

Nine-Dragon 21

Chapter 21: Mysterious Remnants

The third floor was not very big, barely one hundred square meters. It contained pitifully few cultivation techniques to select from.

The floor contained seven kinds of assault cultivation techniques and 49 kinds of auxiliary cultivation techniques. All in all, just over 10 books, but all top-notch cultivation techniques! Only demon students had the qualifications to cultivate. Just opening a book at random required powerful insight!

For the very few medium-level cultivation techniques, such as Tempest, powerful insight was the core requirement. But for any of the top-notch cultivation techniques, the basic requirement was powerful insight.

No wonder they were only available to the top 10 demon students. If the rest of the students were to try, they would not comprehend.

The sixth article was not a technique suited to Su Yu, who was inevitably disappointed. He read:

Ah, the remnants of the manual of the cultivation technique Purple Star Thunderbolt, a type of fist arts. After cultivation one can condense the currents of thunder and lightning into power within one's fists. Formidable, ferocious, powerful destructive force!

This manual is a remnant with only one stage, cultivation technique ranking unclear! No one can cultivate successfully!

Basic requirement, powerful insight; core requirement, unclear.

Su Yu silently cursed the "unclear" cultivation requirement and thought that was why no one could succeed. However, among the Stage Three cultivation techniques, this was the only suitable manual.

In the spur of the moment, Su Yu made use of space-time manipulation, spending ten dual-hours memorizing.

Su Yu read through the remaining 49 types of auxiliary cultivation techniques one by one. Unfortunately, these were like the Stage Two techniques.

It would seem Cloud Shadow was the training institute's most powerful light-body cultivation technique.

"Ah, how can a silver student enter Stage Three?" a skeptical voice came from the stairs.

Su Yu looked over as he was about to leave. There were two people, one of them a youth clothed in green, with big eyes and thick brows. He stared at Su Yu in consternation. To his side was another youth with a glacial aura around him and an unusual head of silver hair.

The silver-haired youth with cold eyes took a glance at Su Yu, turned around and went downstairs.

"Shao Li, why are you leaving?" asked the first youth as he followed.

With his callous voice, cold to the point of freezing, the silver-haired youth retorted, "It's gross being in the same room with some silver student, breathing in the same air!"

Su Yu mirthlessly laughed, He feels it is gross to breathe the same air as me?

"Ha ha, who's forcing you to breathe? You can stop breathing." Su Yu shrugged.

Without even turning his head, the silver-haired youth coldly spat out, "Scram! You're unfit to even speak to me!"

Su Yu shook his head and laughed, too lazy to be bothered with such a person. He was pondering the three manuals of cultivation techniques he had obtained, fervent in his thoughts.

Using the Cloud Shadow trick, he glided effortlessly like the shadow of a white cloud, and like duckweeds drifting with the waves from the graceful flap of a startled swan. In the blink of an eye, he overtook the two students, and leapt onto the first floor to show the elderly guardian his latest cultivation technique choice.

Tempest? Another difficult cultivation technique. The elderly guardian was astounded, but gave no reminder this time. If this person could comprehend Cloud Shadow, it seemed his insight must be extraordinary.

The youth with thick brows stared at the back of Su Yu with some astonishment, "It's actually Cloud Shadow! Shao Li, it seems like even you haven't succeeded in this cultivation?"

The silver-haired youth's stone-cold face slightly darkened. He snorted, "I am too busy for this cultivation. He's only a silver, to succeed in his cultivation merely cost him lots of time, that's all!"

"Really? From the student number plate on his chest, it seems he's soon to become a gold student," surmised the youth with thick brows.

Su Yu returned to the courtyard, packed up the scarlet bow and dry provisions, and hurried into the mountains.

The curriculum at the training institute was relatively relaxed, without any mandatory rules. The students were allowed great flexibility without needing to request leaves of absence and so on.

After half a day, Su Yu entered the Twilight Mountains once again. Su Yu could not help but smile when he passed by the spot where he battled the fire dragon. He wondered about the young princess whom he'd sucked the poison from and whether he was still wanted by the king.

During the day, Su Yu hurried along without any rest, and fully utilizing the Cloud Shadow trick, leapt through the forest. At night, he meditated and cultivated Tempest, Demonic Eyes, and Purple Star Thunderbolt.

Half a month went by in a flash. Su Yu had followed the directions given to him by Xuan Lefei and went to the cave guarded by a pair of category-one demonic beasts.

Within this half a month of traveling, Su Yu had improved his cultivation techniques greatly with his encounters of all different kinds of wild beasts, some of which caused him to shudder.

The long period of combat and cultivation had reaped enormous rewards for him. The cultivation of Universal Stroke had reached the completion stage, the power in his fists and legs maximized.

With the cultivation completed for Stage Two of the Cloud Shadow, his speed was already comparable to a Level Three Peak student.

Even with the latest medium-level cultivation technique Tempest, with a total of three stages, he had already completed the cultivation of Stage One!

Although it was extremely difficult to comprehend, with space-time manipulation the five whole nights spent on the cultivation was equivalent to 100 nights when multiplied by 20. His power of insight might be weak, but it was still no match for the terrible long period of enlightenment. Thus, there was achievement within a few days.

Now, he could whip a blast of cold wind with just one leg. If the cultivation of Stage Two were to be completed, a cold fog could be raised to hit and freeze the target. And if the cultivation of Stage Three were to be completed, the legs could kick up a powerful tempest.

But he actually made the fastest progress with the Demonic Eyes! This exceeded all of Su Yu's expectations.

Occasionally Su Yu's pair of obsidian irises had a glint of strange black light when he blinked. The only requirement of Demonic Eyes was gifted spiritual power. And it seemed his talent was terrifyingly good.

It was easy for the cultivation technique to backfire. But up to that point, it had not been dangerous. He had triumphantly progressed to Stage Two and completed it!

Demonic Eyes had three stages. One could cause a target to faint with a diabolic piercing stare when Stage One cultivation was completed.

With the completion of Stage Two, a ray of light could be shot to wound the target's spirit, which was what Chen Tiannan, having completed the same stage, tried to do on that day, almost turning Su Yu into an imbecile.

It was said that with the completion of Stage Three, one could thrust a diabolic sword and shatter a target's soul, causing inexplicable death without any visible traces or signs.

Su Yu had just completed Stage Two cultivation, and the result was amazing. Just yesterday, he confronted a mountain tiger, shot a ray of diabolic light, caused it to lose its faculties and turned it feeble and inert.

The only thing that Su Yu regretted was not making any headway with the Purple Star Thunderbolt cultivation technique because of its unclear ranking. No matter how much time had elapsed with Su Yu's manipulation, he was unable to comprehend even a little, which frustrated him.

Indeed, no one can successfully cultivate this technique. Is it because of the missing core requirement? Su Yu was puzzled as to what the core requirement for

Purple Star Thunderbolt was.

With this thought, Su Yu continued to hurry on to his destination, which should have been near, according to the directions.

Roar—

He suddenly heard a mountain-shaking noise, which swayed the mountain, startled the birds and scattered all the wild beasts.

A category-one demonic beast! No, it's more powerful than that. Su Yu looked grave.

Like the fire dragon, a fully-developed category-one demonic beast was equivalent to a Level Three Upper Tier human. But there was another category-one demonic beast, a freak of nature, with strength comparable to that of a Level Three human at its peak.

Then he heard the sounds and growls of humans fighting.

With one tip of his toe, Su Yu glided over within a heartbeat, hid behind a boulder and peeked from a mile away. With his enhanced vision, he could clearly analyze the situation from that distance.

He saw a huge tiger with spikes on its back fighting with three humans. All three were youths but with formidable strength, the weakest one a Level Three Lower Tier and the strongest one actually a Level Three Peak!

Li Minghao! Su Yu narrowed his eyes and immediately discovered that the Level Three Lower Tier person was the gold student Li Minghao!

The unforgettable incident remained fresh in Su Yu's memory. Because he snatched Xu Sen's girlfriend away and played her like a fiddle, he was challenged by Xu Sen.

Even though Xu Sen was powerful, ranked number three among the silver students and a Level Three Lower Tier as well, he still suffered at the hands of Li Minghao.

Without question, the remaining two strangers had to be gold students.

All three of them banded together to surround and attack the huge barbed tiger, with the Level Three Peak gold student taking the lead, assisted by the other two.

Cascading Sword! The Level Three Peak gold student, with a glint in his eyes, held a long sword with a bamboo handle to seize the opportune moment.

The long sword swept through the air in a beautiful arc, cold and graceful, like a dazzling sword of death.

Roar—

The huge barbed tiger was stabbed in the neck, its heart pierced by the long bamboo sword. But the demonic beast's will to live was strong, fighting back even at death's door.

Its enormous tiger claw furiously swatted at the long bamboo sword in its neck and sent it flying.

The Level Three Peak student, slightly pale, snapped, "Fall back! Look for higher ground and hide! Its wounds are fatal, death is only a matter of time. We'll patiently wait. It's needless to take any more risks to attack it." He took the lead to climb up an ancient tree as he spoke.

Li Minghao hurriedly followed and looked for a big tree. The dying demonic beast's counter-blows were terrifying. However, there was only one big tree there which could withstand the strikes of the huge barbed tiger.

All three of them climbed the big tree at the same time. They managed to reach the top when the huge barbed tiger caught up with them. However, before they could heave a sigh of relief, a turn of events made them wince. The tiger went berserk and used the barbs on its back to strike the ancient tree.

Crack—

The sharp barbs penetrated the ancient tree, and it teetered on the verge of collapse. "Oh no! Quickly, evacuate! The old tree is going to fall!" The Level Three Peak student's face was ashen. The tiger definitely intended to kill them.

Unfortunately, it was too late.

Crash—

The big tree suddenly split amid derisive laughter. All three of them were trapped within the branches. They tried to dig their way out and flee in whichever way they could, to no avail. The huge barbed tiger had already pounced on and stared around with its bloodshot eyes. It would bite off one's head with its jaws, should anyone emerge at this time.

The tiger, suddenly aware of someone's breath at its foot, swiped the leaves with its claws to uncover a gold student whose legs were crushed underneath the branches. And a Level Three Upper Tier at that!

At this moment, he was scared to death, looking at the tiger's head so close to its hand when its ferocious mouth opened widely in his face and let out a horrifying screech in its death throes.

Whoosh—

Just then, an iron arrow whistled through the air before it struck.

Chapter 22: Knockout Blow

At a tricky but precise angle, the arrow hit the huge barbed tiger right in its eye! One of its very few weaknesses!

Roar—

The barbed tiger felt the pain immensely. Shot blind in one eye, it used its other eye to seek out its enemies.

From a tree in the distance, a youth clad in white quickly held up a scarlet bow in his hands. At the same time, a second arrow was shot.

The tiger let out a roar, gave up the youth at its paw, and dodged swiftly. It wanted to chase Su Yu, but the latter's bow and arrow kept shooting, completely airtight. Desperate to flee, it growled as it dragged itself away, severely injured. Su Yu put away his scarlet bow, sprang into the woods, and chased it.

Free from the clutches of death, the three gold students were covered in cold sweat. "Quickly, go after it!" The three immediately pursued.

The huge tiger's will to live was very strong. It ran for half a day before it was exhausted and died. Su Yu worked quickly with his hands and stripped the tiger's hide, which was extremely valuable.

Ah, what is this? Su Yu suddenly found, inside the huge barbed tiger's mouth, a tough black nut stuck in its teeth, preventing it from being swallowed or crushed. Su Yu found it difficult to pull it out without help.

"Stop!" A shout came from behind.

The three gold students quickly arrived, saw the meat from the flayed tiger hide, and then looked at Su Yu's hand holding the black nut when their expression changed instantly.

Li Minghao found him familiar-looking, and recalled, Isn't this the newly crowned Silver King, Su Yu? "It's you! The Silver King, Su Yu!"

The other two gold students looked at each other and heaved a sigh of relief that it was a fellow student. They would have to safeguard against a stranger. Su Yu merely glanced at him and focused his gaze on the other two.

"So you're Su Yu, the Silver King. I'm Lu Xuan, this is my younger brother, Lu Xing." Lu Xuan was a Level Three Peak gold student. Su Yu's brows twitched in recognition of Lu Xuan's name. He had heard of him, a gold student ranked in the top three of the most powerful! Fancy meeting him here.

And Lu Xing, though not as famous as his brother, was no small fry. He too was a gold student ranked tenth and powerful.

"Do you have something you would like to say to me?" Su Yu calmly held the black nut close to himself.

Seeing this, Lu Xuan raised his brows, but kept silent when he saw how Lu Xing was safe and sound. If Su Yu had not lent a hand in time, his brother would have lost his life to the tiger. Reluctantly obliged to his savior, Lu Xing's lips quivered, finding it difficult to ask for the black nut as he could not bear to be known as ungrateful.

Li Minghao, who had no such qualms about it, smiled coldly. "We were combining our forces to kill the demonic beast when you barged in the middle of it to take advantage. And you're not afraid of bursting at the seams by grabbing all the spoils for yourself!"

"What do you want?" Su Yu was unperturbed even though he once looked up to Li Minghao. Not anymore, now that things were different. Li Minghao curled his lips. "What? Let go of the tiger skin and leave the black nut! Since you helped, the tiger meat is yours to take!"

"What if I said no?" Su Yu hated people like Li Minghao who abused their power and did whatever they wanted. Like Qin Feng, he bullied and humiliated others' wives, daughters and their families.

Li Minghao sneered, "Now that you are the Silver King, you're becoming full of yourself, aren't you? Such insolence in front of a gold student!"

"I'm going to count to three. If not, do not blame me, a gold student, for bullying a silver student like you!" Li Minghao extended three of his fingers to show what he meant. Smiling coldly, Li Minghao put down a finger.

