

Martial Arts 471

Chapter 471: Divine Cultivation Realm

The secret room door opened.

The people waiting outside, who had been sitting for a long time, all stood up from their chairs.

"Master!"

Ling Yu was the first to speak, his face full of excitement.

"President!"

Chang Fei's voice followed.

"Shi Tao, did you break through successfully? How is it now, have you reached the Celestial Human Realm?"

Elder Tang and the others also asked anxiously.

To aid Shi Tao.

During these days, they tirelessly researched the pill formula and worked day and night to prepare the elixir, the hardships of which cannot be conveyed in a few words.

Shi Tao's gaze swept over the crowd, feeling touched inside.

"Yes."

He smiled and said, "I have now become a Celestial Realm Martial Artist."

The room fell silent instantly, followed by a voice.

"President, is the pill you condensed a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill?"

Those present were core members of the headquarters, understanding that Shi Tao could have broken through to the Celestial Human Realm a year or two ago if he wanted.

The delay was to ensure a hundred percent chance of condensing a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill.

Perhaps even the legendary Celestial Grade!

"Yes."

Shi Tao nodded again.

Suddenly, cheers erupted outside the room.

Elder Tang and his group were all tearful.

First-grade Martial Arts True Pill.

Even if considering the noble families, Yan Country has no more than half of the Celestial Realm Martial Artists.

Those who have condensed First-grade Martial Arts True Pills are even fewer.

And Shi Tao is one of them.

What an honor this is.

Moreover, the higher the quality of the Martial Arts True Pill condensed by a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, the greater the probability of breaking through to the Divine Cultivation Realm in the future.

Even the current noble families don't have anyone at the Divine Cultivation Realm.

Does anyone exist in the world?

Maybe, maybe not, as no one has ever seen them.

"Master, that's wonderful," Ling Yu said tearfully, "I knew that you could definitely condense the First-grade Martial Arts True Pill."

Everyone else echoed the sentiment.

Shi Tao gently glanced at him and then turned to Chang Fei, "While I was in seclusion, did anything happen outside?"

"There was."

Chang Fei quickly replied, "When you broke through, it caused a celestial phenomenon and attracted a lot of attention in the city. The Zhang Family, Liu Family, and other families sent gifts and invitations, hoping to meet you.

The Awakened Association and the City Lord's Mansion also sent invitations, saying they have prepared banquets, just awaiting your presence. Several Martial Arts Associations sent congratulations, except for the Jiangbei Sub-district Martial Arts Association."

The crowd's smiles grew wider.

The president's successful breakthrough naturally meant greater influence for the association in the city.

Therefore, all the powers in the city sent gifts, and even the City Lord's Mansion and the Awakened Association had become more friendly.

Being martial artists of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, how could they not be happy?

But upon hearing the last sentence, their faces turned displeased.

"Hmph, the Jiangbei Sub-district Martial Arts Association are truly narrow-minded," Ling Yu was the first to speak, "More than a year ago, when their president Fan Xiao broke through to the Celestial Human Realm, Master personally sent congratulations. Now that Master has broken through, they are too lazy to even say a polite word."

"Exactly, I think most likely it's because they're jealous of our president for condensing a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill."

"Of course, Fan Xiao only managed to condense a Second-grade Martial Arts True Pill, I heard there were problems at the time, almost failing."

"Is that true? Haha, it seems his talent is quite ordinary then?"

"Enough."

Shi Tao interrupted everyone's discussion, his expression unchanged, "Regarding the City Lord's Mansion and the Awakened Association, Chang Fei, inform them that I will come over later. As for the gifts from others, send them back intact."

"Yes, president."

Chang Fei replied quickly.

He wasn't surprised by Shi Tao's decision.

After all, their association wasn't lacking those things.

"Elder Tang, thank you for the effort you put into refining the elixirs during this time."

"You rascal, why say that?"

Elder Tang pretended to be displeased.

"Indeed, Shi Tao, your words are too distant. To be honest, we refined the True Qi Pills not only for you but also for the association and for Yan Country."

"That's right, we old men are all advanced in age, seeking out Fierce Beasts in the wild equals seeking death. Therefore, we can only work hard on alchemy, so in the future, you all can kill more Fierce Beasts and avenge the people of Yan Country who died to them." An elder spoke with tears streaming down.

Compared to others, his experience was much more miserable.

Not only his wife and children but also his grandchildren all died at the hands of Fierce Beasts.

"Elder Feng, rest assured, I will definitely kill all those Fierce Beasts outside the city to avenge the deceased."

Shi Tao solemnly said.

"Hmm, those words are enough."

Elder Feng wiped his tears, smiling lightly.

"Shi Tao,"

At the front of the crowd, Elder Qin spoke, "Now that you have broken through to the Celestial Human Realm, even Top-grade True Qi Pills will hardly be of much help in your cultivation, right?"

Upon hearing these words, Elder Tang and the others furrowed their brows.

Indeed, there's a significant gap between the realms.

Even taking the worst-case scenario, should such pills specifically for Celestial Realm Martial Artist's cultivation exist, refining them wouldn't be achievable overnight.

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"Elder Qin, you need not worry."

Shi Tao smiled and said, "The Celestial Human Realm is similar to the True Essence Realm, yet also different."

Ling Yu and the others instantly focused, straining their ears, afraid to miss a single word.

Shi Tao, seeing this, patiently explained:

"The similarity lies in both absorbing external forces to strengthen oneself. The difference is that the True Essence Realm cannot absorb the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and must rely on Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to fill the Sea of Qi.

Whereas the Celestial Human Realm can directly absorb Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the essence of all things, Earth Vein Evil Spirits, and grow Elixir Power. Ultimately, when the Elixir Power can no longer grow, it will lead to a breakthrough to the Divine Cultivation Realm."

"So, President, you can directly absorb the energy between Heaven and Earth for cultivation now?"
Chang Fei's eyes widened.

"Exactly."

Shi Tao smiled, "Before reaching the Celestial Human Realm, I had no awareness of the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. But now, I can clearly sense the omnipresent Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around me. I can absorb it into my body and refine it to grow Elixir Power, or temporarily borrow it to multiply the power of my martial arts."

As he spoke, he extended a hand, and instantly, a fierce gale arose inside the room, pushing everyone towards Shi Tao.

Chang Fei, Ling Yu, and the others managed to maintain their footing with all their strength.

Elder Tang and the others could not keep their balance at all.

Fortunately, the gale died down the next moment, as if nothing had happened.

"What was that just now?"

Everyone's eyes widened in confusion.

"Just now, I borrowed some of the power within the room. Though you couldn't see it, you felt it, didn't you?"

Shi Tao laughed.

"I see."

Enlightened, Chang Fei looked at the surrounding void and said, "I never thought there truly existed things in this world we can't see or touch."

"Indeed, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, such an immense power. Sadly, only upon reaching the Celestial Human Realm can one perceive it."

"Not only perceive it but also use it for cultivation, no need for elixirs anymore."

Everyone was filled with envy.

Shi Tao smiled without speaking.

While it might seem so, it's actually not that simple.

Ten years ago, while Primordial Qi did exist between Heaven and Earth, it was extremely thin. Even strong Celestial Realm experts like Elder Wang, skilled at absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, were powerless without sufficient Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Thus, many Celestial Human Realm experts fell due to fruitless breakthroughs and the arrival of their lifespan.

Those still alive didn't dare act recklessly, finding places where Primordial Qi remained and practicing life-extending techniques, living lives isolated from the world.

Only ten years ago did the Heaven and Earth's change make the Primordial Qi grow denser.

The world then gradually saw more figures appearing.

Nonetheless, according to Elder Wang, the current density of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi still doesn't compare to his era.

Fortunately, many treasure lands have denser Primordial Qi, enabling mid to late-stage Celestial Realm martial artists to cultivate.

Sadly, those places are monopolized by noble sects and families, even he is powerless to access them.

"Based on Elder Wang's words, the current Primordial Qi can only allow me to cultivate to the mid-stage of Celestial Realm at most, unless it grows denser. But if that happens..."

Shi Tao felt a surge of worry.

At that time, humanity's enemies won't just be fierce beasts.

In fact, new doors appearing within Yan Country already forewarn the worsening situation.

As Primordial Qi grows denser, more doors will appear, with stronger alien races emerging from them.

"Perhaps this is the origin of the Heaven and Earth Tribulation. We humans, facing this phenomenon, have no choice or refusal but to passively accept."

He thought to himself.

Elder Qin breathed a sigh of relief, "Since Shi Tao says so, we old folks can rest easy. However, if there are elixirs, they should still be better than none, right?"

"Naturally."

Shi Tao nodded.

Though Celestial Realm martial artists can directly absorb Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, Ore Spirit Veins, and even Evil Spirit Death Qi.

Elixir formulas are still the crystallization of countless ancestors' wisdom.

Combining various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, their medicinal power exceeds direct absorption by several degrees.

Thus, refining them into elixirs is more economical.

However, this brings two problems.

Firstly, good elixir formulas are hard to find, much like supreme martial arts, controlled by noble families and sects, with only fragments circulating.

Though Elder Wang lived a thousand years with several complete supreme martial arts manuals, he had no elixir formulas.

Secondly, even with a full formula, what then?

It depends on the elixir maker's skill.

An unskilled maker might waste precious materials, better off refining and consuming directly from the start.

"Alright, since everyone waited so long, let's all rest. Especially Elder Qin, truly troubling you during this period."

"No worries."

"Let's disperse then."

Everyone understood, the president just broke through and needs time to stabilize his realm.

The association still requires his attention for various matters.

"President, I'll head out. If you need anything, just call me." Chang Fei was the last to leave, closing the door.

"Whew."

He exhaled deeply.

The president's breakthrough ensures their association likely becomes the strongest among several martial arts associations.

Soon, the president's combat power might rival those three S-Class Awakened beacons.

Many think awakened ones are powerful, martial paths reaching limits.

Not quite.

Yan Country saw multiple Heaven and Earth Tribulations over thousands of years, each producing awakened ones.

Back then, not called awakened but wonder-workers and divine ability users.

Yet, after ten thousand years, only martial artists endured. Few divine ability users with unique powers also survived, but they too are martial artists.

Smiling at this thought,

"However, Brother Chen might not be too glad hearing this," Chang Fei sighed.

A hint of helplessness.

Simplistically, it might be good news.

If the president couldn't defeat Chen Fan, Ling Yu faced ruin.

Now that the president became a Celestial Human Realm martial artist, the threat diminishes.

Hence, preserving Ling Yu's martial arts satisfies both sides.

Leaving only Shi Tao and Ling Yu in the room.

"Master!"

Ling Yu happily said, "You're now a Celestial Human Realm martial artist. Soon, you can realize your wish, uniting various martial arts associations."

"Such talk is premature."

Shi Tao smiled, shaking his head.

True, he has that wish.

Given the associations' rivalry, competition brings benefits, but excessiveness exhausts resources.

Compared to other wishes, uniting associations is small.

As Ling Yu was about to speak, a nearby phone suddenly vibrated.

"Master, your phone is ringing?"

Ling Yu looked.

Due to the realm breakthrough ensuring no disturbances, phones weren't allowed inside secluded meditation rooms.

Shi Tao walked over, picked it up and said, "It's your Uncle Shen calling."

Chapter 473: Not So Simple

"President, it's me. Do you have a moment?"

As soon as the call connected, Shen Si's voice rang out.

There was an unprecedented gravity in his tone.

"I have time. What's the matter?" Shi Tao smiled slightly and asked.

"There is some bad news."

Shen Si let out a bitter laugh.

"Bad news?"

Shi Tao's expression momentarily froze before he asked, "What bad news? Just go ahead and tell me."

"Um, President, you..."

Shen Si hesitated briefly and then said, "Is Ling Yu with you right now? This matter is quite sensitive. It's best if only you know about it."

"?"

Hearing this, Shi Tao glanced at the baffled Ling Yu beside him and couldn't help but ask, "Is that really necessary?"

Everyone knew that his relationship with Ling Yu was like that of a father and son. He even considered Ling Yu his successor and didn't usually keep secrets from him, even important ones.

"Yes."

Shen Si replied without hesitation.

That previous incident, whether Ling Yu had intentionally or unintentionally incited Xiao Hong, was leaked out by him.

Therefore, it was certain that there was some conflict between him and Chen Fan.

If Ling Yu knew this news and deliberately spread it later, not only Chen Fan but even he would be in danger.

Of course, Ling Yu might not be such an inconsiderate person, but wouldn't it be better to kill off any such possibility in the cradle?

"Alright."

Shi Tao said, then looked at Ling Yu and said, "Xiaoyu, you should go out and cultivate for a while. If anything comes up, I'll call you."

Ling Yu was stunned and showed an extremely surprised expression on his face.

But in the next second, he obediently nodded and said, "Yes, Master."

After saying that, he turned around and walked out.

After closing the door, he furrowed his brows tightly.

What could be so important that Master would send him away? It never used to be like this.

Right, could it be Shen Si's idea?

"Yes, that has to be it."

A trace of gloom flashed through Ling Yu's eyes.

This Shen Si, what a troublesome person. He deliberately had Master send him away, making it seem like he wanted to eavesdrop.

He sneered and after a moment of hesitation, pressed one ear against the door.

Not let him listen?

He was determined to listen!

So what if Master caught him?

Master cherished him so much, how could he bear to blame him?

Besides, Master had just broken through to the Celestial Human Realm. He was in great spirits and surely wouldn't take it out on him.

This minor movement naturally couldn't be hidden from Shi Tao inside.

Shi Tao frowned slightly, seemingly hesitant.

Should he go out and get Ling Yu to leave? Shen Si was also there, it would be easy to figure out.

If he didn't go out, it wouldn't be appropriate for a junior to eavesdrop on the elder's conversation.

"How about it, President, has Xiaoyu left?" Just at this moment, Shen Si's voice sounded.

After all, Shi Tao had just told Ling Yu to go into seclusion, so Shen Si estimated the time and thought it was about right.

Shi Tao pondered for a moment and then replied:

"Yes, Xiaoyu has already left. Go ahead, what is it you wanted to say?"

"Alright, President, the thing is..."

Shen Si immediately began to recount in detail what had happened to his group when they encountered the Feng Country People.

Shi Tao's expression grew increasingly somber.

By the end, his fists were clenched tightly.

He naturally had no good feelings toward those Feng Country People.

But even as President, what could he do? He still had to follow the arrangements of the Elder Council, so he could only passively accept the outcome.

But now, those Feng Country People were targeting the members of his association!

"Just when we were at death's door, someone appeared."

Shen Si paused and then asked, "President, do you want to guess who this person was?"

"Do you want me to guess who this person was?"

Shi Tao squinted his eyes.

At such a crucial moment, Shen Si didn't reveal the name but instead wanted him to guess. Obviously, this person was someone he knew and likely had an unusual relationship with.

However, he knew too many people, and there were quite a few who had good relations with the association.

It was hard to make a guess.

"President, this person's surname is Chen."

"Chen Fan!"

Shi Tao exclaimed, his eyes showing an incredulous look.

Upon hearing about the Feng Country People's misdeeds, his heart was burning with rage. When he heard Shen Si's hint, he completely forgot that someone was outside eavesdropping.

"Chen Fan?"

Outside, Ling Yu's eyes widened sharply.

No wonder, no wonder that guy Shen Si had insisted on kicking him out and not letting him listen. It turned out this matter was related to that guy with the surname Chen?

"That guy Chen!"

Ling Yu clenched his fists, his heart burning with jealousy.

Nowadays, in the association, Chen Fan's reputation was big as well. After all, he was also a True Essence Realm Martial Artist and even younger than him. Hence, many people at headquarters were secretly saying that the association's top talent was not Ling Yu, but rather Chen Fan.

After all, one was at the headquarters and the other at a branch. The treatments they received were different, and for Chen Fan to achieve such feats spoke volumes about his talent.

Maybe, the second person to step into the Celestial Human Realm after the President wouldn't be Ling Yu, but Chen Fan.

Every time he heard these remarks, Ling Yu wished he could smash the heads of the people who said them into their stomachs!

How could a mere bumpkin from a small city be compared to him, the golden boy from a big city? How dare they even mention them in the same breath? Outrageous!

Moreover, thinking about the previous incident, he wished he could hack that guy surnamed Chen into a thousand pieces.

With this thought, he focused even more on trying to hear what his Master was saying.

However, strangely enough, it was abnormally silent in the room at this moment, with no sound at all.

Chapter 474: Not So Simple_2

Shi Tao glanced outside the house, thinking no wonder Shen Si had to send Xiaoyu away; it turns out this matter involved Chen Fan, and it was indeed not suitable for him to listen in on.

"Yes, Chairman."

Shen Si sighed and said, "To be honest, I didn't expect to encounter him in the rainforest. It's funny to say, but I even thought I was dreaming.

But on second thought, it made sense. Brother Chen also practiced the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill and was surely after the Cyan Dragon Fruit. His discovery of us was only natural."

Upon hearing this, Shi Tao spoke with a complex tone, "So, it was him who saved you from those Feng Country people?"

"Yes."

Shen Si nodded, then gave a bitter smile,

"However, it would have been better if the matter ended there."

"Go on."

Shi Tao also realized that this matter might not be as simple as he had thought.

