

My Master 261

Chapter 261: A Spear Stirs the Wind and Clouds, A Knife Slices the Ends of the Earth_6

"This disciple will only be buried at Four Treasures Peak, she should come to my Famous Knife Peak!"

"Senior Brother..." Beside him, a man with a cold face, who merely standing still looked as sharp as a long blade out of its sheath, advised, "Senior Brother, I can also see the sharpness of her blade, and I can feel that this blade aligns with your Way of the Sword. However, she has the Ancient Immortal Body... She cannot cultivate further or break through, she can only remain at the Core Formation Stage."

"Ancient Immortal Body..." The master of Famous Knife Peak fell silent for a moment.

Only then did the referee below finally speak up, "The victor, Zi Qianyu from Purple Feather Peak."

Cao Zhen, not caring about the discussions of the people around him, carried Yan Yourong directly back to the area of Four Treasures Peak.

Lying in Cao Zhen's arms, Yan Yourong looked at her own master, and after a long while, suddenly spoke, "Thank you, Master, for letting me fight with all my strength."

Her voice was weak but filled with determination.

"Master, this battle has made my path clearer. I can feel the gap between me and Zi Qianyu, but her blade was too flashy, her power dispersed.

If she concentrated all her power, she wouldn't have been knocked out of the ring by me. I've decided the path I want to follow from now on."

"Since you've decided, then continue on this path. For now, heal your wounds and watch your senior sister's fight," Cao Zhen said, holding Yan Yourong with one arm while gently patting her shoulder with the other.

While people were still immersed in the battle between Yan Yourong and Zi Qianyu, Ling Xi had already slowly stepped onto the stage.

Instantly, countless pairs of eyes landed on Ling Xi.

"This is the last disciple of Four Treasures Peak!"

"The leading disciple of Four Treasures Peak, the strongest disciple!"

"She's going to challenge someone too. Who will she challenge?"

"You've never seen Ling Xi in action, you can't imagine how strong she is," a disciple who had left Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace said with admiration to the people beside him. "Although she only has an inner core, she might be unbeatable below the Golden Core stage, right?"

Upon hearing this, the people immediately expressed disbelief, "How is that possible? An unbeatable inner core below Golden Core?"

"You people from this generation of Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace are too weak. I've heard she's the top among the Hidden Dragon Three Sons in this batch, but that's only within your batch.

Just because no one in this batch of disciples from Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace is her match below Golden Core, doesn't mean she is the strongest below Golden Core in the whole of Hundred Peaks Sect."

"Who do you think she will challenge? Another from Purple Feather Peak?"

Everyone couldn't help but guess, while many Peak Masters frowned, fearing that Ling Xi would challenge their disciples.

More people, however, turned their gazes to the referee below.

Under the gaze of the crowd, the referee announced loudly, "Ling Xi of Four Treasures Peak challenges the 351st ranker, Wu Qie of Little Zen Peak, first level of Golden Core!"

As his words fell, countless exclamations arose around.

"What? Did I hear that wrong? She's challenging a Golden Core?"

"This Ling Xi, like her junior brother and sister, has only condensed an inner core, right? Challenging someone of the first level of Golden Core stage, isn't that suicidal?"

"First level of Golden Core, even though it's just one Golden Core, but it's still a Golden Core. The gap between Golden Core and inner core is too big."

"Let's put it this way, Xiang Ziyu is strong enough, right? When Wu Ming fought with Xiang Ziyu, had he condensed a Golden Core, Xiang Ziyu wouldn't have stood a chance. No matter how strong Ling Xi is, how much stronger can she be than Xiang Ziyu?"

"To be honest, I think among those at the Core Formation with one core, Xiang Ziyu should be the strongest. Even his senior sister Yan Yourong is only that strong because of the Divine Weapon. Without the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade, Yan Yourong might not be Xiang Ziyu's match."

"That's right, I think so too. Xiang Ziyu's defensive Divine Skills and physical strength are too horrifying. My master even said that Xiang Ziyu's defense and strength surpass the limits of his Cultivation Realm!"

"I haven't seen Ling Xi fight, but I really don't think she's much stronger than Xiang Ziyu."

"A Core Formation with one core challenging a Golden Core, this looks entirely like a desperate gamble."

From above, Yuan Ci from Little Zen Peak suddenly laughed as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world, "Challenging Wu Qie? People from Four Treasures Peak... Forget it, go ahead, Wu Qie."

Someone with only an inner core challenging someone in the Golden Core stage, why bother giving further instructions?

Wu Qie shook his head as well, leaped onto the ring, and facing the leading disciple from Four Treasures Peak, spread his sleeves and said, "Junior Sister, please."

Although Four Treasures Peak had been continuously challenging Little Zen Peak, it was clear to everyone that Four Treasures Peak was deliberately targeting Little Zen Peak.

But since the opponent was just a Core Formation disciple, and a new one at that, if he became too aggressive or talked too harshly, it would appear ungentlemanly of him.

Even though Ling Xi resented people from Little Zen Peak for always speaking ill of her master, it was now the Hundred Peaks competition, and everyone was watching them. As the leading disciple of Four Treasures Peak, and seeing that the opponent seemed courteous, she couldn't appear to be too excessive.

She bowed to Wu Qie, then finally unleashed the perfect ten Phenomenon Dao Platforms, ten Phenomenon Immortal Bridges, and a Phenomenon Pill.

Afterward, she brought out the Unparalleled Formation Plate.

Wu Qie did not move, simply standing still, watching as the opponent demonstrated her fighting power and took out the Array Plate.

After all, he was a Golden Core being. Had he struck before she made a move, even winning would lower the reputation of Little Zen Peak.

This was also why she chose to challenge him. If the setting had been different, not the Hundred Peaks competition, if they were to climb into the ring together, others would say he was bullying the weak with his power.

The difference between Golden Core Stage and Core Formation Stage was just too vast.

In the last five Hundred Peaks competitions, there hadn't been an instance of Core Formation challenging Golden Core, let alone Core Formation winning over Golden Core.

Chapter 262: Challenge Number One_1

The magic duel of the Hundred Peaks Sect's tournament had entered its third day, and four disciples from Four Treasures Peak had successively stepped onto the stage. This was the fourth time the crowd had witnessed the Unparalleled Formation Plate, but they were surprised to discover that this Array Plate was different from the ones they had seen before.

Ling Xi unfolded the Array Plate, and the massive Formation Map spread across the entire stage.

Following that, a series of talismans appeared before her.

talismans converged, forming the shape of the Eight Trigrams, and in an instant, waves of vast and boundless oppressive force fell upon the surroundings.