Swoosh—

This time, Su Yu moved and rapidly sprang forward five meters! He got within attacking distance of Li Minghao in two steps!

Dumbstruck, Li Minghao's smile froze as he hastily tried to fend off the blows! Universal Stroke! The punches and kicks came fast and furious, one after another without a break. The attack seemed endless, but because of the rapid battering, 64 blows were dealt with just two breaths.

Ahh!—

Li Minghao, unable to resist any longer, took a kick in the chest that hurt him internally and spurted blood from his mouth as he hurled backwards. Su Yu lightly landed, looked indifferently upon his appalled face and said coolly, "I did not want to attack you, but you thought too highly of yourself."

As he said it, Su Yu helped bend the last finger to complete the three counts, "Three! You lost." With just three breaths, he instantly defeated a gold student in the top 30 ranking!

The Lu brothers were shocked. The newly-crowned Silver King was more powerful than Chen Tiannan, the predecessor who lost to Li Minghao in one move. Su Yu just won with one knockout blow.

Lu Xing refused to accept it and coldly chided, "Su Yu! You shouldn't be so arrogant even if you have saved my life. Robbed us of our trophies and injured one of us!"

"Since you're so confident, how about a duel?" Lu Xing said stonily as he stepped forward. His powerful energy had given him the absolute advantage to suppress Su Yu.

Su Yu brushed the dust off his robe and smirked, "If I had known earlier, I should have waited for you to be eaten before doing anything. It really doesn't pay to be nice in this world."

"Come back here, you idiot!" Lu Xuan seethed as he pulled Lu Xing back. Feeling disgruntled, the younger brother struggled, "He is being such an intolerable bully!"

"Shut your mouth!" Lu Xuan angrily rebuked and managed to shut up a resentful Lu Xing, while his occasional glances at Su Yu were not friendly.

Lu Xuan cupped his fists and apologized, "I hope Brother Su can forgive my younger brother, who's still inexperienced." Even though they were both peers, he had used an honorific "Brother Su," thus showing the respect gained by Su Yu's strength and power.

Su Yu nodded. "Eh, if there's nothing else, I, Su, will take leave of you."

"Wait! Did Brother Su journey here in search of the place guarded by the demonic beasts?" Lu Xuan's eyes flashed with the thought that it was too much of a coincidence to run into each other here.

Su Yu had in fact guessed their destination was the same cave with the spirit treasure, as Xuan Lefei had told him. Without any need to hide, Su Yu thought for a little while and confirmed, "Yes."

Lu Xuan smiled. "What does Brother Su think about traveling with us? We can look after each other. There are bound to be many dangers in that heavily guarded place."

Su Yu peeked at Li Minghao, shook his head and refused. He was reluctant to travel with Li Minghao, whom might stab him in the back, given his grudge.

Li Minghao clenched his teeth, already bracing himself for the outrage, and angrily turned to leave. "Brother Lu, I apologize. I, Li, now say goodbye to you!" It was obvious that Lu Xuan was keen for Su Yu to stay but it was inappropriate to drive Li Minghao away due to his honor. It was beneath Li Minghao's dignity to accept such charity.

Lu Xuan pretended to urge him to stay for a little while and finally sighed in resignation. Only then Su Yu joined the pair of brothers. The three of them rested by the lake after they had divvied up the last valuable bit of the huge tiger. Based on what the brothers had revealed, Su Yu now knew the black nut was the crucial reason they had tried to kill the tiger. It was a Dark Spirit Fruit, which was

grown in harsh conditions and contained immense power-enhancing properties with endless benefits.

That night, Su Yu pried open the Dark Spirit Fruit and found its white crystalline pulp with its intoxicating aroma permeating the surroundings. Just one whiff was enough to loosen up one's body, stirring the blood and energy for action. Once swallowed, an icy sensation slowly spread, and a comfortable energy seeped into all the limbs and bones, transforming his body.

The transformation and cultivation reached a tipping point. With a powerful energetic breakthrough, he naturally advanced to become a Level Three Upper Tier!

Lu Xuan saw and inwardly nodded. I heard that this Silver King was just a mediocre Level One a month ago. Now he's a powerful Level Three Upper Tier with his cultivation level comparable to the top 20 gold students.

Feeling envious, Lu Xing scornfully said, "So what if I don't have the same advantageous cultivation boost during my cultivation? I can still beat him with one move!"

"Forget about it, you're no match for him." Lu Xuan subtly shook his head, his eyes flashed.

"Pff! How's that possible? Even though he completed his cultivation of the Universal Stroke, my medium-level cultivation technique had been cultivated to the third layer completely. He won't be able to withstand even one maneuver if we met force with force." Lu Xing scoffed.

Lu Xuan thought and said, "I don't know either, it's just a hunch, he must be hiding more powerful strength."

At daybreak, Su Yu opened his eyes, which shone a flash of brilliant light, and potent energy radiated from him. He was very satisfied with the powerful breakthrough, but he knew that was not enough! Qin Feng was still a strong gold student ranked second with his cultivation at Level Four Lower Tier. Su Yu had a long way to go.

The group hurried on with their journey after a little rest.

Some days later, right before the valley.

"It is said that a pair of fiery lions guards the cave's entrance," Lu Xuan murmured, wary and cautious. The fiery lion, a category-one demonic beast, emitted strong blazing flames at burning temperature from its body, an extremely tricky task.

"According to our original plan, we were going to strangle the demonic beasts together. With Brother Su joining us, it should be much easier." Lu Xuan stared into the dark abyss of the valley.

Su Yu's crystalline pupils flashed, and his expression slightly changed, "Run quickly!" With these words, he retreated first.

Lu Xuan showed little hesitation and immediately bolted. Staring at the dark valley, Lu Xing did not see anything and only grudgingly followed, after some hesitation.

"What's going on? Spit it out!" Lu Xing could barely keep up with the two.

His heart beating wildly, Su Yu did not say a word. He had seen a horrible scene with his crystalline pupils, which could see in the dark. About a mile away, inside the dark valley, a youth wearing green killed someone with a snap of his fingers!

The victim's strength was comparable to a Level Three Peak like Lu Xuan, and yet was annihilated by a snap of the fingers! After having easily killed a person, the youth in green stood perfectly straight in the pool of blood, sensed something, turned his head and directed his sharp gaze directly at Su Yu and the others!

The youth smirked! They were exposed!

This person's strength was terrifying beyond imagination! He had only ever felt this soul-shattering terror from Housemaster Ye, a Level Six in the Martial Path.

Feeling ignored, Lu Xing was incensed. He charged forward with a whoosh and blocked Su Yu's path. "Hey Su! I've put up with you for long enough! You think you can ignore others now that you are the Silver King!" Lu Xing shouted with reprehension.

Su Yu was holding in his anxiety. That green-clad youth had already discovered them, and Lu Xing, unable to differentiate the good intentions, chose this moment to pick a fight. "If you want to die, I won't keep you! Step aside!" Su Yu scolded with no time to explain.

Lu Xing angrily laughed, "You run at the first sign of trouble, and still pretend to be mysterious? Let me use my fists to pry open your mouth!"

"No!" Lu Xuan barked, but it was too late.

"Tail Star Formation!" Lu Xing's two fingers combined as if they were a sword and swiftly arched forward in a streak of light like the tail of a shooting star.

Boom—

The air cracked and burst with that one powerful shot.

"Get lost!" Su Yu boiled on the inside. Having no time to tangle with him, Su Yu immediately counterattacked!

Tempest!

Su Yu's right leg swayed back and forth like falling leaves in a storm, one foot after another, movement after movement like the waves surging in the vast ocean. Gusts of icy wind whirled around his legs, as if it were winter in the northern mountains.

Crack—

Lu Xing's finger fractured, and the bones crushed. He was flung back five meters, crashed into a big tree and blood sprayed from his mouth. Lu Xing was aghast, staring at Su Yu in disbelief. He was seriously injured with just one maneuver!

He had imagined that Su Yu, an unworthy and inferior silver student, would not be able to withstand a single blow. But in fact, it was him, defeated with a single blow, who was no match for Su Yu.

Lu Xuan's eyes suddenly narrowed as he quickly examined Lu Xing's injury, his eyes slightly clouded over and flickering. Then he lightly took a breath, cupped his fists and said, "Brother Su, thank you for being lenient!"

What? Lu Xing was thrashed by the cold air, and Su Yu was being lenient?

A deep sense of awe and respect began to rise within him.

Chapter 23: A Great Opportunity

Su Yu shot a cold glance at Lu Xing, then gravely turned to face the entrance of the pitch black valley. An indistinct looming figure in green gradually emerged from the dark, causing his pupils to contract.

"Run, quickly! He's coming!" Su Yu's expression greatly changed. He spurred onwards with Cloud Shadow, duckweeds drifting with the waves, and disappeared into the woods.

Faced with a Level Six of the Martial Path, he might have even lost the chance to escape. Lu Xuan looked back with contracted pupils! That youth in green, covered in blood, could be smelled a mile away. With his cultivation level, Lu Xuan could not detect clearly, causing a feeling of dread!

"Run!" Lu Xuan, heart pounding and alarmed by the impending doom, carried Lu Xing and quickly took flight. But, he was wise enough not to flee in the same direction as Su Yu.

The youth in green wore a cruel and evil grin on his face, both his hands sticky with fresh blood. His sinister gaze alternated between Su Yu's and Lu Xuan's backs.

"That was a perceptive junior, able to detect me in advance, concealed in the darkness." The youth in green stood still, did not pursue, and instead left the valley in a flash. "The goal has been achieved. Those three bastards should count their lucky stars! It's not advisable to stay here any longer, I must quickly retreat and report back to the First Prince."

Su Yu fled for ages and never saw the youth catch up. He felt a little relieved and ducked into the dense forest. Once he found safety, Su Yu started thinking.

In fact, before he entered the Twilight Mountains, he had his suspicions. If anyone had really discovered the cave abode guarded by the demonic beasts, why would the person not secretly search for the treasures himself? Why had he spread the knowledge to the entire world?

Even an average student like Xuan Lefei could obtain a treasure map. At that moment, it seemed like the news had been spread on purpose to lure others into the valley and be slain by the youth in green. But, what was his motive?

After quietly waiting for half a day, it looked like the youth in green did not follow them. Su Yu pondered, "Since he has not come after me, he is very likely to have left the valley."

The youth in green had been exposed. If he wanted to continue to hide in the valley to lure and kill, he should have killed Su Yu and the others to silence them. Now, since there was no pursuit, it meant that the youth had given up the valley as a hiding place. Pupils flashing, Su Yu thought and thought, turned and darted back.

Half a day later, outside the valley, there were whiffs of blood in the wind. Revolving his crystalline pupils around, the youth in green was nowhere to be found. Only the ice-cold corpse was left. With a gentle tap of his toes, Su Yu cautiously approached the side of the corpse.

"Fourth-ranked gold student, Ceng Bier!" Su Yu gasped as his pupils contracted!

Ceng Bier was on good terms with Qin Feng, and was said to be his former girlfriend. She was instrumental in Qin Feng's courtship with Jiang Xueqing. As a female student, Ceng Bier had freedom of access to the female dormitory and was admired and esteemed by others due to her

strong cultivation base. It was said that she had a lot of connections among the female students and knew a lot insider information about them.

In the eyes of the former Su Yu, she was a mighty Level Three Peak that he would look up to. However, at this moment, having met with such a violent death in this spot, pierced in the middle of her eyebrows by a powerful force, her face was a petrified mask of terror at death's door.

When Su Yu crouched down to inspect the body. The youth in green was not after any valuables as he did not take away the precious items found on Ceng Bier. Su Yu was unceremonious and started to fish things out from her inside pockets.

"A top-grade spirit elixir?" Su Yu was slightly taken aback that this did not catch the eye of the youth in green, which showed his peculiar origins. The thought of a top-grade spirit elixir quickened Su Yu's pulse as he put it in his inside pocket. In addition, there were also three silver banknotes worth 1,000 taels each, enough to buy another top-grade spirit elixir.

When he was done, Su Yu prepared to leave. Suddenly, there came faint wisps of a rotten odor that stung his nose. Su Yu revolved his crystalline pupils to look deeper into the valley and he discovered two enormous reeking lions, collapsed in front of a cave abode.

Could it be that the treasure map was real? Not a fabrication? That youth in green, to ensure that someone would be lured, really chose a place guarded by demonic beasts. Su Yu glided over in a heartbeat.

Though the fiery lions were decomposed, their teeth were worth a fortune. Su Yu took four in total. The fangs held fiery combustible energy within them. Once thrown, they would ignite when they hit their target, causing an explosion which could instantly injure with its flames.

The power was similar to the silver pellet that the Young Princess of Xianyu used. He could keep them for his own use or sell them when he returned. Just four of them would be worth at least 2,000 silver taels.

Once properly packed away, Su Yu used his pupils to inspect the cave, which was deathly still and had no sign of life. The cave was not vast, only 100 meters deep. The rock walls radiated faint heat from the blazing flames of the fiery lions.

Deciding to give it a try, he walked to the end of the cave and found it was empty. Su Yu could not help but be disappointed, it seemed like the cave was merely a lair for the fiery lions, and they weren't guarding anything. Thinking about it, even if there was genuine treasure, it would already have been taken by that terrifying youth in green.

Thump, thump—

Suddenly, Su Yu felt the earth under his feet lightly tremble. Staring at the ground, he saw that there was a crimson hairline crack. It would have been extremely difficult to discover the crack were it not for Su Yu's excellent night vision.

As he carefully dug at the ground, red-hot crimson liquid began to ooze out, and like a spring, gushed to the surface, with the small pit overflowing in the blink of an eye.

