

# The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 171: Chapter 171: Demand the Jing Family to Hand Over the Person Chapter 171: Chapter 171: Demand the Jing Family to Hand Over the Person Donglin City Lord's Mansion, within an exquisite and luxurious separate courtyard.

“Boom!”

A loud sound of an item being violently shattered suddenly erupted.

“How dare you kill my disciple!

How dare you kill my Cang Long disciple!

Good, very good, I, Cang Long, will make your entire family pay with their lives!”

“Swoosh!”

After the roaring, a figure rushed out furiously.

This was an old man dressed in a gray robe, looking quite old, with a face full of wrinkles that now bore an extremely terrifying expression.

Within his eyes, a deep red burned angrily with flames leaping violently.

He was Cang Long, the Outer Court Deacon of the Divine Wind Academy, a martial artist at the Peak of the Innate Realm.

“Mr.

Cang Long...” An armored guard from the City Lord Mansion swiftly approached, intending to ask what had happened.

“Get out of the way!” Amidst his fury, Cang Long waved his hand, sending the armored guard flying.

Then, he sped off in a certain direction.

Of course, he wasn’t heading directly to the Jing Family.

Although he didn’t take a small Jing Family seriously, as a martial artist at the Peak of the Innate Realm, if he were to go to the Jing Family Mansion alone and engage in combat, he would certainly be the one to die in the end.

It was well-known within the Jing Family that there were also two martial artists at the Peak of the Innate Realm, and several at the Late Innate Stage.

Did he, Cang Long, dare to go there and act wildly?

Though overtaken by anger, he had not lost his rationality.

The place Cang Long was headed to was the inner courtyard of the City Lord Mansion.

Moments later, the extremely enraged Cang Long arrived at a separate courtyard within the inner courtyard.

“City Lord Chen Bing!” Cang Long shouted loudly!

Even the buildings of the separate courtyard trembled slightly from his shout.

Cang Long, with his Primordial Energy bursting forth, had a heavy and intense aura.

“Whoosh!” A dark red figure flickered out from within the room.

This man was Chen Bing.

However, he was only the Deputy City Lord of Donglin City.

The City Lord of Donglin City had already left for Lanqu County City half a month ago, as the Three Major Academies’ recruitment of students was a major event for the entire Lanqu County, and thus the Donglin City Lord had to go to the Prince Manor to follow the orders of the Prince.

Now, the responsibility of receiving Cang Long and others from Lanqu County City fell to Deputy City Lord Chen Bing.

Within Lanqu County, most cities had both a City Lord and a Deputy City Lord managing the city together.

Of course, a few cities were led by a single City Lord alone, such as Duyang City, which was controlled solely by City Lord Bai Xue.

“Deacon Cang Long?”

“What’s going on?”

“What happened?” When Chen Bing came out of the room and saw Cang Long’s expression, he was also slightly taken aback.

“Why was Cang Long so angry?”

“These days, he had treated Cang Long and others from the Three Major Academies with the utmost respect, and there was no place where they were slighted.”

As the Deputy City Lord, he naturally hoped that more Donglin City Martial Artists would take part in the assessments of the Three Major Academies.

“City Lord Chen Bing!”

“Suo Wen is dead!”

“My disciple, Suo Wen, is dead!” Cang Long’s entire body shook massively.

“Hmm?” City Lord Chen Bing was taken aback.

He had not yet received the news of Suo Wen’s beheading.

Chen Bing knew about Suo Wen and the others setting up an arena outside the Jing Family Mansion to challenge the Jing Family.

He did not attempt to stop them, for he felt it had nothing to do with him.

At most, it would damage the Jing Family’s face, but so what?

Now, hearing Mr.

Cang Long's words, Chen Bing was certainly shocked because he had never considered the possibility that Suo Wen would die.

In his view, the Jing Family would certainly be aware of the connections behind Suo Wen, so they would definitely not dare to take action against him.

Now, Cang Long was saying that Suo Wen was dead.

How did he die?

Could it be that the Jing Family couldn't hold back and took action?

"City Lord Chen Bing, what should we do about this?"

That brat from the Jing Family killed my disciple Suo Wen.

You tell me, what should be done!" Cang Long said slowly, his voice low and sinister.

"That brat from the Jing Family?"

Who is it?

Who killed Suo Wen?” Chen Bing’s eyes sharpened again.

He was aware of Suo Wen’s strength—Mid-Stage Innate Realm Cultivation.

Within the Jing Family, there were only a few martial artists capable of killing Suo Wen.

Cang Long said it was that brat from the Jing Family who killed Suo Wen.

If the Jing Family Patriarch or an elder had taken action personally, Cang Long wouldn’t address them in such a way, would he?

“It’s a bastard called Jing Yan!

City Lord Chen Bing, do you know of this bastard?” Cang Long’s gaze was icy and fierce.

At this point, he still had not remembered who Jing Yan was; he had forgotten that he personally oversaw Jing Yan’s expulsion from Divine Wind Academy.

With too many students at Divine Wind Academy, even as a martial artist of the Peak Innate Realm with extraordinary memory, it was impossible to remember every single individual.

“Jing Yan?”

“That Jing Yan who was expelled from Divine Wind Academy?” Chen Bing turned to Cang Long.

“Hmm?” When Cang Long heard this, his thoughts turned quickly, and he remembered.

Last year, the student he expelled had the name Jing Yan.

That’s right, he was indeed a young martial artist from Donglin City.

But how was this possible?

That Jing Yan, although he had stepped into the Innate Realm, his realm continuously plummeted afterward.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been expelled from Divine Wind Academy.

Could this person kill his own disciple Suo Wen?

Thoughts raced in his mind, and Cang Long couldn’t make sense of it.

Even if Jing Yan's realm hadn't fallen, he still couldn't be a match for his disciple Suo Wen, right?

"Deacon Cang Long, this Jing Yan holds a certain legendary status in Donglin City.

Almost everyone knows of him.

After being expelled from Divine Wind Academy and returning to the Jing Family in Donglin City, everyone thought he would fade into obscurity.

But unexpectedly, he rose again at an astonishingly fast pace, reclaiming his position at the recent Jing Family competition, securing the top spot, and even defeating an Innate Martial Artist named Jing Tianlong from the Red Lotus Academy," explained Chen Bing to Cang Long.

"Hmph, I don't care who he is; I want him dead!

And the Jing Family must pay a bloody price.

One Jing Yan, even if he dies a hundred times, it is not enough to make up for the life of my disciple Suo Wen.

City Lord Chen Bing, I want an explanation.

My disciple died in Donglin City.

Are you going to take care of this matter or not?” Cang Long stared at Chen Bing.

He had heard Chen Bing’s words but still did not believe that Jing Yan could kill Suo Wen.

He suspected that the Jing Family’s higher-ups must have played a role behind the scenes!

Chen Bing’s eyebrows furrowed slightly.

Cang Long’s words were a bit impolite.

Damn it, just because his disciple died in Donglin City, was he supposed to be responsible for it?

If it wasn’t for his disciple Suo Wen provoking the Jing Family, would that Jing Yan come to the City Lord’s Mansion to kill his disciple?

Although he felt some displeasure internally, no dissatisfaction showed on Chen Bing’s face.

This Cang Long was not just an Outer Court Deacon of the Divine Wind Academy; he also had an incredibly influential brother named Cang Yu, a figure even Chen Bing could not truly afford to provoke, a Pill Master.

So, even with discontent in his heart, he had to endure it.

Chen Bing smiled at Cang Long.

“Deacon Cang Long, don’t be in a hurry.

I’ll have someone go to the Jing Family and talk to the Jing Family Patriarch right away.

Let the Jing Family Patriarch, Jing Chengye, bring that Jing Yan over tomorrow morning, and you shall decide how he is to be dealt with.

Hehe, if the Jing Family really do not know better, I will surely provide you with an explanation,” Chen Bing chuckled nervously, seeking to reassure Cang Long.

Chen Bing also knew that asking the Jing Family to hand over a prodigy like Jing Yan would certainly cause discontent within the Jing Family.

But, compared to the dissatisfaction of Cang Long, the discontent of the Jing Family meant nothing.

## **The Sword God of the Universe**

Chapter 172: Chapter 172: The Care of Bai Xue City Lord Chapter 172: Chapter 172: The Care of Bai Xue City Lord Speaking of which, Jing Yan from the Jing family is truly remarkable!

If what Cang Long said is true, and his disciple Suo Wen was killed by Jing Yan, then Jing Yan must possess the strength to slay a martial artist in the Innate Middle Stage.

How old is he?

As a martial artist from Donglin City, such a prodigy, yet he is about to die soon—it really is quite lamentable.

However, to quell Cang Long's wrath, Jing Yan must be sacrificed.

Anyway, as long as it isn't City Lord Chen Bing who is sacrificed.

“Good!”

“City Lord Chen Bing, then I will wait until tomorrow morning,” Cang Long said coldly.

Today, the sky had indeed grown dark.

Cang Long also knew that asking Chen Bing to directly exterminate the Jing family was unrealistic.

Besides, Chen Bing was only the Deputy City Lord, and the City Lord Huo Chunyang was not currently in Donglin City.

To mobilize a large number of armored guards from the City Lord Mansion to annihilate the Jing family would require City Lord Huo Chunyang's personal orders.

...

