

Primordial 471

Chapter 471:

Hum—

The golden staff swung through the air, emitting a buzzing sound.

Sun Fengyu wielded the golden staff in his hand, closing in on Lin Chen with remarkable speed.

Lin Chen drew his bow, shooting out an arrow with the Thunder Chasing Strike.

However, to the astonishment of the crowd, Sun Fengyu managed to block the silver Arrow Feather shot by Lin Chen with his golden staff.

After blocking Lin Chen's Arrow Feather, Sun Fengyu quickly moved closer to Lin Chen.

As Lin Chen tried to draw a second arrow, he found that Sun Fengyu was already upon him.

"So fast!"

"This lad does have some skill."

Facing Sun Fengyu, Lin Chen felt like he was confronting a formidable enemy and dared not underestimate him in the slightest.

Lin Chen had never believed that he had the ability to look down on everyone.

As long as he could avoid revealing too much of his strength, Lin Chen was willing to end the battle quickly.

However, the Sun Fengyu in front of him was clearly different from the average martial artist; he was a practitioner of brutal strength specializing in Body Cultivation.

Or perhaps, the strength of his physique was closely related to the iron staff in his hands.

"What a pity, I thought you might keep me entertained for a while, but to my surprise, you turned out to be so feeble."

"It seems that your performance in the Trial Tower must have been due to some Exotic Treasure tailored against Spiritual Puppets."

"Although I don't understand how you managed to cling to the coattails of that Princess Xia Wanxin from Yanwu Country during the secret realm trial, everything ends now. Killing you will fulfill my duty to the boss," Sun Fengyu said indifferently, swinging his staff down at Lin Chen.

"It's over!"

Boom—

Just as everyone thought Lin Chen would surely die under Sun Fengyu's staff, they saw Lin Chen actually block it with his arm, merely being pushed several steps back.

A staff mark appeared on Lin Chen's arm, but within a few breaths, the marks visibly healed at an astonishing pace.

"How is this possible!?"

Sun Fengyu was dumbstruck.

After a brief moment of stupefaction, Sun Fengyu continued to swing his golden staff, attacking Lin Chen furiously.

The golden staff swung one after another, and the overpowering attacks did cause some injuries to Lin Chen, but the recovery speed of Lin Chen's body was terrifyingly strong. In the blink of an eye, all injuries would heal.

To Lin Chen, however, Sun Fengyu's attacks became a tool to temper his physique.

Before long, Lin Chen grew impatient, as his body's resistance to the blows reached its peak, and Sun Fengyu's attacks began to leave no mark on him at all.

"It seems your attacks are not powerful enough," Lin Chen stated lightly, then swung his fists, engaging in a direct, hard-fought battle with Sun Fengyu's golden staff.

Half a quarter of an hour later, Sun Fengyu lay sprawled on the ground, his golden staff also shattered into several pieces on the ground.

In this fourth round of the competition, Lin Chen was again the victor.

If Lin Chen hadn't been averse to killing, Sun Fengyu's death would have been certain.

In fact, Lin Chen actually had Sun Fengyu to thank, for his Scorching Sun Divine Fist had stabilized under the assault of the latter's golden staff.

You should know that Lin Chen had only recently broken through to the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm and his Fiery Flame Divine Fist had also just achieved Great Success at the Fifth Level.

In the following sixth round of the competition, Lin Chen unexpectedly faced Hong Lan.

Confronted with Lin Chen, Hong Lan immediately conceded, as she was well aware of Lin Chen's true strength.

Then in the Seventh Barrier, Lin Chen encountered Qiu Ya.

Thanks to Lin Chen's hints during their time in the Enlightenment Stone Forest, she had comprehended the Roaming Dragon Soul and used her Soul Power to become invincible, successfully making it into the top twenty.

However, facing Lin Chen, Qiu Ya had no confidence in securing a victory, and since Lin Chen had been kind to her, she too chose not to fight him and voluntarily admitted defeat.

And so, Lin Chen advanced to the top ten.

The surrounding crowd all complained about Lin Chen's good fortune, and some even suspected there was something fishy going on, as Lin Chen had won two rounds without fighting.

Finally, the martial artists entering the top ten were Lin Chen, Chang Bai, Qin Kaifeng, Xia Wanxin, Heartless Monk, Deng Yu, Ouyang Xuan, Du Feiyu, Zhao Zhongchuan, and a dark horse who had suddenly emerged in the ranking competition, Tan Fei. In the earlier rounds, this person had kept a low profile and appeared to have hidden his true capabilities very well.

Among the ten, upon close inspection of their Cultivation, everyone was astonished.

For after the previous assessments, except for Lin Chen and Du Feiyu, the Cultivation of all other martial artists had actually broken through to the First Level of Reverting Void Realm.

This was the genuine Reverting Void Realm, not just the Half-Step Return to Void Realm.

There was no doubt, the ten who had triumphed and entered the top ten were all exceptional talents.

Of course, some martial artists were skeptical of Lin Chen's aptitude and strength since, unlike others who had fought their way up one match at a time, Lin Chen had relied on magic treasures for victories in several battles and had won two fights without even battling.

Chapter 472: You Could Have Won, But You Chose Death

The battles to come were eagerly anticipated by the many martial artists below, for this would be a contest among ten heavenly prides.

The fights between the ten heavenly prides would still be decided by drawing lots.

And the opponent Lin Chen drew was none other than Zhao Zhongchuan, who had a grudge against him.

Zhao Zhongtian was very strong, and if he had participated in the ranking battles, he would surely have been among the top.

However, due to the rules of the tournament, martial artists older than a sixty-year cycle could not enter the Inner Sect ranking battles, thus Zhao Zhongtian was directly disqualified from participating, fortunately, the Outer Sect recruited him, which made it somewhat easier for Zhao Zhongtian to accept.

When Zhao Zhongchuan discovered his opponent was Lin Chen, his emotions were mixed.

"Lin Chen, you rebelliously seized my dynasty, today I will have you spew it all back out."

Zhao Zhongchuan's gaze fell upon Lin Chen as he declared indignantly.

Hearing this, the crowd around them realized that there was such resentment between Zhao Zhongchuan and Lin Chen.

They immediately began pointing and discussing, with words about seizing the imperial city and the wandering prince.

Lin Chen looked at Zhao Zhongchuan and felt extremely speechless in his heart.

When the Great Flame Imperial Family had fallen and abandoned Divine Sun City in their escape, Lin Chen never saw Zhao Zhongchuan dare to speak such bold words to those from the Black Cloud Sect.

In the face of the Red Soul Hall's army, Lin Chen had seen Zhao Zhongchuan not even dare to fart, only daring to tuck his tail and hide behind Chu Zisa.

And even if Zhao Zhongchuan brought the power of the Zhao Family in the Formation Sect, they still failed to take back Divine Sun City.