"Jade Fire Marrow?" Su Yu was astounded! He had heard the name of this object more than a couple of times. Rumor had it that the Jade Fire Marrow came from the depths of the earth and had

the ability to transform the energy of the body with a strong reaction, far superior to the spirit elixir! Furthermore, the Jade Fire Marrow could also revitalize the body!

Different physiques had varying strengths, strong and weak. With a similar cultivation base, a strong physique could become more powerful and ferocious between strikes during long duration of combat. Often, those with stronger physiques had the ability to crush their opponents of the same level.

A drop of Jade Fire Marrow was worth at least 100 silver taels in the market. Moreover, there was no market price! It had not been seen in the world for 100 years. Even the Royal Family had none in their collection. And the Jade Fire Marrow before his eyes was more than a drop, it was a pit full!

Su Yu was too excited for words.

This precious liquid had the ability to increase the energy of a mighty Level Six of the Martial Path. How that youth in green would feel if he knew he had overlooked this spot with its immense amount of hidden treasure! What left Su Yu slightly dumbfounded was that he did not have that many jade bottles or pouches with him.

Just cultivate on the spot and bring back the excess! Su Yu made up his mind and dug the pit a little deeper, just enough for him to soak in it.

Hiss—

With his body immersed in the Jade Fire Marrow, Su Yu immediately felt like he was thrown into a deep fryer! The scorching pain shocked his nerves and instinctively made him want to jump out. But his strong determination forced him to press on.

Gritting his teeth, large beads of sweat dripped profusely from his forehead. His body was red hot from being scalded.

Bear with it! The reason why my body feels so much pain is because it is still relatively weak. My body never had any revitalization foundation, so as long as I grit my teeth to get through this, my body will be completely transformed!

One minute gone!

Ten minutes slipped away!

Half an hour went by!

One hour elapsed!

Su Yu, with his tenacity, persevered. Finally, three hours later, his body was transformed, and having gradually acclimated, not so painful anymore. After 10 hours, he no longer had any discomfort from head to toe.

Of all the Jade Fire Marrow in the pit, there was now only a fist-size amount of it left.

As Su Yu slowly opened his eyes, a powerful force of energy surged within his body. "Wow! The Jade Fire Marrow is truly potent!" Su Yu discovered to his amazement. His cultivation base unexpectedly reached Level Three Peak, only one step away from breakthrough to Level Four!

When ingested, the Jade Fire Marrow could increase one's cultivation base. Just merely immersing himself in it, his cultivation base had unexpectedly advanced to Level Three Peak! Its effect was

remarkable! The small remaining amount of Jade Fire Marrow could be consumed when he returned and with its potent properties, Su Yu's cultivation base could take another leap.

At that moment, Su Yu body and appearance were still weedy. He looked as if a single blow would cause his bones to crack and rattle. Using the same Universal Stroke cultivation technique, a punch and a kick were more than twice as powerful as before.

Su Yu was unable to estimate the power of his own strength. Before this, he had easily defeated Lu Xing, a Level Three Upper Tier. It should be a cinch to beat his elder brother Lu Xuan.

"Qin Feng! Our gap has further narrowed! Hope you don't get too surprised when the moment comes!" Su Yu clenched his fists, his eyes shone with strong self-confidence.

Looking at the remaining precious amount of Jade Fire Marrow, Su Yu promptly went outside to catch a python, flayed the snakeskin, stripped it clean, and used it as a vessel to contain the last remainder bit of Jade Fire Marrow.

After the last drop of Jade Fire Marrow was collected, Su Yu calculated the time and said to himself, "I've already been out for half a month, will need at least another 10 to 15 days to hurry back on the road. It's time to return to the training institute, the Gold Assessment will soon begin!"

Oh! Just as Su Yu finished collecting the last drop of Jade Fire Marrow, he suddenly saw dazzling rays of multi-colored brilliance from inside the crevice where the Jade Fire Marrow gushed from. Su Yu continued to excavate along the crack.

After having dug half a meter...

Bang—

A natural underground tunnel suddenly appeared as the ground caved in. There were traces of odor from the Jade Fire Marrow in the tunnel, which stretched towards the deep underground.

Su Yu, with a sense of wonder, stepped into it and suddenly felt a twinge of pain. It turned out to be the steam from the Jade Fire Marrow in the tunnel, radiating heat. Fortunately, Su Yu's body had been initiated, no longer afraid of the scorching Jade Fire Marrow, otherwise, he might not have had the opportunity to go down the tunnel.

After walking for a full hour, Su Yu felt that it was getting more and more difficult to breathe, as if he had already entered several thousand meters deep into the underground.

The multi-colored brilliance appeared once again at the end of the tunnel. Su Yu immediately rushed over. At the end of the tunnel, which was sealed with clay, there was only one crack through which the outside was revealed. The multi-colored brilliance came from outside.

Su Yu's curiosity was piqued. He gazed out and found a spacious ancient hall, dilapidated and run-down, deeply buried in the depths of the earth.

Chapter 24: Mystical Relic

Suddenly came the voice of a man, "Get some rest, Senior Sister."

Su Yu looked and his expression slightly changed! A man with features so handsome that even made women jealous, used both hands to offer a water bag with a concerned look. In front of him

was a lady as beautiful as a celestial beauty, eyes sparkling like the reflection of the autumn moon on a lake, clear and serene, with an air of placidity, risen above it all.

This person was the same celestial beauty who gifted the scarlet bow to Su Yu! At that moment, the celestial beauty faced a multicolored wall, both eyes concentrated on it with rapt attention. She appeared to make out something from the wall. Exhausted, the celestial beauty turned her gaze away after strenuously fixating on it for quite a while.

"Thank you." She took the water bag calmly, her red lips slightly parted, and took a small sip.

The handsome-as-the-devil youth was the Gold King, Fang Qingzhou. He'd met up with the celestial beauty, once again arriving at this historical site to gain insight from an ancient remnant of the mural.

"Any result, Senior Sister?" inquired Fang Qingzhou.

The celestial beauty put down the water bag, tiredly rubbed the space between her eyebrows, and slightly shook her head, "No! Indeed, it is a relic from 1,000 years ago. Just a mere remnant of the mural is difficult to gain insight from."

Fang Qingzhou deplored, "The mural is flickering too fast. It's hard for us to capture the specific contents of it, so it's difficult to gain insight."

The celestial beauty said a little helplessly, "The full moon will pass soon and the mural will once again fall into silence. We still have nothing to show as before, so perhaps this is fate. This place does not belong to us."

With a strange look concealed in his eyes, Fang Qingzhou quietly said, "Hm, Senior Sister, rest for a little while, we'll wait to leave."

The celestial beauty nodded her head and closed her eyes to meditate. The long period of staring at the mural had mentally drained her. Su Yu, who had secretly observed this scene, did not know why his chest felt a little tight. In his heart, the celestial beauty was a fairy risen above it all. Now it looked like she and this youth seemed to have a close relationship, to the extent that these two people shared secrets.

The tightness in his chest eased as he took a light breath. His commitment to the Martial Path was unwavering, women were just mere passing fancy along one's life journey. His heart was with the Martial Path!

From the conversation between these two people, it seemed that this multicolored mural contained something very mysterious. Su Yu attempted to look over. Immediately there was the sound of a boom and a faint prickling in his head.

"Ah! The mural jumps around too quickly, just looking at it for a moment makes my mind uncomfortable." Su Yu rubbed his temples and took a few deep breaths. But, Su Yu did not give up.

Perhaps it would have been hopeless for ordinary people, but Su Yu could manipulate space-time! Revolving his crystalline pupils slowed down the surrounding space-time by tenfold! The brilliant multicolored mural immediately slowed down a lot!

Su Yu looked intently and found that it was actually made up of two murals, constantly alternating, overwhelming his eyes. He could more or less see the mural clearly, but it was still fast and indistinct.

Once again revolving his crystalline pupils, the surrounding space-time became 20 times slower! Right away, Su Yu could very clearly the two murals become as slow as snails.

In the first tableau, an old man dressed in green stood on top of the cliff, with an air of otherworldliness, like a celestial immortal. From him, Su Yu experienced an unusual sensation never felt before. Even though the old man was in the mural, he seemed to blend in with the scenery, naturally harmonizing to become a part of nature. Then, the old man faced upwards, with a look of indignation, and his finger drew an arc in the air.

That arc, simple and smooth, was obviously effortlessly, but it seemed to contain infinite rhythm, in sync with heaven and earth. Su Yu's mind was blown, that one-finger point was infinite and mysterious, yet it was so simple and natural. In an instant, Su Yu felt like he'd grasped something. He subconsciously extended his finger, imitated the same move as the old man, gracefully drew an arc in the air.

Ah—

It seemed like there was an indescribable mystery that caused the surrounding air to slightly tremble with Su Yu's simple one-finger point. Although it was a pale imitation, only one ten thousandth of the old man's one-finger point, it was more than the average person's one-finger point, with an additional flow of rhythm.

Su Yu's eyes slowly regained clarity, his mind still very much immersed in the profound one-finger point. He felt as if he had touched a mysterious doorway.

Whoosh—

The image switched and the second mural appeared.

Amid the billowing dark clouds in the sky above the old man, a vortex materialized and a gigantic palm, the terrifying size of one hundred Zhang, suddenly swatted down from the dark clouds!

With one swat, came the earthquakes, landslides and roaring tsunamis, and the whole world crumbled.

When the gigantic palm dissipated, the 10,000 Ren high cliff no longer existed. The body of the old man, with the air of otherworldliness, was also gone! Only a one hundred Zhang-sized palm print was left on the ground!

Su Yu's face reddened. He suddenly opened his mouth and spit out a mouthful of blood. There was a look of horror in his eyes! That palm, too terrifying! Unimaginably frightening!

With just one look, Su Yu already could not restrain his body's inner strength from overheating. If he had not gone through the Jade Fire Marrow revitalization, the overheating inner strength could have exploded his flesh and body!

Must not look again!

Su Yu immediately revoked his crystalline pupils; the shock to his eyes took a long time to dissipate.

"What happened to you, Senior Sister?" Fang Qingzhou suddenly uttered, but his voice sounded somewhat peculiar.

The celestial beauty slightly creased her perfectly arched eyebrows, unconsciously pulled back her collar a little. Somehow, she felt her body begin to feel feverish.

"Senior Sister, you are feeling warm, aren't you?" an evil laughter came from Fang Qingzhou as he slowly walked forward, the evil thoughts in his eyes no longer concealed.

What? The celestial beauty's mind raced. With a flash of understanding, she looked at her water bag and said with a stern but beautiful expression, "You... you did something to my water..."

Splat—

The water bag in her hand dropped to the ground.

Fang Qingzhou, slowly nodded and chuckled darkly, "Haha, not bad, it's the imperial capital's most famous 1,000 year love potion. You can be virtuous and chaste, but you will still fall hopelessly in love with me after taking it."

A trace of panic flashed in eyes of the celestial beauty who spoke crisply, "Fang Qingzhou! How dare you do such a despicable thing? If you dare touch me, my father will never let you get away with this."

"Haha!" Fang Qingzhou looked at the celestial beauty's snow-white skin, gradually flushed, her eyes blazing. He was almost too excited to speak. "Your father? So what? I'm not afraid to tell you, my father has returned from The Sanctuary, he's already at the martial arts training institute!"

"What can your father dare do to me? Does he dare try to even touch me?" Fang Qingzhou laughed maniacally.

The celestial beauty's heart skipped a beat, her face betrayed a look of alarm. The Sanctuary! Those two words were enough to make the world's heroes and warlords fall to their knees, enough to make anyone revere! The master of The Sanctuary was the legendary Holy King! Everyone in The Sanctuary had association with the Holy King.

To put it bluntly, there was a saying that the empire must treat anyone who came from The Sanctuary with courtesy, even if they were a dog. Besides, Fang Qingzhou's father had special status in The Sanctuary! One word from him, one countenance or order was enough to change the fate of the martial arts training institute in the Xianyu Prefecture! Her father was not even worth a mention compared to his father.

Gradually feeling the strangeness in her body and her mind becoming sluggish, the celestial beauty's eyes held thoughts of outrage and anguish. Her eyes revealed a trace of her murderous intent! Killing him would get rid of the crisis!

Fang Qingzhou held his hands while he stood and sneered, "With your Level Five strength, killing me is easy, but do you dare to?"

"My father has known for a while that you and I had entered the forest together. When I die and you live to return! Haha, believe it or not, my father will kill every single living thing in your family in his rage!"

Given his father's formidable position, the celestial beauty's body gave a shudder at what his father would indeed do. The celestial beauty felt both outrage and anguish.

Fang Qingzhou soon saw the celestial beauty gradually weakening. He strode forward, "Haha! Xia Jingyu, as long as you are willing to promise me, son of a nobleman, you'll stand to benefit!"

"Not only I can guarantee great wealth and glory for your whole family, I can easily bring you to The Sanctuary. I can do all that as long as you obediently become my concubine, what do you say?"

The celestial beauty's eye flashed with her resolve of refusal. "I would rather die first than yield." The celestial beauty drew out a graceful sword and held it to her neck!

Fang Qingzhou's expression changed, threatened, "If you try to commit suicide, I'll immediately let my father destroy your entire family."

Can't even die? The celestial beauty was saddened.

"Unless you promise me, or else your family will never have peace! Xia Jingyu, you'd better think clearly about this!" Fang Qingzhou sneered repeatedly. He was determined to have Xia Jingyu. She placed great importance on her family and valued them immensely, which would compel her to submit.

He'd wanted Xia Jingyu for far too long. Since his arrival at the martial arts training institute in the Xianyu Prefecture, from the first moment he laid his eyes on Xia Jingyu, he began to long for her ethereal face. Unfortunately, he could not be too arrogant while his father was in seclusion at The Sanctuary.

Having waited a full year for his father to arrive at the training institute, he was no longer able to suppress his evil desires. He had to have Xia Jingyu!

The celestial beauty's resolve of refusal increased, her voice mournful but absolute, "Even in death, you will not sully my innocence! My father, even if I were to commit an offense towards The Sanctuary because of my own suicide, would still be proud of me, proud of a daughter like me!"

The celestial beauty's last choice was to use death to prove her innocence.

"Damn it! Stop!" Fang Qingzhou miscalculated by a step, and felt great remorse.

The celestial beauty was upright and outspoken, beyond his expectations. She sadly smiled, "Fang Qingzhou! What goes around comes around, it's the natural order of things. I may not get my appropriate retribution, but you will eventually get your due punishment!"

With these words, she was ready to slit her throat and take her own life. The celestial beauty was going to kill herself right in front of his eyes!

All of a sudden, the wall exploded and cracked. Two iron arrows, quick as lightning, were shot towards the two people. One of the arrows was directed at Fang Qingzhou's eye. The other arrow was aimed at the sword in the celestial beauty's hand.

Fang Qingzhou dodged the sudden attack in a flurry. Limp and weak because the drug had taken effect, the celestial beauty was too powerless to resist and the sword fell from her hand.

Whoosh—

A masked white shadow suddenly bolted from the cave, took hold of the celestial beauty's waist, and flew back into the cave.

Fang Qingzhou angrily reacted, "Put her down!"

The terrible force of the inner strength and power of a Level Four Upper Tier of the Martial Path came sweeping through. Su Yu's body tensed. He found it hard to breathe and felt the deadly force of a palm at his back. At that critical moment, Su Yu abruptly turned around and threw a hard punch.

Chapter 25: Debt of Kindness Repaid

Bam—

A fist and palm hit each other and a loud bang rang out, reverberating in the vast emptiness of the underground hidden chamber. Su Yu was repelled five or six meters back, a sour-sweet smell came up from his throat, his internal organs were jolted repeatedly. With the strength of this palm, he quickly tightened his embrace of the celestial beauty and leapt into the cave.

Fang Qingzhou was aghast! Though he'd repelled Su Yu, he had also been driven back three meters by Su Yu's punch. A dulled pain came from his palm. What a terrifying body!

The other person clearly was only a Level Three Peak but reached the strength of a Level Four Lower Tier with his physical body. Seeing how the other person was going to take his woman, Fang Qingzhou was enraged. With his Level Four Upper Tier's astonishingly fast speed, he rushed through the hold in a blink of an eye.

Just then, three of scarlet teeth attacked at the same time. Three bangs of explosions, with violent flames, engulfed Fang Qingzhou.

Fang Qingzhou yelled in pain and rolled three times before the flames were extinguished from his whole body. Not only were his clothes destroyed, his hair and eyebrows are almost completely singed. Several parts of his face were also badly burned. A handsome face that even women were jealous of now looked monstrous, extremely sorry and miserable.

"Argh! I'll kill you!" Fang Qingzhou snarled as he charged into the tunnel, the acute pain inciting his viciousness.

Taking advantage of the attack just now, Su Yu had already fled deep into the tunnel. He heard the faint snarl of Fang Qingzhou from behind. Su Yu's thoughts were grave, a Level Four Upper Tier's strength was truly extraordinary. It was hard to escape even with Cloud Shadow.

But, this tunnel was special, it contained the Jade Fire Marrow vapor, which had the powerful ability to scald the skin. Fang Qingzhou might not be able to catch up to him. Suddenly, the unconscious celestial beauty made a sound. Su Yu looked down, she was short of breath, her brow slightly creased, and her skin was slightly mottled with light redness. Too careless!

They'd entered a section in tunnel whereby the Jade Fire Marrow vapor was relatively thick. The celestial beauty, never having experienced the revitalization of the body, was naturally unable to bear it.

After some thought, Su Yu laid her on the ground and took out a sheet of snakeskin from his pocket. This was the fire dragon's skin; not only was it exceptionally hard, it also had anti-inflammatory properties.

This snake skin was obtained from that black market trader after the haggling over prices. After Su Yu's return from the black market, he had stitched it together, though relatively crudely. It could at least be considered a set of armor.

He quickly put them on the celestial beauty. The bottom half was like a pair of trousers, easy to wear. The upper half was cut as a jacket, even stitched with buttons. The entire form was completely modern apparel.

While dressing her, Su Yu's expression was clear, with a complete lack of distractions. He reflected that he might not be an upright gentleman, but he also did not want to be a vile person who took advantage of others.

The celestial beauty had bestowed him the gift of the scarlet bow. She was someone he respected, no matter what. He should not do anything despicable, and even if it were only in thought, he ought to be ashamed. He silently chided himself. Su Yu quickly dressed her in the snakeskin armor, picked her up and swiftly went upwards.

As expected, the celestial beauty's pained expression gradually eased, and she was finally calm.

Fang Qingzhou could be heard screaming repeatedly behind them, suffering under the invasion of the Jade Fire Marrow vapor. Unable to keep up, Su Yu gradually pulled away even further.

One hour later, Su Yu made his way out from the tunnel. Immediately he found a few big rocks from the surrounding area and threw them into the tunnel to seal the opening.

Stuck in the narrow tunnel, Fang Qingzhou could not fully use his hands and feet. It was no small feat to break apart so many rocks. So, Su Yu carried the celestial beauty and leaped through the forest.

Half a day later, he found a hidden cave, laid her down, and then moved a few boulders to seal the opening, lest she be found and attacked by wild beasts while she was unconscious. After which, Su Yu quickly left to return to the training institute.

At the same moment, at the cave abode in the valley...

With the last rock bashed out, Fang Qingzhou finally emerged. His head and face were covered in dust and dirt, and his whole body showed signs of being scalded. His handsome face was thoroughly disfigured!

Searching around, Fang Qingzhou realized that he had lost them, and howled like a wild beast, "Bastard! Better not let me find out who you are. Or I'll tear you into pieces!"

Finally, the night came. The celestial beauty slowly awakened and touched her slightly sore head with a dazed look on her face. Slowly, she gradually recalled what happened and immediately checked her body. Fortunately, there was no sign of being violated, her chastity still intact.

Hm, snakeskin armor...

The celestial beauty tried to recall what had happened. Before she lost consciousness, she only remembered a masked white shadow suddenly emerging from the stone wall. Shooting two arrows,

it seized her, and used some kind of explosive to beat back Fang Qingzhou. Then he knocked her unconscious.

"He saved me!" The celestial beauty analyzed this development start to finish. Her slender hands gripped tightly at the armor that she was wearing, her heart filled with unspoken gratitude. If he had not appeared in time, her only option would have been to cut her own throat to protect her innocence! Not to mention what unspeakable things Fang Qingzhou could do to her corpse after her death.

"Who is he?" To be able to deal Fang Qingzhou a hard blow, his strength must be very powerful. A ripple stirred the celestial beauty's calm heart. She urgently wanted to find her rescuer, to offer her thanks in person. Though the other person might not care, she wanted to convey her gratitude directly to him.

All of a sudden, the celestial beauty thought of someone. Although the other person was masked, those eyes were familiar, as deep as the galaxy, calm and resolute. But this man's strength... She knew of the Silver King, Su Yu, but it could not be him.

"Who are you, exactly?" the celestial beauty's beautiful eyes glittered.

Hidden somewhere 10 miles away, Su Yu found a safe spot to restore his strength. After breathing lightly for a while, he patted the scarlet bow on his back and felt lighter his heart.

"Celestial Beauty, on that day when I received your gift of the bow, I said I would repay you one day. Now that I had saved you today, consider my debt of kindness to you repaid." Su Yu smiled a little, closed his eyes again and continued to cultivate.

After 10 days, at the edge of the Twilight Mountains...

There was a glint of satisfaction in Su Yu's eyes. 10 days and nights of cultivation. It took other people 20 nights of cultivation to gain the insight that Su Yu could in one. So, for these 10 nights, he had actually been cultivating for 200 full nights!

Cloud Shadow, the light-body cultivation technique based mainly on comprehension, had already been cultivated to Stage Three Upper Class, only one step away from the Top Class! Now, his speed was as fast as a Level Four Upper Tier, and that was why could hurry back in 10 days.

And as for Tempest, which was a very difficult to comprehend medium level cultivation technique, he had successfully cultivated it to Stage Two Upper Class. Now, his leg technique would generate an ice-cold feeling.

There was little progress with Demonic Eyes; it was still at Stage Two Top Class. Lastly, he had been unable to make any headway with Purple Star Thunderbolt, which made Su Yu laughed bitterly to no end.

But unexpectedly, he was becoming more proficient at imitating the old man's finger technique from the mural. He was still miles apart from the old man's technique, there was inherently a unique style of rhythm. Su Yu vaguely felt that if he could comprehend the profound mysticism, his strength would be greatly enhanced.

At the break of dawn, Su Yu left the Twilight Mountains. Instead of going back to the training institute, he went to the market. He had the tiger skin of the huge barbed tiger, one fang from the fiery lion, and 3,000 silver taels worth of banknotes, enough to buy some useful objects.

The scarlet bow quality was quite good, quite handy to use in the meantime. The arrows, on the other hand, were not so impressive. He only managed to shoot a few inches into the flesh when he launched a strike at the fire dragon the last time. Ordinary iron arrows could kill wild beasts but it would be very difficult to kill demonic beasts.

Before that, Su Yu needed to deal with the demonic beasts' material that he had. Several of the materials could easily be sold safely, out in the open at the market.

Su Yu arrived at the Xianyu prefecture's largest demonic beast material shop. The shop was wide and spacious, congested with crowds of people. "Shopkeeper, will demonic beast material be accepted?" Su Yu went straight to the counter.

The shopkeeper lazily leaned over the counter, squinted and looked up and down at Su Yu to size him up. He was casually dismissed with a wave, "My shop does not accept these materials, you should go somewhere else."

It was very common to see young and inexperienced martial artists around Su Yu's age pick up demonic beast fur and other items from the mountains and treat them as treasures. The shopkeeper did not want to waste his time.

Su Yu was stunned. He nodded and turned, shrugged his shoulders and softly muttered, "The huge barbed tiger's skin, the fiery lion's fang are worthless? Had better go to the black market, they should accept these."

The shopkeeper's old eyes flashed and suddenly widened. He quickly stepped out from the counter and uttered in disbelief, "You have such precious demonic beast goods?"

In particular, the huge barbed tiger, a category one demonic beast, was extremely difficult to hunt and kill. The martial artists usually only succeed after paying a heavy price.

Su Yu gave him a side glance and curled his lips as if to smile, "What, a moment ago you didn't accept demonic beast materials. The rules changed so quickly?"

The shopkeeper had looked down on Su Yu, who was experienced and could see through him. Now, he would make him work for it a little.

With a few dry laughs, the shopkeeper said, formal and courteous, "Pardon my humble self, my eyes failed me, young sir. Please kindly step inside and we can discuss the details."

Su Yu waved his hands, "Not necessary, the price just needs to be right." Su Yu did not have the energy to haggle over prices.

Su Yu nonchalantly tossed the barbed tiger skin and fiery lion fang on the counter for the shopkeeper. Within the city walls, as a student of the martial arts training institute, he was not afraid of others' jealousy.

The shopkeeper betrayed a trace of excitement on his face; A huge barbed tiger's skin, there was no market price! The fiery lion's fang was a rather hard to come by commodity.

"Tiger skin, 1,200 silver taels. Fiery lion fang, 500 silver taels. Total, 1,700, what do you say?" The shopkeeper gave a reasonable price. Su Yu muttered to himself and nodded his assent. The shopkeeper was overjoyed to deal with a person of such easy and forthright nature for such a large transaction, very rare indeed.

"Haha, fantastic! I really admire you, young sir! Let's see, I'll give you 2,000 silver taels for this deal. Next time, if you have top-notch materials, I would like to invite you to consider our shop for an item or two. I'll certainly buy at a high price."

Su Yu smiled his thanks, took the 2,000 silver taels worth of banknotes, and was about to break into a sprint and take off when fighting noises, traveled to his ears, sounding vaguely familiar.

Chapter 26: A Bully is Always a Coward

He looked to the side and saw a group of martial artists standing in a circle, looking at an empty corner in the shop. There were people fighting in the middle, causing a commotion. It looked as though it had been going on for some time, but Su Yu had not noticed.

"Shopkeeper, aren't you afraid of your shop being wrecked?" Su Yu mocked. With the size of this shop, it should have powerful supporters; it was strange that people would dare cause trouble here. A wry smile spread across his face.

"That depends on who is doing the damage." The shopkeeper sighed helplessly, "They have been here for quite some time, one of the training institute's gold student, said to be ranked third, was challenged publicly by a White Armor guard from the palace of Xianyu Prefecture."

The shopkeeper shook his head and said, "White Armor guards from the Xianyu Prefecture Palace are powerful Level Fours of the Martial Path at least, how is a gold student an opponent? Take a look over there... that was appalling."

At the Xianyu Prefecture Palace, the guards were divided into Black Armor and White Armor. Black Armor guards, who Su Yu saw once, were ferocious. Each were formidable Level Fives of the Martial Path. White Armor guards, Level Fours of the Martial Path, were the core strength that upheld order in the Xianyu Prefecture.

A soft groan was heard, and someone was knocked to the ground.

"A gold student of the training institute, no big deal." Among the bystanders, there was a 20-year-old White Armor guard. His arms were crossed and his white armor emanated dazzling radiance, complimenting his tall young body. Standing beside the White Armor guard, Li Minghao smiled, his eyes elated as he coldly watched the person lying on the ground.

"Lu Xuan, when I was first driven away from the team, I thought you had a great opportunity. It seems you haven't made much progress."

Struck down on the ground, Lu Xuan was badly battered. A trickle of blood flowed from the corner of his mouth. With no strength left his body, he laughed bitterly inside.

He had just returned from the Twilight Mountains. Upon entering the shop, he unexpectedly ran into Li Minghao and his cousin, Li Jinshan. Li Minghao had been brooding over his failure to get the Universe's Miracle Mineral Plant from inside the cave guarded by the demonic beasts. He was disgruntled, causing him to challenge Li Jinshan.

Li Jinshan was a terrifyingly strong Level Four, how could he compete with that?

Lu Xuan suffered silently. He got up with much difficulty, clenched his fists dejectedly, and clutching his abdomen, he slunk through the crowd and left.

At that moment, he found Su Yu standing outside the crowd, with his fists clenched. First, he was startled, then he hastily shot him a look, wanting to leave quickly. He'd already suffered retaliation from Li Minghao, now Su Yu?

"Hey! Su Yu! So you are here too!" Unfortunately, Li Minghao's sharp eyes discovered Su Yu's presence. With loathing, Li Minghao snapped, "Cousin, it's him!"

With his cold eyes shooting daggers, Li Jinshan separated the crowd and approached Su Yu. He narrowed his eyes, "It was you who wounded Minghao? Very well! I, Li Jinshan, challenge you! Prepare to fight!"

With a calm expression, Su Yu turned a deaf ear and walked away. He was not interested in a meaningless match. The bystanders shook their heads slightly.

"Li Jinshan is such a big bully, a Level Four challenging a Level Three, it's a one-sided match."

"Is it because those two have no powerful supporters? Do you think Li Jinshan has the guts to challenge Qin Feng and Fang Qingzhou?"

Li Jinshan remained unmoved even after he heard the whispers around him. Seeing how Su Yu ignored him, Li Jinshan, dazzling in white, made a brazen move!

"Fight or no fight, I have the final say! Whether you choose to fight or not, you'll have to fight either way!" Li Jinshan's hands turned into claws and ferociously lunged at Su Yu's back.

Su Yu frowned. This person was a true example of a bully always being a coward. He even resorted to a sneak attack!

With a tap of his toe, Cloud Shadow was unleashed.

Li Jinshan was only one claw away from a successful sneak attack and yet Su Yu did not even glance back. His figure gracefully floated away, like the shadow of a white cloud. Like duckweeds drifting with river waves, he lightly leaped forward and casually avoided a strike.

Li Jinshan stared in disbelief. True, he only used a third of his strength, but how could the other party be so relaxed?

"Hey, I couldn't tell before, but it appears you know a thing or two. Not bad, so I won't hold back." Li Jinshan coldly smiled.

"Mountain Fist!" Li Jinshan suddenly unleashed the strong inner strength of a powerful Level Four. An invisible force field caused all the bystanders to fall back one after another.

"Hiss— Li Jinshan is so vicious, seizing the opportunity to be so heavy-handed!"

"When beating up Lu Xuan, he didn't even use all his strength, but now he's giving it all. Su Yu is going to suffer horribly."

The Mountain Fist was a medium-level cultivation technique. A fist struck, its shadow overlapped. Strong and powerful, the pressure made the air hum. Earth-shattering strength headed towards him.

Su Yu's brows slightly creased as his right foot lashed out. The robust leg, transformed by the Jade Fire Marrow, unleashed a mighty power. This leg displayed strength that was beyond logic.

The two men each took three steps backwards. Su Yu's face registered no change in color, his expression calm. On the other hand, Li Jinshan secretly took a deep breath and shook out his numbed fists!

"Such strong physical strength and fast leg technique!" Li Jinshan, muttered!

Nine times out of 10, a Level Four could subdue a Level Three, but this match was a draw! Most importantly, the other side only used physical strength, and not any cultivation technique!

Li Minghao dumbstruck and pale; he found it hard to believe. Su Yu could actually block my cousin's blow?

Lu Xuan also dared not to believe. When did Su Yu attain such intense strength?

They had to know Li Jinshan and Qin Feng had the same level of strength!

"Are you really the Silver King?" Li Jinshan found it incredulous, how could a silver student be so tough?

Su Yu asked indifferently. "No more fighting?"

Li Jinshan's face turned pale and then crimson. He was overbearing and haughty, and forced the challenge on the other party. How could he cower now?

"Boy, don't be rampant! You do not know the strength of a Level Four!" Li Jinshan snorted and with a growl, a stream of pure energy flow surrounded his arms.

Lu Xuan's expression greatly changed. "Su Yu! Go quickly! He is going to use vital energy. You're no match for him!"

Vital energy could only be condensed in the realm of Level Four. Entering Level Four, one could cultivate vital energy in the body. The energy was pure and full of explosive power. Vital energy played a crucial role in enabling a Level Four to steadily subdue a Level Three.

"Mountain Fist!" The formidable power of the same move, using vital energy, could more than double.

The air trembled and was so turbulent that the punch looked blurry. A wave of horror came crashing through. Su Yu was fearless.

"Tempest!" His right foot lashed out. When amid the sweeping cold wind, the lashings of icy air made one feel as if they were surrounded by blades. The leg was not even straight yet, and cold air was already sweeping across! White cold mist could even be seen glistening at times.

Bam—

Once again, the two men took a step back. Su Yu still appeared relaxed.

But Li Jinshan was different. One could see that his fist was covered in frost. The piercing cold blocked the fist's inner strength circulation, meaning vital energy was unable to flow. A look of shock flashed across his face, Li Jinshan felt slightly chilled in his heart.

"No more fighting?" Su Yu breezily asked again.

Li Jinshan vexed, "You think I'm afraid of you?"

The two people figures intersected and staggered like shadows, wave after wave.

"Mountain Fist!"

"Tempest!"

One move, two moves, three moves! Four moves, five moves, six moves! After some time had passed, the two men had exchanged more than 100 moves!

"That Su Yu, is he really the Silver King? So powerful, almost close to the Gold King!"

"Compared to the Gold King, Su Yu is still far behind, but he's comparable to the second ranked Qin Feng."

After being kicked in the chest by Su Yu, his body hurled backwards and crashed onto the ground. Li Jinshan violently spurted out a mouthful of blood. Looking intently at it, there was actually cold mist with the blood! His whole body, especially his fists, was chilled and pale, shivering uncontrollably.

Li Jinshan's face looked terrified. Every contact with his leg technique caused the cold air in his body to drop another degree. Over time his body began to slow down and he was finally defeated.

With his right leg withdrawn, Su Yu's strength was slightly diminished, but not by much. His strong body, surpassing ordinary people's, provided him with an endless stream of physical strength.

Lightly glancing at Li Jinshan, Su Yu shook his head and said, "The White Armor guard of the Xianyu Prefecture Palace is only so-so. At the very least, he can't even compare to the Silver King."

Li Minghao looked frightened and carefully pressed against the wall to slink behind Li Jinshan. He pathetically lent an arm to support him and they left with their tails in between their legs.

Su Yu was too strong! So strong that even Li Minghao would not dare think of revenge! Leaving everyone in awe, Su Yu walked away.

At the restaurant, a youth with big eyes thick brows and a youth with a cool detached expression and a head full of silver hair, quietly watched the entire course of events.

"Haha, Shao Li, it seems we meet the silver kid from the Depository of Scriptures again. It looks like his strength has increased dramatically." The youth with thick brows ridiculed.

The silver haired youth scorned, "It's only Silver trash, not worthy enough for me to even lift a finger." The other youth had no comment.

Su Yu visited the blacksmith shop and could not help feeling disappointed that all the arrowheads were made of ordinary iron. With 5,000 silver taels in hand, for Su Yu and even the overwhelming majority of the silver students, he held a huge amount of wealth and riches.

With nothing to buy, Su Yu looked at himself. Even though his loose and cheap martial robes were clean, the workmanship was crude with no aesthetics to speak of. Although his body was clean, his skin was slightly scruffy, dark and rough. His hair also lacked maintenance, dry and scattered. He looked like an impoverished kid.

In Su Yu's former life, he was a white-collar manager who dressed up when he was out, fine and tastefully meticulous in every aspect, not a thread loose or hair out of place.

When he came to this world, he born into a poor family and could only endure until now. To Su Yu who was so accustomed to the fine life, it was not easy.

Now that he had money, he had to dress a little bit more respectably. He had shed his former self and been transformed inside. No longer being called useless, the outside also had to be transformed.

In this other world, there were similar one-stop beauty services. "Sir, we have three kinds of rapid skin improvement spirit serum. The price is quite high, the lowest price is one silver tael per drop. Just apply on the skin, you want a few drops..."

One silver tael, enough for one month of living expenses for ordinary person. Silver students only had one silver tael a month. No one would buy such an expensive spirit serum unless they were wealthy.

"Get a few drops? Well, get a bucket first and take a bath!" Su Yu tilted his head.

"Ah! A bucket? Oh, yes very well, wait a moment, sir. I'll immediately take care of it for you. Sir, haircare spirit serum, there's a collector's edition, please take a look..."

"Bring it all out and use one by one!"

"Ah!! Yes, yes, very well! Please kindly wait moment, Sir!

"Sir, our clothes are made of the finest silk fabric..."

"There are no better ones?"

"Ah! Yes, there is, I'll immediately go to our shop in town and fetch our treasure, a purple dustproof garment."

After half a day...

"Sir, right this way please. This is the mirror, kindly excuse your humble servant." The maid's pretty eyes widened in surprise and she looked at Su Yu with some amazement, finding it somewhat incredible that he had changed beyond recognition.

When he came in, she thought he was only a poor and penniless commoner. But now, he looked like a celestial immortal of the highest kind. The contrast between the before and after was so great that even she, who had been in this business for a long time, was shocked. There was never anyone like him, who changed so dramatically that it was like they were two different people.

Chapter 27: A New Man

With her many years of experience, she had seen that even if a crow changed into a phoenix, it was still fundamentally a crow on the inside. She had seen too many poor and ignorant people become rich overnight, try to dress themselves up, but still appear to be a fish out of water.

But this young noble sir was naturally self-possessed, as if he had the calm and self confidence of a natural superior. As a result, once he was dressed, everything turned on its head. When Su Yu stood in front of the mirror, he was stunned momentarily.

"Is this me?" Su Yu was astonished.

Reflected in the mirror was a tall figure in the luxurious purple garment of a noble youth. A cap of white jade and pearl adorned his head over his ink black long hair, neat and well-groomed, swinging gracefully at his back. His face was fair like white jade, fine and exquisitely carved, translucent and sparkling as if washed with clear water.

A pair of eyes, deep as the galaxy, full of wisdom and calm, sharp nose and cheeks, rosy lips and white teeth, all accentuated each other. As far as the eye could see, it was undoubtedly the jade-carved face of a noble son, radiant with health and vigor, handsome as Adonis. Coupled with the luxurious garment which defined his tall build, a projected air of nobility and handsome looks complemented each other well. Su Yu even found the transformation somewhat hard to believe.

The foundation of this physical body is very good, it was originally a strong and refined body, but after being trapped in poverty for so long, it's like a pearl obscured by dirt. Now that the dirt is washed away, it is luminous and bright. Su Yu analyzed inwardly.

Now, it was unlikely that people could recognize him as the one whose girlfriend was snatched by another, the poor and useless coward, the penniless and lonely Su Yu.

When walking, with the dustproof garment lightly fluttering in the breeze, not even a speck dust settled on his whole body. His ink black hair lightly swayed, accentuating his tall back view. His face was luminous under the sunlight, and indescribably beautiful in the light and shadow. When he was walking on the street, there was a moment of silence in the surroundings.

"What a handsome young noble son, which aristocratic family does he descend from?"

"Though young in age, such extraordinary bearing."

Su Yu lightly chuckled to himself. That smile paired with a handsome face was like a heavenly pearl, bright and brilliant, as if caressed by the spring breeze.

As young ladies passed by, they shyly bowed their heads while they stole discreet glances at him, their faces slightly flushed. The bolder ones gazed with charming eyes and flirted with provocative glances. Su Yu smiled as he passed, but only left a fluttering purple shadow as he walked away.

Back at the martial arts training institute, walking within the institute grounds, passers-by repeatedly raised their eyebrows. The male students' faces showed envy and admiration; one look at Su Yu told them that he was from a powerful and wealthy family. The female students were casting flirtatious glances from all directions.

"Isn't it strange that our institute has such a handsome man, besides Qin Feng and Fang Qingzhou?"

"It seems he's of a noble status too. Strange, he is our classmate, but why have we never seen him before?"

Su Yu's face wore a light smile all the way through the silver students' dormitory, into his own courtyard. The golden assessment was going to held in two days. As a silver student, he would have the opportunity to initiate a challenge to the gold students.

Su Yu only had one goal, which was to defeat Qin Feng! To defeat him on the spot in front of Jiang Xueqing, in front of the world! To tell Jiang Xueqing that her choice to abandon Su Yu was wrong! To tell Qin Feng that his choice to make Su Yu an enemy was also wrong!

While passing by the female dormitory, there was a slight commotion on the second floor. Then, a faint cry, a young lady unexpectedly fell from the window, and happened to fall towards Su Yu, head first to the ground. Even if there was strength in her body, she would be seriously injured. Su Yu could not just stand by and watch, and not save her.

Using Cloud Shadow, Su Yu rotated on his toes, graceful like the wind, and leveraged the force to launch into the air. At the right timing, his left hand held her neck, his right hand grabbed hold of her waist, and he carried her in his arms while in the air. Then, they slowly fell gently.

The young lady was pale from the fright, her eyes tightly shut. She really thought she was going to be dead. Feeling his strong and warm chest, the young lady slowly opened her eyes. A young noble's face, a head adorned with a cap of white jade and pearl, a pair of eyes deep as the galaxy, so calm, so wise, attracted her so much that she continued to stare. She'd never found that a man could be so good-looking, and the look in his eyes was so appealing.

For the first time in her life, her heart started racing for no reason.. When a young lady liked someone, it did not need to be everlasting, it did not need sweet talk; sometimes a look, action, word, or figure, might spark the first awakening of love in her heart.

The young lady felt, maybe, she'd met such a man. When she was in a dangerous moment, he appeared. Though no word were spoken, she was still moved. Without an expression on his face, Su Yu put her down and looked up at the second floor window.

A figure extended out of the window. Qin Feng!

He looked at himself gloomily. Su Yu had just held a woman in his arms that he'd never even touched before. Jiang Xueqing! And Jiang Xueqing, gazing at Su Yu with a dazed look in her eyes, also made Qin Feng feel wrath in his heart! He was compliant to Jiang Xueqing, but Jiang Xueqing was moved by the other man!

Not long after, Qin Feng dragged a young lady down with his hands. It was Xuan Lefei, her eyes swollen from crying. She was scared and aggrieved, held by the neck and dragged downstairs by Qin Feng, sobbing and wailing as she went.

"Thank you, Brother, for your kindness in lending a hand." Qin Feng felt that the noble son looked a little familiar but he could not recall if such a person existed among his aristocratic circle of friends.

A deep feeling of threat filled his heart. The other person's face was more handsome, with unparalleled easy confidence and calm, an air of luxury, not weaker than Qin Feng. The most crucial point was that Jiang Xueqing had first awakenings of love! With a hint of hostility, Qin Feng dragged Xuan Lefei away.

"I'm so sorry, the elixir was snatched by Su Yu. It wasn't intentional, let me go." Xuan Lefei wept like a poor little doll.

Qin Feng was chagrined that the matter was not accomplished and demanded for the elixir to be returned, but the 2,500 silver taels worth of elixir had gone missing. Qin Feng had intended to claim back the elixir as a gift for Jiang Xueqing to use for her breakthrough to Level Four. Who would have thought that Xuan Lefei insisted the elixir was taken away!

Qin Feng was enraged. He wanted to teach her a lesson, but she hurriedly tried to evade him and he inadvertently pushed Jiang Xueqing out of the window. The scene that occurred after made Qin Feng even more distressed, causing him to take his anger out on her.

Qin Feng barked, "I won't spare you!" With Qin Feng's ruthless temper, Xuan Lefei would not have a good ending.

Xuan Lefei was terrified; she wept endlessly and looked utterly wretched. She was born poor with no good skills, but carefully circulated among the wealthy to obtain various resources for cultivation. She knew firsthand what it felt like during the periods of sadness. Now that she finally provoked the wrath of Qin Feng, the Junior Duke, she was isolated and helpless without any power or influence.

"What kind of elixir did she owe you?" Su Yu lightly asked as he stood with his hands behind his back.

Qin Feng stopped in his tracks and reluctantly put on a polite face. "A top-grade spirit elixir. Is it possible that Brother wishes to intervene?"

Qin Feng had to be polite in his treatment of an honorable noble son of uncommon background.

"Take it!" Su Yu shot out a black box with a snap of his fingers. Such strong fingers!

Qin Feng was secretly nervous,. In addition to being very handsome and having an aristocratic air, his abilities were very strong too. But, Qin Feng with his Level Four cultivation base, was still able to neutralize this bit of force. Using one hand to catch, he nonchalantly caught the black box, opened to take a look and was shocked to find a top-grade spirit elixir inside.

Qin Feng's expression changed. He uttered, "Brother, you really want to step in for an unfamiliar woman?"

Su Yu walked away with his hands behind his back. Without turning his head back, he merely said, "Release her!"

His powerful yet calm voice had a large amount of dignity, as though he had held a high position for a long time. Qin Feng struggled for a moment and actually let go.

Jiang Xueqing's beautiful eyes reflected the image of the luxurious and elegant purple garment, the extraordinary splendor of it. He was the world's most magnificent man, getting the spirit elixir, with a value of 2,500 silver taels, so freely and easily, treating money like it was nothing. With her heart moved for the first time, there was yet again another ripple.

"Thank you, kind sir, for your help." Jiang Xueqing regained herself and gave a bow of respect as she watched him leave.

"Yep," Su Yu's head did not even turn as he walked away.

Qin Feng's expression was ugly. He coldly glared at Jiang Xueqing, "What, do you regret being with me?"

Jiang Xueqing was startled and quickly checked her longing gaze. She guiltily hung her head down; there was a feeling of regret.

"If only, how wonderful would it be if I could have met him earlier?" Jiang Xueqing silently sighed in her heart.

To be able meet the noble sir whom she liked and could give her wealth and status... If only he'd appeared earlier in her life, taken her away from that good-for-nothing Su Yu's side, how perfect would that be? For the first time, Jiang Xueqing felt the unfairness of fate, and felt discontented with Qin Feng.

Once, Qin Feng was the most ideal companion she could think of. But until today, having met the noble sir, the instant her heart was moved, she realized she only received materialistic satisfaction from Qin Feng. Her heart did not belong to him.

No matter how good Qin Feng was to her, no matter how docile and obedient, it was hard for her to generate any feelings for him. Just as it was with Su Yu, childhood sweethearts, but they were never genuinely moved.

Since things had come to this point, she had no choice but to hide her feelings for him. She could not afford to offend Qin Feng's illustrious family. If he were to abandon her and she were to throw herself into the purple-clad noble's arms, an unfathomable fate would await her.

Xuan Lefei managed to escape this time, and through hazy tears, gratefully bowed to Su Yu from a distance, "Many thanks to you, honorable sir."

Su Yu was already far away, the faint voice drifted with the breeze into his ears.

The corner of his lips slightly raised, and Su Yu softly murmured, "That was to return you..." Her top-grade spirit elixir was originally taken by Su Yu.

Back in the courtyard, Su Yu immediately went into seclusion. The Golden Competition was in two days. Su Yu wanted to stand proudly in front of the training institute with his brand new attitude!

At the Palace of Xianyu Prefecture, in a pink lady's chamber...

The young princess of Xianyu, dressed in a duckling yellow dress, was pouting and holding a pillow as she pounded it, puffing with anger. Her small mouth mumbled non-stop, "Wretched father! Doesn't love me one bit! Doesn't love me! I'm going on a hunger strike! I want to antagonize him."

A jade-white hand lightly swatted her vest as a reminder.

"Oh, you! The Duke did it for your own good, being up in the Twilight Mountains, being touched like that... It was indecent, how could the Duke not be angry? Your confinement is for your own good." The voice was soft and gentle, the beautiful face wore a faint smile; it could not be anyone other than the celestial beauty.

"Even Big Sister Jingyu does not help me! I don't want to live, don't want to live!" The young princess flopped onto the bed, her two white calves dangling and swaying.

The relationship between the palace of Xianyu Prefecture and the martial arts training institute had always been good. The young princess of Xianyu and Xia Jingyu's ages were similar, about 14 to 15 years old, so both of them got along very well and were good friends who grew up together and told each other everything.

The Xianyu young princess's encounter in the Twilight Mountains had left Xia Jingyu blushing with embarrassment after she heard it.

Chapter 28: The Great Contest Nears

The young princess was very unlucky.

Contrary to the duke's reaction, Xia Jingyu showed a little sympathy for the person.

That person obviously had good intentions, wanting to save the young princess. Without him, the young princess may have already died from the poison. All things considered, his merit was greater than his wrongdoings.

The big fuss made by the duke about hunting for the person throughout the city seemed over the top.

But thinking about it carefully, would any father, knowing that the privacy of his daughter had been violated by a male stranger, not be furious?

Associating this with her own experiences in the Twilight Mountains, Xia Jingyu secretly felt relieved.

She was lucky that a chivalrous person had helped her in her time of need. He was a righteous person, not taking advantage of her while she was in a coma. She was really lucky indeed.

"My niece Jingyu, the information you seek has been found." At this moment, a handsome middle-aged man walked through the door with a warm smile on his face.

Xia Jingyu was visibly excited. "Uncle, has my benefactor really been found?"

The middle-aged man, who was the duke, nodded, "Yes. There was a tooth of the Fiery Lion for sale in the market today. We traced it and within two days found out who was the selling the tooth."

Xia Jingyu's heart was filled with excitement. All she wanted was to find her benefactor to express her thanks face to face, because without his help, her fate would be hard to determine.

Even though that person masked his face, Xia Jingyu was intelligent and deduced that the three explosions during that time were strikingly similar to the tooth of the Fiery Lion. Unexpectedly, she discovered a clue.

Duke Xianyu sighed. News of Xia Jingyu's benefactor arrived instantly, but the vagrant who took advantage of his daughter still could not be found.

"Contain your excitement, niece. Even though we found the tooth of the Fiery Lion, the party selling it might not be the person you are seeking. The other party might be posing as your benefactor, but in reality, eyeing your beauty or wealth. We cannot let our guard down." This was Duke Xianyu's experience speaking.

"Do you have another item in your possession to use as collateral with the other party, so as to prevent you from being cheated?"

Xia Jingyu hesitated for a moment, then withdrew a Fire Dragon snakeskin armor from her arms.

"All I have is this. It was left behind by the chivalrous man."

The smile on Duke Xianyu's face froze a little.

The young princess was less forgiving. She wrinkled her nose and muttered, "Who made that armor? It's hideous."

Duke Xianyu toned down the strange look on his face. His eyes sparkled, "Could I get someone to look into the armor and start searching for more information? We might find more clues."

Xia Jingyu gladly agreed.

A servant had a spark of inspiration. He took the armor to the sheet of Fire Dragon snakeskin collected recently to compare them, then with a dramatic change in expression rushed to give the duke a report.

"My Duke! It's the same snakeskin!" The servant was visibly excited.

The duke had spent upwards of a month trying to capture this person, and today there was finally a clue.

Even though the servants did not understand why the duke and the young princess desperately wanted to capture this person, they imagined that this person had committed some unpardonable crime.

The eyes of the duke flared with fury, "Inform the others! All Black Armor Guards are to pursue the source of the Fiery Lion!"

"Roger!"

Rumble —

From within the duke's abode rushed a large group of Black Armor Guards, full of bloodlust, initiating a manhunt within the city.

Unaware of the perils that were about to occur, Su Yu let out a long howl.

"Hahaha....It is finally done!"

Su Yu's purple robe billowed, his black hair danced in the wind. His powerful aura blanketed the surroundings.

The maids that were cleaning in the courtyard started shivering profusely. Their feelings of fear were difficult to suppress, given how powerful Su Yu's aura was.

Level Four martial arts! Finally succeeded after consuming the Marrow of Hellfire!

But the bigger achievement was Su Yu's enlightenment regarding the wall paintings the elder pointed to.

For two days, while his body was practicing martial arts, his mind was concentrated on the wall paintings.

Su Yu's two days was equivalent to forty days for another person. Su Yu could draw understanding from a heavenly scroll.

Even though he could only understand, but not make use of, the ability as of now, he believed that once he succeeded in casting the ability, its power would be overwhelming.

Furthermore in these two days, Su Yu had completed Tier Two of the technique Tempest.

Now, a simple kick by him could bring out a billow of white fog. The fog would be overbearingly cold, and would serve him well in close combat.

He had also completed his light-body cultivation Cloud Shadow technique. He had understood the entirety of the technique in the manual.

In terms of technique and speed, he had reached the peak of Level Four, and was now breaking through to Level Five.

Being Level Four in terms of martial arts, his body gathered vital energy—the first of what he could call his own.

Using this vital energy to cast his various tricks allowed their powers rise up a tier.

Ding Ding Ding—

The sound of distant bells reverberated through the morning light.

The gathering sounds of the Golden Selection Test had finally begun!

Compared to the Silver Selection Test, the Golden Selection Test was the true major event for martial arts training institutes. There were 100 gold-class students, representing the overall strength of the martial arts training institutes.

Today, not only would Master Fu and Master Ye make an appearance, the elusive Grand Master, of martial arts Level Seven, would also be attending!

Upon hearing the bells, the students, gold-class and silver-class, congregated towards the contest hall. Su Yu stood up, his purple robe billowing in the wind, his eyes, like stars, glowed intensely.

"Qin Feng! I, Su Yu, am coming!"

The contest hall was the same one used in the Silver Selection Test. Only this time, not everyone could enter.

"No entry for silver-class students under rank 100!" At the entrance of the contest hall stood two large guards of martial arts Level Four, announcing the rule.

This had always been the case in the past, but the silver-class students were still disappointed. The silver-class students above the rank 100 entered the hall after proudly showing their tokens.

Su Yu elegantly came forward. His luxurious vibe and handsome looks, likened to celestial beings shown in paintings, was awe inspiring to onlookers.

The crowd naturally gave way to him, giving him curious looks.

"Identify yourself," the two large guards grunted.

Su Yu whipped out his token and flashed it for a moment before proceeding into the hall.

The two guards could not even stop him in time.

"Did you recognize who that was?"

"If I am not mistaken, isn't that..."

The two guards could not continue. They could not believe what they had just witnessed.

Su Yu, the top of the silver-class students, looks like that? Didn't the rumours say that he was a poor student?

The two guards looked at each other as if they had just seen a ghost. The silver-class students outside the contest hall were equally shocked.

"Hey, who exactly was that man in purple? I saw him holding a token for silver-class students."

"I saw it too, but do we really have such a refined, elegant man amongst our ranks?"

The crowd looked around at each other.

Su Yu entered the hall. While the contest hall could hold an audience of 10,000 people, only 200 were allowed in today. 100 silver-class students, and 100 gold-class.

Su Yu had arrived relatively late. They had all congregated near the central stage, occupying the front rows.

The contest had not begun, as only the judges and the gold-class students preparing for the contest had arrived. The higher ranked officials within the institute had not yet arrived.

Coincidentally, the presiding judge of the contest was still Minister Jiang! His martial arts were at the peak of Level Four, and he had terrifying abilities.

Su Yu thought back to the day when Minister Jiang underhandedly attempted to severely wound him in the contest for the top of the silver-class. Su Yu would keep this event etched in his mind.

"I, Su Yu, have not forgotten this hatred, you old thing!" Su Yu's gaze turned ice cold.

Minister Jiang scanned the crowd and confirmed that the students had more or less arrived. "After the Gold Selection Test, silver-class students have the right to issue a challenge to the gold-class students of their corresponding rank. Gold-class students can also do the same towards the silver-class students," Minister Jiang said coolly.

"For example, the current top of the gold-class can issue a challenge to the top of the silver-class, and vice versa!"

Minister Jiang stepped on a random spot on the stage, which seemed to be hiding some sort of mechanism. The ground rumbled and three stone pillars, each five meters tall, slowly rose from the ground. Standing on the stone pillars one could overlook every corner of the stage, making it the best place for spectating the contest.

"Out of all who are present here, only the top three can obtain a seat on the pillar! Those who do are given priority in choosing the person they want to challenge!" What he meant was that as long as a student could obtain one of the three seats atop the stone pillars, he would have the priority in choosing who he wanted to challenge after the Gold Selection Test was over.

If Su Yu could get hold of a seat, then he could be the one initiating the challenge to Qin Feng, and he would not have to wait to be challenged himself.

"The seats belong to the ones with the strongest abilities. Let the contest begin!" Minister Jiang announced.

The silver-class students did not dare move, gazing with admiration at the hundred gold-class students competing for the spots.

Su Yu's eyes sparkled with electricity, his black hair danced. His purple robe flew with the wind, leaving only a purple trail within the crowd.

"What speed! Who is the person in purple?"

"Quick! Look there! Who exactly is the man in purple?"

Pow Pow —

Anywhere Su Yu went, people were beaten down. Surprised howls could be heard everywhere.

Su Yu's speed was at the peak of Level Four; no one could contest him!

With his purple robe still flowing, Su Yu was the first to reach the top of a stone pillar, obtaining a seat for himself.

"Which bastard is blind enough to steal my spot on the tower?" A muscular teenager raised his head and scolded.

Below Su Yu's pillar was a mob of angry students, each trying to climb up and challenge Su Yu for his spot.

"Scram!" Su Yu's nostrils gently flared, his powerful Level Four aura blanketing the arena.

Level Four?

The rude, muscular teen was taken aback. He was ranked fifth amongst the gold-class students, with martial arts at the peak of Level Three, but he knew that in the face of a Level Four master, his abilities were not worth mentioning.

The area below Su Yu's pillar suddenly became quiet.

Level Four! He was actually Level Four!

"Who exactly is he? Besides Qin Feng and Fang Qingzhou of the gold-class students, there's a third Level Four master?"

"Also, have you ever seen this person? Is he even from our institute? Why haven't I seen him before?"

He had powerful and terrifying abilities, coupled with a suave, handsome appearance and noble, calm temperament. Why had no one ever heard of such an excellent person?

The silver-class students looked around at each other, all finding this gold-class student in the purple robe familiar, but they could not identify him if their lives depended on it.

Jiang Xueqing sat amongst the silver-class students, her dainty hands rubbing her chin, eyes listlessly gazing at the floor.

At times she giggled, at times she became shy, and at other times she became frustrated. It had started two days ago, when she had visions that she could not shake of a purple shadow.

She could not forget those starlike eyes.

"Would I see him again? Even if it's just once, to thank him." Jiang Xueqing lightly sighed.

Hearing the commotion around her, Jiang Xueqing lifted her gaze and followed the direction they were pointing.

What she saw was a familiar purple figure.

The tall, slender physique and an air of pompousness, suave as a celestial being in a painting, and etched in her mind, those starlike eyes.

"It's the purple-robed prince!" Jiang Xueqing exclaimed while covering her mouth. Her beautiful eyes shone with excitement.

"It's him! It's really him!" In those two days, she had frequently looked forward to meeting him again, many times even going to the spot where she saw the purple flash.

Unfortunately, her wish had not been granted.

Her maiden heart was thumping away, and Jiang Xueqing's eyes were now unable to shift away from his figure.

Chapter 29: King of the Gold Students

At that moment, all she wanted to know was the name of the person who had stolen her heart for the first time.

There were three individuals in the corner of the arena. Xia Jingyu, a silver-haired youth, and a youth with thick brows and big eyes quietly sat in the corner.

"Master Jingyu, who is the youth in the purple robe? Why haven't I heard of him if he is Level Four of the Martial Path? I believe I have seen all the gold students above rank 10," the youth with thick brows said, a perplexed look on his face.

Xia Jingyu, with a mystified look on her face said, "It's really weird, I do not recognize him either. I'm fairly certain that he is not a gold student."

Still, Xia Jingyu could not shake the feeling that she had seen this purple-robed youth in the past. However, she could not associate this person with any other nobles that she recognized.

The silver-haired youth's face flooded with contempt, "You're still garbage!"

The appearance of this purple-robed youth had sparked a small riot. No one in the audience recognized him! He had everyone thoroughly puzzled! In fact, there were some who suspected that he was a student from another institution and had snuck into the hall.

"Where do you think this youth is from? He looks really good!" spoke a candid girl, putting her gaze on Su Yu.

"I'm so embarrassed!" said a shy girl, averting her gaze, only daring to sneak peeks at him.

His remarkable ability, handsome appearance and aura of nobility was enough to steal many girls' hearts.

There were two light thuds to the side of Su Yu. Both Qin Feng and Fang Qingzhou secured their place on the other stone pillars, albeit slightly slower than Su Yu.

The two were undoubtedly the strongest participants and naturally had no contest for their spots on the stone pillar. The three with the best abilities had shown themselves, and had taken their rightful spots on the pillars!

Qin Feng's pupils dilated, his hostility faintly discernible. He knew why Jiang Xueqing had been so distracted for the past two days. All she could think about was this mysterious purple-robed youth!

"I am Qin Feng. May I know your name?" Qin Feng saluted politely, cupping hands, for the other party was after all a strong Level Four.

Su Yu did not meet his gaze, sat down and calmly replied, "Your old friend."

My old friend? Qin Feng could not recall for the life of him a friend that had ability, looks and disposition equal to him.

Fang Qingzhou, with a perplexed look on his face, measured up Su Yu, then asked, "I have not seen you in the past. Did you sneak in here from another institute?"

Su Yu did not answer. From what he had observed, Fang Qingzhou carried himself like an oaf. Saying even one word to this kind of person would only sully himself.

"Hmph! You dare to be this arrogant in front of me? Fine! After the contest, we'll see exactly how deep your abilities go." Fang Qingzhou shot him a furious glare.

His gaze subconsciously drifted to another corner, and stopped on a beautiful figure. A tinge of regret flashed past his eyes, but was soon replaced by a boiling anger.

"Do not let me find out who you are!" Qin Feng clenched his fists, his anger clearly visible.

If it wasn't him who charged out and saved Xia Jingyu, he would have had her. Even her corpse would do!

Jiang Zhishi curiously glanced up at Su Yu a few times, and had a rising suspicion that they had met, but could not associate him with anybody he knew.

Rumble —

A commotion was heard through the doors of the contest hall.

Three remarkable men, under the gaze of the students, teachers and management, slowly stepped into the contest hall. Amongst them was Lord Ye, Head of Discipline. Su Yu owed him a favour.

However, Lord Ye was walking at the back of the group with a stern look on his face, solemnly and cautiously trailing the person in front. The person was gentle and elegant, with thin sleek brows on a handsome face. He was dressed in a long white robe and had flowing black hair. While he seemed gentle, his disposition inspired awe.

He was the Lord of the Xianyu prefecture martial arts training institute, Xia Linxuan! His abilities had reached an incredible Martial Path Level Seven, and was a living legend, unparalleled in the world.

The students peering at him were overcome with admiration.

Xia Linxuan, the living legend. He was the lifetime goal of countless students. However, Xia Linxuan was not the one walking at the very front.

The person at the very front was also an attractive middle-aged man, with narrow, long eyes that emanated a cold gaze. There was an arrogant aura surrounding him, and even a person as powerful as Xia Linxuan was not worth mentioning to him.

He was strikingly similar to Fang Qingzhou!

Atop the stone pillar, a smile crept across Fang Qingzhou's face. Qin Feng, on the contrary, displayed both fear and respect. At that moment, he did not dare breathe atop his pillar.

The three men took their seats. Fang Qingzhou's father, Fang Yun, was undoubtedly seated in the center of the seats reserved for honored guests. Lord Xia Linxuan and Lord Ye Xuan were seated beside him.

Su Yu, with a sparkle in his eyes, asked, "Is that Fang Qingzhou's father? Or uncle? Who is he to have such an esteemed position?"

He had never seen anything outside the Xianyu prefecture. In Su Yu's eyes, the Xianyu prefecture was vast, and had many talented people flocking to join. The strongest person he knew would be the lord of the institute, the legendary Xia Linxuan.

However, now that he had seen Fang Yun, he knew that the world outside was indeed more vast. Xia Linxuan looked towards Jiang Zhishi and stroked his chin.

Jiang Zhishi straightened his posture, and with a stern look, solemnly announced, "The Golden Assessment officially begins!"

The Golden Assessment was more or less the same as the Silver Assessment. All the gold students would be split into 10 groups based according to their rank, and then would compete to be the strongest in their group. Thereafter, those who were victorious would compete to be ranked in the top 10, and finally the grand final would be fought for the title of the Gold King.

A month ago, Su Yu would have been unimaginably excited to witness the Golden Assessment. However, now that he had become stronger, this excitement was waning.

Three hours later, the group stages were over, and the top 10 students were realized.

On the podium, Xia Linxuan gently asked, "Inspector Fang, what do you think of the abilities of the students in this batch?"

Fang Yun arrogantly scanned the remaining 10 students, finally placing his gaze on his son, Fang Qingzhou. He showed a hint of a smile, "They're acceptable."

Xia Linxuan laughed lightly. Ye Xuan, on the other hand, secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

"We managed to tide through this year!" Ye Xuan thought to himself.

Fang Yun was from the sanctuary, and his job was to inspect the teaching situation here in the martial arts training institute.

He could represent the sanctuary and punish the management of the institute should the abilities and talents of the current batch of students be too weak. Fang Yun was only also Level Seven of the Martial Path, with abilities equal to the lord of the institute.

But Fang Yun was from the sanctuary, and was assisting the sanctuary in inspecting the institute. In terms of authority, the lord's paled in comparison.

In the eyes of a layman, a martial arts training institute should be a place where talents gather, and should ride above the royal power. However, not many know that the martial arts training institutes are but a branch of the sanctuary.

The leader of the sanctuary, the Holy King, was dedicated to the cultivation of talents of the world, and thus established martial arts training institutes in each of the 13 prefectures of the Feng Lin empire.

He also dispatched 13 inspectors to help him check on the teaching processes in them. Should there be any lapses, punishment would definitely ensue.

There was an incident where the management of a martial arts training institute used resources that were provided for the students for personal use, halting the progress of an entire generation of students. Once the inspector got wind of this, everyone in the management, from the lords to the ministers, were executed on the spot.

Inspector Fang, in theory, held the power to execute everyone in the management, for he represents the sanctuary. Today, Fang Yun was here to gauge the abilities of this batch of students.

Upon hearing Fang Yun's approval, many from the crowd heaved a sigh of relief, for it meant that they had passed the inspection.

The contest between the top 10 had begun. Fang Qingzhou and Qin Feng were still dominating the competition. Being Level Fours, they defeated their competitors in three moves.

The two advanced steadily, and had finally reached the semifinal. Fang Qingzhou was paired against the sixth ranked gold student.

"Continuous Eight Trigram Finger!" Fang Qingzhou let out a low grunt as he displayed a medium level cultivation technique.

Pop Pop Pop—

In just three hits, his opponent vomited blood and was defeated.

Xia Linxuan was impressed, "The Continuous Eight Trigram Finger technique is a medium level cultivation technique and has overwhelming power, but requires the user to have a high level of insight. Your son, being able to attain Stage Two of this technique, has a high level of insight."

Fang Yun was immensely proud of his son, but put on a show of humility, gently shaking his head, "Qingzhou's attitude towards his training regimen is not optimal, and he will not get very far."

In the midst of admiration from countless girls, Fang Qingzhou coolly returned to his stone pillar, then shot a provocative look towards Qin Feng. "Hey hey, Qin Feng, I heard that you wanted to claim the title of the Gold King. Let's see how far your abilities can get you. Try not to embarrass yourself in front of that girlfriend of yours."

Talking about Jiang Xueqing, Fang Qingzhou could not help but glance in her direction, a bolt of passion flaring from his eyes. Jiang Xueqing was one of the top three beauties, and he wanted her as a girlfriend, but was beaten to it by Qin Feng.

He could not afford to offend the the son of Duke Qin, and thus had to drop the idea.

Qin Feng forced a smile, but did not dare talk back to the mockery. His father, Fang Yun, was too much of a presence. Qin Feng's entire family could not hold a candle to him.

The term "sanctuary" had determined everything.

Qin Feng's popularity was also very high, with many people cheering for him as he made his way down to the stage. His innate talent, remarkable ability, suave appearance and family background were all criteria for a teenage girl's perfect lover.

