

Primordial 381

Chapter 381: Surrender Divine Sun City?

A giant palm descended from the sky with the momentum to crush Lin Chen into dust.

At this sight, everyone's heart was filled with apprehension.

However, just when everyone thought Lin Chen was going to perish, a black figure suddenly flashed behind him. An extremely fierce Sword Intent burst forth from that figure, and in an instant, a Sword Qi shot up into the sky.

The person who had arrived was none other than Lin Chen's Second Soul Division. Everyone was shocked by this strike. They had never imagined that Lin Chen's Second Soul Division could unleash such fierce Sword Qi. This Sword Qi was even more ferocious than the one Wu Qingxia had released earlier.

All eyes were on the sword that shot into the sky and, as expected, collided with the giant palm above. The giant palm shattered in an instant.

The crowd took a deep breath, thinking to themselves that Lin Chen really had a stroke of unbelievable luck.

But soon they felt something was off—shouldn't the lucky one be Zuo Xinghai?

"Let's go quickly, this guy is too bizarre,"

Seeing the Sword Qi that Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had erupted with, Zuo Xinghai's face turned green. He didn't dare to stay a moment longer. He immediately grabbed Zhao Le'an and fled from the spot, unconcerned about the fate of the Red Soul Hall army.

Zhao Le'an also didn't expect that the inconspicuous guy within the Jade Cauldron Sect's army could burst with such strong Sword Intent.

Seeing Zuo Xinghai dragging him to escape, he didn't say anything else.

Because he noticed that fresh blood was already spilling from the corner of Zuo Xinghai's mouth. It seemed that the earlier blow from Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had caused a backlash.

What kind of terrifying strength must one possess to injure an elder like Zuo Xinghai?

You must understand that even Wu Qingxia hadn't managed to do so before.

At this moment, if Lin Chen's Second Soul Division possessed such strength, and if he joined forces with Wu Qingxia, then Zuo Xinghai would undoubtedly be defeated. It seemed likely that he would perish here today.

Therefore, he was too preoccupied with his own safety to care about the Red Soul Hall army.

The reason why Lin Chen's Second Soul Division was suddenly able to unleash such powerful Sword Qi wasn't because he had observed and learned from the fight between Yan Ruyu and the Redflame Python. If that were the case, wouldn't Lin Chen be equivalent to having the strength of the Heavenly Human Realm?

The reason Lin Chen had such an ability was because Yan Ruyu, before leaving, had given him a Sword Talisman, saying it would be of great help when Lin Chen faced a crisis.

Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had not expected to put the Sword Talisman to use so quickly.

"This guy, it seems he has gained some fortune once again,"

Yang Yuemin, Xu Ma'an, and others scrutinized Lin Chen, filled with immense emotion in their hearts.

They were increasingly glad about their choice.

Regardless of the reason, the fact that Lin Chen could now unleash a blow of the Heavenly Human Realm made everyone imagine the astonishing fighting power he would possess as he continued to grow.

The crowd's hearts began to surge with excitement, full of anticipation for the grown-up Lin Chen. They believed that such a Lin Chen would surely lead the Jade Cauldron Sect to a glorious future.

After repelling the enemy with one sword strike and watching Zuo Xinghai take Zhao Le'an to flee, they had thought that the Divine Flame Alliance would leave because of this.

Who would have thought that, just after Lin Chen's Second Soul Division repelled the enemy, an old man with graying hair suddenly walked to the front of the Divine Flame Alliance's warship, looking down from on high at the people of Jade Cauldron Sect.

"People of Jade Cauldron Sect, listen," said the old man, "We are from the Divine Flame Alliance. Our purpose here is to reclaim the palace that belongs to the Divine Flame Alliance. I give you half an hour to evacuate swiftly. Otherwise, don't blame us for not being courteous."

Although the words of the graying old man didn't contain overt threats, his posture and the current situation conveyed as much as any threat.

"Yield it? Who do you think you are? Divine Sun City was hard-won from the Black Cloud Sect by our own efforts. You think you can just come and take it back so easily?"

Lin Chen, dissatisfied, looked up at the Divine Flame Alliance forces in the sky and spoke without fear.

The reputation of the Divine Flame Alliance was indeed formidable, but to Lin Chen and his allies, standing against the Red Soul Hall's forces or the Divine Flame Alliance's didn't seem to make much difference.

The Divine Flame Alliance had not involved itself in the affairs of the Great Flame Dynasty for hundreds of years, so their existence or absence was all the same to Jade Cauldron Sect. Who needed their protection?

Moreover, this protection had never made a difference; when Red Soul Hall, Black Cloud Sect, and Moon Shadow Pavilion made their moves against the Great Flame Dynasty, the Divine Flame Alliance had not stood up for them.

"Do your words mean you wish to make an enemy of the Divine Flame Alliance?"

"Besides, this is an issue between the Divine Flame Alliance and its subordinate, Jade Cauldron Sect. You may have some skills, but I would advise you not to meddle in other people's business. Better not to draw fire unto yourself."

Relying on his identity as an Executive Elder of the Divine Flame Alliance, the old man with white hair was surprisingly bold toward Lin Chen's Second Soul Division, not realizing that Lin Chen had previously shown the strength of the Heavenly Human Realm. If truly provoked, Lin Chen might erupt with the same formidable power as before—how then would the old man confront him?

At this moment, he was only acting tough because of the Divine Flame Alliance army behind him, mistakenly thinking that Lin Chen would not dare oppose him.

However, he was wrong.

"I am indeed a member of Jade Cauldron Sect. If your honor believes that this matter involves Jade Cauldron Sect's wrongdoing and wishes to take back Divine Sun City from us, then why don't you lead by example and come down to fight with me? The scenery here is nice, and it would be a fine choice for your resting place," Lin Chen said.

"What's the matter, your honor hesitating to make a decision? Are you perhaps afraid?"

Lin Chen raised his head to look at the old man in the sky, his gaze filled with disdain as he spoke with a cold laugh.

"You..."

"Don't think I'm truly afraid of you. By such behavior, can you really represent Jade Cauldron Sect? Everyone inside Jade Cauldron Sect had better think it through. To defy the Divine Flame Alliance's forces is to oppose the Divine Flame Alliance itself. Do you really wish for death?"

The old man with white hair trembled with fury at Lin Chen's words, feeling a loss of face.

But if he didn't go ahead, how would the other members of the Divine Flame Alliance army see him?

"Enough," said Lin Chen. "Do you think we're a group of Demons and Fiends from the Red Soul Hall, to be coerced by oppression?"

As the old man with white hair pondered how to threaten Lin Chen and the others with his words, a cold voice came from behind him.

Hearing this, he felt irritated, thinking to himself how someone so inconsequential within the Divine Flame Alliance dared to talk to him like this.

However, when the old man with the white hair turned around, he was surprised to find the speaker was the graceful woman.

Chapter 382: Lin Chen's Decision

"Elder Wu's words are indeed true, but these brutes simply refuse to be advised and even wish to occupy Divine Sun City without withdrawing. I merely..."

The elderly man with white hair began to speak, wanting to justify himself.

However, Wu Qingxia's eyes turned cold the moment she heard him continue to argue.

"What, I haven't returned to the Divine Flame Alliance for too long and now my words carry no weight?"

Wu Qingxia said coldly, as a powerful aura also began to emanate from her.

If she wanted to strike down the elderly man, he wouldn't even stand a chance to flee; he would die on the spot.

Seeing Wu Qingxia's readiness to act, the elderly man immediately fell to his knees, trembling with fear.

"I dare not defy, we will naturally obey Elder Wu's orders," said the elderly man, his back drenched in sweat.

