

Stronger 161

Chapter 161: What is True Ferocity and Invincibility, You Can Injure the Saintess?

While Lin Xuankong and the others were talking, another Martial Cultivator was knocked off the Cloud Mist Platform. At this moment, the chattering Martial Cultivators quieted down again. This was because Chu Qing, the Young Gang Leader of the Spirit Snake Gang, had stood up, now clad in a suit of silver Battle Armor!

As the first on the Hero List of the Demon Slaying Conference, Chu Qing was the most notable among all the Martial Cultivators present. His Martial Dao Realm, equipment, Demon Pearls, and Treasures all ranked first among the thousand Martial Cultivators participating in the Demon Slaying Conference!

At this moment, even Black Dragon Elder of the Holy Dragon Association rose. He stroked his beard and said with a smile, "Chu Qing, after you participate in the Demon Slaying Conference, once I report to the President, you'll be a formal member of our Holy Dragon Association! You must fight this battle well. If you can withstand ten breaths, the Steward position of the Holy Dragon Association's Great Marsh Branch will be yours!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Qing's expression became serious. He cupped his hands and said, "Thank you for your favor, Black Dragon Elder!"

Beside Black Dragon Elder, the expressions of the two Long Eyebrow Martial Cultivators flickered. As members of the Holy Dragon Association, they had toiled for over ten years after joining before becoming Stewards. Chu Qing, however, was incredibly fortunate!

A Steward of the Holy Dragon Association was not like a so-called steward from an ordinary gang. This position was comparable in status to the Black Tiger Gang Leader, the Yin Talisman Sect Leader, or even the Spirit Snake Gang Leader. Typically, only the most outstanding cultivators at the late-stage Fifth Layer were qualified for such a role in the Holy Dragon Association!

The hundreds of Martial Cultivators around them reacted to this, their expressions fluctuating and their eyes filled with envy. These third or fourth-layer Martial Cultivators knew they would never have the chance to climb to such a position, even if they trained for several decades or their entire lives. That was the Steward position of the Holy Dragon Association!

Never mind the Steward position; even an ordinary disciple of the Holy Dragon Association, upon arriving in any of the Hundred Cities of Great Marsh Prefecture, would be a top figure capable of commanding City Lords! If Chu Qing could withstand ten breaths, the Steward position in the Holy Dragon Association would be his for the taking!

As everyone was overcome with emotion, Chu Qing cupped his hands towards Black Dragon Elder, then leaped and floated onto the Cloud Mist Platform.

Lin Xuankong, meanwhile, activated his Double Pupil and gazed intently at the Cloud Mist Platform...

The Martial Cultivators on the mid-mountain platform were all excited now, their eyes fixed keenly on the summit platform. Everyone was certain that if anyone among the Martial Cultivators present could withstand ten breaths against the female Martial Cultivator, Chu Qing undoubtedly had the greatest chance!

From the crowd, Liang Qinhu, who had a dark complexion, showed a hint of excitement in his eyes and began to count in a low voice,

"One breath."

"Two breaths."

"Three breaths."

As Liang Qinhu counted, the other excited Martial Cultivators couldn't help but join in, their faces alight with anticipation,

"Four breaths."

"Five breaths."

"Six breaths."

The excitement in everyone's eyes grew. As fellow Martial Cultivators from Great Marsh Prefecture, they would naturally share in the honor if someone could withstand ten breaths!

"Seven breaths."

"Eight breaths."

"Nine breaths."

By the ninth breath, all their voices had converged, creating a mighty swell of sound as the crowd grew intensely emotional.

Just then,

BOOM!

A muffled sound resonated as the mist on the summit platform swirled, and a figure shot out—it was Chu Qing in his silver Battle Armor.

After being blasted off the platform, he twisted mid-air and landed silently on the mid-mountain platform beside Black Dragon Elder. His composure was clearly far superior to Liy Changming's earlier display!

Regrettably, he still hadn't withstood ten breaths!

The expressions on the faces of the hundreds of surrounding Martial Cultivators were extremely complex.

Some stared at Chu Qing with awe, marveling that he had endured nine breaths—nearly three times longer than Young Master Liy.

Others shook their heads slightly, sighing. He had been just one breath short! If he had held on, a Martial Cultivator from Great Marsh Prefecture would have finally withstood ten breaths.

Still others looked at Chu Qing with envy. After all, enduring nine breaths already marked him as the foremost figure of Great Marsh Prefecture's younger generation. After this battle, Chu Qing's prestige was bound to soar even higher! It's often said that comparing people, not just objects, is what truly highlights disparities. While that female Martial Cultivator was formidable, Chu Qing had managed to outperform almost everyone present by severalfold, even tenfold. Such a display of strength was, in its own way, despair-inducing for others!

Chu Qing showed a hint of regret on his face. "It's a pity my martial arts are still lacking. If I had refined the offensive moves of the Spiritual Snake Technique a bit more, I wouldn't have been struck by those palms just now!"

Vice Gang Leader Chu Yuhui, observing that Chu Qing's Heart Spirit was somewhat dejected, shook his head and smiled. "To withstand nine breaths under the attacks of the one on the summit is already enough to make you famous throughout Great Marsh Prefecture and even in Kyoto! After all, before this, no Martial Cultivator of the Same Tier has ever withstood nine breaths against her! This achievement has already proven your worth; there's no need for regret!"

Black Dragon Elder also had a smile on his face. "Very strong, Chu Qing, you are very strong. Among the new disciples the Holy Dragon Association has recruited over the past several decades, you are undoubtedly the most talented. The Steward position is as good as yours! Come, let's go to my stone building and have a drink together!"

Chu Qing turned to look at the surrounding Martial Cultivators. "There are still a dozen people who haven't competed yet. Aren't we going to watch until the end?"

Black Dragon Elder laughed. "Watching up to this point is sufficient. That individual on the summit has been growing stronger lately, far exceeding my expectations! As for the remaining Martial Cultivators, apart from Liang Qinhu, most are ranked outside the top hundred on the Hero List. What chance do they have of withstanding even three breaths? There's no need to watch them!"

With that, he affectionately took Chu Qing's hand and, accompanied by the Holy Dragon Association Stewards, Chu Yuhui, and the others present, briskly walked down Luoxia Slope.

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After these people left, the Martial Cultivators watching also seemed somewhat uninterested, shaking their heads and sitting on stone stools, starting to discuss among themselves.

Next, the martial arts competition continued, but everyone lacked much interest in paying attention.

The results were as Black Dragon Elder expected. Except for Liang Qinhu, who relied on the Golden Body Treasure Elixir and surprisingly managed to last for four breaths, the other Martial Cultivators were all blasted off the platform in less than half a breath.

A moment later, seeing the eighty-first Martial Cultivator being blown off the platform, Han Feiyan stood up excitedly. "Brother Lin, next, it's finally your turn to go on stage!"

Lin Xuankong stood up tall, nodding to a few people around him.

Ye Kai looked at Lin Xuankong, shaking his Jade Fan, and asked with a smile, "Brother Lin, how many breaths do you estimate you can last?"

This Brother Lin whom Feiyan holds in such high regard is indeed very powerful, he thought. But he is ultimately not within the top ten of the ranking. Even if he has his own Golden Body Treasure Elixir to help him unleash strength far beyond his own, he can probably only last for three breaths at most!

Liang Qinhu, sitting beside, looked at Lin Xuankong. "When we fought earlier, this gentleman seemed to have reserved some strength. It seems his strength is quite impressive!"