Jiang Xueqing was one of the rare few that did not look over at Qin Feng. She had not shifted her gaze since the appearance of the purple-robed youth. Even though she was a pragmatic person, she was but a youth. It was fine if her heart was not moved, but once it was, it went deep down to her bones.

Qin Feng wore a solemn expression. His opponent was ranked fifth amongst the gold students, and was the one competing with Su Yu for the spot on the stone pillar.

"Monumental Buddha's Palm!" Qin Feng exclaimed, his palm slicing the air, causing a series of small explosions in the air. The opponent dropped to the ground with just one strike, spewing blood as he slipped into a coma.

Xia Linxuan showed surprise, "Qin Feng's improvement was monumental! To think he already broke through the upper tier of Level Four! The Monumental Buddha's Palm technique is not a skill we teach in the institute. He must have gotten the manual from the Qin family. To attain Stage Two of the same medium level fighting style with such explosive power, Qin Feng's level of insight must also be rather high!"

His gaze wavered. Xia Linxuan had cut his explanation short in order to save Fang Yun some face.

In terms of power, the Monumental Buddha's Palm and the Continuous Eight Trigram Finger were considered equal. However, fighting styles exist to counter each other, and should the Buddha's Palm and the Eight Trigram Finger be pitted against each other at equal strength, Qin Feng would have the advantage.

Fang Yun creased his eyebrows, refusing to comment.

Su Yu's eyes contracted. Qin Feng had actually achieved the upper tier of Level Four, and was an equal to Fang Qingzhou!

Finally, Su Yu's face displayed his burning battle spirit. Defeating Qin Feng as he is now would prove to be much more meaningful!

No matter how strong you become Qin Feng, I, Su Yu, will ultimately catch up to you!

Jiang Zhishi solemnly announced, "The contest for the title of Gold King begins now! Qin Feng against Fang Qingzhou!"

The Golden Assessment had finally entered its final phase.

Chapter 30: Unable to Withstand a Single Blow

With an imposing look, Fang Qingzhou leapt down from his stone pillar, measuring up Qin Feng with his eyes. He scorned, "To think you actually managed to break through! Your abilities have indeed improved!"

Qin Feng scanned the crowd for the lone Jiang Xueqing, his gaze resolute. He had promised that he would use the honor of the title "Gold King" to become engaged to her. He had trained diligently for the past month, with excellent results.

With a slight nod, Qin Feng took his stance, "Come at me, Brother Fang, the title Gold King belongs to me!"

"You are not worthy!" Fang Qingzhou scolded. How could he let somebody take away what was rightfully his?

"Continuous Eight Trigram Finger!" Fang Qingzhou's body moved as weightlessly as a shadow, speedily advancing towards Qin Feng.

His fingers, dexterous as a dragon, traced the pattern of the Eight Trigrams with incredible speed. The unpredictable changes, fading in and out of reality, concealed an immense power, unfathomable to the layman.

Qin Feng's expression turned tense. "Monumental Buddha's Palm!"

The winds emanating from his palms were fierce, and the air crackled with every slight movement of his hands. The wind circled his palms as if they were a breath of fury waiting to be released.

A collision of palm and finger. The two took a step back, victor undecided.

Fang Qingzhou's expression turned serious, "The title of Gold King is mine. Who dares take it away from me?"

Xia Linxuan creased his eyebrows at the sight of such arrogant and barbaric howls.

Fan Quinzhou had long looked up to his father's might, but was arrogant and boorish. To threaten his opponent into losing was despicable indeed.

Unfortunately, Qin Feng was no commoner, but a junior duke. "The title belongs to the one with the best ability, if you wish to protect the title, you will have to best me in battle!" Qin Feng was undeterred, facing Fang Qingzhou head on.

Fang Qingzhou was livid, and started exchanging fists with Qin Feng.

Rumble —

Their abilities were nearly identical, and the victor was not decided even after 80 rounds of sparring. Fang Qingzhou grew increasingly anxious, spewing out roars of anger.

However, Qin Feng was indifferent. In terms of status, they were identical. Qin Feng saw no need to be overly cautious of Fang Qingzhou. As time went by, Qin Feng gradually gained the upper hand.

Finger techniques were naturally disadvantageous against the more forceful palm techniques. This, coupled with his impetuous nature, meant Qin Feng had already led his opponent to an inevitable defeat.

Qin Feng timed his attack, striking his palm into the gap of Fang Qingzhou's defense, leaving an imprint on his chest.

Ah —

Fang Qingzhou wailed in agony and flew off the stage. He, Gold King of the previous generation, had been completely defeated!

Contempt flashed past the eyes of Fang Yun, but he could not act on it due to his reputation and status.

"Garbage! Reflect on yourself after you get back!" After the chiding, Fang Yun calmly said to Xia Linxuan, "You've raised this batch of students pretty well."

After which, Fang Yun rose, preparing to leave. Xia Linxuan gently smiled, "Why not finish watching before you leave? The rest of the competition might improve your mood."

After a pause, Fang Yun returned to his seat, inadvertently looking at the stage.

Jiang Zhishi had a smile on his face, placing the crown of the Gold King onto Qin Feng.
"Congratulations."

Qin Feng was drained to the bone. He took a few deep breaths before gazing towards Jiang Xueqing. The title of the Gold King! He had obtained it!

However, his smile froze. In his moment of glory, the person he loved had not paid any attention to him, and instead was mesmerised by the mysterious purple-robed youth! Qin Feng exploded with anger, shooting furious glares at Su Yu.

"Judge! The Gold King has the right to challenge a person of his choice, am I right?" Qin Feng's eyes blazed with hatred, never once shifting his gaze from Su Yu.

Regardless of the identity of the purple-robed youth, anybody who stole the heart of his lover was an enemy. The garbage Su Yu could wait, for he still had the right to challenge someone a second time.

Jiang Zhishi nodded.

"Fine! I want to challenge him!" Qin Feng had issued his challenge, pointing at the lone purple-robed youth atop his stone pillar.

A commotion broke out in the hall.

This purple-robed youth had left them perplexed. His identity was shrouded in mystery. No one would have thought that the junior duke's first challenge would be issued towards him. Jiang Zhishi also had a confused look on his face. That person was familiar, but he could not figure out why.

Su Yu slowly opened his starlike eyes. From atop, he gazed at Qin Feng, coolly speaking, "Challenge me after you rest up. Otherwise, there is no honor in me winning."

Qin Feng was exhausted, and his ability was not even at 70 percent of his normal level.

"There is no need for your concern!" The battle spirit in Qin Feng's heart was ignited. Only by defeating the purple-robed youth in front of Jiang Xueqing could he dispel the hatred in his heart.

He withdrew a precious elixir from his robes and consumed it. After which he felt his fatigue dissipate; his strength and vitality gradually returned to him.

"You live up to your name as a junior duke. You took a recovery elixir worth 1,00 taels without hesitation."

Qin Feng's eyes were filled with fury, "Battle me!"

Su Yu's purple robe billowed, his hair dancing in the wind. His suave face brightened up. He let out a small whisper from his lips.

"I have awaited this day for far too long."

Woosh—

The purple figure was like the wind. It was like a cloud's shadow, faintly there, but also likened to the calm waves of a river, graceful as anything.

Xia Linxuan let out a look of surprise, "The peak of Stage Three of the Cloud Shadow trick? There are other students, other than the 10 great demon students with their monstrous levels of insight,

who could completely learn it? Ye Xuan, who is this person? His cultivation is of Level Four lower tier of the Martial Paths, why haven't we heard of him?"

Ye Xuan was equally lost, "He seems familiar, but I do not know who he is exactly."

Xia Linxuan's face showed a hint of surprise. He could not help but laugh, "Interesting! This battle might not be as simple as a sideshow to lift the mood."

Graceful as a swan, Su Yu made his way to the stage. He stood with his hands behind his back, calmly locked in a deep gaze.

Jiang Zhishi could not comprehend the person in front of him, he politely said, "You can choose to decline the challenge if you wish to. He is the Gold King and by accordance can only challenge the Silver King."

Su Yu said calmly, "I have been waiting for this match for a long time. How can I decline this challenge?"

"Alright! The Gold King against... the purple-robed youth! The contest begins!" Jiang Zhishi had forgotten to ask for the name of the other party.

Qin Feng's cold eyes were laced with arrogance. He glanced over to Jiang Xueqing, only to find that her gaze was still fixed on the purple-robed youth. In fact, her eyes were filled with the expectation of the purple-robed youth's victory!

Qin Feng developed an intent to kill. He was her boyfriend, and this position had been threatened by a complete stranger! "Monumental Buddha's Palm!" Qin Feng angrily struck out, pushing his vital energy and stamina to their limits.

His palm was like the wind, vigorous and hurried. Su Yu was calm, moving as a purple flash.

"Tempest!" He gathered a wave of frost by lifting his leg.

The white frost appeared suddenly, wrapping around his leg. He took advantage of the frost and struck out.

Qin Feng retreated three meters, and Su Yu, two and a half.

Qin Feng gasped, hurriedly shaking away the frost that had gathered on his palm, a look of surprise showing on his face. "You learned Tempest?" Qin Feng could not believe it. Hidden in the second level of the Depository of Buddhist Scriptures was a famous leg technique that was notoriously difficult to gain insight to. It was said that it was the most difficult technique to attain within the entire second level.

There were many that tried to gain insight, including Qin Feng. But none of them succeeded! The fact that this purple-robed youth had managed to attain the technique was indeed shocking.

Xia Linxuan's eyes brightened up, "Ye Xuan, please run a check to see if this person is from our institute. At such a young age, he managed to gain insight into Stage Two of Tempest. With his level of insight, it wouldn't even be wrong to place him with the demon students!"

Ye Xuan deeply nodded, his eyes shone with curiosity.

Su Yu smiled, but he did not speak. He closed the gap and began his attack on Qin Feng. The two figures nimbly interlaced.

Rumble —

At times his palm sliced the wind, and at others the kick brought the frost. The battle between the two was overwhelming. Unknowingly, the spectators were on their feet, looking on at the battle in awe. The onlookers were unable to comprehend when such an imposing master had appeared in the institute.

A pot of tea was finished...

The two were still locked in combat, exchanging moves for no less than 30 rounds. The onlooking Jiang Zhishi was deep in shock. He was also at the Level Four peak of the Martial Path, and the standard of battle between the two was strikingly close to that!

Jiang Xueqing was gazing intently, her breath hurried. Her chest repeatedly palpitated, following the purple figure with her eyes. Her dainty fists were tightly clenched, her maiden heart thumping wildly. Too strong! Comparable to Qin Feng!

"Great! Great! Great! There was still a hidden gem in my institute!" Xia Linxuan was visibly elated.

From the spectators stand, the three celestial beings were watching with great interest.

"This is really weird. Who exactly is the purple-robed youth?" The thick browed youth scratched his head. The curiosity was killing him. "The difficulty of Tempest is comparable to advance level leg techniques, but he had managed to attain it. A person of this level of insight is comparable to us 10 great demon students. Who can tell me where exactly this guy came from?"

The celestial being gazed at their visibly elated father, sharing his joy. Her father would only be happy when there was another genius in his institute, and she was happy when her father was.

The silver-haired youth, wrinkled his brows slightly, gently flaring his nostrils, "That is nothing amazing. He would still be crushed in my hands."

Atop the stage...

Rumble —

As time passed, the difference in abilities were made more apparent. Qin Feng gradually could not keep up, his entire body covered in frost. His brows, hair, bare arms and face were pale white.

"I will not lose!" Qin Feng let out an angry roar, fully utilizing his vital energy and stamina, using up all 18 manners of his auxiliary cultivation techniques.

On the contrary, Su Yu's expression remained calm, as if he was still water in an autumn pond. From the beginning, Su Yu had only used Tempest, never once employing his other techniques.

Rumble —

Finally, Qin Feng could no longer keep up with Su Yu's leg technique, and was kicked in the face. He landed outside the stage, spewing a stream of blood from his mouth.

Qin Feng was defeated! After 50 rounds, he was finally defeated! He had lost his first battle as this batch's Gold King.

Su Yu calmed the disorder amongst the crowd, walking to the edge of the stage with his arms behind his back. From his vantage point, all he saw was the bloodied Qin Feng.

"You are too weak. You really disappointed me," Su Yu loosely said.

He had defeated the person who stole his girlfriend. The person who had tried to frame him multiple times. The person he had resolved to defeat.

However, Su Yu did not feel any sense of accomplishment. In the past, Qin Feng was the biggest hurdle he could imagine. However, the battle today was too easy. He had not displayed his vital energy. This kind of victory could not give birth to any sense of accomplishment.

Jiang Xueqing's beautiful eyes exuded radiance. Her hands rubbed her lips in disbelief. This purple-robed prince was even more powerful than Qin Feng. The line "You are too weak", caused her maiden heart to thump uncontrollably.

The purple-robed youth was too powerful! The Gold King, in his eyes, was only worth the words "too weak"!

At this moment, the purple-robed youth was deeply etched in her heart. Her youthful maiden heart was totally captivated.

The crowd gasped. This mysterious purple-robed youth was unbelievably powerful. The Gold King was too weak! In that moment, the crowd became unbearingly curious. Who in the institute could be this powerful?

Qin Feng was defeated, and the knot in his heart was untied.

Su Yu gazed over the horizon, unable to shake the feeling that he was but a tiny speck, and his ability was not enough.

Qin Feng was but the son of Duke Qin. The Qin family's influence was not worth mentioning.

Jiang Zhishi's face emanated awe. He cautiously and politely stepped forward, and with cupped hands asked, "If I may, what is your name?"

This question silenced the entire hall.