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Chapter 481: Chang Li's Terrifying Trump Card, Qu Qiao'Er's Solemn Face

On the surrounding stands, more than one hundred thousand Cultivators wore expressions of utter surprise.

Chang Li's six Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons, along with the thousand Flame Giant Sparrows, were incredibly impressive. Except for some Immortal Sect disciples, almost no Cultivators dared to claim they could survive the siege of a thousand such sparrows!

They had initially thought that the six Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons and the thousand Flame Giant Sparrows would undoubtedly be the most spectacular scene they would witness today!

However, after Lin Xuankong activated numerous Beneficial Techniques, he directly acquired a colossal body akin to an Initial Tier Immortal. Just as he made his move, Lin Xuankong immediately used an Immortal Artifact radiating intense Immortal Yuan fluctuations. How could this scene not shock them!

However, before the more than one hundred thousand spectators could even begin their discussions, Lin Xuankong had already activated his Perfection Level Yin Talisman Thunder Technique!

In the next instant, the tip of that Initial Tier Immortal Sword shot out a full thousand bolts of lightning, each as thick as a building. These enormous and dreadful bolts lit up the entire Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect Martial Arts Arena!

Immediately after, each lightning bolt spanned the distance between Lin Xuankong and Second Prince Chang Li, striking the heads of the thousand Flame Giant Sparrows as they lunged forward!

If Lin Xuankong hadn't activated those Beneficial Techniques, hadn't used the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, the Celestial Demon Bone Beneficial Technique, and the Initial Tier Immortal Sword, his Perfection Level Yin Talisman Thunder Technique certainly wouldn't have been able to simultaneously counter a thousand Flame Giant Sparrows!

After all, each Flame Giant Sparrow's strength was comparable to that of a Cultivator with Ninth-Layer Perfection!

However, Lin Xuankong had mastered an almost unimaginable number of Beneficial Techniques for ordinary Cultivators. Now, with his full power unleashed, his strike nearly reached the might of a First-Grade Earth Immortal!

Back then, under the might of the Eight Great Demon Venerables of the Six Demon Sects—who were Half-Step Earth Immortals—the Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators of the Great Xia Dynasty had been completely unable to resist. And the power gap between a Half-Step Earth Immortal and a First-Grade Earth Immortal was more than ten or even a hundred times greater!

Instantly, when those thousand bolts of extremely bright and fearsome lightning struck the heads of the Flame Giant Sparrows, the overwhelming power immediately shattered the body of each one!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

The sound of explosions reverberated throughout the heavens and earth!

That was a thousand Flame Giant Sparrows being blown up directly, equivalent to the power released by the simultaneous self-destruction of a thousand Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators!

This terrible might, carrying countless flames and dazzling lightning, instantly spread in all directions. The first to bear the brunt were the six Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons floating in mid-air!

Under the fierce power's devastation, the six Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons immediately shattered into countless fragments, turning into dust. Even though these Fire Spirit Cauldrons had been painstakingly refined by the Earth Immortals of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect, they were ultimately not Immortal Artifacts. How could they withstand the force equivalent to a thousand Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators self-destructing?

Immediately following, misfortune befell the stunned Second Prince Chang Li. He hadn't even reacted when the tremendous and fierce might enveloped him, and countless flames and bolts of lightning completely engulfed him!

How could Second Prince Chang Li have imagined that Lin Xuankong would destroy all his thousand Flame Giant Sparrows with just one strike? According to normal Cultivator combat, no matter how

strong a Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivator, it would take considerable effort to kill even a single Tier Nine Flame Giant Sparrow!

In his astonishment, he almost failed to react. Fortunately, the Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragon under his complete control did react, instantly expanding its body to block the onslaught from above...

The explosive might continued to spread at a terrifying speed. The Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect was designed according to the upper power limits of Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators' Cultivation Techniques. The countless profound Runes covering the ground were capable of withstanding numerous attacks from such Cultivators!

However, no matter how strong an Array, it has its limits! What battered the ground and sky at this moment wasn't merely attacks from Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators; it was the equivalent of a thousand Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators self-destructing!

Instantly, the Array of Martial Arts Arena number 128 collapsed, transforming into ripples!

The might continued spreading to the surrounding arenas. Martial Arts Arena number 125, number 126, number 127, number 129, and so on—the Arrays of more than ten arenas shattered instantly in this catastrophic explosion!

In these dozen or so arenas, the pairs of Cultivators engaged in combat immediately suffered greatly!

In their shock, they only had time to activate their True Qi to protect their bodies before being swept up by the terrifying might spreading from the explosion!

These Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators, once majestic in their battles, were now like small wooden boats in a raging ocean storm, ravaged by the fearsome explosive power, swept up, and flung in all directions!

Terrified cries echoed from these Cultivators' mouths!

Fortunately, Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er, who was watching, was the first to react. After a fluctuation of Immortal Yuan within her, dozens of Immortal Yuan strands transformed into the shape of spiritual cranes. They instantly traversed several thousand feet, landing beside the dozens of Cultivators to protect and rescue them from the ravages of the violent power!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

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The intense sound of the mighty power's impact continued for more than ten breaths. The shockwave from the explosion even forced countless Cultivators in the stands, thousands of feet away, to activate their True Qi Protection to avoid being blown away. Some Cultivators, merely at the Sixth Layer or Seventh Layer, found even their True Qi Protection insufficient; their protective True Qi shields shattered directly, and their bodies were sent flying hundreds of feet, each one crying out in pain!

This attack by Lin Xuankong—its aftermath directly threw the entire Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect into disarray!

Even in the hundreds of other martial arts arenas farther away, the Cultivators engaged in battles all paused their attacks, looking towards Lin Xuankong's position in astonishment!

When the might of this eruption subsided, and Lin Xuankong sheathed his sword with a cold expression, the entire Martial Arts Arena descended into even greater chaos!

"HOLY CRAP! This can't be real! How can a Ninth Layer Cultivator have such a gigantic body? A body of this size... it could... it could only be an Initial Tier Earth Immortal, right? Has this Mu Shiba already reached the Initial Tier Earth Immortal Realm?"

"Definitely not an Initial Tier Earth Immortal! Can't you sense the fluctuations when Mu Shiba attacked? That was clearly the fluctuation of True Qi. This Mu Shiba is absolutely a Ninth Layer Cultivator, a Cultivator in the Transcendence Realm, not an Initial Tier Earth Immortal!"

"That's what's truly terrifying! If this Mu Shiba were an Initial Tier Earth Immortal, it would be somewhat normal for him to slay the Thousand-headed Flame Giant Sparrow with a single strike! But he's a Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivator! How could he possibly achieve this? Doesn't this mean that with his current Ninth-Layer Perfection Realm, Mu Shiba is capable of suppressing or even killing a thousand Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators?"

"DAMN IT! Who on earth is this Mu Shiba? Since he's participating in the competition, he must have passed the preliminaries. But I've never heard of such an incredibly terrifying figure during the preliminary tests!"

"Perhaps he just prefers to maintain a low profile. Besides, for minor competitions like the preliminaries, why would he exert his full strength?"

"Sigh, the most astounding thing is that this Mu Shiba is using an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact! That's an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact! Even some smaller Immortal Sects might not possess one!"

"Just moments ago, I thought Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty would surely win, but it turns out... There's always someone stronger, and there's always a higher mountain!"

"That was Chang Li, the Second Prince of the Xianluo Dynasty, who secured third place! Yet, his all-out attack was shattered by a single strike from this Mu Shiba. I'd wager this Mu Shiba is definitely going to win!"

"Win? It's more than just winning! Solely based on that terrifying attack power and that Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, this Mu Shiba is absolutely capable of winning every single subsequent round!"

The crowd buzzed with discussion, most people staring fixedly at Lin Xuankong, their faces etched with astonishment.

Only a few disciples from various Immortal Sects regarded Lin Xuankong with a hint of apprehension in their eyes.

These genius disciples from various Immortal Sects each possessed their own formidable techniques. In their view, even Chang Li, who had some connection to the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect, was definitely not their match!

However, after witnessing Lin Xuankong's methods, even these genius disciples had to admit in their hearts that Lin Xuankong was, without a doubt, the opponent they needed to pay the most attention to in this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciple selection grand ceremony!

"Foster Father is too awesome! HAHAAHA! Now this bunch of fools knows who the real powerhouse is! That so-called Second Prince Chang Li? Beat him into a bastard!"

From the Lin Family Seven Tigers' designated area, Li Xiaohu couldn't help but burst into hearty laughter as he watched the scene.

Hu Shuo, Han Lu, Yang Mountain, Li Er, and the Liy Family Brothers also erupted in loud laughter. Just moments before, when Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty had used the Fire Spirit Cauldron to summon over a thousand Fire Spirit Giant Sparrows, most of the Cultivators in the stands had been showering Chang Li with praise. The Lin Family Seven Tigers had heard this and were already feeling quite restless. Now, seeing Lin Xuankong vanquish his foe in a single strike, they were naturally overjoyed!

Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er also revealed a faint smile. However, after carefully observing the situation in Arena No. 128, a touch of concern flickered in her eyes, and she couldn't help but remark, "Chang Li possesses a special Talent. Although Your Foster Father's strike destroyed his Fire Spirit Cauldron and the Thousand-headed Flame Giant Sparrow, his Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragon shielded him at the critical moment. This battle isn't over yet!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiaohu and the others carefully peered towards the epicenter of the explosion in Arena No. 128.

The scene was one of utter devastation. Even though the Thousand-headed Flame Giant Sparrow had exploded in mid-air, the terrifying force of the blast had not only obliterated Arena No. 128's Array but had also gouged out a massive pit several hundred feet wide and dozens of feet deep in the ground!

At the bottom of the pit coiled a Terrain Dragon, hundreds of feet long and dozens of feet thick. Although the brown body of that Earth Dragon bore the marks of devastation from fire and lightning, the defenses of the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon had not been breached!

Potent waves of a formidable Demon aura and powerful Immortal Yuan Fluctuation emanated from that Terrain Dragon's body! Then, the head of the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon abruptly rose, turning towards Lin Xuankong.

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It opened its giant mouth, as black and deep as an abyss, issuing a fierce roar toward Lin Xuankong!

In the next moment, its body wriggled, and Second Prince Chang Li, who was protected beneath it, slowly floated up!

Although the protection from the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon was timely, the explosion was too sudden. Consequently, many flames and lightning strikes still hit Second Prince Chang Li!

These fierce flames and wild lightning strikes turned his originally pristine white robe into tatters, covered in filth and black soot. His hairpin, which held up his long hair, was completely destroyed in the explosion. His face was also covered in charred blackness, making the once elegant Chang Li look extremely miserable, as if trampled by a hundred horses!

Of course, these were not what angered Second Prince Chang Li the most. What filled him with the most anger, causing his facial muscles to twist with rage, making him want to devour Lin Xuankong alive, was the fact that he, the distinguished third-place finisher in the initial trials, a revered Cultivator of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect, having activated six Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons, was defeated by a single strike from Mu Shiba in front of more than 100,000 Cultivators!

As Second Prince Chang Li floated up, the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon below him suddenly took a deep breath, and its body started to rapidly expand!

The body of an Initial Tier Demon King was already hundreds of times larger than that of a Same Tier Earth Immortal. Under its full transformation, its body grew immensely. In the blink of an eye, the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon's body stretched thousands of feet long and nearly a hundred feet thick. Its brown, mucus-covered tentacles transformed into hundreds of thousands!

If not for the immense size of the Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, it wouldn't have been able to accommodate this Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon!

Even so, after its transformation, it still occupied most of the Martial Arts Arena. Of the hundreds of fighting arenas originally present, over one hundred were now directly covered by its body!

The Cultivators fighting on those hundred-plus arenas were instantly horrified, their expressions changing drastically as they fled from the fighting arenas, scattering in all directions!

Despite the importance of the battles, their lives were even more important! They knew very well that if the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon launched a full-scale attack, at least dozens more arena Arrays would be destroyed. In that situation, if the Earth Immortals of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect couldn't rescue them in time, they could be directly crushed by the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon!

In mid-air, Huang Liutao, a Late-stage Second-Grade Earth Immortal of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, watched this scene somewhat helplessly, shaking his head and chuckling, "These arena Arrays will all need to be rearranged after the battle between Mu Shiba and Chang Li!"

Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect also shook his head slightly. Stroking his long, three-stranded beard, he smiled and said, "Old Huang, these tasks are your duty as Grand Chief Steward. After their duel, quickly assign disciples to rearrange the Arrays. Remember to set them according to the upper limits of Initial Tier Earth Immortals this time!

"I've already told you that this disciple recruitment competition involves many talented disciples from various Immortal Sects. The Arrays must be arranged to Initial Tier Earth Immortal standards. Otherwise, they definitely won't withstand the full-power attacks from these youngsters, but you simply didn't believe me!"

Late-stage Second-Grade Earth Immortal Huang Liutao sighed, "I was just trying to save some Profound Truth Jade for the Sect. Arranging Arrays to the upper limits of Initial Tier Earth Immortals requires a lot of Profound Truth Jade!"

Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er couldn't help but laugh upon hearing this. "Junior Brother Huang, you're being a bit stingy. This time, the participants of the disciple recruitment competition come from various Dynasties and Immortal Sects. If our Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's arena Arrays aren't arranged properly, it's no surprise these youngsters will wreck them! How would that look for us?"

Saying this, her gaze fell on Lin Xuankong and Second Prince Chang Li. "Senior Brother Li, Junior Brother Huang, who do you think will emerge victorious if these two give it their all?"

Late-stage Second-Grade Earth Immortal Huang Liutao frowned slightly. "This Mu Shiba is somewhat surprising. He must have mastered an extremely strong beneficial Divine Technique; otherwise, it's impossible for him to possess a body comparable to an Initial Tier Earth Immortal! Normally, such temporary strength-enhancing techniques are Demonic Technique from the Profound Yin Demon Sect. However, this Mu Shiba has no trace of Demonic Qi. It's very peculiar!"

Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect looked curiously at Lin Xuankong. "Such a powerful Beneficial Technique definitely consumes a vast amount of True Qi. However, Mu Shiba has not used any Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade until now! It seems Mu Shiba has a special Talent, likely a rare one for increasing his True Qi Amount. This kind of Talent is extremely uncommon and not inferior to Chang Li's Dragon Blood Talent at all! No wonder Galin Bodhisattva of Spirit Platform Buddhism is interested in him. If he reaches the Earth Immortal Realm, this Talent will be amplified even more, making Mu Shiba even stronger!

In my view, if he has an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact and such a powerful Beneficial Technique, as long as his True Qi is sufficient, he might indeed surpass Chang Li's Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragon... Hmm, wait, what is Chang Li doing?"

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Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, who had initially been curious and somewhat favorable towards Lin Xuankong, suddenly had a change in expression. His gaze fell upon Second Prince Chang Li. Not only him, but also Late-stage Second-Grade Earth Immortal Huang Liutao, Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er, and the other Earth Immortals watching the battle from mid-air all directed their attention towards Second Prince Chang Li. A hint of surprise was visible on each of their faces.

At this moment, Second Prince Chang Li, floating in mid-air, stared at Lin Xuankong with extremely gloomy eyes. In his right hand, he had once again summoned a treasure. This treasure was identical to the Tier Nine Fire Spirit Cauldrons but was covered with numerous profound mystical inscriptions and continuously emitted powerful Immortal Yuan fluctuations. This was, undoubtedly, an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact!

The Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragon then activated hundreds of thousands of tendrils from its mouth, transforming them into countless tendrils, each thousands of zhang long, aimed directly at Lin Xuankong, who was now floating in the air.

However, this was not what surprised the many Earth Immortals. What astonished Sect Leader Li, Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er, and the other Earth Immortals was that Second Prince Chang Li, at this very moment, impressively waved his hand and opened a wide, fluctuating Spirit Vein Transference!

Then, three massive Initial Tier Demon King Level Terrain Dragons, each a hundred zhang thick, slowly crawled out of the wide, fluctuating Spirit Vein Transference!

Second Prince Chang Li controlled not just one Initial Tier Demon King Level Terrain Dragon; he actually controlled a total of four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons! After being defeated by Lin Xuankong's attack, he was determined to save face, vent his frustration, and prove himself in front of more than one hundred thousand cultivators and Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er. Thus, he had played his true trump card, summoning all the Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons under his control from his Celestial Demon Bone Secret Realm!

Four actual Initial Tier Demon King Level Terrain Dragons—this equated to four terrifying powerhouses of the Initial Tier Earth Immortal Level, entities capable of oppressing even Earth Immortals of the same tier! With the addition of Chang Li's activated Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, the Fire Spirit Cauldron, it meant he possessed combat power comparable to five Initial Tier Earth Immortals, potentially enough to suppress all five.

The trump card Second Prince Chang Li held was truly formidable! Even Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er, and the others were utterly shocked. How could they not be?

Watching this scene, Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, who had originally been confident in Lin Xuankong, frowned uncontrollably. He turned to Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er and said in a deep voice, "Junior Sister Qu, stay alert and keep a close watch on the battle. If Mu Shiba falls into a disadvantage, exhausts his True Qi, and faces life-threatening danger, you must immediately intervene and rescue him! Four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons, plus an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact Fire Spirit Cauldron—even an Initial Tier Earth Immortal facing Chang Li would be at substantial risk of severe injury!"

Seeing Chang Li's trump cards, even Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect grew somewhat worried. Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er's expression also turned grim. She immediately activated a significant amount of True Essence within her body, causing a massive Spiritual Crane shadow to appear behind her. She was now prepared to rescue Lin Xuankong at any moment.

The Earth Immortals were so grave that all the cultivators in the stands naturally widened their eyes, their faces etched with disbelief.

"Holy shit! Four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons! This lineup is simply too terrifying. If Chang Li goes all out with this, he might even annihilate a small Immortal Sect!"

Chapter 485: Five Elements Immortal Sect's Feng Lingling, Giving You Three Breaths Time to Kneel and Beg for Mercy

On the viewing stand, many cultivators quickly retreated from the spot near the martial contest arena toward the back.

Most of these cultivators who could secure good positions were Transcendence Realm cultivators at Ninth-Layer Perfection, and each possessed high-tier spiritual artifacts to protect themselves. Nevertheless, upon seeing the appearance of four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons and witnessing Chang Li wield an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, these cultivators no longer dared to stay close to the arena. They all retreated to the farthest edge of the viewing stand!

Amid the crowded retreat, many started discussing among themselves.

"Damn, just one Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragon could likely ensure Chang Li easily ranks in the top twenty-one, becoming the winner in this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect apprentice selection contest. But four of them? What the hell is that!"

"This time, Mu Shiba is probably in real danger! Though he can activate a body comparable to an Initial Tier Earth Immortal and wields an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, Chang Li also has an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, plus those four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons. It's essentially a gang beating!"

"Hahaha, the ticket price for this event was so damn worth it. This battle is comparable to an Earth Immortal Level battle, which isn't something a normal Transcendence Realm Cultivator can observe!"

During everyone's discussions, in a corner of the viewing stand, a tall, black-clad cultivator looked at Chang Li with a somewhat grave expression.

Beside him, a charming female cultivator smiled and said, "Senior Brother Xiao, it seems you being first in the preliminary round is somewhat unearned! If this Chang Li had used those four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons in the preliminary round, your title would have been overshadowed by him!"

The middle-aged man in black was none other than Xiaoo Yan, the genius disciple of the Five Elements Immortal Sect who was rated first in the preliminary round.

Upon hearing the woman's laughter, he looked at Chang Li with deep apprehension in his eyes and reluctantly said, "Chang Li... I am no match for him!"

To everyone's surprise, this first-place genius disciple from the preliminary round actually admitted on the spot that he was inferior to Chang Li after seeing the four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons!

The charming female cultivator, with a mischievous black mole on the corner of her mouth, giggled.

"Senior Brother Xiaoo, don't be disheartened. Remember, with so many cultivators participating in the contest, even if Chang Li defeats this Mu Shiba, you may not necessarily match up against him!"

Hmm, it'd be best if I match up against this Chang Li!

Oh dear, the fights between the disciples of the other immortal sects probably won't be interesting. Only the battle involving Chang Li's four Earth Dragons might give me a bit of exercise. Such a pleasant surprise!"

Xiaoo Yan, the first-place genius disciple from the preliminary round, sighed helplessly upon hearing the charming woman's words and nodded. "Junior Sister Lingling's methods are certainly beyond what this Chang Li can compare to!"

Another disciple of the Five Elements Immortal Sect beside them looked at the charming female cultivator with admiration, "Senior Sister Feng's methods are among the top even among the countless disciples of the Central Divine Dynasty's immortal sects, let alone these bumpkin cultivators from the Divine Dynasty Western Region!"

Feng Lingling giggled.

"Master always tells me to keep a low profile and not expose my talents, to avoid having them spied upon or coveted by others.

This time, I sneaked out of the sect to have some fun. When you return, you mustn't tell Master, or else Master will surely punish me by sending me to Siguoya again!"

Xiaoo Yan, the first-place contestant, frowned slightly as he glanced at his mischievous junior sister. "Understood, Junior Sister!"

The other disciple of the Five Elements Immortal Sect smiled. "Senior Sister Feng, please remember your promise to your junior brother!"

Feng Lingling looked up and tapped the Immortal Sect disciple on the head.

"Don't worry, Senior Brother Xiaoo and I have already taken those precious Sixth Celestial Vein Spiritual Objects from Master and have started condensing the Sixth Celestial Vein! Participating in this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect selection competition is primarily to secure another precious Sixth Celestial Vein Spiritual Object for our Five Elements Immortal Sect. Once I obtain it, I'll definitely give it to you!"

Hearing this, the disciple's face lit up with joy. "Mhm, mhm! Senior Sister, you and Senior Brother are so good to me, your junior brother!"

The three talked with confidence, albeit Xiaoo Yan and the disciple showed some apprehension towards the four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons summoned by Chang Li. Nonetheless, they remained determined to obtain the Sixth Celestial Vein Spiritual Object!

「Meanwhile, at the position of the Lin Family Seven Tigers,」

Li Xiaohu and Han Lu, initially brimming with excitement, turned solemn upon seeing the four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons.

Though they always admired and revered Lin Xuankong, the latter was ultimately not a true Earth Immortal. Facing four genuine Earth Immortal Level demons now made them nervously anxious!

At this moment, the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, witnessing the scene, remained calm.

She gazed at the towering figure of Lin Xuankong, a smile slowly forming at the corners of her lips, and softly said:

"If the Xianluo Dynasty's Second Prince's trump card is only this, then your foster father is likely going to win this with ease!"

Li Xiaohu, surprised by her words, stammered, "No... that's impossible! Those are Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons, and there are four of them! Moreover, they possess Demon King's Demon Pills comparable to Earth Immortal Golden Cores. Can foster father really prevail over four Initial Tier Demon Kings? He's just a Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivator!"

Although... although foster father once repelled four Initial Tier Earth Immortal Level fiends from the Profound Yin Demon Sect, these four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons are no less formidable than those fiends. And it's unlikely foster father can use his real trump card here!"

Smiling with confidence from having received dozens of Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts from Lin Xuankong, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head lightly. "Just watch!"

Li Xiaohu and the others knitted their brows. Though they hoped Lin Xuankong would win and knew he had easily defeated four great fiends, they doubted he could prevail over four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons without using the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword.

As everyone was lost in their own thoughts, Chang Li, having summoned all four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons and closed the massive Spirit Vein Transference Gate, subtly shook his body, causing a tremendous amount of True Qi to surge through him. In an instant, his previously dark face was rejuvenated by the flowing True Qi.

After glancing away from Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's position, Chang Li tied his hair up and coldly declared:

"Mu Shiba, your strength indeed exceeded my expectations!"

With just that Initial Tier Immortal Artifact and your body-transforming Cultivation Technique, you indeed have a shot at competing for one of the top twenty-one spots in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect apprentice selection contest!

But it's unfortunate that you met me; these alone are far from enough!

I'm giving you a final chance. Out of respect for Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, if you kneel before me and beg for mercy in front of the over one hundred thousand cultivators here, I can forgive your prior disrespect!

You have three breaths to consider!"

With that, his face indifferent, he activated the Initial Tier Immortal Artifact Fire Spirit Cauldron and began counting softly, "First breath... second breath!"

Chapter 486: What is the True Invincibility

In Second Prince Chang Li's view, let alone Mu Shiba, who was nearing the Initial Tier Earth Immortal level, even if a true Initial Tier Earth Immortal were to come, they would undoubtedly be suppressed on the spot when he revealed his full trump cards! The Immortal Body of an Initial Tier Earth Immortal is formidable, its life force extremely powerful, making it very hard to kill unless the Earth Immortal Golden Core is destroyed. But this Mu Shiba is not a true Initial Tier Earth Immortal!

In an instant, Chang Li's gaze toward Lin Xuankong was akin to looking at a dead man. The four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons, meanwhile, stared at Lin Xuankong as though he were a delectable morsel, their whiskers continuously swaying, ready to attack the moment Chang Li gave the signal with his "Third Breath."

Sensing the intense killing intent from Second Prince Chang Li, Lin Xuankong narrowed his eyes slightly, and his True Qi surged within his body once again. In the next instant, six streaks of Spiritual Light shot out from his Ghost Frog Pouch, heading toward Second Prince Chang Li and the four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons! When these six streaks of Spiritual Light first appeared, they were only palm-sized but grew rapidly during their flight. By the time they approached Chang Li and the four Earth Dragons, they had transformed into immense Immortal Swords hundreds of feet long, tens of feet wide, and nearly a foot thick! Meanwhile, the Initial Tier Immortal Sword in his hand also unleashed numerous bolts of lightning, shooting toward Second Prince Chang Li!

Facing the killing formation of Chang Li and the four Initial Tier Demon Kings, Lin Xuankong astonishingly wielded seven Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts simultaneously! Of course, this was far from his limit. He had not yet used his two sets of forty-nine Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, which could form the Immortal Capturing Array. Nor had he used the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, which could combat Third-Grade Earth Immortals. The reason was simple: Second Prince Chang Li and his four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons simply weren't worthy! Against Second Prince Chang Li and his four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons, Lin Xuankong wielded seven Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts without even forming the small Immortal Capturing Array these artifacts could create. It could be said that Lin Xuankong was, at this moment, merely using a fraction of his full arsenal!

Yet, even just a fraction of his arsenal—these seven Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts—was already terrifying in the eyes of Second Prince Chang Li and the four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons! As the countless bolts of lightning and six Initial Tier Immortal Swords shot toward them, Second Prince Chang Li didn't even have time to shout "Third Breath" before his face filled with terror! He frantically activated his Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, the Fire Spirit Cauldron, sending it to meet one of the incoming Initial Tier Immortal Swords and the countless bolts of lightning! The four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons, initially so imposing and regarding Lin Xuankong as a tasty treat, felt their skin tighten. Each opened its colossal mouth and spat out its Demon Pill! At this moment, the four Earth Dragons didn't dare use their countless whiskers to counter the Initial Tier Immortal Swords. The sharpness and power of the Immortal Swords, comparable to Initial Tier Golden Cores and Initial Tier Demon Elixirs, were far beyond what their whiskers could withstand!

In the blink of an eye, Second Prince Chang Li's Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, the Fire Spirit Cauldron, collided head-on with an Initial Tier Immortal Sword, while each of the four Earth Dragons' round, gleaming Demon Pills also met an Initial Tier Immortal Sword! Instantly, the collision of Initial Tier Immortal Artifact against Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, and Initial Tier Immortal Artifact against Demon Pill, unleashed a terrifying explosion of power that spread outward!

The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's originally sturdy arena was instantly ravaged. Under the onslaught of the violent shockwaves, large swathes of the ground were torn apart, and one Array after another shattered from the residual impact! This scene was so shocking it was as if ten Initial Tier Earth Immortals were clashing simultaneously! As the shockwaves spread to the countless Cultivators in the stands, they frantically activated their True Qi, and many even raised Magical Artifacts in front of them. Despite this, many Sixth Layer and Seventh Layer Cultivators turned pale, blood continuously trickling from the corners of their mouths, their faces showing expressions of terror! They could never have imagined that after spending considerable savings to buy a Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade and come to see an exciting duel, the battle would be... indeed exciting, but overly so! Who could have thought that a duel between two Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivators would directly endanger so many spectators and bystanders!

The most astonishing thing to these countless Cultivators was that the clash between Lin Xuankong and Second Prince Chang Li, although terrifyingly powerful, lasted only for a brief moment! This was because Second Prince Chang Li and the four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons only managed to withstand the attacks from five of Lin Xuankong's Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts! Yet Lin Xuankong had wielded seven Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts. Of the two remaining, Lin Xuankong held one in his hand, unleashing numerous bolts of Yin Talisman Divine Thunder that bypassed the Fire Spirit Cauldron to strike Second Prince Chang Li! The other Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, directed by Lin Xuankong, transformed into a streak of light, also bypassing the Fire Spirit Cauldron and piercing toward Second Prince Chang Li!

Chapter 487: What is Truly Invincible_2

With two Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts attacking simultaneously, even an Initial Tier Earth Immortal would need to exert their full strength to avoid serious injury!

But Second Prince Chang Li was not an Initial Tier Earth Immortal; he was merely a Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivator!

When countless bolts of lightning struck his body, his already damaged Magic Artifact Armor instantly shattered into pieces. The fierce lightning directly struck him, making his body stiff and causing his True Qi to scatter. Immediately after, the Initial Tier Immortal Sword arrived!

"No..."

Second Prince Chang Li only had time to let out half a scream of terror before the tip of the Initial Tier Immortal Sword pierced his Dantian!

Just a moment ago, this Second Prince, full of confidence and murderous intent, had wanted to force Lin Xuankong to kneel and beg for mercy. Now, however, he was extremely terrified, with no chance to kneel and beg for mercy even if he desperately wanted to!

The Initial Tier Immortal Artifact was immensely huge—hundreds of feet long, more than ten feet wide, and over one foot thick. Even the mere tip of the sword piercing Second Prince Chang Li's Dantian was enough to shatter most of his body, turning it into dust!

Just as the Initial Tier Immortal Artifact was about to completely obliterate Second Prince Chang Li, the shadow of a Spiritual Crane and a streak of fiery light descended near him!

The fiery streak was none other than the one unleashed by Flaming Blade Duan River. This Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal reacted quickly. Just as Lin Xuankong's Initial Tier Immortal Sword bypassed the Initial Tier Immortal Artifact Fire Spirit Cauldron and stabbed towards Second Prince Chang Li, Duan River's Flame Saber shot from his hand. It transformed into a streak of light, striking Lin Xuankong's Initial Tier Immortal Sword!

The power of an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact wielded by a Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal was naturally countless times greater and more condensed than Lin Xuankong's.

At the moment the Flame Saber collided with the Initial Tier Immortal Sword, Lin Xuankong felt his connection with his Initial Tier Immortal Sword nearly sever. Then, the sword was sent flying backward at incredible speed!

It flew back tens of times faster than he had propelled it forward, a testament to the terrifying power of a Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal's strike!

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong slightly raised the hand holding his other Initial Tier Immortal Artifact. It instantly unleashed countless bolts of lightning to meet the retreating Initial Tier Immortal Sword!

Meanwhile, he rapidly flew backward. CRACKLE! CRACKLE! CRACKLE! CRACKLE!

Under the relentless assault of numerous Yin Talisman Divine Thunders, even though the Initial Tier Immortal Sword was flying at extreme speed, it was continuously slowed.

A breath later, the power imbued in the Initial Tier Immortal Sword by the Flame Saber was finally annihilated by Lin Xuankong's countless Divine Thunders. By then, the rebounding Initial Tier Immortal Sword was a mere three feet away from him!

Lin Xuankong made a beckoning gesture. The Initial Tier Immortal Sword, with which his connection had nearly been severed, buzzed and returned to his control, landing in his left hand!

At that moment, a trace of dread flickered in Lin Xuankong's eyes as he looked towards the distant stands at the extremely cold-faced Flaming Blade Duan River.

Meanwhile, with Second Prince Chang Li, the moment Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er's Spiritual Crane phantom enveloped him, a large amount of Immortal Yuan rich in life essence surged into his body.

At this moment, Second Prince Chang Li, who had lost most of his body from the mere touch of Lin Xuankong's Initial Tier Immortal Sword, was left with only his shoulders, neck, and head. If not for the tenacious Life Force of a Ninth-Layer Perfection Cultivator, such grievous wounds would have rendered a Seventh or Eighth-Layer Cultivator unconscious long ago!

Under the healing effect of Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er's Spiritual Crane phantom, flesh on the small remaining portion of Second Prince Chang Li's body began to writhe as it slowly but steadily regenerated.

A few breaths later, by the time the extremely cold-faced Flaming Blade Duan River floated down beside Second Prince Chang Li, he had already recovered most of his body under the treatment of Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er's special Immortal Technique. Only his legs remained to be regenerated.

Only then did Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er cease channeling her special Immortal Technique.

She looked down at Flaming Blade Duan River and Second Prince Chang Li, then said softly, "A strike from an Immortal Artifact, for an Earth Immortal, would at most injure their Immortal Body.

"For a Transcendent Realm Cultivator, however, it destroys their very foundation. Chang Li was struck by an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, and all his meridians and his Five Elements Vein were destroyed. Although I was able to save his life... in terms of Cultivation, I'm afraid Chang Li will have to start over from the first layer of the Transcendence Realm.

"However, since this is a competition, participants naturally go all out.

"In the first round of the competition alone, hundreds of Cultivators were either gravely injured or perished.

"Little Friend Chang Li being able to preserve his life is already a great fortune! Fortunately, Little Friend Chang Li possesses exceptional Talent. I imagine that if he cultivates anew, returning his Cultivation to Ninth-Layer Perfection will be an easy matter!"

Upon hearing this, the fear on Second Prince Chang Li's face instantly transformed into boundless resentment. He stared fixedly at Lin Xuankong, his eyes filled with intense, venomous hatred! If looks could kill, Lin Xuankong would have died a million times over by now. Unfortunately for Chang Li, they could not.

For a Cultivator, having their Cultivation completely destroyed is a fate more agonizing than death itself!

This was especially true for an exceedingly proud, so-called top-tier genius like Second Prince Chang Li!

Standing beside Second Prince Chang Li, Flaming Blade Duan River supported the now-flightless Chang Li with one hand, while his other hand gripped his Flame Saber. Although the Flame Saber had not increased in size, the flames upon it flickered incessantly.

Chapter 488: What is Truly Invincible_3

This Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal was also filled with boundless anger at this moment, the venom in his eyes almost seeming to drip out!

Flame Saber Duan River hated so much that he wanted to directly attack and burn the 'Mu Shiba' before him to ashes, or even use a special Immortal Technique for Soul Extraction and Refining, torturing him countless times!

But he was clearly aware that Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er had just saved Chang Li's life and quickly healed his injuries. She had done him a favor to prevent him from making a move.

Flame Saber Duan River didn't need to care about the attitude of the Late-stage Second-Grade Earth Immortal Huang Liutao. He didn't even have to consider that this was the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruiting competition. However, since Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er had already made her stance clear, if he made a move, she would immediately step in and block his attack!

After all, this was the territory of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Moreover, Sect Leader Li, a Fifth Grade Late Stage expert, was also present. Under such circumstances, it was impossible for him to kill Mu Shiba. Even if he tried, it would only waste his Immortal Yuan!

In an instant, Flame Saber Duan River glared fiercely at Lin Xuankong, his chest filled with hatred he couldn't vent, his hair almost standing on end from anger!

At that moment, the entire Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect fell completely silent! All the Earth Immortals and all the cultivators had their gazes fixed on Lin Xuankong!

A few breaths earlier, when Second Prince Chang Li had activated an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact and summoned four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons, there wasn't a single cultivator or Earth Immortal who thought Lin Xuankong could withstand such terrifying means!

No one believed that a Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivator could withstand the attacks of an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact combined with four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons. This included Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er, Li Xiaohu and the others, the genius disciples of the Five Elements Immortal Sect, and even the disciples from other Immortal Sects.

However, less than three breaths later, Second Prince Chang Li, whom they had considered invincible, was already beaten into a cripple. His Five Elements Vein and most of his internal meridians were destroyed.

If it weren't for the joint efforts of Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er and the Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal Flame Saber Duan River, Second Prince Chang Li would have surely perished on the spot!

This scene was so shocking and unexpected that all the cultivators and Earth Immortals stared at Lin Xuankong in amazement, forgetting to discuss, unsure even what to say!

Almost every Transcendence Realm cultivator had the same thought rising in their hearts: What is invincibility? This is true invincibility!

Within the Transcendence Realm, no one could possibly defeat this Mu Shiba!

Forget the Transcendence Realm; even an Initial Tier Earth Immortal level expert couldn't withstand Mu Shiba's attacks. Those four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons were the best proof!

Four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons, capable of overpowering Initial Tier Earth Immortals, were utterly suppressed by a Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivator, rendered completely incapable of retaliating. Had they not witnessed it themselves, no cultivator would have believed it!

Amidst the crowd's extreme astonishment and awe, Lin Xuankong waved a hand. The four Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts that had suppressed the Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons quickly flew back, disappearing into his Ghost Frog Pouch!

Glancing at the malicious Flame Saber Duan River and Second Prince Chang Li, a hint of coldness flashed in Lin Xuankong's eyes.

He paid no attention to them, instead looking at a distant disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. This disciple was the referee for Arena 128.

Originally, he should have stayed near Arena 128, waiting for Lin Xuankong and Second Prince Chang Li's duel to end so he could announce and record the results.

However, when Lin Xuankong shattered the Thousand-headed Flame Giant Sparrow with one strike and destroyed many of the arena's Arrays, this disciple had already fled to a safe distance, using a Magical Artifact to protect himself.

Seeing Lin Xuankong looking over, this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciple was momentarily stunned and lowered the Magical Artifact he held in front of him.

Lin Xuankong then smiled. "Although this Second Prince Chang Li is still within the bounds of the Martial Arts Arena, I most likely, probably, perhaps have won this match!"

Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciple:

Numerous cultivators fixated on Lin Xuankong:

Five Elements Immortal Sect's genius disciple Xiao Yan: ...

Many watching Earth Immortals:

All the cultivators were utterly speechless.

Feng Lingling, the Mysterious Female Cultivator from the Five Elements Immortal Sect, couldn't help but roll her eyes.

"This guy is so arrogant! Not only did he suppress four Initial Tier Demon King Earth Dragons and defeat Second Prince Chang Li, crippling him directly, but now he actually claims that he 'most likely, probably, perhaps' won this match!

"TSK TSK, Second Prince Chang Li's cultivation has been reduced to less than the First Layer of the Transcendence Realm. What can he possibly use to continue fighting?

"HA HA HA, this guy is infuriating!"

Xiao Yan, the genius disciple from the Five Elements Immortal Sect, couldn't help but nod.

"Indeed, he's infuriating. If I were Second Prince Chang Li, I'd probably faint from anger right now! If I were that Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal, Flame Saber Duan River, I definitely wouldn't be able to resist attacking!"

Feng Lingling giggled.

"But I kind of like this infuriating demeanor.

"HMPH, HMPH. When dealing with opponents, one should be ruthless enough and also infuriate them—that's true satisfaction!

"Hmm, if I face this Mu Shiba in the next round, I'll definitely show some mercy and not beat him too miserably!"

Chapter 489: What is Truly Invincible_4

Xiaoo Yan couldn't help but feel speechless upon hearing her.

This junior apprentice sister of mine indeed has extremely strong talent. She even possesses powerful Spiritual Treasures bestowed by our Grandmaster and holds one of only two Tier Four Celestial Demon Bones in the entire Central Divine Dynasty Western Region! This Mu Shiba is very strong, possessing seven Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts; if my junior apprentice sister goes all out, she truly could battle him! However, my junior apprentice sister has always been mischievous and loves to play tricks on people... She says she quite likes Mu Shiba's style, but if they really meet, she might strike very harshly! After all, every disciple in the Five Elements Immortal Sect knows one thing clearly: in our sect, you can offend the Masters or even the Grandmaster—those Earth Immortals. Even if they get angry, they won't casually lay a heavy hand on their own sect's disciples. But provoke Junior Sister Feng Lingling, and you're definitely in for a world of trouble!

Just then, a cheer suddenly erupted from the crowd of cultivators in the stands.

"Damn, too strong! Godfather, those four Initial Tier Demon King Level Earth Dragons were like four Terrain Worms in front of you! HAHAAAAHA! That was so satisfying! Godfather, your fight was brilliant!"

Li Xiaohu shouted excitedly as he floated up, waving continuously towards Lin Xuankong. Hu Shuo, Yang Shan, Li Er, Han Lu, and the Liy Family Brothers also floated up, gazing at Lin Xuankong with excitement.

Before Lin Xuankong and Second Prince Chang Li's duel, everyone knew Lin Xuankong couldn't lose. What they hadn't expected was Chang Li's excessive arrogance; he had repeatedly demanded that Lin Xuankong kneel and admit defeat within three breaths! They had always revered Lin Xuankong and couldn't tolerate such disrespect, so every one of them had been filled with anger.

Now, seeing Lin Xuankong teach Chang Li a lesson and thoroughly cripple him, the Lin Family Seven Tigers were undoubtedly overjoyed and extremely pleased.

Even the usually composed Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er showed a delighted expression, waving continuously towards Lin Xuankong. If they weren't in public, the delighted Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er

might have happily thrown herself into Lin Xuankong's arms! After all, Second Prince Chang Li, relying on his strength and status, had pestered her for a long time. Now that Lin Xuankong had crippled the man, she was naturally overjoyed.

Chang Li witnessed this joyous scene of the Lin Family Seven Tigers and Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er. The Second Prince, who already hated Lin Xuankong to the bone, began to breathe rapidly.

To be crippled in front of thousands of cultivators, while the woman he most admired and desired cheered for his enemy! These stinging realities were like the sharpest daggers, stabbing into his heart one by one.

Second Prince Chang Li gritted his teeth, words full of hatred hissing from between them, "Martial Uncle, kill him! Kill him! Kill him! Tear him limb from limb!"

Duan River, the Vice Sect Leader of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect, seeing the Lin Family Seven Tigers cheering, could no longer contain himself. His face contorted, muscles twitching violently. Staring daggers at Lin Xuankong, he pointed the Flame Saber, an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact, towards him.

"How can the disciples of my Fire Spirit Immortal Sect endure such humiliation!" Duan River roared. Then, addressing Lin Xuankong, he continued, "Mu Shiba, today is the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment competition. There are people here who will protect you. But do you think you can hide here forever? I, Flaming Blade Duan River, swear that the moment you leave the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect will be the day you die!"

As Flaming Blade Duan River's words fell, the entire Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect instantly fell silent once more.

Almost every cultivator looked at Lin Xuankong with a complicated expression. The strength and skills Lin Xuankong had just displayed were certainly astonishing, enough to become the talk of every watching cultivator for days to come.

But now, this 'Mu Shiba' was targeted by a late-stage, Third-Tier Earth Immortal. Almost every cultivator had the same thought: This Mu Shiba is doomed!

Chapter 490: Qu Qiao'Er's Protection, Sect Leader Li's Favor

One was a cultivator at Ninth-Layer Perfection, the other a powerful Earth Immortal at the Late Stage of the Third Grade. The disparity was overwhelmingly vast! Upon hearing those words from Flaming Blade Duan River, almost no cultivator believed Lin Xuankong could survive peacefully in the future. After all, a powerful Earth Immortal at the Late Stage of the Third Grade had countless ways to secretly kill a cultivator at Ninth-Layer Perfection.

At that moment, the Lin Family Seven Tigers, who had always revered Lin Xuankong, flew swiftly toward him, led by Li Xiaohu. After the seven reached Lin Xuankong's side, each placed a hand on the Magical Artifacts at their waists, their expressions icy as they glared at Flaming Blade Duan River. Each of them possessed four Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts gifted by Lin Xuankong. This arsenal allowed the seven of them, despite being at Ninth-Layer Perfection, to suppress and defeat an Initial Tier Earth Immortal. However, the opponent facing them now was a powerful Earth Immortal at the Late Stage of the Third Grade! Yet, not a trace of fear showed on their faces, nor did any of them avert their gaze.

Floating to Lin Xuankong's side at the same time was Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er. She silently stopped beside him, took his right hand, and then looked resolutely at Flaming Blade Duan River.

As countless cultivators watched this scene unfold, many couldn't help but feel emotional and began whispering among themselves.

"Who would have thought that Mu Shiba not only possesses strength far exceeding those of the Same Tier, but also has so many brothers willing to live and die with him! To face an opponent at the Late Stage of the Third Grade and still dare to stand by his side... tsk, tsk!"

"Indeed. It's said that cultivators need only pursue great power for themselves and disregard worldly attachments. Yet, even a Ninth-Grade Earth Immortal cannot escape the end of their Lifespan. If we cultivators could find a few such kindred brothers on our path of cultivation, this life would not be lived in vain!"

"Sigh, easier said than done. The world is full of those who add icing to the cake, but how many are willing to send charcoal in snow? Let alone share life and death!"

"Even spouses flee their separate ways when disaster strikes, let alone friends and brothers! This Mu Shiba clearly offended an Earth Immortal at the Late Stage of the Third Grade, yet so many of his brothers stand up for him in this time of crisis. It's truly a remarkable thing!"

As the crowd expressed their sentiments, Flaming Blade Duan River watched the Lin Family Seven Tigers and Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er float over. His already grim face turned even more sullen. His gaze swept across the faces of Li Xiaohu and the others, his voice chilling to the bone. "Good, good, good! Since you're willing to die with this Mu Shiba, I will certainly not forget any of you when I settle scores in the future. I won't spare a single one!"

Just then, from high above in the clouds, the voice of Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er suddenly rang out, "Fellow Daoist Duan," she began, "today is the disciple recruitment competition of our Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Given that it's a recruitment competition, casualties are inevitable when so many cultivators clash. By threatening Mu Shiba like this, are you not showing disrespect to our Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect? If every participant in the competition is to be threatened and unable to fight with their full strength, then what would be the point of holding our Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment competition at all?"

Qu Qiao'Er, who had always respectfully addressed Flaming Blade Duan River as Senior Brother Duan, now pointedly called him Fellow Daoist Duan. She was clearly displeased with his remarks. The Fire Spirit Immortal Sect might be prestigious, but this was, after all, the territory of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. If they allowed Flaming Blade Duan River to flaunt his power here unchecked, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's reputation would surely suffer in the eyes of many cultivators.

Upon hearing this, Flaming Blade Duan River's eyes flickered. A ruthless glint appeared in them as he looked up at Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er. "Fellow Daoist Qu, I am, of course, aware that this is the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment competition. That is precisely why I am tolerating this Mu Shiba's continued existence—until he leaves this place! But tell me, when did the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect become so influential that I must be threatened by you for wanting to kill a cultivator who doesn't even belong to your sect?"

Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er met Flaming Blade Duan River's gaze. A faint smile touched her lips, but her eyes were cold. "And what if this Mu Shiba passes the remaining rounds of the competition and becomes a disciple of our Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Fellow Daoist Duan? What then?"

Hearing this, Flaming Blade Duan River's expression faltered. After a few moments of silence, a vicious glint appeared in his eyes, and he sneered, "The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect has such a grand reputation. Of course, I wouldn't openly kill one of its disciples!"

Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er's expression turned cold. Not openly kill? That means he plans to assassinate... assassinate a disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect? This Flaming Blade Duan River is utterly arrogant!

She was about to reprimand him when Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect beside her slightly raised his head. Spiritual Crane Fairy Qu Qiao'Er immediately fell silent and stared coldly at Flaming Blade Duan River.

Sect Leader Li, however, merely smiled and glanced at Flaming Blade Duan River before his gaze fell upon Lin Xuankong. He said softly, "This Fellow Daoist Mu is truly astonishing in both strength and methods. I am Li Daozuo, the Sect Leader of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. I have been cultivating for 3,500 years, and in all that time, only once, within the Divine Dynasty Immortal Sect of the Central Divine Dynasty, have I seen a Transcendence Realm genius who—relying on True Qi far surpassing that of ordinary cultivators, exceptional talent, and two Second-Grade Immortal Artifacts—defeated five Initial Tier Earth Immortals!

"Later, that genius cultivator became one of the Four Celestial Kings of the Central Divine Dynasty's Divine Dynasty Immortal Sect, a formidable existence in the Central Divine Dynasty second only to the Ninth Grade Divine Lord. He was hailed as a legend by many Earth Immortals from the seventy-two Immortal Sects of the Central Divine Dynasty!

"I never imagined that after more than 2,000 years, another such stunning cultivator would emerge in our Spiritual Crane Immortal City, here in the Central Divine Dynasty's Western Region. This is truly a blessing for our Spiritual Crane Immortal City and a most fortunate event for the Central Divine Dynasty's Western Region!

"I imagine that after today's disciple recruitment competition, Fellow Daoist Mu's name will swiftly spread throughout Spiritual Crane Immortal City, across the Western Region, and through countless cultivator Dynasties!

"However, there is one matter about which I am quite curious. Might I trouble Fellow Daoist Mu for an answer?"

As Sect Leader Li finished speaking these words, the murderous expression on Flaming Blade Duan River's face couldn't help but shift. Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect held an extremely high status, comparable to the True Sect Leader of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect, and his strength was far beyond what Duan River could match. Even thirty of himself wouldn't last ten breaths against this man! For Sect Leader Li to praise Mu Shiba so highly... if he himself continued to insist on killing Mu Shiba, this Sect Leader Li would probably, with a mere wave of his hand, cause him to lose all face and be thrown out of Spiritual Crane Immortal City!

At this thought, even though Flaming Blade Duan River felt incredibly frustrated, he dared not say anything more.

Lin Xuankong, on the other hand, smiled after hearing Sect Leader Li's words. He cupped his hands towards Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, who was up in the clouds, and said, "Sect Leader Li, your praise truly makes Mu Shiba feel ashamed! Please, ask whatever you wish. Mu Shiba will answer anything he knows without reservation!"

At this moment, Lin Xuankong felt quite confident. He had already guessed what this Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect wanted to ask...