Therefore, the ownership of Divine Sun City had long been tacitly agreed to by the Formation Sect to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

After all, Lin Chen's performance in the Formation Sect had entered the top ten of the ranking, and he was qualified to claim a city.

"Lin Chen, that body-strengthening cultivation technique you used before was found in the Spirit Martial Pavilion of the Great Flame Imperial Family, wasn't it?"

"Don't think that you're the only one who has cultivated the Great Rock Body, I can do it too. Today, I'm going to use this body technique to completely crush you."

Zhao Zhongchuan stared unblinkingly at Lin Chen, determined to reclaim the Imperial Family's lost prestige from Lin Chen that they had lost in front of the Black Cloud Sect.

After all, the Great Flame Imperial Family had been defeated by the Black Cloud Sect, and yet the Black Cloud Sect and even the Red Soul Hall had been defeated by Lin Chen and the Jade Cauldron Sect.

"Great Rock Body?"

Lin Chen, hearing Zhao Zhongchuan's words, was momentarily stunned, then he understood.

Indeed, Lin Chen had practiced the Great Rock Body, which was part of a body refinement technique from the treasury of the Great Flame Imperial Family, ranked at Earth Grade Top Tier, infinitely close to the category of Heavenly Tier.

In comparison, the Scorching Sun Divine Fist that Lin Chen found in the treasury of the Jade Cauldron Sect was only of Spirit Grade Top Quality.

It was a fist technique, but it had the ability to refine the entire physique, and most importantly, this technique could evolve, and with different powers of the Five Elements, it could infinitely enhance one's physique, developing it to the utmost.

That is to say, if your physique is of Profound Grade, then the Scorching Sun Divine Fist will develop your physique to the Profound Grade level, which could be considered a mysterious-level technique.

If your physique is Earth Grade, then the Scorching Sun Divine Fist is of Earth Grade.

And Lin Chen, having the Ancient Divine Body, surpassed the Supreme God Body, so for Lin Chen, the Scorching Sun Divine Fist is beyond the Heavenly Tier.

Ordinary martial artists practicing the Scorching Sun Divine Fist can only cultivate to the third level realm, but Lin Chen has already cultivated to the fifth.

Lin Chen didn't dare to imagine how strong his physique would be when he cultivated the Scorching Sun Divine Fist to the tenth level perfect realm.

So Lin Chen naturally observed and practiced the Great Flame Imperial Family's Great Rock Body, only to find that its strength could only compare with the fourth layer of the Scorching Sun Divine Fist.

Compared to the Scorching Sun Divine Fist, the Great Rock Body was trash.

At that moment, Zhao Zhongchuan shouted loudly, his entire skin began to petrify, becoming incredibly hard.

"Lin Chen, if you're a man, don't use other means, just rely on your physical strength to fight me fair and square."

Zhao Zhongchuan glared at Lin Chen through gritted teeth, his hatred for him indescribable.

If glares could kill, Lin Chen would have died a thousand, no, ten thousand times by now.

"Heh, as you wish," Lin Chen replied with a cold laugh.

Lin Chen originally wanted to end Zhao Zhongchuan quickly with the Blazing Flame Divine Bow, but upon hearing Zhao Zhongchuan proclaim he wanted to engage in close combat, Lin Chen sneered.

If the other party was asking to be tormented, then Lin Chen would oblige. Besides, the strength of his physique from the Scorching Sun Divine Fist had already been revealed.

It was time to put an end to the grudge with Zhao Zhongchuan.

"Lin Chen, prepare to die!"

Seeing that Lin Chen had indeed put away the formidable Golden Bow and Arrow, Zhao Zhongchuan's eyes revealed a gleeful expression. His petrified body immediately charged towards Lin Chen with extraordinary speed.

Boom—

Rumble—

Upon getting close to Lin Chen, Zhao Zhongchuan quickly unleashed five punches on Lin Chen's body, leaving several punch marks.

Watching Lin Chen's unperturbed figure, Xia Wanxin and Qiu Ya were extremely worried, and even the martial artists watching around were tensed on behalf of Lin Chen.

After all, to those who were not body cultivators, Zhao Zhongchuan seemed overwhelmingly strong after petrification.

Just from the offensive momentum alone, Zhao Zhongchuan's fists seemed more powerful than Sun Fengyu's Golden Staff.

However, the punch marks on Lin Chen's body were disappearing at a rate visible to the naked eye.

"You know? You had many possible ways to defeat me, yet you chose the path of self-destruction!"

Chapter 473: Battle of Physique, Total Domination

At this moment, hearing Lin Chen's words, Zhao Zhongchuan's heart grew even more enraged.

"Bastard, what the hell are you so smug about!?"

Zhao Zhongchuan, looking at the contempt in Lin Chen's expression and tone, immediately swung his fist, aiming for Lin Chen's head.

However, Zhao Zhongchuan's punch, which had been swung into the air, was intercepted by Lin Chen.

"Next, it should be my turn, right?"

Lin Chen said indifferently, his eyes suddenly flashing with a chilling light.

Boom—

Lin Chen made his move, landing a punch directly on Zhao Zhongchuan's jaw, instantly producing the sound of fracturing.

At the moment Lin Chen threw his punch, his fist was actually accompanied by a black flash.

Spurt—

Fresh blood spurted from Zhao Zhongchuan's mouth, mixed with several teeth.

Zhao Zhongchuan only felt darkness before his eyes, followed by a wave of dizziness.

Lin Chen's punch had completely knocked Zhao Zhongchuan senseless.

"How can this guy have such immense physical strength!"

Zhao Zhongchuan was shocked to his core, but before he could recover his senses, Lin Chen landed another punch on his chest.

Zhao Zhongchuan's chest caved in immediately, and his heart stopped beating for a few seconds.

One punch after another, Zhao Zhongchuan's petrified body gradually began to deform.

Below the Duel Platform, the crowd watched Zhao Zhongchuan and Lin Chen's fight, their brows furrowing, their hearts shocked to the extreme.

"This must be a joke, this guy who won by relying on his daughter's fate without fighting, is this strong..."

Watching Lin Chen's forceful punches, the crowd began to doubt their lives, thinking it was fortunate that they had not encountered Lin Chen as their opponent before, or else they would probably be bedridden with severe injuries for months.

At this moment, Lin Chen was completely overwhelming Zhao Zhongchuan, pummeling him on the ground.

Zhao Zhongchuan had completely lost the ability to fight back and was now unconscious, life or death uncertain.

"Stop, stop it now."

"Lin Chen, don't go too far, this is the Duel Platform after all."

Zhao Zhongtian saw his son being hammered unconscious by Lin Chen, his fate uncertain, and immediately roared at Lin Chen from below the Duel Platform.

People from the Zhao Family in the distance turned as green as liver.

They had been counting on Zhao Zhongchuan to lead them into the Inner Sect, but now it seemed uncertain whether Zhao Zhongchuan would survive Lin Chen's fists at all.

