

The Sword God of the Universe

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Chapter 281: Chapter 281 Mu Liantian's Heartache Chapter 281: Chapter 281 Mu Liantian's Heartache The energy contained within the tenth shadow was indeed tremendous.

Ten swords!

After Jing Yan launched ten successive sword strikes, the breath of this final shadow was still vast and boundless, showing no sign of weakening.

Jing Yan's face darkened.

He had no time left.

Jing Yan had been continuously calculating the time and knew that at this moment, he might only have a few dozen breaths left, certainly not more than thirty.

"What to do?"

If there were ample time, then Jing Yan wouldn't need to worry.

The attack power of the tenth shadow was comparable to the ninth, posing not so great a threat to Jing Yan.

As long as he was careful, there definitely wouldn't be any risk to his life.

But Jing Yan wanted to win the Golden Token!

With only a few dozen breaths left, the final shadow still stood in front of him like a wall.

Jing Yan had also attempted to use the speed of Sky Wings to circle around the final shadow, but he had failed.

The speed of this final shadow was even faster than his when he summoned Sky Wings.

Not only that, but the shadow's attack power would suddenly double when it closed in for an attack.

This attempt also put Jing Yan in danger.

He could withstand the translucent shadow's ranged attacks, but the close-ranged attack power was definitely as fierce as that of a combatant who had just entered the Dao Spirit Realm.

So, in an instant, Jing Yan retreated.

After trying once and being uncontestedly forced back, Jing Yan gave up the idea of attempting to bypass the translucent shadow to break through the formation.

"Damn it!"

"If only I had a secret technique," Jing Yan bit his teeth.

Up to this point, he hadn't cultivated any secret techniques.

If he had one, his attack power would surely be greatly enhanced.

"No choice, I can only do my best," Jing Yan shook his head.

After numerous more sword strikes, the aura of the translucent shadow finally began to weaken.

“It seems that the energy contained in this last translucent shadow is the sum of the energies contained by the previous nine black shadows,” Jing Yan thought.

“Speed up!” Jing Yan pushed Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill to its limit, as Primordial Energy surged wildly, fueling his attacks with the Holy Light Sword Technique.

On the Prince Manor’s square.

“There are only ten breaths left,” Chief Manager Mu Liantian announced.

The time allocated to break through Heaven Array was exactly three hours, and now there were only ten breaths remaining until the end.

“Nine breaths left!”

“Eight breaths left!”

“...”

“Three breaths left!”

“Two breaths left!”

“The final breath!” Mu Liantian continuously reported the remaining time to break through Heaven Array.

Everyone’s gaze was fixed on the position of Heaven Array.

“Looks like neither Jing Yan nor Wu Shen will be able to capture the Golden Token!”

“Yes, the Heaven Array is too difficult, simply surviving is good enough.

As for the Golden Token, heh...”

“The time is almost up!”

The martial artists on the high platform watched Heaven Array, murmuring quietly.

Now, with only a breath or so to go, Jing Yan and Wu Shen had still not emerged from the exit of Heaven Array, indicating that both had failed to break through.

“The time is up!” Mu Liantian, stressing his tone, uttered these words.

He also slowly shook his head.

While Mu Liantian had also felt that Jing Yan might not break through the Heaven Array, deep down he still harbored a sliver of hope.

Now the time was up, and since Jing Yan still hadn't emerged from the exit of Heaven Array, it meant he had ultimately failed to break through.

Indeed, capturing the Golden Token by breaking the Heaven Array was extremely difficult.

If it were easy, then there wouldn't have been a case in decades where no one could seize the Golden Token.

Although prodigies were rare, in the vast region of Lanqu County City, every year some martial artists with exceptional talents would still emerge.

But very few of those martial artists would be able to seize the Golden Token.

The most recent one to seize a Golden Token dated back thirty years.

“Whoosh!”

Just after Mu Liantian's words fell, a figure appeared on one side of the Heaven Array.

"It's Wu Shen!"

"Wu Shen of the Wu Family is alive!

Although he failed the challenge, he's still alive."

One gaze after another converged on Wu Shen.

Wu Shen had been transported out by Heaven Array, not coming from its exit, clearly indicating his failure to break through.

"Where's Jing Yan?"

"It seems that only Wu Shen was transported out."

"Could it be that he died?" After seeing Wu Shen, these people naturally looked for Jing Yan's figure.

However, they did not see Jing Yan, in that empty place, there was only Wu Shen standing there.

At that moment, Wu Shen also had a bitter smile on his face.

When he entered the Heaven Array, Wu Shen was also full of confidence, feeling that the chances of him obtaining the Golden Token were great.

He was an Innate Peak Martial Artist, and moreover, his innate talent was exceptional.

With the Wu Family's substantial resources and his numerous methods, he could be considered top-notch among Innate Peak Martial Artists in combat power.

Yet, even so, he had failed.

In the Heaven Array, he only managed to kill the first six black shadows, and when he was transported out, he was facing the seventh shadow.

If he had been given another thirty minutes, perhaps he could have eventually killed the seventh shadow.

However, the process would have been extremely difficult.

As for the eighth shadow behind the seventh one, Wu Shen had no confidence at all.

Facing the seventh black shadow, he had had several close calls with death at the hands of the shadow.

If he faced the eighth black shadow, then his chances of survival might only be twenty to thirty percent.

The Heaven Array was indeed too difficult.

Wu Shen, with a bitter smile, shook his head.

“Eh, where’s Jing Yan?” Wu Shen’s gaze shifted, looking around, he did not see Jing Yan.

Then, his eyes looked towards the exit of the Heaven Array, where there was also no sign of Jing Yan.

Wu Shen frowned.

“Ha ha ha...”

“What did I say?”

“That Jing Yan, really overestimated himself, thinking that with a little strength, he could challenge the Heaven Array?”

Now isn't he dead inside the Heaven Array?” Shang Qu laughed heartily and said loudly to the people around him.

“Ah, it's really quite a pity,” Shu Ling sighed.

“What is there to pity?”

There are plenty of martial artists with good talent.

If one dies, two more will emerge!” Shang Qu curled his lip as he said.

As the Dean of the Outer Court of the Divine Wind Academy, he had seen countless talented martial artists.

“Jing Yan's talent is much stronger than that of an average genius!”

Jing Yan, not yet twenty years old, was able to snatch a Silver Token.

Among those who have won the Silver Tokens, isn't he the youngest?" Shu Ling said, looking at Shang Qu.

"So what?" Shang Qu sneered and said, "He brought it upon himself.

The moment he decided to challenge the Heaven Array, he should have been prepared for death.

Is the Heaven Array something that just anyone can break through?

Chief Mu has warned more than once about the high risk of the Heaven Array, yet he insisted on going.

Who can be blamed?"

"If we hadn't issued a Sealing Order, perhaps Jing Yan wouldn't have tried to challenge the Heaven Array," Shu Ling frowned, feeling that a significant reason for Jing Yan to challenge the Heaven Array was due to the Sealing Order placed by the Three Major Academies.

"Both of you, don't get worked up.

The man is already dead.

What's the use of arguing here?

I admit that Jing Yan indeed had great talent.

If I had known earlier that he had the strength to win the Silver Token, I might not have issued a Sealing Order.

But that's all in the past; what's the point of debating now?" Huang Luo said, looking at Shu Ling and Shang Qu.

Shang Qu snorted coldly again, but he did not say anything more.

Shu Ling, likewise, did not speak again.

Mu Liantian frowned tightly.

Jing Yan dead?

Mu Liantian's emotions fluctuated uncontrollably.

Before this, he felt that Jing Yan's chances of obtaining the Golden Token were slim, but he had never imagined that Jing Yan would die in the Heaven Array.

"Jing Yan, oh Jing Yan..." Mu Liantian let out a long sigh in his heart.

Jing Yan had refined the Heavenly Eye Pill, saving his wife, thus indebting him greatly.

Although he had given Jing Yan an exceedingly rare and precious martial art, compared to that, Mu Liantian felt his gift was far less than the debt owed to Jing Yan.

Not only that, he held a very favorable impression towards Jing Yan.

Having only a daughter and no son, he felt a paternal affection for Jing Yan.

Despite not having known Jing Yan for long, he admired his character—calm and not ostentatious, restrained but not weak.

"What a pity!" Mu Liantian, for some reason, felt a pang of heartache.

If he had known that Jing Yan would die in the Heaven Array, he would have tried to stop him from entering, no matter what.

How could he have died?

Mu Yunfei had told him that Jing Yan had fought with Innate Peak Martial Artists.

Moreover, the ones Jing Yan fought were two strong individuals who could be considered pretty formidable among Innate Peak Martial Artists.

With such strength, Jing Yan should have had a good chance of preserving his life within the Heaven Array.

“...” Mu Liantian stared blankly at the Heaven Array.

Inside the Heaven Array!

After the time was up and Wu Shen was subsequently transported out.

“Pff!” Another streak of red Sword Light swept over a semi-transparent shadow, and this shadow finally collapsed completely, disappearing within the corridor.

“I’ve finally killed the last shadow,” Jing Yan let out a small breath of relief.