All around, the arrays of the other nine stages were triggered once more, and screens of light rose up.

"What Divine Weapon is this?"

"Talismans? Just individual talismans can exude such an aura?"

"This aura is not a bit inferior to the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade that Yan Yourong pulled out earlier!"

"This is..." Chen Qingluan stared at the talismans in the distance, a thoughtful expression crossing her face. Then, her surprise grew more intense. She exclaimed in disbelief, "Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman! This is the strongest Divine Weapon of the second generation Sect Leader! How did she get her hands on such a Divine Weapon!"

"Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman!"

Within the Hundred Peaks Sect, peak masters who recognized the Divine Weapon couldn't help but cry out in shock.

Around them, the disciples who heard the words of the peak masters felt almost driven mad by the news.

"Divine Weapon of the second-generation Sect Leader?"

"How does she possess a Divine Weapon of the second-generation Sect Leader?"

"What kind of people are at Four Treasures Peak? Among five disciples, four possess Divine Weapons, and three of them wield Divine Weapons once owned by a Sect Leader!"

However, the disciples from the Hidden Dragon Observatory were calm; this Divine Weapon was not new to them.

Everyone was further astounded to find that in the Unparalleled Formation which Ling Xi cast, each position of the trigram emitted a beam of brilliant light that shot up into the sky.

The Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman also radiated beams of light.

Beams of light converged in the sky – the Formation Map and the talisman were tightly linked together, resembling both a Divine Weapon and a Formation Map, like heaven and earth intertwined!

And it was Ling Xi who bridged this heaven and earth.

Above the Formation Map and on the talismans, beams of light gathered and fell upon Ling Xi, bathing her in a luminous aura.

Upon the stage, Zi Xuan's gaze became increasingly solemn. Just moments ago, only the ground beneath their feet had changed, but as Ling Xi released the Heaven and Earth Eight Trigrams Map, both heaven and earth, above and below, transformed completely.

He even felt the illusion that the entirety of heaven and earth was under the opponent's control.

"What's going on? Why does it feel like the Formation Map deployed by Ling Xi is different from those her junior brothers and sisters cast?"

"No, it's the same Formation Map, but it seems that her talismans and Formation Map have merged into a new Formation Map, or should we say, a Divine Weapon?"

"We're just standing outside, yet we can sense the repetitive waves of suppressive force emanating from this Formation Map. I wonder how brother Wu Que is faring..."

Wu Que's eyebrows were tightly furrowed. He could feel an invisible force assailing him, tightly constraining him.

Eighty percent?

His face suddenly revealed a look of astonishment.

Yesterday, some junior brothers had inquired about their fights with Four Treasures Peak disciples. Wu Fa and Wu Ming both felt they could use about eighty percent of their power when facing Four Treasures Peak disciples, whereas Wu Wei managed about ninety percent of his power.

It seemed that the reason was that Yi Sheng, who fought with Wu Wei, was a major Cultivation Realm below Wu Wei, and was thus only suppressed to having ninety percent of his strength remaining.

At the same Cultivation Realm, it would likely be suppressed to only eighty percent of one's strength.

Yet, he had already condensed a Golden Core, a whole major Cultivation Realm above Ling Xi. Now, within this Formation Map, he felt that he could only use about eighty percent of his power.

What's more uncomfortable was the force of restraint.

Since he was a Golden Core cultivator, if one were only a Core Formation cultivator contesting Ling Xi, how much strength would be left after suppression?

The news that Ling Xi was stronger than the other Four Treasures Peak disciples appeared to be true.

However, she was facing him, already a Golden Core cultivator. No matter how strong she was, being only at Core Formation realm, she stood not the slightest chance against him.

Ling Xi resonated with the Unparalleled Formation Plate and Heaven and Earth Bagua Formation, her inner aura surged to a fixed point, and she swung her arm outward forcefully.

Instantly, eight talismans from the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman flew out, transforming into a golden holy sword in the sky. With a formidable edge as if it could pierce through all things under heaven, it thrust violently towards Wu Que.

Wu Que watched this fearsome sword without any change in expression. He simply reached out, grabbed his sleeve lightly, and flicked it outward.

Suddenly, golden radiance burst forth, its majestic light endless as the sea, as if a Buddhist Law had converged into a golden ocean. For a moment, sonorous Buddhist chants echoed through Immortal Gathering Peak.

The sword formed by the eight talismans had barely touched the golden Buddhist radiance before it instantly dissipated, while the sea of golden Buddhist light continued to sweep towards Ling Xi.

From the crown of Ling Xi, within the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, another twelve talismans flew out, converging before her and instantly forming a massive mountain.

The mountain seemed to connect heaven and earth, standing guard before her.

As the Buddhist radiance fell, the mountain shook violently, visibly dissipating at the same rate as it clashed with the golden light.

Chapter 263: Challenge 1_2

It was just the span of two breaths, the golden Buddha light had completely dissipated, but the illusory shadow of the massive mountain had also shrunk to the size of a stone.

"This is the strength of the Golden Core!"

"The difference between the Golden Core and Core Formation is too great, Wu Que merely waved his sleeve, yet Ling Xi had to struggle with all her might to block it."

"It was only a brief moment of exchange, yet I could already feel Ling Xi's power, but in front of a Golden Core being, she truly is far too inferior."

"She shouldn't have challenged someone at the Golden Core stage. Even though Wu Que..."

Many people were already shaking their heads, how could an inner core possibly fight against a Golden Core, let alone fight, being able to contend at all would qualify one as a genius among geniuses. Ling Xi, she chose the wrong opponent.

Some people were almost blurting out, even if Wu Que is acknowledged as the weakest Golden Core.

In the Hundred Peaks Sect, who is the weakest at Core Formation, no one has the correct answer, but the weakest Golden Core is universally acknowledged to be Wu Que.

There were even those who said that Wu Que was so weak that he didn't resemble a Golden Core expert at all.

However, no matter what they say, a Golden Core is still a Golden Core. Golden Core experts can say that Wu Que is the weakest Golden Core, but those who are not at Golden Core stage can't say so.

Moreover, at this moment, Wu Que had also proven that even if he is the weakest Golden Core, the gap between him and the Core Formation Stage is an unbridgeable chasm!

Yet, there was not even a hint of surprise on Ling Xi's face; the previous attack was just a probe.

Her master had told her that with the Heaven and Earth Bagua Formation and Supreme Unparalleled Formation, there should be no one at the same stage who could be her opponent, so she wanted to see just how big the gap between her and the Golden Core Stage was!

Behind her, on the Immortal Bridge, and within her inner core, mana circulated rapidly, and the Heaven and Earth Eight Trigrams Map began to spin swiftly as well.

Suddenly, from within the colossal talisman, sixteen talismans shot out.

With her current cultivation base, she was absolutely incapable of making all sixty-three talismans fly out for an attack; the number of talismans she could properly deploy was sixteen.

"Eight Desolation Fire Talisman!"

The sixteen talismans burned wildly in the sky; in just an instant, they were transformed into a sea of fire, the intense heat forcing many disciples on distant mountain peaks, those with low cultivation bases, to bead sweat on their foreheads and their clothes to instantly soak through.

The blazing flames seemed capable of melting mountains and drying up oceans as they swept toward Wu Que.

When the sixteen talismans converged at once, the might they released was not just double that of eight talismans, but several times more!

With each additional talisman she combined and unleashed, the might increased significantly, and when it was eight more, the talismans' might would leap tremendously.

On the surrounding mountain peaks, many disciples at the ninth bulb of Core Formation, and even those at the Great Perfection, felt the intense heat and looked at the sea of fire that seemed to fill the entire sky, their scalps tingling.

Was this aura, this power, really something a person at the first bulb of Core Formation could exhibit?

If they were faced with this assault, the referee below the stage would probably have to intervene instantly to protect them; otherwise, they felt they could be directly burnt to ashes.

Finally, a grave expression appeared on Wu Que's face; sensing the burning heat from the sky full of flames, the full-round Golden Core on his back finally began to rotate, and streams of pure, vast mana surged out.

He finally utilized the power of his Golden Core.

"Giant Palm of Void!"

The previous day, when Wu Ming fought with Xiang Ziyu, he also used the Giant Palm of Void, but the one Wu Ming deployed was just an ephemeral shadow. However, as Wu Que swung out his hand, between heaven and earth, a golden giant palm suddenly struck down, as if an ancient deity had descended, wielding a palm vast enough to cover the skies, pressing down towards Ling Xi from above.

As the giant palm fell, the surrounding air seemed to be completely pushed towards the sea of fire, and the skies echoed with resounding shattering sounds, even producing violent ripples in the air. From afar, it looked like a massive sheet of glass breaking into pieces.

An aura of endless majesty, sanctity, and inviolability filled the world.

Even though he was the second-ranked disciple of Little Zen Peak, his status seemed more like that of the third, and everyone believed that it was only a matter of time before Wu Ming surpassed him.

How could his heart not carry frustration? Although he was constrained by the rules of Hundred Peaks Sect, by the kinship among disciples, he couldn't lash out directly. However, he could prove to everyone on the fighting stage just how vast the gulf between the current Wu Ming and himself was!

The next moment, the Giant Palm of Void collided with the sky full of flames. The golden palm, which seemed tangible, did not melt immediately but actually managed to push back the sea of fire towards Ling Xi's location.

This was the strength of the Golden Core!

Ling Xi's hands were already swinging again, launching another spell.

Above her head, another sixteen talismans flew out.

Under normal circumstances, she could indeed only gather sixteen talismans together for release, but that didn't mean she could only control a maximum of sixteen talismans at a time.

Being the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body, she naturally possessed a closer affinity with all talismans, and controlling them was easier for her.

If someone else were in her position, at her cultivation realm, they wouldn't be able to combine even sixteen talismans at once, and the number of talismans they could control at the same time would probably not exceed thirty, or even fewer.

Chapter 264: Challenge Number One_3

However, she was able to control all the talismans at the same time; she just couldn't gather them all together to attack at once.

"Kui Water Subordinate Talisman!"

In the time before, the divine skills she cultivated at Hidden Dragon Observatory were all talisman-based divine skills. The Kui Water Subordinate Talisman was not truly Kui Water, but it possessed a certain authority of Kui Water. Although it did not reach the ultimate Yin, it was exceedingly cold and chilling.

In an instant, these sixteen talismans seemed to transform into a boundless sea, soaring towards the empty air palm print as they flew down.

For a moment, within the heavens, fire and water—two completely different manas—converged without interfering with each other. Instead, they joined forces and assaulted the empty air palm print.

Despite being two forces of opposite nature, they were both supported by the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman and thus shared the same origin.

Within the sky, under the impact of these two forces, golden palm prints appeared, with clear cracks emerging on top.

"Is this..."

"This empty air palm print seems about to shatter!"

"This is a divine skill of a Golden Core expert, yet it's being shattered!"

"Can she really shatter the power of a Golden Core expert?"

"Is she even human?"

"The foremost under the Golden Core, she's absolutely the foremost under the Golden Core!"

Zi Qianyu, who had already suffered a heavy injury, watched the flames above the arena where she had just crossed hands, and a boundless horror spread within her mind; she absolutely could not withstand this might.

If the one she had faced wasn't Yan Yourong but Ling Xi instead, her defeat would have been certain, with not the slightest chance of victory!

Within the Hundred Peaks Sect, the disciples at the Core Formation Stage were all exceedingly shocked.

To withstand the divine skills of a Golden Core expert and even retaliate against them, they absolutely had no chance of achieving that.

This Ling Xi wasn't just the first among the disciples of Four Treasures Peak; she was the foremost under the Golden Core. If Ling Xi were to challenge them, not a single one would be able to stand against her!

Wu Que even showed a look of amazement in his eyes. Pushing back one's own power?

Could this really be achieved by someone at the Core Formation Stage? And just with a single inner core at that?

Surprised, he once again raised his hand and waved, unleashing another palm strike.

"Empty Air Palm Print!"

In the sky, a golden palm appeared once again.

Almost simultaneously, right after Ling Xi's previous attack, the talismans that Wu Que had scattered had already flown back in front of her, with sixteen talismans flying out again. This was the power of the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman.

"Soul-Binding Spirit-Killing Symbol!"

As soon as the sixteen talismans flew out, they did not head towards Wu Que like the previous talismans, but instead disintegrated in the heavens, as if ignited by invisible flames, with wisps of black smoke rising. The next moment, they appeared right beside Wu Que, suddenly darting into his body.

Instantly, Wu Que felt a boundless sense of fear spreading from the depths of his soul.

This is bad!

Wu Que's complexion dramatically changed. This was an attack on the soul, and this divine skill actually caused him a moment of stupefaction. In the ensuing panic, from behind him, within the Golden Core, a black lotus abruptly flew out.

After Ling Xi released forty-eight talismans in succession, the remaining fifteen talismans also flew out.

"Thunderbolt-Gathering Symbol!"

The fifteen talismans flew out and converged into the shape of a Bagua in the heavens, positioning themselves above Wu Que's head. In Ling Xi's hands, strands of purple thunder were already gathering.