Meanwhile, the man in white glared at the elderly man fiercely, secretly thinking that he was courting death by provoking Elder Wu.

At this moment, Lin Chen, seeing Wu Qingxia speak up for Jade Cauldron Sect, immediately flew up and arrived above in the sky.

"Boss lady."

Lin Chen greeted with a cupped fist and slightly bent over as he called out to Wu Qingxia.

Back in the days of the inn, Wu Qingxia's identity was that of the inn's boss lady, and that was how Lin Chen had addressed her as well.

They had even conducted some business, with Lin Chen working for Wu Qingxia.

"Boss... boss lady!?"

Lin Chen's words made Wu Qingxia's cheeks flush with redness; it was her identity when she had disguised herself and opened an inn in the Mundane Realm, where she met Lin Chen.

Now that Lin Chen was calling her by that identity, she felt somewhat at a loss.

Upon hearing Lin Chen's address of Wu Qingxia, the surrounding soldiers of the Divine Flame Alliance were utterly shocked because they were well aware of Wu Qingxia's true status.

Lin Chen daring to use such an address for an Inner Sect Elder of the Divine Flame Alliance was simply courting death.

Based on what everyone knew about Wu Qingxia, they feared that Lin Chen was about to face retribution and could even end up with no remains left.

However, what Wu Qingxia did next completely overturned everyone's understanding.

Wu Qingxia flew next to Lin Chen and seemed to be greatly interested in him, examining him from head to toe.

She didn't forget to take a good look at Lin Chen's Second Soul Division and then nodded in satisfaction.

"I couldn't care less about the rules of the Divine Flame Alliance, but since you've taken over Divine Sun City, even if I let you go this time, the Divine Flame Alliance will send others to trouble you," said Wu Qingxia to Lin Chen, indifferently.

"To completely resolve this issue, I have a proposal. Half a year from now, the Divine Flame Alliance will recruit young disciples from all over. If you come and participate, and if you pass, you will enjoy the privileges and treatment of an Inner Sect Disciple. Then, it won't just be a matter of a mere Divine Sun City; even giving away the whole Great Flame Dynasty to you is merely a matter of words."

Wu Qingxia spoke to Lin Chen in a light tone.

In fact, she didn't care who ended up owning Divine Sun City.

She was only concerned with Lin Chen's talent—if he could be recruited by the Divine Flame Alliance, it would undoubtedly be a great boon for them.

The day she met Lin Chen at the inn, he was merely at the Spirit Gathering Realm in Cultivation, and in such a short time, he had grown to such impressive strength.

If it wasn't for Wu Qingxia's poor skills in mentorship, she would have wanted to take Lin Chen as her disciple right there.

In that case, Lin Chen would directly become a disciple of the Divine Flame Alliance, likewise enjoying the treatment of an Inner Sect Disciple.

It could be said that this was a great fortune for any ordinary martial artist.

By joining the Divine Flame Alliance and becoming an Inner Sect Disciple, not to mention other benefits, the monthly Cultivation Resources alone were beyond what Jade Cauldron Sect could compare with.

"Elder Wu, this... this seems somewhat inappropriate. The Zhao Family has been managing the Great Flame Dynasty over the years without any issues. If it is transferred to others, it might lead to undesirable events," said the elderly man.

"I think it's better to hand back the Great Flame Dynasty to the Zhao Family and others, to avoid unnecessary trouble."

That white-haired elderly man had been receiving offerings from Zhao Zhongtian and others over the years; he naturally didn't wish to see such a substantial piece of the Great Flame Dynasty slip away from him.

"Heh, what? Just because the Great Flame Dynasty has always been under Zhao Family's control, does it become their private property?"

"Or is it that you have some connections with the Zhao Family, which is why you are so eager to help them fight for the Great Flame Dynasty?"

Wu Qingxia was quickly losing her patience with the elderly man, and eliminating him wasn't really a big deal to her. She could always explain herself to the higher-ups back at the Divine Flame Alliance.

The Divine Flame Alliance would not blame an Inner Sect Elder for dealing with an Executive Elder.

"This... Elder Wu's words are too harsh. I... I have no connection with the Zhao Family," the elderly man said, sweating profusely after hearing Wu Qingxia's words.

Today he had already defied Wu Qingfeng several times, and there couldn't be a next time. He had to let the issue of the Great Flame Dynasty go, otherwise, he truly would be seeking death.

He didn't want to give up on the juicy piece that was the Great Flame Dynasty, but now he had no other choice but to try to change the decision later on.

"Since that's the case, then I, the junior, will take this moment to thank the boss lady," Lin Chen hurriedly said, expressing his gratitude while bowing to Wu Qingxia.

After experiencing the vast strength of both the Red Soul Hall army and the Divine Flame Alliance, Lin Chen even more clearly understood that Jade Cauldron Sect couldn't reach a greater world solely based on its own strength.

And after the great battle, Jade Cauldron Sect's forces had been baptized and grown; they were bound to change.

With Lin Chen's talent, he was destined for a broader world.

But relying on the mere power of Jade Cauldron Sect, survival in the wider world would be difficult.

So Lin Chen needed a stepping stone, and the Divine Flame Alliance was an excellent choice.

Chapter 383: Departure to the Formation Sect

"Since you have already agreed, make sure to handle the matters here well, and then you can come to the Divine Flame Alliance to compete."

Wu Qingxia was very satisfied with Lin Chen's response and, after leaving him with these instructions, she soared off into the sky.

As long as Lin Chen agreed to go to the Divine Flame Alliance to compete, it was a foregone conclusion that he would become a disciple of the Divine Flame Alliance.

From the moment Wu Qingxia extended the invitation to Lin Chen, he was essentially already earmarked as a disciple of the Divine Flame Alliance.

The reason Wu Qingxia wanted Lin Chen to participate in the competition was because she also wanted to see just how good Lin Chen's cultivation talent really was.

On the other hand, although Wu Qingxia was keen on having Lin Chen join the Divine Flame Alliance, as the loss would be theirs otherwise, she had no intention of taking Lin Chen as her own disciple.

After all, Wu Qingxia was used to her freedom and was not accustomed to accept a disciple.

Lin Chen nodded in agreement to Wu Qingxia's response.

He naturally would not miss this opportunity to use the Divine Flame Alliance as a stepping stone, and Lin Chen also wanted to witness the faces of the so-called geniuses of the Divine Flame Alliance.

"My name is Chu Zisa, may I ask how to address the young brother? Once the matters here are settled, please return with me to the Divine Flame Alliance."

Although Chu Zisa also found Lin Chen displeasing, since Elder Wu thought so highly of him, he naturally did not dare to offend Lin Chen.

Lin Chen might be unaware of it, but Chu Zisa was not foolish, he had already discerned that Wu Qingxia was very pleased with Lin Chen and was quite inclined to stand by him, therefore Chu Zisa would do anything to befriend Lin Chen.

"My name is Lin Chen."

Lin Chen looked at Chu Zisa, responding indifferently.

Considering the proverb, "don't slap a smiling face," since Chu Zisa was treating him with this attitude, it was only natural for Lin Chen not to show displeasure.

Moreover, the behavior of the gray-haired old man and people like Zhao Zhongtian was unrelated to Chu Zisa.

Lin Chen was also unaware of Chu Zisa's true thoughts and simply felt that his position within the Divine Flame Alliance was extraordinary. Since the other party was keen on making friends, Lin Chen went along with it and gave him face.

This wasn't because Lin Chen feared anyone; for people like Zhao Zhongtian and Zhao Yuntian, Lin Chen simply felt they posed no threat and were not worth worrying about.