"If he has the Treasure Elixir's help, he could probably last around three breaths... But that Golden Body Treasure Elixir is incredibly valuable. Using it here might be somewhat wasteful for this gentleman!"

Lin Xuankong heard this but remained silent, then leaped into the air and landed near the mountaintop platform.

Grasping the Golden Body Treasure Elixir, he thought to himself: If this Treasure Elixir takes effect, I will show that mysterious Female Martial Cultivator what true ferocity really is... Is a Sixfold Burst really that fierce?

At this moment, a key difference set Lin Xuankong apart from the other Martial Cultivators. While they landed directly on the Cloud Mist Platform, Lin Xuankong touched down on the edge of the thick mist blanketing the mountaintop and then slowly walked inside.

Seeing this, some Martial Cultivators on the mountainside platform couldn't help but shake their heads.

Ye Kai frowned. "No way! Given Brother Lin's strength, he should be able to leap directly onto the mountaintop platform. How could his Explosive Power be so weak that he couldn't even jump directly to the top? Even suppressed to the Third Realm, I can still leap straight up!"

Han Feiyan also had a hint of doubt in her eyes, but hearing Ye Kai say this, she couldn't help but glare at him. "What do you know, you penny-pincher! Brother Lin is naturally different!"

Heh, it seems Big-faced Yan has become a die-hard fan of this Brother Lin! Ye Kai glanced at her, leisurely shaking his Jade Fan.

Among the surrounding Martial Cultivators, someone couldn't help but laugh. "Even at Mid-grade of the Third Realm, one could reach the Cloud Mist Platform with two leaps, easily. This gentleman landed on the edge and is walking in so slowly. He must be trying to linger in the mist to avoid being blown away immediately and losing face!"

"Hahaha, maybe that's the reason. This method is indeed interesting. Why didn't the other brothers in the competition think of it!"

"Such a talented person! But wouldn't it be better to use such cleverness in Martial Cultivation? Hahahaha!"

Hearing the random speculations of everyone, Zhao Yufei's delicate face turned cold. But at this moment, her heart was filled with dread for the mysterious Female Cultivator who could swiftly defeat Liy Changming and Chu Qing. She wasn't entirely sure if Lin Xuankong could win!

Watching Lin Xuankong walk into the thick mist, her heart was filled with worry. She secretly activated her Qi Blood, empowering her Blood Seal Heavy Pupils, and looked carefully at the mountaintop.

Amidst the dense fog, Lin Xuankong walked step by step towards the platform.

While walking steadily, he took out a Ghost Frog Pouch.

Then, he continuously pulled out sets of Exorcism Armor from the Ghost Frog Pouch, putting them on. The first piece was the 5,000-pound Ruyi Battle Armor, the second was the Nine-Scaly Armor, and the third was the Golden Patterned Armor. By the time he had taken four steps, he had already put on ten sets of battle armor, the outermost layer being the Silver Hook Armor he had just taken from Zhao Yufei.

At this moment, the weight of the armor on his body had already reached 16,000 to 17,000 pounds.

Such a terrifying weight would make it impossible for even the most skilled Martial Cultivators to move easily, even by activating Qi Blood to its fullest. Lin Xuankong naturally felt slightly heavy, so he energetically activated the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique.

In the next moment, a faint tiger roar came from his bones, and his height suddenly reached over ten feet. When he took another step with his entire body covered in heavy armor, his aura was incredibly fierce.

But Lin Xuankong was still not satisfied. He swallowed the Golden Body Treasure Elixir with a wave of his hand.

As the Treasure Elixir's power spread throughout his body, he suddenly felt his Qi Blood pulsing with a faint golden glow. Every bone in his body, including his teeth, seemed to be covered with faint, profound Secret Patterns and a light gold color.

Meanwhile, the 17,000-pound weight on his body became incredibly light, as if he wasn't wearing anything at all.

Reaching into the Ghost Frog Pouch again, he pulled out piece after piece of Exorcism Equipment, activating them to protect his chest, legs, arms, hands, and head. As each heavy piece of Exorcism Equipment covered his body, his aura became fiercer with each step, causing the ground to tremble slightly with each move.

By the time he had put on dozens of pieces of Exorcism Equipment, his total battle armor weight had astonishingly exceeded 30,000 pounds.

At this point, every step he took would cause the ground to collapse if he hadn't already channeled all his Qi Blood into his feet. Such terrifying weight would make it impossible for even a Third-Realm Martial Cultivator to stand still.

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At this moment, Lin Xuankong, who felt his steps growing slightly heavy, took out the Kui Ox Drum and gave it a gentle tap. Instantly, his steps became several times lighter and more nimble. The previously burdensome weight of his equipment felt light as a feather again!

Without hesitation, he also activated the Blood Burning Technique. In an instant, his body became scalding hot, and his movements, when he stepped, became incredibly agile.

At this moment, the dense fog ahead of him suddenly cleared, revealing the platform in the clouds. This platform was one hundred zhang in length and width, meticulously leveled and spotlessly clean. Standing still in the center of the platform was the White-clothed Female Cultivator. Not far away, Ding Rui, a disciple of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, frowned as she looked over, a hint of surprise in her eyes.

It was no wonder Ding Rui was surprised; Lin Xuankong looked extraordinarily 'strange' at this moment! Over a zhang tall, and with layers upon layers of Battle Armor, he had practically transformed into a Battle Armor giant—tall, sturdy, and exuding a daunting aura!

Wearing more than one set of Battle Armor, and also heaps of Exorcism Equipment?

Even the Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiaoo Ying'Er, usually calm and composed, couldn't help but raise her eyebrows slightly at the sight of such a bizarre figure before her.

Lin Xuankong paid her no mind and flexed his arms and legs, producing a series of CLANG! CLANG! sounds from the friction of his Battle Armor.

Seeing that he remained silent, Xiaoo Ying'Er also didn't say much more. She activated her Qi Blood, her entire body shimmering with a faint, brilliant red glow.

Ding Rui, however, frowned deeply. That was the Saintess asking a question!

"The Saintess is asking you a question! Why aren't you responding?"

Lin Xuankong glanced at Ding Rui, his voice calm as he asked, "Is it not allowed to wear multiple sets of Battle Armor in this tournament?"

Ding Rui's expression stiffened. This was the first time she had encountered a Martial Cultivator who remained so composed in front of Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect disciples. Others wouldn't dare speak directly; they would all bow respectfully first.

She frowned and snorted coldly, "Of course, you're allowed to wear Battle Armor. But do you really think wearing more armor is beneficial? Battle Armor is incredibly heavy. Wearing just one set significantly reduces a Martial Cultivator's speed. With all that Exorcism Equipment hanging on you, you'll probably struggle just to move! Hmph, a Martial Dao competition isn't won purely by defense!"

Lin Xuankong had already activated the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, ready to launch an attack at any moment. "The Celestial Sect disciple's kind reminder is appreciated. However, before we clash, I have a question to ask."

Ding Rui immediately responded, "Ask!"

Lin Xuankong looked at the Mysterious Female Cultivator standing in the center of the platform. "The tournament rules stated that if one withstands three breaths, they earn ten thousand pounds of flesh. Withstanding ten breaths earns one hundred thousand pounds. Furthermore, if one can injure her, they can choose between the Marsh Python Demon Pearl and the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl. Is this true?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Rui couldn't help but laugh. "What? Chu Qing and Liy Changming were both defeated in an instant. What gives you the confidence to win? That Exorcism Equipment you're wearing?"