“Not good, time’s up,” Jing Yan’s expression changed drastically.

Although the last shadow was killed, it did not mean he had successfully finished the challenge.

Ahead was still the corridor, and he was now still within it.

“Dammit...” Feeling an overwhelming and irresistible energy surging from all directions, Jing Yan clenched his teeth and cursed loudly.

He knew that this vast energy was not meant to attack him, but to transport him, to take him out of the Heaven Array.

Because time was up, and he was still alive, so the Formation was automatically sending him out.

Chapter 282 - 282 282 A Critical Moment

Chapter 282: Chapter 282: A Critical Moment Chapter 282: Chapter 282: A Critical Moment An immense sea of energy formed throughout the space, pressing down on Jing Yan.

If this power was meant to kill Jing Yan, he probably wouldn't resist even for the duration of one breath.

However, this force was only meant to transport Jing Yan out of the Sky Crossing Array, so it seemed much gentler.

“Break!

Let me break through!” Jing Yan clenched his teeth and frantically stimulated the Fog Vortex Essence Qi, pushing the Primordial Energy within his body to its limit.

The Primordial Energy surged through all one hundred and eight Martial Arts Meridians in his body, radiating from Jing Yan at the center toward the surrounding space.

At the same time, Jing Yan stimulated the Sky Wings, charging towards the exit of the Sky Crossing Array without any reservations!

Being transported out like this would mean a failure to clear the array, and Jing Yan couldn't accept that!

If he hadn't killed the tenth semi-transparent figure and was transported out because time was up, then it was unavoidable.

But now, having slain the last shadow at this critical moment, to be transported out just because time was up, that would be unacceptable to anyone.

“Crack, crack!”

The Primordial Energy Jing Yan stimulated paled like a three-year-old child facing an adult in front of the energy activated by the Sky Crossing Array, offering no resistance at all.

However, the speed at which the energy of the Sky Crossing Array moved toward Jing Yan was slightly slower.

Jing Yan's Primordial Energy couldn't block the power of the Sky Crossing Array, but it could slightly delay the energy reaching him.

With all of his Primordial Energy stimulated to the limit, Jing Yan's figure turned into a blue stream of light, racing toward the exit.

"Exit!"

"There's the exit!" Jing Yan stared intently at the light ahead.

The length of this Sky Crossing Array tunnel was indeed the same as the Human Formation and Earth Array, just as he had speculated before.

And now, Jing Yan was not far from the exit of the Sky Crossing Array.

"Faster, a bit faster!" Jing Yan let out a primal scream.

But he had already pushed his Primordial Energy to the limit, and even if his will wanted to go faster, he couldn't.

Moreover, because his realm had just broken through and was still unstable, the Primordial Energy in the Fog Vortex couldn't circulate smoothly.

In these final moments, Jing Yan spared no reserves, causing the Primordial Energy to become more violent, rampaging within the Fog Vortex.

Even the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill showed signs of being beyond control.

"Only a hundred meters left!" Sweat again seeped from Jing Yan's forehead.

"Eighty meters!"

"Sixty meters!"

"Forty meters!"

"Twenty meters!"

As he got closer to the exit, Jing Yan's complexion grew darker and darker.

Because he had already felt the teleportation force of the Big Array touching his body.

He had even felt the tearing force brought by the teleportation power.

“No!

No!”

“Am I going to fail?

Is all my effort in vain?” Jing Yan’s eyes turned blood red.

Just the mere twenty meters left, a distance he could almost instantly cover with the help of Sky Wings, but in this final moment, the transmission power of the Sky Crossing Array enveloped him, preparing to transport him out of the Sky Crossing Array channel.

“Sword Intent!”

“Whoosh!”

Just as Jing Yan's body was about to be transported out of the Sky Crossing Array, an idea sparked in his mind, and he thought of the Sword Intent he had mastered.

Sword Intent was fundamentally about harnessing the forces of heaven and earth.

Jing Yan wasn't sure if Sword Intent would work inside this Sky Crossing Array tunnel, but it was his last hope.

Whether it worked or not, he had to try.

Jing Yan didn't swing the Skyfire Sword to stimulate Sword Intent, instead, he used his own body to do so.

Around his body, he harnessed the forces of heaven and earth to form an invisible barrier to counteract the teleportation power of the Sky Crossing Array.

"Puff!" Sword Intent contacted the teleportation power, the two clashed, emitting a faint sound.

But Jing Yan's eyes brightened as he, with overwhelming momentum, slammed towards the exit like a meteor.

"Swoosh!"

The scenery slightly changed, and the light around became brighter.

“Whoosh!”

“I made it!

I made it!

I succeeded!” Jing Yan fiercely exhaled, his eyes sparkling with intense light.

Sword Intent had its effect!

Although the Sword Intent was shattered in an instant, it bought Jing Yan the last moment he needed to successfully leap out of the Sky Crossing Array.

“Not good!” Without time to look around, Jing Yan quickly sat down cross-legged.

He first swallowed a Guiyuan Pill, then took out the remaining Top-grade Spirit Stones from the Sumeru Ring and placed his palm directly on top of them.

At this moment, the Primordial Energy within Jing Yan’s body was almost uncontrollable.

The Primordial Energy, within the Martial Arts Meridians and the Fog Vortex, surged uncontrollably.

If he could not control it properly, Jing Yan might burst and die.

“Is that...”

“What is this situation?”

“Isn’t that Jing Yan?”

Jian Yan is not dead yet?”

When Jing Yan appeared from the exit of the Sky Crossing Array, the square at the Prince Manor was quite chaotic.

Some people were already planning to leave as they thought Jing Yan had died within the Sky Crossing Array, and Wu Shen had already been transmitted out of the Sky Crossing Array.

The examination of the Three Major Academies had ended, and there was no point in staying any longer, so many were preparing to leave.

Just as many people were preparing to leave and had already gone far, a sudden burst of astonishment echoed through the crowd.

The moment Jing Yan appeared, only very few people noticed him.

However, after those few people expressed their astonishment, others also turned their gazes his way, they saw Jing Yan sitting cross-legged near the exit of the Sky Crossing Array.

They thought that Jing Yan had died within the Sky Crossing Array, but now, Jing Yan was alive and had come out.

Not only was he alive, but he had also come out from the Sky Crossing Array's exit, which implied what?

This implied that Jing Yan might have successfully cleared the Sky Crossing Array.

If he had failed to clear the Sky Crossing Array, he should have been transmitted out like Wu Shen, appearing in an open area on one side of the Sky Crossing Array, not the exit.

So, what was the situation now?

The Outer Court Director of Divine Wind Academy, Shang Qu, was stunned!

The Outer Court Director of Red Lotus Academy, Huang Luo, was also dumbfounded!

The Outer Court Director of Dao Yi Academy, Shu Ling, stared at the figure of Jing Yan sitting there, her beautiful eyes wide open, unable to utter a word.

Even those from Lanqu County City who came to watch were equally astounded.

Even Mu Liantian was somewhat dazed.

When Wu Shen was transported out by the Sky Crossing Array, and Jing Yan was not transported along with him, Mu Liantian, despite not wanting to believe, also knew that Jing Yan had died within the Sky Crossing Array.

He too believed that Jing Yan was dead.

But now?

Jing Yan had come out from the Sky Crossing Array.

It had been several breaths since Wu Shen was transported out.

That meant Jing Yan had stayed in the Sky Crossing Array for several breaths longer than Wu Shen.

How was that possible?

How did Jing Yan manage it?

Wu Shen, who had been transported out a few breaths earlier, was also staring at Jing Yan with eyes so wide they seemed about to pop out.

“Could this...

could this be a successful clearance of the Sky Crossing Array?” Finally, someone voiced this thought.

Because Jing Yan was obviously not transported out, but walked out from the exit of the Sky Crossing Array.

Logically, this should mean he had successfully cleared the array.

However, the timing was truly hard to accept.

In the examination of the Three Major Academies in Lanqu County City, it had been over thirty years since anyone had successfully cleared the Sky Crossing Array.

They watched as Jing Yan and Wu Shen both entered the Sky Crossing Array, and none thought they could ultimately clear the Sky Crossing Array and obtain the Golden Order.

The chances were too remote.

“Chief Mu, has Jing Yan really cleared the array?” A Yuan Family Elder looked at Mu Liantian and asked loudly.

Mu Liantian glanced at the Yuan Family Elder, furrowed his brows, then nodded.

“Chief Mu, what exactly is going on?” Wen Family Elder frowned deeply, “Before, when the time limit was almost up, there was only a moment of breath left, and you were counting down yourself.

Right after your countdown, Wu Shen from the Wu Family was immediately transported out.

At that time, Jing Yan obviously did not come out from the Sky Crossing Array.

A few breaths later, Jing Yan did come out from the array, what exactly is going on?”

With the Wen Family Elder raising this point, others also furrowed their brows and turned to Mu Liantian.

They had been too shocked before and hadn't thought of this issue, but now hearing the Wen Family Elder mention it, everyone thought the timing was indeed incorrect!

Although the difference was only a few breaths, even a few breaths were highly irregular.

To say that Mu Liantian had miscalculated the time was implausible.