Even during the heyday of the Great Flame Dynasty when he faced those formidable figures within the Great Flame Dynasty, Lin Chen did not fear them, and now, without their power, he was even less afraid of Zhao Zhongtian and others.

Out of respect for Zhao Lingxi, Lin Chen decided not to pursue the matter with Zhao Zhongtian and others.

Lin Chen was not a person oblivious to justice; since his grievances with Zhao Zhongtian were nullified the moment he lost Divine Sun City, he naturally would not concern himself with these issues now.

But if Zhao Zhongtian and Zhao Yuntian continued to relentlessly pursue him and cause trouble, Lin Chen would naturally not hold back.

And so, Lin Chen began to negotiate with the army of the Divine Flame Alliance. Understanding the history and consequences with their side, he quietly counted up.

Lin Chen secretly assessed the losses this time.

After the battle, Lin Chen only then realized the extent of the losses suffered by the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Maintaining a large army already required an immense amount of resources.

After this battle, when taking inventory, Lin Chen discovered that nearly half of the resources that the Jade Cauldron Sect had managed to accumulate were now spent.

Whether it was the Redflame Firestone mined from the veins or the resources previously obtained from the Black Cloud Sect, the Great Flame Imperial Family, and the Wanxing Commerce Association, half had been depleted.

Fortunately, a great deal of materials was also acquired from the hands of the Red Soul Hall in this battle, which happened to compensate for the losses.

This method of waging war to support war was naturally not the best, but it was the only option for now. Until the Jade Cauldron Sect completely stabilized its footing, this method might continue to be necessary.

Those who had their eyes on the Jade Cauldron Sect were not just from the Red Soul Hall. It was likely that the Divine Flame Alliance would also harbor ill intentions; at the moment, it was only Wu Qingxia's word that had spared Lin Chen from some troubles.

In time, who knew what decisions the Divine Flame Alliance might make. Therefore, Lin Chen had to become a disciple of the Divine Flame Alliance as soon as possible and pass the trials so that the Jade Cauldron Sect could completely resolve its crisis.

However, during the seizing of the Red Soul Hall army's supplies, the arrival of the Divine Flame Alliance meant that the already defeated forces of the Red Soul Hall even presented an opportunity for the Alliance to kill some of their number.

Thus, the Divine Flame Alliance also wanted a share of the Red Soul Hall's supplies. Lin Chen and Xu Ma'an, among others, although dissatisfied, were helpless because the Divine Flame Alliance had also taken action. It was impossible for them not to get any benefits.

Nevertheless, Lin Chen was not about to let the Divine Flame Alliance take such a big advantage for nothing. He only allocated some of the supplies to them. As for the warships from the Red Soul Hall after the great battle, Lin Chen did not give away even one.

And Lin Chen's concerns were unnecessary after all. The Divine Flame Alliance was a million miles away from this place and seemed to have no intention of wanting those damaged warships.

This allowed Lin Chen to feel somewhat relieved. For the Jade Cauldron Sect, these warships, as long as they were repaired, could be perfectly restored to their combat capabilities.

And repair was what the Jade Cauldron Sect now had in abundance.

The three months quickly passed by without any particular incidents occurring.

Seeing that Divine Sun City was almost completely repaired, Lin Chen also planned to set out for the Divine Flame Alliance, or more precisely, to the Formation Sect within it.

He was going to participate in the Formation Sect's assessment and become an Inner Sect Disciple so that Divine Sun City could truly belong to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Just before departing, Lin Chen worried that the Red Soul Hall might receive some news and attack again in his absence, so he left his Second Soul Division in Divine Sun City.

Chu Zisa shared these concerns, so he left half of the Divine Flame Alliance forces behind to guard the periphery of Divine Sun City.

After all, Divine Sun City was within the protective scope of their responsibility, and if the Red Soul Hall made another advance, they had a duty to meet the enemy.

During this time, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division guided the people in Divine Sun City to construct a Formation.

This Formation could connect the power of the Dragon Vein beneath Divine Sun City, unleashing immense capabilities.

The strength of this Formation lay in its origin—it was derived from the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron within Lin Chen.

Chapter 384: Enhancing Strength

Despite the fact that constructing this Formation required the consumption of at least five Heavenly Level Lower Grade magic treasures, Lin Chen could no longer afford to feel distressed. As long as the Great Formation could be successfully established, these resources were truly negligible.

In the process of constructing the city defense Formation, under the entanglement of a gray-haired elder from the Red Soul Hall, they had actually agreed to hand over the original garrison in Divine Sun City to Zhao Zhongtian and others, after all, the true Royal Family had returned.

The Jade Cauldron Sect might have reasons not to hand over Divine Sun City, but those armies originally belong to the Royal Family, and the Jade Cauldron Sect had no reason to continue withholding them.

Regarding this, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division also felt very helpless and could only let those royal soldiers choose their own stay or leave.

However, to everyone's surprise, only half of those royal soldiers chose to return to the Royal Family, while the other half resolutely refused to leave, preferring to stay with the Jade Cauldron Sect over the former Royal Family.

This point made Xu Ma'an and others scoff at Zhao Zhongtian and his people.

And even Zhao Lingxi also chose to continue staying within the Jade Cauldron Sect.

However, Lin Chen was unaware that this decision was not actually Zhao Lingxi's personal choice, but a strategic decision made by her father, Zhao Yuntian, after deep consideration.

After all, with her relationship with Lin Chen, Zhao Lingxi had also obtained a rather decent position within the Jade Cauldron Sect. Even Xu Ma'an and his people couldn't easily issue commands to Zhao Lingxi, and moreover, the relationship between Zhao Lingxi and Lin Chen was very harmonious.

Regarding this, Xu Ma'an and his people had nothing to say, after all, it was Lin Chen who had invited Zhao Lingxi to join.

Above the clouds, Lin Chen sat cross-legged inside the Flying Boat occupied by Chu Zisa and others, cultivating with his eyes closed, as the Flying Boat headed towards the Formation Sect.

When Chu Zisa first learned about the relationship between Lin Chen and his Second Soul Division, he was extremely shocked. He could not believe that the sword strike that broke the attack of Red Soul Hall Elder Zuo Xinghai had actually been delivered by Lin Chen's avatar.

For someone with a Heaven-reaching Realm Cultivation and Heavenly Human Realm combat power, to actually be an avatar of the young Martial Artist before him in the Sixth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm, such a thing would hardly be believed if told. People would more likely think that the person before them was the avatar, while the other body was the actual self.

However, with the facts in front of him, Chu Zisa had no choice but to believe.

After knowing this, he found Lin Chen to be even more mysterious than ever.

He was undoubtedly a youthful prodigy, but he did not look favorably on Lin Chen's chances in the upcoming trial at the Formation Sect.

To become a disciple of the Divine Flame Alliance and join the Formation Sect was no easy task, being one of the core Sects of the Divine Flame Alliance, becoming a disciple of the Formation Sect meant having an important status within the Alliance.

However, Chu Zisa did not view Lin Chen's chances favorably. If it were Lin Chen's avatar that had come, it might have increased the chances of success a bit, but for Lin Chen's actual self to stand out among many strong competitors would be a tough feat indeed.

As to whether Lin Chen could be successfully selected, Chu Zisa still held a skeptical attitude. If it proceeded by regular procedure, Lin Chen would find it difficult to become a disciple of the Formation Sect because in the final round of the competition, he would face opponents that even Chu Zisa found extremely troublesome, and he believed it to be very difficult for Lin Chen to overcome them.