In front of the Saintess, she didn't dare to be too brazen, so her words were still somewhat polite. Inwardly, however, she had already started to sneer.

This fellow, decked out in Exorcism Equipment, looks like a foolish Profound Iron Scale Lump! With that kind of weight, his defense might be strong, but his movement speed... The Saintess will probably drain his Qi Blood with a single strike, and his own Battle Armor will crush his bones! Especially since this unknown nobody aspires to injure the Saintess? Even Prefect Liy of Great Marsh Prefecture couldn't do it! Not even Black Dragon Elder of the Black Dragon Branch could do it! Nor could Elder Hua of Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect! And this Profound Iron Scale Lump hopes to achieve it? Pure wishful thinking!

Xiaoo Ying'Er, hearing Ding Rui's words, frowned slightly. She calmly said, "My greatest wish is for someone to injure me in this tournament, for someone to make me feel pressure! You are number eighty-two, called Old Lin, right? Rest assured, my words, no matter when or where, under any circumstances, will always hold true!"

"Then let's begin!" Lin Xuankong declared, a fierce glint flashing in his eyes as his Qi Blood began to circulate wildly within him.

A vast amount of lightning erupted from his body, covering the surface of his Battle Armor. The Twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots split into thousands, even tens of thousands, of lightning bolts, making this Profound Iron Scale Lump incredibly radiant, like a Profound Iron-Forehead Scale-Thunderous Frenzy Dragon!

The Mysterious Female Martial Cultivator before him possessed abilities like Sixfold Burst, Absorption of Qi Blood, and Super Demon Pearls. Moreover, she could command heroes and order Ding Rui around; her background was undoubtedly extraordinary. He was absolutely certain she had more than one Treasure on her and definitely more than a single type of skill! To injure her, the most crucial thing was this first strike!

In the next moment, Lin Xuankong, having activated the Blood-Burning Secret Technique, Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique, Kui Ox Drum, Golden Body Treasure Elixir, and Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, stomped a foot on the ground, and the entire mountaintop platform shook violently for an instant.

Simultaneously, the incredibly imposing Lin Xuankong had already transformed into a phantom, rushing before Xiaoo Ying'Er in one-hundredth of a breath.

His massive Profound Iron Scale fist, creating countless ripples in the air and carrying innumerable bolts of lightning along with a truly unmatched, terrifying weight, smashed towards her!

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At that moment, when Lin Xuankong's Explosive Power surged over twentyfold, the entire world he perceived shifted into slow motion. On the platform halfway up the mountain, many Martial Cultivators were still chatting and laughing; their voices seemed to come to a halt. At one corner of the platform, the Jade Fan in Ye Kai's hand stopped mid-swing, the breeze it generated seemingly frozen. His eyes, fixed on Han Feiyan, locked into an expression of anger, frustration, and helplessness. Han Feiyan had just spat at him; a few droplets of saliva, moments from reaching Ye Kai's face, hung suspended an inch from his skin. Zhao Yufei, in the process of activating her Blood Seal Heavy Pupils, wore a look of fixed astonishment.

On the mountaintop platform, Ding Rui's sneer remained etched at the corners of her mouth, a hint of disdain lingering in her eyes. The White-clothed Female Cultivator's clear eyes didn't blink, as if she had turned into a statue, while in her pupils, the gigantic fist loomed ever closer...

In that critical moment, the number one prodigy among millions, Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er, was the only one able to react in time. The gigantic fist in her vision suddenly closed in; this was the first time since she began Cultivation that she felt a lethal threat from a Martial Artist of the same Realm. Her Qi Blood surged wildly as she activated her Blood Bath Divine Skill, retreating backward. However, what seemed like an almost impossible-to-catch speed in the eyes of other Martial Cultivators was many times slower compared to the speed of Lin Xuankong's approaching fist!

BOOM! A loud explosion echoed as the gigantic fist smashed into Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's chest. She disappeared instantly from her original spot, turning into a white shadow. A series of WHOOSHES sounded as she tore through the air, producing a rapidly expanding shockwave. Her feet gouged two deep ravines in the mountaintop platform as she shot backward!

Her once high and pristine chest now bore a gigantic fist imprint; the entire area had caved in instantly. Conversely, her back bulged grotesquely, forming the distinct shape of a massive fist, complete with knuckle marks! The Jade Scale Armor she wore, one of the Eight Great Treasures of Xia, had only managed to protect her legs, abdomen, and head in that instant; it hadn't yet extended to cover her chest.

SWOOSH! The sound of her flight carried for dozens of zhang before she stopped at the edge of the platform. Shocking amounts of bright red blood overflowed from the corners of Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's mouth, dripping onto her white clothes. She wobbled a few times, then knelt on one knee, violently vomiting copious amounts of blood and fragments of her internal organs!

At the same time, the Cyan Jade Token hanging from Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's slender waist suddenly emitted a crisp chime and released a wisp of green energy. This green energy swirled around her body, circulating. Under its influence, her nearly shattered frame gradually recovered: the massive fist-shaped bulge on her back quickly subsided, and her caved-in chest slowly began to reform!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong, who had just severely injured Xiaoo Ying'Er with his punch, revealed a hint of surprise behind his mask. He couldn't help but murmur, "You are indeed strong! To be hit by a punch like that from me and not be sent flying thousands of zhang—just beaten half-dead!"

Lin Xuankong was genuinely surprised. He was taken aback by the formidable resilience of this woman's body, the extreme toughness of her physique! His own body was armored with over thirty thousand catties of Profound Iron Scale Armor. Such weight, propelled to over twenty times the speed of an ordinary third-realm Martial Cultivator—how terrifying would its power be when he struck? He had expected to smash her in half with that punch, or to simply obliterate her midsection. If that had happened, the battle would have ended in an instant!

Meanwhile, Ding Rui, standing on one side of the mountaintop platform, felt the sneer vanish from her face. Everything had happened too fast. Even as a fourth-realm Martial Cultivator, she had only managed to see Lin Xuankong collide with Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er, and then the Saintess had been sent flying across the mountaintop platform.

"You... you... you... you... you!" Seeing Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er vomiting blood, Ding Rui, this female disciple of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, was utterly astonished. Her Qi Blood surged as she quickly darted to the edge of the mountaintop platform and knelt on one knee beside Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er. "Ding Rui failed to provide timely support! I deserve a thousand deaths! I deserve a thousand deaths!"

Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's injuries had already fully healed by this point, and her body once again pulsed with a faint red light. However, her white garments were now stained with patches of bright red blood, a shocking sight.

A hint of astonishment also flickered in Xiaoo Ying'Er's eyes. That punch just now... it hadn't only surprised Ding Rui; it had surprised Xiaoo Ying'Er herself just as much! She couldn't help but touch the Jade Pendant at her waist. Xiaoo Ying'Er knew very well that if not for this Great Xia's Ultimate Treasure, the Protective Profound Jade—whose defensive effects were even more miraculous than Battle Armor, negating almost ninety percent of the damage—she would have been smashed in two by that punch, even with her Profound Phoenix Body. She might even have been knocked flying off the mountaintop platform!

Such speed! Such heavy fists! Such terrifying Explosive Power! In over twenty years, no one of the Same Tier has ever posed such a dire, lethal threat to me! In over twenty years, no one of the Same Tier has ever injured me to such a grievous extent!

She could feel her heart pounding in her chest, the blood surging through her veins, every fiber of her being thrumming with a slight tremor. Her eyes, once as calm and clear as undisturbed water, now glinted with a spark of excitement and battle intent!