At this moment, Chu Zisa was also shocked beyond belief, never having expected that Lin Chen could be so violent, his Physical Strength so immense.

Chu Xuan, the Chu Family head, told Chu Zisa that they must use all their resources to befriend Lin Chen.

They now felt immensely grateful that because Wu Qingxia had valued Lin Chen, and, through a fortunate series of events, they had offered Lin Chen some conveniences, which turned out to be the wisest decision.

"So what if it's the Duel Platform?"

Lin Chen, as if holding a chicken, picked up Zhao Zhongchuan and hammered him mercilessly in front of Zhao Zhongtian below the platform.

The rules of the ranking competition stipulated that one must verbally surrender or be knocked off the Duel Platform to be considered defeated.

After all, ordinary martial artists wouldn't easily faint; those who could fight to this point were all Heavenly Pride martial artists. If they were to be knocked out by the opponent, it would indicate a level of cultivation that was incredibly acute.

"We surrender!"

Zhao Zhongtian immediately shouted, and only then did Tang Yuntian and the others declare Zhao Zhongchuan's defeat.

Lin Chen, holding Zhao Zhongchuan, swung his hand and tossed Zhao Zhongchuan down from the Duel Platform like he was discarding a dead dog.

"You... Lin Chen, my Zhao Family will never stand on the same side as you."

Zhao Zhongtian roared.

However, as soon as these words were spoken, countless icy stares immediately fell upon Zhao Zhongtian, coming from the numerous Inner Sect Elders around.

The icy intent around him made Zhao Zhongtian shiver all over.

Even though he was a Reverting Void Realm powerhouse, he could feel that if the ones emitting those auras had struck at him, he would likely have met his death right on the spot.

Zhao Zhongtian then realized that Lin Chen had now entered the top five of the ranking competition. Although he only held the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm cultivation, the talent Lin Chen displayed was on a completely different level from Zhao Zhongchuan.

Keep in mind, Lin Chen had only the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm cultivation as he defeated a martial artist of the First Level of the Reverting Void Realm with his physical body. Such strength and talent were bound to be favored by many Inner Sect Elders and even the Peak Masters.

In the future, Lin Chen might become a core figure of the Formation Sect.

At this moment, Zhao Zhongtian's declaration of standing against Lin Chen was tantamount to opposing those Elders and Peak Masters of the Formation Sect.

The people from both the Zhao and Tu Families were silent at this time, not daring to speak about Zhao Zhongchuan's defeat and injuries, because even though their families held some influence in the Outer Sect, compared to those of the Inner Sect, it was like the difference between ants and elephants.

The Formation Sect promptly took Zhao Zhongchuan away for treatment, as he was after all one of the top ten Heavenly Prides, and the Formation Sect wouldn't abandon him due to his grudge with Lin Chen.

Lin Chen watched as Zhao Zhongchuan was carried away, his mouth curling into a cold smile.

Zhao Zhongchuan was likely to be laid up in bed for the better part of a year, and moreover, he would surely sustain lingering injuries that would affect his foundation.

When it came to his enemies, Lin Chen was never merciful.

Chapter 474: Battle Situation

Lin Chen's battle with Zhao Zhongchuan concluded, and Lin Chen successfully entered the ranks of the top five.

However, down below, the crowd's perception of Lin Chen's 'attaining victory through the favor of women' dramatically changed. Some martial artists, recalling how they had insulted Lin Chen previously, immediately hid themselves to watch the battle, fearful that Lin Chen would recognize them and seek trouble.

"I never expected that among this year's new disciples, there would be such a terrifying presence. With such formidable physical strength, is his cultivation really only at the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm?"

"Cultivation can usually be hidden with spells, but during battle, it becomes much harder to conceal. The aura he emitted in his outburst is indeed at the First Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm. He truly is a frightening individual. However, the gap between his cultivation and that of the others is too large, I'm afraid this is where he stops."

Below the Duel Platform, people were discussing fervently.

The second round of the top ten battles was between Xia Wanxin and Qin Kaifeng.

After a fierce battle between the two, it was Xia Wanxin who fell.

Defeated by Qin Kaifeng, Xia Wanxin had nothing to say, because it was said that Qin Kaifeng had fought several battles with Lin Chen, with the two deeply engaging in each exchange. And yet, after several encounters, Qin Kaifeng always remained nonchalant, his clothes unwrinkled, demonstrating the strength of his abilities.

It was rumored that Qin Kaifeng's ancestors were core figures of the Formation Sect. Therefore, Qin Kaifeng had a powerful background, and so far, it seemed no one had truly forced him to use his full strength.

The third round of the competition was Ouyang Xuan against Heartless Monk.

Their battle lasted a day and a night, and while it wasn't as viscerally satisfying as Lin Chen's punch-for-punch spectacle, it involved the release of many profound and inscrutable martial arts skills that struck with thunderous impact, allowing the audience to get their fill of excitement and to grasp some true intent of the martial path.

The two exhausted their spiritual power without concluding the fight. In the end, Tang Yuntian and others had no choice but to declare the match a draw.

The fourth round pitted Deng Yu against Du Feiyu.

Compared to his fight with Lin Chen, not only had Du Feiyu's cultivation improved, but his combat power had increased significantly too, managing to exchange several hundred moves with Deng Yu.

But Deng Yu's strength was ultimately a bit stronger, and he defeated Du Feiyu despite suffering severe injuries.

Although Du Feiyu was defeated, his state of mind was not. After all, compared to Deng Yu, he was younger and his cultivation resources were far inferior.

The fifth round was one that many elders paid attention to: Chang Bai versus the consistently strength-hiding Tan Fei.

Chang Bai's methods in the secret realm trials may have been overly ruthless, but many elders saw his talent.

And in the Trial Tower, he had also broken through the sixth layer, only he hadn't encountered Lin Chen and the others because he wasn't in the same tower space.

Therefore, the Formation Sect paid close attention to him.

As for Tan Fei, before the ranking matches, he had always been concealing his strength, revealing just enough to barely pass each round, which showed his extraordinary state of mind and ability.

In the previous rounds of battle, he, like Lin Chen, defeated his opponents with a single move.

Tan Fei, like Chang Bai, was a sword cultivator.

At this moment, the two stood on the Duel Platform, each holding a sword in hand.

The crowd beneath the platform held their breath as they watched the two duelists.

There was no wind at the moment, but the robes on both of their bodies fluttered autonomously—this was due to the Sword Intent.

Screech, screech, screech—

Suddenly, Chang Bai and Tan Fei launched their attacks simultaneously.

Fierce Sword Qi burst forth from both of them, rippling outwards and startling the audience below, who quickly circulated their spiritual power to create shields in front of them.

However, their concerns were unnecessary. The moment the two attacked, one of the Sword Edge elders, dressed in white, used a finger as a sword and drew a circle in the air. With a tapping motion, he formed a Sword Qi barrier around the perimeter of the Duel Platform. Regardless of the Sword Qi fluctuations in Chang Bai and Tan Fei's battle, the barrier remained unbreached.

"Using the hand as a sword and transforming Sword Qi into an array without dispersing, this person's swordsmanship has reached such a realm," Lin Chen looked up at the white-robed elder, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Even the swordsmanship of his Second Soul Division had not reached the level of the elder before him.

It appeared only Yan Ruyu, whom he had once encountered, could possess such a level of skill in the way of the sword, deepening Lin Chen's yearning for swordsmanship.

"Elder Lu's swordsmanship seems to have become even more refined. This round features two sword cultivators; do you think Elder Lu might find a disciple to his liking this time?"

Right after Elder Lu Zizai displayed his exquisite and profound finger sword technique, disciples of the Formation Sect started conversing earnestly below.

"I think it's doubtful; you're not unaware of Elder Lu's exacting criteria for accepting disciples. He insists on finding a Natural Sword Body, which isn't easy to come by."

"Indeed, but even if these two aren't Natural Sword Bodies and don't catch Elder Lu's eye, they might still have the chance to become disciples of Elder Wang."

"Elder Wang? Which Elder Wang?"

"Of course, I'm referring to Elder Wang Ruxue from Sword Edge, ranked third in swordsmanship. Who else could it be?"

"That too is uncertain. In the past hundred years, Elder Wang has only accepted two disciples. Those two fellows are genuine Sword Path prodigies. The only thing less than perfect is that they are not Natural Sword Bodies. Otherwise, Elder Lu might have had to compete with Elder Wang for disciples."

Conversing below the high platform were two individuals among the Outer Sect Disciples ranked in the top ten: the disciple Zhuo Wei.

The man in green, named Yu Zhuo, was ranked ninth among the Outer Sect Disciples; the other, dressed in gray, was ranked tenth and named Wang Xuan.

The two were unaware that their conversation, especially when mentioning the name 'Wang Ruxue,' caught the attention of a red-dressed woman in the distance.

Chapter 475: Sword Peak

"That's not entirely true. I've heard that Elder Wang Ruxue took in two swordsmanship geniuses, but apparently those two senior brothers have no interest in the path of the sword, to the point of driving Elder Wang Ruxue mad. I heard she has practically turned into a madwoman."

Yu Zhuo and Wang Xuan were chatting when, unbeknownst to them, the woman in red had silently approached them.

"Madwoman? Who did you hear that from?"

The woman in red came up to Wang Xuan's side and asked blankly.

Hearing someone speaking, Wang Xuan turned his head, and his heart skipped a beat.

After hearing the woman in red's question, Wang Xuan looked around to make sure no one else was eavesdropping on their conversation before he leaned close to the woman's ear, and spoke softly about Wang Ruxue's matters.

"Brother Dongfang Yun from Sword Edge told us about it. He said his mentor, Elder Wang, presses him to practice swords every day, acting like a nagging old granny."

Once Wang Xuan finished speaking, he checked his surroundings again, worried that someone might overhear their conversation.

After the arrival of the woman in red, Yu Zhuo, who was next to Wang Xuan, had been giving him looks, signaling him not to continue, but Wang Xuan failed to comprehend Yu Zhuo's warning.

"So, that's how it is..."

After listening to Wang Xuan's words, the woman in red immediately turned and left without looking back.

Watching the retreating figure of the woman in red, Wang Xuan felt an unsettling feeling.

"Brother Yu, why were you winking at me just now? Is there something wrong with your eyes? Or did you want to flirt with that junior sister just now?"

Wang Xuan said indifferently.

"Flirt? What are you talking about, Wang Xuan? Do you know who that woman in red was just now?"

Yu Zhuo sighed, feeling sorry for Wang Xuan.

"Who was she?"

Wang Xuan started feeling a growing unease as he noticed Yu Zhuo's serious demeanor.

"She was none other than the Elder Wang you've just been speaking about."

Upon hearing this, Wang Xuan's legs gave way, and he nearly collapsed to the ground.

"Brother Yu, I just remembered I have some matters to attend to. I'll head back to my cave abode first, farewell."

Wang Xuan said, and without turning back, walked toward the entrance of the Formation Sect.

This mouth of his had really caused a calamity.

Seeing Wang Xuan hastily leaving, Yu Zhuo shook his head helplessly, understanding that he wanted to flee the mountain to evade the situation. Yu Zhuo had been warning him all along, but it was Wang Xuan who had not understood.

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Above Sword Edge, at this moment, Dongfang Yun was being chased and beaten by Wang Ruxue, and his screams of agony echoed from his mouth continuously.

"I don't know who the bastard was that ratted me out. Once I find out, I'll make sure they pay. Madwoman, can't you go a little easier on me? Ouch..."

Watching the two of them, one chasing and the other fleeing, Xu Hai shook his head, wondering if he would ever get a good night's sleep with these two causing such a scene every day...

But thankfully, today was a good day; Dongfang Yun seemed to have gotten himself into trouble, so the madwoman didn't force Xu Hai to practice swords...

Thinking this, Xu Hai fell into a deep sleep.

Wang Ruxue was shaking with anger, looking at the two good-for-nothing guys in front of her, wondering how she had ever decided to take them as her disciples. One did nothing but sleep all day, while the other, although more diligent, directed his efforts not toward practicing swordsmanship, but drinking and boasting with other disciples...

...

After exchanging hundreds of moves, the platform went silent. Chang Bai had several sword wounds on his body, but Tan Fei across from him was drenched in blood, with his meridians slashed by Sword Qi on all fours and even on his neck and chest—fortunately, he had managed to dodge the lethal strikes and still stood steadily on the platform.

Although Tan Fei had lost the duel, he was okay, as his swordsmanship was strong. But Chang Bai's swordsmanship was stronger, more domineering, and perhaps even bloodthirsty.

Whoosh, whoosh—

As the Sword Qi barrier dissipated, Mu Qianqiu glanced at Tan Fei and raised her hand; a streak of blue Sword Light entered Tan Fei's body. Subsequently, the injuries caused by Sword Qi began to heal, impressing Lu Zizai who was watching from the high platform.

By seniority, Lu Zizai was originally twice Mu Qianqiu's age.

Mu Qianqiu, a Natural Sword Body, had once been sought after by Lu Zizai to become his disciple. However, by a stroke of fate, she had received half a day of guidance from the Ancestral Master of Formation Sect, Lie Qianxing. With her already astonishing talent, it took less than a decade for her cultivation to reach the same level as Lu Zizai's, and her swordsmanship was no less exceptional.

Hence, at present, they were considered peers, even though Mu Qianqiu always showed Lu Zizai the utmost respect, having learned swordsmanship from him despite not formally becoming his disciple.

As fellow members of Sword Edge, Mu Qianqiu was ranked first, Lu Zizai was second, and Wang Ruxue was third.

"Your swordsmanship is not bad, but unfortunately, you are not a Natural Sword Body. However, if you are interested, you can come to Sword Edge, and I can take you as a nominal disciple."

Lu Zizai looked intently at Tan Fei and spoke plainly.

As soon as these words were spoken, the surrounding crowd, including the elders, were all shocked, for Lu Zizai was offering to take a disciple.

Perhaps Lu Zizai was also afraid that he wouldn't live to see another Natural Sword Body genius.

After all, such swordsmanship geniuses had only appeared twice in the Formation Sect in hundreds of years: Mu Qianqiu and Wu Qingxia.

Lu Zizai had praised Tan Fei's swordsmanship, but he made no mention of Chang Bai, which caused Chang Bai to clench his fists tightly, and a subtle hint of icy coldness flashed in his eyes.

All of this was observed by Lin Chen.

Chapter 476: Head-to-Head

"Thank you, Elder Mu, thank you, Elder Lu."

Tan Fei felt his injuries being treated and was amazed, thinking to himself that swordsmanship could be used in such a way.

Swordsmanship was, in his mind, a technique to kill enemies, but now, having witnessed Mu Qianqiu's healing methods, his understanding of swordsmanship was completely overturned.

Swordsmanship could actually be used to heal and save people.

The reason why Lu Zizai did not comment on Chang Bai's swordsmanship was precisely because of this.

Chang Bai's swordsmanship was strong, overbearing, and fierce, but it was also bloodthirsty, suitable for killing enemies. This sword was the king among swords, several levels stronger than Tan Fei.

However, this did not align with Sword Peak's concept of swordsmanship.

Swordsmanship is a way to kill, but, at the same time, a way to save lives.

If one practiced swordsmanship only for slaughter, then there would be no difference from the Demonic Path.

Although Chang Bai's talent was good, neither Lu Zizai nor Mu Qianqiu had a favorable impression of him.

With the conclusion of the fifth round of competition, the outcome was without a doubt—Chang Bai won, and Tan Fei lost.

Because Ouyang Xuan and the Heartless Monk both ended in a draw, they both advanced to the next round of competition as well.

Thus, after these five rounds of competition, Lin Chen, Chang Bai, Qin Kaifeng, the Heartless Monk, Ouyang Xuan, and Deng Yu were the six who earned the right to proceed to the next round of competition.

The subsequent rounds would continue tomorrow, so everyone had a night to rest.

Lin Chen returned to his quarters and immediately began to cultivate.

The next day, the competition continued.

Today, there were only three fights.

The first was between Chang Bai and Ouyang Xuan, and the result went without saying—Chang Bai won.

Defeating Ouyang Xuan was much easier for Chang Bai than his fight against Tan Fei.

This showed that Chang Bai's strength had improved again.

The second fight was the Heartless Monk versus Qin Kaifeng.

Everyone thought that Qin Kaifeng would continue his winning streak in this fight, but surprisingly, he was defeated by the Heartless Monk.

"This guy, he was actually holding back when he fought me."

Ouyang Xuan had not expected the Heartless Monk to unleash such formidable strength in this fight.

If the Heartless Monk had displayed such strength during their previous fight, Ouyang Xuan would have lost early, and there would have been no draw.

The third contest was Lin Chen against Deng Yu.

"Kid, this time I'll see what tricks you have left."

Deng Yu had been nursing a grudge over the way Lin Chen had outshone him and topped him in the earlier event.

"I have plenty of methods to choose from, but I wonder which way Young Master Deng prefers to be defeated? Like young master from the Zhao Family before, beaten unconscious by me and tossed down like a dead dog, how about that?"

Lin Chen looked at Deng Yu indifferently, noticing that in Deng Yu's hands there was a huge hammer; he hadn't realized before that this guy also wielded such a heavy weapon.

However, he was unsure whether Deng Yu's proficiency with it was up to par.

"Kid, since you want to be hammered to death, I'll satisfy you right now."

Deng Yu looked at Lin Chen, his lips curling into a series of cold sneers.

He knew Lin Chen was physically strong, having seen the battles with Sun Fengyu and Zhao Zhongchuan.

Yet Deng Yu believed that his Gravity Hammer was beyond compare to what the other two had used against Lin Chen.

This giant hammer technique was one of Deng Yu's powerful methods, always regarded as his trump card, a kill shot.

He had been concealing this technique all along, reserved for use in the final round of competition.

"Kid, prepare to die."

Deng Yu charged at Lin Chen with a swing of his giant hammer, aiming a fierce blow towards Lin Chen.

Boom—

The hammer struck Lin Chen, who didn't dodge using his Purple Cloud Wings but instead raised his arms to block.

Amidst the immense force, Lin Chen was smashed into the ground, creating a large pit on the Duel Platform.

Keep in mind that the stone slabs of the Duel Platform were made of extremely hard Obsidian, even harder than Cold Iron used in Artifact Refining. Now it was smashed into a large pit, showing the great power of Deng Yu's hammer.

"It's gravity."

Lin Chen, seeing the giant hammer in Deng Yu's hand, was somewhat startled.

"Kid, now you know how powerful my hammer is, right? Today, I'm going to make you return all the brilliance that you stole from me."

Deng Yu spoke dispassionately, then continued to swing his giant hammer.

The shocked expressions of the audience all around filled him with delight.

Boom—

Rumble—

Then, Deng Yu and Lin Chen continued to fight, with one hammer blow after another attacking Lin Chen, bringing immense satisfaction to Deng Yu's heart.

However, what he didn't know was that Lin Chen's expression was one of enjoyment too.

"Deng Yu, is that all the strength you have? Didn't you eat?"

Although Lin Chen was hit by hundreds of hammer strikes, his body remained unharmed.

The taunting words immediately caused Deng Yu to grow furious, his face flushing with rage.

"Kid, since you're courting death, I'll oblige."

Deng Yu, frantic with anger, used some technique that caused the giant hammer in his hand to grow more than twice its size.

And Lin Chen, upon seeing this, still made no attempt to dodge; instead, he leaped up, a golden flash appearing in his hand.

Chapter 477: Re-entering the Descension Ruins

Boom—

Boom—

Faced with Deng Yu's hammer that had doubled in size, Lin Chen was not afraid and did not step back at all.

Then, Lin Chen leaped up, his fist hurtling towards the enormous iron hammer swung by Deng Yu.

On Lin Chen's fist, a golden flash suddenly shimmered.

Boom—

Lin Chen's fist collided with Deng Yu's giant hammer, and with one punch, he shattered the hammer.

In this battle with Deng Yu, Lin Chen's strength had improved, much stronger than when he fought Sun Fengyu and Zhao Zhongchuan.