In the wilderness, night-shrouded all.

Amid the hazy darkness, a Sky Swallow car sped past.

The Sky Swallow is a high-level spiritual beast resembling an ordinary horse.

Relative to most spiritual beasts, Sky Swallows have a more docile nature, allowing them to be domesticated by humans for transportation.

The size of a Sky Swallow is about twice that of an ordinary horse.

Its speed is extremely fast; with each leap, it can cover tens to hundreds of meters, which is dozens of times faster than a martial artist at the Peak of Innate sprinting at full speed.

Of course, Sky Swallows are also incredibly expensive.

Ordinary martial artists can hardly afford them, and they are not to be compared with the black warhorses ridden by the Armored Guards of the City Lord Mansion.

Those black warhorses merely possess spiritual beast bloodlines, whereas Sky Swallows are genuine high-level spiritual beasts.

In addition to their unmatched speed, Sky Swallows also have formidable combat power, comparable to a martial artist in the Innate Middle Stage.

This Sky Swallow car was pulled by two Sky Swallows and raced through the night like lightning.

Inside the carriage, two figures sat, a man and a woman—handsome and beautiful, respectively.

“Qin’er, by tomorrow, we should be able to return to Donglin City.” The male martial artist, who appeared to be in his forties to fifties with a scholarly demeanor, said with a smile.

“Mhm.” The female martial artist nodded.

“Qin’er, you’ve been down this whole trip.

Is something troubling you?” The male martial artist, with a slight frown and a look of puzzlement, asked.

“Mhm.” The female martial artist responded again.

“What’s wrong?” The male martial artist seemed somewhat anxious.

“It’s nothing,” the female martial artist shook her head.

“There must be something.

Qin’er, what is it, exactly?” The male martial artist’s brow furrowed more deeply.

The male martial artist was none other than Donglin City Lord Huo Chunyang.

And the female martial artist was his wife, Lv Qin!

Huo Chunyang knew his wife too well.

Lv Qin hadn’t said much throughout the trip, which was clearly not normal.

“Chunyang, let me ask you.

When we were at Prince Manor, why did Bai Xue single you out after the meeting was over and take you to a room?” After hesitating for a moment, Lv Qin turned her beautiful eyes to Huo Chunyang and inquired.

Hearing Lv Qin’s question, Huo Chunyang was startled, but then he laughed.

He knew why Lv Qin was upset.

Indeed, a woman like Bai Xue, the City Lord of Duyang City, could make any woman feel a sense of crisis.

Huo Chunyang’s mind conjured up the image of Bai Xue, and he couldn’t help but feel moved.

Such a pure and flawless woman existed in this world; it was nearly impossible to find any imperfections in her.

“Qin’er, so that’s why you’ve been unhappy this whole journey.

It’s because of this matter,” Huo Chunyang said with a laugh, “Could it be that you fear the City Lord Bai Xue has taken a liking to me?”

Qin'er, you think too much!"

Lv Qin continued to look at Huo Chunyang without saying a word.

"City Lord Bai Xue sought me out because of someone," Huo Chunyang continued.

"Someone?"

Who?" Lv Qin's gaze shifted subtly.

Truthfully, she didn't believe that City Lord Bai Xue intended to steal her husband, but...

she couldn't control her feelings.

City Lord Bai Xue was just too dazzling.

"This person, you should know him, Jing Yan!"

He is from our Donglin City, from the Jing family," said Huo Chunyang, looking at Lv Qin.

Of course, Huo Chunyang also knew about Jing Yan.

Jing Yan had entered the Innate Realm at the age of fourteen and had been admitted to Divine Wind Academy, one of the Three Major Academies, at sixteen.

As the City Lord of Donglin City, how could he not know?

“Jing Yan?”

Are you talking about the one who was expelled from Divine Wind Academy because his realm fell?

The Bai Xue City Lord sought you out alone to discuss this Jing Yan?” Lv Qin asked, somewhat surprised.

Her surprise was understandable.

She knew Jing Yan was well-known, but his fame was limited to Donglin City.

How could Bai Xue, the City Lord of Duyang City, know about Jing Yan?

“Yes, that’s Jing Yan.

City Lord Bai Xue asked me to look after Jing Yan.

This time, when the Three Major Academies are recruiting new students, she wanted me to take Jing Yan directly to Lanqu County City,” Huo Chunyang nodded.

“What?”

Lv Qin was genuinely surprised, her beautiful eyes widening.

What was the relationship between Jing Yan and Bai Xue?

Bai Xue actually sought out the City Lord of Donglin City specifically to have him take Jing Yan to Lanqu County City for the assessments of the Three Major Academies?

If it weren't for a very special relationship between the two, would the City Lord Bai Xue go to such lengths?

The proud and aloof Bai Xue sought out the City Lord of Donglin City for a young martial artist in his teens?

“I'm also puzzled!

City Lord Bai Xue didn't say much, and I felt it was not my place to ask.

But one thing is certain: Bai Xue's attitude toward Jing Yan is anything but ordinary, and it is quite friendly," acknowledged Huo Chunyang.

"This young man from the Jing family is set to soar high.

He has managed to gain the favor of City Lord Bai Xue.

Tsk tsk, even the entire Jing family will enjoy boundless glory from now on.

With City Lord Bai Xue's backing, who in Lanqu County would dare to touch Jing Yan or the Jing family?" Huo Chunyang also let out a sigh of amazement.

"Chunyang, I've heard some rumors that Bai Xue is the daughter of the Prince.

Is this true?" Lv Qin asked, turning her gaze.

Previously, she had merely heard such rumors, but the authenticity of the news was uncertain.

She wasn't a gossipmonger, and it was only because she was speaking about City Lord Bai Xue with her husband that she casually asked.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have questioned it.

“That news is true!” Huo Chunyang nodded, “Qin’er, you should be aware of the incident with the Lu Family in Lanqu County City ten years ago, right?”

“I know.

It seems the Lu Family did something to offend the Prince, and in a fit of rage, the Prince wiped out the Lu Family,” Lv Qin said, furrowing her brows.

“Yes, indeed it was the Lu Family that offended the Prince and brought disaster upon themselves!

However, the fact is, the Lu Family didn’t offend the Prince himself but City Lord Bai Xue,” Huo Chunyang took a deep breath and nodded.

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(I recommend a friend’s urban novel “Hot-Blooded Teacher”; it’s a great read, and even I, Lao Chen, am following it.)

## The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 173: Chapter 173 Qiankun Small World Chapter 173: Chapter 173 Qiankun Small World  
“Offend the Bai Xue City Lord?” Lv Yan’s brows slightly furrowed.

More than a decade ago, the Lu Family, a Great Family of Lanqu County City, was virtually wiped out overnight, personally by the Prince.

The event had greatly shaken the entire Lanqu County.

People only knew that the Lu Family had defied the Prince, but few knew the real reason.

“The Lu Family Patriarch had a son named Lu Tao.

This Lu Tao, extremely domineering and oppressive, capitalized on his family’s power to behave tyrannically in Lanqu County City.

He was excessively lecherous, and the women he set his eyes on almost never escaped his clutches.

Eventually, Lu Tao encountered Bai Xue and was astounded by her beauty and, true to his nature, immediately tried to take her by force.

However, Bai Xue’s strength far exceeded his, and even though he had many of the Lu Family’s guards with him, he ultimately could not escape being slain by Bai Xue on the spot.”

“After the son of the Lu Family Patriarch was killed, the Lu Family, of course, sought revenge.

At that time, the Lu Family dispatched a large number of powerhouses to kill Bai Xue and avenge Lu Tao.

Several powerhouses from the Lu Family's Dao Spirit Realm were mobilized, but Bai Xue, with her formidable strength, managed to kill several Lu Family combatants and, though wounded, escaped their encirclement.

The Lu Family, unwilling to give up, continued their pursuit of the Bai Xue City Lord.

However, the next day, the Prince was enraged and led the elites from the Prince Manor to utterly eliminate the Lu Family overnight."

"It is because of this incident that the news of the Bai Xue City Lord being the daughter of the Prince came out.

Otherwise, even those Great Families wouldn't have known about it," Huo Chunyang said gravely.

Of course, although the news spread, most people didn't understand the specifics, only a few knew the full details of the incident.

"It seems that the Prince cares a lot about the Bai Xue City Lord," Lv Yan nodded lightly.

The Prince, if he did not care about the Bai Xue City Lord to a certain extent, why would he have eradicated the Lu Family, a family with substantial influence in Lanqu County, overnight?

Removing such a family had a huge impact.

If it had not touched the Prince's bottom line, even the Prince would not have lightly acted against a Great Family.

This showed just how important the Bai Xue City Lord was in the eyes of the Prince.

“Whoosh!”

The Sky Swallow Car, whistled past.

...

In Donglin City at the Jing Family estate, within Jing Yan's separate courtyard, in his room.

“Jing Yan, come in!”

Jing Yan was about to practice the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill when Tianshui's voice suddenly sounded.

Jing Yan subconsciously looked around.

There was no trace of Tianshui in the room.

“Come in?” Jing Yan was puzzled.

“Enter the Qian Kun Ring!” Tianshui’s voice continued.

“Enter the Qian Kun Ring?” Jing Yan frowned, a look of surprise directed at the Qian Kun Ring he wore on his finger.

