitted defeat, the identity token hanging from Mu Jinyu's waist began to glow and then gradually dimmed.

At this moment, if someone stood at the summit of Tianlan Peak, they would see that the first name on the List of Outstanding Talents had changed from Yun Ge to Mu Jinyu!

Mu Jinyu had fully transitioned from second place on the List of Outstanding Talents to first.

He could now also be called the number one of the young generation in the Heavenly Sword Faction!

At this time, Nie Chu, ranked fifth on the List of Outstanding Talents, glanced oddly between Yun Ge and Mu Jinyu, his eyes rolling thoughtfully.

He recalled Yun Ge's performance when he was trapped in the wooden cage earlier, where sounds thudded incessantly inside. It seemed more like Yun Ge was still caught in a fierce struggle rather than breaking out.

Perhaps he was severely injured inside, which is why he had no choice but to admit defeat as soon as he came out.

If he had continued to fight Mu Jinyu while seriously injured, he would have been put in a worse position, further diminishing his invincible image in the hearts of the Inner Gate disciples.

Was this a retreat in order to advance?

Nie Chu thought his guess was very likely.

If so, wouldn't this be an opportunity for him?

So, after some hesitation, Nie Chu also stepped forward and shouted, "Since Brother Yun has conceded, I too have an itch to test Brother Yun's skills!"

"Hmm?!"

The crowd turned their puzzled and doubtful eyes to him.

They wondered how Nie Chu dared to challenge Yun Ge.

This guy didn't even dare to challenge Wei Qingfeng, who was ranked just above him.

And some people had thoughts similar to Nie Chu's, suspecting Yun Ge might be seriously injured. Upon hearing Nie Chu's words, they knew he was trying to take advantage of the situation, looking at him with disdain and disgust.

Wei Qingfeng's eyelid twitched, anger surging as he coldly said, "Nie Chu, you might be overestimating your step size. If you want a challenge, how about taking me on!"

Nie Chu glanced dismissively at Wei Qingfeng and said, "You're just one rank above me on the List of Outstanding Talents, I can't be bothered to fight you. If I'm going to challenge someone, it ought to be more difficult. Senior Brother Mu is too formidable; even Brother Yun isn't his match, so Brother Yun would be a suitable opponent."

"By that, you mean to say that Brother Yun is easy to bully?!"

Wei Qingfeng asked coldly.

"No, I don't dare think that," Nie Chu shook his head.

"You?!"

Wei Qingfeng wanted to say more.

Yun Ge, however, calmly said, "Junior Brother Wei, there's no need."

Upon hearing Yun Ge's words, Wei Qingfeng calmed down, though his face still bore traces of gloom.

Yun Ge continued, "Junior Brother Nie, you want to challenge me, so I accept. Come forward."

"Good, Brother Yun, you are indeed straightforward!"

Nie Chu's face lit with a proud smile upon hearing Yun Ge's response.

He then swiftly ascended the combat platform.

"Junior Brother Nie, please."

Yun Ge saw Nie Chu get on the stage but didn't plan to make the first move.

"Then Brother Yun, be careful!"

Nie Chu didn't hold back with Yun Ge nor dare to be careless, not knowing how much strength Yun Ge had preserved despite possible serious injuries.

If Nie Chu let Yun Ge make the first move, Yun Ge might use some ultimate sacrificial technique that could still be hard to handle!

"Ha!"

With a light shout, Nie Chu drew his sword, and a scarlet light flashed!

In the void, a phantom of a Golden Crow seemed to appear!

This move from Nie Chu was indeed one of Yun Ge's strongest Sword Intents, the Golden Crow Sword Intent!

"Hiss!"

Yun Ge remained calm, with no ripple in his demeanor but his eyes showed a gradually revealing pride. He also drew his sword.

"Swoosh!"

The terrifying phantom of the Golden Crow was instantly slashed apart by Yun Ge's seemingly plain and gentle sword qi!

"Puff!"

The Sword Intent was shattered, causing a backlash that made Nie Chu spit a mouthful of blood and fly off the combat platform.

Some people could have caught him, but due to his shameless behavior, everyone stepped aside.

Nie Chu hit the ground hard and was disoriented!

"Brother Yun, you..."

Nie Chu looked up, eyes filled with disbelief as he stared at Yun Ge, then spat another mouthful of blood, his eyes rolled back, and he passed out.

The Examiner Elder hurried over to check on him. After confirming that he was all right, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

After all, with the Four Sects Martial Meeting approaching, losing any top-ranking talent would be a significant loss.

Yun Ge had been very measured, breaking only Nie Chu's Sword Intent without further injuring him. Nie Chu just needed some time to recuperate!

The Examiner Elder then ignored Nie Chu, looking up with surprise at Yun Ge and said, "Yun Ge, did you really comprehend Intent Domain?!"

From Yun Ge's recent move, the Examiner Elder vaguely sensed the flavor of Intent Domain but was not entirely certain.

Moreover, he believed that given Yun Ge's strength, defeating Nie Chu shouldn't have been that easy; the only explanation was Intent Domain.

Yun Ge smiled upon hearing the Examiner Elder's question, glanced at Mu Jinyu, and said, "I have to thank Junior Brother Mu for this. Without him, I wouldn't have taken this step so quickly!"

Chapter 853 - 853 Exam Finished, Rewards Distributed!

Yun Ge once again thanked Mu Jinyu, leaving most of the inner disciples present somewhat bewildered.

What kind of intent? Why thank Mu Jinyu?

These disciples, just like the former Mu Jinyu not long ago, did not understand what intent was.

However, the inner disciples ranked high on the List of Outstanding Talents understood the significance of intent.

Their expressions changed unconsciously upon hearing Yun Ge's words.

"Brother Yun, could it be... in the recent battle with Senior Brother Mu, you comprehended an intent?!"

"Senior Brother Mu has such a skill? My heavens, does that mean... I too can do it?"

Although they knew that intent far surpassed sword intent, blade intent, and fist intent, their current status did not afford them the chance to encounter anyone capable of comprehending intent.

Thus, the news about Wei Ziping comprehending an intent was also something they realized only after Yun Ge spoke of it, belatedly understanding that Wei Ziping had comprehended a Self Realm.

But the fact that Mu Jinyu had a My Way State of Mind, and Yun Ge's act of breaking from confinement and being reborn anew, was something they could not discern at all.

Upon hearing Yun Ge's words, they were filled with astonishment and joy, looking at Mu Jinyu with a few expectant glances.

Someone couldn't hold back and asked on the spot, "Senior Brother Mu, please help me comprehend an intent as well."

As soon as he spoke.

A group of people immediately joined in.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu felt quite speechless, then raised his hand and pressed it down a few times.

The noisy voices gradually ceased.

Mu Jinyu looked at the first person who spoke. He had some impression of him, as he seemed to be ranked around the top fifteen on the List of Outstanding Talents, but he did not remember the name.

"Indeed, I can guide someone to comprehend the intent I've comprehended, but there are two prerequisites. One, you must already be close to understanding the intent because I am only guiding, not transferring energy. Two, the intent you aim to understand must be similar to my My Way State of Mind..."

After pausing for a moment, Mu Jinyu continued to explain, "As for the reason, it's because I can't possibly guide you to comprehend Vajra Fist Intent if you're practicing Mengmeng Fists. Wouldn't that turn you into a Vajra Barbie?"

Somebody at the scene couldn't help but laugh.

Mu Jinyu continued to explain:

"Brother Yun had already comprehended various sword intents similar to my My Way State of Mind, which is why I could successfully guide him to comprehend the My Way State of Mind too."

"So, do you understand now?"

After finishing, Mu Jinyu glared at the few who had caused the commotion earlier, among the top twenty on the List of Outstanding Talents.

They all looked down, not daring to meet his gaze, feeling deeply ashamed.

