

King Hall 861

Chapter 861: Suppression of Sword Mountain!

Mu Jinyu wasn't the least bit disheartened by his inability to fly; he had anticipated this all along.

He was just trying it out.

Otherwise, coming here without even probing a bit, stepping directly onto the blades with his bare feet, only to find out that he could have flown later, wouldn't that be even more foolish?

Having roughly grasped the rules of ascending Sword Mountain, Mu Jinyu didn't hesitate any longer. He took off his shoes and began climbing the sharp blades and fragments with his bare feet!

With each step on those sharp blades, Mu Jinyu's expression showed no trace of pain or repression; he even seemed to be enjoying it, as if he were getting a massage rather than enduring injury.

But from the blood-soaked state of his feet and the trail of blood he left behind, it was clear that his feet were already a bloody mess.

In the meeting room.

Everyone was watching Mu Jinyu and the others ascending Sword Mountain through the enormous Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror.

Some who were initially watching Yun Ge or Wei Ziping eventually noticed Mu Jinyu's peculiarity. From his expressionless demeanor, they vaguely guessed that he must be Xie Chenkun's new disciple?

"Xie Chenkun, is this your new disciple?"

Zhou Taiping, noticing Mu Jinyu's expression, was secretly astonished. He then turned to ask Xie Chenkun.

"Yes!" Xie Chenkun nodded, his heart also filled with admiration for Mu Jinyu's expression.

Zhou Taiping said, "His endurance and courage are both quite impressive. Others who come here for the first time usually hesitate for quite a while or try to escape Sword Mountain, only to ascend in pain when they find escape impossible!"

"But he just tried to fly, found it impossible, and then ascended Sword Mountain directly, even enjoying it. I'm really worried if he has some special fetish!"

Zhou Taiping said jokingly at the end.

Xie Chenkun glanced at him disdainfully and said, "What do you know? This disciple of mine trained in Heavenly Sword Pool for three days without leaving, constantly tempering his body with Sword Qi. That pain is far greater than ascending Sword Mountain. If he can endure that, what is this Sword Mountain to him?"

"What? He stayed in Heavenly Sword Pool for three days?"

Zhou Taiping's face changed color upon hearing Xie Chenkun's words, clearly moved.

After all, the two sides were arch-enemies, and as the Sect Leader of Blood Sword Sect, he understood the situation in Heavenly Sword Pool well.

He knew that although Heavenly Sword Pool was a top-grade cultivation blessed land, the Sword Qi contained within was terrifying. One had to leave periodically to refine the Sword Qi before re-entering for training.

He had never heard of anyone who could continuously train there for a whole day!

Even Xie Chenkun himself couldn't do that.

Yet Mu Jinyu had endured for three whole days!

This was truly a ruthless person!

Xie Chenkun proudly boasted, as if the one who endured in Heavenly Sword Pool for three days was himself, "Of course, if he had more than three days of qualification to train there, I bet he could stay seven days, even half a month without a problem!"

"Is this guy born without a sense of pain?"

Someone speculated.

"Yes, it's possible. If he can't feel pain, he could keep training in Heavenly Sword Pool. But this isn't a good thing. Such terrifying Sword Qi accumulating in his body could take his life sooner or later!"

Xie Chenkun sneered at their guess, "How could that be? He can feel pain, and he didn't just accumulate the Sword Qi. He refined it and even comprehended a powerful Sword Intent within three days!"

"That's quite ruthless!"

"No wonder Sect Leader Xie, you are confident in winning!"

"Wow, he's already reached the summit!"

At this moment, someone exclaimed.

In their discussion, Mu Jinyu had taken only ten-odd minutes to reach the top of Sword Mountain.

His speed was faster than anyone who had come to challenge Sword Mountain Fiery Sea this time!

The fastest before him was Dao Wuming, who took thirty minutes to reach the summit!

Unexpectedly, Mu Jinyu took only ten minutes!

"What? What's going on?"

"Why are his feet uninjured?"

At this moment, someone noticed that after Mu Jinyu reached the summit and put his shoes back on, his feet showed no signs of injury. If not for the remaining bloodstains, they would have doubted whether the trail of blood had really come from him.

"Indeed, what's going on? How did his injuries heal so quickly? We didn't see him take any Elixir!"

"Besides, this is an Illusionary Realm; he couldn't take Spiritual Medicine, could he?"

People began guessing about Mu Jinyu's situation, wondering if he was cheating or if there was another explanation.

Xie Chenkun's heart pounded, unsure of what was happening with Mu Jinyu. He speculated that it might be due to his Wood Spirit Root and laughed it off, "Of course, it's because of his Innate Sword Bone."

"Don't you remember? Dao Wuming with his Innate Sword Bone also isn't afraid of Sword Qi's assaults. Although ascending Sword Mountain causes him pain, it doesn't injure him!"

Hearing Xie Chenkun's explanation, everyone nodded in realization. However, someone hesitated and asked, "But isn't he supposed to have a Sword Bone? Why can he resist Sword Qi too?"

Xie Chenkun, maintaining his composure, continued to bluff, "It's normal. Swords and blades are similar. If this was Sword Mountain instead of Sword Mountain, Dao Wuming's performance would be the same, nothing surprising about it!"

Upon hearing Xie Chenkun's explanation, although there were still doubts, no one could argue against it.

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Unaware that someone was watching his ascent and that his Life Source Energy was almost exposed, Mu Jinyu reached the summit of Sword Mountain.

As for why he showed no signs of pain while ascending, it was not surprising. His cultivation in Heavenly Sword Pool had long tempered him to a state where he could endure immense pain with composure.

Having just changed his shoes, his surroundings suddenly transformed again!

"Boom!!"

He found himself back at the base of the mountain, and...

The towering Sword Mountain floated in mid-air, descending upon him with overwhelming force, filling him with terror!

"Damn, are they trying to crush me like a monkey?!"

Seeing the scene before him, Mu Jinyu couldn't help but curse out loud.

He couldn't simply let the Sword Mountain crush him, so he instinctively tried to use his divine techniques to shatter it!

But he found that he still couldn't use True Yuan!

"Damn it, this is lethal!"

With no other options, Mu Jinyu activated the Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique to enhance his pure physical strength and then threw a punch at the Sword Mountain!

"Bang!"

With one punch, Mu Jinyu smashed a large hole in the base of the descending Sword Mountain!

"Boom!!"

At that moment, the Sword Mountain continued its descent, pinning Mu Jinyu down!

Chapter 862: Sea of Fire Appears!

"Boom!" A loud noise erupted, and Mu Jinyu's vision went black. His whole body was wracked with unbearable pain, feeling as if his tendons and bones had all been broken.

He had been suppressed at the bottom of the Sword Mountain!

Luckily, just as the Sword Mountain was about to fully suppress him, he managed to punch a hole at the base of the mountain, allowing him to still move despite being crushed by the enormous mountain.

Otherwise, if he were really trapped like a monkey under the Five Finger Mountain and could barely move his head, he would be completely finished!

"Damn it, what kind of crappy thing is this?!"

Mu Jinyu lay on the ground, and after a long while, his severely injured body finally began to recover its original state with the help of Life Source Energy.

He stood up, looking at the stone walls all around, knowing that if he wanted to get out now, he had three options: commit suicide and give up this torturous challenge, dig his way out, or punch his way through the Sword Mountain!

"Hmph! You think this can trap me?!"

Mu Jinyu snorted coldly. Naturally, he wouldn't choose suicide or digging his way out. Instead, he started throwing punches again, pounding the mountain wall overhead!

"Boom! Boom!!"

"Swish! Swish!!"

The Sword Mountain trembled tremendously. The internal mountain walls collapsed significantly under Mu Jinyu's punch, with rubble constantly falling!

Mu Jinyu avoided the falling debris, throwing another punch, continuing to hammer at the mountain walls, determined to force out a path with his bare fists!

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

In an instant, Mu Jinyu had punched and smashed out a hundred-meter-high tunnel inside the Sword Mountain!

Mu Jinyu couldn't use True Essence Power to blow up the entire Sword Mountain in one punch, so he had to rely on pure physical strength. Currently, his pure physical strength amounted to the Strength of One Elephant, which wasn't incredibly powerful, but even water droplets can wear away stone, let alone the Strength of One Elephant?

As long as he persisted, he believed he could punch through the entire Sword Mountain, letting him see the daylight again!

"Boom! Boom!!"