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That moment just now, that sense of impending death, made her feel that the bottleneck at the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer, which she hadn't been able to break through for over thirty days, had finally loosened somewhat! However, it wasn't enough. She still needed continuous combat; she needed more... Between life and death, there is great terror, but also great enlightenment!

POP.

Xiaoo Ying'Er's eyes turned sharp as she took off her protective Profound Jade from her waist and threw it to the ground. At the same time, she took off the Jade Scale Armor, one of the Eight Great Treasures, which had already been half-activated, and threw it to the ground as well. Subsequently, she took out a brilliant, Buddhist Secret Pattern-covered Treasure Elixir, even more miraculous than the Golden Body Treasure Elixir Lin Xuankong had, and put it into her mouth!

Immediately after, the terrifying, mountain-like Demon Sparrow appeared above her head. On her right side, a giant Ghost Frog Demon materialized. The seductive red light emanating from her body began to distort, as if about to transform into the form of a bird, appearing mighty, noble, and filled with terrifying power...

At this moment, this Saintess, whose true strength was at the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer but was suppressed to the Perfection Realm of the Third Layer, actually abandoned all defense and protection. She activated only her most ferocious attacks: the Top-grade Golden Body Treasure Pill, the Demon

Sparrow Demon Pearl, the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, and her Blood Bath Divine Skill at its strongest state within the Perfection Realm of the Third Layer!

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong gently clenched his fist, making a CRACKLE CRACKLE sound. "If I'm not mistaken, you seemed to be injured just now, right? So, can I choose either the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl or the Marsh Python Demon Pearl as a reward?"

Kneeling on one knee beside Xiaoo Ying'Er, Ding Rui's eyebrows shot up. "What are you thinking? You injured the Third Miss! That is an unforgivable crime!"

"No!" Xiaoo Ying'Er declared. "He absolutely can choose a Demon Pearl as a reward!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er took light steps, treading on the white carpet nearby as she walked towards Lin Xuankong.

Seeing the Saintess speak, Ding Rui's expression changed instantly. After glaring fiercely at Lin Xuankong, she lowered her head. "It was my mistake!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er ignored Ding Rui. Her face was calm, but her clear eyes held a trace of barely perceptible excitement. "However, you must continue to battle with me. I hope you can still display that formidable offensive power from before!"

After saying this, Xiaoo Ying'Er carefully observed the over-one-zhang-tall Lin Xuankong. That ferocious attack just now must have consumed a large amount of his Qi Blood. A Martial Cultivator suppressed to the Perfection Realm of the Third Layer couldn't possibly have enough Qi Blood Amount in his body to launch many attacks of that caliber. I'm somewhat worried that I won't encounter such a dangerously thrilling attack again! He's the only evenly matched opponent I've encountered since entering Demon-Suppressing Valley. I hope he doesn't disappoint me!

Lin Xuankong's heart also surged with fighting spirit. He flexed his arm slightly. "As you wish!"

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH!

The sound of rending air echoed. Before Lin Xuankong's words even faded, Xiaoo Ying'Er had already exploded forward with incredible speed, charging towards him.

At this moment, Xiaoo Ying'Er, with the red light around her body manifesting as a Divine Bird and empowered by the Top-grade Golden Body Treasure Pill, exhibited Explosive Power and speed several times greater than when she fought any other Martial Cultivator—so fast that Ding Rui could barely follow her movements!

Ding Rui's expression changed slightly. If Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er had used this speed when fighting Chu Qing, the top ranker on the Hero List probably wouldn't have lasted even a single breath before being blasted off the mountaintop platform!

Ding Rui, herself at the Late Stage of the Fourth Layer, felt a profound sense of dejection. Is this the number one prodigy among hundreds of millions, the Saintess of the Celestial Sect, the Third Princess of Great Xia? Is this the immense gap between her and me, an Elder's Direct Disciple? Even when suppressed to the Third Layer, the power she unleashes is comparable to the Late Stage of the Fourth Layer! If we were outside Demon-Suppressing Valley and this Celestial Sect Saintess unleashed her true strength, a single wave of her hand from hundreds of zhang away would probably deplete all my Qi Blood and kill me instantly, even if I were fully armored!

Thinking this, she looked at the two already engaged in battle, a smile touching the corners of her lips. Now that the Saintess has activated her Blood Bath Divine Skill to its full state and added the Top-grade Golden Body Treasure Pill, her speed has faintly surpassed that Profound Iron Scale Lump... The Blood Bath Divine Skill also has the terrifying ability to instantly drain a large amount of Qi Blood. That big lump is definitely going to be defeated quickly!

However, Ding Rui, who wholeheartedly hoped for the Saintess to win, hadn't yet considered something. Xiaoo Ying'Er was only wearing the White Python Shirt, while Lin Xuankong was burdened by a vast amount of incredibly heavy Exorcism Equipment. Under these circumstances, the Saintess was only slightly faster. If Lin Xuankong were to remove his Battle Armor, how much faster would he be than the Saintess?

「At this moment,」

Xiaoo Ying'Er was constantly weaving, striking Lin Xuankong repeatedly with her palms.

The gigantic Demon Sparrow darted at Lin Xuankong, occasionally attacking him with flames of extremely high temperature.

When the flames dodged by Lin Xuankong struck the ground, the large rocks on the mountaintop platform quickly turned crimson. If not for the special Runes arrayed there, these rocks would have already melted into magma!

The other demon, the Ghost Frog King, was attempting to entangle Lin Xuankong with its hundreds of Long Tongues, frantically corroding the white aura on the surface of Lin Xuankong's Battle Armor with its venom. Occasionally, it would leap forward, mouth agape, trying to swallow him whole!

Unfortunately, Lin Xuankong, unleashing nearly half his strength and foundation, was not someone the Tier Three Ghost Frog King could contend with. In the exchange of attacks and defense, after enduring several palm strikes from Xiaoo Ying'Er, his body quivered slightly. Then, he activated the Celestial Eye, staring into Xiaoo Ying'Er's eyes. Seeing that the Entering Illusion technique hadn't taken effect, he paid it no mind. He swung his six- to seven-foot-long arm, grabbed a large number of the Ghost Frog King's tongues, and with a powerful yank, actually dragged the thousand-jin Ghost Frog King towards him!

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In the next moment, he slammed into the Ghost Frog King's chest with a full-body collision.

BOOM!

The formidable body of the Ghost Frog King was instantly shattered, dissolving into blood mist and Demon Qi.

With the constant threat of being devoured by the Ghost Frog King gone, Lin Xuankong immediately engaged Xiaoo Ying'Er in close combat. He didn't give an inch, relentlessly throwing punches at her face. Even when she struck back, he took the hits head-on without dodging! The Demon Sparrow became somewhat flustered and dared not spit fire at will!

At this moment, every piece of Exorcism Equipment on Lin Xuankong's body provided significant power reduction. With dozens of layers of Exorcism Equipment defense, it was a bulwark no human force could break! Xiaoo Ying'Er's blows landed on him, but aside from draining some of his Qi Blood, they couldn't injure a single hair on his body!

If he weren't worried about his Battle Armor being scorched to thousands of degrees by the flames, Lin Xuankong wouldn't even bother dodging the Demon Sparrow's fire!

As Xiaoo Ying'Er continued to fight, she grew increasingly amazed.