"Shortly after Brother Chen rescued us, the reinforcements from those Feng Country people arrived. There were two of them, one was a werewolf from the Revival Association, and the other was Song Gang from the Song Family."

"Song Gang?"

Shi Tao's eyebrows furrowed slightly.

He had indeed heard a little about this person.

It was said that Song Gang was proficient in a saber technique called Ice Soul Cold Blade, and the saber he used, the Ice Soul Saber, was specially made. It not only enhanced the power of his saber techniques but also reduced True Qi consumption.

"And then?"

Shi Tao asked.

Although he had a vague idea in his mind.

He knew Shen Si's abilities and was certain they wouldn't match Song Gang's.

Moreover, there was a werewolf from the Revival Association alongside him.

At this moment, Shen Si could call him specifically to recount this event, which likely meant that Song Gang and the Revival Association member had already been killed by Chen Fan.

"Later, Brother Chen fought a fierce battle with them to save us. Both the werewolf and Song Gang were killed."

Shen Si said with lingering fear.

Song Gang's strength was formidable.

But compared to the werewolf, his threat was far inferior.

Yet the result was that both were burned alive by flames.

It was too tragic.

Shi Tao took a deep breath, "How did he kill them?"

Shen Si immediately recounted the specific process.

Including how Chen Fan used the Soul-Searching Technique to control Song Gang and obtain the items in his space items.

However, he still kept his inner vow.

He didn't reveal a single word about the Divine Demon Level Technique.

It wasn't that he didn't trust Shi Tao, but such matters were too significant. If word got out, the Song Family would stop at nothing to kill Chen Fan.

"I didn't expect that after just a few days, his strength has improved again."

Shi Tao's expression was complex.

That person called John, after transforming into a werewolf, could briefly go head-to-head with a Beast King-level Fierce Beast, his strength was not to be underestimated.

Yet he was burned alive by a few arrows shot by Chen Fan.

Doesn't this mean that even a Beast King-level Fierce Beast hit by his arrows would be burned alive too?

This possibility cannot be ruled out.

"Yes, Chairman."

Shen Si's voice carried worry, "I have a premonition that Brother Chen will soon come to the headquarters to find Ling Yu. By then..."

"I will take action."

Shi Tao said quietly,

"I know, Chairman, I know you will take action. I'm just worried that even with your strength, defeating Chen Fan won't be easy. If it comes down to both sides suffering heavy losses, for our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association..."

Shen Si hesitated.

He was deeply unwilling to see such an outcome.

"Hehe."

Shi Tao chuckled and said, "Actually, I have something to tell you. Since you called, I might as well tell you."

"Wh-what is it?"

Shen Si was taken aback.

"I have broken through."

"What?"

Shen Si felt like he was struck by thunderbolt, instantly standing paralyzed.

"Just now, I have condensed a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill and stepped into the Celestial Realm."

Shi Tao said with a smile.

"F-First-grade Martial Arts True Pill!"

Shen Si's mouth gaped wide, enough to swallow a basket of eggs.

Tears of excitement flowed from his eyes.

His Emperor's Qi Observation Skill synchronizes best with the Chairman.

But the Chairman had more important things to attend to, which was to prepare for the breakthrough, to reach the Celestial Realm as soon as possible.

And this day had arrived, so suddenly, leaving him unprepared.

"Yes, a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill."

Shi Tao sighed, his voice carrying a hint of helplessness, "I had hoped to condense a Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill, but it was wishful thinking."

"Chairman, a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill is already something to be satisfied with."

Shen Si said with a smile mixed with tears.

"Even the Celestial Realm martial artists of those noble families mostly condense Third-grade or Second-grade Martial Arts True Pills. Less than ten have condensed First-grade, and as for the Heaven-grade, perhaps not even one.

They have inherited for so many years and possess countless treasures, yet can only achieve this. Our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association has existed only for a few years, and the Chairman's achievement is already remarkable."

"Hehe, I know, it's just some emotions."

Shi Tao said with a chuckle.

He would only say these things to Elder Wang, Shen Si, and Chang Fei. As for others, like Ling Yu, he wouldn't even mention it.

"That's good."

Shen Si breathed a sigh of relief.

He feared that Shi Tao's discontent would affect his future cultivation.

However, now that Shi Tao had broken through, it was undoubtedly tremendous news.

As this means, the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association now has two Celestial Realm martial artists.

Even the Song Family wouldn't dare to openly oppose the association.

Of course, it wasn't entirely optimistic. The Song Family officially had two to three Celestial Realm martial artists; who knew how many more were hidden. Only the Song Family themselves would know.

Moreover, the Chairman had just stepped into the Celestial Realm.

Those from the Song Family were old monsters, some lived for hundreds of years, this was merely a minority.

If the Chairman were to fight them, it would surely be disadvantageous.

Besides, there was the Revival Association.

Even more so, the overall strength of the Revival Association exceeded that of the Song Family.

Those vampires and werewolves, some lived for hundreds or thousands of years. If they decided to target the association, even Elder Wang would likely face grim odds...

Fortunately, throughout the entire incident, they kept a clean track record.

By the time anyone sensed any commotion and arrived, they were long gone; they hadn't encountered anyone in the process.

But, who knows if the Song Family, or the Revival Association, had any special methods.

Thus, he had no choice but to inform Shi Tao as soon as possible to make relevant arrangements.

"Don't worry."

Shi Tao's eyes flashed with resolve, "This matter was the fault of those Feng Country people. Even if it goes before the Elder Council, we are in the right, and there's nothing to fear."

"That's true, but..."

Shen Si laughed bitterly.

The Elder Council also had members biased towards the Feng Country people.

If it really came to that day, it would be extremely troublesome.

"Isn't it yet to happen?"

Shi Tao said calmly, "When the day comes, we can think about what to do. Worrying about it now only adds unnecessary stress, don't you think?"

"Yes."

Shen Si sighed, apologizing, "I'm really sorry, Chairman. If it weren't for us..."

"Why say such things?"

Shi Tao interrupted, "Blaming the victim instead of the perpetrator, what kind of logic is that? Besides, between us, is there any need to say these things?"

"My fault, my fault."

Shen Si hurriedly said.

He was mostly anxious because he knew the consequences would be disastrous if this matter leaked out, making him feel even more guilty.

"Return to headquarters as soon as possible, and don't go out for these few days. As for Chen Fan..."

Shi Tao pondered for a moment, "I will keep an eye on him."

"Alright."

Chapter 475: This Will Not Set a Precedent

After hanging up the phone, Shi Tao frowned deeply.

This matter, not only for him, even if Elder Wang were here, he would have frowned too.

But since the matter has already happened, there's no use overthinking it.

If one day the people from the Revival Association or the Song Family come to demand someone, Shi Tao would not back down an inch.

"I thought breaking through to the Celestial Human Realm would alleviate some pressure, but it seems that being at the early stage of the Celestial Human Realm is still not enough."

Shi Tao sighed.

Determination shone in his eyes.

In the past, he had stayed at the headquarters, preparing to break through to the Celestial Human Realm.

Now that he had broken through, he was confident to visit a few places Elder Wang mentioned. Perhaps, he might encounter a fortuitous event.

As long as he reaches the late stage of the Celestial Human Realm, he would not fear the three S-Class Awakened, and would similarly not be afraid of the Song Family or the Revival Association.

That way, he wouldn't have to worry about anything being exposed.

The next moment, his gaze turned to the wall.

He shook his head slightly and walked over.

Outside the house, there was no one. Obviously, Ling Yu, who had been eavesdropping earlier, had long left.

Shi Tao came to the quiet room; the latter was sitting on a meditation cushion, cultivating. Upon hearing movement, his face immediately showed a smile, "Master, you're here?"

It was as if nothing had happened just now.

Even Shi Tao had an illusion, as if he had wrongly accused the other party, as if the other had not eavesdropped outside.

"Hmm."

He nodded and still spoke, "Just now, were you eavesdropping outside?"

Ling Yu scratched his head awkwardly, looking at the ground, "Yes, I eavesdropped for a while. I'm sorry, Master. I didn't do it on purpose. I just, I just couldn't suppress my curiosity. Actually, actually, I didn't hear anything."

Shi Tao stared at him intently.

He naturally knew that the other hadn't heard anything.

Except for the initial name.

Seeing no displeasure on Shi Tao's face, Ling Yu thick-skinnedly asked, "Master, what did Uncle Shen say to you that I can't know?"

"Nothing much."

Shi Tao withdrew his gaze and said indifferently, "Just a trivial matter. However, I don't want to see you eavesdropping outside again."

"I won't, I won't."

Ling Yu shook his head repeatedly.

He didn't have the guts to say there would be a next time, but deeply doubted Shi Tao's reply.

A trivial matter?

If it really were trivial, why didn't Shen Si let him listen?

Moreover, the matter involved that guy with the surname Chen; it didn't seem trivial at all.

"I'll have someone go and find out what happened outside later."

Ling Yu thought to himself, but his face remained innocent.

"Xiaoyu, he shouldn't have noticed anything, right?"

Shi Tao frowned slightly.

To prevent the other from overthinking, he briefly mentioned it; otherwise, it would seem too conspicuous.

But undoubtedly, Ling Yu must know that the previous matter was related to Chen Fan.

"Perhaps, I'm overthinking."

Shi Tao shook his head secretly.

Xiaoyu was his disciple and a member of the association. Even if he didn't know the details, even if he did, he wouldn't leak it.

Because by considering it a bit, one could figure out what it would mean for the association.

He wasn't the type to disregard the bigger picture for personal reasons.

...

In the depths of the rainforest.

Chen Fan sensed more than ten presences ahead and slowed his pace.

From Song Gang, he learned that all these people were here for the Cyan Dragon Fruit.

This fruit was worth millions of points and could greatly enhance the user's physical attributes.

In other words, it could significantly extend life, drawing much attention.

"If I just walked out, it would easily alert them, and it would be hard to succeed."

Chen Fan stopped, touched his chin thoughtfully.

Moreover, the Heaven-Burning Arrow Technique couldn't be used.

Using it would easily expose his true identity, and the matter of killing the Song Family members could also be leaked.

So, in that case...

Chen Fan removed his mask and his bow and arrows, storing them in his space items.

Then, a cracking series of sounds emerged.

When the sounds ceased, Chen Fan had transformed into a man over six feet tall with a pale face and narrow eyes, giving off a chilly aura.

Chen Fan nodded in satisfaction, looking ahead.

There was a Beast King-level Fierce Beast guarding the maturing Cyan Dragon Fruit.

Around it were several Commander-level Fierce Beasts and countless elite and high-level Fierce Beasts.

He could rely on his Vajra Indestructible Body to break in and fight his way out. Even if he faced that Beast King-level Fierce Beast, he shouldn't be in life-threatening danger during the transformation.

However, without using archery, it would be nearly impossible to kill that Beast King-level Fierce Beast in a short time.

This would give others a chance. Those people would be happy to have someone else attract the attention of the Beast King-level Fierce Beast while they seize the Cyan Dragon Fruit and escape.

"Now that they are in the open and I am in the dark, why not let them attract these Fierce Beasts' attention while I take the opportunity to snatch the fruit."

Chen Fan quietly moved in another direction.

Chapter 476: This Will Not Set a Precedent (2)

He believed that those people ahead were even more eager to get the Cyan Dragon Fruit, and would definitely take action first.

However, after walking for a while, he found that things weren't as simple as he had imagined.

Because in other directions, there were also occasional auras lurking around, sometimes one, sometimes several, with the lowest strength being at the B-level Awakener level.

He could even hear voices if he paid attention.

"Young master, should we take action?"

"No rush. We'll wait until the others make a move before we do."

"Yes."

Such conversations could be heard from time to time.

Chen Fan felt a headache coming on.

Obviously, none of the people here were easy to deal with. They all planned to use others to attract the attention of the beasts, breaking through from another direction to benefit amidst the chaos.

"It feels like there's little hope?"

Chen Fan murmured to himself.

After circling around, he saw that there were at least a hundred potential competitors, including members of noble families.

Trying to snatch the Cyan Dragon Fruit from so many competitors was indeed not an easy task.

"If only my strength could be a bit stronger..."

Chen Fan sighed.

He didn't need to reach the Celestial Human Realm; just being able to shoot an arrow that could kill that Beast King-level Fierce Beast would be enough. If that happened, these people present would surely be intimidated and wouldn't dare to compete with him easily.

Of course, if there really was such a person, it wouldn't be a problem. Like killing that Beast King-level Fierce Beast with one arrow, just shoot them with one arrow.

Unfortunately, to achieve that, his True Qi would need to reach at least 15 million points. To shoot two arrows, it would need to reach 30 million points.

"I can only take it one step at a time."

Fortunately, the rewards from this trip far exceeded a million points. Even if he didn't get the Cyan Dragon Fruit, Chen Fan could still accept it.

In a few days, he would unlock the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill.

With the perfected Emperor's Qi Observation Skill, he would surely be able to discover some treasures that others couldn't.

By then, whether to enhance himself or exchange for points would be an easy choice.

On the other side, Fang He and his group also noticed the changes around them, with everyone's faces showing displeasure.

Initially, they thought the number of people who knew about this was limited.

Now, it seemed far from it.

Besides them, there were unknown numbers of people eyeing the prize.

"Hmph, the Xing Family is really cunning. They don't know how many people they sold this information to. No wonder they never participate in the contest for Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures. Simply selling information has made them rich." Fang He complained.

Indeed, as soon as he finished, at least half of the seven or eight people present showed embarrassed expressions.

Yes, they had also bought the information from the Xing Family.

They knew well that after the Xing Family sold the information to them, they would continue selling to a second, third...

But they had no choice.

After all, not everyone had the ability to know the locations of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures. The Xing Family had been famous for this ability for over a thousand years.

They didn't like it, but they had to endure it.

"Alright, it's too late to talk about this now. What's more, the Xing Family made it clear that if you want to buy it, buy it; if not, leave. Do you think that simply knowing a piece of information can get you the treasure? If it were that simple, the Xing Family would have become the Yan Country's number one noble family long ago."

A burly man glanced at the man who had spoken.

Fang He snorted but said nothing. The former was right.

The atmosphere quieted again, although deep down, everyone present was becoming agitated.

The Cyan Dragon Fruit was indeed about to ripen, but a problem followed too.

Who would be the vanguard to attract the beasts' firepower?

After all, those who charged ahead would likely face the greatest danger. That Beast King-level Fierce Beast was no joke and would surely have its minions desperately blocking the way.

The ones at the back would be much safer, and the chances of getting the Cyan Dragon Fruit would be higher.

Everyone present was smart and understood this.

So they all tried to push others forward while waiting in the rear to take advantage.

As a result, no one moved for a long time.

The burly man's voice sounded again, "I say, everyone, there are less than ten minutes before the Cyan Dragon Fruit matures. Are we just going to wait here? Do you want the fruit to fall into the mouth of that Dragon Rhinoceros or allow others to get ahead?"

"Bai, it's easy for you to say. You probably want to push others to be the vanguard, sharing the firepower for you, right? If you have the guts, why don't you charge first?" Fang He seized the opportunity to retort.

Everyone else showed disdain.

Bai Xuan was not angry but said, "Fang He, excuse me. I, Bai Xuan, actually do intend to do just that."

"What!"

Gasps of surprise echoed.

Everyone looked at him with astonishment.

Bai Xuan, are you out of your mind?

Or do you have some hidden agenda?

Anyone sane knew that the first to charge would be the main target of the beasts. Even if they didn't die, they'd lose half their skin! Let alone getting close to the Cyan Dragon Fruit.

"Bai Xuan, don't be rash."

Han Yan, who had been silent, spoke up, "Fang He never has anything good to say. Don't be provoked by his few words."

"Hey hey hey."

Fang He said discontentedly, "Han Yan, who are you saying never has anything good to say?"

He was already displeased with this guy.

And now this guy was targeting him. Did Han Yan think Fang He was easy to mess with?

"Is there anyone here besides you called Fang He?"

Han Yan, unafraid, stared at Fang He's eyes and spoke word for word.

"You son of a..."

Fang He ground his teeth in anger.

"Alright," Bai Xuan's voice interrupted. He glanced at the others, noting their skepticism and disbelief, and smiled, "I'm not joking, and I'm not mistaken. I can act as the vanguard, attracting the beasts' firepower. After all, the Bai family is known for their defensive martial arts."

Upon hearing this, everyone nodded slightly.

Indeed, the Bai Family had many defensive martial arts.

From common external skill Iron Cloth Shirt, to first-class martial arts Golden Bell Shield, to Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill and Undying Golden Body, there wasn't another family in Yan Country with a compilation as comprehensive as theirs.

It's even said that the Bai Family had a divine demon martial arts technique that, once mastered, made one's body comparable to a Divine-Demon Body, impervious to divine soldiers.

"Bai Xuan, I don't believe you're so kind-hearted to be the vanguard for everyone." Fang He sneered.

This was what everyone wanted to say.

"Of course."

Bai Xuan smiled, "There's no free lunch in this world. Everyone understands that. So of course there are conditions."

Upon hearing this, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

"What conditions? Speak." Someone said.

"The condition is simple."

Bai Xuan scanned the crowd, "I just need each of you to give me 100,000 points. Then I will not only withdraw from this competition but also help attract the firepower of the beasts, and even hold off the Dragon Rhinoceros for a moment."

He finished with a smile.

Everyone looked at each other, some showing interest.

If the Dragon Rhinoceros could be held off, the remaining commander-level fierce beasts wouldn't be too difficult to deal with.

"Bai Xuan, isn't 100,000 points too much?"

Someone complained, "Besides you, there are eight of us. 100,000 each means 800,000 points, almost the value of a Cyan Dragon Fruit."

"Indeed, your appetite is too big. I think we should give you at most 10,000 points each. After all, even if you block the front, it doesn't guarantee we can get the fruit."

"Right, 10,000 each makes 80,000 points. That's quite a substantial amount."

Chapter 477: Liang Country Sword Saint

"One person for 10,000 points?"

Bai Xuan's lips curled into a cold smile. "What a joke, what can you do with 80,000 points? It's not enough to buy a decent Heavenly Material or Earthly Treasure."

After all, he was the genius of the Bai Family.

To be a bodyguard for these people for a mere 80,000 points—if word got out, it would ruin his reputation.

It would be better to compete for them; if luck favored him, he might even seize a victory.

"That's highly unlikely. How about 100,000 points per person? Someone said confidently, "One person for 100,000 points, eight people make 800,000. If two more join later, wouldn't it be a million points in the bag? Is there such an easy way to earn points in this world?"

"Exactly."

Fang He immediately agreed, "Bai Xuan, your calculations are right in front of my face. It's just about being the vanguard and attracting the hatred of the Fierce Beasts. You think others can't do that?"

He coughed and looked at everyone, "Everyone, I, Fang Xuan, can also give up this competition and voluntarily be the vanguard to attract the Fierce Beasts' firepower. All I need is each of you to give me 80,000 points. How about it? Isn't that cheaper than the guy surnamed Bai?"

"You!"

Bai Xuan was infuriated.

This guy was shameless!

This idea was clearly his first!

"Fang He, your calculations are spot on too."

Han Yan lifted his eyelids, "80,000 points per person, eight people make 640,000 points. That's more than half the value of a Cyan Dragon Fruit, and besides,"

He eyed Fang He with some mockery, "With your strength, can you really withstand the concentrated fire of the Fierce Beasts and lead us forward?"

"Han Yan, what do you mean by that?" Fang He fumed, "Are you belittling my strength?"

"What else?"

Han Yan sneered, "Not everyone can charge to the front, attract the attacks of the Fierce Beasts, and remain unharmed. Fang He, I'm really afraid you might end up dead at the front."

"Alright, alright."

Fang He laughed in anger, glanced at the smug Bai Xuan, and then looked at Han Yan, "Han Yan, don't just talk about others; what about yourself?"

"I admit I don't have that ability, so I didn't bring it up at all," Han Xu said calmly.

"Did you hear that?"

Bai Xuan seized the opportunity, "Fang He, without real skills, don't take on porcelain chores. Otherwise, you'll harm others and yourself."

"Tch."

Fang He sneered, turning his head to the side, "Anyway, I won't pay 100,000 points. Whoever pays is a fool."

"Fang He is right, even 50,000 points is too high. 30,000 points per person sounds more reasonable," someone said.

"That's right."

Several around nodded in agreement.

Evidently, Bai Xuan's proposal still seemed valuable to them.

After all, their opponents weren't just each other but also those hidden away.

Before reaching the destination, retaining as much strength as possible is beneficial.

"30,000?"

Bai Xuan frowned, "No, that's too low. 40,000, 40,000 points per person, and I guarantee to get you to the center and even block the attack from the Dragon Rhinoceros for you."

"30,000 isn't low at all. Calculating without you, we have eight people, totaling 240,000 points. 240,000—this isn't a small sum."

"Exactly. If you're unwilling, I'll lead everyone instead. The Cyan Dragon Fruit may be good, but if we can't get it, what's the point? Better seize what's within reach."

Hearing this, Bai Xuan felt a bit panicked.

Feigning a pained expression, he sighed deeply, "Alright, 30,000 it is. Those willing to cooperate with me, come and transfer your points. Then just follow me during the charge. Those unwilling shouldn't muddle things; otherwise, everyone will lose face."

As he spoke, he glanced at Fang He.

"Tch."

Fang He pouted.

Just then, the ground began to shake.

"What's happening?"

Everyone was startled, looking towards the distance.

In the distance, dust billowed, and beast roars resonated continuously.

Did someone act first?

Everyone exchanged glances, excitement flickering in their eyes.

The reason they agreed to Bai Xuan's proposal was to have someone attract the Fierce Beasts' attention.

Now, someone couldn't hold back and acted first.

And the uproar was considerable, with at least tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts rampaging—this was a golden opportunity!

"Everyone, let's go!"

Fang He, laughing heartily, rushed towards the distance.

Seeing this, the others followed suit.

Bai Xuan felt a moment of loss, but soon his eyes filled with hope.

He followed as well.

Meanwhile, figures from all directions surged towards the center.

The Fierce Beast horde was caught off guard, countless Mid to High-Level Fierce Beasts falling into pools of blood, even the Elite-level Fierce Beasts could hardly withstand a single hit.

But the Fierce Beasts quickly responded.

Under the command of multiple Commander-Level Fierce Beasts, the beast pack formed layers of defensive lines, halting the crowd's advance.

Many slowed their steps.

Some unlucky ones had their protective shields shattered by Commander-Level Fierce Beasts, exploding into pieces.

Yet, no one cared; everyone dashed forward.

Chen Fan was also among the crowd, but he hadn't activated his Vajra Indestructible Body. Based on the timing, it was still six to seven minutes before the Cyan Dragon Fruit truly ripened.

Even if one can rush to the central position, what then?

The challenge would likely be not just from the Beast King-level Fierce Beast but competitors from all sides.

The best approach was to quietly get close and activate the Vajra Indestructible Body right when the Cyan Dragon Fruit was about to mature, seizing it and fleeing at the fastest speed.

Of course, whether this would achieve the goal was uncertain because, as always, everyone here today was no fool; they were all shrewd.

What he could think of, others could too. Ultimately, the victor would depend not only on strength but also on luck.

Chen Fan's thought wasn't wrong; many had not exerted themselves fully.

Take Bai Xuan for example.

With family support, he had already practiced the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill to the Great Success Realm, able to activate the Vajra Indestructible Body.

Hence, he was confident enough to charge at the front, taking on most of the Fierce Beasts' attacks and even withstanding a hit from a Beast King-level Fierce Beast.

But this martial art consumed True Qi immensely, draining it within mere seconds.

So, naturally, he would hold this move as his ace.

Others were similar.

Until later, they realized things weren't as simple as imagined.

From the southeast, a figure moved towards the Beast King-level Fierce Beast.

A white-robed elderly, hands behind his back, strolling leisurely.

Sword Qi surrounded him, preventing any Fierce Beast from approaching within a hundred meters; any that did was shredded to pieces.

He was like a sword thrusting into the beast horde, forcibly tearing a path.

"Young ones today, truly energetic,"

He glanced around at those battling the Fierce Beasts, a smile on his lips.

Others noticed him too, and some trembled, as if seeing a ghost.

"Roar!"

A roar echoed, a Commander-level Fierce Beast, over thirty meters tall, realizing its subordinates couldn't handle the human, decided to act personally, swiping a paw at the elder.

But as its paw neared within a hundred meters, it was instantly shredded by Sword Qi, half of its front claw vanished.

"Roar!"

The Commander-level Fierce Beast, enraged, didn't retreat but swung its other claw heavily.

It seemed it still wouldn't yield.

Unfortunately, the result was unchanged.

The white-robed elder continued walking leisurely.

No matter the Fierce Beasts' assaults, they couldn't hinder his steps.

Witnessing this, everyone held their breath.

Even Commander-level Fierce Beasts couldn't deal with this elder!

Who is he?

"He's the Sword Saint."

A voice said, with deep resignation, "I didn't expect a mere Cyan Dragon Fruit would bring him here. It seems today, we're out of luck."

"Sword Saint?"

"Sword Saint?"

Many showed deep confusion upon hearing this.

Chen Fan was similar.

The elder's attire had an ancient flair.

Could he be someone who's lived for hundreds of years, like Elder Wang?

Chen Fan activated Celestial Response, instantly detecting a formidable presence, sensing a measure of danger.

Startled, he quickly shut off his senses.

As expected, the white-robed elder glanced his way.

Fortunately, there were a few others around Chen Fan.

The elder couldn't immediately identify who peered at him, lightly snorted, and resumed his walk.

"Phew."

Chen Fan sighed in relief.

The elder's strength was formidable, likely surpassing him now.

From his actions, it seemed even the Beast King-level Fierce Beast in the center wouldn't pose much threat to him.

What now?

Should he give up?

Just then, voices arose around.

"You may not know, he's the Sword Saint from Liang Country, 600 years ago. Brother to the Emperor of Liang Country, who pursued swordsmanship over the throne, passing it to his brother. His sword technique is unmatched, even 600 years later, hard to find a peer in Yan Country for swordsmanship."

The speaker was a middle-aged man.

"Sword Saint from Liang Country?"

Someone incredulously asked, "Is he from the Liang Family?"

Chapter 478: Perhaps It's an Opportunity

Liang Family, one of the noble families in Yan Country.

However, there's also a hierarchy among the noble families.

The strongest families are naturally those of the five elders in the Elder Council.

Their words and actions can decide the fate of Yan Country, and major decisions are all made by them.

The second-tier families are qualified to participate in the Elder Council's elder position competition.

Their power is also considerable. After all, fortunes change, and who knows, one day the elder position might fall to them. Therefore, their status is also high in Yan Country, such as the Song Family.

Other than these two types, all other noble families are called third-tier families.

These family powers have weakened over a thousand years of transmission and no longer have the qualification to participate in the Elder Council, but even a dying camel is bigger than a horse; they still have Celestial Realm Martial Artists in their families.

Liang Family is one of them.

It is rumored that there is a mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist in their family, with formidable strength.

As for some noble families that don't even have Celestial Realm Martial Artists, they are considered insignificant.

Of course, even insignificant noble families are not ones ordinary people can offend, and the treatment their descendants receive far exceeds that of commoners and even some Awakeners.

"Yes, he is the ancestor of the Liang Family."

The middle-aged man smiled bitterly.

Who would have thought an ancestor-level figure would appear here? How could they compete?

Everyone gradually came back to their senses, and all were furious.

Many of them also came from noble families, and their family's strength was greater than the Liang Family's.

However, their family's ancestors did not come out to vie for cultivation resources with these juniors.

The Cyan Dragon Fruit is precious, but is it so precious that it would draw out an ancestor-level figure to personally take it?

Of course, they only dared to mutter these words in their hearts and not say them out loud. After all, he was the Liang Family ancestor. If someone heard them bad-mouthing him, they could be killed, and their family would not go to war with the Liang Family over them, right?

"Ah, if I had known this, we shouldn't have come."

"Yes, what a waste of time and effort."

"It's too late to say anything now."

"I think there's no need to hurry. Maybe he won't be able to handle that Beast King-level Fierce Beast?" someone whispered.

"That's impossible, right?"

People around couldn't believe it when they heard this.

But they all stayed, thinking if it turned out to be true, they might have another chance?

Even if it doesn't happen, it's expected. Anyway, when they go back, they'll make sure everyone knows about it.

Little did they know, their words were all heard by the elderly man.

"A bunch of kids, wanting to watch me make a fool of myself? Dream on."

The elderly man in white sneered in his heart.

If he couldn't kill an ordinary Beast King, then he shouldn't be alive.

However, for someone of his status to vie for opportunities with a group of juniors didn't sound good. But what could he do?

The Liang Family's talents have dwindled over hundreds of years; he is the only Celestial Realm Martial Artist. Over these years, it is precisely because of his existence that the Liang Family has remained peaceful.

But if he were gone, the Liang Family would inevitably be divided by other families. This has happened too many times, even his Liang Family has divided other families in such a way.

Therefore, he would never permit this to happen. He couldn't die of old age; he can only die once the family has produced another Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

Unfortunately, the Liang Family doesn't have very good life extension cultivation techniques or any Grotto Heaven Blessed Lands; it can only rely on some Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to extend life.

Take this Cyan Dragon Fruit, for instance. The first intake extends life by a hundred years, but the second intake has much reduced effects, and the third or fourth intake only extends life by a few years.

Even so, it's better than nothing, right?

But to spend a million points to buy a treasure that only extends life by a few years is too wasteful, so he had to go through the trouble of coming out to get it himself.

At this moment, everyone unanimously chose to stop and looked towards the elderly man.

The latter continued to move forward.

Countless fierce beasts turned to nothing under his sword qi.

Even a group of Commander-level Fierce Beasts couldn't harm him in the slightest.

Finally, accompanied by an angry roar, the Beast King-level Fierce Beast appeared.

A sixty-meter-tall rhinoceros-like creature, entirely black with a single horn on its nose that shimmered.

Dragon Rhinoceros.

It looked nothing like a dragon on the outside.

But it is said that this creature contains a trace of dragon blood in its body that suppresses other fierce beasts, making even fierce beasts of the same level fear it and their combat strength diminish.

"Boom!"

The Dragon Rhinoceros opened its mouth and spat out a massive purple flame column, heading straight towards the elderly man.

The fierce beasts around it didn't even touch a spark before they were all turned to ash.

"Is this the prowess of a Beast King-level Fierce Beast?"

Chen Fan squinted his eyes.

No wonder Beast King-level Fierce Beasts have the power to destroy a large city.

The elderly man in white, however, smiled.

Because the flame column was blocked by sword qi a hundred meters away and could not advance further.

"Damn, it's blocked?"

Someone was dumbfounded.

That flame was purple. It had to be over ten thousand degrees.

"After all, he is the Liang Family ancestor, who has lived for hundreds of years."

"Yes, and he has yet to make a move."

Others chimed in.

They stayed to see the elderly man's techniques.

"Is this all you have?"

The elderly man in white addressed the Dragon Rhinoceros.

Upon hearing this, the Dragon Rhinoceros' eyes filled with human-like rage, and the diameter of the flame column doubled, reaching twenty meters!

The Commander-level Fierce Beasts nearby fled in fear.

Martial Artists around also distanced themselves.

"Interesting."

The elderly man in white nodded slightly, "Not bad, but still too weak. Very well, I shall send you off."

He brought his right hand's two fingers together.

A massive sword qi of twenty to thirty meters appeared above him. As his fingers pointed out, the giant sword shot towards the Dragon Rhinoceros with a loud bang.

"Is this the power of a Celestial Realm Martial Artist?"

"Too powerful!"

Everyone looked at the sword qi in the sky in shock.

Even Fang He and other Awakeners were speechless.

Before the Celestial Realm, Martial Artists and Awakeners had a huge gap in strength.

But after reaching the Celestial Realm, Martial Artists could harness Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, whether it was wind, rain, thunder, or other forces.

In some respects, this was also a superpower.

"Boom!"

A loud noise echoed.

The expected scene of the Dragon Rhinoceros being pierced by sword qi and dying did not happen.

The massive sword qi was blocked by its horn.

"Bang!"

Like a shattering mirror, the sword qi broke apart.

"Roar!"

The Dragon Rhinoceros roared, its massive eyes showing contempt, as if to say, is this it?

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Then their mouths curved up.

Hah, this so-called Sword Saint of Liang Country wasn't all that impressive? He hadn't made a move yet, so everyone thought he was formidable. Now it seems he's nothing special?

The elderly man's face turned dark, muttering to himself, "What a beast. I intended to let you know your limits, but since you refuse the toast only to drink a penalty, don't blame me for being ruthless."

His entire aura changed.

A deep and sonorous voice echoed.

"Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect!"

Instantly, countless sword qi flew out from him, like rushing rivers, heading towards the Dragon Rhinoceros.

The sword qi wasn't as large as the initial one, only ten meters in length, but there were so many.

In a flash, the entire world was filled with sword qi.

The Dragon Rhinoceros' eyes showed fear, as it turned to run.

It sensed extreme danger.

But it was too late; no matter how fast it was, it couldn't outrun the sword qi behind.

"Squelch!"

A sword qi pierced its body.

The skin it was proud of, capable of resisting missile blasts, was pierced through like paper.

One.

Two.

Three.

Hundreds,

Thousands!

In the blink of an eye, the immense Beast King-level Fierce Beast vanished into thin air, including its distinctive horn.

The remaining thousands of sword qi pierced nothingness.

But no one paid attention, as everyone was stunned by the elderly man's Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect.

They were left speechless, their minds blank.

Chen Fan was also shocked.

Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect.

Supreme-level Martial Arts.

He suspected that vajra indestructible body might not withstand Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect unless the body's strength was incredibly high, then with the vajra indestructible body's enhancement, it could block it.

Now, it seemed true.

A mere thousand sword qi had crushed an ordinary Beast King, so killing a top-level Beast King with ten thousand sword qi wouldn't be impossible.

"Luckily, my undying golden body is about to be unlocked. If I elevate it to perfection, I won't fear these old monsters anymore, and..."

Chen Fan looked at the elderly man's face.

The previously rosy face now showed a trace of paleness, and his left hand fingers trembled slightly involuntarily.

His gaze tightened.

Although this mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist had perfected Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect, fully unleashing it consumed him greatly.

It made sense; the more powerful the secret technique, the greater the consumption.

To kill the Dragon Rhinoceros, he didn't need to pay this price. He did it to show off and amaze everyone.

"It seems like an opportunity for me."

Chen Fan's heart surged with a bold idea.

Chapter 479: The Foremost Person of the Age

What idea?

Snatching food from the tiger's mouth!

From the moment the white-robed elder appeared, the ownership of the Cyan Dragon Fruit was no longer in doubt.

After all, even the most powerful Beast King-level Fierce Beast here was easily killed by him.

Unless someone has a problem with their brain, they wouldn't have any ideas about the Cyan Dragon Fruit.

But Chen Fan decided to give it a try.

Of course, he didn't plan to go head-to-head and compete with the elder to determine the ownership of the Cyan Dragon Fruit.

Instead, he planned to use his speed advantage to snatch it and then escape.

Because he was proficient in various Martial Arts, and all his physical attributes were at least three to five times that of a Martial Artist in the same realm, if not more!

Once he activated the Vajra Indestructible Body, all his basic attributes, except for Spirit Attribute, would increase tenfold.

The agility attribute, which was already as high as fifty or sixty thousand points, could reach five or six hundred thousand points!

Even if a Celestial Realm Martial Artist is strong, their agility attribute with the use of the Power of Heaven and Earth should be around tens of thousands of points.

This attempt is very likely to succeed.

Moreover, Chen Fan had carefully observed the elder's full-speed action just now. Although it was fast, it was not beyond his perception.

The most crucial point was that the elder had just exerted his full strength.

Although a Celestial Realm Martial Artist can borrow Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the more True Essence they have, the more Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi they can borrow, and the stronger their moves will be.

However, what they consumed was still their internal True Essence. Once True Essence is consumed, it recovers relatively slowly; to recover quickly, they need to regulate their breath or take elixirs.

This undoubtedly reduced the risk he was taking.

"As the saying goes, seek fortune in danger, how can you gain opportunities without taking some risks?"

Chen Fan's eyes showed determination.

Having absolute certainty before taking action is naturally the best scenario.

But not all situations allow for absolute certainty; having six or seven out of ten chances is enough to try.

Otherwise, it's easy to miss great opportunities.

In fact, the situation was not much different from what he had envisioned.

On the surface, the white-robed elder looked the same as before.

In reality, his internal True Essence had depleted by 70%.

After all, the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect is a Supreme Martial Art. Even though he had perfected it, the consumption of his internal True Essence was still immense.

Just like the move just now, called Ten Thousand Swords Attack, which is a Secret Technique within it. By borrowing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, it can instantly unleash ten thousand Sword Qis with earth-shattering power.

But the True Essence consumption is also huge and cannot be recovered in a short time.

Besides, there's an even stronger move in this sword technique, called All Swords Return to One.

This Secret Technique can fuse ten thousand Sword Qis into a giant sword, capable of splitting mountains, with terrifying power.

Even he wouldn't dare to use this move lightly unless absolutely necessary, because once used, all his internal True Essence would evaporate in an instant, leaving him nearly powerless to protect himself.

Earlier, he underestimated that Beast King-level Fierce Beast, thinking one Sword Qi would kill it instantly, but it blocked the attack effortlessly.

Whispers immediately broke out around him, causing him great embarrassment.

After all, he was the Liang Family Ancestor, a figure who had lived hundreds of years, and now being laughed at by a group of youngsters, who could tolerate that?

Hence, he directly used Ten Thousand Swords Attack to crush that inconsiderate Beast into ashes. As expected, it immediately silenced the juniors present.

"So, does anyone still doubt this old man's strength now?"

He swept his gaze over the crowd coldly as he spoke.

The crowd woke up from their shock and mostly lowered their heads, not daring to meet his eyes.

Even a fool could tell that the ordinary Beast King was no match for this old man.

Probably even a Top-level Beast King might not be able to defeat him.

These people opposing him would only bring trouble upon themselves.

Of course, some were not convinced and met his gaze.

After all, they were not from the same generation, so what was so great about being stronger than them? If they could live a few hundred years and reach the Celestial Human Realm, their strength might not be inferior to his.

"What, still unconvinced?"

Anger rose in the Liang Family Ancestor's heart, but then he thought better of it. Given his status, fighting with these juniors would be demeaning.

Moreover, those who dared to meet his gaze probably had significant backing.

So, he snorted and said, "I know what you're thinking. You think that if you were my age, you'd be as strong as me or even stronger, right?"

The few who had raised their heads said nothing, but it was apparent they agreed.

The others also raised their heads quietly, though they quickly lowered them after being noticed.

"Naive."

Liang Family Ancestor chuckled, "It's not that I look down on you. Nine or even ten out of ten of you may never reach the Celestial Human Realm. Even if you did, do you think that would make you my match?"

He glanced at the Cyan Dragon Fruit. The Commander-level Fierce Beasts moved at his glance, running away in fright.

Numerous Fierce Beasts dispersed like birds and beasts.

The Liang Family Ancestor did not chase them but spoke calmly, "I ask you, does anyone here know what sword technique I just used?"

The crowd exchanged looks; before long, many voices were heard.

"Elder Liang, you used the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect, right?"

"It's the Supreme Sword Technique, Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect."

"Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect."

"Correct, you have some insight."

The Liang Family Ancestor nodded, then asked, "Do you know how to master the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect?"

Everyone shook their heads.

What a joke?

Most of them had never even seen fragments of the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect, let alone discussed mastering it.

Some, however, had seen it.

But the moves in this Martial Art were ones that even beginners could practice, without any profound mysteries.

Moreover, mastering this Martial Art required an unacceptable condition.

"Elder Liang, I have heard a bit."

A man spoke up.

All eyes turned to the speaker in surprise.

It was Han Yan.

The Han Family had a decent relationship with the Liang Family, so it was no wonder he stood up to back the elder.

"Despicable!"

Fang He ground his teeth in anger.

This spineless guy, the treasure was stolen, and he was still flattering.

"Oh? Do tell."

The Liang Family Ancestor looked satisfied.

Han Yan immediately said, "I once read this Secret Manual. Just the first four sentences made me give up because to practice this sword technique, one must self-abolish their Martial Arts first. Am I right?"

"What? Self-abolish Martial Arts?"

"You must abolish your Martial Arts to train? That's too strange!"

"Are you sure it's not the Exorcising Sword Technique?" Someone piped up.

"What nonsense?"

Liang Family Ancestor glared, "Can the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect be compared to the Exorcising Sword Technique? Even the Sunflower Manual would shatter before it."

"Forgive me, elder, I spoke without thinking." The man paled and apologized hastily.

"Don't let it happen again."

The Liang Family Ancestor snorted, then looked at Han Yan, "You're correct. The Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect is the pinnacle of swordsmanship, but to master it, one must abolish their Martial Arts first. I ask, who among you has the courage to do this?"

The crowd hesitated.

Were they kidding? How hard had they worked to get this far?

Some Awakeners, however, were tempted.

Their Martial Arts Realm was low, so abolishing their Martial Arts wasn't too painful.

But, would this person really be so kind as to teach them?

Chen Fan watched coldly.

Of course not.

Who would be so foolish as to teach their most treasured skills?

Especially not the shameless Liang Family Ancestor.

He was probably showing off to pass the time before the Cyan Dragon Fruit matured.

"Not brave enough?"

Liang Family Ancestor scoffed, "Even among sword masters of my generation, few dare to do so, but I did!"

His eyes gleamed fiercely, the pressure immense.

"I not only dared but also perfected it to the highest level. In the world, only I mastered the All Swords Return to One. Even now, in this era, it's the same. Do you think the title of Sword Saint came easily?"

He eyed the young talents with disdain, "It's not that I look down on you, but even if you reach the Celestial Human Realm, get the complete Secret Manual, you might not unleash a thousand Sword Qi, let alone Ten Thousand Swords Attack."

Several grudgingly acknowledged his point.

After all, in a thousand years, only one Sword Saint had emerged.

"Is Elder Liang the strongest in this era?"

A voice broke the silence.

A man with a crew cut, smiling innocuously, spoke.

"Is that Ye Tiancheng?"

"What nerve, speaking so sarcastically to an elder."

"Well, his Ye Family is a prominent family in Yan Country with several Celestial Realm Martial Artists, his grandfather the current patriarch, an authentic Celestial Realm Martial Artist."

Ye Tiancheng's words made the Liang Family Ancestor's smile vanish, his face dark with anger.

Ye Tiancheng trembled under his gaze, sweat dripping profusely.

Unexpectedly, he gritted his teeth and smiled, "Elder Liang, I have no other intention, just sheer curiosity. A man of your status wouldn't be angry with a junior, would you?"

Chapter 480: Intercepting

"This Ye Tiancheng, truly has a knack for mockery."

Everyone present thought to themselves.

They could all hear it; how could the Liang Family Ancestor not?

But the latter truly couldn't do anything to the other.

Firstly, there was nothing wrong with Ye Tiancheng's question. After all, it was natural to be curious when the Liang Family Ancestor boasted so much about himself.

Secondly, Ye Tiancheng had the backing of the Ye Family, which even the Liang Family Ancestor wouldn't dare to offend.

"Hmph."

The Liang Family Ancestor had no choice but to withdraw his oppressive aura, snorting, "When did I ever claim to be the number one under heaven?"

He was confident that his prowess in swordsmanship could rank him at least in the top three of the current age.

However, in terms of combat power, it would be difficult to rank him even in the top twenty...

The reason was simple: while the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect technique was powerful, it was not invincible.

There were martial arts techniques even stronger than the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect!

For instance, the Undying Golden Body. He had once fought a Celestial Realm Martial Artist who had cultivated this technique for three days and nights. No matter how he attacked, he couldn't cause any harm, but a single punch from the opponent sent his blood and energy surging, forcing him back a hundred steps.

Another example was the No Desire Technique. Some who mastered this technique could wield ordinary sword techniques with power far surpassing the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect. This technique had defeated him once, and he had to go into seclusion for a hundred years to recover from the internal injuries. Since then, whenever he heard that person's name, his hands and feet would turn cold.

The most terrifying were certain Divine Demon Martial Arts techniques.

Those who mastered these were like gods or demons on earth, capable of overwhelming feats.

Such individuals might still exist in today's world.

"I understand now. Thank you, senior."

Ye Tiancheng smiled slightly.

He wasn't a fool. He simply couldn't stand the other's condescension in their presence.

In terms of combat power, any one of the Ye Family's many ancestors could suppress the other with ease.

"Brother Ye, you've got nerve!"

"Brother Ye, well done."

People around him gave him thumbs-up.

Indeed, Ye Tiancheng had voiced the indignation they all felt. The old man no longer seemed as arrogant as before.

With this disruption, the Liang Family Ancestor's momentum indeed diminished.

He waved his hand and said, "Fine, this Cyan Dragon Fruit is mine. You all came from somewhere, now go back there."

After saying this, he sat down nearby, starting to meditate and regulate his breath to restore his True Qi.

Of course, although the Cyan Dragon Fruit was a must-have, he couldn't let his guard down. He restored his True Qi while also sensing the surrounding aura.

Chen Fan frowned at this scene.

His gaze shifted to the Cyan Dragon Fruit behind the Ancestor.

The fruit was just palm-sized, with a blue surface and dark patterns. It didn't look like a dragon, so why was it called the Cyan Dragon Fruit?

But this wasn't the time for complaints.

Judging by its appearance, the fruit would fully ripen in two or three minutes.

"Good."

Chen Fan's heart relaxed.

Even if he was a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, the True Qi restoration speed far exceeded that of a True Essence Realm Martial Artist. It was still impossible to restore all his True Qi so quickly.

The plan remains unchanged.

On the other side, everyone was whispering.

"What now? Just leave like this?"

Someone said reluctantly.

They had made thorough preparations and paid a significant price to compete for this Cyan Dragon Fruit, and now they were forced to give up without a fight?

"What else can we do?"

A sigh echoed, "The Liang Family Ancestor isn't someone we can contend with. Even if we all join forces, we wouldn't be his match."

"Yes, he even killed that Dragon Rhinoceros easily. If it were us, it wouldn't be so easy even if we could kill it."

"But he used a lot of his energy just now; maybe we have a chance?"

"Are you looking to die? Saying such things?"

Others were shocked and quickly covered his mouth.

The old man had sharp ears and must have heard it already.

"Let's go. There's no point staying. We can't just watch him pick the Cyan Dragon Fruit, can we?"

"Exactly."

Some shook their heads and started to head back.

Some, however, rolled their eyes, thinking to stay in case an opportunity arose.

Time ticked by, and the Cyan Dragon Fruit's blue skin suddenly began to peel, revealing red flesh and emitting a fragrant aroma.

"It's ripe."

The Liang Family Ancestor, who had been meditating with his eyes closed, opened his eyes, and a smile appeared on his lips.

Just as he stood up to pick it, a golden figure rushed towards him!

To be precise, towards the Cyan Dragon Fruit behind him.

The scene happened too quickly for anyone to react or even see what happened. There was a flash of golden light.

Until an angry voice erupted.

"How dare you!"

The Liang Family Ancestor was furious; he never expected someone to actually dare to snatch from him!

In haste, he flicked his finger forward.

A massive Sword Qi, twenty or thirty meters long, burst forth, slashing towards the golden figure with a fierce momentum.

"Clang!"

The clash of metal resounded, making everyone's ears ring.

The golden figure paused for a moment but immediately moved forward, grabbed the Cyan Dragon Fruit, and stored it in a Space Item before dashing away.

"Die!"

The Liang Family Ancestor finally reacted, roaring as he depleted his True Qi, and called upon the surrounding Power of Heaven and Earth.

In an instant, thousands of Sword Qi flew out, like a storm, rushing towards the golden figure.

"That guy's done for."

Everyone watched with complex expressions.

They had to admit, the guy had guts. Who among them hadn't thought of rushing in to snatch the fruit the moment it ripened?

But that was a Celestial Realm Martial Artist; his strength was evident to all.

So, they didn't dare.

But this guy did. Too bad he was going to die.

"Clang, clang, clang!"

In an instant, over a thousand Sword Qi slashed at the golden figure, dimming its golden hue.

The Liang Family Ancestor sneered.

How dare a mere Vajra Indestructible Body snatch his possessions? Simply courting death!

If it were the Undying Golden Body, he would have been wary. But clearly, this wasn't the case. Firstly, had the opponent mastered the Undying Golden Body, there would be no need for such stealth. Secondly, he had already sensed the presence of everyone and found no Celestial Realm Martial Artists.

So, the guy had to be a True Essence Realm Martial Artist who cultivated the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill.

"Hmph, no matter who you are, dare to rob me? I'll kill you and not fear your ancestors' revenge."

So he thought.

But in the next moment, his eyes widened.

The golden figure had vanished!

Thousands of Sword Qi flew around aimlessly in the air.

"Impossible!"

He was stunned.

That guy's speed was faster than his Sword Qi?

That speed could belong to a True Essence Realm Martial Artist?

"No, the Cyan Dragon Fruit! My Cyan Dragon Fruit!"

The Liang Family Ancestor shivered and chased in the direction the golden figure had fled.

Thousands of Sword Qi followed behind him like missiles, making people tremble with fear.

Though it sounds long, it only took an instant.

"What happened?"

Someone asked dumbfoundedly.

"I... I'm not sure." Someone licked their lips, "Seemed like someone snatched the Cyan Dragon Fruit from under the old man's nose, then ran, and the old man chased him?"

"What? Someone snatched it? Right in front of the Liang Family Ancestor?"

"No, impossible. The Liang Family Ancestor is a Celestial Realm Martial Artist. Who would dare?"

"How would I know? But it seems like that's what happened. The Ancestor even attacked him, but it didn't work. Didn't you see him chase after him?"

The words left the atmosphere silent again.

Indeed, many had seen and heard it.

Obviously, the Ancestor's Sword Qi had struck the man.

But he still ran away.

"How did he do it?"

Someone couldn't help asking, "That was the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect. Even a Beast King-level Fierce Beast couldn't withstand it."

"Maybe he's also a Celestial Realm Martial Artist? Hiding among us?"

"No way, so devious?"

Everyone was shocked.

They thought the Liang Family Ancestor was shameless enough, fighting the younger generation for fortuitous encounters.

Little did they expect someone even more shameless, hiding among them, looking for an opportunity despite being a Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

"But it's better this way. The fruit in someone else's hand is better than in that old man's."

Someone snorted.

This caused a chorus of agreement.

"Indeed, serves that old man right for being robbed."

"Haha, hope he doesn't catch up with him and gets infuriated."

"Sure, he won't sleep for three nights!"

"Really?"

Suddenly, a chilling voice sounded from afar.

The Liang Family Ancestor had returned.

Thousands of Sword Qi floated around him.

But unlike before, his face looked deathly pale and terrifying.

Everyone guessed what happened and quickly bowed their heads silently.

No doubt, the old man had lost track and was furious. Whoever crossed him now would surely die.

But why come back? They didn't steal it.