After Mu Liantian's countdown, Wu Shen was immediately transported out, indicating that Mu Liantian's timing was accurate.

Wu Shen had been transported out of the Sky Crossing Array because his time was up.

But Jing Yan was not transported out at the same time.

A few breaths later, Jing Yan burst out from the exit.

This was clearly abnormal.

“The Sky Crossing Array definitely doesn’t have any problems.

Perhaps Jing Yan has some means of his own, allowing him to stay a bit longer within the Sky Crossing Array,” Mu Liantian pondered for a moment before he spoke.

“Chief Mu!” The Outer Court Director of Divine Wind Academy stepped forward a few paces at this time and looked at Mu Liantian with a slight bow.

“No matter what the situation with Jing Yan is, there is one thing I want to mention.

Jing Yan should not be considered to have cleared the Sky Crossing Array.” Shang Qu’s voice was loud, and everyone on the square could hear clearly.

“Director Shang Qu, what do you mean?” Mu Liantian asked with a frown.

“Chief Mu, we all saw Jing Yan come out from the Sky Crossing Array’s exit, and that’s a fact.

However, the Sky Crossing Array set a time limit of three hours, and Jing Yan did not come out from the Sky Crossing Array at the end of the three hours, which obviously does not meet the conditions for obtaining the Golden Order,” Shang Qu declared with a sinister look, speaking loudly.

The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 283: Chapter 283 Cheating Chapter 283: Chapter 283 Cheating Among those present, there might be many who did not wish to see Jing Yan obtain the Golden Order.

However, among them, the person who least wanted to see Jing Yan obtain the Golden Order must be Shang Qu.

If Jing Yan obtained the Golden Order, then the Sealing Order Shang Qu had initiated against Jing Yan would become a joke.

Shang Qu, could imagine how many people would laugh at him, mock him.

He could completely envision that once Jing Yan successfully obtained the Golden Order, for a very long time in the future, he, Shang Qu, would become the laughingstock of the martial artists in Lanqu County City during their casual conversations.

He could not allow this situation to happen.

“Yes, Dean Shang Qu’s reasoning is sound, Jing Yan did come out of the Sky Crossing Array’s exit, but he exceeded the three-hour time limit.

Chief Mu, I also feel that Jing Yan should not be considered as having successfully crossed the Sky Crossing Array,” said the Wen Family Elder, following Shang Qu’s words.

“Exactly, this Jing Yan, may have some method to stay longer in the Heaven Array.

By using this extra time, he crossed the Array, which is obviously unfair to the others who attempted it.

If someone else finds a way to stay in the Sky Crossing Array for four, five hours, or even longer and then comes out successfully, does that mean they too have successfully passed and obtained the Golden Order?” Shang Qu’s eyes brightened when he saw someone supporting him.

“Elder Wu, don’t you agree?”

Wu Shen is a Peak Innate Martial Artist.

Given more time, he too could have crossed the Sky Crossing Array, right?” Shang Qu looked toward the Wu Family Elder.

He was trying to rally more people to his side, to put pressure on Mu Liantian, and prevent Jing Yan from obtaining the Golden Order.

“...” The Wu Family Elder looked at Shang Qu, but he remained silent and did not respond.

“Impossible!” Wu Shen, who had attempted to cross the Sky Crossing Array with Jing Yan, spoke out, even though the Wu Family Elder had not.

“This Sky Crossing Array is too difficult.

Even given more time, I too would be unable to pass,” Wu Shen said, speaking honestly.

He had believed he could obtain the Golden Order before entering the Sky Crossing Array, as he was quite confident in his own strength.

But once inside and having encountered those black shadows and realizing their formidable power, he knew that with his current strength, it was impossible to pass and obtain the Golden Order.

Not in three hours, not in six, not even in twenty-four.

In the later stages, the black shadows were not entities that could be defeated merely with time.

If one tried to force their way through, they would only be killed by the black shadows.

Otherwise, how would those Peak Innate Martial Artists who had died in the Sky Crossing Array have met their end?

Hearing Wu Shen's words, Shang Qu's face darkened.

He looked at Wu Shen and let out a forced laugh.

“Chief Mu, it's indeed necessary to clarify what exactly happened to Jing Yan.

It's indisputable that he didn't come out of the Sky Crossing Array within the set time limit,” another family elder spoke up.

Mu Liantian narrowed his eyes as he looked at these people.

“In fact, there's something you're all mistaken about,” Mu Liantian slightly pursed his lips.

“The three-hour duration is certainly the set time limit for crossing the Array.

But this limit merely refers to the time martial artists are allowed to stay in the Sky Crossing Array.

Once the time is up, martial artists are automatically transported out by the Formation.

This applies to all who enter the Sky Crossing Array.

There's no issue of fairness or unfairness.

If Jing Yan was able to stay in the Sky Crossing Array for a few extra breaths, that's due to his own skills.

It doesn't matter if he stays for a few extra breaths or a few extra hours, as long as he can do it, it does not violate the rules," said Mu Liantian, speaking slowly.

Although he said this, Mu Liantian also knew that staying in the Sky Crossing Array for a few extra hours was an impossibility.

Not just for Innate Martial Artists, even martial artists at the Dao Spirit Realm would not be able to accomplish that.

"But, this is indeed unfair to the other martial artists who attempted to pass!

Jing Yan could stay longer, but other martial artists could not," Shang Qu persisted.

"Dean Shang Qu, you're starting from the wrong premise.

The Sky Crossing Array does not limit martial artists from using any methods within the Formation, as long as they ultimately succeed.

As for the process, we do not impose restrictions.

Dean Shang Qu, by your logic, should we also limit the martial artists entering the Formation to have the same realm, cultivate the same martial arts, and use the same grade weapons?” Mu Liantian’s voice grew more intense.

It’s not to mention that Mu Liantian had a close relationship with Jing Yan.

Even if Mu Liantian and Jing Yan did not know each other and had no connection, Mu Liantian would let Jing Yan obtain the Golden Order.

According to the rules, Jing Yan indeed had obtained the Golden Order.

“Phew!”

At this time, Jing Yan, who had been sitting cross-legged at the exit of the Sky Crossing Array, exhaled lightly and opened his eyes.

His Primordial Energy had stabilized!

The Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill was indeed ferocious.

The previously agitated Primordial Energy had been controlled by Jing Yan using the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill in just a short time.

Of course, Jing Yan still needed more time to consolidate the realm he had broken through inside the Sky Crossing Array.

But at this moment, Jing Yan did not forget where he was.

It was obviously not suitable to cultivate and stabilize his realm here.

Consolidating his realm would require a lot of time, at least a few days.

Jing Yan stood up and looked toward the platform.

“Chief Mu!” Jing Yan greeted Mu Liantian with a bow, a smile on his face.

“Jing Yan, come up here!” Mu Liantian beckoned to Jing Yan with a smile.

“Yes!” Jing Yan responded and stepped forward, quickly ascending to the platform, coming near Mu Liantian and the others.

“Hand over your Silver Token to me!” Mu Liantian stretched out his hand.

Jing Yan’s heart filled with joy as he knew that his Silver Token was about to be upgraded to a Golden Token.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Jing Yan took out the Silver Token and handed it to Mu Liantian with both hands.

And Mu Liantian also produced a gold-colored token and handed it to Jing Yan.

“Jing Yan, congratulations, you have successfully passed the Sky Crossing Array and seized the Golden Order.

Hehe, it’s been over thirty years since a martial artist has won the Golden Order,” Mu Liantian remarked sentimentally.

Standing before everyone, Mu Liantian couldn’t afford to appear too intimate with Jing Yan, so he kept his demeanor strictly professional.

In fact, he was curious too about how Jing Yan had managed it, but this was not the time to inquire in-depth.

“Thank you, Chief Mu,” said Jing Yan as he looked at the Golden Order in his hand.

In terms of appearance alone, the Golden Order was identical to the Silver and Copper Tokens, differing only in color.

However, these three colors represented entirely different statuses.

Over two thousand people had seized the Copper Token.

A mere seventeen had claimed the Silver Token.

And Jing Yan was the only one to hold the Golden Order.

Many people on the high platform looked sternly at Jing Yan.

They could not fathom how he had achieved such a feat.

Jing Yan, a martial artist not yet twenty years old!

If he were to train for another ten years, how strong would he become?

Now he could win the Golden Order, but with another ten years of training, wouldn't he be able to stroll through the Sky Crossing Array with ease?

Too terrifying!

This young man was astounding!

“Jing Yan, you cheated!

You must have cheated!” Just as Jing Yan was examining the Golden Order in his hands, a jarring, discordant voice suddenly rang out.

“Hmm?”

Jing Yan turned to look at the speaker.

Mu Liantian and the others turned their gazes to this person as well!

It was Cang Long, the Outer Court Deacon from Divine Wind Academy.

“Jing Yan, it’s impossible for you to have passed the Sky Crossing Array, you must have cheated using some disgraceful methods.

You are but an Early Stage Innate Realm martial artist, and although you have the combat power of a Late Stage Innate martial artist, even so, it is impossible for you to win the Golden Order.