In the conference room, everyone watched as Mu Jinyu continued to pound the mountain wall inside the Sword Mountain, their faces filled with shock!

"This guy is quite fierce!"

"Once suppressed by the Sword Mountain, he can't use True Essence Power or Divine Sense to drive Magic Treasures. Most challengers who manage to climb the Sword Mountain will still fail at this stage. We didn't expect that not only did he survive, but he also plans to punch through the entire Sword Mountain!"

"His pure physical strength definitely exceeds the Strength of One Elephant. It's unimaginable that someone his age, who has reached the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, has also refined his physical body to this extent!"

"I'm starting to worry if Dao Wuming can still surpass this guy!"

"For now, he should be able to suppress him, right? But judging by this young man's talent, in a few years, Dao Wuming might truly be overtaken by him!"

The elders present were all discussing fervently, even the elders from the Blood Sword Sect present were showing concern for Dao Wuming.

Meanwhile, Fang Xiuyuan, who had wagered a Spiritual Treasure, was looking very upset, and began doubting if Di Shitian, who had recently advanced to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, could surpass Mu Jinyu.

He started to regret being goaded into this bet by Xie Chenkun and Zhou Taiping!

Only Zhou Taiping, for some reason, even after witnessing Mu Jinyu's terrifying potential, still didn't take him seriously and remained full of confidence.

"Boom! Boom!!"

Another five or six minutes passed.

Finally, the entire towering nearly five hundred meters high Sword Mountain had been punched through by Mu Jinyu's bare fists!

Standing on the steep stone wall, Mu Jinyu waited for the debris to completely settle before lightly leaping and easily jumping out of the Sword Mountain!

With Mu Jinyu's departure, the Sword Mountain that had intended to suppress him disappeared with a loud crash!

Back in the conference room, observing through the Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror, many from the Heavenly Sword Faction had started passing the Sword Mountain, but even though they knew what the subsequent trials entailed and were prepared, their bodies couldn't immediately react, and they were crushed into pulp by the mountain!

Among them were Wei Qingfeng, Nie Chu, and others.

Only Yun Ge and Wei Ziping, having comprehended the Intent Domain, responded quicker than Wei Qingfeng and the others. Like Mu Jinyu, they made a timely move, punching a several-meter-large hole in the mountain base, which provided them a hiding place and prevented them from being crushed to death on the spot!

Even so, they were severely injured, with their Five Viscera and Six Bowels feeling like they were on fire. They lay in the gap, unable to move.

Even if they survived, escaping the suppression of Sword Mountain would be highly difficult!

In comparison, Mu Jinyu's speed in passing through was far quicker!

"How long was that? Just over twenty minutes to pass the Sword Mountain?!"

"Let's see if he can make it through the upcoming Sea of Fire!"

"Sigh..."

Mu Jinyu, after leaping out from the suppression of the Sword Mountain, saw the Sword Mountain disappear completely.

What appeared before him was an endless plain.

The dense green grass shimmered. Just as Mu Jinyu was thinking of taking a deep breath of the fragrant fresh air, suddenly, a spark ignited, setting the vast grassland ablaze.

"Damn, the Sea of Fire is already here?"

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu cursed peevishly before immediately sprinting away with the "Ten Steps Move" cultivation technique!

The fire behind him blazed quickly, within moments, it reached his backside.

At this moment, Mu Jinyu felt a scorching heat, realizing that if he didn't get out of the Sea of Fire, he would be burned alive and meet his end in failure.

He certainly didn't want to experience being burned alive!

Thus, he dared not pause for a second, continually using the "Ten Steps Move" to flee!

Minutes later.

Mu Jinyu estimated that he had run at least dozens of miles. How come this speed test still hadn't ended? How long will this sea of fire last?

In the conference room.

Everyone stared blankly at Mu Jinyu, who had spent only five or six minutes to escape the first stage of the Sea of Fire, finding it incredible.

Someone then looked at Xie Chenkun and asked, "What kind of movement technique is this little guy using? Is it an Earth Rank movement technique? Why is he so fast?"

"It shouldn't be. Even with an Earth Level movement technique, at his Ninth Layer of Divine Transformation Realm cultivation, it's impossible to sustain it for so long!"

Xie Chenkun was also puzzled why Mu Jinyu had enough True Essence to sustain "Ten Steps Move" for such a long time.

However, seeing that Mu Jinyu hadn't displayed a teleportation-like speed at the transcendence level, he felt relieved.

If Mu Jinyu showed that kind of teleportation speed now, it wouldn't be interesting. At least hold off showing that until the Four Sects Martial Meeting tomorrow.

Then, with a nonchalant cough, Xie Chenkun lied without a change in expression, "Because I had him practice an Earth Level Inferior Quality Cultivation Technique, his amount of True Essence is relatively higher than others, by about one or two times!"

Chapter 863: Don't Let Me Smell the Meat!

"Is that so?"

Zhou Taiping looked at Xie Chenkun skeptically. "But the amount of True Yuan from an Earth Level Lower Grade Technique shouldn't be enough to sustain for this long, right?"

Others might have been easily misguided by Xie Chenkun's words.

But this "Sword Mountain Fiery Sea" is the Illusory Realm Treasure of their Blood Sword Sect. They had long since studied it and knew exactly what kind of performance to expect from different levels of strength entering it.

Even the unparalleled Dao Wuming barely managed to pass two levels of Sword Mountain not long ago; as soon as he entered the Sea of Fire, he immediately died!

After his recent breakthrough, he could only barely sustain in the Sea of Fire for a while, unable to pass even the first level of the Sea of Fire!

So, Zhou Taiping was extremely skeptical about Xie Chenkun's claim that Mu Jinyu had cultivated an Earth Level Lower Grade Technique and thus passed the first level of the Sea of Fire!

Xie Chenkun chuckled and said, "Maybe so, or perhaps he was born with an unusually large amount of True Yuan."

Seeing Zhou Taiping's growing suspicion, Xie Chenkun quickly changed the subject, "Oh, why did he stop? Did he notice something amiss?"

As soon as Xie Chenkun spoke, the doubtful crowd once again focused their gaze on the Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror above.

They saw Mu Jinyu, amidst the Sea of Fire, stop abruptly after passing the first level and running for several miles, allowing the tumultuous flames to sweep over him!

He remained motionless, like an old monk in meditation, calm and unruffled, seemingly unbothered by the burning flames.

"Amazing, he realized so quickly? I thought he would fail at the second level of the Sea of Fire, but he proved me wrong. Such sharp insight, such remarkable comprehension!"

"Indeed, his talent makes me envious. Ah, if only I could have a disciple like that!"

Seeing Mu Jinyu's performance in the Sea of Fire, the onlookers marveled and felt a tinge of jealousy towards Xie Chenkun for having such a disciple.

The reason for their reaction was that the two levels of the Sword Mountain in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea tested the challenger's courage and perseverance in the first level and their speed, strength, and reaction in the second level.

Yet, usually, even general geniuses could pass the two levels of the Sword Mountain after several attempts.

Although Mu Jinyu passed the Sword Mountain significantly faster than others, it wasn't enough to astound them.

But the Sea of Fire was far more terrifying than the Sword Mountain.

The first level tested the challenger's absolute speed; there was no room for clever tricks. If the challenger couldn't pass within a specific time, they would be burned alive!

The top heaven's pride Dao Wuming knew the test of the Sea of Fire, but he always fell short on speed and True Yuan. He exhausted his True Yuan two-thirds of the way and couldn't keep his speed, ultimately getting burnt alive.

The second level of the Sea of Fire was much more insidious because it was connected to the first level, giving no chance for recovery.

The first three levels of Sword Mountain Fiery Sea would notify challengers when they had passed a level. From ascending the Sword Mountain, returning to the foot of the mountain, to opening the Sword Mountain and the Sea of Fire spreading, there were always opportunities for reaction, making one realize they had reached the next level.

But the second level of the Sea of Fire was far more treacherous, without any notifications, easily misleading challengers into thinking they hadn't finished the level.

If they didn't realize it, they would be in grave danger.

Because the second level of the Sea of Fire didn't test speed or require exiting the Sea of Fire within a given time to avoid being burned.

The flames of the second level had no killing power; instead, staying within them could be beneficial. It tested the challenger's reaction and comprehension!

Even if some challengers noticed differences from the first level, they often didn't dare risk their lives on it and would fail as a result.