How vast are his reserves of Qi Blood? Normally, after taking hundreds of my palm strikes, even a Tier Six Martial Artist would have been drained of all True Qi! These hundreds of palm strikes have likely absorbed Qi Blood equivalent to a thousand servings of Qi Replenishing Soup, then transformed it into the attacking Qi Blood of the Blood Bath Divine Skill, which struck him. Yet, there's still no sign of his Qi Blood being exhausted!

In her astonishment, she fought fiercely, dodging with all her might. She constantly moved near Lin Xuankong's terrifying, deadly fists, as if dancing on the edge of a knife!

In an instant, she struck Lin Xuankong with several hundred more palms, her eyes widening in surprise.

How can this be? Is he still not drained of all his Qi Blood? This terrifying talent for Qi Blood Reserves... Even the Manluo Demon Mother in the depths of Boundaryless Mountain couldn't possibly possess it! How can Great Xia have someone with such immense Qi Blood Reserves? This talent is no less impressive than my own Profound Phoenix Body! No wonder he can activate so much Exorcism Equipment. No wonder he seems to have activated multiple Explosive Power Techniques!

Amidst her confusion, Xiaoo Ying'Er suddenly felt a shadow fall over her. It was the iron lump that had been attacking, now charging directly at her.

Her brow furrowed. She leaped to avoid the attack, and at that very moment, the Demon Sparrow, which had been flying in the sky, flew right in front of her!

What a cunning fellow! He used my Demon Sparrow to force me into its flight path and make me leap!

Startled, Xiaoo Ying'Er immediately retracted the Demon Sparrow into her Demon Pearl, avoiding the danger of its giant beak striking her face.

Just then, she suddenly felt her ankle tighten.

Looking down, she saw that the iron lump had also leaped up and grabbed her ankle!

Damn it!

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH! The wind shrieked past her ears. Xiaoo Ying'Er felt the world spin as the iron lump, having grabbed her by the ankle, swung her towards the ground.

In that instant, on the brink of life and death, her pupils constricted. She frantically mobilized every trace of Divine Technique Qi Blood within her. Her Sunflower Water Strange Vein instantly unblocked completely, achieving perfect, harmonious circulation!

BOOM!

Xiaoo Ying'Er did not crash onto the ground.

Instead, she crashed onto a woman in Battle Armor—it was Ding Rui, who had been on high alert and ready to intervene at any moment!

However, Ding Rui, also restricted to the Third Layer Realm, lacked the strength to protect the Saintess. As Lin Xuankong's ferocious power slammed down, Ding Rui and Xiaoo Ying'Er were smashed to the ground together, one atop the other!

Lin Xuankong, seizing his chance, didn't stop. He immediately hauled up the dazed and dizzy Xiaoo Ying'Er.

This time, Ding Rui had no time to intervene.

Seeing the Saintess being lifted by this hulking figure over three meters tall, Ding Rui exclaimed, "Stop at once! Do you know who she is? She is..."

If not for the Saintess's strict instruction not to reveal her identity, Ding Rui would have already blurted out the words "Saintess"!

Lin Xuankong's eyes glinted fiercely as he looked at the disheveled Mysterious Female Cultivator in his grip. "Do you concede?"

Before Xiaoo Ying'Er could speak, Ding Rui's eyes were already blazing with anger. "I'm just telling you to stop! What do you mean, concede?"

What rubbish is this oaf thinking? Trying to make the Saintess concede? She's the Celestial Sect Saintess, the Third Princess of Great Xia! If her cultivation weren't suppressed in this Demon-Suppressing Valley, a mere flick of her finger could crush this iron lump! The Saintess's status is so supreme, her pride so lofty—how could she possibly concede to him!

「Mountainside Platform.」

Hundreds of Martial Cultivators had already stood up.

From the Cloud Mist Platform at the mountaintop, continuous BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM sounds echoed, clearly audible to everyone!

Every Martial Cultivator looked up at the clouds shrouding the mountaintop, their faces etched with astonishment, scarcely believing their ears.

However, no one could penetrate the thick clouds with their sight, so no one knew what was truly happening on the Cloud Mist Platform!

"What on earth is happening? Why is the fight up there so fierce? It's even more intense than when Young Master Chu fought!" a Martial Cultivator exclaimed, his voice laced with disbelief.

Chapter 167: The Unmatched Genius Who Overwhelms the Saintess, Acquires the Treasure: Holy Arrival Jade Token

When the sounds of fierce fighting on the mountaintop platform ceased, one Martial Cultivator's expression flickered with disbelief. Could that fellow, Old Lin, really be stronger than Young Master Chu, the top of the Hero List? Absolutely impossible!

Another muttered, almost to himself, But if you think about it, he's been on the Cloud Mist Platform for over twenty breaths, and the fighting went on for a good ten breaths or more!

"To withstand the Mysterious Female Cultivator's attacks for over ten breaths... perhaps he really... really is stronger than Young Master Chu!" a third Martial Cultivator managed to say, his voice strained.

"To think Great Marsh Prefecture had such a powerful Martial Cultivator hidden away!" exclaimed someone else. "Just now, watching his slow, leisurely pace as he walked into the mist... looking back, he wasn't dragging his feet at all! He was brimming with confidence, completely unhurried!"

In a corner, Liang Qinhu, with his swarthy face, walked over to Ye Kai and the others, still looking somewhat dazed. "Who exactly is this gentleman? Which sect does he belong to, and what's his name?"

At that moment, Liang Qinhu's face was a picture of astonishment and shame. This Martial Cultivator achieved a better result in the martial arts tournament than Chu Qing; his talent and strength were clearly beyond anything I could have estimated. Remembering how I previously said the man could only last three breaths—me, the eighth on the Hero List—I feel utterly ashamed.

However, no matter how ashamed he felt, he couldn't suppress his curiosity. And I desperately want to get to know this mysterious Martial Cultivator!

Standing there, Ye Kai shook his head with a bewildered expression. He was just as confused! I only know this gentleman's surname is Lin, and nothing else...

He looked at Han Feiyan with a puzzled expression. "Big Face... I mean, Beautiful Yan, who exactly is that gentleman?"

The surrounding Martial Cultivators, hearing his question, all turned their heads, looking curiously at Han Feiyan. At this moment, everyone was desperate to know who this Martial Cultivator—capable of withstanding the Mysterious Female Cultivator's attacks for over ten breaths—truly was.

Under the fervent gazes of hundreds of Martial Cultivators, Han Feiyan, as expected, shook her head. I've sworn a deadly oath; I can't divulge Master Lin's secrets. "Um, I also just met him in the Demon-Suppressing Valley," she said. "I only know his surname is Lin, and I've always called him Brother Lin!"

The numerous Martial Cultivators were somewhat disappointed upon hearing this.

But Liang Qinhu was clearly unwilling to give up. He walked over to Zhao Yufei, cupped his hands, and said, "This lady must be a kinswoman of Brother Lin's, yes? I am Liang Qinhu of the Qiu City Liang Family, and I greatly admire Brother Lin's strength! After Brother Lin's competition concludes, I, Liang Qinhu, intend to host a banquet to celebrate properly for Brother Lin. Would that be acceptable?"

At this moment, Zhao Yufei observed the fervent gazes of the crowd. Seeing the curiosity and admiration in their eyes, her heart swelled with joy. My husband is the only one who defeated the Mysterious Female Cultivator! she rejoiced silently. That's something even Liy Changming, the Prefect's son, and Chu Qing, the top of the Hero List, could never achieve! Absolutely never! She was, after all, a Mysterious Female Cultivator who commanded heroes and even made Ding Rui kneel!