You barely made it through the Earth Array, how could you possibly claim the Golden Order?” With flames flashing in his eyes, Cang Long said with absolute certainty.

He was convinced that Jing Yan had cheated.

“Jing Yan, you may deceive others, but you cannot fool me.

In Donglin City, I saw with my own eyes how you fought with other martial artists; you are far from the Peak of Innate.

How could you have possibly passed the Sky Crossing Array?

Humph, just come clean, or the consequences will be severe, more than you can bear!” Cang Long pointed at Jing Yan and roared furiously.

As he shouted, his gaze also drifted to Shang Qu.

Clearly, he was also acting under Shang Qu's instruction.

Otherwise, as an Outer Court Deacon from Divine Wind Academy, he would not dare to behave like this in front of Mu Liantian.

“Could it be, that Jing Yan truly cheated?”

“That's right, Cang Long said that Jing Yan is at the Early Innate Realm's level of cultivation, he shouldn't be talking nonsense, right?”

Would he dare to speak out of turn in such a setting?”

“If that's true, then it's really impossible for Jing Yan to have passed the Sky Crossing Array.

Even with the combat power of Late Innate, to get through the Sky Crossing Array would still be a far reach.

Does one need the cultivation close to the Dao Spirit Realm to pass the Sky Crossing Array?”

“Well, it looks like Jing Yan really did cheat, we just don't know how he did it.”

“...”

People around whispered amongst themselves, their gazes filled with suspicion toward Jing Yan.

To be honest, the majority of those present probably did not want to see Jing Yan pass the Sky Crossing Array and win the Golden Order.

Hence, they were more inclined to believe Cang Long's words.

"Cheating?" Jing Yan felt a surge of anger, and he sneered coldly, looking at Cang Long.

"Inside the Sky Crossing Array, please tell me, how could I cheat?"

"Cang Long, back in Donglin City, I killed your disciple Suo Wen, I know you've held a grudge against me ever since.

However, it should be clear to you that I wasn't at fault for killing your disciple Suo Wen.

When your disciple Suo Wen set up a challenge in front of the Jing Family Mansion, insulting all the disciples of my family.

I killed your disciple Suo Wen in the ring—he fully deserved his fate!" Jing Yan narrowed his eyes.

“Now, you still bear a grudge against me, slandering and defaming me without reason and context.

I just want to ask you, what exactly are you trying to accomplish?” Jing Yan’s voice suddenly increased sharply, his shout powerful and piercing.

“You...” Cang Long’s body shook slightly.

“You what?”

What do you think the Sky Crossing Array is?

Do you think it’s something one can cheat on so easily?

So many prodigies have entered the Sky Crossing Array and failed over the years, why didn’t they cheat?” Jing Yan scoffed.

The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 284: Chapter 284 Questioning Chapter 284: Chapter 284 Questioning Jing Yan’s words made many people around nod in agreement.

It was clear to everyone that there was a conflict and friction between Cang Long and Jing Yan.

However, prior to this, they did not know exactly what the conflict between Cang Long and Jing Yan was.

Now that Jing Yan had explained, everyone understood.

Cang Long had a disciple named Suo Wen, who followed him to Donglin City and then set up a challenge stage in front of Jing Family Mansion.

This was clearly a provocation towards the entire Jing Family.

Regardless of the size of the Jing Family, Suo Wen's behavior was a provocation, and he was justifiably killed by the Jing Family after challenging them on the stage.

He should have been prepared for death when he set up the stage in front of their mansion!

Rather than reconciling, Cang Long harbored a grudge against Jing Yan for killing his disciple Suo Wen and continuously sought revenge.

That was the behavior of a petty person.

Many people around frowned at Cang Long.

Cang Long, an Outer Court Deacon of Divine Wind Academy and a martial artist at the Peak of Innate Realm, had a small reputation in Lanqu County City.

While the big families in Lanqu County City might not focus on someone like Cang Long, the management layer of those big families had heard about him.

Learning that Cang Long was such a vindictive person, many shook their heads unconsciously.

It was one thing to seek revenge if you were justified, but now Cang Long had no reason.

Acting covertly in revenge was one thing, but to parade it in front of everyone, did he think others were idiots?

Cang Long's face had turned somewhat pale by now.

He found himself unable to refute Jing Yan, as while most of the people here were unaware of what happened in Donglin City, there were those who knew, such as Qing Mo, the Outer Court Deacon of Dao Yi Academy.

If he were to be unreasonable and deny everything, it would only make him look worse.

“Haha...”

As Cang Long was at a loss for words, Shang Qu burst into laughter, drawing everyone’s attention to himself.

“Jing Yan, you truly are cunning.

I underestimated you.

You might be young, but you’re deep, having even caught Cang Long in your schemes.

Tsk, tsk, truly commendable,” Shang Qu said, shaking his head and appearing quite emotional.

“I don’t care about whatever grievances there are between you and Deacon Cang Long.

We are not discussing your personal vendetta here.” Shang Qu narrowed his eyes, “Deacon Cang Long claims you cheated in the Heaven Array.

You say it’s impossible for you to cheat in there.

Perhaps, to most, it indeed seems impossible for you!”

“I can’t assert that you definitely cheated, but one thing we all witnessed is that you, Jing Yan, spent a slightly longer time in the Heaven Array compared to Wu Shen, who entered with you.

Jing Yan, you acknowledge this, right?” Shang Qu stared intently at Jing Yan.

Jing Yan looked back at Shang Qu.

This old fellow really doesn't want me to obtain the Golden Order!

“Dean Shang Qu, I have already said that Jing Yan could stay a few breaths longer in the Heaven Array because he might have his own methods,” Mu Liantian said, his tone already somewhat stern.

It was clear that Mu Liantian was getting displeased with Shang Qu.

“Chief Mu, I'm just raising a reasonable suspicion!

Whether it's the Human, Earth, or Heaven Array, they are ultimately just formations.

Since they are formations, there must be a way to break them.

I believe that Jing Yan might have found such a way, using it to easily break the Heaven Array and thus obtain the Golden Order!” Shang Qu bowed slightly to Mu Liantian as he spoke.

Shang Qu saw Mu Liantian's displeasure, but at this point, he had no way back.

If Jing Yan were to obtain the Golden Order, it would be a great blow to him; he would become the joke of Lanqu County City, and even his current position might be affected.

Why?

Because it was he who proposed the Sealing Order against Jing Yan at the Three Major Academies.

If Jing Yan obtained the Golden Order, that Sealing Order would become invalid.

And Jing Yan was clearly not going to join Divine Wind Academy again.

Many would think that it was because he proposed the Sealing Order that Jing Yan didn't join Divine Wind Academy.

It didn't matter so much what outsiders thought, but if the high echelons of Divine Wind Academy thought the same, then Shang Qu would bear a great responsibility and might even be dismissed from his position.

Thus, he had no way back, even at the cost of offending the Chief Manager of the Prince Manor, Mu Liantian.

If possible, he wouldn't want to offend Mu Liantian, whose status as the Chief Manager of Prince Manor, was on par with his own as the Chief Dean of Divine Wind Academy.

He was several ranks below Mu Liantian!

He didn't want to offend Mu Liantian, but he had no choice.

If he didn't offend Mu Liantian, he might even lose his position as the Director of the Outer Court of Divine Wind Academy.

"Let me add something as well!" Huang Luo, Director of the Outer Court of Red Lotus Academy, also spoke up.

He glanced at Mu Liantian, then at Jing Yan, his expression growing serious.

"I am personally delighted that Jing Yan passed through the Heaven Array."

"As the Director of the Outer Court of Red Lotus Academy, I am thrilled that such a brilliant martial artist under the age of thirty, who could pass through the Heaven Array, has emerged in our Lanqu County City region.

This signifies the emergence of a rare genius, an extraordinarily talented individual, the likes of which appears once in decades."

"However, I also think that what Dean Shang Qu said makes sense.

We cannot confirm that Jing Yan used any underhanded methods within the Heaven Array.

But one thing we cannot deny is that Jing Yan did indeed spend more than three hours in the Heaven Array.

This clearly isn't normal!

We have witnessed the assessments of the Three Major Academies more than just a couple of times, and such an event has never happened before!" Huang Luo spoke eloquently.

Listening to Huang Luo's words, Jing Yan let out a cold laugh from the corner of his mouth.

"Jing Yan!" Huang Luo fixed his gaze on Jing Yan, "If you really used some special method or exploited some loophole in the Heaven Array, I think you should come clean now.

If you admit it now, we will surely forgive you, but if you don't and it's later discovered by Chief Mu, then the consequences will be severe!"

Huang Luo's words, although calm, contained a clear threat.

In simple terms, he didn't believe that Jing Yan could obtain the Golden Order by legitimately passing through the Heaven Array.

“Jing Yan, you are still young; don’t make a mistake!

If you cheated to pass through the Heaven Array, it would be best if you confess now.

Otherwise...” Wen Family Elder, his eyes shimmering and his gaze darkened toward Jing Yan.

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(Thanks to the book fan ‘Zongheng Sihai’ for becoming the first Deacon Level fan of this book.

Thank you!)

Chapter 285 - 285 285 Life and Death Battle

Chapter 285: Chapter 285: Life and Death Battle Chapter 285: Chapter 285: Life and Death Battle
“Young and reckless, not following the righteous path, and foolishly trying to obtain the Golden Order by despicable means, alas...”

“Indeed, one must follow the righteous path!”

“Your name is Jing Yan, right?”

You're still young; there are many opportunities ahead, so don't succumb to evil!

To be a person, one must act uprightly and sit straight!"

A chorus of reprimands hurled towards Jing Yan.

Not following the righteous path?

Succumbing to evil?

Hearing these voices, Jing Yan laughed, his smile was very cold!

"Jing Yan, aren't you going to reveal your cheating methods?

Waiting to be found out won't be good for you!" Cang Long shouted loudly.

Just now, he had been rendered speechless by Jing Yan, losing face completely, harboring a towering anger in his heart, wishing he could vent it all.

Seeing so many people pointing their fingers at Jing Yan, he immediately jumped out again, pointing his finger and furiously scolding Jing Yan.

“Cheating?”

“Haha...” Jing Yan let out a cold laugh.

“Ridiculous people!” Jing Yan laughed loudly, “Shang Qu, the Outer Court Director of Divine Wind Academy, wanted me to join Divine Wind Academy, and I refused.

Shang Qu became enraged and imposed a Sealing Order on me, yet none of you spoke a word of justice.”

Upon hearing this, Shang Qu’s face turned livid, glaring fiercely at Jing Yan!

“I conquered the Sky Crossing Array, faced numerous trials, and obtained the Golden Order, yet you claim I cheated!”

“In your eyes, perhaps a young Martial Artist like me from a small city with no background or connections is easy to bully, right?”

“Your own family members, lacking the ability to obtain the Golden Order, naturally assume that others couldn’t possibly obtain it either, right?”

If someone else obtains the Golden Order, they must be cheating, they must be deluding themselves, they must be using despicable means, right?”

“Today, at this moment, I, Jing Yan, seem impossible to defend myself, right?”

You have no rationale, yet you are determined I cheated, it’s truly nauseating!

Families of Lanqu County City, haha...”

“And you, Cang Long, as a Deacon of Divine Wind Academy’s Outer Court, you continue to smear and slander me over and over.

Do you feel that unless you completely eradicate me, you can’t swallow your anger?”

“Very well, well done!” Jing Yan looked at Cang Long.

“Cang Long, do you dare to fight me?”

“You keep saying I’m only at the Early Innate Realm and couldn’t possibly pass through the Sky Crossing Array.

So here, I challenge you.

In front of all these people, let's have a duel to the death, how about it?" Jing Yan stared at Cang Long, his voice low as he spoke these words!

He challenged Cang Long.

"Hmm?"

"What?"

"Jing Yan is challenging Cang Long, the Outer Court Deacon of Divine Wind Academy?"

Upon hearing Jing Yan's words, everyone's pupils shrank, staring intently at Jing Yan.

As for Cang Long himself, his expression changed several times.

He truly hadn't expected that Jing Yan would publicly challenge him to a duel to the death, which meant taking responsibility for one's own life or death in a challenge!

But...

How dare Jing Yan?

Where does his confidence come from?

Is it just a bluff?

Cang Long, watching Jing Yan, had seen him in action in Donglin City and was very clear about Jing Yan's abilities.

This is why he didn't believe Jing Yan could legitimately obtain the Golden Order through the Sky Crossing Array.

In his heart, Cang Long was almost certain that Jing Yan must have used some kind of means to pass through the Sky Crossing Array.

In his view, Jing Yan definitely did not have enough strength to obtain the Golden Order.

Yet, Jing Yan dared to challenge him, a Martial Artist at the Innate Peak Realm.

What exactly was Jing Yan thinking?

“Cang Long, didn’t you say that I am just at the Early Innate Realm in Cultivation?”

How is it that now I challenge you, you still hesitate?

Between us, let’s have a duel to the death, taking responsibility for our own lives and deaths!

How about it?” Jing Yan, with a scornful gaze, looked at Cang Long.

“You...” Cang Long, catching Jing Yan’s gaze, felt even more furious, that kind of disdain deeply stabbing him.

A lad barely twenty years old daring to look down on him!

“Youngster, don’t you dare back out!” Cang Long shouted angrily.

“Come on!” said Jing Yan with a smile.

In an instant, he leaped down from the platform, landing on the square below.

“Cang Long, come!

I’m right here, waiting for you!” Jing Yan looked up towards the platform.

Mu Liantian watched Jing Yan, his eyes narrowing slightly.

Jing Yan challenging Cang Long didn’t worry him; he knew Jing Yan’s strength was definitely not below Cang Long’s.

“Dean, you saw that, Jing Yan is challenging me.

As a Deacon of the Outer Court of Divine Wind Academy, if I do not accept the challenge, it would bring shame to our Divine Wind Academy.

Therefore, please, Dean, allow me to fight Jing Yan.

I, Cang Long, can be insulted, but Divine Wind Academy cannot!” Cang Long, facing Shang Qu, said loudly.

“Chief Mu, you see...” Shang Qu didn’t directly let Cang Long go down and fight Jing Yan, but instead looked to Mu Liantian, the Chief Manager here in Prince Manor.

Of course, Shang Qu was happy for Cang Long to fight Jing Yan, preferably to directly kill Jing Yan, but without Mu Liantian's nod, he dared not decide to let Cang Long take action.

"I think it's fine!

Both parties are willing to fight, so there's no problem." Mu Liantian smiled slightly.

Of course, he wouldn't stop this duel.

If he hadn't known Jing Yan's strength, perhaps he might have feared Jing Yan was in danger and stopped it, but he was fully confident in Jing Yan's strength.

Shang Qu and others didn't believe Jing Yan had the strength to obtain the Golden Order, but Mu Liantian believed that Jing Yan must have passed the Sky Crossing Array on his own merit.

Based on his understanding of Jing Yan, Jing Yan wasn't the type to rely on cheating methods.

Moreover, cheating in the Sky Crossing Array would not be an easy task.

If it were simple, then the Golden Order wouldn't have not been obtained for over thirty years.

Seeing Mu Liantian nodding, Shang Qu felt relieved.

He turned to Cang Long, “Deacon Cang Long, go ahead!

Since Jing Yan has actively challenged, then our Divine Wind Academy has no reason to refuse.

Our Divine Wind Academy does not bully others, but if anyone thinks our Divine Wind Academy is weak, that would be a huge mistake!

Remember, you represent Divine Wind Academy, so don’t let our academy be shamed!”

The implication was that Cang Long should go all out, there was no need to show mercy to Jing Yan.

Since it was a duel to the death, even if he killed Jing Yan in the fight, no one could complain.

If Cang Long killed Jing Yan, it was what Jing Yan had brought onto himself.

With insufficient strength and rashly initiating a duel to the death, what else but seeking death could it be?

“Yes!” Cang Long’s gaze flashed, understanding Shang Qu’s intention.

“Whoosh!”

After responding, Cang Long too leaped from the platform, landing on the square, right in front of Jing Yan.

The two stood facing each other from afar!

The duel between the two naturally attracted the attention of everyone present, and countless eyes fell on both Cang Long and Jing Yan.

Chapter 286 - 286 286 Prove Oneself

Chapter 286: Chapter 286: Prove Oneself Chapter 286: Chapter 286: Prove Oneself “Shu Ling Dean, what do you think?” Huang Luo looked at Shu Ling.

“What do you mean, what do I think?” Shu Ling asked, puzzled.

“This Jing Yan, he seems to really intend to battle Cang Long.

Why does he have such strong confidence?” Huang Luo said with a smile.

“I don’t know, maybe Jing Yan really does have the strength to seize the Golden Order.

If that’s the case, then Cang Long is in danger!” Shu Ling shook his head.

“Ha ha, how could that be possible?” Huang Luo obviously didn’t believe that Jing Yan had the chance to take the Golden Order.

Among the people on the high platform, the majority shared Huang Luo’s opinion.

From the beginning, they didn’t believe that Jing Yan had such strength.

Even now, as Jing Yan challenged Cang Long, they hadn’t changed their mind.

They just wondered why Jing Yan dared to challenge Cang Long.

Could it really be that he’s not afraid of death?

Or perhaps, did he want to prove his innocence in that way?

If so, that would be utterly ridiculous.

Even if Jing Yan died here today, he wouldn't be remembered by the people for long, maybe a few months or a year or two, and then they would forget the name Jing Yan.

In Lanqu County City, through the long history, there have been numerous talents that shone like comets, but how many of them are remembered forever?

Talents are common, but few remain renowned throughout the ages.

Below the high platform, in the square, Cang Long looked at Jing Yan.

"Kid, are you ready?" Cang Long pulled out his weapon, a silver longsword with patterns flowing across the blade.

This, too, was clearly a magic artifact longsword.

He stared at Jing Yan, as if even at this moment, he was worried that Jing Yan would back out.

He was eager to kill Jing Yan!

"Stop talking nonsense!" Jing Yan laughed and also drew his reddish Skyfire Sword.

“To death!” Cang Long let out a low roar, his silhouette flickered, and a burst of Sword Light erupted, sweeping out with vast Power.

Jing Yan watched as Cang Long made his move, his gaze intensifying.

This Cang Long’s strength was indeed not bad; among the Innate Peak Martial Artists, he could be considered upper class.

Jing Yan had crossed hands with Martial Artists of this level of strength before, like when he previously fought with Steward Wan and Deacon Fang in Lanqu Square Market; their strength was on the same level as Cang Long.

At that time, Jing Yan was still at the Innate Middle Stage, yet he was able to fight against both of them simultaneously.

Now, Jing Yan had broken through to the Late Innate Realm, and although he had just made the breakthrough and his realm was not yet stable, his strength was many times greater than when he was at the Innate Middle Stage.

“Condensed Moon Three Waves!” A Red Sword Light swept out from the Skyfire Sword in Jing Yan’s hand!

The Condensed Moon Three Waves, a Mid Grade Martial Arts!

“Mid Grade Martial Arts?”

Jing Yan actually uses Mid Grade Martial Arts?”

When the Condensed Moon Three Waves was used, everyone present recognized it.

They were astonished and very puzzled.

Facing a Martial Artist like Cang Long, Jing Yan was merely deploying Mid Grade Martial Arts; what was he trying to do?

Others had recognized the Condensed Moon Three Waves, and naturally, so had Cang Long.

He too felt it was somewhat inconceivable.

However, his disbelief was only a fleeting moment.

He soon sneered.

He stood here with the intent to kill Jing Yan, so with his first move, he nearly used his full strength, attempting to strike down Jing Yan with one blow.

His attack was terrifyingly powerful.

And facing his attack, Jing Yan had only used the Condensed Moon Three Waves!

“Since you’re seeking death, I’ll grant it to you!” Cang Long said in a low and sinister voice.

“Thud!” Silver and red sword light collided!

“Crack!” The silver sword light frayed and disintegrated in the blink of an eye, rapidly dissipating.

Everyone’s breath caught slightly!

How could this be?

Under their watchful eyes, Cang Long’s body was sent flying backwards.

Yes, they saw it correctly—it was Cang Long’s body that was sent flying, not Jing Yan’s.

This was obviously not what they had imagined.

Wasn't Jing Yan supposed to be the one blown away and killed?

How could it be Cang Long, the Innate Peak Martial Artist?

What was going on?

All of them stared, dumbfounded at the unfolding scene, unable to understand.

“Thud!” A mouthful of fresh blood spurted from Cang Long's mouth.

At this moment, the smile on Cang Long's face had completely vanished, replaced by an extreme distortion.

His eyes were filled with shock and fear.

As his Sword Light was shattered, he felt an overwhelming Power he couldn't compete against surge directly towards him.

He had no time to figure out why, as he was swept away by this force.

His whole body shook, and he couldn't help spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood.

“Die!” Jing Yan didn't stop, because Cang Long wasn't dead yet.

The first technique was the Condensed Moon Three Waves, and this second strike was the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique.

A crescent-shaped red sword light shot out immediately, closely skimming Cang Long's body.

Facing this second attack, Cang Long was completely powerless to defend.

It didn't matter that he was already seriously injured—even when he was not, he couldn't have blocked Jing Yan's strike.

This strike was far more terrifying than the previous one.

“Ahh!” Cang Long let out a hoarse scream.

He activated a Secret Technique, and a faint black Light Halo spread around his body.

Facing death, Cang Long summoned all his latent potential and frantically circulated his Primordial Energy.

He knew that this strike from Jing Yan could very likely kill him outright, so at this moment, he couldn't care about anything else; he just wanted to block this strike.

"Dean, save me!" While Cang Long was all out defending against Jing Yan's second strike, he did not forget to call for help.

He was acutely aware of Jing Yan's terrifying strength, far exceeding his imagination; he was no match for Jing Yan.

"Swoosh!" Although Cang Long desperately wanted to block it, he released all his available Primordial Energy, but the red sword light still easily tore through his surrounding black halo as simply as a sharp knife slicing through a piece of tattered cloth.

Then, the red sword light pierced right through Cang Long's body.

Cang Long didn't even have time to scream before he heavily crashed to the ground, void of any signs of life.

The red sword light lingered for a breath's time before fading away into the air.

Just two strikes!

With the first strike, Cang Long was severely injured.

With the second, Cang Long was dead on the spot.

Next to Cang Long's corpse, slowly, a pool of red blood began to spread.

"Cang Long is dead?" Finally, someone uttered a voice, a bit hoarse.

Cang Long, the Outer Court Deacon of Divine Wind Academy, a powerhouse at the Innate Peak Realm.

Dead, just like that, slain before everyone's eyes, under the watchful gaze of all!

From the moment the two initiated combat to Cang Long's death, it had only been a matter of a single breath.

Within this short span, Cang Long was killed by Jing Yan.

As Cang Long called for help, Shang Qu had already stood up, seemingly ready to rush down from the high platform.

But just as he made his move, Cang Long was already slain.

The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 287: Chapter 287: If You Don't Agree, Then Fight Chapter 287: Chapter 287: If You Don't Agree, Then Fight Jing Yan killed Cang Long for two main reasons.

The first reason was the vendetta between them in Donglin City, where their enmity had begun.

Moreover, Cang Long constantly yearned for Jing Yan's death.

As for the second reason, it was to prove his strength before everyone.

Didn't these people suspect that he cheated in the Heaven Array, thinking he had obtained the Golden Order through other means?

What now?

What could they say?

Slaying Cang Long with two strikes was enough to prove that he possessed the strength to claim the Golden Order!

These people should just shut up obediently!

Still, not convinced?

Fine, any Martial Artist below the Dao Spirit Realm, Jing Yan would not refuse a challenge!

If anyone felt aggrieved, they could come and battle Jing Yan!

“Jing Yan!” Shang Qu, standing on the high platform, roared.

“Dare you kill a deacon of Divine Wind Academy?” Shang Qu’s expression was fierce, almost twisted.

Just moments before Cang Long stepped off the platform, he had declared in front of many that Cang Long represented Divine Wind Academy.

And once Cang Long stepped down, he was slain by Jing Yan with two strikes, leaving no room for face-saving and bringing shame upon the entire Divine Wind Academy.

He had hoped that Cang Long would seize the opportunity to kill Jing Yan.

But the outcome was the complete opposite of his wish.

“Shang Qu, with your caliber, you call yourself the Director of the Outer Court of Divine Wind Academy?”

Just roll back where you came from, stop embarrassing yourself here!

I already said it, a life-and-death duel with Cang Long means each is responsible for their own life and death.

Did you not also support the life-and-death duel between Cang Long and me?

Or what, are you trying to say Cang Long killing me is fine, but not me killing him?” Jing Yan scoffed.

“You...” Shang Qu clenched his teeth.

But, facing so many onlookers, he truly didn't know how to counter Jing Yan's words.

“Now, can I say that I didn't cheat in the Heaven Array?” Jing Yan continued with a smile, “Shang Qu, you don't have to be sore about it.

If you are not satisfied, let's do it then.

What about, in three months, we have a match in Prince Manor.

Yes, I am challenging you.”

Jing Yan had thrown another bombshell—he was challenging Shang Qu.

Shang Qu, a powerful figure in the Dao Spirit Realm!

This time, Jing Yan was challenging Shang Qu, a powerhouse of the Dao Spirit Realm.

The many Martial Artists around had not yet snapped out of the shock from Jing Yan killing Cang Long with two strikes, and here he was, dropping another major bombshell.

Shang Qu was also stunned!

What did Jing Yan just say?

Challenge him in three months?

Inside the Commandery Prince Manor, challenge him?

“Shang Qu, you must really want to kill me, right?”

I’m giving you the chance!

Today I first stormed the Heaven Array and then killed Cang Long, so I’m quite tired.

Yes, I need some rest.

Let’s say, three months of rest.

Three months later, you and me, let’s have a life-and-death duel!” Jing Yan curled his lips.

Talking about resting out of fatigue was obviously a lie, and everyone present understood this.

However, Jing Yan saying he would have a life-and-death duel with Shang Qu after three months was shockingly audacious.

Three months to gain strength to contend with Shang Qu?

That was absolutely impossible!

The combat power of a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse was something an Innate Realm Martial Artist could not match.

Even if Jing Yan could now kill Cang Long with two strikes and possessed the combat power of a Peak Innate Martial Artist, he could not truly contend against a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse.

For Martial Artists, three months were a blink of an eye!

“Fine!

I accept your challenge!” Shang Qu’s eyes flickered.

He truly wanted to kill Jing Yan immediately, but in the Prince Manor, he had no chance to do so.

Since Jing Yan had now proposed a challenge in three months, it fit with his wishes.

After all, it was just letting Jing Yan live for three more months.

“Jing Yan, you’re too strong, aren’t you?” Wu Shen, who had approached Jing Yan at some unknown time, said with a shocked tone, his eyes wide as he looked at Jing Yan.

Wu Shen hadn’t anticipated Jing Yan to be this formidable.

His own strength was also quite potent, as could be seen from his survival through the Heaven Array.

“Just average!” Jing Yan waved his hand dismissively.

Jing Yan had a good impression of Wu Shen.

Though Wu Shen also was a scion of a major-family in Lanqu County City, he was much more appealing than Wen Yan and other family scions.

“Don’t be modest.

I originally thought that among Innate Martial Artists, my combat power was top-notch.

But now, I clearly see that I’m far behind compared to you.

Cang Long, to slay him with two strikes!

Tsk Tsk..." Wu Shen exclaimed with admiration.

Although Wu Shen was confident, he recognized that if he were to fight Cang Long, perhaps he could eventually defeat him, but to kill him easily was decidedly impossible.

Cang Long was among the upper tier of Innate Peak Martial Artists, and for an Innate Realm Martial Artist to kill him was genuinely not an easy task.

"We can spar sometime if you're free," Jing Yan said with a laugh.

"No way.

"I'm not looking to die yet!" Hearing Jing Yan propose sparring, Wu Shen immediately waved his hands in vigilance.

Suddenly, his eyes shifted slightly, then he asked, "Jing Yan, now that you have obtained the Golden Order, the Sealing Order from the Three Major Academies is invalid for you.

Which academy are you thinking of joining?"

Wu Shen knew it was highly unlikely that Jing Yan would join Divine Wind Academy, but between Dao Yi Academy and Red Lotus Academy, Jing Yan was probably choosing one of them.

“I don’t know yet, haven’t thought that much, and I’m not necessarily going into one of the Three Major Academies,” Jing Yan shook his head, “Hmm... I definitely won’t be entering Divine Wind Academy or Red Lotus Academy.”
Jing Yan said, laughing lightly.

On the high platform, Huang Luo’s face also darkened slightly.

At this moment, he was full of regrets.

If he had known how extraordinary Jing Yan was, how could he have issued a Sealing Order to offend Jing Yan?

If he could attract Jing Yan into Red Lotus Academy, it would be hugely beneficial for him.

But, regret was too late.

Now hearing Jing Yan say he wouldn’t consider either Divine Wind Academy or Red Lotus Academy, his face turned sour.

Jing Yan’s performance was too exceptional, described as the most outstanding young Martial Artist in thirty years was utterly fitting.

He was still thinking about how to find an opportunity to get closer to Jing Yan, but Jing Yan had publicly stated he wouldn’t consider Red Lotus Academy.

“So, are you possibly going into Dao Yi Academy then?”

Haha, then I might choose Dao Yi Academy as well!” Wu Shen laughed and said.

Before this, Wu Shen had not considered which academy to join.

Hearing Jing Yan’s words, he naturally understood that Jing Yan might still enter Dao Yi Academy.

Although according to the rules, his failure in the array should have disqualified him from entering the Three Major Academies.

But since he survived the Heaven Array and failed, the Three Major Academies would definitely vie for him, not requiring him to qualify for entry.

The Three Major Academies all had the privilege to make exceptions in recruiting new students.

The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 288: Chapter 288: Shu Ling Comes to Apologize Chapter 288: Chapter 288: Shu Ling Comes to Apologize When Jing Yan heard Wu Shen’s words, he didn’t seem to care much, but the people from Divine Wind Academy and Red Lotus Academy were extremely conflicted.

First, Jing Yan, who had obtained the Golden Order, did not consider joining Divine Wind Academy and Red Lotus Academy.

Then, there was Wu Shen, who had survived the Heaven Array, publicly declaring his intention to join Dao Yi Academy.

This was definitely a major blow to both academies.

The impact caused by their actions was not merely about their not joining.

Among the martial artists who obtained Silver Tokens, there were definitely many who would be influenced by their decisions.

Those who originally intended to join Red Lotus Academy or Divine Wind Academy would undoubtedly change their minds and choose Dao Yi Academy instead.

This change of heart among the martial artists was likely not in the minority.

There were a total of seventeen martial artists who had obtained Silver Tokens, minus Jing Yan and Wu Shen, leaving about fifteen.

These martial artists were all rare talents, each with great potential to reach the Dao Spirit Realm.

Naturally, Red Lotus Academy and Divine Wind Academy did not want to lose any of them.

This was the real reason why people from Red Lotus Academy and Divine Wind Academy were so conflicted.

Shang Qu and Huang Luo, the Outer Court Directors from the two academies, were particularly frustrated, but faced with this situation, what could they do other than watch helplessly?

Threaten?

Wu Shen was from the Wu Family, would he fear their threats?

As for Jing Yan, there was even less need to mention it.

Jing Yan had publicly challenged Shang Qu, the Outer Court Director of Divine Wind Academy, with a challenge set for three months later.

Such a person as Jing Yan, would he fear their threats?

What could they use to threaten Jing Yan?

Whispers permeated the commandery prince's square.

"This year's examination for the Three Major Academies is now concluded!" Mu Liantian finally announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, you may leave at your discretion."
"Jing Yan, I'll be waiting for you at Dao Yi Academy!" Wu Shen shouted to Jing Yan before leaving.

Jing Yan glanced at Wu Shen and quickly turned to leave.

Returning to Juhua Restaurant, Jing Yan saw Huo Chunyang waiting for him.

Besides Jing Yan, the other nine young martial artists from Donglin City who came to participate in the Three Major Academies examination in Lanqu County City were also present.

Among these ten, not counting Jing Yan, two others also qualified to enter the Three Major Academies.

Of course, both of them had obtained copper tokens and had not chosen to challenge the Earth Array.

The rest failed the examination, and they were to follow Huo Chunyang back to Donglin City from Lanqu County City.

“Jing Yan, I’ve just heard the news, you obtained a Golden Order by passing the Heaven Array!”
Huo Chunyang said excitedly.

His excitement wasn’t just because Jing Yan had obtained a Golden Order.

Jing Yan was a martial artist from Donglin City, and Huo Chunyang was the city lord of Donglin City.

Having a Golden Order martial artist from Donglin City was a huge benefit for him as the city lord.

The benefit wasn’t about material rewards, but a deeply influential advantage.

For example, Huo Chunyang’s status in the commandery prince’s manor had greatly improved when he met other city lords and some management personals.

Their attitudes towards Huo Chunyang had noticeably changed compared to before.

Huo Chunyang himself deeply understood this.

His status had significantly improved!

“It’s also partly due to luck; it was almost a failure,” Jing Yan said with a smile.

He had indeed nearly failed in the Heaven Array, as time was running out, and he was almost teleported out, which would have resulted in a failed challenge.

“Regardless, you’ve proven yourself!” Huo Chunyang nodded, “I need to take them back to Donglin City, so I won’t chat more with you.

Next time I come to Lanqu County City, I’ll look you up.”

“Alright.” Jing Yan nodded too.

“Brother Jing Yan, then I’ll head back to Donglin City now,” Jing Luoyu said, bidding farewell to Jing Yan.

“Hmm, keep cultivating hard, and you will definitely succeed in the next Three Major Academies examination,” Jing Yan patted Jing Luoyu on the shoulder.

Meanwhile, the members of the Zhao and Cai Families present had complex expressions and didn’t even dare to look at Jing Yan.

Jing Yan’s gaze swept past these two families’ young descendants, too indifferent to concern himself with them.

Huo Chunyang then gave a few more instructions to Jing Yan before leaving with Jing Luoyu and the other seven young martial artists who had failed the examination.

Jing Yan entered Juhua Restaurant and headed back to his room, where he immediately sat down, began the circulation of the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, and started to stabilize his realm.

He still had some Top-grade Spirit Stones left, which should suffice for now.

Time flew by, and soon it was the following morning.

Outside Juhua Restaurant, several figures walked towards Juhua Restaurant.

“Dean, are you really going to apologize to Jing Yan?” one of them asked, frowning.

These people were the Outer Court Dean Shu Ling and others from Dao Yi Academy.

Leading them was Shu Ling himself, followed by two other Outer Court Deacons from Dao Yi Academy, including Qing Mo.

“Yes, we need to apologize!

Jing Yan is probably waiting for us too, right?” Shu Ling chuckled lightly.

“But...” that deacon still hesitated.

“No need to say more, an apology is nothing.

If we, at Dao Yi Academy, want Jing Yan to join, we definitely need to obtain his forgiveness,” Shu Ling waved his hand, “Yesterday in the commandery prince’s manor, Jing Yan said he would not consider Divine Wind Academy and Red Lotus Academy, but he didn’t say he’d join Dao Yi Academy.

He’s waiting for our apology from Dao Yi Academy.

If we don’t apologize, Jing Yan might not join any academy.”

“Let’s go in!” Shu Ling said with a smile on his face.

“Dean Shu Ling?”

Shu Ling and the other two had just entered the restaurant when Leng Ge, the manager of Juhua Restaurant, noticed Shu Ling and hurriedly came forward to greet him.

Leng Ge was preparing to go to the commandery prince’s manor, so he had to leave Juhua Restaurant, but coincidentally ran into Shu Ling and the others entering.

“How come you are here, Deacon Leng Ge?” Shu Ling was also a bit surprised to see Leng Ge.

He knew Leng Ge, aware that he was a deacon of the commandery prince’s manor.