The second level's danger wasn't just the lack of notification. More importantly, if the challenger missed the opportunity and didn't let the flames burn them in time, the harmless flames would become as lethal as the first level's deadly flames.

In an instant, the surging flames would engulf the fastest challengers, burning them alive into ashes!

So, the challengers had to realize and let the flames burn them to pass the second level and survive.

But how many would dare believe they had passed the first level and then stop, letting themselves be engulfed by the flames?

Mu Jinyu was tackling the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea for the first time and could keenly sense something was off and let the flame burn him proactively. This level of comprehension and insight showed just how terrifying his talent was!

This realization made everyone at the scene marvel!

"With this level of insight, I suppose even the third level of the Sea of Fire can't stop him!"

"After so many years, I thought I'd never see anyone clear the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea in my lifetime, but today we might witness it!"

After marveling, the crowd couldn't help but sigh.

...

In the meeting room, the crowd expressed their amazement at Mu Jinyu and their envy and jealousy of Xie Chenkun.

Meanwhile, Mu Jinyu:

After passing the first level of the Sea of Fire and reaching the second level successfully, sensing something was off, he still wasn't sure he needed to let the flames burn him to pass the second level.

Running for several miles in the second level, he felt the temperature rise steadily, perplexing him.

Then the little tree sapling in his mind suddenly trembled gently, and a wisp of clear Qi spread through his body.

This immediately made Mu Jinyu feel comfortable, less overwhelmed by the heat.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu felt an urge for the flames behind him, a desire to let them burn him!

"This is..."

Mu Jinyu was startled.

Then he realized it was the clear Qi from the tree sapling causing this.

Filled with indecision, Mu Jinyu hesitated to try.

But then he recalled the tree sapling in his mind had never harmed him but helped significantly.

Furthermore, since this was only an illusionary realm, even if something went wrong, there wouldn't be any real danger.

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu stopped abruptly, clenched his teeth, closed his eyes, and let the surging flames sweep over him!

"If something goes wrong, I hope it burns me directly without letting me smell the scent of my own roasted flesh!"

Mu Jinyu muttered in his mind.

Chapter 864: We Are Here to Take You In!

Mu Jinyu's worries did not materialize.

As the overwhelming sea of fire swept towards him, not only did he not feel any high temperature or discomfort, but he also felt as if he was soaking in a hot spring, or like returning to the womb, absorbing nutrients with warmth enveloping his entire body, making him feel extremely comfortable.

"This is..."

Mu Jinyu couldn't help but open his eyes, seeing that he was indeed being burned by the sea of fire, but his body wasn't hurt at all, which made him a bit puzzled.

At this moment, he still hadn't realized that he had actually arrived at the second stage of the sea of fire. He only remembered that in the first stage of the sea of fire, the flames would burn his body, and since he hadn't reacted in time at first, his hair was burnt and curled up quite a bit.

"Why is this happening? Could it be that this sea of fire doesn't actually harm people, and I ran dozens of miles in vain at the beginning? But I clearly felt that the sea of fire would hurt people, didn't I?"

Mu Jinyu was puzzled and speculated, "Or maybe, I have actually arrived at the second stage of the sea of fire?"

While passing through the two stages of the Sword Mountain, Mu Jinyu had already understood that the Sword Mountain and the sea of fire challenges might both have more than one stage.

Since the Sword Mountain could have two stages, why wouldn't the sea of fire have two stages?

What puzzled Mu Jinyu was why, upon entering the second stage of the sea of fire, he had almost no awareness of passing the first stage successfully.

Based on this point, he was still not sure if he had indeed reached the second stage of the sea of fire.

Or, could it be that this stage of the sea of fire challenge actually has two variations?

At first, it burns people, and then it stops burning people?

Mu Jinyu couldn't figure it out, so he planned to ask the Sect Leader after he got out.

Then, he felt that his whole body's flesh and blood were becoming increasingly strong and powerful under the scorching of the sea of fire, just like when he was in the Heavenly Sword Pool absorbing the Sword Origin to refine his body.

"This sea of fire is indeed very beneficial!"

Mu Jinyu stopped thinking too much and quickly activated the cultivation method of the "Dragon-Elephant Prison Suppression Technique," frantically devouring the surrounding fire element to refine his body!

"Boom!!"

Mu Jinyu felt that he had made another breakthrough, at least his pure physical strength had increased by several horsepower.

As for whether he had advanced from the strength of one elephant to two elephants, he wasn't sure and would have to wait for verification to know!

Mu Jinyu thought, regardless of whether he had the strength of two elephants now, if possible, dammit, he would refine himself to the strength of three elephants in one go!

He continued to greedily devour the fire element to refine his body!

He didn't know how much time had passed.

Suddenly!

"Jinyu, Jinyu..."

Lost in his cultivation, Mu Jinyu suddenly heard a familiar female voice.

The voice was very familiar, but vaguely, he couldn't recall who it was.

So, he couldn't help but open his eyes, wanting to see who was calling him.

Mu Jinyu struggled to open his eyes; he didn't know if it was because he hadn't opened his eyes for a long time or what, but as soon as he opened them, his vision went dark, and it was a bit difficult to see.

The figure standing in front of him also appeared vague, but vaguely, the figure seemed very familiar, very much like...

Very much like Gu Xiyan?

Thinking this, he gradually felt his vision starting to clear, then he saw that Gu Xiyan was indeed standing right in front of him, her delicate face filled with surprise and excitement.

Because of her overwhelming emotion, even the corners of her eyes were moistened with tiny tears, making her look pitifully touching.

"It really is her," Mu Jinyu's heart trembled.

"Xiyan, you... how are you here?"

Seeing Gu Xiyan appear, Mu Jinyu was taken aback.

His first reaction was, how long had he been cultivating in the Kunlun Ruins?

Three years had passed, and Gu Xiyan came looking for him because he hadn't gone out to find them?

Just as he was thinking this, Gu Xiyan heard his astonished words and said with a face full of grievance and sorrow, "It's been three years, you haven't come to find us for three years. I... I came to find you, I miss you so much..."

Saying that, Gu Xiyan threw herself onto Mu Jinyu, wrapping her arms around his neck, her red lips proactively seeking his.

Mu Jinyu was still thinking how three years had passed suddenly, but his mind felt a bit muddled and he couldn't clear his thoughts.

Facing Gu Xiyan's fiery passion, his train of thought was completely disrupted.

After a long while, he separated from Gu Xiyan, then breathlessly asked, "Xiyan, did you come alone? Where are Sister Mei, Linglong, Qingya, Qiaoxia?"

As soon as he finished speaking...

He heard several delightful giggles.

Mu Jinyu turned his head and saw Mei Yinxue, Xu Qingya, Yu Linglong, Lin Qiaoxia, and those who had originally come with him to the Kunlun Ruins, Wen Rou, and Jian Ruyan, all standing beside him.

"You all came?"

Seeing the ladies he hadn't seen in a long time, Mu Jinyu felt both ashamed and guilty. His lips moved a few times, but he didn't know what to say.

"Jinyu, I missed you so much!"

"Young Master Mu, I finally see you again..."

"Jinyu, Jinyu..."

At this moment, the ladies' eyes glistened as they spoke, walking toward him emotionally.

Mu Jinyu couldn't help but swallow hard, feeling a fire burning in his heart, causing his body temperature to rise constantly.

Just as he was about to let out a beast-like roar and pounce on them, he suddenly felt something was off!

Jian Ruyan, why didn't she avoid staying with the others and was also coming toward him?

With a "boom," it was as if a lightning bolt struck through Mu Jinyu's mind, instantly dispersing his evil thoughts and waking him from the fiery passion!

"Huff... Huff..."

Mu Jinyu suddenly opened his eyes, with flashes of lightning passing through his gaze.

He gasped for air, cold sweat covering his face, and his eyes carrying a trace of lingering fear.

Looking at the familiar sea of fire surroundings, Mu Jinyu felt a wave of fear in his heart, realizing that he had almost fallen for the third stage of the sea of fire just now.

Fortunately, Gu Xiyan and the others were always shy and never agreed to play with him together; moreover, Jian Ruyan was not his woman. It was this realization that made him notice something wrong!

"This stage is really terrifying, manifesting whatever I desire. Luckily, luckily..."

Mu Jinyu panted heavily, recalling the perilous moment just now, and then saw the sea of fire world before him, with the flames gradually extinguishing.

Afterward, with a loud bang, this illusory realm started to shatter like a mirror and exploded with a bang!

"Phew..."

Standing inside the Blood Sword Sect, Mu Jinyu suddenly awoke and let out a long breath.

He turned around to look behind him but didn't see the blood-red door arch and couldn't see the figures of Yun Ge and the others around him.

"Huh? Did I pass the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea? Or is a new challenge starting?"

Mu Jinyu furrowed his brows, his heart becoming cautious, and stayed on guard against possible danger.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo!!"

At this moment, a few figures suddenly appeared in the sky, descending toward him.

Mu Jinyu, with a guarded look, was ready to make a move when they called out, "Senior Brother, don't attack, you have passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea. We are here to take you inside."

Chapter 865: I Haven't Gotten Serious Yet!

"Came to pick me up?"

Mu Jinyu, who was on alert, relaxed only slightly upon hearing their words.

However, seeing that they were only at the Sixth or Seventh Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, Mu Jinyu did not feel the need to immediately act to eliminate them.

Anyway, with their level of strength, should they dare to make a move, he could suppress them instantly!

"Yes, that's right..."

The leading person recognized Mu Jinyu's cautious stance. From the Elders' instructions, he knew it was Mu Jinyu's first time at the Blood Sword Sect and his first time through the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, so he might not yet discern the difference between illusionary and real worlds.

He patiently explained, "There are five stages in total in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, and you've already passed them all, so the Elders specifically sent us to escort you."

"Is that so? Where did the other disciples go?" Mu Jinyu didn't immediately trust his words, though his expression softened slightly as he asked.

That person replied, "Some are still inside attempting the stages. Those who failed have already made their way in."

Seeing Mu Jinyu's heavy wariness, the person realized mere explanations wouldn't convince him. He thought of calling some Heavenly Sword Faction members to fetch him.

"Phew!"

At that moment, someone who had failed the stages emerged from the illusionary realm of the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

A flash of light revealed a figure.

Upon seeing her delicate appearance and graceful figure, everyone couldn't help but stare in awe.

The person who emerged was Jian Ruyan.

In the Blood Sword Sect, they had rarely seen such a beautiful woman. The female disciples in the sect were typically robust and fierce, and even the occasional female recruit would have a rugged physique.

Seeing Jian Ruyan appear thus left them spellbound for a moment.

Seeing Jian Ruyan appear before him, the scene from the third stage of the Sea of Fire flashed before Mu Jinyu's eyes. With a slight blush, he couldn't help but rub his nose, pushing down the awkwardness in his heart, and said, "Little Yanzi, you came out too? How many stages did you pass?"

"I was suppressed within the Sword Mountain and finally suffocated due to a lack of oxygen," Jian Ruyan said calmly. She showed no anger or unwillingness, only a faint sense of helplessness.

Her strength ultimately fell short. Otherwise, she could have slowly broken through the stone walls and escaped the Sword Mountain's suppression.

Seeing the familiarity between Mu Jinyu and Jian Ruyan, the disciples of the Blood Sword Sect felt their previously heated hearts instantly cool down.

Suppressing their improper thoughts, they forced a bitter smile and said, "Please follow us, the two of you."

"Hm?" Jian Ruyan responded softly, then turned to look at Mu Jinyu.

Seeing Jian Ruyan in her normal state, Mu Jinyu felt much more at ease and explained with a smile, "The Blood Sword Sect arranged for them to pick us up."

"Okay."

Jian Ruyan nodded and said nothing more.

Mu Jinyu then led Jian Ruyan, following the disciples of the Blood Sword Sect, towards a conference room.

As they reached the entrance, they could hear the Sect Leader's hearty laughter from afar:

"Hahaha! Within an hour, my disciple managed to break through all five stages of your Sword Mountain Fiery Sea. Zhou Taiping, do you accept this? Do you?"

"Damn it, it was your disciple, not you. What's there to be proud of? If you have the guts, why don't you try breaking through yourself?"

Zhou Taiping's extremely displeased voice rang out.

Xie Chenkun laughed triumphantly, "So what if it wasn't me? It at least proves that my disciple is better than yours, and I have better teaching skills than you. Get ready to lose tomorrow!"

Despite his boastful tone, Xie Chenkun secretly felt a bit regretful.

If he had known earlier that Mu Jinyu would perform so fiercely in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, he wouldn't have bet based on the results of the Four Sects Martial Meeting. He could have just bet on the results within the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, wouldn't that have been better?

If that were the case, he would have already secured a month's cultivation time in the Blood Essence Pool by now.

Alas, he had thought Mu Jinyu, being a first-time challenger, wouldn't perform very well. Who knew it would turn out this way?

But regretting now was too late.

What a pity...

Walking at the back, Mu Jinyu listened to the Sect Leader's proud voice and couldn't help but find it odd.

When did he become the Sect Leader's disciple?

Still, he guessed that the Sect Leader was competing with the Blood Sword Sect's leader, with Dao Wuming, the number one on the Heaven's Pride list and a direct disciple of the Blood Sword Sect's leader, continually overshadowing the Sect Leader. Seeing Mu Jinyu's impressive performance, the Sect Leader claimed him as his disciple to suppress his rival's arrogance.

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu didn't mind the Sect Leader's public claim.

After all, it was just an empty title.

"Sect Leader, I've brought them."

At this moment, the guides reached the conference room entrance and respectfully announced.

The clamorous noise inside instantly fell silent.

An immediate hush.

It was as if everyone had held their breath.

Then, anxious and hurried footsteps echoed.

The Sect Leaders, Elders, and others from the various factions scrambled out, eager to be the first to glimpse Mu Jinyu.

They almost fought to see who would get to him first.

Eventually, they emerged in an orderly fashion.

Watching Mu Jinyu, their gazes were filled with intensity and peculiarity, as if they were looking at a marvel.

Their deep gazes seemed to imprint Mu Jinyu's appearance firmly in their minds.

Since the Blood Sword Sect rose to prominence from a major ancient site and became one of the Four Great Sects of the Yan Kingdom, no one had ever succeeded in breaking through the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

Not just the Divine Transformation Realm disciples, even their high-tier Fanxu Realm Elders frequently fell at the second stage of the Sea of Fire.

Yet Mu Jinyu, with the strength of the Divine Transformation Realm's Ninth Layer and on his first attempt, managed to break through all five stages. How could this not astonish them and make them see him as a great threat?

Some harbored dark thoughts, considering whether to eliminate Mu Jinyu early to prevent future threats to the Three Sects.

Of course, plotting remained plotting; they wouldn't act on it just yet.

Unaware of some people's malicious intents, Mu Jinyu felt chills from their odd gazes. He then looked towards the Sect Leader Xie Chenkun and frowned, "Sect Leader, what's this..."

Hearing Mu Jinyu, Xie Chenkun toned down his excitement and nodded approvingly, "Child, do you know that no one has ever succeeded in breaking all five stages of the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea at the Blood Sword Sect?!

Because of you, it no longer holds its invincible status. Your achievement is unprecedented, unrivaled—no one will surpass it! Now, you're famed across the Four Sects, outshining even Dao Wuming!"

After speaking, Xie Chenkun even winked at Mu Jinyu, the depths of his eyes showing a hint of pleading.

Mu Jinyu understood his implication, realizing he was hinting for Mu Jinyu to maintain the facade of being his disciple.

For the time being, he had to acknowledge the pretense of the master-disciple relationship.

Helpless, Mu Jinyu then glanced at the surrounding onlookers. Noting a few that looked disdainful and appeared unpleasant, he chuckled and said:

"Master, I haven't even been serious yet."

Chapter 866: First Encounter with Dao Wuming!

"Mm-hmm, I know. You just like to keep a low profile. If you were serious, you probably could have finished ten minutes earlier. Sigh..."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Xie Chenkun shook his head and sighed, looking like he was lamenting the waste of talent.

But his smug demeanor made Zhou Taiping and Fang Xiuyuan gnash their teeth in hatred, their faces darkening further.

They thought Xie Chenkun was deliberately showing off and putting on airs.

What they didn't know was that although Xie Chenkun was indeed boasting on purpose, he truly believed it in his heart.

For he knew Mu Jinyu had mastered a Divine Mastery Level movement technique. If he used his full strength in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, he could have easily finished the first trial even faster.