However, recalling how these Martial Cultivators had mocked her husband before, a slight smile touched her lips, and she lifted her chin a fraction. "My apologies, everyone. Although I am his wife, I only know his surname is Lin and am unaware of his sect or background. As for Mr. Liang's invitation, as his wife, I cannot make such decisions on his behalf. We'll have to wait until my husband descends the mountain."

Hearing this, a wave of frustration rippled through the crowd. A wife who doesn't know her husband's full name, sect, or background? Only a fool would believe that! Why all this mystery? Can't they satisfy our curiosity just a little?

However, though everyone felt dissatisfied, not a single person dared to voice it. The man she was married to was, after all, a terrifying expert capable of withstanding the Mysterious Female Cultivator's attacks for over ten breaths. Who would dare to gossip carelessly as they had before?

Ye Kai was speechless. Who would have thought that the person sitting next to me just now was such a formidable and terrifying expert! Remembering Han Feiyan's warnings, a pang of regret struck me. Brother Lin truly is a figure far beyond my imagination; even someone like Liang Qinhu of the Liang

Family wants to get to know this great man! Then it hit me—Brother Lin was still hoping to get the Alchemy Manual from my family...

Instantly, Ye Kai's eyes lit up. Hahaha, I, Xu Kai, still have a chance to get on Brother Lin's good side! At this thought, he was so overjoyed that the very air around him seemed to grow sweeter.

Ye Kai couldn't help but sidle up to Han Feiyan, using his Jade Fan to fan her. "Big Face... I mean, Beautiful Yan, you're truly a lucky star! Being able to get to know Brother Lin through you, it's truly my good fortune!"

"Hehe!" Han Feiyan sat happily on the stone stool. "Could you fan my back a bit more over here? Mmm... yes, yes, right there!"

「...」

"You won!," the Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er said calmly, sensing the perfectly harmonious Sunflower Water Strange Vein within her body.

Hearing her words, Celestial Sect True Disciple Ding Rui's face registered utter disbelief. I never imagined it! The Celestial Sect Saintess—whose status is comparable to the Celestial Sect Leader and far surpasses even Elder Hua's, the Third Princess most doted upon by the Emperor of Great Xia—would actually admit defeat to some nameless nobody! This scene is too absurd! It's like a bizarre dream... as if a Divine Dragon from the Nine Heavens had just bowed in defeat to an ant on the ground!

Chapter 168: The Unparalleled Genius Who Overwhelms the Saintess, Acquiring a Treasure: Holy Arrival Jade Token_2

The Saintess is the pride of the Celestial Sect; how could she surrender?

How could she possibly surrender?

Ding Rui's face was filled with unwillingness. She mustered her courage and knelt on one knee, saying, "How could you surrender? The current situation is only because your Realm was suppressed, and you abandoned your defensive treasures and the renowned Jade Scale Armor, which made you so passive. If not for this, how could he possibly be your match!"

The Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiaoo Ying'Er, shook her head slightly.

"Victory and defeat are common among warriors; why should I not surrender?" she said.

"My Talent is indeed good, but once outside the Demon-Suppressing Valley, if faced with the true apex masters of the Great Xia Dynasty, when confronted with the Demon Kings ravaging the lands of the Great Xia Kingdom, would I, in my current, still-developing state, be able to win?

"If faced with the Supreme Elders of the Celestial Sect, who have lived for centuries and nurtured divine objects within their bodies in Secret Realms, could I possibly win?

"Moreover, this person before me not only has strength far surpassing those of the Same Tier but also possesses a unique Talent.

"This Talent, compared to my Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, is nearly on par. Especially in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, the combat power he can exert is many times stronger than my Profound Phoenix Strange Vein!

"In this Demon-Suppressing Valley, even if I were given a hundred more chances, I fear I would still not be his match!

"Admitting defeat to him... I am completely convinced!"

The Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiaoo Ying'Er, stared intently at Lin Xuankong, whose body was gradually returning to normal.

Her expression was calm, her voice firm and unquestionable.

Ding Rui, hearing this, was astonished beyond measure and turned to look at Lin Xuankong.

She could never have imagined that the Celestial Sect Saintess, who had never lost to anyone, had not only surrendered but had even given such a high evaluation to the Martial Cultivator before her! Even if

they fought one hundred more times in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, the Celestial Sect Saintess would still not be his match? She couldn't achieve a single victory? And the most crucial point was, the Celestial Sect Saintess said that this person's Talent was nearly as good as her Profound Phoenix Strange Vein? Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er, with her Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, is known as the number one prodigy among hundreds of millions within the Great Xia. She actually said that this person's Talent is nearly equal to hers... Doesn't that mean that from now on, the Great Xia Dynasty has another peerless talent among hundreds of millions, comparable to the Saintess? He... he, a nameless Martial Cultivator, who didn't even report his name during the competition and only dared to say 'Old Lin'—how could such a person possibly achieve this? But this evaluation came from the mouth of Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er herself. Forget the Great Marsh Prefecture; in the entire Celestial Sect and the Great Xia Dynasty, there are probably very few who would dare to refute it!

Ding Rui was utterly shocked and couldn't speak for a moment.

Lin Xuankong remained silent.

This woman has the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein? It should be somewhat similar to Young Lady's Primordial Strange Vein! As for her saying that my Talent is nearly equal to hers... she only perceived my Talent for abundant Qi Blood. But my Vigorous in Old Age Life Plate Talent encompasses far more than just abundant Qi Blood, doesn't it? A sixty-fold Cultivation Speed, advancing to the fourth layer in just over three months—isn't this Talent countless times stronger than the Qi Blood Talent? My Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters ability allows me to learn numerous Cultivation Techniques, with their progress significantly enhancing every morning—isn't this Talent far superior to merely abundant Qi Blood? However, the depth of my trump cards and the extent of my Talent are things I, Lin Xuankong, certainly won't easily reveal to others... If this woman says my Talent is nearly equal to hers, then let her think so!

But what is this woman's exact identity? It's certain that she holds a very high position in the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, possibly even higher than Elder Hua... But why not reveal her identity to everyone? Is she afraid of being troubled by others, or is she secretly carrying out some plan?

While Lin Xuankong was pondering this, Xiaoo Ying'Er continued, "Respected brother, how should I address you? From which sect do you hail? When we leave the Demon-Suppressing Valley, if time allows, I will personally pay you a visit."

Lin Xuankong, upon hearing this, couldn't help but frown slightly.

He was well aware of the saying that a tall tree attracts the wind. This woman's status was extraordinarily high, and the disputes and whirlpools of intrigue surrounding her were definitely beyond what his current strength could handle. Once involved, he would likely be swept along by the current, unable to control his own destiny... Getting involved in the Great Marsh Prefecture's conflicts was already causing him enough trouble! However, with fewer than a thousand people remaining who participated in the demon-slaying, it would be very easy to investigate. Trying to conceal my identity from this woman would be as futile as plugging one's ears while stealing a bell. Once she starts probing, even more people will learn my identity... Since that's the case, if I'm to reveal it, I might as well reveal my identity to her alone!

After contemplating for a moment, he suddenly glanced at Ding Rui.

Xiaoo Ying'Er noticed this and said, "Rui, you may withdraw for now!"

Ding Rui, hearing this, looked somewhat surprised. After realizing the reason, she couldn't help but secretly glare at Lin Xuankong before quickly retreating from the Cloud Mist Platform.