Originally, Jing Yan had unlocked the seal of the Qian Kun Ring and obtained the Heaven-defying Technique known as the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill.

Naturally, Jing Yan knew that the Qian Kun Ring was extraordinary.

But now, what did Senior Tianshui mean by telling him to enter the Qian Kun Ring?

And how could he enter the Qian Kun Ring?

“Hurry up, let your blood acknowledge the ring’s master,” Tianshui urged.

Acknowledge the master by blood?

Jing Yan's gaze flickered.

Although he wasn't clear about the exact situation, he still did as Tianshui had said and made a small cut on his finger, allowing his fresh blood to drip onto the Qian Kun Ring.

A strange light briefly flashed on the surface of the ring, and then the red blood trace vanished without a trace.

“Hum!”

At that moment, he felt a change occurring with the Qian Kun Ring.

On the surface, the Qian Kun Ring still looked dull and even worse than a regular Sumeru Ring.

But Jing Yan himself could feel a mysterious connection forming between the Qian Kun Ring and himself, similar to how the Fog Vortex in his abdomen was connected to his body.

Then, with a slight thought

“Whoosh!”

Jing Yan’s figure disappeared from the room.

“This is...”

After briefly losing all senses, the next moment, Jing Yan found that his surroundings had completely changed; he had arrived in another space.

In this space, there were even some plants growing—grass, trees, and flowers.

Within his line of sight, a simple courtyard was situated a few hundred meters away.

Near the courtyard flowed a babbling stream.

A familiar figure stood in front of the small courtyard —clearly Tianshui.

“Come over!” Tianshui, calling out, waved to Jing Yan.

Suppressing the turmoil in his heart, Jing Yan stepped forward and walked over.

At this moment, Jing Yan was undoubtedly very astonished because he guessed that this space was probably the Qian Kun Ring's space.

However, the Qian Kun Ring was clearly not the same kind of storage space as a Sumeru Ring.

While Sumeru Rings also had space, that space could only store inanimate objects, and living people absolutely could not enter it, let alone allow flowers and plants to grow.

The space inside the Qian Kun Ring seemed more like an independent small world.

"Jing Yan, you've guessed where this is, haven't you?" Tianshui, smilingly looking at Jing Yan.

"Senior Tianshui, this is the interior space of the Qian Kun Ring, is it not?" Jing Yan said.

"Correct!" Tianshui nodded, "The Qian Kun Ring is actually a small world, nothing like what a Sumeru Ring can compare to.

Although the space of the Qian Kun Ring is not very large, it's well-equipped; this small world, in some ways, has no difference from the outside big world."

“Before you had stepped into the Innate Realm, you couldn’t make the Qian Kun Ring recognize its master, so I didn’t say much to you.

Jing Yan, remember carefully, this small world, at any time, at any place, must absolutely not be revealed to anyone.

Otherwise, you will undoubtedly die,” Tianshui said solemnly, his expression grave.

“I understand,” Jing Yan replied.

Now, Jing Yan couldn’t quite fathom the terrifying value of a small world.

But he could vaguely guess that this small world was definitely not something ordinary people could have.

If someone knew he possessed a small world, then he, Jing Yan, would have no place to stand on the entire Continent.

“Enough talk!

Follow me!” Tianshui spoke as he moved forward.

Jing Yan, quickly followed.

Moments later, Jing Yan saw three steles standing ahead.

“Is that...

Martial Arts Steles?”

Jing Yan, of course, was familiar with Martial Arts Steles.

In this world, Martial Arts, the vast majority, are stored in the form of Dao Power within specially made crystal stones that form steles.

The Jing Family Treasure Vault contained many Martial Arts Steles.

However, the three steles now before his eyes were a hundred times larger than ordinary Martial Arts steles.

Each of these three steles stood hundreds of meters tall and nearly ten meters wide, truly colossal.

If these three steles were really Martial Arts Steles, then what level of Martial Arts were hidden inside?

Jing Yan took a deep breath.

## Chapter 174 - 174 174 Alchemy Dao

Chapter 174: Chapter 174 Alchemy Dao Chapter 174: Chapter 174 Alchemy Dao “Qiankun Pill Path?”

“Qiankun Artifact Dao?”

“Qiankun Array Path?”

Jing Yan, seeing the giant steles, each inscribed with a few big characters.

“Could it be that they’re not Martial Arts Steles?” Jing Yan frowned slightly.

For Jing Yan himself, his strongest Attack Martial Arts was the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique.

However, now that Jing Yan had stepped into the Innate Realm, although the integration of the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique wasn’t perfect, continuing to integrate it was no longer directly related to his realm.

Instead, he needed to have a revelation while using it.

Apart from that, Jing Yan also possessed Sky Wings, but it was a movement technique.

Against powerful enemies, the Attack Power brought by Sky Wings was limited.

Therefore, what Jing Yan looked forward to the most were powerful Attack Martial Arts or Secret Techniques that could enhance his personal strength, such as the Four Symbols Secret Technique practiced by Jing Tianlong.

“Jing Yan, today you killed a Martial Artist called Suo Wen.

This person has a master whose brother is a Pill Master, right?” Tianshui, leading Jing Yan to the front of the three steep steles.

“Yes!” Jing Yan nodded.

Although Tianshui had remained inside the Qiankun Ring, he was aware of everything that happened outside.

“Now, you can start learning Alchemy.

As long as your Alchemy skill is strong and you can refine better Elixirs, what's there to worry about some crappy low-level Alchemists?" Tianshui snorted coldly, then stretched out a hand, pointing toward the farthest left of the three massive steles.

"Learn Alchemy?"

"Elder, even if I start learning Alchemy right away, I can't possibly succeed in a short time, right?"

Alchemy, even if one has extremely high talent, also requires a lot of time to achieve some accomplishments, doesn't it?" Jing Yan said, frowning.

If Alchemy were so easy, then the status of Pill Masters in this world wouldn't be so unattainably high.

To become a Pill Master, one had to meet conditions that could be considered harsh.

First of all, the Martial Artist must have at least Innate Realm Cultivation.

Furthermore, one must possess extremely high Alchemy talent.

Having Innate Realm Cultivation was one thing, but Alchemy talent was very, very rare indeed.

Even in Lanqu County City, the number of Pill Masters was not high.

Any Pill Master, even the lowest-level First-level Alchemists, was an individual countless Martial Artists wanted to associate with.

It was also because the number of Pill Masters was so few that the value of Elixirs remained high.

Even the cheapest First-level Elixirs were valued at over ten thousand Spirit Stones.

Moreover, Alchemy required a lot of time for grueling practice.

If one wasted time on this path, then the improvement of one's own realm would certainly be affected.

“Hmph, what you're talking about is just the path ordinary Alchemists take,” Tianshui said with a contemptuous snort, “Jing Yan, I don't know who forged the Qiankun Ring, but I can tell you that the original owner of this Qiankun Ring was definitely powerful beyond your imagination.

Even I, though I was once the strongest person on the Continent, can't fathom just how terrifying the power of the original owner of the Qiankun Ring was.”

“I have told you that I only understood the first three levels of the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill.

But this made me the strongest person on the Heavenly Origin Continent.

And I'm certain that beyond the first three levels of the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, there are deeper mysteries.

It's just that with my limited talent, I could not delve into them.”

“Likewise, these three steles were left by the original owner of the Qiankun Ring.

The contents contained within these three steles are related to Alchemy Dao, Artifact Dao, and Array Dao.

On this continent, although there are many Alchemists, Artifact Masters, and Array Masters, to my knowledge, even the best among them on these three paths are far from reaching one ten-thousandth of the original owner of Qiankun Ring.”

“Alright, try it for yourself, and you will know.

Your strength is too low right now, so it's not appropriate to learn too many assorted fields.

Start with Alchemy Dao first.

As for Artifact Dao and Array Dao, we can discuss those later,” Tianshui said, looking at Jing Yan.

Hearing Tianshui’s words, Jing Yan felt as though he was receiving an enlightenment!

Indeed!

The being who could create the heaven-defying Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill and leave behind the steles of Alchemy Dao, how could they be ordinary?

Jing Yan hesitated no more and quickly approached the Alchemy Dao Stele.

He placed his palm gently on it.

Thoughts stirred, and Primordial Energy surged.

“Om!”

Instantaneously, Jing Yan felt a flood of vast information stream from the stele into his mind.

Fortunately, he was already in the Innate Realm, and his Divine Soul was several times more resilient than when he was in the Postnatal Realm.

Otherwise, the sheer amount of information alone would have been hard for him to bear.

After receiving this information, Jing Yan immediately sat down cross-legged.

His thoughts turned, naturally sorting the complex influx of information.

“Alchemy Dao, the introductory chapter...”

Streams of information rapidly merged with Jing Yan’s memory.

This process was similar to a Martial Artist practicing and learning Martial Arts.

It seemed that the content of Alchemy Dao was also stored within the special stele in the form of Dao Power.

“My goodness...”

Even with preparation, Jing Yan was still astonished by the vastness of the information in the introductory chapter of Alchemy Dao.

According to the content Jing Yan had received and organized,

the introductory chapter was divided into an upper and lower volume.

The upper volume was not about refining Elixirs, but about concocting Medicines, with eighty-one different types.

Among those eighty-one types, about half were for healing injuries.

The remaining half included detoxifying, consciousness-awakening, tranquilizing, and so on.

Each type of Medicine had dozens of concocting methods, involving an endless variety of herbal materials.

The lower volume of the introductory chapter was about refining various real Elixirs, from First-level Elixirs to Third-level Elixirs, with hundreds of types in total.

Alchemy was indeed extremely difficult.

For an ordinary Alchemist, getting a formula for an Elixir was only the first step.

The subsequent attempts to refine the Elixir were the most challenging.

Even if you had a formula, it was difficult to master the refining methods.

If you had a master, you could get guidance.

Without a master, it was almost impossible to figure out the steps on your own.

During the refining process, any deviation or error in any step could lead to the failure of the entire Alchemy task, and all the materials used would be completely wasted.

Concocting Medicines was relatively simpler but still required great care, especially the higher-quality Medicines.

When Jing Yan was in Sinful Canyon, he concocted a Medicine that could help Martial Artists advance from the Ninth Layer Heaven to the Innate Realm.

It was only because Tianshui was beside him, personally guiding him step by step, that Jing Yan managed to succeed in his first attempt.

“Incredible, absolutely incredible!” After roughly more than an hour passed, Jing Yan opened his eyes and couldn’t help exclaiming.

# Chapter 175 - 175 175 Jing Yan's Excitement

Chapter 175: Chapter 175 Jing Yan's Excitement Chapter 175: Chapter 175 Jing Yan's Excitement Before, what Jing Yan most wanted was Attack Martial Arts, so when he saw the steles for Alchemy Dao and the other two Paths, he couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed.

However, that was because he felt that whether it was the Alchemy Dao, Artifact Dao, or Array Dao, none could be mastered in a short amount of time.

Yet now, Jing Yan was truly excited.

To become a Pill Master, what kind of honor was that?

To be able to refine elixirs, how many resources could he earn?

Those Pill Masters in Lanqu County City, even the lowest level ones, were all filthy rich.

Some Martial Artists, in order to have Pill Masters help refine special elixirs, would need to pay a huge price.

And once he was able to concoct elixirs himself, Jing Yan would no longer need to attend auctions everywhere to buy and bid on the elixirs necessary for his practice.

He wouldn't need to ask others—it would be they asking him.

Another reason that was incredibly exhilarating for Jing Yan at this moment was that he had discovered a low-level elixir with a Pure Yin Attribute, which could offset, to a certain extent, the intense Yang energy absorbed from Soul Crystals.

This elixir was named “Azure Abyss Elixir”!

The Azure Abyss Elixir, a First-level Elixir, required materials that were fairly common and could easily be obtained in Donglin City.

The Nine Yin Fruit that Jing Yan had previously consumed was also one of the materials needed for the Azure Abyss Elixir.

With this elixir, Jing Yan could freely absorb the energy of Soul Crystals and quickly ascend to the Innate Middle Stage.

Previously, although Jing Yan had obtained a High-level Soul Crystal from a Level Eight spiritual beast, the Fire Cloud Beast, he had his reservations, because the energy of a High-level Soul Crystal was absolutely overbearing, far scarier than the Low-level Soul Crystal he had first acquired.

Even the moderating effect of the Nine Yin Fruit might not amount to much.

If he could only slowly absorb and transform the energy of the Soul Crystal, Jing Yan would need much more time to advance to the Innate Middle Stage.

But with the Azure Abyss Elixir, it would be much more convenient.

Jing Yan could step into the Innate Middle Stage in a short period, and even enter the Late Innate Realm not long after.

Once he had reached the Cultivation of the Late Innate Realm, even if he were confronted with a Peak Innate or an ordinary Dao Spirit Realm Martial Artist, it would be hard for them to kill Jing Yan, wouldn't it?

Jing Yan's eyes sparkled with eagerness, wishing he could immediately go out and buy the materials to try and refine the Azure Abyss Elixir.

Jing Yan vaguely felt that his control over the Alchemy was strong, although he had never experienced pill refining before.

However, after absorbing the information of the Qiankun Pill Path and integrating it into his memory, Jing Yan felt a familiarity with alchemy.

He felt that he should be successful on his first attempt at pill refining.

“Kid, how do you feel?”

At that moment, Tianshui spoke up with a smile.

“In a small place like this, if you can refine third-level elixirs, won’t countless Martial Artists fawn over you?”

That little pissant Pill Master Cang Yu, what would he amount to?” claimed Tianshui disdainfully, as if he were Jing Yan.

“Thank you, senior.” Jing Yan stood up and sincerely bowed in gratitude to Tianshui.

“Thank me for what?”

You are now the owner of the Qiankun Ring.

All these things belong to you!” Tianshui waved his hand dismissively.

“Kid, follow me.” Tianshui then turned and walked towards the shabby courtyard.

Jing Yan followed him into a room in the courtyard.

“Kid, do you know what this is?” Tianshui asked, pointing at a dark green object in the room.

Jing Yan glanced at it, “Is it a Pill Furnace?”

Although Jing Yan had never refined elixirs, it didn’t mean he hadn’t seen a Pill Furnace.

The object placed in the center of the room looked very much like a Pill Furnace, but Jing Yan wasn’t completely sure.

“That’s right, this is a Pill Furnace, called the ‘Qiankun Pill Furnace,’ another divine item left behind by the great figure who forged the Qiankun Ring.

Hehe, kid, with this Pill Furnace assisting you, the quality of the elixirs you refine... tsk tsk... I won’t say more, you’ll know in the future,” said Tianshui with a laugh.

...

“Whoosh!”

Jing Yan’s figure emerged from the Qiankun Ring.

By this hour, the sky was showing the first light of dawn.

Jing Yan glanced at his fingers—the Qiankun Ring had vanished, leaving only the Sumeru Ring on his finger.

He smiled faintly.

Of course, the Qiankun Ring hadn't disappeared but rather integrated into Jing Yan's body.

With just a thought, he could freely enter and exit the Qiankun Small World.

Additionally, he could place his possessions into the space within the Qiankun Ring at any time.

In the time that followed, Jing Yan took out all the items from within his Sumeru Ring.

Among them, there were three Sumeru Rings.

These three rings belonged to Suo Wen, Zhao Yifeng, and Cai Guanglin.

Aside from these rings, there were various resources as well as the corpse of an eighth-level spiritual beast, the Fire Cloud Beast.

It took Jing Yan some time to categorize the resources he needed and those he didn't.

The unneeded resources could be sold off when he found the time.

Among these resources were several that Jing Yan didn't recognize and didn't know the uses for.

Naturally, he would keep these unknown resources for the time being.

Most of the resources he needed were types of Spirit Grass.

Now that he was capable of refining elixirs, he certainly couldn't sell off these kinds of resources anymore.

"These unneeded resources could probably be sold for ten or so thousand Spirit Stones," Jing Yan murmured as he nodded slightly.

"Young Master Jing Yan!"

At that moment, a voice came from outside, followed by the sound of footsteps.

Jing Yan's gaze shifted, and he promptly stored away the various resources before opening the door and stepping out.

Standing in the courtyard was the personal guard of Clan Leader Jing Chengye.

"Is there something you need?" Jing Yan asked the guard.

“Young Master Jing Yan, the Clan Leader has requested to see you,” the guard said respectfully.

Jing Yan’s prestige within the Jing Family was extremely high now.

Not only did most Jing Family Disciples hold Jing Yan in high regard, but even the guards were exceedingly reverent towards him.

“Alright!” Jing Yan thought intently.

He understood that it probably had to do with yesterday’s incident where he killed Suo Wen.

Jing Yan quickly made his way to the Clan Chief’s Courtyard.

Upon arriving, he saw not only the Clan Leader but also the Great Elder Jing Chunyu and Fourth Elder Jing Tianying.

“Jing Yan, come with us to the City Lord Mansion,” said Clan Leader Jing Chengye upon seeing Jing Yan.

“Jing Yan, don’t worry too much.

As long as I’m alive, you’ll be alive,” added Jing Tianying, after Jing Chengye had spoken.

“Understood,” Jing Yan nodded.

He didn’t need to show his gratitude to the Fourth Elder.

He had anticipated this event; it was simple, Cang Long, Suo Wen’s master, would not sit idly by after his disciple was slain.

He would surely seek revenge.

Given Cang Long’s unique status and considering his brother’s influence, Jing Yan suspected that even the City Lord Mansion would not easily offend him.

Hence, he was well-prepared for the Clan Leader and others taking him to the City Lord Mansion.

Jing Yan had also considered that if the situation truly became uncontrollable, he would sever ties with the Jing Family and then flee Donglin City.

Once he was no longer associated with the Jing Family, his actions would no longer concern them.

If Cang Long wanted revenge, the City Lord Mansion would then have a reason to refuse.

Jing Yan believed that since the Jing Family was a prominent family in Donglin City, the City Lord would not readily commence a massacre.

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(This book will be listed for subscription as of noon today!

With the subscription, paid reading will begin.

Up to this point, the book has reached over 360,000 words, and Lao Chen has provided over 360,000 words of free chapters for everyone.

Lao Chen understands that many readers wish the books they enjoy could remain free.

However, it's simply not possible.

Lao Chen needs to make a living!

If it were possible to live without worries, Lao Chen would also like everyone to read books free of charge.

Life is tough!

Additionally, once again I am announcing the book's QQ group: 434129147; readers who enjoy this book are welcome to join for discussions.

Those willing to pay to support Lao Chen's work, if you're uncertain about how to top up book coins, you can also inquire within the group.

Ah, thank you, everyone, for your companionship along the way!)

## The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 176: Chapter 176: Trial Chapter 176: Chapter 176: Trial Jing Family, a total of four people arrived at the City Lord Mansion, namely the Clan Leader Jing Chengye, Great Elder Jing Chunyu, Fourth Elder Jing Tianying, and Jing Yan.

If a real conflict were to arise, having more people would be just as useless!

“Jing Clan Patriarch!”

Outside the main gate of the City Lord Mansion, a housekeeper from the City Lord Mansion was waiting there.

“How are things?” Jing Chengye asked the housekeeper in a lowered voice.

“Not good!

Jing Clan Patriarch, you have to be careful.

Follow me!” The housekeeper warned Jing Chengye.

He had a close relationship with the Jing Family, which is why he took the initiative to caution Jing Chengye.

Of course, to win him over, the Jing Family had also expended a considerable amount of resources.

In the front yard of the City Lord Mansion, atop the square.

Deputy City Lord Chen Bing and Divine Wind Academy’s Outer Court Deacon Cang Long were seated.

Behind them, a large number of armored guards from the City Lord Mansion emitted a chilling aura, clearly the elite troops of Donglin City Lord’s Mansion.

Apart from Chen Bing and Cang Long, guests from the Red Lotus Academy and Dao Yi Academy were also present here, probably just to relieve boredom and watch the excitement.

When Jing Chengye reached the square, despite his mental preparation, he still felt his heart 'thud'.

This scene was not for discussions but seemed more like a trial for the Jing Family.

It looked like the City Lord Mansion was planning to sacrifice the Jing Family, or at least Jing Yan, to preserve the relationship with Cang Long.

Jing Chengye, after all, was the Jing Family Patriarch, and upon seeing such a scene, he could guess the stance of the City Lord Mansion.

"Jing Family Patriarch Jing Chengye, pays respects to City Lord Chen Bing!" Jing Chengye greeted Chen Bing with folded hands.

Although Chen Bing was only the Deputy City Lord, his power was immense, and his status was only second to the City Lord Huo Chunyang.

Any family or power in Donglin City would definitely not wish to offend Chen Bing lightly.

"Hmm, Jing Clan Patriarch has arrived," Chen Bing said as he waved his hand, his gaze shifting toward Jing Yan, "This Jing Yan, your Jing Family has also sent, very good!"

Jing Clan Patriarch, you're very wise!"  
"Mr.

Cang Long, you see, the Jing Family has even sent the troublemaker Jing Yan on their own initiative.

They are quite sincere, right?" Chen Bing then looked toward Cang Long, whose face was incredibly gloomy.

"Hmph, even if they send this little mongrel over, their Jing Family is still responsible for this matter!

Do they think sacrificing the life of a little mongrel can exchange for the life of my disciple Suo Wen?

There's no such good deal in this world," Cang Long coldly snorted, his tone sinister.

It seemed, even if the Jing Family handed over Jing Yan, the Jing Family couldn't remain uninvolved; they would have to pay an additional price.

In his view, the life of Jing Yan could not possibly compensate for the life of his disciple Suo Wen.

Jing Yan, standing behind Jing Chengye and the others, tensed slightly, his gaze suddenly sweeping toward Cang Long.

This old bastard!

Jing Yan would, of course, not forget this detestable face; it was this man who had aggressively advocated for his expulsion from the Divine Wind Academy.

Not only did this Cang Long expel Jing Yan from the Divine Wind Academy, but he also insulted Jing Yan, saying that recruiting Jing Yan was the biggest failure and disgrace of the Divine Wind Academy in a century.

And now, this old bastard continued to insult Jing Yan with his words.

Jing Yan was, of course, extremely angry, with a cold light flashing in his eyes.

However, Jing Yan still held back because the opponent was an Innate Peak Expert, and he was definitely not a match.

“Little bastard, from the look in your eyes, it seems like you want to kill me, eh?” Cang Long, who also sensed Jing Yan’s icy gaze, laughed coldly and stared at Jing Yan as he spoke.

“You won’t be smug for long.

Humph, you say your disciple Suo Wen is stronger than me, but why is it your disciple Suo Wen who's dead?" Jing Yan's voice was slow and measured.

"Hahaha..."

This little bastard dares to threaten me?

If I don't flay your skin off bit by bit, then my surname isn't Cang.

You think you can kill Suo Wen?

Ridiculous, do you really think I would believe your side of the story?" A sinister gleam burst forth from Cang Long's eyes.

"City Lord, might I inquire why you had someone summon my Jing Family to bring Jing Yan to the City Lord Mansion?" Jing Chengye turned to Chen Bing and asked at this time.

Jing Chengye was well aware that the Jing Family had definitely offended Cang Long.

Therefore, he couldn't bother to mince words with Cang Long; no matter what, the Jing Family would do everything in their power to protect Jing Yan.

“Hm?” Upon hearing Jing Chengye’s words, Chen Bing was momentarily taken aback.

What did Jing Chengye mean?

Bringing Jing Yan here, wasn’t it meant to hand him over?

And yet he’s asking me why I want Jing Yan to come to the City Lord Mansion?

What happened that you, Jing Chengye, the Clan Leader, wouldn’t know?

Chen Bing’s face, which was already less than pleasant to look at, grew even uglier at this moment, and he sneered in his heart.

Is the Jing Family really seeking death?

If your family had the sense to hand over Jing Yan voluntarily, and then I, Chen Bing, put in a few good words for you in front of Cang Long, and the Jing Family compensated with some resources, this matter could have been let slide.

But now, you, Jing Chengye, and the Jing Family seem quite uncooperative, don’t they?

“Jing Clan Patriarch, surely you’re aware of the incident where Jing Yan killed Mr.

Cang Long’s disciple Suo Wen?” Chen Bing sneered, looking at Jing Chengye.

Jing Yan murdering Suo Wen occurred just outside the main gate of the Jing Family Mansion; within the Jing Family, there was no one who didn’t know about it.

If Jing Chengye claimed ignorance, he would be blatantly lying.

“City Lord, may I ask, where and for what reason did Jing Yan kill Suo Wen?” Without answering Chen Bing’s question, Jing Chengye asked another one.

Exactly, he was asking Chen Bing where Suo Wen was killed.

Inside the City Lord Mansion?

Was it an unprovoked killing?

If it took place inside the City Lord Mansion, why hadn’t the City Lord arrested Jing Yan directly?

Even if Jing Yan could temporarily escape, a large number of guards should have been dispatched immediately to pursue him.

“Jing Clan Patriarch, what are you trying to say?”

Jing Yan killed Suo Wen outside of the Jing Family Mansion, don't you know that?

Or, are you testing my patience?” Chen Bing was beginning to get angry, as he spoke in a stern voice.

“Yes, I indeed heard about it!” Jing Chengye nodded, “Suo Wen, outside our Jing Family Mansion, set up a challenging stage, provoking our entire Jing Family, wanting to disgrace us within Donglin City, and that was an insult to the Jing Family.

Jing Family disciple Jing Yan, for the sake of family honor, bravely faced off against Suo Wen, and in the ensuing fight ultimately killed Suo Wen.

Might I ask you, City Lord, is there any problem with this?”

“If Suo Wen hadn't set up the challenging stage outside the Jing Family Mansion, would there have been any conflict between Jing Yan and Suo Wen?”

“Suo Wen set up the stage to humiliate the Jing Family, he should have been prepared to be challenged, right?” Jing Chengye said several sentences in quick succession.

Chen Bing was instantly left speechless.

By all common sense, Suo Wen's actions, even if it led to his death, would have been a deserving one.

If you go to someone else's doorstep to set up a stage, aiming to force them into a fight, and you get killed in the fight, that is quite normal.

It's your fault for not having the strength and still wanting to trample over others; it was a death you brought upon yourself.

However, Suo Wen was Cang Long's disciple!

"So, I was curious why City Lord Chen Bing had summoned Jing Yan to the City Lord Mansion.

I guessed it might be related to Jing Yan killing Suo Wen, but, City Lord, I believe you are aware that in this matter, my Jing Family's Jing Yan is completely without fault," Jing Chengye looked at Chen Bing, then added another sentence.

## Chapter 177 - 177 177 Betraying from Within

Chapter 177: Chapter 177: Betraying from Within Chapter 177: Chapter 177: Betraying from Within  
City Lord Chen Bing's gaze swept fiercely toward Jing Chengye.

He knew that Jing Chengye definitely wouldn't easily hand over Jing Yan to Cang Long for punishment.

He sneered coldly in his heart.

In his view, the decision of Jing Chengye and the Jing Family was undoubtedly very foolish.

Jing Yan was indeed a prodigious talent, and with Jing Yan's emergence, the Jing Family's future would benefit tremendously.

It was normal for the Jing Family not to want Jing Yan to die.

However, the Jing Family should clearly understand the current situation.

Failing to obtain Cang Long's forgiveness would eventually lead Cang Long to move against the Jing Family—an outcome far graver than the death of just one Jing Yan, as the entire Jing Family would fall into irreparable ruin.

Cang Long himself might not truly pose a threat to the Jing Family, but Cang Long's younger brother, Cang Yu, who was a Pill Master and disciple of Little Pill King Gao Zhao Hai, certainly could.

Thus, City Lord Chen Bing felt that the decision of Jing Chengye and the Jing Family was very foolish.

“Jing Clan Patriarch, you need to think this through clearly.

Have you thought about the future of the Jing Family?” Chen Bing asked with a cold smirk, looking at Jing Chengye in a deep voice.

“City Lord Chen Bing, are you suggesting that to please Mr.

Cang Long, my Jing Family must unjustly sacrifice a talented martial artist?” Jing Chengye was also somewhat angered.

From the beginning, Chen Bing had intended to sacrifice Jing Yan.

Indeed, whether Jing Yan lives or dies has nothing to do with you, Chen Bing.

But Jing Yan is a member of the Jing Family; how could the Jing Family just push him out like that?

You, Chen Bing, as the Deputy City Lord of Donglin City, now only wish to please outsiders and sacrifice a martial artist from your own city.

Do you have no sense of responsibility at all?

Jing Chengye also met Chen Bing’s gaze directly.

“Insolence!” Chen Bing shouted coldly.

“Jing Chengye, you are too arrogant.

How dare you speak to me like this?

Humph, if it weren't for the sake of your Jing Family, do you think I would speak so favorably of you in front of Mr.

Cang Long?

Now, you can't even sacrifice one from your Jing Family for him?

Do you realize if Mr.

Cang Long becomes angry, your Jing Family will vanish from Donglin City!” Chen Bing said furiously.

Jing Chengye's confrontation had embarrassed him.

In this plaza were Outer Court Deacons of Divine Wind Academy, Red Lotus Academy, and Dao Yi Academy—Mr.

Cang Long, Leng Zhu, and Qing Mo.

All these notable figures were watching.

And there stood Jing Family Patriarch Jing Chengye daring to confront him, Chen Bing, the Deputy City Lord, and even questioning him, which naturally infuriated him greatly.

If not for his lack of authority to mobilize a large number of Armored Guards from the City Lord Mansion, he would have even considered ordering the Guard to wipe out the Jing Family.

Wiping out the Jing Family, although it would have a terrible impact, if he could curry favor with Cang Long, then the harm brought about by eliminating the Jing Family could be entirely disregarded.

“City Lord Chen Bing, can I just ask, are you really the Deputy City Lord of Donglin City?” Jing Yan, standing behind Jing Chengye, now slightly turned his body and stepped forward, asking Chen Bing.

“Uh?”

Chen Bing had not paid much attention to Jing Yan.

In his view, the only one worthy of conversing with him from the Jing Family was Jing Family Patriarch Jing Chengye.

Jing Yan, although a promising junior, had not yet come into his own, and speaking with him obviously didn't qualify.

Thus, Jing Yan speaking out surprised him.

"Of course, I am the Deputy City Lord of Donglin City," Chen Bing haughtily said.

Although he felt Jing Yan was not worthy to speak to him, he still answered this question.

"Then I don't quite understand," Jing Yan smiled, and he continued, "As the Deputy City Lord of Donglin City, the actions you're taking now seem to contradict your role!"

"Deputy City Lord Chen Bing, between Suo Wen and myself, anyone with eyes and a brain can discern right from wrong.

I can say that I made no mistakes, yet you, as the City Lord, because of Suo Wen's master, Mr.

Cang Long, who has a significant background, fear Mr.

Cang Long and seek to please him, disregarding the lives of the Jing Family disciples under your control in Donglin City.

Don't you think you're being excessively unfair?"  
Jing Yan's words were loud.

By speaking out, he effectively tore his relationship with Chen Bing completely.

Jing Yan recognized that no matter how much he begged or pleaded, Chen Bing was never going to stand with the Jing Family.

Since Chen Bing was aligned with Cang Long in any case, why bother being fetchingly servile?

"How audacious!"  
"You little brat, you've got some nerve!"

Even your Jing Family Patriarch here doesn't dare speak to me like this, yet you, a little rascal, dare to challenge me?" After Jing Yan finished speaking, Chen Bing could no longer restrain himself, standing up abruptly with Primordial Energy surging, shouting furiously at Jing Yan.

His face also turned red, appearing ferociously intimidating.

Although Jing Yan's words were harsh, they were defensible, and Chen Bing simply had no way to refute them.

If Jing Yan were at fault for killing Suo Wen, it would be natural for him to pressure the Jing Family to surrender Jing Yan.

But now, with Jing Yan not at fault, forcing the Jing Family to give up Jing Yan revealed his ineffectiveness as a Deputy City Lord.

It was not just negligence—there was a suspicion of betrayal.

“Heh heh...”

“This kid really has nerves!

City Lord Chen Bing, it seems this brat doesn't see you as a threat at all!

This Jing Family, truly lacks insight!

City Lord Chen Bing, what do you say now?

Yesterday, you told me you would give me an explanation,” Cang Long said in a taunting tone.

“Mr.

Cang Long, I assure you, I will give you an explanation!” Chen Bing exhaled deeply and said through gritted teeth.

“Jing Chengye, I now explicitly demand that you hand over Jing Yan to Mr.

Cang Long for handling.

As for your Jing Family, you also need to provide thirty million Spirit Stone as an apology to Mr.

Cang Long,” Chen Bing looked again toward Jing Chengye.

“Don’t speak yet, wait until I’ve finished!” seeing Jing Chengye about to speak, Chen Bing waved his hand imperiously to interrupt.

“If your Jing Family cannot do this, then don’t blame me for being heartless.

I can guarantee that Donglin City will no longer have a Jing Family.

Jing Chengye, don’t doubt my words; once I’ve spoken, I will act.

This little beast, Jing Yan, must die—today, he must die,” Chen Bing spoke while his gaze turned fierce, glaring menacingly at Jing Yan.

A kid barely into his teens daring to question him in such a manner, causing him to lose face before the deacons of the Three Major Academies.

Now, even if Cang Long were willing to let Jing Yan go, he would not agree.

"City Lord Chen Bing, that's the courage a City Lord should have!" Cang Long expressed his satisfaction with Chen Bing's attitude.

## **Chapter 178: The Jing Family's Survival Hangs by a Thread [Third Update]**

"City Lord Chen Bing, my Zhao Family is willing to contribute our strength!"

"City Lord Chen Bing, my Cai Family is also willing to contribute our strength!"

At this time, two different voices came from one side of the square.

Following, a line of figures quickly approached.

Jing Yan's gaze shifted, his eyes suddenly focusing as he saw this row of people.

Zhao Dangyuan, Family Head Zhao! Cai Yunjian, Cai Family Patriarch.

Behind these two clan leaders followed quite a few powerhouses from both families. These people had ill intentions and were clearly standing in opposition to the Jing Family.

"Patriarch Zhao, Cai Family Patriarch!"

Chen Bing also smiled and cupped his hands in greeting to the two men. For Cai Yunjian it might be enough, but even Chen Bing had to show full respect to Zhao Dangyuan. Zhao Dangyuan was a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse, and the Zhao Family had deep connections within Lanqu County City.

Usually, even the City Lord Huo Chunyang was extremely polite to Zhao Dangyuan, let alone this Deputy City Lord at the Peak of the Innate Realm.

"City Lord Chen Bing, you're too polite!" Zhao Dangyuan also cupped his hands in return.

Then, his gaze turned to the man sitting to the side, Cang Long.

"Mr. Cang Long, I've heard about what happened yesterday. My Zhao Family is at fault as well. I've brought Zhao Yifeng here. Whatever you decide to do with him, it's up to you." Zhao Dangyuan said to Cang Long with a smile.

"Hmph!" Cang Long snorted lightly.

Cang Long's demeanor was still very high and mighty! In response, Zhao Dangyuan did not get angry. As an Outer Court Deacon of Divine Wind Academy, an alchemist had every right to be arrogant.

"Zhao Yifeng!" Zhao Dangyuan smiled unconcernedly and then called out to Zhao Yifeng who was behind him.

"Mr. Cang Long, I am Zhao Yifeng. I am responsible for Brother Suo Wen's death by Jing Yan's hands. If Mr. Cang Long wishes to kill or punish me, I, Zhao Yifeng, will not utter a second word." Zhao Yifeng stepped forward and bowed to Cang Long.

"Mr. Cang Long, I, Cai Guanglin, also cannot shirk responsibility for Brother Suo Wen's death. Please, hand down your punishment." Cai Guanglin of the Cai Family also stepped forward, following Zhao Yifeng.

Cang Long's eyebrows twitched slightly as his gaze swept indifferently over the two men. Naturally, Cang Long was furious with them both, especially with Zhao Yifeng who had instigated Suo Wen to challenge the Jing Family's arena, ultimately leading to Suo Wen's death.

Moreover, Zhao Dangyuan had spoken quite beautifully, bringing the man along and leaving the decision entirely up to him, Cang Long. But Cang Long was well aware that Zhao Dangyuan's words were just for show, not sincere. If he truly decided to kill Zhao Yifeng, then Zhao Dangyuan definitely wouldn't remain indifferent.

"The two of you, forget it. There is a head for every grievance and an owner for every debt; it wasn't either of you who killed my disciple, Suo Wen," Cang Long said, dismissing them with a wave of his hand.

Zhao Dangyuan and Cai Yunjian, the two clan leaders, had given him, Cang Long, enough face, and he didn't see the need to offend all of these families. Especially not the Zhao Family, which even he did not wish to offend lightly.

Hearing Cang Long's words, Zhao Dangyuan's face immediately broke into a pleased smile.

"Mr. Cang Long is really magnanimous. I, Zhao Dangyuan will remember this kindness," Zhao Dangyuan laughed. "Yifeng, aren't you going to thank Mr. Cang Long?"

Zhao Yifeng and Cai Guanglin quickly expressed their thanks and then obediently stood to the side.

"Swish!"

Immediately after, Zhao Dangyuan's gaze fiercely shifted to Jing Yan, a cruel smile forming on his lips.

He had long wished to kill Jing Yan! For this, he had even sought out the Dark Night assassins, but he had not expected the assassination attempt to fail. Zhao Dangyuan still remembered that at the time, Jing Yan was only at the level of Postnatal Cultivation. Yet now, he had grown to a level capable of killing Suo Wen. How much time had passed? If they let this kid live, what would the future hold?

"This little wretch from the Jing Family is really troublesome! He's also worryingly bold—daring to kill even Mr. Cang Long's disciple. What isn't he capable of? Jing Chengye, I don't want to meddle in your family's affairs, but I must advise you, having Jing Yan alive is more of a disadvantage than a benefit for your Jing Family. Look, he has already caused such trouble; who can assure you he

won't cause more in the future? By then, it might be too late for the Jing Family to even regret," Zhao Dangyuan sneered.

"City Lord Chen Bing, I heard you say earlier that you want to eradicate the Jing Family? Hehe, I, Zhao Dangyuan, would like to state my position here: if City Lord Chen Bing needs us, my Zhao Family is willing to fully support you. I wouldn't dare to overpromise, but we can definitely dispatch ten Innate Martial Artists," Zhao Dangyuan said to Chen Bing.

"City Lord Chen Bing, although my Cai Family is weaker, I will also state my position. If needed, my Cai Family will do our utmost to dispatch ten martial artists of the Innate realm at your command!" Right after Zhao Dangyuan, Cai Yunjian stated his position as well.

"Ha ha... Both patriarchs, you are too kind," Chen Bing laughed loudly, his joy evident.

"Jing Chengye, what do you plan to do? State your position quickly! The survival of the Jing Family depends on your decision. Is it really worth it to sacrifice your entire family for this little beast?" Chen Bing said looking ferociously at Jing Chengye.

At this moment, Jing Chengye's body was trembling slightly.

Only he knew the immense pressure he was under at this moment. The survival of the Jing Family seemed truly to depend on his decision. He knew that if he decided not to hand over Jing Yan, then the Jing Family would have to face the combined might of the City Lord Mansion and the alliance army of the Zhao and other families.

The Jing Family's ally, the Lin Family, would be sure to save their own skin in such a situation. They could support the Jing Family over minor matters, but now that the City Lord Mansion was moving against the Jing Family, how could the Lin Family be expected to continue standing with them?

"City Lord, Patriarch Zhao, Cai Family Patriarch!"

Just then, the Jing Family Great Elder, Jing Chunyu, was the first to speak up.

"You must not misunderstand! Although Jing Yan is the true grandson of our Old Clan Leader, I believe that even if the Old Clan Leader were still alive, he would not indulge him! Jing Yan has committed a horrendous crime. If the Old Clan Leader were here, he would certainly bring him out himself to be punished by Mr. Cang Long," Jing Chunyu said in a fluster.

Handing over Jing Yan posed no pressure on him. If he had his way, he wouldn't have waited until today; he would have personally delivered Jing Yan to the City Lord Mansion yesterday night.

"Jing Chunyu!" Jing Chengye shouted in a low voice.

"Clan Leader, do you really want to see the Jing Family destroyed before you're satisfied?" Jing Chunyu was not backing down.

He had already decided that if Jing Chengye remained stubborn, he would sever ties with the Jing Family. At least in that way, he could save himself from involvement and preserve his life. With the mindset of leaving the family, Jing Chunyu no longer showed the same respect to Clan Leader Jing Chengye.

"You disgrace!" Jing Tianying said, his face ashen as he cursed.

# The Sword God of the Universe

"Fourth Elder, remember your status!" Jing Chunyu narrowed his eyes, looking at Jing Tianying.

In the Jing Family, he was the Great Elder, whose status was second only to the Clan Leader Jing Chunyu. Jing Tianying had called him scum; how could he accept that? Even if Jing Tianying was stronger than him, that was still unacceptable!

"Me, remember my status?" Jing Tianying pointed at himself.

"Jing Chunyu, how do you even speak to the Clan Leader? Since when has the Jing Family been your domain to command?" Jing Tianying was truly incensed.

Indeed, the current situation of the Jing Family was extremely perilous.

But as a member of the Jing Family, one should unify and face external challenges together at such a time. Yet, Jing Chunyu had turned on the Clan Leader right in front of him! His character was utterly despicable. Jing Tianying even wanted to strike first and capture Jing Chunyu then and there.

If a fight broke out, Jing Chunyu would be no match for Jing Tianying.

At present, the two strongest in the Jing Family were Clan Leader Jing Chengye and Fourth Elder Jing Tianying.

Seeing the internal strife within the Jing Family, people like City Lord Chen Bing watched with great interest.

"Fourth Elder, stop talking!" Jing Yan clenched his fists.

At this moment, countless thoughts surged through his mind. He wondered if he should have left Donglin City yesterday.

Now, even if he wanted to leave, it was probably too late. If Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse Zhao Danyuan had not appeared, Jing Yan was confident; aside from Zhao Danyuan, he believed that there should be no second person here who could catch up with him using his "Sky Wings." But now, with Zhao Danyuan present, a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse could fly for short periods and would certainly be faster than him.

However, considering these things now was already too late. Jing Yan had just not anticipated Zhao Danyuan's sudden appearance.

"Suo Wen was killed by me; it has nothing to do with the Jing Family. It was my personal action," Jing Yan said in a firm voice.

Jing Yan understood that even throwing the entire Jing Family into the equation wouldn't change the outcome. Although the Jing Family had scoundrels like Jing Chunyu, there were also people like the Fourth Elder who had shown him great kindness. Jing Yan did not want to see the Jing Family devastated.

So, he took it upon himself to step forward.

"At least you have some responsibility, kid." Jing Chunyu laughed out loud upon hearing Jing Yan's words.

"You!" Jing Yan looked at Jing Chunyu, "Get lost."

At this point, would Jing Yan still care about Jing Chunyu's feelings? Impossible.

Furthermore, Jing Yan didn't fear Jing Chunyu's power. Jing Chunyu's cultivation was only at the Late Innate Realm, and Jing Yan had killed Late-stage Innate Martial Artists before. In Duyang City, Wei Zhenzhi of the Wei Family, a Late Innate Martial Artist, died at Jing Yan's hands.

Jing Chunyu might be a bit stronger than Wei Zhenzhi, but not by much. When Jing Yan killed Wei Zhenzhi, he had just advanced to Early Innate, while now, Jing Yan was nearing the Innate Middle Stage. How could he be afraid of Jing Chunyu? Besides, Jing Yan had also obtained the Magic Artifact, the Skyfire Sword! His combat power had increased significantly compared to before.

"You little bastard, are you looking for death?" Jing Chunyu roared furiously.

Being insulted by Jing Tianying, he could barely accept. But now, being told by a younger generation of the Jing Family to get lost, how could he tolerate that for even a moment?

A vast surge of Primordial Energy flowed out from Jing Chunyu.

"Boom!" Jing Tianying also mobilized Primordial Energy to counteract Jing Chunyu's Primordial Energy.

"How dare you! You would dare to make a move in front of me?" Zhao Dangyuan's presence intensified, his figure flashed like lightning.

In an instant, he had reached near Jing Tianying. A terrifying black Palm Seal condensed and emerged, its stunning energy fluctuations crushed the space as it stamped fiercely onto Jing Tianying's body.

Jing Tianying mobilized his Primordial Energy in response.

However, despite Jing Tianying's formidable strength, he was no match for Zhao Dangyuan.

"Pfft!" With a light sound, Jing Tianying's body was sent flying.

Blood spurted from Jing Tianying's mouth. Bearing a palm strike from Zhao Dangyuan, Jing Tianying was seriously injured.

A Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse is not something an Innate can shake, even if at the Peak of Innate—they could not withstand the might of a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse.

"City Lord Chen Bing, you won't mind me stealing your thunder, will you? I just couldn't control myself. This Jing Tianying, daring to be presumptuous in front of us!" Zhao Dangyuan laughed lightly as he cast a glance at Chen Bing after sending Jing Tianying flying.

"Patriarch Zhao, you worry too much; you did the right thing. This Jing Tianying dared to act recklessly in the City Lord Mansion and is unforgivable," Chen Bing said after a slight pause.

Although he knew the terror of Dao Spirit Realm powerhouses, each time he witnessed a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse in action, he was still profoundly shaken. He wondered, when would he himself be able to step into the Dao Spirit Realm?

The transformation from Innate to Dao Spirit Realm was a qualitative change. Once stepping into the Dao Spirit Realm, one would be regarded as a true powerhouse throughout Lanqu County. In a city like Donglin City, you could walk with your head held high, and almost nobody would dare to provoke you.

Jing Yan, witnessing the Fourth Elder being injured, was seething with rage! He hated that he lacked the power to kill Zhao Danyuan. He could only watch helplessly as the Fourth Elder was hurt by that beast, Zhao Danyuan. A fire of anger burned in his chest, but he was powerless to act!

"Mr. Cang Long, how about I cripple this young punk Jing Yan first? I won't kill him; his life is still yours. I'll just cripple his Cultivation first, so he can't escape even if he has wings," Zhao Danyuan said to Cang Long again.

His killing intent for Jing Yan was probably even greater than that of Cang Long. However, his killing intent stemmed from the speed of Jing Yan's progress. Even the crippling of his son, Zhao Dingtian, was a secondary issue. As long as Jing Yan's Cultivation was crippled, he could rest easy, and when Jing Yan died no longer concerned him.

"Clan Leader, why trouble yourself to cripple Jing Yan? Allow me to do it," before Cang Long could speak, a voice rang out, followed by a warrior in a golden robe stepping forward.

Zhao Zhenyan!

The eldest son of Patriarch Zhao, family head Zhao Dangyuan of the Zhao Family, Zhao Zhenyan.

The top talent of the Zhao Family for the last thirty years. Even Zhao Yifeng was far from Zhao Zhenyan's equal.

This year, Zhao Zhenyan was approaching forty years old, and he was also the designated successor to the next family head of the Zhao Family.

Many people in Donglin City believed that Zhao Zhenyan would be another Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse in the Zhao Family in the future.

Seeing his eldest son Zhao Zhenyan step forward, Zhao Dangyuan's lips curved into a smile. He had great confidence in Zhao Zhenyan's strength because Zhao Zhenyan had not long ago advanced to a Late-stage Innate Martial Artist, surpassing most of the elders of the Zhao Family in power.

"Zhen Yan, don't be hasty. Mr. Cang Long, I wonder if you agree to cripple Jing Yan first," Zhao Dangyuan said with a smile.

"Patriarch Zhao, I have no objections; you can cripple Jing Yan first. I just need Jing Yan alive. I want him to slowly experience the feeling of being skinned," Cang Long said coldly and venomously.

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“Since Mr.

Cang Long has agreed, Zhen Yan, you should make your move!

Remember, don't kill the boy, Mr.

Cang Long needs him alive.” Zhao Dangyuan said with a smile.

“Clan Leader, rest assured, I'll be careful,” Zhao Zhenyan sneered.

Zhao Dangyuan was his father, but in front of others, he still called Zhao Dangyuan Clan Leader.

Privately, of course, he would call him 'Dad'!

Zhao Zhenyan's gaze suddenly swept towards Jing Yan.

“Hehe, Donglin City has been buzzing with your name, Jing Yan, recently!

Many people say you are the strongest prodigy Donglin City has seen in nearly a century.

They are obviously wrong, terribly wrong.

In front of me, you are nothing but trash.

Originally, I couldn't be bothered with someone like you who clamors for attention, but since you dared to injure my brother Zhao Dingtian, I can't let you off!" Zhao Zhenyan, with a smile curling up his lips, slowly walked towards Jing Yan as he spoke.

In fact, avenging his brother was just an excuse.

Zhao Zhenyan was no fool; though he said he didn't care about Jing Yan, deep down he understood that if he allowed Jing Yan to continue growing, it would be terrifying.

He was confident, but not so arrogant as to dismiss everyone else.

He had learned from Zhao Yifeng that Jing Yan had recently advanced back to the Innate Realm.

Although it was only the Early Innate stage, Jing Yan was able to kill Suo Wen, who had a Cultivation at the Innate Middle Stage.

Such a monster, if left to thrive, what would become of them later?

Jing Yan was not yet twenty, and he, Zhao Zhenyan, was already approaching forty.

Although he had just stepped into the Late Innate Realm not long ago, based on Jing Yan's cultivation speed, what kind of Cultivation would he have when he was forty?

It could be said that as long as Jing Yan was alive, the currently widespread rumor that Jing Yan was Donglin City's strongest prodigy of the century would slowly become a reality.

He, Zhao Zhenyan, could not sit by and watch Jing Yan surpass him.

The title of Donglin City's strongest prodigy was his, Zhao Zhenyan's!

To personally extinguish a prodigy seen only once in a century in Donglin City was quite a thrilling deed!

“Zhao Zhenyan, you sure do talk a lot.

If you want to fight, then let's fight.

All this nagging, you're acting like an old woman!" Jing Yan's gaze was fixed on Zhao Zhenyan.

"Oh?

Are you asking for death?

Fine, I will grant your wish, you piece of trash!" Zhao Zhenyuan's aura condensed, and his Primordial Energy surged forth.

"City Lord Chen Bing." At this moment, a voice suddenly rang out.

The people present turned their gaze towards the speaker.

Everyone was watching and waiting for Zhao Zhenyan to cripple Jing Yan's Cultivation.

Now, speaking up was undoubtedly interrupting Zhao Zhenyuan's move against Jing Yan.

"Mr.

Qing Mo?” Chen Bing looked at the speaker from Dao Yi Academy, Deacon Qing Mo.

“City Lord Chen Bing, the affairs of Donglin City should, in theory, be none of my business.

But I can’t help but speak out.

Though I didn’t witness Jing Yan killing Suo Wen with my own eyes, I have gleaned enough from the previous conversations here.

I think Jing Yan is not at fault, and now it seems that many here are using their power to bully, isn’t that going too far?” Qing Mo frowned as he spoke.

Qing Mo was a person with a strong sense of justice.

Ordinary people would definitely not intervene in such matters.

But Qing Mo had an upright character; if Jing Yan was at fault, he of course wouldn’t interfere.

However, seeing Jing Yan was innocent, he couldn’t help but speak up.

Besides, Jing Yan was a rare prodigious Martial Artist.

It would be a pity to see his talent stifled.

When Qing Mo spoke, many present frowned, including Deputy City Lord Chen Bing.

Jing Yan, on the other hand, looked gratefully at Qing Mo.

Before this, he had never met Qing Mo.

Now that Qing Mo spoke up for him, whether or not it had an effect or changed the outcome, Jing Yan felt grateful.

In such circumstances, for Qing Mo to speak for Jing Yan meant that he himself had to withstand a great deal of pressure.

He was a Deacon of the Outer Court at Dao Yi Academy, not a native of Donglin City.

With so much of Donglin City's power against Jing Yan, yet speaking in his defense was tantamount to offending all factions in Donglin City.

“Hehe...”

“Deacon Qing Mo, you just watch from the side.

Meddling in others' affairs isn't good, you know!" Leng Zhu, a Deacon from Red Lotus Academy stationed not far from Qing Mo, said with an insincere smile.

Leng Zhu had no direct conflict of interest with Jing Yan, but he had a poor impression of him.

Since arriving in Donglin City, Leng Zhu had repeatedly heard news about Jing Yan.

He was also aware of Jing Yan's defeat of Jing Tianlong.

Although Jing Tianlong was a Jing Family Disciple, he was also a student of the Red Lotus Academy, and Jing Yan was not.

Jing Yan's defeat of Jing Tianlong indirectly suggested that Red Lotus Academy students weren't much either?

So Leng Zhu did not have a good impression of Jing Yan.

Of course, he wouldn't seek revenge over this small matter, but it was impossible for him to speak for Jing Yan.

"I just said what needed to be said," Qing Mo frowned and glanced at Leng Zhu.

“Qing Mo, you’d better just shut your mouth!

If you really want to stand up for the Jing Family, then it’s simple!

Come on, how about we have a fight first?” Mr.

Cang Long from Divine Wind Academy said to Qing Mo with a sneer.

Fury flashed in Qing Mo’s eyes, but he still held himself back.

This time, he and Leng Zhu, along with Cang Long, came to Donglin City to select young Martial Artists to participate in the tri-academy assessment in Lanqu County.

If he fought Cang Long here, what would that make him?

Cang Long obviously knew that Qing Mo would not fight him; he was merely using this as a way to shut Qing Mo up.

...

Outside the City Lord Mansion, a Sky Swallow Carriage slowly approached.

Upon reaching the entrance to the City Lord Mansion, Huo Chunyang and his wife, Lv Yan, stepped out from the carriage.

“City Lord!”

The Armored Guards at the door greeted Huo Chunyang and Lv Yan.

Huo Chunyang waved his hand and, with a smile, entered the mansion with Lv Yan.

At this point, Huo Chunyang was undoubtedly quite happy.

Because, Donglin City’s Jing Yan had helped him establish a good connection with Bai Xue City Lord.

Establishing a connection with Bai Xue City Lord meant also connecting with the Prince.

Perhaps in the future, he could take up residence in Lanqu County City!

Of course, he was very pleased.

He was planning to call Jing Tian of the Jing Family over later to have a good talk, to inquire about the exact nature of Jing Yan's relationship with Bai Xue City Lord.

“Uh?”

As Huo Chunyang entered the City Lord Mansion, his brow suddenly furrowed.

He saw that the Armored Guard was assembled in large numbers.

What was going on?

Had something major happened in Donglin City?

Generally speaking, the Armored Guard would not assemble on such a large scale unless something significant had occurred.