With their strength, of course, they hadn't started grasping intent yet. Most of them hadn't even reached the Completion Stage Realm with their sword intent. So how could they possibly comprehend intent?

What's more, everyone's path is different. My Way State of Mind might not fit them!

Seeing they had nothing to say, Mu Jinyu said no more.

On the platform, Yun Ge, upon noticing no one paying attention to the matter anymore, said, "Now, who else wants to challenge me?"

His tone was different from the usual politeness, filled with warmth.

Now, amidst the calm, there was a hint of dominance and confidence.

Upon hearing Yun Ge's words, those in the front ranks of the List of Outstanding Talents glanced at Nie Chu, who had been defeated miserably after provoking Yun Ge, and kept silent.

Yun Ge hadn't been seriously injured in Mu Jinyu's confinement, but had instead comprehended an intent. Now among the inner disciples, only Mu Jinyu and Wei Ziping, who had comprehended a Self Realm, could rival him. Who would dare challenge him?

Seeing this, Yun Ge didn't waste any words and stepped down from the combat platform.

In the subsequent time, everyone who watched the battles on the combat platform felt uninterested and occasionally turned to look at Mu Jinyu and Yun Ge.

Of course, most people's attention was on Mu Jinyu.

After all, Mu Jinyu's rise was truly legendary.

They couldn't help but think, if they also had a Spirit Root, could they become as dominant as Mu Jinyu in just over a month?

Conquering the entire Heavenly Sword Faction?!

Half a day later.

The actual combat assessment was finally over.

No one wanted to challenge anyone anymore.

Except for Mu Jinyu and a few others, everyone was badly injured.

The examiner elder, seeing the last pair of opponents step down, slowly walked to the high platform and announced, "This concludes the inner disciples' assessment!"

"Now, we will announce the results!"

"First place, Mu Jinyu. Strength assessment, excellent. Speed assessment, excellent. Reaction assessment, excellent. Actual combat assessment, excellent..."

"Second place, Yun Ge. Strength assessment, good. Speed assessment, good. Reaction assessment, good. Actual combat assessment, excellent..."

"Third place, Wei Ziping. Strength assessment, excellent. Speed assessment, pass. Reaction assessment, fail. Actual combat assessment, fail..."

Hearing the examiner elder announce Wei Ziping's results, the crowd's previously admiring expressions for Mu Jinyu turned into amusement.

Furthermore, with Wei Ziping currently recuperating at home, they had no qualms about laughing out loud.

As a talent who had been second on the List of Outstanding Talents, Wei Ziping's scores in previous inner disciple assessments had always been top-notch.

But this time, running into Mu Jinyu, coupled with poor judgment, resulted in two failed assessments, one barely passing, and only in the strength assessment, which didn't overlap with Mu Jinyu, did he achieve an excellent rating due to the ringing cauldrons and bells!

What a pity!

Quickly, the examiner elder finished reading each of their scores.

Finally, he declared, "The inner disciples who ranked in the top fifteen in this assessment, please prepare in the coming days. Our sect might anytime lead you to the Blood Sword Sect for the new Four Sects Martial Meeting. Mu Jinyu will be the team leader with Yun Ge as the deputy leader."

Faced with the examiner elder's announcement of Mu Jinyu leading the team to the Four Sects Martial Meeting, none of the other fourteen participants voiced any objections.

Mu Jinyu was indeed well-deserving as the top young talent of the Heavenly Sword Faction!

After the examiner elder finished, seeing no objections, he said, "Next, as I call your names, come forward to receive the rewards from this inner disciple assessment!"

"First, Mu Jinyu!"

Upon hearing the examiner elder call his name, Mu Jinyu's heart skipped a beat, and he immediately walked up to the combat platform where the elder stood.

The examiner elder looked at Mu Jinyu with full appreciation and emotion, then took out four pouches of spirit stones from his pocket and handed them to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu reached out and took them, probing each bag with his divine sense and was astonished.

The spirit stones in the pouches were not superior-grade spirit stones, but their Spiritual Energy was much denser.

If his guess was correct, these were top-quality spirit stones!

Each pouch contained ten top-quality spirit stones!

A total of forty!

Even Mu Jinyu couldn't help but be a little surprised.

These were top-quality spirit stones, not superior-grade ones. One top-quality spirit stone could be exchanged for ten superior-grade spirit stones.

These forty top-quality spirit stones could be traded for four hundred superior-grade spirit stones.

This reward was indeed much richer than the one from the outer gate exam.

No wonder he had planned to take it easy in the speed test but was persuaded by Yun Ge. It turned out there was such a reward.

Mu Jinyu thought, with these forty top-quality spirit stones, he might have the opportunity to reach the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm before the Four Sects Martial Meeting!

The examiner elder, noticing Mu Jinyu's astonishment, smiled and said, "These four pouches of spirit stones are rewards for your results in the four tests. And this piece of Enlightenment Tea is your reward for ranking first in the inner disciple assessment."

As he spoke, he took out a piece of bright green tea leaf and handed it to Mu Jinyu.

"Enlightenment Tea?!"

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing the examiner elder, was stunned once again.

He thought to himself, This is the grand prize for the inner disciple assessment!

## Chapter 854: Generous Donation!

The so-called Enlightenment Tea is a very rare treasure.

Its effects, as its name suggests, can help the user gain enlightenment on their Path.

During the consumption of Enlightenment Tea, the user's comprehension can be enhanced. Simply put, it opens up one's Spiritual Aperture, allowing the user to understand things that were previously elusive.

Take Yun Ge, for example. He was close to understanding the Intent Domain but still a bit far. If he was just half a step away from grasping it, consuming Enlightenment Tea could very well help him understand it effortlessly!

Furthermore, in terms of cultivation, if Yun Ge was only half a step away from breaking through to the Fanxu Realm, consuming a few more leaves of Enlightenment Tea along with cultivating in a Heaven Cave Blessed land like the Heavenly Sword Pool could make it easier for him to break through to the Fanxu Realm.

Therefore, it can be seen how precious Enlightenment Tea is in the Kunlun Ruins.

In the entire Heavenly Sword Faction, there are actually only a few leaves of Enlightenment Tea.

Not every top-talent in the Inner Gate assessment gets rewarded with Enlightenment Tea.

The reason it's offered this time is entirely because of the upcoming Four Sects Martial Meeting.

Mu Jinyu looked at the Enlightenment Tea leaves in the Examiner Elder's hand. His previously calm expression turned moved, and his demeanor showed some excitement.

He reached out to take the Enlightenment Tea leaf and said decisively, "Thank you for the sect's reward. Mu Jinyu will never disappoint the sect's cultivation!"

The Examiner Elder smiled with satisfaction upon hearing this and said, "Hmm, keep up the good work."

After speaking, his tone turned slightly odd as he said, "Well... originally, the top-talent reward included another opportunity to cultivate in the Heavenly Sword Pool for three days. But, you know, given the current situation of the Heavenly Sword Pool, this reward has been unavailable for years..."

"Ah?"

Mu Jinyu frowned upon hearing this.

If he could go to the Heavenly Sword Pool again, plus the forty Top-Quality Spirit Stones he just received and this Enlightenment Tea leaf, Mu Jinyu was entirely confident he could break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!

But now, with only the Enlightenment Tea and forty Top-Quality Spirit Stones, his confidence dropped to about fifty percent.

The Examiner Elder saw Mu Jinyu's expression and smiled, "Alright, you can leave now. I'll continue distributing the rewards to others!"

"Okay." Mu Jinyu responded, adjusted his emotions, and stepped off the platform.

He had no right to complain about losing the Heavenly Sword Pool reward. After all, it was a reward and motivation from the sect for its disciples. Even if it was canceled, the disciples had no right to complain. Also, the Heavenly Sword Pool situation was his doing.

Yun Ge and Wei Ziping might have the right to complain a bit, but he absolutely didn't.

After Mu Jinyu stepped down, the Examiner Elder called Yun Ge and others onto the platform to distribute the rewards. With that, this year's Inner Gate assessment came to an end.

As everyone left the square, they kept praising Mu Jinyu's legendary rise.

Mu Jinyu and Jian Ruyan quickly returned to their residence at the summit of Tianlan Peak.

On the way, Jian Ruyan noticed Mu Jinyu frowned slightly, seemingly having something on his mind. She asked, "What's wrong? You got first place, earned a lot of rewards. What else worries you?"

Mu Jinyu sighed, "I received four rewards for my tests, each containing ten Top-Quality Spirit Stones. The first-place reward was an Enlightenment Tea leaf."

"Hmm?" Jian Ruyan was slightly taken aback by his response but quickly understood his thoughts, "You want to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm?"

"Yeah, but these Spirit Stones might not be enough," Mu Jinyu replied.

Jian Ruyan said, "Then I could return the Elixirs you gave me last time."

Mu Jinyu shook his head, "No need, you keep them. My current rank is high, so those elixirs don't have much effect on me. Besides, I consumed nearly five thousand elixirs last time, so my body has developed resistance to them."

"Then you need to find new Pill Formulas?" Jian Ruyan frowned.

"Yes, but finding Pill Formulas is difficult. With the Four Sects Martial Meeting approaching, there's no time to wait. I may need to do some sect tasks to earn more Spirit Stones," Mu Jinyu replied.

Ji Li, following behind them, listened to their conversation with some confusion.

Five thousand elixirs? Could it be that the Young Master consumed nearly five thousand Second-Grade Elixirs?

Ji Li found it unbelievable and didn't dare to think further.

Mu Jinyu had just opened the courtyard door and was about to enter when Yun Ge approached him from afar.

"Junior Brother Mu, now that you're the top on the List of Outstanding Talents, you can move. No need to stay here."

Seeing Mu Jinyu's actions, Yun Ge knew he had no intention of moving, so he quickly said.

"Move? No need, right?" Mu Jinyu hesitated and looked at Yun Ge.

Yun Ge said, "Of course, it's necessary. That's the rule. Besides, the Spirit Energy in the courtyard I'm staying in is much stronger than here. Follow me."

"Alright."

Mu Jinyu didn't really care about the rules, but because of the higher Spirit Energy at the new place, given he wanted to break through before the Four Sects Martial Meeting, he was tempted.

So, Mu Jinyu went back inside, told Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou to pack their things and, once ready, followed Yun Ge to the best courtyard at the summit of Tianlan Peak.

This was originally Yun Ge's residence.

However, Yun Ge had moved to Wei Ziping's old place.

Thus, Mu Jinyu and his companions didn't take long to move and settled in quickly.

Standing in the courtyard, feeling the Spirit Energy far denser than at Huang Daotian's place, Mu Jinyu regretted not moving to Wei Qingfeng's place earlier.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu and Yun Ge chatted for a while, mostly discussing the upcoming Four Sects Martial Meeting.

Since Mu Jinyu's opponents would likely be Dao Wuming from the Blood Sword Sect and Lin Tianxue from Beixue Mountain Villa, Yun Ge elaborately explained the Cultivation Techniques and Divine Skills they practiced, advising Mu Jinyu to be extra careful.

"I noticed you've been somewhat distracted. Are you thinking about breaking through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm?"

Yun Ge, being observant, sensed something was off with Mu Jinyu during their conversation and guessed his thoughts, so he directly asked.

"Hmm?" Mu Jinyu nodded frankly, "Indeed. The top sect reward for my Inner Gate assessment was an Enlightenment Tea leaf, so I want to try breaking through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. But I don't have enough Spirit Stones, so I was thinking of doing some tasks to earn more. Maybe I can break through before the Four Sects Martial Meeting!"

"Ah?" Yun Ge was surprised the sect rewarded Mu Jinyu with Enlightenment Tea.

After a brief shock, Yun Ge dismissed it and, after some thought, said, "No, there's not enough time. Tasks take at least three days for enough Spirit Stones. Retreat and breakthrough take another two to three days."

"The Four Sects Martial Meeting is in five days, and we'll have to leave a day early for the Blood Sword Sect's venue. Time is too tight!"

With that, Yun Ge unhesitatingly took out a bag of Spirit Stones from his Storage Bag and handed it to Mu Jinyu, saying, "Junior Brother Mu, take these Spirit Stones!"

Mu Jinyu instinctively took it and, upon checking with his Divine Sense, found there were over a hundred Top-Quality Spirit Stones!

Chapter 855: Questioning and Refutation!

"This..."

Mu Jinyu didn't expect Yun Ge to give him so many top-quality spirit stones.

It's likely that these are the ones Yun Ge accumulated over the years as the Heavenly Sword Faction's Inner Gate Senior Brother.

He immediately wanted to refuse.

Seeing this, Yun Ge calmly said, "Junior Brother Mu, you don't need to refuse in haste. You can consider it as a loan; after all, I can't break through to the Fanxu Realm right now. These spirit stones are just gathering dust in my storage bag. It's better for you to use them to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, so you can perform better at the Four Sects Martial Meeting!"

With a hint of apology, Yun Ge continued, "Consider this as an apology on behalf of the sect for neglecting you. Since you have the confidence to reach the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, the sect shouldn't strictly adhere to rules but should give you rewards in advance based on your potential performance at the Four Sects Martial Meeting!"

"If the sect can't do this, then I'll help you myself!"

Yun Ge looked at Mu Jinyu, filled with sincerity and apology.

"Alright then." Mu Jinyu, hearing Yun Ge's words, thought it over and decided there was no need to refuse his goodwill.

With these top-quality spirit stones, he could repay Yun Ge with the sect's rewards after the Four Sects Martial Meeting.

It shouldn't be too little. Even if it's not enough, he could earn more spirit stones later to repay Yun Ge, avoiding the current time constraints due to the upcoming Four Sects Martial Meeting.

Mu Jinyu didn't push back anymore and said, "Alright, thank you, Brother Yun."

Seeing this, Yun Ge also breathed a sigh of relief.

He was afraid Mu Jinyu would stubbornly refuse.

Then Yun Ge stood up and said, "Alright, since you are preparing to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, I won't disturb you any longer. I hope you succeed."

"Thank you for your kind words, Senior Brother." Mu Jinyu didn't keep Yun Ge any longer and stood up to see him out.

After seeing Yun Ge off, Mu Jinyu told Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou about his plans to go into seclusion and then returned to his room.

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After parting with Mu Jinyu, Yun Ge didn't go back to his residence but directly went to find the sect leader of the Heavenly Sword Faction.

With his status, there was naturally no obstacle to seeing the sect leader.

Yun Ge quickly saw the sect leader and informed him about Mu Jinyu's plan to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, with a tone somewhat confronting.

"What, he's preparing to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm so soon?"

The sect leader furrowed his brows and exclaimed with some loss of composure after hearing Yun Ge's words.

"He leaped from the Fourth Layer to the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm the last time he entered the Heavenly Sword Pool. It hasn't been that long, and his cultivation level hasn't even stabilized yet. How can he break through to the Ninth Layer now? Isn't this absurd?"

The sect leader was also a bit angry, feeling that Mu Jinyu was acting recklessly.

Turning to Yun Ge with a scrutinizing and questioning look, he angrily said, "Why didn't you stop him? If he hastily attempts to break through to the Ninth Layer and luckily succeeds, his foundation will still be unstable. He came from Huaxia and may not understand this, but you should!"

"Do you want him to remain at the Divine Transformation Realm forever and never break through to the Fanxu Realm?!"

The sect leader's gaze turned even more suspicious as he looked at Yun Ge, suspecting that Yun Ge was jealous of Mu Jinyu's talent and feared losing his own position in the Heavenly Sword Faction, thus deliberately setting Mu Jinyu up to ensure he doesn't have a chance to break through to the Fanxu Realm!

Yun Ge listened to the sect leader's accusations, meeting his gaze without flinching, and said, "I've never had such thoughts. Sect leader, your assumption is really disappointing."

He defended himself point by point, "If I wanted to harm Junior Brother Mu, why would I inform you after lending him the spirit stones? Wouldn't it be better to keep it quiet, or even let Junior Brother Mu leave the Heavenly Sword Faction for seclusion elsewhere, so you couldn't find him to stop him?"

"At least now, if you want to stop him from breaking through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, you still have a chance. After all, he has just started his seclusion!"

"And Junior Brother Mu helped me attain the Only Me Intent Domain. Why would I harm him? I, Yun Ge, am not so petty!"

Noticing the sect leader's face showing embarrassment, Yun Ge continued, seeing he realized his overreaction, "Besides, the reason I didn't stop Junior Brother Mu from attempting to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm is that I believe his physique might be different from

ours. We have many limitations in cultivation. After breaking through, we need to stabilize our realm before continuing, or we might lose our cultivation."

"But Junior Brother Mu was able to leap from the Fourth to the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. While it might be due to not having practiced in a place like the Heavenly Sword Pool before, his battle power shouldn't be so high. If it were me, my unstable realm wouldn't stand against someone at the Seventh Layer."

"Yet Junior Brother Mu, with his unstable realm, defeated both me and Wei Ziping. This indicates that his physique might be special, allowing him to ignore realm bottlenecks, breaking through as long as there's enough spiritual energy?"

"That's why, seeing Junior Brother Mu's attempt, I lent him the spirit stones!"

"Anyway, his current Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm shows no signs of instability. Breaking through to the Ninth Layer won't ruin him!"

"At most, if I'm wrong, and his realm shows instability at the Ninth Layer, he just needs more time to stabilize it, with no irreparable damage!"

"Then why wouldn't I help him?"

Yun Ge calmly and boldly looked at the sect leader, saying, "If my guess is correct, wouldn't Junior Brother Mu at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm bring more glory to the Heavenly Sword Faction at the Four Sects Martial Meeting?"

The sect leader, hearing Yun Ge's explanations, averted his gaze and finally sighed deeply, "I'm sorry, I misunderstood you, my apologies..."

"It's fine. My personal grievances don't matter as long as the Heavenly Sword Faction thrives." Yun Ge calmly replied.

"Then, as you suggested, should we send spirit stones to Mu Jinyu for more assurance in his breakthrough to the Ninth Layer?" the sect leader asked afterward.

Yun Ge shook his head, "Junior Brother Mu should be in seclusion now. It's not good to disturb him. Why not set up a Spirit Gathering Array with spirit stones outside his room instead?"

Chapter 856: Breakthrough! 9th Level of the Divinity Transformation Realm!

"Good!"

The Sect Leader heard this and guessed the reason Yun Ge wanted him to make such a decision. It was obviously because Mu Jinyu might have already started using the Enlightenment Tea to break through the realm.

If that were the case, it would indeed be inappropriate to disturb Mu Jinyu. Otherwise, he might have just entered the state, only to be interrupted by them, needing a long time to get back into state, essentially wasting the Enlightenment Tea.

It would be better to use the Spirit Gathering Array to help Mu Jinyu instead, as this method would not waste too much Spiritual Energy.

After making the decision.

The Sect Leader took out more than a hundred top-quality Spirit Stones, and together with Yun Ge, they arrived outside Mu Jinyu's courtyard.

When they knocked on the door.

Ji Li opened the door and was slightly nervous to see Yun Ge returning with the Sect Leader.

The Sect Leader smiled kindly and said, "Little girl, you don't need to be nervous. I am here to help Mu Jinyu break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divinity Transformation Realm."

"Oh, alright... please come in."

Ji Li quickly calmed her nervousness and immediately invited them in upon hearing they were here to help.

After inviting them into the house, Jian Ruyan and Wen Rou, who had also been preparing to cultivate, came out after hearing the commotion and froze at the sight of them.

Seeing this, Yun Ge quickly went over to explain to them the intention of bringing the Sect Leader.

After listening, Jian Ruyan said indifferently, "Alright then, excuse the trouble."

Yun Ge's idea was indeed beneficial to Mu Jinyu without any harm, so Jian Ruyan naturally had no reason to refuse them entrance.

On the other hand, the Sect Leader had already begun setting up the Spirit Gathering Array outside Mu Jinyu's room!

Soon, the Sect Leader successfully set up the Spirit Gathering Array, and immediately a stream of very abundant Spiritual Energy began to circulate within the courtyard.

Wen Rou and Ji Li subconsciously took a deep breath and showed a look of intoxication.

Ji Li thought to herself, this concentration of Spiritual Energy is almost akin to their Heaven Cave Blessed land in Mingyue Valley.

Wen Rou thought that this concentration of Spiritual Energy far exceeded that of Yinlong Mountain, so Mu Jinyu should have a smoother breakthrough.

As for Jian Ruyan, she did not show intoxication like Wen Rou and Ji Li. She remained calm, as if she had long been cultivating in an even better environment.

Seeing this, the Sect Leader couldn't help but secretly ponder that this girl Jian Ruyan might not be as simple as he initially thought!

This Spirit Gathering Array was set up with over a hundred top-quality Spirit Stones, combined with the originally rich Spiritual Energy of the courtyard. Even he rarely got to cultivate in such an environment and was fairly satisfied, yet Jian Ruyan remained composed.

Saying she had no problem would be most suspicious.

However, the Sect Leader also observed that Jian Ruyan had no ill intentions towards Mu Jinyu, so he didn't bother to delve into her background.

"Alright, the Spirit Gathering Array is set up. The rest is up to fate. I'll be leaving now."

Without further thought, the Sect Leader turned to Yun Ge and said.

After all, he was the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Faction and couldn't stay here indefinitely to protect Mu Jinyu.

"Hmm."

Yun Ge responded and realized this as well. He bid farewell to Jian Ruyan and the others, also giving them some instructions before leaving the courtyard again.

He didn't dare to stay here too long for fear of starting to cultivate as well and competing for Mu Jinyu's Spiritual Energy, which wouldn't be good.

The instructions he gave Jian Ruyan and the others were to refrain from cultivating for the next few days.

The three girls naturally had no objections. After all, they wouldn't have much chance to break through within a few days of following the cultivation themselves.

There was no reason to cultivate and ruin Mu Jinyu's breakthrough hopes.

Wen Rou even suggested for the sake of not affecting Mu Jinyu's cultivation, that the three of them move out of the house and stay at the halfway point of Tianlan Peak.

...

Mu Jinyu was unaware that after his seclusion, Yun Ge had brought additional resources for his aid.

After sending Yun Ge away and giving Wen Rou and the others some instructions, he returned to the room to begin his closed-door training.

Sitting cross-legged on the bed, Mu Jinyu took out the Enlightenment Tea Leaf from his Storage Bag.

The Enlightenment Tea was tender and glistening, with a green glow circulating on the tea leaf, looking more like a beautifully carved top-quality jade than a freshly picked tea leaf.

Merely looking at it for a few moments, Mu Jinyu could sense an inexplicable Dao Rhyme circulating, seemingly enhancing his comprehension.

Although he hadn't held onto the Enlightenment Tea for even two hours, valuable resources should be used at critical moments. Storing it for a future breakthrough to the Fanxu Realm would be a waste.

After all, who could predict if better Spirit Plants would be available when he attempted to break through the Fanxu Realm?

Just as money is earned and spent, the more powerful one becomes, the more Spirit Stones and resources they consume, but also the greater the chances of obtaining superior resources.

Without any hesitation, Mu Jinyu placed the Enlightenment Tea into his mouth.

"Boom!"

As the tea entered his mouth, Mu Jinyu felt a thunderous sound in his mind, as if his Heavenly Spirit Cover had opened, making his alignment with the heavens and earth feel much higher.

Saliva filled his mouth, and many cultivation doubts quickly became clear and understandable, his state perfect beyond imagination.

"Excellent, excellent..."

Praising himself, Mu Jinyu took out over a hundred and forty top-quality Spirit Stones and more than a hundred superior-grade Spirit Stones, amounting to about a hundred and fifty top-quality Spirit Stones. He began to set up the "Spirit Capturing Array"!

The Spirit Capturing Array differs from the Spirit Gathering Array. While the Spirit Gathering Array gathers nearby Spiritual Energy to improve the cultivator's environment, the Spirit Capturing Array seizes the Spiritual Energy directly from the array's Spirit Stones, allowing the array's user to absorb the energy more effectively!

With the completion of the Spirit Capturing Array, Mu Jinyu's room was filled with nearly tangible Spiritual Energy, almost becoming Spiritual Paste.

Although it didn't reach the level of the Heavenly Sword Pool environment, Spiritual Rain began to drizzle in his room!

One could see how enhanced his cultivation environment had become!

Mu Jinyu immediately closed his eyes and began intensely practicing the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art, continuously absorbing the immense Spiritual Energy in the room to elevate his cultivation!

"Boom boom!!!"

With the wild absorption of Spiritual Energy, Mu Jinyu's True Yuan rapidly surged.

If Mu Jinyu had previously raised his cultivation to the mid-Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm in the Heavenly Sword Pool, then now, he had swiftly reached the later stage of the Eighth Layer!

He even began to qualify for breaking through to the Ninth Layer!

"Hmm?!"

At this moment, immersed in his cultivation state, Mu Jinyu sensed something odd. The surrounding Spiritual Energy seemed to be increasing as he absorbed more.

Although he felt something was amiss, it was generally beneficial, so Mu Jinyu didn't think much about it. Utilizing the effects of the Enlightenment Tea, he started attempting the breakthrough to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!

...

Two days later.

"Boom!!"

A tremendous sound came from Mu Jinyu's room.

Mu Jinyu had successfully broken through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm.

Consequently, a vortex of Spiritual Energy formed above his room.

However, due to the restrictions in each courtyard, nobody knew that Mu Jinyu had already broken through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm.

Another day passed.

The formerly dense Spiritual Energy in Mu Jinyu's courtyard, which had manifested as Spiritual Rain, had dissipated.

The Spiritual Energy in the courtyard became similar to that of Huang Daotian's courtyard.

"Creak!"

Mu Jinyu walked out of the room, smiling to himself, "Fortunately for that sudden increase in Spiritual Energy midway, otherwise stabilizing my state at Divine Transformation Ninth Layer would have taken much longer."

Chapter 857: Setting Off to the Blood Sword Sect!

Mu Jinyu walked out of the room, feeling elated, ready to call Jian Ruyan and the others for a good meal, but he didn't see them around.

After thinking briefly, he guessed that they probably left to not disturb his cultivation.

"Hmm?! What's this..."

Then Mu Jinyu saw some remnants and a damaged Spirit Gathering Array outside his room.

His heart stirred, and he recalled the sudden surge of Spiritual Energy during his cultivation!

This very Spiritual Energy had enabled him to stabilize his cultivation after advancing to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm.

"Was it Wen Rou's and the others' intention?"

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu walked over to the remnants and squatted down to inspect them.

Soon after, his brows furrowed tightly.

"No, these... are all Top-Quality Spirit Stones?!"

"Wen Rou and the others shouldn't have obtained so many Top-Quality Spirit Stones, right?"

Thinking briefly, Mu Jinyu thought of Brother Yun who had lent him over a hundred Top-Quality Spirit Stones at that time.

"It must be Brother Yun."

Mu Jinyu pondered, perhaps Yun Ge felt the previous Spirit Stones might not be enough for him, so he borrowed extra Spirit Stones for him?

Without thinking further, Mu Jinyu left the courtyard, not looking for Wen Rou and the others first but heading to Courtyard No.2 nearby Yun Ge's new residence.

After gently knocking on the gate a few times, Yun Ge, who was also in seclusion to adjust his state, came out and opened the door.

"Junior Brother Mu, you're out of seclusion?"

Seeing Mu Jinyu arriving, Yun Ge asked happily.

"You didn't disappoint us; you really reached the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!"

Yun Ge then checked Mu Jinyu's state, discovering he had broken through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, making his grin even wider.

Mu Jinyu smiled and nodded, thanking Yun Ge for lending the Spirit Stones, then asked if he knew what happened to the Spirit Gathering Array outside his room.

Yun Ge didn't hide, revealing the Sect Leader's generous gesture to Mu Jinyu.

However, he didn't mention that he almost got misunderstood by the Sect Leader thinking he had malicious intent towards Mu Jinyu.

After hearing this, warmth filled Mu Jinyu's heart, and he laughed, "Then I must thank Brother Yun once more. If you hadn't informed the Sect Leader, allowing him to be generous, I would have still needed a lot of time to stabilize my state even if I broke through, probably missing the Four Sects Martial Meeting."

"It's my duty."

Yun Ge had no intention of taking credit, sweeping past this topic, then said, "Since Junior Brother Mu has come out, we can set off for the Blood Sword Sect earlier. After all, only one day remains for the Four Sects Martial Meeting."

Generally, when the Four Great Sects of the Yan Kingdom hold the Four Sects Martial Meeting, the other three sects would go to the host sect a few days in advance each round.

Like this year's Four Sects Martial Meeting, Beixue Mountain Villa and Liuyun Sect, which replaced the destroyed Mingyue Valley, had already rushed to the host sect Blood Sword Sect.

The Heavenly Sword Faction should have left for the Blood Sword Sect three days ago, but they waited because Mu Jinyu, on whom they had pinned their hopes, was still in seclusion to break through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm.

During these days, the Sect Leader and others were very anxious, deciding at one point that if Mu Jinyu did not come out by the last half day, they would leave him and take Yun Ge, Wei Ziping, and others straight there.

Fortunately, Mu Jinyu came out just in time with one day remaining.

This added to Yun Ge's joy.

"Alright, I'll pack up and head to the assembly."

Mu Jinyu did not object, knowing he had delayed things a bit, apologetically apologized to Yun Ge.

"Mm-hmm, I'll go inform the Sect Leader," Yun Ge smiled.

They then separated, with Yun Ge going to notify the Sect Leader, and Mu Jinyu heading to gather the candidates for the Four Sects Martial Meeting and leave for the Blood Sword Sect.

Instead of heading back to pack, Mu Jinyu went down from the summit of Tianlan Peak to find Wen Rou and the others.

By "packing", he actually meant informing Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan. Leaving with Yun Ge without saying anything to Wen Rou would make her worry unnecessarily.

At the ordinary Inner Sect disciple residences halfway up the mountain, Mu Jinyu found Wen Rou and the three girls.

The three girls were delighted to see Mu Jinyu emerge, realizing he had advanced to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm.

Even the usually solemn Jian Ruyan had a faint smile on her face.

Mu Jinyu did not chat much, informing them he would set off for the Blood Sword Sect to participate in the Four Sects Martial Meeting.

Understanding, Wen Rou nodded and said, "Okay, go ahead. I'll take care of myself."

She already knew the Four Sects Martial Meeting was imminent and had heard that if Mu Jinyu hadn't emerged in the last half day, the Sect Leader and others would have left without him.

Therefore, she harbored no complaints.

Jian Ruyan suddenly said, "I'll go with you."

"Huh?" Mu Jinyu was surprised by Jian Ruyan's words, not expecting her to want to go.

Jian Ruyan said, "The Heavenly Sword Faction is a bit dull, and cultivation is slow. The Four Sects Martial Meeting sounds interesting; I'll go with you to check it out."

"Oh, that works." Mu Jinyu understood her thoughts.

Seeing Jian Ruyan's current state, unable to fully immerse herself in cultivation, staying in the Heavenly Sword Faction seemed boring.

Nodding, Mu Jinyu turned to Wen Rou and Ji Li, "Do you want to go with us?"

Upon hearing this, fear flickered in Ji Li's eyes, and she quickly shook her head, "I... I won't go."

She knew Liuyun Sect, which had replaced the destroyed Mingyue Valley, would be attending.

Thinking of Liuyun Sect reminded her of the tragedy at Mingyue Valley, fearing she would be recognized by someone from Liuyun Sect.

Although she believed Mu Jinyu could protect her, she didn't want to bring him unnecessary trouble.

Wen Rou was slightly tempted but, seeing Ji Li's demeanor, guessed her thoughts. Considering it, she gently said, "I'll pass too. I've been in a good cultivation state lately; maybe I'll break through to the Fifth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm with some luck. I'll cheer you on here."

"Alright, stay in the upper courtyard and cultivate then."

Understanding Ji Li's fear and Wen Rou's care for Ji Li, Mu Jinyu didn't force them and agreed.

The four of them then left the small courtyard together, returning to the Tianlan Peak Summit's plaza.

By now, the Sect Leader had received Yun Ge's notification, gathering everyone selected for the Four Sects Martial Meeting, ready to depart.

"Sect Leader, apologies for my tardiness."

Mu Jinyu, accompanied by Jian Ruyan and the other three women, arrived at the plaza, apologizing.

The Sect Leader glanced at Mu Jinyu, seeing his cultivation had indeed reached the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm. His previous feelings of anxiety, unease, and regret over Mu Jinyu's delayed emergence all vanished.

He laughed heartily, waving his hand, "No worries, not too late, but we must depart soon."

When Wei Ziping saw Mu Jinyu, his previous desire to mock him vanished upon witnessing his strength had reached the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, knowing he was no match.

Chapter 858: Sword Mountain Fiery Sea?

Wei Qingfeng, Nie Chu, and others, seeing Mu Jinyu suddenly break through at the last moment, had even more complex feelings!

The Sect Leader didn't bother to consider their thoughts and just waved his hand, causing a clear light to shimmer.

Instantly, a gigantic and beautiful flying shuttle appeared in the plaza.

This is a flying treasure, which can be powered by Spirit Stones, carrying people in flight at incredible speeds, traveling thousands of miles in a day with ease.

However, the Spirit Stones consumed are also immense, and generally, none of the Four Sects in Yan Kingdom would easily use it.

Previously, when the Heavenly Sword Faction participated in the Four Sects Martial Meeting, the Sect Leader would never bring out this flying treasure.

But this time, because they had to wait for Mu Jinyu to come out of seclusion, it took a bit longer. If they traveled to the Blood Sword Sect on foot, they wouldn't make it in time.

Even if they managed to make it, everyone's True Yuan and energy would be greatly depleted.

If they were exhausted, participating in the Four Sects Martial Meeting would leave them with no chance of winning.

In desperation, the Sect Leader could only bring out the flying treasure to take them to the Blood Sword Sect together.

If Mu Jinyu had come out of seclusion without breaking through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, the Sect Leader would likely look extremely upset, even if he didn't scold Mu Jinyu to death.

But since Mu Jinyu broke through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, the Spirit Stones consumed by the flying shuttle were no longer an issue for the Sect Leader.

After all, providing Mu Jinyu with over a hundred top-quality Spirit Stones, plus the Spirit Stones consumed by the flying shuttle, to elevate Mu Jinyu to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm for the Four Sects Martial Meeting, was entirely worth it!

Even double the amount, the Sect Leader would be willing!

Because with Mu Jinyu's strength at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, he would almost certainly take first place in the Four Sects Martial Meeting!

By then, the rewards the Heavenly Sword Faction would receive would far exceed expectations.

"Get on!"

The Sect Leader brought out the flying shuttle and beckoned everyone to get on, his tone light yet brimming with anticipation.

Wei Ziping's face turned livid, his mood extremely foul. He angrily stepped onto the flying shuttle and took a seat.

Soon after, the group orderly got on and sat down.

Mu Jinyu waited for them to sit down before approaching the Sect Leader to discuss whether they could take Jian Ruyan along.

In good spirits, the Sect Leader readily agreed.

Though carrying one more person would consume more Spirit Stones, the cost was nothing compared to improving Mu Jinyu's mood.

Mu Jinyu expressed his thanks and then said goodbye to Wen Rou and Ji Li, taking Jian Ruyan with him.

"Little Mu, take care of yourself, and do your best."

"Good luck, young master."

Wen Rou and Ji Li stood below Mu Jinyu's flying shuttle, waving as they spoke.

"Yes, you both take care of yourselves too."

Mu Jinyu waved back to them.

After they finished speaking, the Sect Leader activated the flying shuttle, which rose into the air and disappeared from Wen Rou, Ji Li, and the others' sight in an instant.

...

Half a day later.

The Sect Leader piloted the flying shuttle to the entrance of the Blood Sword Sect.

Mu Jinyu sat inside the flying shuttle, protected by a layer of shield, preventing them from being buffeted by strong winds.

Through the shield, he saw the Blood Sword Sect's entrance not far away and a flicker of surprise crossed his eyes.

The Blood Sword Sect's gate exuded an intense aura of evil and blood, looking terrifying, with a sense of being a Blood Prison.

If one cultivated here for a long time, without a firm will, it would be easy to invite evil Qi into the body and fall into madness.

Mu Jinyu wondered what the Blood Sword Sect was thinking, setting up their sect in such a place.

"We're here, time to get off. Prepare yourselves."

At this moment, the Sect Leader's voice transmitted throughout the flying shuttle, informing everyone.

Soon after, the flying shuttle, which had been parallel in flight, suddenly plunged downward, creating a strong sense of vertigo that made people uncomfortable.

Even Mu Jinyu almost mistook it for a crash and nearly broke through the shield to escape.

A few minutes later.

The flying shuttle finally landed steadily at the foot of the Blood Sword Sect's mountain.

Once the shield disappeared, a few people immediately jumped out of the flying shuttle, standing under a tree and vomiting.

The others, though not vomiting, were pale and feeling unwell.

At this moment, due to the commotion caused by the arrival of the flying shuttle, the Blood Sword Sect people knew it was the Heavenly Sword Faction and sent a senior member to greet them.

Seeing that it was the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Faction leading the group, the Elder greeted with a smile: "Sect Leader Xie, your Heavenly Sword Faction is the latest this time. The Four Sects Martial Meeting is about to start tomorrow; we almost thought you weren't coming."

"How could we not attend such an important event as the Four Sects Martial Meeting? We were just delayed a bit. Aren't we here now?"

The Sect Leader smiled lightly, waving his hand as he spoke.

After speaking, he greeted several high-ranking elders of the Heavenly Sword Faction who had come along to catch up with the Blood Sword Sect elder.

He then had everyone greet the Blood Sword Sect elder.

After the greetings, the Sect Leader signaled everyone to follow him and headed towards the mountain top.

Since the Blood Sword Sect's mountain gate had restrictions, the flying shuttle couldn't land directly on the mountain top, so they stopped at the foot and climbed up.

Though the Blood Sword Sect's mountain gate was steep and rugged, Mu Jinyu and the others, being at the Seventh to Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, were not worn out by the climb.

In less than ten minutes, they reached the actual gate of the Blood Sword Sect.

In front of them was a massive gate made of an unknown material, radiating a blood-red hue, with waves of murderous aura and sword Qi emanating from it, making it intimidating to look at.

On top of the gate, a huge black bronze plaque was hung, with the words "Blood Sword Sect" inscribed in an iron hook and silver stroke style, full of a domineering aura. Each stroke seemed to pierce the sky with murderous intent, making one tremble with fear and weak in the knees.

Mu Jinyu stared at the black bronze plaque, his face stern, seemingly in deep thought.

At this moment, the Sect Leader, who was having a pleasant chat with the Blood Sword Sect elder, turned back and said to everyone: "I and a few elders will go in first; you all come in quickly too!"

After speaking, he and a few elders walked around the massive red gate and disappeared into the reception area inside.

Mu Jinyu, feeling confused, wondered why the Sect Leader didn't let them follow inside.

Then, hearing a commotion behind him, he turned around.

He saw Wei Ziping, Wei Qingfeng, Nie Chu, and others, all eager and ready to fight, with a determined look.

This puzzled him even more.

Yun Ge, warming up, noticed Mu Jinyu's confused gaze and suddenly remembered that Mu Jinyu had never participated in the Four Sects Martial Meeting and had been in seclusion, unaware of its rules, so he approached to explain:

"Junior Brother Mu, get ready. In a moment, we'll go through the Blood Sword Sect's 'Sword Mountain Fiery Sea'."

Mu Jinyu frowned and asked: "'Sword Mountain Fiery Sea'? What is that?"

Yun Ge explained: "'Sword Mountain Fiery Sea' is the Blood Sword Sect's entry test. Every Four Sects Martial Meeting host will test the disciples' potential as they enter."

"For the Heavenly Sword Faction, if we're the host, there would be a 'Sword Shatters Rivers and Mountains' test. Beixue Mountain Villa's test is the 'Frozen Throne,' testing strength, speed, reaction capabilities, and mentality!"

"That's why, during the Inner Gate assessment, there's a speed test, strength test, and reaction test!"

Chapter 859: Mutual Scheming!

Mu Jinyu listened to Yun Ge's words and nodded in realization, "Oh, so these tests are actually for selecting disciples who can perform excellently in this 'Sword Mountain Fiery Sea' and give our Heavenly Sword Faction some face?"

"Yes, you can understand it that way."

Yun Ge nodded, then shook his head and said, "But it's not exactly about giving face, since these tests will be seen by the other Three Sects. If it's about shining at the Four Sects Martial Meeting, wouldn't it be better to reserve strength and deliberately show weakness to the enemies?"

"The reason why you must give your all here is also because this entry test is considered a part of the Four Sects Martial Meeting. It's the first round of the Four Sects' competition, just without actual combat."

Speaking of this, Yun Ge looked at Mu Jinyu and reminded, "So, Junior Brother Mu, when you go in, don't think about holding back, just give it your all and let the other Three Sects see your true capabilities. With your strength, even if they become wary, what does it matter? The gap is a gap, it's not something that can be overcome just by being cautious."

"Alright, I understand." Mu Jinyu nodded after listening to Yun Ge's words.

...

While Mu Jinyu and the others were preparing to venture into the "Sword Mountain Fiery Sea".

At the Blood Sword Sect, the Sect Leader, accompanied by Elder Cheng and other high-ranking elders of the Heavenly Sword Faction, followed an elder of the Blood Sword Sect into a room resembling a meeting room.

In this room, the Sect Leader of the Blood Sword Sect and some high-ranking elders were already seated.

And the Sect Leaders of Beixue Mountain Villa and the new Four Great Sect, Liuyun Sect, were also sitting here.

When the Sect Leader of the Blood Sword Sect and the Sect Leader of Beixue Mountain Villa saw the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Faction entering, they stood up and greeted with a smile, "Xie Chenkun, you really arrived late this time, we almost thought you weren't coming."

The Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Faction was named Xie Chenkun.

The Sect Leader of Liuyun Sect, being weaker with only the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, though possessing a spiritual treasure, wasn't afraid but was unfamiliar, so he awkwardly stood up, nodded slightly towards the members of the Heavenly Sword Faction, and said nothing.

Unlike the other two sects, he did not dare to jest with Xie Chenkun.

Xie Chenkun briefly explained the reason for his late arrival, exchanged a few jests with them, and then found a seat to sit down.

He then silently watched a Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror hanging in front.

Here, it was possible to see the images of others venturing into the "Sword Mountain Fiery Sea".

If the Heavenly Sword Faction had not been delayed, they arrived late but could still see the scenes of Beixue Mountain Villa and Liuyun Sect entering the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

But now, they could only watch their own disciples break through.

This couldn't help making Xie Chenkun feel a bit annoyed.

At this moment, no images appeared on the Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror, indicating that Yun Ge and the others were still preparing and had not immediately entered the trial.

Seeing this, Xie Chenkun thought, it's not good, he couldn't see the situation of others, but they surely were unaware of Mu Jinyu as his trump card. Why not take this chance to trick them thoroughly?

Then, Xie Chenkun lightly coughed, left his seat, and sat beside the Sect Leader of the Blood Sword Sect.

"Xie Chenkun, what are you doing?"

The Sect Leader of the Blood Sword Sect turned his head with a suspicious look at Xie Chenkun.

"Zhou Taiping, tell me, among the Four Sects entering the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea this time, whose performance is the best?"

The Sect Leader of the Blood Sword Sect, Zhou Taiping, heard Xie Chenkun's words and said proudly with a smile, "Do you need to ask? Of course, it's our Blood Sword Sect."

"You are well aware of my direct disciple Dao Wuming's prowess!"

"And after that, who is second?" Xie Chenkun asked.

As soon as he asked, the face of the Sect Leader of Beixue Mountain Villa turned unsightly.

Because this time, Lin Tianxue, ranking second on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking from Beixue Mountain Villa, did not have the advantage and placed second in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea trial.

Instead, the second place was snatched away by a person named Di Shitian from Liuyun Sect.

Zhou Taiping glanced at the Sect Leader of Beixue Mountain Villa, coughed lightly, giving him face, and said, "Why do you ask so much? Do you think your Heavenly Sword Faction can take second place this time?"

"No!" Xie Chenkun shook his head decisively and said confidently, "My goal this time is first place!"

"Not only first place in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea but also first in the Four Sects Martial Meeting rankings!"

Hearing Xie Chenkun's words, Zhou Taiping's face subtly changed, and he asked seriously, "So confident? Has Yun Ge from your Heavenly Sword Faction broken through to the Fanxu Realm?"

"No," Xie Chenkun shook his head, "My confidence is not Yun Ge, but rather..."

Speaking, Xie Chenkun coughed a few times casually before continuing, "But rather I recently accepted a new disciple. He is my trump card for winning first place!"

Thinking that Mu Jinyu wasn't present, claiming him as his disciple was not an issue.

"Oh? What's his cultivation level?" Zhou Taiping became serious upon hearing Yun Ge had not broken through to the Fanxu Realm, and asked somewhat warily upon hearing about the new disciple.

Xie Chenkun deliberately said proudly, "He just broke through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm yesterday!"

"Just that?!"

Zhou Taiping looked at Xie Chenkun as if he were a fool.

Their formidable Dao Wuming isn't afraid of Yun Ge, who is nearing the Fanxu Realm threshold, how could he fear someone who just advanced to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm?

Or does he have some special traits?

Zhou Taiping squinted his eyes.

Naturally, Xie Chenkun understood that just mentioning Mu Jinyu's cultivation would make them suspicious, making them more alert and unwilling to bet.

Thus, he laughed proudly, "Of course, there's more. He also possesses an innate Sword Bone and recently comprehended the Intent Domain!"

Xie Chenkun was not worried about revealing this, making Zhou Taiping guard against Mu Jinyu.

Because Dao Wuming possesses the Innate Sword Bone, extremely talented in the Way of the Sword, and also comprehended the Intent Domain early, constantly suppressing Yun Ge and Lin Tianxue, ranking first on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking!

In this situation, as long as he didn't disclose that Mu Jinyu defeated Yun Ge with the Eighth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm and helped Yun Ge comprehend the Intent Domain, Zhou Taiping would never take Mu Jinyu seriously!

"Innate Sword Bone, comprehended the Intent Domain?!"

Hearing Xie Chenkun, Zhou Taiping's face relaxed slightly, but he inwardly scoffed.

He thought, what's this? Not even fit to tie the shoes for my Dao Wuming. If Yun Ge had broken through to the Fanxu Realm, he might be somewhat wary.

But only slightly, as he wouldn't truly fear him!

Thinking this, Zhou Taiping decided to fool Xie Chenkun, who didn't understand Dao Wuming's true prowess, betting heavily against him.

So, Zhou Taiping laughed, "Since you are so confident, let's bet on it? See who gets first place? How about it?!"

"Sure, what are we betting?"

Xie Chenkun replied eagerly, surprised Zhou Taiping would initiate the bet.

"Hmm?!" Zhou Taiping pondered, then looked at Xie Chenkun's sword and said, "If you lose and fail to get first place at the Four Sects Martial Meeting, your sword will be mine?"

"Haha, bold words, agreed!"

Xie Chenkun agreed, then proposed his own condition, "Then if you lose and my Heavenly Sword Faction wins first place, I want to borrow your Blood Essence Pool for a month!"

Chapter 860: Starting the Challenge!

The Blood Essence Pool, just like the Heavenly Sword Pool of the Heavenly Sword Faction, is an excellent cultivation sanctuary.

In a general bet, how could entering the Blood Essence Pool for a month of cultivation be so easily offered?

However, Xie Chenkun's demand wasn't outrageous, after all, Zhou Taiping was asking for his prized Spirit Sword.

"Hah?"

Zhou Taiping raised his eyebrows upon hearing Xie Chenkun's words, looking at him with a surprised expression, "You sure have the nerve."

Xie Chenkun chuckled softly, "If you dare to target my Spirit Sword, why shouldn't I target the Blood Essence Pool? Or, you can offer a different condition, how about winning a month in our Heavenly Sword Pool for cultivation?"

He thought, if Zhou Taiping truly agreed with him, it would be ideal.

Currently, the Heavenly Sword Pool is dry, and it would take at least three years to restore it to its original state.

Even if an unexpected result at the Four Sect Martial Competition occurs and Mu Jinyu doesn't win the championship, the bet could be postponed for three years before returning it to Zhou Taiping, making them furious!

However, Zhou Taiping had no interest in the Heavenly Sword Pool, as it contained Sword Qi and Sword Intent, which held no significance to the disciples of the Blood Sword Sect.

What he wanted the most was Xie Chenkun's Spirit Sword, which was made from rare divine ore. He intended to win it, melt it down, and refine it into a Spirit Blade for Nameless!

Zhou Taiping was very confident that if Yun Ge didn't reach the Fanxu Realm, he would have no chance of winning, so he wasn't too concerned about the bet's stakes.

"Fine, the Heavenly Sword Pool is meaningless, let's go with this bet, I agree!"

Zhou Taiping didn't hesitate much and agreed.

"Good, good, good..." Xie Chenkun smiled with squinted eyes upon hearing this.

Zhou Taiping also let out a sinister laugh.

Both harbored schemes in their hearts, each thinking they had a trump card, completely unafraid of losing!

After that, they looked at the sect leaders of Beixue Mountain Villa and Liuyun Sect, asking, "Do you want to place a bet as well?"

The Beixue Mountain Villa sect leader instantly refused with a sullen face upon hearing this.

Lin Tianxue had already been crushed by Di Shitian during the Blood Sword Sect's entrance test "Sword Mountain Fiery Sea," so how could he still hope for Beixue Mountain Villa to win the championship?

However, Liuyun Sect's sect leader, Fang Xiuyuan, due to his confidence in Di Shitian and a desire to build good relations with the other three sects, aiming to join the ranks of the Yan Kingdom's Four Great Sects, didn't hesitate too much and also offered a Spirit Treasure to the bet!

"In that case, let's sign and seal the agreement!"

As soon as Zhou Taiping saw Fang Xiuyuan agreeing, he eagerly took out a contract and began writing down the bet and stakes, then signed his name and fingerprint at the end.

Once this contract is signed, no one can easily back out. Failing to adhere to the agreement would result in a miserable death.

In the Kunlun Ruins, no one dares to violate the contract once it's signed!

Xie Chenkun remained confident and composed, believing that Mu Jinyu, equally at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, could effortlessly defeat Nameless. He signed his name and sealed his fingerprint without hesitation.

However, Fang Xiuyuan, when it came down to it, felt a bit unsure about Di Shitian, but he didn't dare to back out and offend Xie Chenkun and Zhou Taiping.

After all, a Spirit Treasure wasn't a significant loss for someone with a considerable family fortune.

So, he finally signed his name and sealed his fingerprint as well!

With the signatures and seals of the three, the contract took effect. A dark light flashed, and the contract was divided into three parts, distributed to Xie Chenkun, Zhou Taiping, and Fang Xiuyuan.

Xie Chenkun put away his part of the contract with a satisfied smile and said, "It's about time to start the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea Trial, soon you'll witness the prowess of my new disciple!"

Upon hearing this, everyone stopped paying attention to the bet and kept their eyes on the Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror on the stage, eager to see how impressive Xie Chenkun's new disciple was to merit such a large bet.

...

Outside the entrance of the Blood Sword Sect.

Mu Jinyu was unaware that the sect leader had placed high hopes on him and had made a bet.

After warming up a bit, he waited to see how the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea Trial would begin.

"Alright, we're ready to go in!"

At this time, Yun Ge, ready and confident, addressed the crowd loudly, "I know some of you have been to the Blood Sword Sect and have gone through the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea Trial, while some have recently entered the Inner Gate and haven't been here before, so I'll give everyone a reminder."

"The Sword Mountain Fiery Sea tests the challenger's mindset, comprehension, and aptitude. Everything you see inside is an illusion, but you cannot ignore them, because if you are scared out of your wits, you won't die, but you will become a complete cripple!"

"..."

After Yun Ge reminded everyone how to face the illusions in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, he was the first to head towards the enormous blood-red entrance!

"Buzz!"

Inside the blood-colored entrance, an invisible light screen was hidden. Yun Ge disappeared into it without coming out the other side, as if entering a different space.

Wei Ziping gave a cold glance at the curious Mu Jinyu and snorted before being the second to enter.

Afterward, Wei Qingfeng and others didn't enter immediately but looked at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, smiled and shook his head, then led Jian Ruyan into the entrance.

He didn't care about who went first or last, but since they showed courtesy, he decided it didn't matter to go in earlier.

"Buzz!"

After passing through an invisible screen, Mu Jinyu felt a brief sense of weightlessness and dizziness.

Shaking off this strong discomfort, he looked around.

There were no signs of Yun Ge and Wei Ziping ahead, nor was there any trace of Jian Ruyan who had entered with him.

In this vast and lonely world, only he stood alone!

Not seeing them, Mu Jinyu didn't worry about them, knowing he had to get through the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea alone. He then looked ahead.

He found himself seemingly back at the foot of the Blood Sword Sect's mountain, with a majestic peak ahead of him.

But unlike the mountain he had walked before, this one was filled with blades piercing the ground everywhere, leaving no gaps for meticulous foot placement. Climbing this mountain could only be done by stepping on those sharp blades!

"Ascending Blade Mountain, huh?!"

Looking at this Blade Mountain, Mu Jinyu understood why it was called Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

There was no fear in his eyes, only anticipation and excitement. He then took a step, testing if he could fly.

As expected, a Sky Restriction Array and Spirit Restriction Array were in place. Here, challengers could not fly or use True Yuan, nearly reduced to ordinary people, only relying on their fleshly feet to tread on the blades to climb!