Seeing Ding Rui leave, Lin Xuankong recalled his Qi Blood. Instantly, his Battle Armor and Exorcism Equipment rapidly shrank, falling into the Ghost Frog Pouch he had prepared beforehand. This revealed his appearance as a black-haired, middle-aged man.

Xiaoo Ying'Er observed him carefully, then raised an eyebrow and said, "Your disguise technique is quite exquisite, but there are still traces!"

Lin Xuankong said, "To be frank with you, esteemed lady, I am Lin Xuankong, a member of the Yin Talisman Sect, currently serving as a Silver Jade Steward."

Xiaoo Ying'Er, hearing him state his name and sect, nodded slightly.

"Lin Xuankong, in this competition, you have fulfilled the reward conditions I mentioned. Originally, you could choose one of the two Demon Pearls..."

Chapter 169: The Unparalleled Genius Who Overwhelms the Saintess, Acquires a Precious Treasure:
Holy Arrival Jade Token_3

However, since you've helped me improve in the Martial Dao, you naturally deserve another significant reward!

In addition to the Demon Pearl reward you requested, I shall offer you another Demon Pearl, one hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh, and two Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs!"

At this moment, a hint of cunning flashed in her eyes as she took out a jade pendant from her waist.

"You possess an extraordinary amount of Qi Blood; such a talent is rare in this world. In the Great Xia Dynasty, there's no other like you. Such a peerless genius must, of course, be greatly valued and well-protected!

"This jade pendant was refined by my ancestors using Supreme Profound Jade from the Central Divine Dynasty. It has a miraculous automatic defense effect, ensuring your safety. Even if you encounter a True Qi expert, it can automatically defend for a while! Moreover, holding this jade token, you can pass unimpeded through any pass and secret realm in the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong's face couldn't help but show a slight reaction. This jade pendant not only automatically defends but can even surpass the defense of battle armor? And I can pass unimpeded throughout the Great Xia Dynasty with it? Such a treasure... The status of this woman before me might be even higher than I imagined. Could this mysterious Ni'er be the illegitimate daughter of the Celestial Sect Leader?

He accepted the jade pendant and examined it closely. "With this jade pendant, can I even enter the secret realms of various sects and factions?"

Xiao Ying'Er nodded slightly. "Indeed!"

Lin Xuankong decisively put away the jade pendant. Not to mention its ability to grant passage anywhere, just the powerful automatic defense that surpasses battle armor makes it a supreme treasure for defense! After all, battle armor requires Qi Blood to activate, but this Profound Jade pendant can protect its wearer automatically!

Xiao Ying'Er carefully observed Lin Xuankong, her clear eyes filled with favor and admiration.

"You have chosen well by being a member of the Yin Talisman Sect! The Yin Talisman Sect has a long heritage, and its Thunder Techniques are rather mysterious. Cultivating them to a High Realm can unleash boundless power, comparable to the Divine Techniques of the Celestial Sect! Your talent is exceptional. Though you are somewhat old, there are no signs of your Qi Blood declining. Coupled with your unparalleled talent, if you can rise in the future, your combat power, with Thunder Techniques and various Secret Techniques, will surely surpass those of the Same Tier countless times over!"

"Currently, you are likely at the Fourth Layer, right? This realm is not strong yet... Once you leave the Demon-Suppressing Valley, if you encounter any difficulties, you can seek Elder Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect in the Great Marsh Prefecture; there should be nothing she can't solve! I hope that the next time we meet, you will have consumed the Treasure Elixirs, advanced to the Fifth Layer, and become a True Qi expert, capable of fighting alongside me to eliminate powerful Demons!"

Having said this, she gave Lin Xuankong a deep look with her clear eyes, then turned around, stepping on the white carpet, and quickly left the Cloud Mist Platform.

Shortly after, Ding Rui walked back up to the Cloud Mist Platform, a complex expression on her face as she handed two Ghost Frog Pouches to Lin Xuankong.

"Inside are the Marsh Python Demon Pearl and the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl, as well as the two Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs and one hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh! My... our Third Young Lady put half of the harvest she got from hunting Tier Three Demons in there. Her reward for you is extremely generous; I hope you won't forget her great favor in the future!"

She secretly sighed in her heart: That one hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh... I, a True Disciple of the Celestial Sect, wouldn't even have a chance to obtain it, let alone two Demon Pearls and two Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs! The Saintess has given away more than half of her harvest from the Demon-Suppressing Valley. This Profound Iron Scale Lump has truly benefited immensely from her. These resources combined are probably hundreds of times more than what other Martial Cultivators in the Demon-Suppressing Valley have obtained!

Lin Xuankong was quite pleased as he accepted the Ghost Frog Pouches. After expressing his thanks, he turned and left the Cloud Mist Platform.

He thought to himself: Two Demon Pearls, one hundred thousand jin of Tier Three demon flesh, plus the jade token and the Sunflower Water Elixirs... This much Tier Three demon flesh is more than all my gains in the Demon-Suppressing Valley combined! Especially since I now have four Sunflower Water Elixirs. Once I reach Perfection at the Fourth Layer, even if I can't find an Innate Spiritual Object, I can easily achieve Opening Veins and advance to the Fifth Layer! Additionally, although the Marsh Python Demon Pearl and the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl are slightly inferior to the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, they are still priceless! To think that beating up that Mysterious Female Cultivator would bring so many benefits! Oh, and there's that jade token...

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but touch the jade token on his waist and tucked it into the inner side of his robe. Especially this jade token; with its powerful defense, I no longer have to worry about being ambushed by others in the future!

At this moment, Ding Rui, who was secretly brooding, happened to see Lin Xuankong tuck the jade token from his waist into the inner side of his robe. Her eyes widened instantly!

Heavens, the Saintess actually gave him the Holy Arrival Jade Token? That's something even Celestial Sect Elders can't obtain! Seeing this jade token is like having the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Saintess personally present! With this jade token, even elders of the Profound Sect Celestial Sect and the Holy Dragon Association must show utmost respect and offer their full support if he needs anything! This time, this fellow named Old Lin has truly struck it rich! How frustrating!

However, Ding Rui immediately realized that since the Saintess valued Old Lin so highly by giving him the Holy Arrival Jade Token, his future prospects would be limitless... No, not just the future; even now, I must treat him with the utmost respect! In that case, I might as well do him a big favor and escort him down the mountain!

With that thought, Ding Rui quickly stepped forward to catch up with Lin Xuankong. "Brother Lin, let me escort you down!"

Lin Xuankong, who had reached the edge of the Cloud Mist Platform, was somewhat surprised. This Ding Rui previously looked so disdainful of me in front of the Mysterious Female Cultivator. Why is she suddenly so courteous? Is it because the disguise Lady Yu Fei gave me makes me look a little handsome?

"Miss Ding, there's no need to be so polite!"

"It's nothing. The Third Young Lady is currently in a moment of contemplation, preparing to go into seclusion for cultivation. I have no tasks at the moment and just happen to be going down too, so I can escort you. Besides, Brother Lin, your current attire looks much more refreshing than the previous battle armor, making you appear much younger. At a glance, you seem to be only in your twenties!"

Lin Xuankong thought: ...Ni'er, I'm old enough to be your grandfather. You're a dignified True Disciple of the Celestial Sect, yet your praise is so exaggerated. I find it unbearable!

「On the east side of the Cloud Mist Platform,」

Xiao Ying'Er, in the secret chamber of the stone tower, turned over another Holy Arrival Jade Token in her hand, carefully looking at the information it conveyed. A rare, playful smile touched the corners of her usually serene and peerlessly beautiful face.