After sighing, Xie Chenkun looked at Zhou Taiping and Fang Xiuyuan, who were both looking extremely displeased, and smiled as he introduced them to Mu Jinyu,

"Come, come, let me introduce you to these two Sect Leaders, who are also your senior uncles. One is Sect Leader Zhou Taiping from the Blood Sword Sect, and the other is Sect Leader Fang Xiuyuan from the Luoyun Sect."

"They were very impressed with your performance in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea. So much so that they wished to join the Heavenly Sword Faction as elders to stay closer to you. But I refused on your behalf. They were quite generous though; Sect Leader Fang decided to gift you a Spiritual Treasure after the Four Sects Martial Meeting, and Sect Leader Zhou decided to let you cultivate in the 'Blood Essence Pool' of the Blood Sword Sect's Heaven Cave Blessed land for a month. Go ahead and thank them."

Mu Jinyu heard Xie Chenkun's words, and a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes.

Of course, he knew it couldn't have been these two sect leaders who wanted to give him gifts out of their own will.

It must have been Xie Chenkun making a bet with them, like Elder Cheng and Lin Feng did, and they lost!

However, he didn't know what they bet on, but it seemed to be quite hefty.

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu smiled slightly and bowed to the highly displeased Zhou Taiping and Fang Xiuyuan, saying, "I humbly accept your generous gifts. Thank you, Sect Leaders!"

Fang Xiuyuan and Zhou Taiping heard these words, and their faces grew even darker.

Among the crowd, except for the elders of the Blood Sword Sect and the Liuyun Sect, everyone else had expressions suggesting they wanted to laugh but didn't dare to.

In the end, Zhou Taiping couldn't hold back and coldly snorted, "Don't be too pleased with yourself, Xie old ghost. This is just the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea trial. The Four Sects Martial Meeting hasn't started yet. At that time, who will give gifts to whom is still uncertain!"

"Now you're bragging big, but don't twist your tongue when the time comes. Let's see how you'll take it!"

Xie Chenkun remained indifferent and smiled, "I'll be looking forward to it."

As they were speaking, suddenly, the Water Screen Mysterious Light Mirror beside them quietly stopped, and the images of the Sea of Fire and Sword Mountain slowly disappeared.

It was apparent that the disciples of the Heavenly Sword Faction had all completed the trial and were emerging one by one.

Seeing this, the crowd did not linger and started to leave, returning to their temporary residences at the Blood Sword Sect.

Mu Jinyu followed Xie Chenkun and Elder Cheng to a courtyard where the Heavenly Sword Faction was temporarily staying at the Blood Sword Sect.

On the way, all the elders and sect leaders constantly praised Mu Jinyu's performance,

and they couldn't stop talking about how Zhou Taiping and Fang Xiuyuan's faces turned green several times while watching Mu Jinyu in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

As they were chatting, everyone suddenly fell silent and stopped walking.

Mu Jinyu sensed the strange atmosphere and felt something was amiss. When he looked up, he saw a stern-looking young man blocking their path, with one hand on his shoulder and the other on his sword hilt.

Despite being alone, his powerful presence completely dominated the Heavenly Sword Faction's numerous elders, not showing the least bit of fear.

Although his strength seemed to be just at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, the elder's strengths were all at the Fanxu Realm!

With such a disparity in strength, to be able to suppress them in terms of aura showed just how extraordinary this person was!

"Dao Wuming!"

Xie Chenkun's face turned slightly grave, and he said in a low voice.

It was both a greeting to Dao Wuming and a warning to Mu Jinyu.

"Dao Wuming?"

Mu Jinyu, initially suspicious about the young man's identity being Dao Wuming, flashed a hint of surprise in his eyes upon hearing the sect leader's confirmation. Then, a growing sense of battle intent surged within him.

Dao Wuming, a man born with bones like a sword, had a profound understanding of the Way of the Sword. He was ranked first on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking, consistently outperforming Yun Ge of the Heavenly Sword Faction and Lin Tianxue of the Beixue Mountain Villa.

Mu Jinyu had heard many stories about this man in the Heavenly Sword Faction.

On the way to the Blood Sword Sect, he had heard numerous people express their fear and dread of Dao Wuming!

Thus, Mu Jinyu had long been interested in facing Dao Wuming to measure his strength against his own!

He never expected to encounter him on the road, thinking he would have to wait at least until the start of the Four Sects Martial Meeting the next day.

"Boom!"

Mu Jinyu's battle intent surged, colliding with Dao Wuming's intangible Sword Intent, causing the opposing auras to shift dramatically.

Silence erupted in thunderous claps!

Under the mutual pressure of Mu Jinyu's and Dao Wuming's auras, Xie Chenkun and others' faces turned slightly pale.

"Humph!"

Soon, Dao Wuming let out a muffled snort, retreating half a step.

His previously calm, sword-like eyes revealed a hint of surprise.

Then, Dao Wuming steadied himself, his eyes deep as he looked at Mu Jinyu, firmly speaking, "Mu Jinyu? Cleared the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea in half an hour?"

"That's me." Mu Jinyu's face turned paler but he responded calmly.

Upon hearing the confirmation, Dao Wuming gave Mu Jinyu a deep look, didn't say another word, and turned to leave.

Mu Jinyu watched him depart, knowing that tomorrow's Four Sects Martial Meeting would indeed be a grand battle!

"Dao Wuming, that guy, his aura is terrifying. He should be close to the Fanxu Realm, right?"

"With that kind of aura, I wouldn't doubt if someone said he was already at the Fanxu Realm. No wonder Zhou Taiping has so much confidence in him!"

While Mu Jinyu was pondering over Dao Wuming, the elders of the Heavenly Sword Faction started discussing, showing a bit of concern.

Then Xie Chenkun scolded them and gave Mu Jinyu a glance before continuing to their accommodation.

Soon they arrived at their destination.

At this time, the disciples of the Heavenly Sword Faction who had failed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea trial had already been brought here by the Blood Sword Sect disciples.

They were still fearfully discussing the trial's scenarios.

Someone confidently believed that it wasn't a trial meant to be passed by humans, purely a method for the Blood Sword Sect to disgust others!

"How can there be such a disgusting trial? I was crushed into meat paste on the Sword Mountain. Damn it, I can still feel the pain of being shattered!"

Someone complained.

Yun Ge comforted, "That's the second level of the Sword Mountain, testing the challenger's reaction speed and pure physical strength. It is indeed tough. I once came here to try it and was directly crushed to death because I couldn't react in time!"

Chapter 867: You Should Ask Your Senior Brother Mu!

Xie Chenkun, upon hearing their discussion, originally had some concerns about Dao Wuming challenging Mu Jinyu's prowess, but he suppressed those worries and said with a smile:

"This Sword Mountain Fiery Sea isn't designed to make things intentionally difficult for everyone—it's actually passable!"

"Hmm?!"

Yun Ge and the others, hearing Xie Chenkun's words, noticed that the Sect Leader and the Elders had returned. They all stood up, saluted them, and then asked, "Sect Leader, did you just say that someone has passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea?"

Yun Ge frowned and said, "But I remember that in all the years since the Blood Sword Sect's rise, no one has ever successfully passed it?"

"Could it be..." He suddenly seemed to realize something and asked hesitantly, "Could someone from this Four Sects Martial Meeting have passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea?"

"Who?"

Yun Ge's question sent the crowd into a frenzy.

After all, they had just thought that passing the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea was impossible, and now the Sect Leader was telling them it was indeed passable.

Xie Chenkun wouldn't give them false information, so it was evidently true.

They began speculating on who might have passed it. Some guessed Dao Wuming, others speculated it was Di Shitian from the Liuyun Sect, and a few thought it was Mu Jinyu.

Their voices were chaotic yet filled with excitement.

Finally, Yun Ge, noticing Mu Jinyu had returned with the Sect Leader and connecting it with the Sect Leader's smile while sharing the news, deduced that the one who passed was likely Mu Jinyu.

He asked, uncertainly, "Sect Leader, was it Junior Brother Mu?"

As soon as Yun Ge made his guess, the noisy crowd fell silent.

Everyone looked at Xie Chenkun with curious eyes, wanting to know if it was indeed Mu Jinyu.

Wei Ziping's heart sank. If it was Mu Jinyu who passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, the gap between them would only grow wider.

He felt reluctant to accept this reality and hoped that the one who passed was Dao Wuming or even Di Shitian.

Unfortunately...

No matter how much he prayed, Xie Chenkun nodded and said with a smile, "Yes, it was!"

Xie Chenkun's face beamed with uncontrollable joy, "Mu Jinyu has become the first person in Blood Sword Sect's history to pass the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea! Haha, you have no idea how green Zhou Taiping and the others' faces were at that moment!"

"Hahaha..."

Yun Ge and the others couldn't help but laugh out loud, imagining the faces of Zhou Taiping and the other high-ranking members of the Blood Sword Sect after Mu Jinyu passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea.

Wei Ziping didn't join in the laughter; his face also turned a bit pale and green.

Clenching his fists, he suddenly thought of something. His breathing became rapid, and he couldn't help but ask, "Sect Leader, how long did it take him to pass the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea?"

Wei Ziping suddenly remembered that it was only ten minutes ago that he had failed in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea and was taken out by the Blood Sword Sect members.

At that time, using his Self Realm insight, he barely made it past the second test of the Sword Mountain, only to be burned to death shortly after entering the Sea of Fire.

Since Mu Jinyu had passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea, the time it took should have been longer, right?

How did he return with the Sect Leader and the others just ten minutes later?

Unless Mu Jinyu's clearance time and his failure time were about the same?

Wei Ziping found it hard to accept.

Xie Chenkun glanced at Wei Ziping and answered, "Around an hour, why?"

Upon hearing this, Wei Ziping's mind felt like it exploded, his face instantly turning pale.

Seeing Wei Ziping's stunned and somewhat foolish expression, Xie Chenkun knew that Wei Ziping, who was always competitive, must have been severely impacted by Mu Jinyu's achievement and chose not to say more.

Yun Ge and the others couldn't help but exclaim, "What! Passed the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea in just an hour?"

"My God, an hour? I was still stuck at the first level of the Sword Mountain!"

"Isn't that too quick?"

Someone couldn't resist asking Xie Chenkun for the specific clearance times for each test that Mu Jinyu passed, hoping to understand just how vast the difference was between them and him.

Others, always curious about how many tests the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea entailed, asked about it as well.

Xie Chenkun explained, "The Sword Mountain Fiery Sea has a total of five tests: two in the Sword Mountain and three in the Sea of Fire. Mu Jinyu took about fifteen minutes for the first two Sword Mountain tests and another fifteen minutes for the three tests in the Sea of Fire, totaling an hour for the entire course."

After hearing the specific times, the crowd was even more impressed with Mu Jinyu. Clearing the two Sword Mountain tests in just fifteen minutes? They were still struggling at the first level at that time.

Then some ambitious ones asked the Sect Leader about the final test of the Sea of Fire.

The Blood Sword Sect's Sword Mountain Fiery Sea had long been explored enough for the first two Sword Mountain tests and the first two Sea of Fire tests to be well-known.

But no one had ever passed the second Sea of Fire test, which was notoriously sinister; many hadn't even realized they had entered the second test and continued running, only to be burned to death.

Even those aware of the second Sea of Fire test's rules found it extremely difficult to discern whether they were in the first or second test. If they were still in the first test but erroneously thought they had reached the second and stopped, they would self-immolate, leading to their doom.

Thus, many had wondered over the years whether the second test was the end or if there was a third test beyond it. If there was, what kind of challenge would it hold?

Xie Chenkun's expression turned a bit awkward upon hearing these questions. He then rubbed his nose and replied, "There is a third test in the Sea of Fire, but I am not sure what it entails..."

"Why?"

The crowd was puzzled.

They knew the Sect Leader and the others could watch the challengers in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea via the Profound Light Mirror in the meeting room.

Why would they know there was a third test but not its details?

Xie Chenkun explained awkwardly, "Because after the second test in the Sea of Fire ended, Mu Jinyu sat there without moving. Flames began to emerge from within him. We guessed that this might be the third test, but the specifics are unclear. I suspect it involves a test of the State of Mind."

As he spoke, he turned to look at Mu Jinyu and said, "If you want to know the content of the second Sea of Fire test, you should ask your Senior Brother Mu."

Chapter 868: Jian Ruyan's Embarrassment!

"You should ask your Senior Brother Mu!"

Xie Chenkun's words made everyone immediately look at Mu Jinyu with eyes filled with admiration and a bit of complexity.

In fact, ever since Mu Jinyu climbed to the top of the Inner Gate of the Heavenly Sword Faction, according to the rules, everyone including Yun Ge should be calling him Senior Brother Mu.

But they were somewhat unconvinced, coupled with Mu Jinyu having only joined the Heavenly Sword Faction for two months, so they automatically chose to skip this sensitive issue.

They either continued to call him Junior Brother Mu or simply called him by his name without addressing him as Senior Brother.

Only those ordinary Inner Sect Disciples who were far inferior to Mu Jinyu had no such concerns or embarrassment and had long changed their address to Senior Brother Mu.

But now, with Mu Jinyu's increasingly powerful rise, it was obvious that ignoring this issue would no longer be feasible.

Yun Ge's face showed a bit of complexity, but she was the first to change her address and said, "Senior Brother Mu, what is the test of the third level of the Sea of Fire?"

Mu Jinyu felt quite awkward upon hearing Yun Ge's question.

It was not just Yun Ge changing the address from Junior Brother Mu to Senior Brother Mu, but more importantly, the content of the third level of the Sea of Fire was indeed hard to put into words.

With Yun Ge speaking up, everyone except Wei Ziping quickly started addressing Mu Jinyu as Senior Brother Mu and sought his guidance on the third level of the Sea of Fire.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu felt awkward declining them and turned to look at Jian Ruyan with embarrassment.

Jian Ruyan was also curious about the test of the third level of the Sea of Fire. Seeing that Mu Jinyu hadn't answered everyone's question and instead looked at her, she felt puzzled, thinking whether Mu Jinyu was seeking her opinion, and couldn't help but say, "Go ahead and tell them."

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words, felt much more relaxed and then replied:

"The third level of the Sea of Fire, if I'm not mistaken, pertains to Heart Fire and Emotional Fire, testing the mental state and willpower of the challenger."

"Emotional Fire? Willpower? What does that mean?"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, some people were puzzled and confused.

But others like Xie Chenkun, who had experienced many trials, immediately understood what Mu Jinyu meant. They suddenly realized why Mu Jinyu was initially reluctant to speak.

Jian Ruyan, who was half-understanding, also vaguely guessed that Mu Jinyu's prior glance at her wasn't to seek her opinion.

Surely, it carried a bit of embarrassment, and she thought that what Mu Jinyu was about to say might involve her, hence the awkwardness.

For some reason, Jian Ruyan's ears turned crystal red instantly.

Having already spoken, Mu Jinyu decided to continue:

"When I was in the second level of the Sea of Fire, I used the special flames for body refining. I don't know how long had passed or when the second level ended; suddenly, I heard someone familiar calling me to wake up..."

"When I opened my eyes, I saw a vague human figure. I thought it resembled my wife, and upon blinking, the figure indeed turned into my wife. I was wondering why she would come look for me; could it be our agreed time had arrived? She even asked me the same question."

"At that moment, I truly believed that three years had passed and my wife had come to find me because she hadn't heard from me. I felt both guilty and self-reproaching. Then, I felt my body getting hotter, as if there was a fire burning inside me..."

"At that moment, I thought that it had been a long time since I last saw my wife, and our reunion felt like a newlywed celebration... I couldn't help but want to consummate our marriage. But later, I realized something was off, and that's when I managed to extinguish the inner flame!"

Mu Jinyu narrated with a look of lingering fear on his face!

Then, he glanced at Jian Ruyan with some guilt.

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Jian Ruyan, who was nearly half-understanding earlier, now completely understood what kind of test Mu Jinyu had encountered in the third level of the Sea of Fire.

The so-called 'wife' he mentioned likely wasn't limited to just Wen Rou, but included Gu Xiyan and possibly others!

His vague explanation of discovering something amiss and then extinguishing the flames clearly glossed over the truth. He likely realized that among the group of wives conjured in the illusion, there was Jian Ruyan, which alerted him to something being wrong.

No wonder he looked at her with such a guilty expression!

Jian Ruyan felt both embarrassed and angry, secretly annoyed that he would think of her in such a situation!

She suddenly felt an urge to beat Mu Jinyu up.

But then she realized, she had no real grounds to do so.

After all, it was just a test in the third level of the Sea of Fire, and Mu Jinyu hadn't actually done anything inappropriate to her in the illusion.

What reason did she have to hit Mu Jinyu?

This made Jian Ruyan feel both embarrassed and ashamed!

Her beautiful face turned a bright red, half out of shyness and half out of anger!

The others, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's explanation, didn't pay attention to the small gestures between Jian Ruyan and Mu Jinyu, instead starting to discuss among themselves:

"A test of Emotional Fire? It appears that the illusions can see through one's heart and know what you're thinking, using that to lure or mislead you... It does seem quite terrifying..."

"Indeed, if a goddess or dream lover appeared there, it would be impossible for anyone to resist, leading to inevitable failure."

"Senior Brother Mu's mental state and willpower are indeed strong!"

"Sigh, I suddenly want to try this test myself. Even if I end up being burned by the Emotional Fire, at least I could get close to my goddess in my dreams!"

"Get real! Do you think this is some welfare test? You'd probably be burned to death by the Emotional Fire before you even begin with the goddess!"

"..."

The crowd continued to debate heatedly.

But without exception, despite knowing the danger of the third level of the Sea of Fire, everyone was eager to try it!

After all, it was a fresh type of challenge they hadn't encountered before. Plus, it was just an illusionary realm, so they wouldn't actually die, allowing them to experience intimate moments with their dream companionship, even if just in a dream.

Unfortunately, trying the test wasn't as easy as they wished, leaving them feeling quite regretful.

Xie Chenkun also smacked his lips in regret, then straightened his expression, coughed lightly a few times, and spoke:

"Alright, everyone has just completed the entry test of the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea and must be exhausted. Let's go back and rest. Tomorrow is the Four Sects Martial Meeting. Let's all strive to defeat the Blood Sword Sect!"

"Yes!"

"Defeat the Blood Sword Sect!"

Upon hearing the Sect Leader's words, everyone responded firmly and then dispersed to their rooms to rest.

Xie Chenkun patted Mu Jinyu's shoulder and said, "I have a bit of vanity, sorry for the inconvenience caused..."

Mu Jinyu shook his head, "It's nothing. I haven't even thanked you for your generous deed the other day, setting up the Spirit Gathering Array outside my room. Without it, even if I had broken through to the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, my foundation might still be shaky."

"As the Sect Leader, it was my duty."

Xie Chenkun laughed, "You don't need to think about repaying me. If you truly want to show gratitude, defeat Dao Wuming tomorrow. I've placed a big wager on you!"

Chapter 869: The Start of the Four Sects Martial Competition!

"The disciple will do his best."

Mu Jinyu said with a wry smile.

Sure enough, Xie Chenkun had placed a bet with Zhou Taiping and the others.

Xie Chenkun only said this one sentence and didn't say anything more, not wanting to put too much psychological pressure on Mu Jinyu. He turned and left with the elders.

Yun Ge originally had a few more words to say to Mu Jinyu, but seeing Jian Ruyan's unkind expression, he gave an awkward laugh and went back inside.

Once everyone had left, Mu Jinyu turned to look at Jian Ruyan, noticing her face flushed red as if it were about to drip blood and her unkind gaze.

Mu Jinyu knew that his evasive words still let her guess what happened in the third stage of the Sea of Fire. He laughed sheepishly and said, "Little Yanzi, why is your face so red? Are you having a fever?"

"You're the one who's feverish!"

Jian Ruyan glared fiercely at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu smiled bitterly, "There's nothing I can do, the third stage is like that. But believe me, I had no inappropriate thoughts about you!"

Seeing Jian Ruyan's face full of disbelief and disdain, Mu Jinyu continued to explain,

"Really, the moment I saw you, I felt something was off. Luckily you were there, otherwise, with just Xiyan and Wenrou around, I would have really failed the third stage of the Sea of Fire!"

Jian Ruyan felt both angry and ashamed, chastising, "Enough, shut up!"

She then lowered her voice a bit, "This matter ends here. Don't let Wenrou know, so she won't misunderstand and ruin my reputation."

"Alright, alright..." Mu Jinyu quickly promised, vowing to keep the scenes of the third stage of the Sea of Fire to himself.

Jian Ruyan's expression softened a bit, she made a light hum, and found an empty room to enter.

Mu Jinyu watched Jian Ruyan leave, touched his nose, and murmured to himself, her shy look just reminded him of Wenrou when she was affectionate, making him feel a bit itchy inside.

'What a pity, I wonder when they can switch back their bodies, sigh...'

Mu Jinyu shook his head in distress and found an empty room to settle in.

Yun Ge crouched by the window, watching the argument between Mu Jinyu and Jian Ruyan after everyone left. As they both left, he thought, "Didn't he say she was his sister? Why does their interaction seem a bit off?"

"Could it be..." Yun Ge's mouth curved into a strange smile, "She's his lover-sister?"

"Hahaha..." Yun Ge couldn't help but chuckle lightly, then he shook his head and went to meditate and rest.

...

The next day.

The sun had just risen.

Many disciples of the Blood Sword Sect got up early and began to busy themselves with the opening ceremony of the Four Sects Martial Meeting.

After refining the last strand of East-coming Purple Qi, Mu Jinyu opened his eyes, got up, and went out with the crowd to have breakfast.

After breakfast, the Heavenly Sword Faction came to a wide square of the Blood Sword Sect.

In the center of the square, ten combat platforms about thirty meters each were set up.

While Mu Jinyu was observing the combat platforms, Yun Ge was explaining the rules of the Four Sects Martial Meeting.

The rules of the Four Sects Martial Meeting are relatively simple. There are a total of two rounds of competition.

The first round is the guard-the-platform match, where each of the four sects sends their top disciple to the combat platform to accept challenges from the other three sects!

Each sect can challenge a guardian three times, meaning each guardian has to face a total of nine challenges.

In the past, it was Yun Ge who represented the Heavenly Sword Faction to guard the platform, but now this task naturally fell on Mu Jinyu's shoulders.

Yun Ge told Mu Jinyu that guarding the platform is not easy and should not be underestimated.

Don't think that since the top disciples of the four sects are on the platform, the second and third disciples of the other sects mean nothing.

In practice, their role is to consume the guardian's energy and True Yuan, to prepare for the second round of the competition.

The second round is the capture-the-platform match, where the guardians challenge each other.

The points earned for winning this match are incredible.

Therefore, each sect tries their best to deplete the guardian's True Yuan and energy during the first round, to increase their chances in the second round!

Non-guardians can also challenge each other; winning earns points as well. The sect with the highest points at the end wins the Four Sects Martial Meeting!

And the most cultivation resources of the Yan Kingdom will go to the winning sect!

As time passed, disciples from the other three sects arrived at the square.

Yun Ge pointed at a group of people in white clothes and introduced to Mu Jinyu, "Those are people from Beixue Mountain Villa. The person behind the several elders is Lin Tianxue, the top disciple of Beixue Mountain Villa's Inner Gate."

Mu Jinyu followed the direction of Yun Ge's finger and saw a tall, handsome young man in white, expressionlessly following behind their sect leader.

"So that's Lin Tianxue?"

Mu Jinyu murmured softly.

Lin Tianxue's aura was also very cold, but unlike Dao Wuming's sharpness like an unsheathed blade, his coldness was bone-chilling, more akin to Jian Ruyan's temperament.

Of course, this was due to the cold nature of his cultivation technique. He did not have an Ice Spirit Root or an opportunity that turned his True Yuan into True Cold Ice Essence like Jian Ruyan and Yu Shenfeng, so there were still some differences.

Lin Tianxue's strength was at the Ninth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, otherwise, he wouldn't have surpassed Yun Ge on the Four Sects' Genius Ranking!

Whether he comprehended the Intent Domain or not was uncertain.

Then the Blood Sword Sect people appeared, and Yun Ge pointed at Dao Wuming and introduced him to Mu Jinyu, "That person is the top genius on the Genius Ranking, Dao Wuming."

"Yeah, I know."

Mu Jinyu replied while observing Dao Wuming.

"You've seen him?"

Yun Ge asked curiously.

Mu Jinyu explained, "Yesterday, after I finished the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea challenge, I met him while I was returning with our sect leader."

"Looks like he knew your result in the Sword Mountain Fiery Sea and came to issue you a challenge first!"

Yun Ge remarked with a worried look in his eyes.

At that moment, Dao Wuming seemed to sense their gaze and looked over at them.

"Hmph!"