This was merely Chu Zisa's conjecture, after all, Lin Chen was someone recommended by Elder Wu. It was possible that once Lin Chen entered the Formation Sect, he'd be directly favored by the elders and chosen right away, given his immense talent and potential, which even Chu Zisa admitted to be inferior to.

At this moment, Lin Chen was cultivating the Flight Martial Technique called Purple Cloud Wings that he had acquired at the auction.

Lin Chen had once created the Purple Cloud Wings magic treasure based on the contents of the Purple Cloud Wings Technique. Although this magic treasure could increase Lin Chen's speed, it was ultimately an external treasure and could not compare with the true "Purple Cloud Wings" Technique.

Once the "Purple Cloud Wings" were mastered, even without the Purple Cloud Wings, Lin Chen could exhibit swift movement techniques.

After successfully cultivating the Purple Cloud Wings, he would be able to condense a pair of Spiritual Power wings on his back and achieve flight.

Therefore, Lin Chen was eager to successfully cultivate them. Although there would be no danger on his trip to the Formation Sect, in the unfamiliar Sect with numerous strong individuals, no one could predict what might happen, so having an extra means to save his own life was always good.

With the mastery of Purple Cloud Wings, coupled with the Purple Cloud Flying Wings, Lin Chen was confident that even Reverting Void Realm experts would not be able to catch up to him in speed.

The Purple Cloud Wings Technique was divided into three stages: the first stage was to increase one's flight speed, the second stage could be used in combat to create Purple Cloud Wings clones to confuse the opponent.

And the third stage was truly remarkable—it could actually make oneself invisible.

This was a qualitative change, and the ability to become invisible was something Lin Chen longed for.

It seemed that this Purple Cloud Wings Technique was not really an Earth Grade Technique, but could be considered a Heavenly Level Technique. The Wanxing Commerce Association's evaluation was completely inaccurate. This Technique was essentially a skill without an upper limit, the stronger the person using it, the more potent the strength that could be unleashed.

While Lin Chen's actual body cultivated, his Second Soul Division in Divine Sun City also entered into Seclusion in a secret chamber.

Previously observing the battle between Yan Ruyu and the Redflame Python in Black Cloud Mountain had given him much insight, especially in terms of Swordsmanship.

Chapter 385: Xu Lianyu's Arduous Cultivation

This seclusion, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division's main focus was practicing swordsmanship.

Whether it was witnessing Yan Ruyu's swordsmanship or Wu Qingxia's swordsmanship, Lin Chen had gained some insights.

His practice of the sword was aimed at elevating his own swordsmanship.

After practicing swordsmanship day and night in seclusion, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division surprisingly cultivated the High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship to its peak, mastering all twelve styles.

It was unclear if it was the onslaught of sword intent from Lin Chen's Second Soul Division or some other reason, but he even realized the hidden Thirteenth Style within the High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship.

This final style was more powerful than all the twelve styles before it, but it also consumed a great deal of spiritual power to execute. Calling it a forbidden technique wouldn't be an exaggeration.

No wonder the old ancestors of the Jade Cauldron Sect kept this sword technique hidden. Perhaps they were unsure whether passing down this move would be good or bad for them.

After all, this sword technique was basically a do-or-die approach, inflicting heavy damage on the enemy at the cost of heavy self-injury. The greater the power, the greater the damage to oneself as well.

Now, after Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had emerged from seclusion, Lin Chen's master and senior martial sisters also entered seclusion.

In the midst of this great battle, they gradually realized that they could no longer keep up with Lin Chen's pace, slowly becoming a drag on him.

This was the last thing Xu Lianyu wanted to see. If it weren't for Lin Chen's Second Soul Division needing to guard the city within Divine Sun City, making him enter seclusion in the city, Xu Lianyu felt that Lin Chen might already have left her side.

At the thought of this, she became incredibly anxious.

The thought of parting with Lin Chen was the very last thing she wanted.

Therefore, this time, Xu Lianyu trained crazily and desperately, no longer slacking off as she had in the past. She wanted to catch up with Lin Chen's pace by herself, ensuring she could always accompany him and walk together with Lin Chen, rather than just watching him from afar.

If Lin Chen's cultivation improved a bit more, progressing to a larger world, who knew when she would be able to see Lin Chen again.

Seeing Xu Lianyu and Zhao Yijing becoming so obsessed with cultivating, Yang Yuemin could guess what they were thinking and couldn't help but sigh softly.

For her, Lin Chen held a very special place in her heart.

At this moment, she naturally understood the thoughts of these two disciples, but she was worried about Lin Chen. Regarding the matters of romance, the thoughts of these two senior martial sisters were apparent to anyone who looked, yet Lin Chen, perhaps because of a previous romantic experience, seemed to have developed a psychological shadow and no longer mentioned matters of love, leaving his two disciples waiting in vain.

When it came to these matters of the heart, Yang Yuemin had no way of intervening, leaving it to the younger generation to sort out for themselves.

What she needed to do was also to improve her cultivation, otherwise she, as their master, would soon be left far behind by her disciples.

In the following time, Xu Lianyu's dedicated seclusion indeed produced tremendous remarkable results.

The previously cultivation-averse Xu Lianyu, whose cultivation already far surpassed the other disciples, clearly demonstrated her exceptional talent.

Now that she was wholeheartedly cultivating, she actually broke through to the peak of the Heaven-reaching Realm in just one short month, only a step away from the Reverting Void Realm.

Such a speed of cultivation made Xu Ma'an, Yang Yuemin, and others inwardly marvel. Was this the power of love?

Compared to Xu Lianyu's breakthrough, another individual's cultivation speed within the secret chambers of Jade Cauldron Sect was extremely formidable.

She was Hua Lianxin, a disciple formerly of Floral Transfer Palace who was saved by Lin Chen.

After Lin Chen resolved her Xuan Yin Cold Body condition, Hua Lianxin's cultivation speed skyrocketed, breaking through levels repeatedly. She had now actually reached the First Level of the Reverting Void Realm.

Among the younger generation of disciples, Hua Lianxin became the first to reach the Reverting Void Realm.

Moreover, her attribute of spiritual power leaned towards the cold and yin aspect, making it extremely potent.

As long as she continued to grow, she would definitely become a hidden powerhouse of the Jade Cauldron Sect in the future.

About her circumstances, Lin Chen had briefly communicated with Xu Ma'an and others.

For such an existence, Xu Ma'an was naturally overjoyed.

However, Hua Lianxin did not wish to join the Jade Cauldron Sect, expressing her desire to protect Lin Chen for a lifetime, saying that the oath she made initially was to guard Lin Chen, and that everything she now had was given to her by Lin Chen.

Lin Chen originally persuaded Hua Lianxin that she didn't have to do so, that she had her own freedom and needn't guard him at his side.

Nevertheless, Hua Lianxin firmly refused, insisting on her decision.

Lin Chen, having no other choice, could only let her act according to her own wishes.

What Lin Chen didn't realize was that Yang Yuemin and others had already noticed that Hua Lianxin might have fallen in love with Lin Chen, just like Xu Lianyu did, wanting nothing more than to simply accompany Lin Chen.

Above the sea of clouds, inside the warship.

After a month of cultivation, Lin Chen had initially mastered the Second Layer of the Purple Cloud Wings, barely able to display the Clone State.

During this time, because his main body was telepathically connected with his Second Soul Division, he also received some comprehension of the sword, and with Lin Chen's own talent, he quickly grasped the High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship and equally mastered the Thirteenth Style.

Beyond that, Lin Chen wasn't just practicing swordsmanship, but also other martial arts skills.