Setting down the Holy Arrival Jade Token, she opened the Ghost Frog Pouch at her waist, taking out more than a dozen peculiar Seven-Colored Spirit Grasses emitting a vibrant light. Then, she continuously took out slab after slab of Tier Three Demon Flesh, placing them near the Seven-Colored Spirit Grasses. Instantly, the roots of those Spirit Grasses spread over, quickly absorbing tens of thousands of jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh!

When the tens of thousands of jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh in Xiao Ying'Er's other Ghost Frog Pouch were more than half consumed, the dozen or so Spirit Grasses finally stopped absorbing and each bore a seven-colored seed on its stalk!

A trace of expectation flickered in Xiao Ying'Er's eyes as she picked off those seeds. She re-stored the Spirit Grasses into the Ghost Frog Pouch, then sat cross-legged on the stone bed.

With these eighteen Rare Wood Spirit Objects treasured by the Celestial Sect, I should have a chance to open a second Strange Vein carrying pure Wood Power! If I can successfully advance to the Sixth Layer and cultivate to the Mid-grade, with my Blood Bath Divine Skill and the help of several Celestial Sect Elders, I should have a chance to drive out those Demons occupying the medicinal grounds of the Great Marsh Prefecture! Of course, if I could capture that Conical Hat Guest before advancing to the Mid-grade and obtain his Artifact Refining Technique, mass-producing powerful battle armor for the Celestial Sect disciples would greatly increase our chances of repelling the Demons! Moreover, it would provide an opportunity to equip the large number of Martial Artists led by my father with supreme battle armor, thereby quelling the demon scourge everywhere! Conical Hat Guest... I wonder if Elder Hua has found any trace of him yet!

With these thoughts on her mind, she pondered for a moment before calming herself, lifted the dozen or so seeds into her mouth, and focused on her cultivation.

This Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Saintess, the Third Princess of Great Xia, intending to advance to the Sixth Layer, did not choose the Wood Treasure Pill with its high success rate, but instead opted for the Innate Wood Spirit Object, despite its low success rate!

Chapter 170: The Shocked Black Dragon Elder, Celestial Demon Bone, and Heavy Water Spiritual Object

On the mountainside platform, ever since the sounds of fierce fighting on the summit's Cloud Mist Platform ceased, the hundreds of Martial Cultivators had stood up one by one, staring intently at the summit. They could hardly believe anyone could surpass Chu Qing, the top of the Hero List, but as Martial Cultivators of Great Marsh Prefecture, they also yearned for someone who could raise their spirits!

As everyone craned their necks to look, they saw two figures gradually emerging from the mist. When they finally made out the faces and demeanor of the two, they all held their breath.

The two figures coming down from the summit were none other than Lin Xuankong and Ding Rui, a True Disciple of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect. To the amazement of the martial heroes on the mountainside, Ding Rui was actually following respectfully beside Old Lin, with an air of great reverence.

Ding Rui, who had always given them orders; Ding Rui, who held a higher status than their Patriarchs, Clan Chiefs, or Sect Leaders; Ding Rui, who could command ninety percent of the martial sects and martial families in Great Marsh Prefecture, was being so respectful to this Old Lin?

At this moment, Ding Rui escorted Lin Xuankong to the mountainside platform and cupped her hands. "Brother Lin," she said, "I still have things to attend to, so I won't chat with you any longer! However, this journey down with you has been quite amusing; your words were very witty!"

Lin Xuankong, a bit speechless, cupped his hands back at her. "No need to be so polite, Miss Ding. If you have matters to attend to, please go ahead!"

Ding Rui heard this, her expression calm, but she was inwardly pleased. This Old Lin has a good temperament indeed, she thought. He didn't act arrogant, even though the Saintess treats him so well,

nor did he become overbearing because I was polite to him. Truly, he is a man who remains composed whether favored or disgraced!

After cupping her hands again, Ding Rui glanced at the surrounding Martial Cultivators, her expression turning cold as she said coolly, "The tournament is over. The remaining Martial Cultivators need not wait any longer!"

Without explaining further, she turned and left gracefully.

This Ding Rui probably rarely flatters others, Lin Xuankong thought to himself. It's either praising me for looking like I'm in my twenties or saying my remarks are amusing, but I hardly said two words on the way down! Sigh, her flattering skills are so lackluster; it's making me uncomfortable. She really needs to practice more!

The remaining Martial Cultivators who had not yet participated, along with the hundreds of others nearby, were left standing stupefied by Ding Rui's words.

Ye Kai squeezed over quickly, wearing a friendly smile. "Brother Lin..."

However, before he could finish speaking, he was pushed aside by Han Feiyan, who cupped her hands respectfully. "Brother Lin, you fought with that Mysterious Female Cultivator for more than ten breaths. What was the result—did you win, or did you win?"

Lin Xuankong: ...

Hundreds of Martial Cultivators around: ...

Pushed to the side, Ye Kai was speechless. This Big-faced Yan is indeed a die-hard admirer of Brother Lin! he thought. You might as well ask if that Female Cultivator lost or lost...

Lin Xuankong smiled awkwardly at Han Feiyan and looked at Zhao Yufei, who was gazing at him steadily from a distance.

"Fortunately, I didn't let you down," he said. "In this tournament, I won the Demon Pearl reward!"

The hundreds of Martial Cultivators around instantly froze, their faces full of shock. Winning the Demon Pearl reward meant that Old Lin had injured the Mysterious Female Cultivator... He wasn't just the foremost hero of Great Marsh Prefecture, not only had he lasted for more than ten breaths, but he had actually injured that Female Cultivator?!

Zhao Yufei quickly walked over. She had already witnessed the combat scene through her Blood Seal Heavy Pupils. But now, hearing her husband speak of his achievements before hundreds of people, she couldn't help but feel a surge of pride. She grabbed Lin Xuankong's hand and declared proudly, "My husband is obviously the foremost hero of Great Marsh Prefecture! Injuring that Mysterious Female Cultivator is nothing remarkable. That so-called Hero List compiled by the Feng Family, which ranked you so low, is utter nonsense!"

"Hahaha, it is indeed nonsense, totally baseless!" Han Feiyan's square face bloomed into a wide smile as she laughed heartily upon hearing of Lin Xuankong's accomplishments. Having spent many days with him, she had developed great respect for Lin Xuankong and had been hoping for his success in the fight. Now that her wish had come true, her heart was filled with joy!

At this moment, Liang Qinhu approached, cupping his hands. "Among the thousand Martial Cultivators in Demon-Suppressing Valley, you, Brother Lin, are the strongest! That Hero List from the Feng Family is indeed nonsense, completely unreliable! Thinking back, when you and I sparred, Brother Lin, you must have held back considerably, far from using your full strength! Brother Lin, I've ordered my clansmen to prepare a banquet at the stone tower at the foot of the mountain. Why don't we have a few drinks to celebrate?"

Lin Xuankong looked around, seeing every Martial Cultivator on the mountainside platform staring at him with blazing eyes. After pondering for a moment, he shook his head. "Now that the tournament is over and I have the Demon Pearl, there's no need for me to stay here. I plan to hunt some more Demons before the Demon Slaying Conference ends, so I won't trouble you, Mr. Liang!"

Hearing this, Liang Qinhu was momentarily stunned, his dark face showing a hint of disappointment.

The hundreds of Martial Cultivators around had their mouths agape, their faces already filled with immense envy.

The incredibly precious Demon Pearl reward! A choice between the Marsh Python Demon Pearl and the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl...