

My Master 781

Chapter 781:

Now, with the five of them flying at full strength, their speed surged violently.

However, the resentful spirits behind them were not slow either, still trailing close behind them.

As Linghu Gudu flew, he called out, "What's the matter with these resentful spirits? How did they suddenly appear, and moreover, why is their speed so fast?"

All of us have reached the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, or are even stronger special existences than that. Despite us running at full force, we actually haven't managed to completely shake them off!

Over there, what is that situation!"

Suddenly, his eyes widened in shock.

Before them, they discovered another group of gathered skulls and resentful spirits.

Although there weren't as many of these skulls and resentful spirits as those chasing them from behind, when added together, there were nearly a hundred of them.

They were currently surrounding the entrance to a cave.

Constantly wandering about, they seemed to want to enter the cave, but something terrifying inside the cave seemed to be deterring them from advancing further.

"Over there, those resentful spirits don't dare to enter the cave, and moreover, there is a presence inside the cave, a human presence. Let's go into the cave!" Linghu Gudu's figure abruptly turned, flying directly towards the cave entrance, and while flying, he also shouted back into the cave, "Friend, may we use the cave for a moment?"

The next moment, a deep, strong voice came from inside the cave.

"No borrowing!"

Inside the cave, a deep, strong voice echoed again.

However, Linghu Gudu paid no heed and charged straight into the cave.

Seeing this, Cao Zhen and the others quickly turned and rushed towards it as well.

Near the cave, every resentful spirit and skull that saw the humans rushing in abandoned the mouth of the cave and charged towards the humans in front of them.

Suddenly, a sharp light gleamed in Linghu Gudu's eyes; the speed of these skulls and resentful spirits was clearly not as fast as those chasing them from behind.

A thought crossed his mind, and he abruptly paused mid-flight, veering to the side.

He made a full circle, leading the resentful spirits and skulls away, and then sharply doubled back. Leverage on the advantage of speed, he rushed into the cave in an instant.

Cao Zhen and the others also entered the cave one after another.

Almost the moment they entered the cave, a huge fireball flew straight at them, directly targeting Linghu Gudu's face.

The person inside the cave had made a move, and the next moment, in front of Linghu Gudu, he suddenly opened his mouth and took a fierce inhale.

In the blink of an eye, a huge whale phantom suddenly appeared in front of him.

The whale's mouth, seemingly capable of swallowing the entire world, opened fiercely, and in one gulp, it devoured the flame as if it were savoring some delicious food.

At this point, Cao Zhen and the others could finally see the situation inside the cave clearly.

It was a narrow and long cave.

Inside the cave, there were two men and a woman.

At this moment, the three of them were clearly on alert, and their Golden Cores were fully manifested behind them.

All three individuals were at the stage of Perfect Completion Golden Core.

The two men each possessed six Phenomena Golden Cores, while the woman had five Phenomena Golden Cores.

Their strength was already not weak, as being able to venture so deep into the ruins at such a time was impossible without some capability.

But these people in front of them...

Having heard the call from outside, the three of them immediately sensed trouble and simultaneously unleashed their battle power. Upon discovering that someone had entered, one of them immediately launched a Divine Skill attack.

However, his Divine Skills were easily neutralized.

And then.

The three of them stared at the five newcomers, their eyes nearly blinded by the sight of the Golden Cores behind them.

Phenomenal Golden Cores, they were all Phenomenal Golden Cores!

Among these five people, incredibly, four were at the Perfect Completion Golden Core stage!

Though the three of them were strong, everything is relative.

How could they possibly stand a chance against the people before them!

The intruders had now entered this place, and moreover, they had acted against them. If these newcomers were to fight back...

In an instant, the hearts of the trio sank to rock bottom.

Linghu Gudu looked at the three people before him. Although they had attacked him, he did not immediately retaliate. His life was almost entirely spent on adventures; even his cultivation was advanced through taking risks.

Therefore, he understood these people.

In such ancient relics, no one knows who the other party is.

If he were in their shoes, with someone suddenly invading his territory, he too would resist, even attack.

Thus, he understood their actions and didn't get angry. However, the party he was with now was not one where he called the shots.

He turned and looked back at Cao Zhen.

The three on the other side naturally followed Linghu Gudu's gaze to look at the only person amongst their opponents who was not at the stage of Perfect Completion Golden Core.

Cao Zhen, feeling Linghu Gudu's gaze, stepped forward and asked the three strangers, "What is going on here?"

The opposing trio was instantly startled. They could see that the other party was at the sixth level of Golden Core cultivation and they couldn't understand why, if all four people on the other side were at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection stage, they would team up with someone who only had a sixth level Golden Core?

Plus, in the current situation, it was clear that the leader was this person with the sixth level Golden Core.

This was the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, where the strongest are those at the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection stage. What kind of person would manage to have the following of four Complete Golden Pill of Ten Strange Phenomena?

Could it be the child of a Sect Leader or Sect Leader from some powerful faction? Although their leader was in slumber, they would surely awaken after the Reversal Mini Epoch Period ends. At that time, they would still have to rely on this person.

So, these four were accompanying this sixth level Golden Core?

And this time, were they also responsible for the newcomer's protection while exploring this relic?

It seemed likely.

However, they had no idea which faction could deploy four Complete Golden Pill of Ten Strange Phenomena at once.

Not every faction could have so many at the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection stage.

Even many powerful Immortal Sects that they knew of didn't have that many. It had to be a top-notch power that could possess four of the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection!

The trio quickly figured out the identities of their opponents, and the female cultivator hastily started to explain, "Dao Companion, we were presumptuous earlier. We are a group of four and had previously offended three powerful individuals and barely escaped with our lives. One of our companions also perished in the process.

Just now, we detected someone forcing their way in and thought it was our enemies catching up to us, so..."

"That's not what I'm asking," Cao Zhen waved his hand when he realized they had misunderstood, thinking he was asking them to explain why they had attacked.

He could understand why they might have lashed out so suddenly.

Moreover, this time they indeed had barged in forcefully, and so he would not say much about their assault, let alone kill them for it.

Even Linghu Gudu, who had been attacked, did not act, so he certainly wouldn't.

"I'm asking about the situation outside. Do you know what is going on with those skeletons and resentful spirits? And why won't they enter this place?"

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Cao Zhen couldn't figure it out. The cave seemed completely unremarkable, yet when they took refuge inside, all the skeletons and resentful spirits stopped in their tracks.

Inside the cave, the other three were also puzzled.

"We don't know either."

"We've been in this cave for a while now. Those resentful spirits and skeletons just linger outside the cave, they have never tried to come in."

Upon hearing the questions, the three of them immediately started to respond, their hearts filling with worry at the same time; what they feared most now was the newcomers attacking them or driving them out.

Cao Zhen looked at the few people, unable to glean much from their answers, then let his gaze fall around the cave.

But no matter how he looked, the cave appeared to be just an ordinary cave, showing nothing unusual. He simply could not understand why the skeletons and resentful spirits wouldn't enter it.

As he pondered, Linghu Gudu suddenly thought of a question and asked the three, "If these skeletons and resentful spirits won't come into the cave, have you tried attacking them to see if they'll run away?"

The female cultivator among them immediately shook her head and said, "No, after we hid here, we've been at the deepest part of the cave the whole time and never tried to attack them."

What a joke. When they discovered that the resentful spirits and skeletons wouldn't enter the cave, all they felt was relief. Why would they attack those skeletons and resentful spirits? The cave didn't seem to have anything special about it. What if their attack drew the skeletons and resentful spirits into the cave?

Could it be that these people want to provoke those skeletons and resentful spirits intentionally?

Though they said they had Four Complete Golden Pill of Ten Strange Phenomena, with so many resentful spirits and skeletons, and they also had to protect the Golden Core Sixth Layer, they shouldn't do that, should they?

They...

As the female cultivator was thinking, Linghu Gudu had already turned around, his mana coursing rapidly through his body, a hint of blue light appearing between his hands. The next moment, he raised his hands and swung them fiercely outside.

In an instant, outside the cave, in the sky above, droplets of water suddenly appeared, falling like torrential rain, focusing on two skeletons as they crashed down upon them.

Water droplets the size of raindrops hitting the skeletons made heavy sounds, as if meteorites from the heavens were falling to the ground.

Suddenly, clear cracks appeared on the bodies of those two skeletons.

A single water droplet could cause a crack, but under the relentless barrages, the two skeletons swiftly disintegrated, their bones scattering across the ground.

Behind them, the initial three people in the cave, seeing someone take action, instantly felt their hearts jump to their throats.

This one attack had better not lure those skeletons and resentful spirits into the cave.

Thankfully, in the terrified gaze of the three, those skeletons and resentful spirits just roared and howled continuously outside the cave but did not enter.

The attention of the three then returned to the piles of skeleton bones outside the cave.

They had fought with those outside skeletons before and had realized the terror of those skeletons.

They couldn't even kill a single skeleton in short order, despite their full strength.

Now, with the newcomer's move, two skeletons had so easily perished.

"These skeletons are a bit weak," Linghu Gudu said, looking at the dead skeletons and then back at Cao Zhen, "The ones chasing us before were clearly much stronger."

Inside the cave, the gazes of the three widened further, thinking the skeletons and resentful spirits were strong enough already. Were there stronger skeletons?

So, not all the skeletons here are equally powerful?

And there are a lot of them?

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and agreed, "It's apparent they are weaker. So, the strength of these skeletons might be determined by their strength in life.

However, with our skeletons, there was a sudden whirlwind, and these skeletons..."

Cao Zhen turned back to the three inside the cave and inquired, "How did you come across these skeletons? Was there a sudden wind blowing?"

The female cultivator hurriedly answered upon hearing the question, "Indeed, there was wind, but the skeletons had appeared even before the gusts started."

Cao Zhen continued to ask, "No tornadoes?"

The female cultivator, puzzled, shook her head, "No." Tornadoes? They hadn't encountered any tornadoes.

Moreover, they were all at the Golden Core Stage. What tornado could scare them, unless it was a particularly massive one?

Cao Zhen turned back to the others and whispered, "So, the appearance of these skeletons and resentful spirits probably isn't related to tornadoes. Then why did they suddenly appear?"

Cao Zhen looked up at the sky, "Could it be because of the night?"

That night, they did not leave the cave, and after gauging the strength of the skeletons, Linghu Gudu did not attack again either.

In his words, since the skeletons had nothing on them, and there was no benefit in killing them, why exert the effort?

Moreover, they speculated that the emergence of these skeletons and resentful spirits had something to do with the night.

They would wait for daylight to see whether the skeletons and resentful spirits would disappear. If they did, then all the better; if not, it wouldn't be too late to take action and kill them then.

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As time grew later, the sky outside became increasingly dark. All of them were at the Golden Core Stage, and with their vision, even in the black of night, there was barely any impact.

However, now they realized that the sky outside had become so dark, they couldn't see their hands in front of their faces.

Even with their strength, they could only barely make out the immediate surroundings, and outside the cave, they could see nothing at all, only hearing the constant crackling of skeletons walking and the chilling screams of resentful spirits.

Occasionally, there would also be explosions sounding off, with dim flashes of light appearing, evidently someone was using Divine Skills, and the screams likely meant that they had encountered resentful spirits and skeletons.

Without realizing it, a night passed quickly, and finally, the sky began to lighten, and everyone could see the situation outside the cave.

The skeletons and resentful spirits began to leave the cave and head toward the distance as the sky started to brighten.

When the sun was fully up, there wasn't a single skeleton or resentful spirit in sight outside.

"So, these skeletons and resentful spirits are related to the darkness. In this battlefield, who knows how many skeletons there are, so the daytime here is relatively safer, but the night is extremely dangerous."

Cao Zhen glanced at the three people at the back of the cave but didn't speak with them, they hadn't even asked for their names throughout the night; they just borrowed the cave for a while.

"Let's go! To the valley we found before."

Cao Zhen was still obsessed with that Spirit Pill, and now that there were no skeletons, he naturally wanted to try and figure out how to retrieve the Spirit Pill.

Soon, the group of five left the cave and flew towards the valley they had left before.

The skeletons in the valley had all left to chase after them, and now, when they returned, the fierce wind still prevailed in the valley, within which countless skeletons' bones were flying about.

"So, they've come back."

Cao Zhen stood outside the valley, looking into it.

The wind in the valley wasn't as violent as the day before. Wind Blades were flying about but weren't as fierce, and the Spirit Pill was even on the edge of the valley, which seemed not too far away.

The problem was, how to retrieve that Spirit Pill from mid-air?

Cao Zhen frowned. He could use Mana to retrieve it from the air.

But the problem was, although the Wind Blades in the valley weren't fierce, there were countless of them. If he used Mana to condense a Void Handprint to catch the Spirit Pill, the handprint would be torn apart by the Wind Blades after entering the valley.

So, should he enter the valley to retrieve the Spirit Pill?

He could give it a try with the current intensity of the wind, yet he feared that a tornado like the one from yesterday might suddenly form again. If caught in such a tornado, even he wouldn't be able to hold on.

Not far away, Linghu Gudu watched as Cao Zhen paced back and forth, and especially the probing gestures he made as if wanting to enter the valley. Linghu Gudu's heart jerked, and he quickly warned, "You're not thinking of entering the valley, are you? I can tell that the Spirit Pill is very important to you, right?"

But no matter how important that Spirit Pill is, I advise you not to go into the valley. I'm ninety percent certain that as soon as you step into the range of the valley, a terrifying tornado will form immediately and engulf you."

Upon hearing this, Li Ke, somewhat surprised, turned her head towards Linghu Gudu and curiously asked, "How did you come to that conclusion?"

Linghu Gudu shrugged and said, "Experience."

He was indeed speaking the truth, it was just experience. He didn't know how many dangers he had encountered. When he said a tornado might form, that was only the most basic prediction. Perhaps if someone really entered the valley, even more terrifying dangers might arise.

Cao Zhen reflected on the changes in the wind inside the valley as they got close yesterday and felt that what Linghu Gudu said made sense. Indeed, he shouldn't risk venturing into those violent winds. But then, the Spirit Pill...

Spirit Pills seek benefits and avoid harm...

Yesterday, the Spirit Pill had avoided harm, but would it seek benefits today?

Cao Zhen pondered what could benefit a Spirit Pill?

It was still a Calamity Avoidance Pill.

It didn't seem like the Spirit Pill needed anything.

But not quite...

According to Zhang Daoling's records, Spirit Pills, although devoid of Spiritual Wisdom, seem to have an instinctual desire to grow stronger, similar to how cultivators want to become stronger. This is an innate instinct.

But how can a Spirit Pill grow stronger?

That requires an Alchemist. An Alchemist could refine some special Pills to create a unique environment within the Pill Furnace, then allow the Spirit Pill to absorb other Pills, enhancing its medicinal properties.

As for myself...

I do have a Pill Furnace, but I lack enough materials to refine those special Pills.

But I wonder, would my Heretical Golden Core work?

If I slightly alter the aura of my Heretical Golden Core, then place it into the Pill Furnace, creating some false auras...

The more he thought about it, the more feasible Cao Zhen found the idea. He turned back to Ling Xi and the others and said, "I'm going to perform Alchemy. You guys go somewhere far and protect me while I do it."

Alchemy?

Linghu Gudu was dumbstruck. We are in the midst of a ruin, seeking the core battlefield. It wasn't just us trying to find the core battlefield; others wanted to find it too.

And you're going to refine Pills?

Alchemy can take a considerable amount of time. If you do that now, we'll miss the opportunity. If the core battlefield is found by others and we're late, we won't even get a drop of the spoils.

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What are you doing refining pills here?

But there was no helping it, Cao Zhen had spoken, and the other three women went directly to find a spot, starting to protect Cao Zhen in his endeavor. What else could he do?

He could only choose another place to protect Cao Zhen as well.

Cao Zhen quickly took out the pill furnace, then lit a fire and began placing one herb after another into the furnace. At the same time, above his head, the heretical golden core appeared. The next moment, the heretical golden core flew down into the pill furnace.

From afar, Linghu Gudu's eyes narrowed in alertness. What was this about? He knew it was an exotic pill; he had discovered it the night before when Cao Zhen used it to unleash divine skills.

He felt that Cao Zhen's strength, although only at the sixth level of the golden core stage, was so formidable due to that exotic pill.

But now, was Cao Zhen intending to refine his exotic pill?

Why would he refine his exotic pill? Besides, didn't he want that spirit pill? What did refining the exotic pill have to do with the alchemy process? Surely the spirit pill couldn't sprout wings and just fly out, could it?

Cao Zhen started refining the pill in a seated position, and about the time it takes to burn one incense stick later, three figures appeared behind them.

It was the three people from the cave last night.

From a distance, the three also saw Cao Zhen busy with pill refining and noticed the four people guarding the surroundings, obviously protecting him.

Immediately, their hearts tensed.

"Folks, we're just passing by, merely passing by. We'll leave now, right now!"

The trio immediately turned around, leaving behind a word before flying swiftly towards the distant places without looking back. They truly resigned themselves to their luck—this place was so vast, yet as they flew haphazardly, they stumbled upon those five people again.

And the other party was in the middle of alchemy.

As beings at the golden core stage, how could they not know that pill masters during alchemy were most wary of disturbances from others?

If those people felt they disturbed the alchemy and launched an attack, what then?

What else should they do but run?

After the three had run far away, they decided to change direction and move on.

In the gorge, everyone ignored the three departing figures.

Cao Zhen was all the while creating an illusion, and gradually, from his pill furnace, a rich fragrance began to waft out, quickly spreading to the surroundings and into the gorge.

The next moment, in the gorge, the spirit pill seemed to stir slightly and then flew out towards the gorge's exterior.

Linghu Gudu was stunned, did the spirit pill truly just fly out?

What method had Cao Zhen used?

This was indeed the act of a great ability reborn!

In the blink of an eye, the spirit pill had already flown outside the gorge's confines and was rapidly flying towards the direction of the pill furnace.

Cao Zhen, watching the spirit pill drawing closer, displayed a hint of joy on his face, yet he made no move. The spirit pill could seek benefits and avoid harm; if he acted now, who knew if it would immediately fly back to the gorge? He was waiting, waiting for the spirit pill to fly into the pill furnace on its own.

The spirit pill moved incredibly fast, and in the blink of an eye, it arrived in front of the pill furnace. However, instead of flying into the pill furnace, it struck directly against it, knocking the lid off and revealing the heretical golden core inside.

Now was the moment!

Cao Zhen's thoughts shifted and in an instant, a dazzling brilliance shot forth from the heretical golden core, and a huge void hand suddenly emerged, reaching out for the spirit pill.

The spirit pill seemed to realize the danger and immediately turned to flee, but it was too close to the heretical golden core.

For it, the heretical golden core might have been merely food, but now, food had turned into the hunter, and it was too late for the pill to avoid capture.

The void hand swiftly grasped the spirit pill.

At the same time, Cao Zhen quickly took out the Qiankun bag and threw it in.

Ordinary jars for storing pills were not capable of trapping a spirit pill, but the Qiankun bag could certainly contain it.

Once the spirit pill entered the Qiankun bag, Cao Zhen finally breathed a sigh of relief and turned to Linghu Gudu, saying, "This spirit pill isn't of much use to you, but it is useful to me, so I will take it.

We can consider this a favor we owe you for now. Next time we find a treasure, you can take a larger share."

"Of course, of course," Linghu Gudu generously waved his hand. He was truly envious of Cao Zhen acquiring such a spirit pill.

Even though he didn't know the use of the spirit pill.

Yet he had witnessed with his own eyes the pill avoiding Wind Blades and flying out of the gorge by itself. Cao Zhen, being a reincarnated great ability, attached so much importance to it that even by thinking with his toes, he knew the spirit pill must be extremely precious.

Besides, his compass had started moving again after the spirit pill had flown away, evidently indicating that the treasure and opportunity pointed out by the compass was this very spirit pill.

The danger they faced this time was no small matter.

It seemed as if he had not faced any threat to his life, but that was because he was strong enough.

If it weren't for Ling Xi and Yan Yourong, even Li Ke, who was at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, would have been sucked into the gorge.

Seeing from this, was the danger minor?

Furthermore, yesterday, those resentful spirits released piercing sonic attacks; if it weren't for Cao Zhen and Yan Yourong breaking through them, he might have been affected and possibly wouldn't have been able to leave safely.

Therefore, judging from the level of danger, the preciousness of the spirit pill can also be ascertained.

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But what could he do?

He certainly couldn't beat these few people in a fight.

Moreover, without Cao Zhen, he himself had no way to retrieve the Spirit Pill.

All he could do was look on enviously and then hope that Cao Zhen and the others would keep their word and let him choose more treasures the next time they encountered any.

As for whether they would encounter treasures again, he wasn't sure. On his compass, the spoon was moving slowly but steadily in a general direction, fluctuating left and right.

"Let's go, let's continue forward."

Linghu Gudu led the way, and the group continued to fly on.

Cao Zhen had spent half a day on Alchemy. This time, they had only flown for half a day, and the sky was gradually darkening.

"It's getting dark, those skeletons might come again. Let's find a cave," Linghu Gudu said, seeing the sun begin to set and immediately stopping flight to look for a cave.

Yan Yourong, however, directly spoke up, "Why bother finding a cave? There are so many mountains here, we can simply blast one open."

With that, she swung her hand, intending to forcefully create a cave. With her level of Cultivation Base, creating a cave was more than simple.

"Junior Sister, no need to carve out a cave; there's an existing one over there," pointed Yan Yourong, gesturing toward a distance.

"Since there is a cave, then there's no need to carve out another," Cao Zhen nodded and said, "Let's head to the cave. He was the first to fly toward it."

In just a few breaths, he reached the entrance of the cave, and he also sensed three presences within the cave.

Was the cave already occupied?

Just as the thought crossed his mind, a gigantic fireball flew out from inside the cave.

Cao Zhen had no time to think; a black and a white glow instantly rose from his body.

Record of Deities and Demons!

The fireball smashed onto him, and the scorching heat wave hit him head-on, making him feel as if he had fallen into a massive furnace in an instant.

For a moment, the black and white glows surged rapidly, intertwining like two rivers, protecting him in the middle, and resisting the incoming flames.

When the flame met the black and white glows, it was as if a burning piece of dry wood had fallen into water, disappearing instantly.

By now, Cao Zhen could see clearly the three figures in the cave; they were the three people who had borrowed their cave yesterday.

Inside the cave, the three figures also recognized the person they had just attacked.

Actually, they had recognized the newcomer right after they launched their attack.

It was the five people they had encountered yesterday, and the one they attacked was the only one who wasn't at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, the person protected by the four at Perfect Completion Golden Core!

For a moment, their hearts sank as if plunging to the seabed.

It would have been better if they had attacked any of the other four at Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. At the very least, they wouldn't have been able to harm them given their Cultivation Base.

But now, the one who entered was at the sixth level of Golden Core.

How could a sixth level Golden Core resist their attack?

It was over, completely over!

If this strike had killed the sixth level Golden Core, then the next moment, when the four masters at Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection arrived, they would undoubtedly die.

They couldn't understand—weren't those four supposed to protect him? Why did they let the sixth level Golden Core charge in first?

Didn't they need to scout ahead and ensure safety before letting him enter?

However, in the next moment, the three people's eyes widened in shock. The person with the sixth level Golden Core suddenly exhibited black and white glows; clearly, it was a Protective Divine Power.

Their flame collided with the glow, merely causing the black and white glows to tremble slightly before vanishing!

This...

The three were completely dumbfounded.

The one who had just made the move was among them, an individual who had achieved Pill Fusion, with ten Golden Cores fused and possessing six of the Phenomenal Golden Cores.

That his strike had been so easily blocked by someone with only six Golden Cores was inconceivable!

How could this be possible?

The gap between those who had completed Pill Fusion and those who hadn't in the Golden Core Stage was simply too immense. How could this person disregard such a disparity?

The scene before them was too shocking, and for a moment, the three even forgot how to think.

It wasn't until the other four arrived that the three snapped out of it.

Suddenly, they realized that although he was unharmed, they had attacked him, and it had been a deliberate attack...

In an instant, cold sweat started to form on their foreheads.

Among them, the only female cultivator quickly said, "Sirs, we... we mentioned yesterday that we have enemies. Just now when you suddenly flew here, we thought we had encountered our enemies, so we attacked directly. We..."

"Enough, no need to explain. I also didn't expect to encounter you again in this cave," Cao Zhen wasn't interested in arguing, only feeling that it was an incredible coincidence. He had stayed at that valley for half a day, and upon moving again, had actually come across these three people again.

It wasn't just Cao Zhen; the others in the cave were also taken aback at seeing the three. Everything was just too coincidental.

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Linghu Gudu even wore a smile as he looked at the three and said, "What a coincidence, we meet again here. This is our second encounter, yet I don't even know your names. I am called Linghu Gudu, may I ask how the three of you are addressed?"

The trio listened to Linghu Gudu's words, and they inwardly complained. You might think it's fate, but we don't see it that way. After seeing you before, we even flew in a different direction. And still, we run into you again—it's just our rotten luck.

In their view, meeting these people was truly bad luck. Although they didn't seem like the type to kill indiscriminately, having such powerful figures around, in a cave no less, put them under a lot of pressure.

Upon hearing Linghu Gudu's question, the female cultivator answered quickly, "My name is Chen Yexian, and these two are my senior brothers, Yu Gaoguan and Kou Shaohua."

"Oh," continued Linghu Gudu, "your cultivation bases appear to be quite impressive, all having reached Pill Fusion of the Perfect Completion Golden Core. Which Immortal Sect do you come from?"

Chen Yexian promptly replied, "We hail from the Hanging Sky Island." If someone else had inquired about her sect, she might have hesitated, as one never knows if they bear any ill will towards her sect.

But these people were clearly not from the South Ocean region, so she wasn't worried about any enmity between her sect and them. Nonetheless, she was starting to feel reluctant to stay here any longer.

She opened her mouth, about to propose vacating the cave voluntarily, but before she could speak, Linghu Gudu's voice came through again.

"Hanging Sky Island? You are people from Hanging Sky Island? Ever since I arrived in the South Ocean region, I've heard many speak of Hanging Sky Island.

Your Hanging Sky Island is quite remarkable, suspended in midair. I once wished to visit Hanging Sky Island, but regrettably, the Island does not permit outsiders to enter, so I had to leave."

Linghu Gudu said this with a tone of disappointment, shaking his head. He was genuinely interested in Hanging Sky Island; as soon as he learned of it upon arriving in the South Ocean, he made his way there as his first destination.

But upon his arrival, the people from Hanging Sky Island outright refused him entry to the Island.

Back then, before the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth had begun, there were Earth Immortal Realm masters on Hanging Sky Island, so he certainly didn't dare to force his way in and had no choice but to leave.

To his surprise, he was now meeting disciples from Hanging Sky Island.

Chen Yexian's expression subtly changed upon hearing these words. The other party had been denied entry to Hanging Sky Island?

She wondered if he would bear a grudge because of it.

As she worried, Linghu Gudu revealed a very friendly smile, almost as if he were looking at an old friend, and asked Chen Yexian, "Meeting like this again means we're destined to be friends, don't you think so?"

The three of them nodded in agreement, "Of course, naturally."

Linghu Gudu's face showed a satisfied smile, and he added, "In that case, as friends, there shouldn't be a problem if you invite me to take a look at Hanging Sky Island, right?"

Rest assured, I am merely interested in your Hanging Sky Island and want to see what an island suspended in midair looks like. I have no other intentions."

"Of course, if Dao Companion Linghu wishes to visit Hanging Sky Island, we would certainly not refuse. Although it is true that Hanging Sky Island doesn't easily allow outsiders on the Island, an invitation from friends is another matter."

What else could the three of them say? They naturally agreed.

And indeed, they weren't lying; people from Hanging Sky Island can invite outsiders to the Island.

Of course, this doesn't mean that any disciple from Hanging Sky Island can invite outsiders.

Ordinary disciples should forget about it, and even those considered genius disciples are not able to easily invite outsiders to the Island.

Only the most top-tier genius disciples, as well as elders from the sects, have the ability to invite outsiders to the Island.

Under normal circumstances, with the status the three of them held on Hanging Sky Island, inviting someone to the Island would naturally be out of the question. However, during the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, all three of them existences at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, and they held no low positions on the Island.

Collectively, they could certainly extend invitations without any problems.

"That would be excellent, excellent indeed," Linghu Gudu said, seemingly highly interested in Hanging Sky Island. He leaned in close to the man and asked curiously, "Speaking of which your Hanging Sky Island is among the top Immortal Sects in the entire South Ocean. I remember that there are two at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection on your Island. Did your sect not send any of these masters this time?"

It was odd for such a significant ruin so close to their location that they could send three individuals at the Ten Golden Core stage, yet not a single one at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection had come.

"Our Immortal Sect indeed did not send a master at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection," Chen Yexian shook her head, "As for why, we do not know."

"Oh, is that so... Well then..." Linghu Gudu was about to ask more when a whooshing sound suddenly came from outside the cave.

Immediately, everyone turned their heads to look toward the cave entrance.

The next moment, three more figures appeared at the entrance.

These three were all men, and the style of their clothes was clearly not that of the South Ocean.

After entering the cave, the three men paused as they saw eight people gathered inside, evidently not expecting to encounter so many inside the cave.

Chapter 787:

This cave isn't as large as the one from yesterday; it felt slightly cramped with eight people inside, which was only exacerbated with the arrival of three more.

In the depths of the cave, Kou Shaohua, who hadn't spoken much, looked at the three newcomers and frowned slightly. Glancing at Linghu Gudu and the others, he suddenly said, "Gentlemen, this cave is already occupied. Perhaps it would be best if the three of you found another cave, or maybe carved out a new one for yourselves?"

Before, when he saw Linghu Gudu and his group arrive, he had indeed thought about finding another cave.

But now, after seeing more people arrive, he realized a problem—they weren't the only ones in these ruins.

Even within the cave, they could encounter other people.

If these others were stronger and harbored ill intentions, they too could be in danger.

However, being with Linghu Gudu and his group now, they didn't need to worry about this problem.

After all, with those four Complete Golden Pill of Ten Strange Phenomena around, who would dare to cause trouble?

The others didn't know that they weren't actually with the Four Complete Golden Pill of Ten Strange Phenomena.

However, with more people arriving, the cave did feel quite crowded, and he noticed Linghu Gudu frowning.

Perhaps Linghu Gudu, being such a master, considered it beneath his dignity to drive people away, so Kou Shaohua took the initiative to do so himself.

Among the trio, a young man with distinct facial features and eyes filled with a cold harshness immediately exuded a chilling aura upon hearing this. Was this man trying to drive them away?

How interesting—that they would dare to send them away.

They were always the ones driving others away; this was the first time someone had tried to drive them away.

The young man made a slight movement as if he was about to react, but a man who looked steadfast and exuded a scholarly air stopped him with a hand.

Even his own junior brother was used to being arrogant and domineering.

But these ruins were different.

The three of them were strong, but there were also many masters who had entered the ruins.

With so many people on the opposing side and with no knowledge of their abilities, it wouldn't be wise to start a conflict.

He gave a bow to the group and said, "Honored ones, obviously you know that the skulls and resentful spirits will not enter the caves. However, you may not be aware that a self-carved cave is useless." *freewe&novel.com*

"What do you mean a self-carved cave is useless?" Cao Zhen, Kou Shaohua, and the other eight people inside the cave were momentarily stunned.

Linghu Gudu even asked, "How do you know that a self-carved cave is useless?"

The young man answered without concealment, "Because yesterday, the three of us found a cave to hide from the skulls, and across from us, some people also carved out their own cave to escape the skulls and resentful spirits. But as soon as they finished carving their cave, those skulls and resentful spirits immediately entered and slaughtered every one of them.

Therefore, only these pre-existing caves are of use."

"But there's nothing special about this cave." Linghu Gudu looked around the cave again; Cao Zhen did the same.

If a self-carved cave didn't work and the pre-existing caves were safe from skulls and resentful spirits, there must be something special about these pre-existing caves. But he had looked yesterday, and there were no Formations in those caves.

No Formations, as for any other peculiarities...

Cao Zhen began observing the cave, but after looking around, he found nothing particularly special.

At that moment, the ones who had entered the cave later spoke up again, "Esteemed ones, would you honor us by allowing us to enter this cave.

We won't disturb you; we can stay at the entrance of the cave."

Kou Shaohua didn't speak but looked at Cao Zhen. Similarly, Linghu Gudu and the others also looked at Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and said, "Since you've come here, it wouldn't be right to turn you away, and besides, this cave doesn't belong to us to begin with."

They had informed them that the self-carved caves wouldn't protect them from the skulls and resentful spirits, which was vital information. Therefore, it made sense to let them stay.

"Then we thank you all very much," said the young man. He did not enter the cave but led the three to guard at the cave's entrance.

Linghu Gudu glanced at them and then continued to inquire Chen Yexian about the Hanging Sky Island.

To others, he seemed like an ordinary person who had only heard of the Immortal Sect and wanted to know everything about it.

At the entrance of the cave, the later arrivals observed the situation of the group and listened to their questions. The cold young man secretly sent a message to the other two, "Senior brother, these eight people are actually two groups."

"I can see that. This might actually be good for us—less chance they'll suddenly attack us now.

Of course, we must still be wary of them, especially since we are standing at the entrance. If the number of skeletons outside increases, and they suddenly turn on us and push us out of the cave, we'll be in trouble," he replied through a secret message.

"Them turning on us suddenly? With senior brother here, should we fear their sudden betrayal?" The cold young man sneered contemptuously, for his senior brother was an incredibly strong presence amongst the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

"Don't be careless; there are many masters in the world. And those who could venture this deep at such a time must not be mediocre," the leading man warned through a secret message and then closed his eyes to meditate and regather his spirit.

The night grew deeper.

Gradually, the mournful screams of resentful spirits began to drift in from outside the cave, and it didn't take long for the silhouettes of skeletons to appear at the entrance of the cave.

The cold young man opened his eyes and swept over the skeletons outside the cave with a glance. His gaze suddenly fixed on one skeleton, focusing intently on it.

In a low voice, he said, "That skeleton, what's in its hand? Is it a map or a Treasure?"

At the same moment, Cao Zhen and the others also turned their gazes toward the entrance.

Unlike yesterday's cave, this cave's entrance was much larger, though not as deep.

Even with the three newcomers guarding the entrance, nothing could obstruct their view.

Soon, Cao Zhen noticed that among the skeletons surrounding the entrance, one of them was holding something in its hand that looked like a map.

Chapter 788:

Cao Zhen had already seen many skeletons and wronged souls, all of which were empty-handed. Among the skeletons he currently faced, there was one that actually held something.

Was it simply a map? Or a treasure?

As he pondered, among the three who had entered the cave after him, one of them, who looked particularly cold and ruthless, revealed a huge Pill Fusion floating behind him.

This Pill Fusion was formed from ten Golden Cores, including eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills!

Next to him, another man who appeared incredibly unassuming, who had remained silent and indifferent to his surroundings from the beginning, also saw the emergence of a Tao Base, Immortal Bridge, and Golden Cores behind him.

He too had a Pill Fusion completed with ten Golden Cores, but he possessed nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills. Just one more, and he would achieve the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, a level of combat strength which was extremely high in the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

In his hand, a long staff that seemed to be made of white jade appeared, and he fiercely smashed it down toward the skeleton holding what appeared to be a map.

As the staff struck down, it momentarily gave the illusion of a Sky-Pillar falling from beyond the heavens, instantly bursting the surrounding air and emitting a series of explosive, thunderous sounds.

Outside the cave, space seemed to collapse entirely due to the sudden and terrifying impact.

The others dared not leave the cave, so what he had unleashed was just a shadow of the massive staff.

However, even the mere shadow of the staff's descent felt like it could sweep away desolation and obliterate the world.

In that moment, the night seemed to tear apart, space appeared to shatter, and the vast and unmatched aura of might violently descended.

The skeleton, sensing the attack of the staff, swiftly raised its arm—a white, bony forearm that seemed only slightly thicker than a common withered branch and devoid of flesh—placing it above its head like a shield.

It seemed as if a strike powerful enough to split the earth in half landed on the skeleton's arm with a tremendous crash like a mountain collapsing onto the earth, yet the arm swayed slightly downward without a single mark.

It had blocked the man's nearly full-powered strike with nothing but the pure strength of its arm.

Meanwhile, the cold man's internal energy surged as he suddenly stretched out both hands, with a long spear appearing above them!

The next moment, he thrust the spear forward with both hands.

Though it was just one thrust, thousands of spear shadows emerged, each accompanied by a crisp, chirping sound, as if countless birds were flying out from the spear.

Countless spear shadows densely covered and assailed the skeleton.

This skeleton swung its arms once more as if using them as a shield to protect its body.

The torrent of spear shadows fell upon the skeleton's arms and failed to knock the skeleton down or even push it back.

But after the consecutive assaults from the two men, the skeleton's forearms that protected it were finally shaken apart.

At this time, the leader of the trio had a gigantic Pill Fusion manifest behind him.

Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

From a distance, Chen Yexian marveled at the grand Pill Fusion formed from ten different Golden Pills, a sight that filled his heart with awe.

Indeed, such a relic had attracted nearly all the top experts in the world. On any normal day, one would hardly see so many with the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

Yet, they had only been here a short while and already encountered so many at this level of perfection.

At the same time, she felt some relief that, fortunately, they had encountered Linghu Gudu and his companions. With Linghu Gudu and his company, they didn't have to worry about these people suddenly attacking them.

Otherwise, if a Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection with two others who had completed Pill Fusion decided to act against them, they would undoubtedly stand no chance.

Moreover, they were inside the cave, with no place to flee.

The third man, having fully unleashed his combat strength, now held a long saber in each hand.

Dual sabers!

Since arriving in this world, Cao Zhen had seen many who wielded sabers; his disciple Yan Yourong had also switched from sword to saber.

But most people used a single saber—he rarely saw anyone use dual sabers.

Furthermore, the sabers that this person wielded appeared to be quite special.

Even the blades of his sabers featured individual saw-like teeth.

He simultaneously swung the sabers in his hands, making a snipping motion as if wielding a giant pair of scissors, or perhaps like a massive Strange Beast wielding Iron Clamps.

As he did so, the shadow of a huge, dark beast resembling a giant crab materialized in the void, its massive clamps lunging at the skeleton holding the map in an attempt to snip off its arm.

His target was not to kill the adversary but rather the map or treasure held in its grasp!

The two massive clamps glowed with a strange blue light, reminiscent of the mythical heavenly swords as they fell with boundless sharpness, seeming to slice open the very world in a single cut.

His attack was visibly faster than the previous two assailants.

One moment, the giant clamps had just appeared; the next, they were right in front of the skeleton, and it seemed as if they were about to completely snip off the skeleton's arm.

Chapter 789:

Suddenly, around the skeleton, the air trembled violently, and streaks of black light emerged. It seemed as though a black dragon was circling around it, protecting it within its midst.

Divine Skills!

Inside the cave, the expressions of everyone suddenly changed drastically, as none of the skeletons they had encountered before had used any divine skills.

But now, this particular skeleton could use divine skills!

The next moment, the huge pincers fell, and an endless sharpness descended, touching the black light.

The friction caused sparks to explode in the night, leaving behind a trail of dazzling fireworks.

The black light and the giant pincer seemed to dissipate at the same speed, it looked like the man's strike couldn't sever the skeleton's arm at all.

However, in the next moment, a silver throwing knife appeared in the man's hand.

And behind him, his Golden Core trembled violently at that moment, pouring an endless aura into the throwing knife.

After his aura climbed to its peak, he violently swung his arm and the throwing knife shot out suddenly.

The next moment, the throwing knife grew vastly in the void, like a crescent moon sweeping across, and wherever it passed, the void was penetrated instantly, leaving behind a clear trail.

In less than a breath's time, the knife had already reached the front of the skeleton, and at this time, the black light on the skeleton had dissipated. The throwing knife fell precisely on the skeleton's arm.

Immediately, the arm that had just been able to block the attacks of two people was now cleanly severed by the strike of the throwing knife, and the arm along with the map fell to the ground.

At that moment, the man stretched out his other hand and made a grasping motion in the air.

Instantly, both the map and the throwing knife flew back toward him, landing in his hands in a blink.

From the back of the cave, Chen Yexian looked at the throwing knife in the man's hand and instantly knew his origin.

"You, you are people from Jinxi Island! You are the Ultimate Blade Protector from Jinxi Island!"

Jinxi Island was also an island in the South Ocean, but it was closer to the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. The lifestyle of the people on Jinxi Island had many similarities to those of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Moreover, people from Jinxi Island usually did not have much contact with them.

But even without contact, they knew that there were two experts with Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection on Jinxi Island, one of whom specialized in the art of the throwing knife, which shot out like a crescent moon.

Ultimate Blade Protector neatly put away the map and the knife, then turned to look at the woman who had just exclaimed, his face breaking into a radiant smile as he said, "Oh? I wonder, which Immortal Sect do my Dao Companions come from?"

While smiling, he secretly communicated to his two companions, "Attack now!"

Previously, he did not know the origins of these people and truly did not want to attack, but now he had obtained a map.

He had been able to confirm that it was a map the moment he got his hands on it, even though the mana on it was extremely weak.

Having obtained a map in this relic, of course, the fewer people who knew about it, the better.

Now, however, eight people had seen him acquire the map, and furthermore, these eight people knew who he was.

If these eight people spread the news about his map after leaving this place, it would certainly cause great trouble!

The best way to prevent them from spreading the news was to ensure these eight people would be silenced forever.

He dared to strike first precisely because these eight people had not made a move.

Their trio had already shown their strength, and since the others had seen them obtain a map, if they were confident they could overcome them, they would have attacked.

Since they had not attacked, it was naturally because they were uncertain of victory.*freewebnovel.com*

Therefore, it was better for their trio to take action first, quickly killing one of them to weaken the others' strength.

He felt that the leader of the opposition ought to be the man in front of him, and naturally, his sneak attack was aimed at him.

"We come from—"

Before Chen Yexian could finish speaking, she saw the Ultimate Blade Protector suddenly move. In his hand, the pair of sabers swung directly at the man who was very close to his side.

Behind Cao Zhen, six Golden Cores with unique phenomena suddenly appeared.

Looking at the six Golden Cores rising from the opposite side, Ultimate Blade Protector displayed a look of surprise on his face. Six unique phenomena Golden Cores? What an odd Golden Core.

However, no matter how strange, it was still only the sixth layer of the Golden Core.

A group led by someone who was merely at the sixth layer of the Golden Core—how strong could they be?

The next moment, his eyes widened in shock.

Behind Cao Zhen, one of the Golden Cores suddenly burst out with a dazzling light, and following that, a ray of light rose in front of him.

Dragon and Tiger Golden Body!

Immediately after, another ray of golden light rose.

Gold Light Spell.

The next moment, two rays of light, one black and one white, rose up.

Record of Deities and Demons!

One after another, rays of light surged up in front of him.

If it were someone else using Protective Divine Power, they would not be able to release so many at the same time. But within his one Golden Core, all the Protective Divine Powers were contained.

Ultimate Blade Protector could not comprehend what was happening. How could someone release so many divine skills in an instant?

In his astonished gaze, the throwing knife he released had already fallen onto the opponent's divine skills, immediately causing dragon and tiger apparitions to emerge on them, which slightly slowed the advancing speed of the throwing knife.

Chapter 790:

The next moment, the dragon and tiger shadows shattered, and the first golden light was broken through.

But after the first golden light was broken, there was still the second layer of protective golden light. When the second layer was penetrated, there was yet a third layer of protective radiance.

At the very end of all the protective lights was a black and white glow.

His flying knife, after consecutively breaking through the previous nine defenses, hit upon the black and white light, its power greatly diminished.

As the black and white light rotated, the flying knife fell to the ground with a light clang.

The Ultimate Blade Protector was completely dumbfounded. He was a being of Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, and even among those he was a formidable presence. He struck with the element of surprise, under the situation of being prepared against the unprepared, yet how could the enemy have potentially blocked his hurried attack!

That was just a Golden Core Sixth Layer, how could that be possible!

He still...

Suddenly, he took notice of the exotic pill floating above the opponent's head, and a name forcefully surfaced in his mind.

"Cao Zhen, you are Cao Zhen from the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty!"

Indeed, their sect from Jinxi Island seldom interacted with the Immortal Sects in the South Ocean, but they were closer to the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty and therefore knew much more about it than the numerous sects in the South Ocean.

He especially knew about the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's Immortal Martial Contest and that the champion was Cao Zhen—a reincarnated individual of great ability who, despite being only at the Sixth Layer of Golden Core, had defeated a host of prodigious masters from the dynasty.

It was said that Cao Zhen possessed a unique exotic pill.

Moreover, he could think of no one else but Cao Zhen who could have withstood his attack at the Golden Core's Sixth Layer.

Cao Zhen!

How did he end up facing Cao Zhen!

In an instant, the Ultimate Blade Protector lost all intention to fight and turned to flee.

Indeed, he was aware of the untold dangers outside, not knowing how many skeletons and wronged souls there were, but inside was even more dangerous. Staying inside would inevitably lead to being killed by Cao Zhen.

Although he was indeed strong among those at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, he knew he was not the most pinnacle of existences.

He could not possibly withstand Cao Zhen, not to mention, were Cao Zhen's disciples there as well?

After all, there were several beautiful female cultivators here.

It was rumored that among Cao Zhen's disciples, there were three beautiful female cultivators!

He could only run, and once out, with his cultivation base, he might quickly find another cave, offering a glimmer of hope for survival.

But he had barely turned around.

All around, the scorching breath surged over with the cry of the Vermilion Bird echoing at the same time.

In the cave, the image of a Vermilion Bird suddenly emerged, its fiercely violent and brutal aura sweeping through, filling the entire cave.

As the cry of the Vermilion Bird rang out, a Sacred Beast Vermilion Bird, formed of flames, appeared.

Even though the Flame Vermilion Bird only appeared in the cave, the crimson flames shone out from the cave, dyeing the world outside red.

Endless flames swept in, igniting the walls around the cave. *freewebnovel.com*

The next moment, his two disciples at his side were enveloped in flames, and under the intense heat, instantly turned into two huge fireballs, their flesh and bones all igniting fiercely.

Almost at the same time, Yan Yourong already slashed down with her sword!

In an instant, a boundless sword energy swept towards him.

As the long sword moved, the continuous sonic booms it produced from friction with the air echoed around, the sound so loud it seemed as if the cave might be completely cleaved in two by the strike!

Chen Yexian, who was in the back, watched this strike, a sense of illusion emerging in her heart that seemed to imply that in this world, there was no one, no divine weapon, no towering mountain that could withstand this blow!

She felt as if this strike could slash through all things in the world, filled with an overbearing will to sweep everything away.

She even saw that after the strike was swung, a crack seemed to appear in the dark night outside the cave.

He even felt that under this strike, the entire world seemed to be cleaved in two.

A sword fell as if the Milky Way in the dark night sky was tumbling down, this was one strike, but also not just a strike, filled with flames that could burn everything, a sharp edge that could cut through all, and the unrestrained flood of a river breaking its banks...

A brilliant blade light, flickering with the power of the Five Elements, slashed across horizontally!

The Ultimate Blade Protector, facing this terrifying strike that seemed to be the one to determine their fate and life or death, was utterly terrified!

This must be Cao Zhen's Second Disciple, he had heard the rumor that Cao Zhen's Second Disciple only knew one strike, an unstoppable one.

However, witnessing this strike, he found it to be far more terrifying than the rumors suggested.

Just after he made his move, his opponent had also acted. Now he simply didn't have enough time to gather all his mana to counter this strike, and he could only hastily raise his twin blades in defense.

In a matter of moments, the strike descended.

Suddenly, an irresistible force, as substantial as mountains and lands, yet swift like a raging torrent, came crashing down, forcing his two long blades apart.

His defenses completely exposed to the strike.

The next moment, the sword strike slammed heavily onto his body.

Under this ferocious strike, the Ultimate Blade Protector's body split in two.