Under the pounding of Deng Yu's mighty hammer, Lin Chen's physique had finally reached the level that satisfied him.

Buzz—

With a loud sound, a powerful force of Spiritual Power burst forth from Lin Chen's body, and his Cultivation immediately broke through to the Second Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Although it was only the Second Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, Lin Chen's current combat power was completely of a different class compared to before.

"Damn it, this guy can actually breakthrough during battle. I must defeat him before he stabilizes his realm, otherwise once he fully ascends to the Second Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, he'll be even more difficult to deal with," Deng Yu thought to himself as he watched the aura erupting from Lin Chen.

Immediately, he swung his battered hammer, continuing to attack Lin Chen.

"With just a broken hammer, can you still unleash the same great power as before?"

Facing the giant hammer swung by Deng Yu, Lin Chen's mouth curled into a cold smile, and he swung his fist again, the golden glow reappearing.

This time, the golden glow wrapped around his fist, completely shattering Deng Yu's hammer, not merely leaving a hole.

Boom—

Afterward, Lin Chen arrived in front of Zhao Yu and knocked him down with a punch, followed by the same merciless flurry of strikes he had dealt to Zhao Zhongchuan.

This scene immediately elicited jeers from the crowd watching below.

Half an hour later, Deng Yu was thrown from the Duel Platform by Lin Chen like a dead dog.

After this match, the results were clear: Chang Bai, Heartless Monk, and Lin Chen successfully entered the top three.

The three then had three days of rest, with the final deciding match to be held after three days.

Lin Chen returned to his residence and immediately began to train to stabilize his Cultivation.

...

On the other side, after Lin Chen's Second Soul Division had taken care of the matters of the Jade Cauldron Kingdom, he left Divine Sun City and headed to the Descension Ruins within the territory of the Jade Cauldron Sect.

Calculating the time, it had been a year since he had left the Descension Ruins.

The Spirit of the Cave Mansion had told Lin Chen that he must return to the Descension Ruins after a year to continue receiving the inheritance.

Having witnessed the power of the Blazing Fire Divine Decree, Lin Chen naturally did not want to miss out on the subsequent inheritance.

Upon reaching the mountains, Lin Chen found nothing unusual in the surroundings.

He then took out the Descension Order.

Weng Weng—

As soon as Lin Chen took out the Descension Order, a whirlwind Teleportation Gate appeared in the space ahead of him.

After glancing at it a few times, Lin Chen slowly entered it.

Entering the ruins, what appeared before Lin Chen were rows of iron chains.

This place was exactly where everyone had previously crossed over the iron chains to reach the Descending Heaven Hall.

In Lin Chen's mind, the scenes of that day appeared. Back then, he hadn't reached the Melding Earth Realm, and even the Soul Power strain on the iron chains was difficult for him.

A year had passed, yet he had grown to where he was today.

Lin Chen leaped up, landing on the iron chains, and now the pressure of the Divine Soul on the iron chains was imperceptible to him.

"Hm?"

Just as Lin Chen had flown onto the iron chains, he suddenly noticed a figure ahead exuding powerful Demonic Qi and whose Spiritual Power contained a strong Fire Element.

Lin Chen had not expected that in the space of a year, Ma Yuan had also grown to such a realm, his Cultivation actually reaching the Sixth Layer of the Reverting Void Realm.

It seemed Ma Yuan had acquired other fortuitous opportunities, or perhaps what he obtained from the Descension Ruins was more than just the Blazing Fire Divine Technique.

Looking at Ma Yuan, Lin Chen became somewhat wary; after all, the other's Cultivation was one Layer stronger than his own.

Chapter 478: "You've finally come."

As Lin Chen was sizing up Ma Yuan on the iron chains before him, Ma Yuan, at this moment, slowly turned his head to look at Lin Chen, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

"Were you waiting for me?"

Lin Chen wasn't frightened by the killing intent emanating from Ma Yuan — the other party first had to have the strength to take his life before he could do anything.

"Of course, I've been waiting for you for four days."

Ma Yuan said to Lin Chen, his voice cold as ice.

"Lin Chen, regardless of what secrets you hold, you won't escape your fate today. All those secrets of yours will belong to me. Prepare to die."

Ma Yuan glared at Lin Chen, murderous intent in his gaze, and immediately unleashed his power, charging at Lin Chen to kill.

With a wave of his hand, a series of fire dragons burst forth from Ma Yuan's hands.

Those fire dragons were not just endowed with fire attribute power; they also contained an extremely strong darkness power.

It was said that only core members of the Red Soul Hall possessed darkness power. Lin Chen did not expect Ma Yuan would have it, indicating that Ma Yuan must have formed a connection with the core members of the Red Soul Hall.

Humming sounds—

Lin Chen also made his move immediately. Dark green lotus flowers emerged one by one around his body, colliding with the fire dragons released by Ma Yuan.

The might of the Flame Lotus was immensely powerful, managing to shatter all three fire dragons unleashed by Ma Yuan.

Surrounding the ruins, continuous disturbances rippled through the air. A multitude of rubble fell from below the abyss, the iron chains clashed, sending up showers of sparks, yet they did not break.

Ma Yuan, grinding his teeth in fury, watched the Flame Lotus Lin Chen had released. He naturally recognized it as the Blue Lotus Divine Flame which should have been his, but had been intercepted by Lin Chen along the way.

Whoosh—

However, just as the two of them were equally matched, a white shadow suddenly appeared out of nowhere, floating between them — it was the Spirit of the Cave Mansion.

Hum—

After the appearance of the Spirit of the Cave Mansion, it gently flung a palm towards Lin Chen and Ma Yuan, sending out a powerful force that repelled them both.

"Such strong power, a casual strike possesses the power of the Heavenly Human Realm."

Both Ma Yuan and Lin Chen watched the Spirit of the Cave Mansion with inner turmoil.

"Now that you are both here, come with me to the Descending Heaven Hall and continue to undergo the trials left by the master."

"Upon opening the Descension Ruins, you two, with the Descension Orders in your hands, qualify to proceed further."

The Spirit of the Cave Mansion spoke indifferently to Lin Chen and Ma Yuan, then immediately sent out two beams of golden light that enveloped them.

In the next moment, the three of them appeared inside Descending Heaven Hall.

"For the upcoming trial, I will send you to a void space where you need to comprehend the Great Dao True Intent."

"If you pass the assessment, you will receive the subsequent rewards prepared by the master, allowing you to continue with further trials and gain the latter part of the Blazing Fire Divine Decree."

The Spirit of the Cave Mansion spoke calmly.

"The subsequent part of the Blazing Fire Divine Decree?"

"Could it be that the Blazing Fire Divine Decree we've been cultivating isn't complete?"

Both Lin Chen and Ma Yuan were greatly shocked when they heard the words of the Spirit of the Cave Mansion.

The Blazing Fire Divine Decree was already a Heavenly Top Grade technique. If it wasn't complete, then the complete technique would potentially reach the Divine Grade.

A Divine-grade Technique, once it appeared in the world, was likely to stir a storm of bloodshed across the entire Mysterious Heaven Continent.

"Indeed, it is not. How could the master's legacy be merely a Heavenly Skill Technique? What was imparted to you before was just an Elementary Technique to tide you over."

"After all, if you failed to pass all of the master's trials, perishing halfway, it would have been too much of a waste to impart such a technique to you."

The Spirit of the Cave Mansion said lightly, while Lin Chen and Ma Yuan listened with great excitement.

To know that just the Blazing Fire Divine Decree alone was considered a supreme technique for them, if they obtained an even more powerful technique, their cultivation and strength would inevitably see significant enhancement.

"If the Blazing Fire Divine Decree isn't complete, what about the Three Purities Soul Drawing Technique?"

Lin Chen asked curiously.

"The Three Purities Soul Drawing Technique is complete; however, there is an even more powerful Cultivation Technique for the Divine Soul to follow."

The Spirit of the Cave Mansion responded indifferently.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen's heart began to thump wildly.

If his Divine Soul were to make further advances, it would also feedback to his physical body, making Lin Chen's physical self less passive in the contests of the Formation Sect.

"Alright, you may choose the Martial Arts Skills you are proficient in to prepare for the coming trial."

Chapter 479: The Final Showdown

After the prompt from the Spirit of the Cave Mansion, Lin Chen hesitated for a moment before finally selecting a sharp sword from his Spatial Ring to serve as his weapon.

Hum hum hum—

After Lin Chen had chosen his weapon, he entered a void-like space.

As soon as he entered this space, Lin Chen could feel the powerful Sword Qi it contained.

Opening his eyes, he saw within this space were seven formless Sword Qi suspended in midair.

The moment Lin Chen appeared in this space, they swiftly slashed towards him.

"Fighting against Sword Qi?"

Lin Chen, very sharp-witted, immediately understood that the trial might well be to withstand the attack of these seven Sword Qi.

Lin Chen wielded his sword, but he was unable to block even a single strike from the attacking Sword Qi.

Those seven Sword Qi instantly pierced through his body, subjecting him to endless pain.

What caused Lin Chen even greater pain was that the seven Sword Qi were not just attacking the body, but also inflicted damage on the Divine Soul.

Moreover, Lin Chen had tried using Spiritual Power and Soul Power to defend, all to no avail.

Only by using the sharp sword in his hands could he inflict damage on those seven Sword Qi, indicating that in this space, all forms of attack other than swordsmanship had lost their effectiveness.

Huff huff—

Lin Chen executed his swordsmanship, gritting his teeth to contend with the seven Sword Qi.

...

"What a joke!"

Inside the Formation Sect, Lin Chen was sitting in meditation cultivating in his room.

However, a sudden stabbing pain in his Divine Soul occurred, as the damage the Second Soul Division received within the Descension Ruins was also being endured by his original body.

Mainly because of the damage to the Soul Power, Lin Chen's original body shared a Divine Sense with the Second Soul Division, therefore, both would suffer the same harm.

With only a day left before the next match, Lin Chen's scalp went numb, his current state absolutely would not allow him to confront Chang Bai in battle.

In battle between the strong, a single flaw could give the opponent the victory.

In such a state as Lin Chen's, if he went to fight, he would inevitably reveal countless weaknesses.

After all, Chang Bai was a Reverting Void Realm powerhouse; the difference in Cultivation between him and Lin Chen was already significant, and any exposure of flaws would surely lead to certain defeat.

"I hope I can crush those seven Sword Qi before the start of the competition," Lin Chen's original body thought to himself.

At this moment, in the Sword Path Space within the Descension Ruins.

The Second Soul Division of Lin Chen was also aware of the situation faced by Lin Chen's original body, and he was very anxious. He had fought against the seven Sword Qi for a long time and had gradually come to understand the force behind each one, enabling him to battle them. But managing to fight all seven at once, each surpassing his own strength, was no easy task.

Time flew by rapidly, a day went by.

Lin Chen's original body had intended to give up the final duel, yet the Second Soul Division of Lin Chen could now barely hold its own against the seven Sword Qi.

And last night, Lin Chen's Cultivation had made another breakthrough, directly advancing to the Sixth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

This was perhaps due to the influence of the seven Sword Qi piercing through the Second Soul Division in the Sword Path Space.

However, in the final three-person match, the drawing of lots decided the duel.

Lin Chen unexpectedly drew the bye, which bought him some more time.

But, Chang Bai's strength had grown even stronger than before.

Heartless Monk, in his hands, lasted only fifty moves before being defeated.

After a brief rest, Lin Chen eventually faced Chang Bai in battle.

"Kid, I see fear in your face,"

"It's a pity you didn't accept my proposal in the secret realm back then. But you refused."

"Now, I'll make you die in this duel, suffering endlessly until death."

To Lin Chen, Chang Bai still wore a look of disdain.

"Draw your sword then, I want to see for myself if your Sword of Slaughter is as powerful as you boast."

On the Duel Platform, Lin Chen held the Flowing Light Sword in his hand, and a burst of Sword Intent immediately erupted from him.

"Using a sword!?"

"Kid, good, you're arrogant enough," Chang Bai remarked upon seeing Lin Chen choosing to battle him not with the two powers he had comprehended but with a sword instead.

If Lin Chen used the True Intent of Thunder and True Meaning of the Wind, and wielded that Golden Bow and Arrow to duel him as he did in the secret realm trials, Chang Bai might have faced some difficulty.

But Lin Chen chose to use a sword to fight him; such an act was akin to suicide.

"Why would Lin Chen choose to use a sword? His other powers far exceed his swordsmanship, what is he thinking? Doesn't he know Chang Bai has grasped both the True Meaning of the Sword and the True Meaning of Ice,"

"Has this guy lost his mind? To duel with Chang Bai in swordsmanship is no different from seeking death."

"Alas, it seems there is no suspense left in this duel. The outcome is clear, just unclear if Lin Chen can surrender before Chang Bai strikes him down."

Beneath the Duel Platform, the crowd was baffled by Lin Chen's decision to use swordsmanship against Chang Bai.

Even Lu Zizai and Mu Qianqiu were surprised and didn't understand Lin Chen's approach.

A group of Formation Sect elders had already secretly decided to pay extra attention during the clash between the two and protect Lin Chen.

Should Chang Bai make a lethal move against Lin Chen, they would immediately intervene, rescue Lin Chen, and halt the duel.

After all, every Martial Artist who reached the top ten were Heavenly Prides, and the Formation Sect did not wish for such a loss.

At this moment, Lin Chen, ignoring everyone's opinions, tightly held the Flowing Light Sword in his hands, and a hint of a cold smile couldn't help but emerge on the corner of his lips.

Chapter 480:

Descension Secret Realm, Sword Path Space.

As Lin Chen dueled with those seven strands of invisible Sword Qi, his body, Divine Soul, and swordsmanship all rapidly improved.

Lin Chen's Second Soul Division was fully immersed in the battle against the seven strands of invisible Sword Qi; perhaps even he had not noticed these changes in his body.

Swish swish swish—

And as the Sword Qi clashed, Lin Chen was able to confront the seven strands of invisible Sword Qi with his sword in hand, his body no longer harmed by the invisible Sword Qi.

With a slash of Sword Qi, the seven strands of invisible Sword Qi before him instantly dissipated.

Immediately after, the white figure of the Spirit of the Cave Mansion appeared within the Sword Path Space.

"Lin Chen, congratulations, you have successfully comprehended the invisible Sword Intent left behind by the master."

The Girl in White's gaze landed on Lin Chen. When forced to choose between Lin Chen and Ma Yuan as her future master, she naturally selected Lin Chen. Therefore, she was very happy that Lin Chen had passed this trial.

"Invisible Sword Intent?"

Lin Chen said lightly, his mind still caught in the clash with the seven strands of Sword Qi, not yet returning to his senses.

Swish swish—

Suddenly, several strands of Sword Qi flew out within this space, heading straight for Lin Chen's Soul Sea.

In that instant, Lin Chen's understanding of the path of the sword became clear.

...

Formation Sect, on the Martial Arts Arena.

Lin Chen, holding the Flowing Light Sword, stared unblinkingly at Chang Bai.

The Sword Intent emanating from Lin Chen immediately caused Chang Bai to frown.

He was greatly unsettled by the Sword Intent coming from Lin Chen and could not understand how Lin Chen could have such a powerful grasp of Sword Intent all of a sudden. Could it be that this fellow had been holding back all along?

"Stop all this trickery, I refuse to believe that your swordsmanship is stronger than mine."

Chang Bai shouted and immediately swung his sword, slashing toward Lin Chen.

The overwhelming Sword Qi fell from the sky, and the Formation Sect elders frowned, ready to rescue Lin Chen at any moment.

However, Lin Chen faced Chang Bai's attack without fear, swinging his Flowing Light Sword forward to meet it.

Boom—

The two strands of Sword Qi collided, creating a massive explosion that scattered Spiritual Energy all around.

Lu Zizai pointed once again, and a strand of Sword Qi outside the Martial Arts Arena formed a barrier, protecting the surrounding crowd from the shockwaves of the duel's Sword Qi.

Whoosh whoosh—

Suddenly, Chang Bai leapt into the air, concentrating his power to launch an even more powerful Sword Qi attack at Lin Chen.

Knowing Lin Chen's formidable prowess in close combat, Chang Bai did not dare to approach him.

But Lin Chen was not about to let him have his way.

Swoosh swoosh—

A pair of purple wings unexpectedly appeared on Lin Chen's back, and his figure vanished from the spot, leaving behind an afterimage. In the next instant, Lin Chen appeared behind Chang Bai, stabbing out with his sword.

"What a crafty movement technique!"

The surrounding Martial Artists were shocked by Lin Chen's technique, and only then did Qin Kaifeng and Deng Yu realize that Lin Chen had been concealing his true strength all this time.

With that said, could it be that Lin Chen's swordsmanship was indeed no less than Chang Bai's.

"Brother Lin, Brother Lin, it turns out that you were holding back your true strength during our previous spar."

"Although I held back as well, it seems you've kept way too much in reserve."

Qin Kaifeng, watching Lin Chen who was moving unpredictably in the sky, said with a wry smile.

"To approach me yet still use swordsmanship, who do you think you're looking down upon?"

Chang Bai, aware of Lin Chen's prowess in close combat, believed that if Lin Chen relied on his unpredictable movement technique and kept dodging his attacks—using his formidable physical strength to fight him—then Chang Bai admitted he might indeed face defeat at Lin Chen's hands.

However, the fact that Lin Chen was countering him with swordsmanship seemed like an insult to Chang Bai.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—

Once Lin Chen got close to Chang Bai, he didn't use the force of his fists to strike but engaged in swordplay instead.

Chang Bai immediately struck out in anger, and the two exchanged hundreds of moves with their swordsmanship.

This battle directly showcased Lin Chen's swordsmanship abilities, surpassing those of Tan Fei.

The martial artists who had earlier claimed that Lin Chen only won his battles because of his charm and by avoiding fights now wished they could crawl into a hole.

At this moment, even the clouds in the sky were scattered by the countless Sword Qi from their exchanges.

Their fight had lasted nearly two hours, and yet there was still no victor.

After fighting at full power for such a long time, Chang Bai was beginning to feel the strain, his Spiritual Power starting to wane.

But he noticed Lin Chen didn't show a single sign of fatigue and seemed as if he was intoxicated with the battle itself.

"Something's not right. This guy's power doesn't seem to have weakened at all, and it looks like he's, entered a Meditative Trance..."

Chang Bai looked at Lin Chen, utterly puzzled.

It was as if Lin Chen wasn't simply fighting him but rather comprehending some sort of true intent, similar to when he was in the Formation Sect's Enlightenment Stone Forest.

"Is this guy treating me as a whetstone, using me as a tool to practice his swordsmanship?"

Upon realizing this, Chang Bai couldn't accept it; he felt humiliated.

"Boy, you've successfully infuriated me. Even if I risk sustaining a hidden injury, I will have you die by my sword."

Chang Bai bellowed in rage, and the sword in his hand suddenly moved, immediately bursting forth with a white Spiritual Light.

The next instant, countless snowflakes appeared in the sky, and the temperature of the space plummeted rapidly.

Innumerable ice spikes emerged, transforming into swords of cold ice, all pointed directly at Lin Chen.

In that moment, Chang Bai fused the Power of Cold Ice with the True Meaning of the Sword, using the Frost Sword to attempt to assassinate Lin Chen.

"Lin Chen, let's see if you can withstand this move."

Chang Bai laughed maniacally, swinging both hands towards Lin Chen, sending all the countless ice spike swords in the air piercing towards him.

One must know that each of these ice spikes carried an attack that was more powerful than any of his previous Sword Qi.

The Formation Sect elders below, seeing this scene, were about to intervene to save Lin Chen, not wishing for him to die by Chang Bai's sword; however, they were stopped by a voice from Lu Zizai.

"This young man is comprehending the True Meaning of Swordsmanship; don't disturb him."

"I have an inkling that he can resolve the crisis before him."

Lu Zizai himself couldn't fathom why he felt this way.

Upon hearing this, the elders looked towards Mu Qianqiu for guidance, hoping for her directive.

However, Mu Qianqiu didn't speak; she just kept her gaze fixed on Lin Chen, clearly agreeing with Lu Zizai's statement.