"Lin Chen is truly a genius. Seeing you practice martial arts skills today, you learn them instantly, it's astonishing and truly an eye-opener for me," said Chu Zisa, genuinely amazed by Lin Chen's cultivation talent. Many martial arts skills were of a high quality grade, yet Lin Chen could learn them instantly, proving to be a martial arts prodigy. Even Chu Zisa felt inferior.

And spotting this was not only Chu Zisa but also Zhao Zhongtian, the former emperor of the Great Flame Imperial Family.

Chapter 386: Formation Sect

"Heaven has a path you did not take, and hell has no gate yet you break through it. Since you're so eager to deliver yourself to death at the Array Formation Sect, don't blame me for not being polite."

Zhao Zhongtian stood at a corner on the warship, his face icy cold with a look of murderous intent as he stared at Lin Chen in the distance.

If it had been Lin Chen's Second Soul Division going to the Array Formation Sect to participate in the competition, Zhao might have felt some trepidation and not dared to do anything to Lin Chen at the conference, after all, the cultivation of the Second Soul Division was at the Heaven-reaching Realm level, and its combat power was formidable.

However, Lin Chen had left his Second Soul Division behind in Divine Sun City to serve as its protector, while he himself had set off for the Array Formation Sect, providing Zhao Zhongtian with a perfect opportunity for revenge.

With his strength, Zhao was confident that he could get through to the final round of the Array Formation Sect's recruitment competition. Although he was a bit older, it did not affect the selection process.

With his cultivation, Zhao could still blend in as a disciple in the Array Formation Sect, it was just that due to his age, he would not receive key training.

However, Zhao did not care about that because his goal was to kill Lin Chen openly and fairly during the competition at the conference.

Yet, what Zhao Zhongtian did not know was that all his plans were probably going to fail.

On the surface, Lin Chen's main body appeared to have a lower level of cultivation compared to the Second Soul Division, but this did not mean that Lin Chen's main body was weaker in strength than the Second Soul Division.

Lin Chen's main body possessed the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron and had cultivated the Primordial Transformation Art. Additionally, within his Soul Sea, he even had the Immortal Sacred Artifact, the Dragon Fang Dagger. It could be said that the means and cards up his sleeve far surpassed those of the Second Soul Division, and if he used these trump cards, his combat power would definitely not be inferior to the Second Soul Division.

Therefore, Lin Chen dared to participate in the Array Formation Sect's recruitment competition because he had his own calculations.

With these life-saving trump cards, even when facing warriors of the Heavenly Human Realm, Lin Chen had means to escape and even a chance to fight back.

So how could he possibly fear a Zhao Zhongtian? Additionally, the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron had a master-servant relationship with Lin Chen. Should a critical moment arise, it would undoubtedly act to protect him, and then Zhao Zhongtian would be the one to suffer.

One month later, the warship finally arrived at the Array Formation Sect.

There was less than a month left until the start of the Array Formation Sect's recruitment competition.

Looking up from the warship, the scenery of Array Formation Sect was stunning; in terms of both the richness of spiritual energy and the vastness of the mountains, it far exceeded the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Unlike the Jade Cauldron Sect, within the Array Formation Sect, all the peaks were protected by great formations and restrictions, for this was the home of the Way of Formation. Disciples were seen everywhere focusing on condensing and setting up formations.

Besides the main peak, disciples from the other peaks could roam at will.

Atop the main peak, it wasn't the disciples of the Array Formation Sect who resided there, but rather the various Peak Masters and Elders.

Above the main peak, numerous formations were set up, along with countless restrictions, serving as an object of regular observation for the disciples.

This main peak, whether for Outer Sect Disciples or Inner Sect Disciples, was forbidden to enter, yet it could be studied from the outside.

When Lin Chen arrived on the warship, he took a special interest in observing and noted that the Way of Formation of the main peak indeed had some merits.

Compared to ordinary formations, it was much more intricate, but if compared to the Myriad Transformation Cauldron within Lin Chen's Soul Sea, it fell somewhat short.

If Lin Chen were to personally guide the Array Formation Sect, the sect's heritage could increase significantly; even those old ancestors in seclusion would probably come out to seek guidance from him.

However, this was just a possibility. If Lin Chen really revealed the secrets of the formations within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, he might end up being controlled by those old folk, studied like an object.

At that moment, after the warship passed the main peak and various other peaks, taking a roundabout look, it stopped at a corner of the Array Formation Sect designed for grounding flying boats.

Lin Chen observed the situation in the Array Formation Sect and noted that there were more than thirty peaks, with over a dozen in the inner circle. The disciples coming in and out of these peaks were almost all at the Heaven-reaching Realm Level, and many had reached the Reverting Void Realm, likely all being True Disciples. The inner circle of over a dozen peaks housed martial artists of similar cultivation, all Earth Melding Realm martial artists, along with a few at the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Meanwhile, the warriors on the outermost part had the lowest level of cultivation, many at the Spirit Gathering Realm, and even some at the Body Tempering Realm, were obviously Outer Sect Disciples and menial disciples.

It seemed that every sect had this sort of hierarchical system.

Only by becoming an elite can one traverse further on the Martial Path.

Thus, True Disciples and Inner Sect Disciples are often older, but there's no lack of young prodigies who at a young age become True Disciples and Inner Sect Disciples.

And these are the talents that a sect would focus on nurturing. Lin Chen's participation in the recruitment competition was an attempt to become such a talent.

After the warship stopped, Lin Chen was somewhat shocked at heart because he had witnessed what truly constituted a large sect.

No wonder the Array Formation Sect could become a super-large sect in the Eastern Domain; just the power of the Outer Sect Disciples alone was enough to completely flatten the Jade Cauldron Sect.

One can imagine how formidable the force of the Divine Flame Alliance would be.

After disembarking from the warship, Chu Zisa led Lin Chen to another force within the Array Formation Sect, the War Department.

The so-called War Department was where the robust fighting strength of the Array Formation Sect lay.

Only Inner Sect Disciples and True Disciples were eligible to join the War Department, subject to its regulation, but they also received several times the treatment of other disciples.

Although the War Department had regulations, those were internal rules; as far as the Array Formation Sect was concerned, anyone who joined and achieved combat merit could obtain power and status.

Similarly, power and status were also linked to strength; generally, those who had a position in the War Department would not have low cultivation.

Therefore, the War Department was the quickest way to enhance one's strength—members of the War Department didn't even have to follow commands from some of the Elders and Peak Masters of the Array Formation Sect.

Hence, the Array Formation Sect essentially operated under two governance systems, with the War Department taking precedence.

Once Chu Zisa brought Lin Chen to the War Department, many people came out to meet them, wanting to know what kind of person Chu Zisa had brought back.

Chapter 387: Roll Out of the Room

"Brother Chu is back. How did the mission go this time?"

As soon as Chu Zisa brought Lin Chen to the War Department, numerous cultivators at the Reverting Void Realm gathered around him, chatting and laughing with Chu Zisa. The way they spoke was extremely respectful towards him.

Lin Chen realized that Chu Zisa held an extraordinary position and power within both the Formation Sect and the War Department.

Among those martial artists from the War Department, there was one from the Zhao Family of the Great Flame Imperial Family, who happened to be Zhao Lingxi's cousin brother, named Zhao Kai.

Chu Zisa was aware of the entanglements between the Great Flame Imperial Family and the Jade Cauldron Sect and feared that Zhao Kai, once realizing the news, might harm Lin Chen.

Therefore, upon reaching the War Department, he introduced Lin Chen to everyone and specifically emphasized that Lin Chen was a person introduced by Elder Wu.

As soon as they heard of Elder Wu, many who were familiar with Wu Qingxia shuddered. It seemed they had all witnessed Wu Qingxia's prowess and feared her, so they dared not neglect Lin Chen.

In the War Department, Chu Zisa's word already carried a lot of weight; now that Lin Chen was someone brought back by Chu Zisa personally, they naturally did not dare to offend him, especially with Wu Qingxia's name mentioned, so they immediately ceased any harmful intentions towards Lin Chen.

Zhao Kai's mouth twitched when he saw Chu Zisa standing on Lin Chen's side.

If it weren't for Chu Zisa's warning, Zhao Kai would have taken some people from the War Department to trouble Lin Chen.

He had long received a voice message from Zhao Zhongtian, instructing him to teach Lin Chen a lesson, preferably to leave him crippled, but now it appeared that this task would be difficult to accomplish.

However, Zhao Kai had not given up. Since Lin Chen dared to offend the Great Flame Imperial Family, as a prince, he naturally would not let Lin Chen off easily.

After bringing Lin Chen to the War Department, Chu Zisa clearly intended for Lin Chen to blend in with them sooner, because Lin Chen was a person valued by Wu Qingxia and would inevitably be someone who could establish himself within the Formation Sect in the future.

Towards such a talent with boundless potential, Chu Zisa naturally did not want to offend him; on the contrary, he intended to owe Lin Chen a few favors.

So he brought Lin Chen to the War Department and after that he handed a few elixirs to the people there, then turned to Lin Chen and said.

"Lin Chen, there are still many things in the Formation Sect that require my attention, so I've brought you here. Get familiar with everyone as soon as possible; it will help you in the recruitment competition."

"Thank you, Brother Chu."

After exchanging a few words with Lin Chen, Chu Zisa left.

After parting with Chu Zisa, Lin Chen began to observe the people in the War Department, realizing that even the lowest Cultivation among these fellows was at the Heaven-reaching Realm Seventh Layer.

In the Jade Cauldron Sect and other sects of the Great Flame Dynasty, these would all be among the most outstanding True Disciples.

"Brother Lin is here for the competition in a month. It seems Lin Chen has some skills. Even before you officially joined the Formation Sect, Brother Chu brought you to the War Department. This is not a treatment common folks receive."

"Please follow me, Brother Lin. I'll take you to find a place to settle down first."

A tall, handsome man greeted Lin Chen with a bow.

Through their conversation, Lin Chen learned that this man was named Wang Fei, a good friend of Chu Zisa's, who always had a distaste for members of the Zhao Family.

It seemed Chu Zisa's instructions had a reason. Knowing that the Zhao family member would be disadvantageous to Lin Chen, he deliberately arranged for someone he knew well to take care of Lin Chen.

Lin Chen quietly kept this kindness in his heart.

Following Wang Fei, it wasn't long before they arrived at a mountain peak on the eastern part of the War Department. Midway up the mountain, there was a courtyard with relatively dense Spiritual Energy and numerous rooms inside.

The Formation Sect was incredibly strong, and their means of managing their disciples were also quite unique.

As long as the fights did not lead to gang fights that affected the foundation of the Formation Sect, they would choose to turn a blind eye.

Thus, within the Formation Sect, it was common to see disciples forming cliques and fighting each other to compete for Cultivation Resources.

The Forces within the Formation Sect were divided into many small groups, and the Zhao Family from the Great Flame Imperial Family was one of them.

In the past, when Zhao Zhongtian was the emperor of the Great Flame Dynasty, he naturally sent many princes to the Formation Sect to learn, and although they only became Outer Sect Disciples, with many years passing, quite a few had joined the Inner Sect.

Zhao Kai was one of them and had a decent time in the Formation Sect, doing things by the book.

After Lin Chen settled down in the room in the courtyard, Wang Fei left him with some rules and then departed.

Lin Chen knew that Chu Zisa had taken great care of him already. He had noticed, passing by the courtyard earlier, that many who came to test for the Formation Sect were using treasures and Spirit Stones to try to exchange for a spot in the courtyard, and it was extremely difficult.

As long as Lin Chen followed Wang Fei's advice, no matter what he heard or saw, if he maintained a bystander attitude and didn't meddle, it wouldn't affect him.

If someone provoked him, he could just call for Wang Fei. In the War Department, Wang Fei had some influence, and as long as Lin Chen did not initiate trouble, he could smooth things over.

Lin Chen was very grateful, and after exchanging pleasantries with Wang Fei, he set up a defensive formation and Talisman Inscriptions in his room to block Spiritual Energy, then he began to cultivate.

The mountain peak of the Formation Sect truly befit the territory of a major sect; the Spiritual Energy was abundant and dense. Lin Chen found that his speed of cultivation was much faster than before and felt invigorated after some cultivation.

Boom—

However, early the next morning, while Lin Chen was still cultivating, he heard a loud noise. The formation he set up at the door was broken through.

The door shattered, and a burly man with a few underlings burst into the room from outside.

"Kid, no matter who you are, roll out of here if you don't want to die."

"From now on, this room belongs to me."

Chapter 388: Clash

Upon seeing someone barge in, Lin Chen did not look towards the man, his gaze bursting forth with twin shards of icy intent.

"The Brother Wang Fei who brought me here only told me to ignore whatever I saw or heard, but he never told me what to do if trouble came knocking on my door," Lin Chen said with a faint shake of his head, giving a bitter laugh as he thought to himself that things really do not always go as one wishes. It seemed that what was meant to come would always come.

Then, Lin Chen slowly lifted his gaze, his eyes flickering with cold murderous intent.

"If you don't want to die, get lost," Lin Chen said indifferently.

The rules within the Formation Sect were few and they encouraged minor conflicts among the disciples.

As long as the foundation of the Sect wasn't affected, whatever fights occurred, the Sect would not blame anyone, let alone the fact that Lin Chen had not yet joined the Sect. Perhaps, being killed right now by someone, there would be no one to speak a word for Lin Chen.

Of course, if it were Lin Chen who killed someone, it would be the same.

"Kid, what did you say? You actually dare to tell me to get lost, do you know who you're talking to?" the burly man said, looking at Lin Chen with disbelief.

He could tell that Lin Chen's cultivation was merely at the Sixth Layer of Melding Earth Realm, an existence he could crush like an ant with a flick of his hand, yet Lin Chen dared to be so arrogant with him.

After all, the burly man and his followers behind him, even the weakest among them, was at the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, the stronger ones were at the Heaven-reaching Realm Fifth Layer. With such cultivation, they could easily crush Lin Chen. Shouldn't Lin Chen show them the utmost respect?

Or was it that Lin Chen had been scared silly, his mind muddled and spouting nonsense?

"Kid, kneel down and kowtow a hundred times to me, grandpa, and maybe I'll spare your life."

"Otherwise, today I will make you wish you were never born."

The burly man glared at Lin Chen with a fierce demeanor.

"You talk too much," Lin Chen said, lifting his head to look at the burly man, his body also moving in response.

One could see Lin Chen's figure leaving an afterimage at his original spot; in the next instant, he became like a gust of wind, swiftly moving through the room.

In the next moment, Lin Chen reappeared in front of the burly man.

Simultaneously, several crisp sounds echoed throughout the room.

By the time the burly man regained his senses, he found a fatally painful sensation emerging from his chest, a feeling so intense it was almost suffocating.

As all the pain surged through his body, dizziness took over his vision, and he felt himself being thrown out.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye, and when he came to, the burly man and his underlings had already been blown out the door, immediately howling in agony.

"Damn it, who the hell is this guy?"

The burly man held on to the bruises on his body, hurriedly swallowing an elixir, then led his followers to flee the place.

He knew that he had run into an iron wall this time, someone not to be trifled with. Who could have expected that a fellow with mere Sixth Layer Melding Earth Realm's cultivation could burst out with such tremendous power, completely outmatching them?

They were well aware that if Lin Chen had decided to kill them just now, none of them would have survived.

They had been thrown out by Lin Chen without even a chance to resist; just how powerful must the other party be.

The people around—who had been dismissive of the fight in Lin Chen's room—suddenly took interest in Lin Chen after seeing him send seven or eight people flying in an instant.

"I am Zhang Kuang, wielding the Gale Knife, and I would like to exchange a few moves with you," a large man in slightly tattered clothing stood out from the crowd. Aside from the unusual knife in his hand, the man's name and appearance were indeed quite unbridled.

The martial artists who were able to stay in this place were generally either influential, skilled people in several areas or recommended by a strong benefactor.

These people were here to participate in the Formation Sect's recruitment competition and they knew, regardless of how they endured the Sect's trials, that according to the Sect's annual routine, the final round was inevitably a major battle among participants; only the top fifty ranked could join the Sect.

Hence, these people suddenly became interested in challenging Lin Chen.

Before coming to the courtyard, Wang Fei had introduced Lin Chen to some of its situations, so he had a fair understanding.

Now that these guys wanted to challenge him, Lin Chen was not refusing; it was a good opportunity to experience the power of these so-called Heavenly Prides.

"Please!"

"Please!"

Lin Chen lifted his head to look at Zhang Kuang and said with a slight nod.

The moment Lin Chen finished speaking, the martial artist known as Zhang Kuang's aura changed. A gale arose around the knife in his hand, and after a flurry of movements, a slash of knife Qi swiftly moved towards Lin Chen.

It seemed this fellow is not only unbridled in name and appearance but also in the weapons he wielded and the martial arts skills he cultivated, a person with quite a distinctive character.

Lin Chen watched the attack launched by the man, his eyes suddenly narrowing.

A sword appeared in his hand, and as Lin Chen held it horizontally with a buzz, a streak of Sword Qi was also released with his swing.

Lin Chen's swordsmanship was smooth and unforced as water, and yet to the onlookers, it seemed as if he executed it upon the surface of Moonlight Lake, fluid and unending.

Lin Chen had mastered the High Mountain Flowing Water Sword Technique, such an unfathomably profound technique that others couldn't see through, yet they could sense its extraordinariness.

"What a swift sword!"

The onlookers couldn't help but exclaim upon seeing Lin Chen's swordsmanship.

Inwardly, they were also shocked; Lin Chen's strength allowed him to wield such a subtle sword technique, which showed he was indeed extraordinary in the way of the sword.

With a clear ringing sound, the knife in Zhang Kuang's hands also broke, a trace of fresh blood dripping from Zhang Kuang's throat.

The wound was superficial, merely grazing the skin.

Yet, such a wound caused Zhang Kuang's complexion to change drastically, the control Lin Chen exercised over his sword technique had reached such an inspiring level.

Chapter 389: Defeating the Enemy, Gale Wind Blade Technique

If Lin Chen's swordsmanship were not powerful, he wouldn't have so easily shattered Zhang Kuang's heavy knife, and Lin Chen's Sword Qi only managed to wound Zhang Kuang's neck—this was a display of controlling Sword Qi.

Of course, these were nuances Zhang Kuang couldn't discern.

"What an impressive treasured sword, it's probably no less than an Earth-Level Mid-Grade magic treasure."

"Kid, hand over that sharp sword in your grasp, and I'll spare your life. Otherwise, don't blame me for being merciless. Here in Baiming Garden, no one will care whether you live or die," Zhang Kuang said arrogantly as he looked at Lin Chen.

In his view, the reason Lin Chen was able to shatter his heavy knife and even wound him was because of the sharp sword in Lin Chen's hand, not due to Lin Chen's own swordsmanship.

"If you want this treasure, come and take it yourself," Lin Chen said coldly, holding the long sword in his hand.

Lin Chen had encountered many people like Zhang Kuang before. If the other party genuinely wanted to exchange pointers, Lin Chen would naturally hold back, but if they coveted the treasures Lin Chen possessed, Lin Chen would naturally not be courteous.

The next sword strike, Lin Chen would not hold back.

"Die!"

A flash of light shimmered in Zhang Kuang's hand as another large saber appeared, and he immediately charged at Lin Chen.

Seeing this, Lin Chen, with his sharp sword at the ready, looked on with utmost seriousness.

Lin Chen didn't underestimate Zhang Kuang. The opponent's moves and cultivation were not lacking, and Lin Chen took him seriously.

But defeating Zhang Kuang was, for Lin Chen, an easy feat.

Whoosh—

Another sword was swung, and Sword Light flashed before Zhang Kuang.

With a crack, the heavy knife in Zhang Kuang's hands broke once again, and this time, Lin Chen didn't restrain himself. After the Sword Light passed, several wounds appeared on Zhang Kuang's body, directly damaging his meridians.

"Ahhh—"

"Your swordsmanship is so exquisite; it's not just the sword in your hand that is formidable, but your swordsmanship as well. Who on earth are you?" Zhang Kuang finally realized that Lin Chen was no ordinary Earth Melding Realm martial artist and was shaken to his core.

If Lin Chen had exerted a bit more strength, then the wounds he now bore might have cost him his life.

"You don't deserve to know. Get lost," Lin Chen dismissed him outright.

At this moment, where would Zhang Kuang dare to linger? Having been defeated twice and now seriously injured with no strength left to fight, staying would mean he wouldn't achieve a good rank at the recruitment conference, nor would he gain entry to the Formation Sect.

In the Formation Sect, the strong preying upon the weak was a common occurrence. Now that he was seriously injured, if he didn't leave, unwelcome trouble might come seeking him.

So Zhang Kuang turned and strode towards the distance, planning to leave the Formation Sect.

"Wait."

However, just as Zhang Kuang was about to leave, Lin Chen's cold voice sounded from behind him.

"What... what else do you want?"

Zhang Kuang turned to look at Lin Chen, filled with dread.

If Lin Chen wanted his life, he didn't know whether he could escape from under Lin Chen's sword.

"Hand over all the treasures you have."

Lin Chen toyed with the sharp sword in his hand, speaking in an indifferent tone.

"Fine, I'll give them. I'll give everything," Zhang Kuang conceded, deeply unwilling in his heart, but compared to his life, the treasures on his person didn't amount to much. He promptly handed them over.

Lin Chen accepted Zhang Kuang's storage bag and probed inside with his Divine Sense. Nodding in satisfaction, he thought to himself that martial artists attending the Formation Sect's recruitment conference were indeed wealthier than ordinary martial artists.

Afterward, Lin Chen let Zhang Kuang leave and his gaze started wandering over the crowd.

Defeating someone and claiming their storage bag proved to be a good deal.

Seeing the contemplative look in Lin Chen's eyes, the crowd immediately felt as though they were being targeted by a ferocious beast, sending chills down their spines, and they couldn't help but step back.

"Is there anyone else who wishes to challenge Mr. Lin? Feel free to step forward."

Lin Chen eyed the surrounding crowd, issuing a challenge openly and directly.

This move was, admittedly, rather arrogant.

The others here all behaved themselves, fearing that they would be targeted and challenged.

In contrast, Lin Chen openly initiated challenges.

"This guy, he's absolutely insane, publicly provoking everyone—this is too arrogant."

"But from the previous fight, this guy does have the ability to be arrogant."

"But he's only a Sixth Layer of Melding Earth Realm martial artist; he can't truly believe no one dares to challenge him."

"Since that's the case, why not, brother, you challenge him? With your Heaven-reaching Realm Eighth Layer cultivation, defeating him will be a breeze."

The crowd that had been observing the battle between Lin Chen and Zhang Kuang started whispering among themselves at Lin Chen's actions.

However, despite the crowd's discussions, no one dare step forward to battle Lin Chen.

Seeing no one coming forward to fight, Lin Chen shook his head and slowly walked into his room. Looking at the broken door, he gestured casually, and a Spiritual Light quickly repaired it.

Then Lin Chen laid down several Formation Inscriptions and Talisman Inscriptions in the room before entering a meditative state. His previous battle with Zhang Kuang had given him new insight into his swordsmanship. Spiritual Power surged through his body, bursting out from his dantian and rapidly forming a cyclone, and his Cultivation broke through yet another level.

Lin Chen clenched his fist; his Cultivation had reached the Seventh Layer of Melding Earth Realm.

Lin Chen's insight into the High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship, though it had reached the thirteenth layer, was merely a transmission of experiences shared from the Second Soul Division. To truly make it his own, Lin Chen needed to practice diligently and engage in real combat.

While the consciousness sharing meant that Lin Chen's main body could get insights from what the Second Soul Division observed in battles between Yan Ruyu and the Redflame Python, it was not something the main body could truly and intimately feel.

After his Cultivation breakthrough, Lin Chen took out the spoils he had obtained from Zhang Kuang earlier.

Among them were some Spirit Stones and elixirs, though they were all Low-Grade elixirs.

Upon inspecting further, Lin Chen's attention was caught by an Earth-grade Low-Quality Martial Arts Skill within the storage bag, the Gale Wind Blade Technique.

Chapter 390: Challengers Keep Coming

After flipping through the pages, Lin Chen's original body memorized the content, and with the foundation of the High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship, he would be able to master it with some practice in the future.

Meanwhile, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division in Divine Sun City, being psychically connected to his original body, directly imprinted the Gale Wind Blade Technique using spiritual power and planned to send it to the Scripture Pavilion of the Jade Cauldron Sect.

At this time, the Jade Cauldron Sect was in dire need of strength enhancement, so this low-grade Earth-Level technique would play a crucial role.

Entering the Scripture Pavilion, Lin Chen saw many martial artists searching for the cultivation techniques they needed.

Among them was a woman from Floral Transfer Palace looking distressed and indecisive.

Lin Chen had some impression of her, for she was the second disciple of Floral Transfer Palace named Yu Liyan, who had performed exceptionally well since joining the Jade Cauldron Sect. Now a captain in the War Department of Divine Sun City, Lin Chen remembered her quite well.

After approaching and inquiring, Lin Chen found out that although she was a disciple of Floral Transfer Palace, she favored the art of the blade over swordsmanship and had always cultivated the former.

She was at that moment looking to exchange for a new martial arts skill or technique, originally hoping to find a blade technique. However, since the various peaks of the Jade Cauldron Sect mostly specialized in swordsmanship, Yu Liyan was struggling to find a suitable blade technique, which left her contemplating whether she should switch to learning swordsmanship for the sake of advanced martial skills.

After all, although the essence of blade and sword differ, their fundamentals are similar. Someone proficient in blade techniques can quickly grasp swordsmanship.

"You're quite lucky. I happen to have a decent blade technique on hand, which I was about to submit to the archives, and you just stumbled upon it," Lin Chen said to Yu Liyan.

At these words, Yu Liyan's eyes immediately lit up with intensity as she looked eagerly at Lin Chen.

"Really? That would be wonderful."

"Of course, it's true."

Saying so, Lin Chen took out a scroll, on which the Gale Wind Blade Technique was inscribed with spiritual power.

Such scrolls are not for permanent viewing but aren't one-time use either—it could be consulted by a martial artist about ten times or so.

Given the circumstances, there was no other way, as the genuine technique scrolls were in the possession of Lin Chen's original body. The fact that his Second Soul Division, using powerful Spiritual Sense, could transcribe the technique impeccably was already quite remarkable.

After taking the Gale Wind Blade Technique scroll and infusing her Spiritual Sense, Yu Liyan's expression turned to joy, and her hand holding the scroll began to tremble slightly.

The technique Lin Chen offered was precisely what she needed.

"Young Master Lin Chen, can I exchange Contribution Value for this technique?" Yu Liyan asked while cherishing the scroll in her hands. Her practice of the blade had reached a point where progress was challenging without more profound and advanced techniques and skills. The Gale Wind Blade Technique that Lin Chen presented was exactly what she needed to address her urgent requirement.

With this blade technique, her skills would undoubtedly undergo a substantial leap, as the Gale Wind Blade Technique was far more profound than the blade skills she currently wielded.

"Certainly, but first we must catalogue this technique in the archives. Elder Mo, please accompany her to register this technique and then exchange it with her," Lin Chen instructed.

At Lin Chen's gesture, an elder of the Jade Cauldron Sect promptly approached, well aware of Lin Chen's power and status. He immediately followed Lin Chen's instructions, registering the Gale Wind Blade Technique and then exchanging it with Yu Liyan.

At that moment, Lin Chen, who was far away at Formation Sect, had a slight smile on his lips.

He had not expected the technique he acquired to come into play within the Jade Cauldron Sect so quickly, realizing that engaging in combat with others within the Formation Sect had significant benefits. It seemed that he should engage in more bouts with others in the future.

With the benefits gained from battling Zhang Kuang, Lin Chen would periodically go out to fight others.

Of course, it wasn't Lin Chen seeking out these challenges on his own initiative. Rather, news of Lin Chen's battle with Zhang Kuang had spread throughout Baiming Garden, and there were always some who didn't believe the rumors and sought to challenge Lin Chen, convinced they could defeat him.

Yet, to everyone's surprise, Lin Chen fearlessly accepted all challengers and defeated all comers, leaving no adversaries victorious against him.

This back and forth soon made Lin Chen's reputation grow immensely in Baiming Garden, and the number of challengers kept increasing.

This delighted Lin Chen, leading to a life within Baiming Garden that alternated between seclusion for cultivation and battling with others.

All those defeated by Lin Chen were thoroughly plundered of their possessions.

As a result, Lin Chen gradually gained a notorious reputation in Baiming Garden.

One day, a new group of people from outside Formation Sect arrived at Baiming Garden.

Their first action upon arrival was to challenge Lin Chen.

Lin Chen, naturally, did not refuse but instead wore an evil grin.

"Some newcomers want to challenge Lin Chen again, those pitiful fools," people commented.

"What do you think Lin Chen will leave for them this time?"

"In my opinion, they'll probably be stripped of all their belongings. Lin Chen never shows mercy to those who challenge him, regardless of age or gender," the crowd discussed among themselves, then sat in a row to watch the new arrival challenge Lin Chen.

The challenger was a man with thick eyebrows, wielding a long spear as his weapon.

"Is this guy as fearsome as the rumors suggest? He's just a Seventh Layer of Melding Earth Realm fellow, no matter how terrible, how much can he really do?" the thick-browed man scoffed at Lin Chen.

"Kid, hand over all your treasures, and I might let you off easy."

"Don't harbor any illusions of luck. If I go all out, it'll take me fewer than ten moves to defeat you," said the thick-browed man disdainfully.

In the thick-browed man's view, with his Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm cultivation, defeating Lin Chen would be nothing short of effortless.

However, the thick-browed man had heard of Lin Chen's fearsome reputation and knew that many martial artists had fallen to him. Yet, that was the very reason he came to challenge Lin Chen.