The more she studied the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, the more she marveled at its many changes and profound complexity...

The Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, with its sixty-four talismans, each with a different ability; some were fire talismans, some thunder talismans, some for slaughter, some for speed...

But, although the talismans were different, they could form the same type of talisman by combining several other talismans around one main talisman.

For example, using a thunder talisman as the main one, she could combine it with fire, water, and metal talismans... the remaining fifteen talismans to form one larger talisman—a thunder talisman.

"Five-thunder Righteous Method!"

From Ling Xi's hands, a bolt of lightning suddenly shot out, landing among the fifteen talismans.

The next moment, an incredibly thick bolt of purple thunder descended from the heavens, directly striking down upon Wu Que's head.

Almost at the instant the thunderbolt arrived, the black lotus that had shot out from Wu Que's Golden Core also appeared above his head.

The tremendous power of the thunderbolt struck, hitting the black lotus solidly. A thunderous boom echoed so loudly that it caused pain in the ears of many spectators, as if the sound had exploded not from afar but from within their own hearts, shaking them to their core.

The originally closed petals of the black lotus slightly opened under the impact, as if it were about to bloom.

Wu Que's face abruptly paled; he was injured!

A high-ranking Golden Core expert was actually wounded in an exchange with someone who only possessed a single inner core!

Around him, everyone's gaze fell upon the black lotus.

"What is that? A black lotus?"

"Zen Cultivation techniques and divine skills often involve lotuses, but those are white lotuses. This is the first time I've seen a black lotus!"

"Why do I feel that there's an aura of evil coming from within that lotus?"

"Black Lotus Evil Buddha!"

From the direction of Precious Look Peak, the Precious Look Peak Master showed a look of shock in his eyes: "It's the Black Lotus Evil Buddha. I didn't expect that Little Zen Peak had actually cultivated this lineage."

Chapter 265: Challenge Number One_4

"What does that mean?"

"Black Lotus? What heritage is this?"

Around them, many people looked toward the Precious Look Peak Master with astonished faces.

The Precious Look Peak Master said solemnly, "The Black Lotus Evil Buddha is not an inheritance of Zen Cultivation from our Hundred Peaks Sect; in fact, many Zen Cultivators do not recognize it as a Zen inheritance at all.

It should have been passed down to the eighth generation within our Hundred Peaks Sect. At that time, not only did our Sect suffer greatly in strength from that war, many other Sects also faced crises.

Among them, there was a Sect of Zen Cultivation named the Black Lotus Sect. Although they practiced Zen Cultivation, they cultivated the teachings of the Black Lotus Evil Buddha and were not recognized by Zen Cultivators, nor by Demonic Cultivators.

And for some unknown reason, their entire Sect met with a calamity, with only one expert managing to escape.

After the war, several of our Zen Cultivation Peaks accidentally discovered an ancient site of Zen practice. So, we ventured together, and at that time our Hundred Peaks Sect was greatly weakened. With limited experts, the dangers we encountered in that ruin were dealt with by the escaped expert from the Black Lotus Sect.

Thus, afterwards, we brought him back to the Hundred Peaks Sect. Although the expert did not join our Sect, he settled down in Little Zen Peak.

After all, he had saved us. Even though we did not approve of his cultivation, we did not drive him away.

He stayed on Little Zen Peak and until his death, he never took another step out of there. Time passed, and people gradually forgot about him. Unexpectedly, he had left behind a legacy, and the members of Little Zen Peak learned his teachings."

Yuan Ci's face was iron blue. Indeed, that expert from the Black Lotus Evil Buddha had left behind his teachings, and over the years, a few people from Little Zen Peak occasionally practiced his teachings, but very few indeed, and they never revealed it in public.

Especially in the last five hundred years, no one had cultivated the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings, until Wu Que appeared.

Wu Que also started practicing the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings by a stroke of fate.

By the time Yuan Ci found out, it was too late, for Wu Que was his direct Disciple, and he could not simply dispose of Wu Que's Cultivation Base because of this. Moreover, some from Little Zen Peak had previously cultivated the teachings of the Black Lotus Evil Buddha.

He could only instruct Wu Que not to display the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings in front of others.

After all, it was the practice of an Evil Buddha and not the orthodox path of Zen Cultivation.

If word got out, what would others think of Little Zen Peak?

But who would have thought that Wu Que would use the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings during the grand competition of the Hundred Peaks, when he faced a Disciple with only a single Golden Core?

As Wu Que released the Black Lotus, his entire demeanor seemed suffused with an evil air. Indeed, his master had warned him not to use the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings.

But, what would be the consequences if he did not use it?

He would be thought to be surpassed by his junior brother, Wu Ming, sooner or later.

He would be considered one of the weakest Golden Cores, without a doubt.

How could he possibly never use the Black Lotus Evil Buddha's teachings!

It was precisely through the Black Lotus Evil Buddha that he had achieved the Golden Core!

He was tired of those days. Today, he would show everyone the power of the Black Lotus Evil Buddha, let everyone know that he was not the weakest Golden Core!

Let everyone realize that the Black Lotus Evil Buddha, too, was a Buddha!

Today, he would vindicate the Black Lotus Evil Buddha!

Wu Que brought his hands together in prayer and slowly opened his mouth, chanting the Buddhist name with the utmost piety.

The sound was majestic, the words were booming, but as the Buddhist chants spread, people felt a bone-deep and soul-penetrating evil aura.

"This Buddhist chant..."

"Not a single phrase of it is complete!"

"What a bizarre presence!"

As the Buddhist chants reverberated, a black lotus flower slowly bloomed above Wu Que's head, its petals, black to the extreme, unfolding one by one.

In an instant, all forty-nine petals were on full display.

"Praying Holy Lotus!"

At the moment when the lotus flower bloomed above Wu Que's head, the endless petals suddenly scattered in all directions, plunging the whole world into darkness.

Each petal was filled with a strange evil aura.

Yet within this evil aura was a Buddhist Energy that could make the worldly forsake everything and enter paradise.

As soon as the Black Lotus appeared, behind Ling Xi, from the Dais of Pathways, the Immortal Bridge, and the sole inner core, mana began to circulate frantically, pushing her power higher and higher.

Beads of sweat the size of soybeans continually fell from her forehead.

Suddenly, a burst of radiance erupted from her body, casting a light in the darkened sky.

In front of her, the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, which had just been restored, released twenty-four Talismans in a sudden flash.

Under normal circumstances, she could gather sixteen Talismans at once, but if she exhausted all her strength, relying on her Ancient Talisman Immortal Body, she could combine twenty-four Talismans into one and shoot them out!

This Talisman was wreathed in the thunder of the Five-thunder Righteous Method.

"Thunder Summoning Symbol!"

The main Talisman, called the Thunder Summoning Symbol, as the name suggests, could summon the thunderbolts from the sky!

The Thunder Summoning Symbol flew above Wu Que's head, and in the next instant, thunder from the Five-thunder Righteous Method struck down fiercely from the Symbol, and in the sky, a thunderous boom sounded as if to shake the entire Hundred Peaks Sect.

At the same time, a bright blue thunderbolt fell from the heavens, tearing through the boundless darkness wherever it passed.

Chapter 266: Challenge Number One_5

In the air, countless lightning snakes darted chaotically, and a terrifying might that made one's spirit tremble descended from the thunder above.

This was a true thunderbolt that fell from the sky. Although it was only one, its terror reached the apex.

Wu Que sensed the frightening might pressing down from above his head and even a hint of panic surfaced on his face. The black lotus petals he had just shot out swiftly flew back, converging above his head, leaving only a single petal shooting towards Ling Xi.

The next moment, the purple thunder of the Five-thunder Righteous Method converged with the blue thunder that was drawn from beyond the sky, and viciously struck the black lotus.

In an instant, a roar that filled the heavens thundered.

The crowd standing on the surrounding mountain peaks all felt a tremor beneath their feet at that moment.

And on the platform where Ling Xi and Wu Que were, a violent explosion of endless dust arose. The dust soared into the sky, completely covering the platform and obscuring the view within.

This platform was protected by a formation; the stone materials of the platform were made of hard cloud ridge stones, which normally wouldn't kick up any dust even in intense combat. Yet now, there was such a surge of dust, which could only mean one thing: the platform had been cracked!

When the dust settled, everyone saw Ling Xi lying unconscious on the ground, her normally pale skin now pitch black, with a pool of crimson blood beneath her.

This was the consequence of being struck by a single petal of the Black Lotus. Had it been two petals, it's likely the judges would have needed to intervene.

On the other side, Wu Que stood atop the platform. On his sinister face, his eyes did not look at Ling Xi but instead stared off in the direction of Little Zen Peak.

Over his head, the black lotus slowly rotated. It was clearly visible that at the bottom of the lotus, there was a significant crack, and some of the petals were visibly shorter than before.

And next to him on the ground, the platform had been blasted open with a big hole.

The surroundings were eerily quiet.

It wasn't until the judge loudly proclaimed Wu Que the victor and Cao Zhen flew down to carry away Ling Xi that people came back to their senses.

"Is, is this the result of Ling Xi's attack?"

"Too terrifying, isn't it? The platform with an array should withstand a battle of Perfect Completion Golden Cores, but it was directly blasted into a deep pit by Ling Xi!"

"No, the platform can withstand a battle of Perfect Completion Golden Cores also because of the formation. Moreover, although the formation was activated, it still needs someone to maintain the mana for it to bear the combat of Perfect Completion Golden Cores.

The platform they fought on wasn't maintained by anyone. After all, a battle between a Golden Core and a Core Formation cultivator wouldn't have been expected to be so intense.

Without someone maintaining the array, the platform should be able to withstand the force of about a first layer Golden Core."

"So, the might of Ling Xi's strike even reached the level of a first layer Golden Core, and it was a very powerful strike even among those."

"I even feel it could be more terrifying."

"Ling Xi, she only has one core, but she possesses the strength to fight a Golden Core. This..."

"I think, calling her the number one under Golden Cores is an understatement."

"Now she can fight against a Golden Core. What will happen when she consolidates the second core, the third core? Couldn't she contend with Golden Cores?"

"It probably won't happen... after all, Wu Que still won."

"But Wu Que was also injured. That Black Lotus flew out of his Golden Core, so he relies on that Black Lotus-converged Golden Core. Now that the Black Lotus is damaged, he must have suffered internal injuries, and the injury is likely worse than what we can see."

"To cause a Golden Core to be internally injured or even heavily damaged, do you think she won't be able to contend with Golden Cores when she consolidates three cores? Even if not, what about four cores, five cores? When she consolidates nine cores, how terrifying will she be then and wouldn't she be able to defeat Golden Cores?"

"She probably won't be able to consolidate nine cores, after all, she is an Ancient Immortal Body!"

"The Ancient Immortal Body is indeed terrifying. If this era were still the Ancient Era, they would be the ones capable of cultivation, the true favored children of Heaven!"

This battle brought an immense shock to everyone; no one had expected that someone with just one inner core could fight to such extent against a Golden Core master.

Even after the battle ended, even as the next fight began, people were still discussing Ling Xi and that battle.

Until...

"It's all gone! I'm ruined! All my Spirit Stones are gone!" a disciple suddenly cried out. "I spent thirty thousand two of Spirit Stones betting that Four Treasures Peak would place between sixty-one and sixty-five, and not a single fight was won by them!"

The recent battle had been so thrilling, so shocking, that everyone had completely forgotten about their earlier bets. Now, hearing someone else mention it, they each began to react.

"Four Treasures Peak, all of their disciples have fought."

"Four Treasures Peak had a total of five disciples, and each one lost their challenge, meaning they can't challenge again."

"In this spell battle contest, they didn't get a single Peak Bamboo."

"In the earlier Six Arts contest, they didn't take a single Peak Bamboo either!"

"This Hundred Peaks Tournament is being held before the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, and there's no Peak Master contest; it's only the disciples below Golden Core competing. After all, when the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrives, all the experts won't dare to act rashly; they're all suppressing their power inside, afraid of falling asleep prematurely.

Chapter 267: Challenge 1_6

The Peak Masters of each peak, let alone Golden Core masters, there are plenty of Earth Immortal Realm experts, and they cannot take action. If some Peak Masters cannot spar, surely you can't let the remaining ones who can spar to do so, for then there would be no way to determine the rankings.

Therefore, every time the Hundred Peaks competition coincides with the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, the Peak Masters' competition is canceled."

"That is to say, Four Treasures Peak has already finished in this Hundred Peaks competition!"

"They, they didn't manage to secure a single Peak Bamboo."

"Without any Peak Bamboo, they are still ranked at number one hundred!"

"I had such high hopes for Four Treasures Peak before, but just like the last time, they didn't get a single Peak Bamboo and are still ranked at one hundred. All my Spirit Stones, gone."

"I had bet all my assets on it."

"I didn't just bet all my own assets, I even borrowed my senior disciple brother's Spirit Stones."

"Four Treasures Peak, damn Four Treasures Peak, they've ruined us this time."

After everyone came to their senses, they looked towards Four Treasures Peak with hatred on their faces. They really loathed Four Treasures Peak. Four Treasures Peak clearly had the opportunity to obtain Peak Bamboo, and they even managed to get quite a few, so how could it end up like this? Couldn't they play it safe?

The crowd didn't suspect Four Treasures Peak had deliberately lost. What a joke, the rankings of the Hundred Peaks competition represent the glory of a peak. Who would lose on purpose?

Moreover, they had seen just how fiercely the disciples of Four Treasures Peak had fought.

The disciples of Four Treasures Peak had been so close to winning.

If the disciple from Little Zen Peak hadn't forcefully used Yaksha Transformation, if Xiang Ziyu could have held on a bit longer, they surely would have won.

Even in this last match, if things had gone as Wu Que had shown – the weakest Golden Core strength – Ling Xi would have also had a great chance of winning.

But who could have expected that Wu Que had hidden the Black Ripple Evil Buddha technique?

Four Treasures Peak was simply too unlucky, and they had got dragged down with them.

Where the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks were gathered, each of the Five Evils were already shouting in excitement.

"What did I say, Four Treasures Peak just isn't up to it! All that talk about Four Treasures Peak rising, all rubbish. So what if Vermilion Bird Peak was helping them? They are still ranked at the very last, it's laughably pathetic."

Beichen Ying directly ridiculed, "Look, the Hundred Peaks competition isn't over yet, but Four Treasures Peak has already preemptively reserved the hundredth place!"

Fifty times the bet!

They had bet on Four Treasures Peak securing the last place, which had an odds of fifty times pay-out.

They had struck it rich, really struck it rich.

Indeed, following Little Sixth Son, they could make a killing.

This was far more than what they could earn from their usual pillaging... from their usual endeavor of vanquishing demons and upholding the righteous path.

At the spot allocated for Vermilion Bird Peak, Tu Zhuque was seething, her eyes not looking like eyes, her nose not looking like a nose, Four Treasures Peak hadn't secured a single Peak Bamboo.

She had thought it all through before. The disciples of Four Treasures Peak had shown such promising performances, and with Ling Xi, the Talisman King, even if Four Treasures Peak couldn't rush into the Upper Fifty Peaks this time, as long as their ranking improved somewhat, she could have accepted it.

But Four Treasures Peak had ended up with the very last place.

"Upper Fifty Peaks? Tu Zhuque, is this what you meant by rushing into the Upper Fifty Peaks?" Chen Qingluan, hearing the curses all around, suddenly laughed and walked from the direction of Azure Pheasant Peak towards Vermilion Bird Peak, provocatively staring at Tu Zhuque, "Is this the Four Treasures Peak you told me to watch? Is this the partner you found for your disciple? A Peak Master ranked at the hundredth, oh well, the ranking is quite smooth, easy to remember at least."

In this Hundred Peaks competition, Vermilion Bird Peak had performed unexpectedly well, especially in the fields of Talisman Making and Alchemy, where they had secured more Peak Bamboo. Li Ke was now ranked third without being challenged, and Vermilion Bird Peak was indeed pressuring her Azure Pheasant Peak.

These past days, Tu Zhuque hadn't let up boasting in front of her. Now, she had finally found the opportunity to turn the tables.

She had arranged a genius from Four Extremes Sect, Shi Xiaolou, as a partner for her disciple. Compared to Cao Zhen, a Peak Master who didn't even obtain a single Peak Bamboo in the Hundred Peaks competition, it was like comparing heaven and earth.

Tu Zhuque's face instantly turned livid with anger as she glared hatefully at Chen Qingluan, just about to retort when, beside her, Li Ke calmly stepped forward and softly said, "I challenge Flying Immortal Peak, Nie Jie."

A smile immediately broke through the anger on Tu Zhuque's face. No matter what kind of partner she had found for her disciple, at least her Li Ke was formidable.

Do you, Chen Qingluan, have a disciple in Azure Pheasant Peak who dares to challenge the first place?

Chapter 268: Discussing the Dao Assault_1

Hundred Peaks Sect, for nearly a thousand years, has consistently held Flying Immortal Peak as the first among all peaks, unwavering in its status.

In all the contests during the sect's grand tournaments throughout the thousand years, the champion defending the first place has always hailed from Flying Immortal Peak.

Naturally, there are always those who challenge the first, but none have ever succeeded.

Moreover, when people challenge the first place, they usually wait until the last two days. The present situation, where on just the third day someone is challenging the first place, the Nie Jie from Flying Immortal Peak, has never occurred before!

The challenger is from Vermilion Bird Peak, Li Ke!

"Li Ke didn't go to challenge the second-ranked brother from Five Elements Peak, she went straight to challenge Nie Jie!"

"This seems to be the ultimate showdown, and it's starting early."

"Who knows who will win this battle."

"Immortal Li Ke, she has achieved Perfect Completion Golden Core with ten cores, and each one possesses a phenomenon!"

"Don't you know? Brother Nie Jie, too, has ten phenomenal Perfect Completion Golden Cores. Otherwise, why do you think brother Nie Jie would be the champion holding the first place?"

When Li Ke announced her challenge to Nie Jie, all the attention of everyone at Immortal Gathering Peak was focused on Li Ke and Nie Jie.

In the grand competition of Hundred Peaks, you don't get to fight the moment you wish to; you still have to wait in line.

However, when they heard that Li Ke was challenging Nie Jie, those ahead of her in the queue readily stepped aside.

Suddenly, a fighting stage became vacant.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Li Ke descended from the sky, landing on the stage silently as if she were an immortal descended from the Ninth Heaven.

As Li Ke landed on the stage, all eyes turned toward the second-highest place after the True Person Sect Leader's residence.

The location of Flying Immortal Peak.

A black silhouette soared and descended from the sky, landing on the stage.

Nie Jie!

He was even wearing a long black cape, which fluttered in the wind, making a whistling noise. Unlike the silence following Li Ke's landing, his arrival on the stage produced a heavy, thudding noise, as though a Great Stone had tumbled down from the peak of a mountain.

This assembly witnessed the strongest two disciples of Hundred Peaks Sect finally confronting each other in battle!

Clothed in a garment whiter than snow, Li Ke was unblemished by dust, resembling an untainted immortal untouched by the mortal world.

Nie Jie, however, donned a black robe, his long eyebrows extending into his hairline, his face fair as jade, handsome without compare, standing with his hands clasped behind his back. He might appear youthful, yet when his star-like eyes swept across, they evoked the illusion of history flowing like a long river.

Onlookers perched upon surrounding peaks cast admiring glances at the two figures standing on either side of the stage.

"These are the most outstanding disciples of our Hundred Peaks Sect."

"Just their presence alone is incomparable."

"Do you feel, the two of them are really well-matched?"

"Now that you mention it, I do get that feeling."

"Both are supremely talented disciples, and their Cultivation Realms are equivalent, one handsome, the other beautiful, and the peaks they represent are among the top ten of Hundred Peaks Sect. No matter how you look at it, they seem perfectly matched."

"I suddenly wonder why Immortal Li Ke didn't choose brother Nie Jie in the past, but rather set her sights on Cao Zhen. How can Cao Zhen compare to brother Nie Jie?"

Gazing at Li Ke across from him, a flash of annoyance crossed Nie Jie's handsome face. Did Li Ke really have to challenge him now? Could she not wait until the last day?

The only one in the entire Hundred Peaks Sect who posed a threat to Nie Jie was Li Ke.

If Li Ke had waited until the last day to challenge him, his master wouldn't have disturbed him, and he could have enjoyed a few quiet days.

But with this early challenge, once the fight was over, there would be no one left in Hundred Peaks Sect to threaten him. Wouldn't his master desperately push him to marry?

Just the thought of his master's matchmaking gave Nie Jie a headache. He had never taken a partner, and his master had not forced him to find one.

However, with the upcoming Qiankun small epoch, his master had feverishly urged him, saying it wasn't enough for him to be strong on his own. What if he encountered a special situation, got injured? What then?

If he had a partner, there would be someone to look out for him.

A partner?

Why should he find a partner?

Having a partner would only slow down the speed of his sword draw, and Nie Jie did not wish to have one.

He was certain he wouldn't choose a partner, not in his whole life.

Later, driven mad by his master's pressure, he thought of a solution: to find a female disciple to put on an act, to pretend to be partners and get through this period.

But to his dismay, his master claimed the female disciple was too weak to match him. If he didn't find a suitable female disciple, then the master would seek one from another sect.

Another sect?

He didn't know any female disciples from other sects. To go and propose pretending to be partners, wouldn't he likely be killed by their masters?

However, being a Perfect Completion Golden Core with ten cores, all embodying phenomena, how could Nie Jie find an equally strong female disciple within Hundred Peaks Sect to pretend to be his partner?

Then, Li Ke of Vermilion Bird Peak made her breakthrough, and like him, achieved ten Perfect Completion Golden Cores, each with their phenomenon.

He had found a female disciple of equal strength.

The only problem was that he was not acquainted with Li Ke and did not know if she would agree to his proposal.

Chapter 269: Discussing Dao Attacks _2

He had to carefully plan, and it just so happened that the Vermilion Bird Peak was organising a Golden Core Celebration for Li Ke. He intended to get closer to Li Ke during the Golden Core Celebration and then look for an opportunity to negotiate if he could ask Li Ke for a favor, to help him stage a performance.

However, at the Golden Core Celebration, even before he could get close to her, Li Ke unexpectedly announced that she already had a cultivation partner.

This was the only way out, and now it was also blocked.

With no other choice, he had to avoid his master at all costs and pretend to be in seclusion, practicing his divine skills. In the end, his master even forbade him from cultivating.

All he could do was to say that he would find a cultivation partner on his own, but his master had blocked him with a single sentence.

The implication from his master was to look at Li Ke, who was clearly so outstanding, yet when she chose her own cultivation partner, she ended up with someone like Cao Zhen.

What if he also brought back such a cultivation partner?

Thus, the right to choose his own cultivation partner was taken away from him, and his master forcibly dragged him to various peaks to find one.

Women... he really had no interest in women whatsoever.

Heaven knows how he had managed to get through these days.

Fortunately, the Hundred Peaks Sect's great competition was coming, and he could relax for a few days, but then Li Ke challenged him so early.

Was this not harming him!

Also, the previous instance where his master had dragged him around looking for a cultivation partner was all because of that girl Li Ke.

The more Nie Jie thought about it, the angrier he became, and his gaze toward Li Ke grew increasingly fierce.

Opposite him, Li Ke sensed Nie Jie's gaze, and a chill gradually appeared on her face. She thought, I didn't provoke you, why are you glaring at me!

Neither had made a move yet, but the winds were already howling around them, and the air between the two was violently trembling.

Both of them remained silent, but a terrifying pressure spread from their bodies, soaring towards the heavens.

Behind each of them, layers of platforms, immortal bridges, and golden cores all emerged.

"Ten Great Perfection Dao Platforms, Ten Great Perfection Immortal Bridges, ten golden cores of Great Perfection!"

"Both of them, all platforms, bridges, and golden cores, each had their own phenomenon!"

"This is too shocking."

Without even fighting, just by releasing their battle strength, they had already immensely shocked the audience around them.

"These are our Hundred Peaks Sect's two existences, below the Earth Immortal, with ten phenomenal Dao platforms, ten phenomenal Immortal Bridges, and ten phenomenal golden cores!"

"These two, both with Immortal Bodies, Li Ke with the Bi Fang Fire Body and Nie Jie with the Dragon-Elephant Immortal Body!"

Cao Zhen looked at the phenomenal Dao platforms, Immortal Bridges, and golden cores behind the two and his face showed a hint of surprise.

He had been watching the great competition of the Hundred Peaks Sect for three days and had seen countless disciples fight, but in these three days, this was the first time he had seen someone other than himself and his apprentice who had all Great Perfection platforms, bridges, and cores with phenomena.

Especially the golden cores with phenomena, which were extremely rare.

A golden core is a transformation of the inner core, and if there are only nine inner cores, then after the golden core stage, at most, only nine golden cores can be condensed.

If during the Core Formation Stage, no phenomena appear on the inner cores, then even after breaking through to the golden core stage, the condensed golden cores cannot possibly have phenomena.

Of course, even if the inner cores have phenomena, it doesn't necessarily mean that the golden cores formed afterwards will continue to have phenomena.

In short, if all ten golden cores are phenomenal, then during the Core Formation Stage, there must have been ten perfectly formed inner cores, each with its own phenomena.

Both he and his disciple had their Dao platforms, Immortal Bridges, and cores reach Great Perfection with phenomena all thanks to the pills he had concocted.

These two individuals, however, relied on their own talents.

However, it was normal for each family to have its own genius.

Such genius disciples, within the Hundred Peaks Sect, there were only these two.

Amidst the exclamations of the crowd, Deng Qixing of Seven Star Peak, the peak closest to Four Treasures Peak, suddenly spoke to Cao Zhen. "Yi Sheng, although she hasn't fully formed her core, has full ten phenomenal platforms and bridges. She is also an Immortal Body.

I believe that among all the remaining disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect, Yi Sheng has the most potential to achieve the ten phenomenal Dao platforms, ten phenomenal Immortal Bridges, and ten phenomenal golden cores like these two."

That's why he originally arranged for Chao Zi Zai and Cao Zhen to become sworn brothers; he saw Yi Sheng's potential for the future.

Cao Zhen smiled lightly?

Yi Sheng indeed could achieve it, but not just Yi Sheng, he intended to make everyone within Four Treasures Peak have ten phenomenal Dao platforms, ten phenomenal Immortal Bridges, and ten phenomenal golden cores.

On the stage, the aura that surged from the two combatants constantly collided in the air, causing explosive sounds.

Amidst the thunderous sounds, both of them moved simultaneously.

In Li Ke's hand, a fiery-red longsword rang out as it was drawn, and from the blade, a vermilion phoenix shadow suddenly shot out with piercing phoenix cries that echoed through the heavens and earth, causing the very void to tremble.

With a swing of her wrist, the fire phoenix, carrying the dazzling blade light, seemed to pierce through the sky, shattering the nine heavens' clouds, as it thrust straight at Nie Jie.

Where the sword light passed, the sky was suddenly torn apart, as if the sword had split it in two.

Nie Jie's black longsword came out of its sheath, and as he swung his arm, the sharp edge rubbed against the void, sparking after sparking of fire, and he directly slashed towards Li Ke's oncoming sword.

In their exchange, neither used divine skills; it was just a simple sword thrust and sword strike.

But what seemed like a simple sword and knife were filled with terrifying power and dreadfully impressive force.

Before the sword and knife even met, the sword Qi and blade light that burst forth collided in the air, instantly producing a deafening explosion.

Chapter 270: Discussing the Dao Approaches_3

At the point of collision, visible waves of air spread outward like ripples in water, stirring the void into trembling incessantly.

Crowds around the arena watched from afar, each of them surging with excitement.

"Too terrifying, these are, the two strongest disciples of our Hundred Peaks Sect!"

"This is the future of our Hundred Peaks Sect."

"With such powerful senior brothers and sisters, even if the Qiankun small epoch arrives, what is there to fear!"

On the platform, the clash of sword qi and blade light continued, but the two figures didn't stop, instead rushing towards the center of the platform.

Li Ke lightly tapped the toe of her boot on the platform, soaring forward with each tap, moving rapidly like a dragonfly skimming over water.

Whereas Nie Jie took heavy, deliberate steps on the platform, like a primal beast of ancient times, with every step leaving a clear imprint behind, each one causing the arena to shake violently as if a giant elephant from ancient times was charging forward.

The long, inky-black blade in his hand slashed down with boundless might, filling the entire arena in an instant. With one strike, such domineering and fierce power was unleashed that it felt as if even a towering mountain would be cleaved in half by this blow!

In Li Ke's hands, the longsword's light flickered unpredictably, casting a chilling gleam so intense it was startling under the sunlight.

With a thrust, her sword sliced through the void as if it had fallen from the ninth heaven above.

In the surrounding air, a series of afterimages from the passing sword's edge appeared.

The next moment, spear and sharp sword collided, abruptly sparking a massive burst of flames.

Even under the broad daylight, the brilliance of the sparks rivaled the sun's rays, dazzling and blinding.

The area where the two stood cracked open suddenly, revealing a clear crevice in the platform.

Both of them retreated from one another as a result.

Atop the mountains, onlookers gazed at the crack on the platform, each of them gasping in shock.

"This... this arena is maintained by an array, yet just one exchange and it's already cracked!"

"They haven't even used their Divine Skills!"

"This is surely the pinnacle of strength among Golden Cores!"

"There's no distinguishing who is superior; although Li Ke achieved Perfect Completion Golden Core later, she seems to be no weaker than Nie Jie!"

"It still comes down to their Divine Skills."

As if having agreed beforehand, after each unleashed a blade stroke and a sword thrust, from behind them, ten Golden Cores suddenly burst forth, each pulsating with an array of phenomenal activity and overflowing with the surge of Divine Skills.

The surrounding people were all astonished.

"Golden Cores!"

"They've summoned all their Golden Cores at the same time!"

"Are they fighting desperately?"

"The battle has just begun, are they about to decide the victor right now?"

Nie Jie's eyes were sharp as knives as he focused intently on Li Ke, his aura climbing higher and higher.

The next moment, from within the void, his ten Golden Cores burst into dazzling brilliance, from which streams of dragon and elephant illusions emerged. From one of the Golden Cores, an illusion of a mountain appeared; at a glance, it seemed not just an illusion but a genuine, colossal mountain as if descending from the ninth heaven, tearing through the void...

From another of his Golden Cores, an illusion of a giant elephant emerged, its vastness seeming to fill the entire sky, eclipsing the sun...

From Li Ke's ten Golden Cores, flames leapt out, some as if falling from beyond the void, resembling celestial fire judgment, others as if ascending from the depths of the Nine Netherworld, filled with a devouring presence...

The next moment, the Divine Skills released by both collided high in the sky.

Under the onslaught of boundless power, even the surrounding void seemed unable to bear the pressure, exploding violently, eliciting a series of booms akin to thunderbolts striking the earth.

The sky above quaked wildly, and fierce winds howled around the platform.

Even those who stood far away felt the mountain beneath them tremble fiercely.

With each collision of Divine Skills, bursts of extremely brilliant light erupted, so dazzling that the disciples winced in pain, some even suffering momentary blindness.

The thunderous noises that accompanied the collisions of Divine Skills were like the explosive shattering of the sun and moon above, causing the onlookers' ears to ache, almost causing them to go deaf.

In the sky, Divine Skills continuously collided, with terrifying waves of power radiating outward, enveloping the entire arena. The spectators could no longer distinguish which Divine Skills were unleashed by Li Ke and which by Nie Jie.

It was just the residual shockwaves of the colliding Divine Skills that shattered the array-maintained platform, revealing cracks of varying sizes. Not to mention what was happening to the two in the center of the Divine Skills' clash.

A cloud of dust billowed violently.

In the midst of the dust, two lights shone with an unusual and piercing brightness.

Li Ke and Nie Jie, each had layers of protective light around them.

Despite wearing all black—clothes, hair, and blade—Nie Jie was now enveloped in strands of golden light. Giant golden dragons coiled around him, firmly guarding him at the center. Beyond these golden dragon illusions was an even thicker layer of golden elephant illusions, coming together like a shield.

The raging Divine Skills struck his Protective Golden Light, and the golden elephant illusions shattered instantly.

Then, the Golden Dragon illusions broke apart, and the terrifying force rushed directly into his body.