Yun Ge locked eyes with Dao Wuming but soon showed a hint of fear, instinctively taking a few steps back!

His face turned pale instantly.

His eyes avoided, not daring to meet Dao Wuming's gaze.

Dao Wuming ignored Yun Ge and continued staring at Mu Jinyu. After a moment, he took back his gaze and stood at the position of the Blood Sword Sect.

"This..."

After a long while, Yun Ge felt his body recover, with a look of suspicion in his eyes, he muttered,

"How did his aura become so strong? Did he comprehend something new? Or did he break through to the Fanxu Realm?"

Chapter 870: Di Shitian Makes His Move!

"Indeed, his aura is very strong. Yesterday, his mere presence suppressed the Sect Leader and the Elders. Even if he hasn't broken through to the Fanxu Realm, he is probably at the Half-Step Return to Void Realm!"

Mu Jinyu said.

After speaking, he noticed Yun Ge seemed to have suffered an internal injury from staring at Dao Wuming, and quickly took out an elixir for him to consume.

As Yun Ge saw Mu Jinyu taking out another precious elixir for him, he wanted to refuse, but Mu Jinyu was firm and said his poor condition would not benefit the Heavenly Sword Faction in winning the championship.

Yun Ge had no choice but to take it.

Afterwards, Mu Jinyu placed his hand on Yun Ge's back, pretending to refine the elixir's power for him, but actually using Life Source Energy to heal him.

Yun Ge felt the familiar Life Source Energy being released in his body, his expression changed instantly, and he said, "Senior Brother Mu, why did you give me a life-saving elixir? This is too wasteful!"

He initially thought Mu Jinyu only gave him a rare healing pill. Little did he know it would be such a life-saving elixir. If he had known, he definitely wouldn't have taken it!

Mu Jinyu persuaded him, "Relax, I have a lot of these elixirs. Don't worry, I won't be unable to save my own life just because I lack one of them!"

"Besides, you've already taken it and the medicinal power has already spread, so saying this now is useless. Just focus on healing."

Hearing this, Yun Ge sighed helplessly and had to calm down and cooperate with Mu Jinyu for healing.

At this time, people from the newly promoted sect, Liuyun Sect, also arrived at the square.

The leading person was the Liuyun Sect Leader Fang Xiuyuan, whom Mu Jinyu had met yesterday, but the person who caught his attention was a young man with an extraordinary aura, faintly resembling a king.

That person was Di Shitian!

"Hmm, this person... looks somewhat familiar?"

Mu Jinyu saw Di Shitian's cold and arrogant face and felt a sense of familiarity as if he had seen him somewhere before.

But he was certain this was his first time meeting the young man.

Beside him, Jian Ruyan heard Mu Jinyu's words, followed his gaze towards Di Shitian, and suddenly shuddered, exclaiming, "This person... looks a bit like Di Yin..."

Although Mu Jinyu had been in Dragon King Hall for a while, he was only familiar with people like Xiang Mantang, Jian Ruyan, Mu Hongchen, and Wu Shisan. As for Di Yin and Qin Qiaochu, he had less interaction with them.

But Jian Ruyan was different. Despite her cold disposition and scarce interactions within Dragon King Hall, as a Sub-hall Master, she still had to cooperate with Di Yin, Qin Qiaochu, and Wu Shisan when carrying out important tasks.

Therefore, when Mu Jinyu saw Di Shitian, he only felt a bit familiar but couldn't recall whom he resembled.

But Jian Ruyan could recognize at a glance that Di Shitian looked very much like Di Yin who was killed by Xiang Mantang!

Upon hearing Jian Ruyan's exclamation, Mu Jinyu finally remembered who Di Shitian resembled.

Indeed, he looked very much like Di Yin!

"Could it be his brother?"

Mu Jinyu speculated.

Then, he suddenly remembered that Jian Ruyan had previously mentioned that Di Yin's sect in the Kunlun Ruins seemed to be the Liuyun Sect.

Could it be this very Liuyun Sect that suddenly rose, exterminated Mingyue Valley, and replaced it as the new of the Four Great Sects of Yan Kingdom?

If so, this young man might indeed have a connection with Di Yin!

"Hmm?!"

When Jian Ruyan exclaimed and mentioned Di Yin, Di Shitian instantly heard it. His eyes narrowed, and he swiftly turned his head, casting his gaze towards the Heavenly Sword Faction!

Then, he saw Jian Ruyan in the crowd!

His Divine Sense was very sharp. The words "Di Yin" definitely came from this woman.

But Di Shitian believed he had never met Jian Ruyan before.

And Di Yin had been sent out early to Dragon King Hall, so the possibility of knowing the disciples of the Heavenly Sword Faction was basically non-existent.

So then...

Di Shitian's face suddenly darkened, and he used his movement technique, flying towards Jian Ruyan like a bird!

"Hmm?!"

"What's going on?"

The Liuyun Sect Leader and the Elders saw Di Shitian suddenly leave the team and go towards the Heavenly Sword Faction, showing expressions of surprise. Fearing something might go wrong, they hurried to follow him!

"Thud!"

Di Shitian landed in front of Jian Ruyan, his terrifying aura erupted like a tide. He stared directly into her eyes and said, "Who are you? Why do you know my brother, Di Yin?!"

"I..."

Jian Ruyan knew that at the time, Di Yin and Qin Qiaochu approached the former Beidou Tianshu of Dragon King Hall, planning to conspire with him to plot against Xiang Mantang. They were discovered by Xiang Mantang and killed. She didn't want to cause trouble for Mu Jinyu, so she was preparing to fabricate a lie...

But unexpectedly, seeing Jian Ruyan's expression and eyes, Di Shitian knew immediately that she knew Di Yin and was aware of his cause of death. This made her appear guilty and made his rage uncontrollable, almost losing his mind.

Ignoring the Four Sects Martial Meeting, he roared, "People from Dragon King Hall? Die!"

Roaring, Di Shitian raised his palm, letting loose divine light that resembled a world-suppressing treasure seal, aiming to smash Jian Ruyan's head!

With his Ninth Layer strength, if this palm landed on Jian Ruyan, who was at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm, her head would certainly explode like a watermelon on the spot!

"Boom!!"

A booming sound echoed!

But it wasn't Jian Ruyan's head being smashed by Di Shitian!

Instead, it was Mu Jinyu realizing something was wrong, timely stepping in front of Jian Ruyan, raising his own palm to counter it, causing the echoing sound!

The two palms, full of unparalleled destructive force, collided, producing a thunderous boom.

Afterwards, Mu Jinyu's legs didn't tremble or shake, while Di Shitian's face paled slightly, his body uncontrollably stepping back three steps!

Finally, he was supported by Fang Xiuyuan and others who hurried over!

"Hmm?!"

"What is this person trying to do?"

"Do they really think Liuyun Sect, having just become one of the Four Great Sects, can act recklessly?!"

The people of Heavenly Sword Faction saw Di Shitian approaching Jian Ruyan out of nowhere and suddenly attacking. Although Mu Jinyu blocked it in time, it still left them frightened!

At this moment, even Wei Ziping, who usually had many complaints about Mu Jinyu, felt united in anger against Di Shitian, preparing to fight against Liuyun Sect!

Xie Chenkun, Elder Cheng, and others watching the scene, their expressions also darkened.

"Liuyun Sect, are you planning to wage war against our Heavenly Sword Faction?!"

The Liuyun Sect Leader and other high-level people were terribly frightened, immediately shielding Di Shitian behind them, secretly taking out spiritual treasures for defense while hastily explaining, "Sorry, sorry, I don't know what happened to this child, we have no intention of waging war against you..."

Di Shitian, shielded behind them, still stared fiercely at Mu Jinyu, angrily shouting, "Are you also from Dragon King Hall?!"

"Yes!"

Mu Jinyu saw Di Shitian's reaction and knew he somehow learned about Di Yin's death, so he didn't hide it and calmly took on the grudge:

"I am the new Tiance True Dragon of Dragon King Hall. Di Yin resented me for this, conspired with outsiders to harm me, so I had him killed. Do you want to avenge him? Then bring it on!"

"You?!"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Di Shitian's eyes turned red!

At that moment, he forgot about the figure of Xiang Mantang seen in the life medallion, focusing solely on Mu Jinyu, as if engraving his face onto his soul!

Because it was this person who ordered the murder of his brother, he was the true culprit!

He should be the first to die!!