“Hehe, I’m now the manager of Juhua Restaurant, responsible for its operation,” Leng Ge laughed.

Juhua Restaurant, during the period of the Three Major Academies examination, was specifically responsible for hosting many martial artists coming for the assessment.

Now with the assessment over, Juhua Restaurant needed to resume normal operations, so he needed to go to the commandery prince’s manor to discuss this with Chief Manager Mu Liantian.

“Oh?”

Now managed by Deacon Leng Ge?

You’ve been promoted?

Congratulations!” Shu Ling laughed, half-jokingly said.

However, Leng Ge moving from a deacon at the commandery prince’s manor to become the manager of Juhua Restaurant was indeed a promotion.

And Leng Ge’s becoming the manager of Juhua Restaurant was directly related to Jing Yan.

“Haha...” Leng Ge laughed, “Dean Shu Ling, what brings you here?”
Leng Ge raised his eyebrows.

In fact, although Shu Ling had not yet stated his purpose, Leng Ge could roughly guess that it was definitely to attract Silver Token martial artists to join Dao Yi Academy.

Chapter 289 - 289 289 Dao Yi Registers

Chapter 289: Chapter 289: Dao Yi Registers Chapter 289: Chapter 289: Dao Yi Registers “Is Jing Yan there?”

Jing Yan had his eyes closed, circulating the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill to absorb the Top-grade Spirit Stone, when a voice came from outside.

“Is it Manager Leng Ge?”

“Please come in!” Jing Yan opened his eyes and said.

At this moment, Jing Yan was stabilizing his realm, not breaking through, so he had no worries about any disturbance.

The door opened, and Leng Ge walked in.

Following Leng Ge was Shu Ling and other staff from the Dao Yi Academy.

“Haha, young friend Jing Yan is truly impressive, breaking through the Heaven Array and seizing the Gold Seizing Order!

In Lanqu County City territory, you are the first genius in thirty years!” Leng Ge entered the room, his words full of compliments.

Leng Ge also knew about Jing Yan obtaining the Golden Order.

“Luck, all luck!” Jing Yan waved his hand.

“Dean Shu Ling?” Jing Yan looked at Shu Ling, raising his eyebrows slightly.

It was impossible to say that Jing Yan had no complaints against Shu Ling.

Although these complaints were not as intense as his enmity for Shang Qu and Huang Luo, Shu Ling somewhat represented Dao Yi Academy in issuing the Sealing Order against Jing Yan.

“Jing Yan!” Shu Ling’s face was all smiles, her demeanor very humble.

“Jing Yan, I knew you were extraordinary back when you were in Donglin City,” Qing Mo laughed heartily and said.

“Deacon Qing Mo!” Jing Yan smiled and bowed to Qing Mo.

Jing Yan had always been grateful to Qing Mo.

Back in the Donglin City Lord’s Mansion, Qing Mo had spoken up for Jing Yan.

Jing Yan would always remember this favor.

Shu Ling glanced at Jing Yan, then at Qing Mo, her lips tightening slightly.

She had her reasons for bringing Qing Mo along, knowing that Qing Mo had some connections with Jing Yan.

With Qing Mo here, it would be easier to talk, or at least Jing Yan wouldn’t turn hostile instantly.

After all, she was the Outer Court Director of Dao Yi Academy, and if Jing Yan turned hostile on the spot, it certainly wouldn’t look good on her.

She didn’t know much about Jing Yan or what kind of person he was.

However, she felt that Jing Yan was not likely to have a mild temper.

If he were mild-tempered, he wouldn't have killed Cang Long directly at the Prince Manor or challenged Shang Qu, the Outer Court Director of Divine Wind Academy!

“Haha, you all go ahead and talk, I must take my leave now,” Leng Ge laughed and excused himself.

Leng Ge knew that Shu Ling and the others were here to apologize to Jing Yan.

It wouldn't be appropriate for him to stay.

“Manager Leng Ge, feel free!” Jing Yan nodded.

“Jing Yan, I am here to apologize.” After Leng Ge left, Shu Ling spoke directly, “That day, I represented Dao Yi Academy and issued a Sealing Order against you, which was indeed inappropriate.

I truly hope you can forgive me.”
Shu Ling's posture was indeed very low.

Being the Outer Court Director of Dao Yi Academy and apologizing so humbly was quite rare.

Jing Yan looked at Shu Ling.

Jing Yan was not a person to hold grudges, and when he saw Shu Ling coming in person, he had already not taken the Sealing Order to heart.

Now, hearing Shu Ling's sincere apology, it would be inappropriate for Jing Yan to still act proudly.

Of course, if Shu Ling had not made this visit, Jing Yan might really not have chosen Dao Yi Academy.

Joining the Three Major Academies was a good thing and beneficial for Jing Yan.

However, Jing Yan was not without other options; he had alternatives.

He could join the Alchemist Association and still obtain a vast amount of resources, as Jing Yan was a Pill Master.

In this world, there were hardly any Pill Masters who were troubled for cultivation resources.

"Dean Shu Ling, you flatter me," Jing Yan laughed and waved his hand.

“Jing Yan, I am here simply to express my apologies.

Whether you join or do not join Dao Yi Academy, I of course hope you will, but I will not insist,” Shu Ling added.

Hearing this, Jing Yan squinted his eyes.

Shu Ling’s words sounded pleasant, but if not for wanting Jing Yan to join Dao Yi Academy, Shu Ling definitely would not have come, lowering her stance to apologize to Jing Yan, a martial artist of the Innate Realm.

However, Jing Yan naturally did not expose this point.

“Jing Yan, when you were in Donglin City, you had promised me to give priority to joining Dao Yi Academy,” Qing Mo said loudly from the side.

“Brother Qing Mo, you do have a good memory,” Jing Yan shook his head and laughed.

“That’s for certain,” Qing Mo replied.

“Dean Shu Ling, in a few days, I will go to Dao Yi Academy to report,” Jing Yan then looked at Shu Ling and said so.

Shu Ling's face immediately lit up with joy.

With those words, she could completely rest assured.

Several days later, Jing Yan's cultivation at the Late Innate stage was completely stable.

The day before, Jing Qingzhu had visited Jing Yan, delivering the Spirit Stones she obtained from auctioning the Elixirs at the Green Jade Auction for Jing Yan, amounting to more than 260,000 stones.

Dao Yi Academy, in the northeastern corner of Lanqu County City, occupied an extremely vast courtyard.

Within the courtyard, there was even a mountain range.

To say a mountain range, all within the premises of Dao Yi Academy, illustrated the enormity of Dao Yi Academy.

In the past few days, a significant number of martial artists came to register at Dao Yi Academy.

The martial artists who had secured a copper token through the evaluation by the Three Major Academies numbered 2,700.

Even subtracting the more than a hundred disqualified for failing the Earth Array, there were still close to 2,600 who could enter the Three Major Academies as students.

Thus, the number of martial artists joining Dao Yi Academy this time could well be eight or nine hundred, possibly even reaching a thousand.

Jing Yan, wearing a green robe, arrived alone at the front gate of Dao Yi Academy.

“Are you also a newcomer joining Dao Yi Academy?” As Jing Yan approached the gate, waiting to enter, a voice came from beside him.

The speaker was a young woman in a light green dress, her appearance refined and pleasant to the eyes.

“Yes!” Jing Yan looked at her, smiling and nodding.

“Okay, come with me, and I’ll take you to register.

Once you’re registered, you’ll be an official student of Dao Yi Academy.

By the way, my name is Zhang Min.

What's yours?" Zhang Min smiled sweetly at Jing Yan.

"My name is Jing Yan," Jing Yan replied.

"Jing Yan, you'll have to call me senior sister from now on.

I've been at Dao Yi Academy for five years," Zhang Min added.

Clearly, Zhang Min had a cheerful personality.

Although Jing Yan was a newcomer, Zhang Min put on no airs and was very cordial with him.

"These past few days, many martial artists have come to register at Dao Yi Academy, so I'm here to help," Zhang Min chatted casually with Jing Yan as they walked.

Soon, they entered the interior of Dao Yi Academy.

Towering ancient trees, clear streams flowing all around.

It seemed that Dao Yi Academy had a better environment than Divine Wind Academy.

Jing Yan walked beside Zhang Min, squinting slightly, and a faint fragrance emanated from Zhang Min.

It had been some time since he felt so relaxed and at ease.

The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 290: Chapter 290 Unusual Chapter 290: Chapter 290 Unusual Zhang Min, accompanied by Jing Yan, went to register at the Affairs Hall of Dao Yi Academy.

Any new martial artist joining Dao Yi Academy had to go to the Academy's Affairs Hall to register.

Once registered successfully, one officially became a student of Dao Yi Academy and could receive an identity token, student attire, and other miscellaneous items.

“Jing Yan, our Dao Yi Academy mainly consists of two parts, the Inner Court and the Outer Court.

You see that Dao Yi Mountain Range over there?

That is where the Inner Court students practice.

Each Inner Court student can have a mountain peak all to themselves.

Outer Court students, however, are not allowed to enter the Dao Yi Mountain Range,” Zhang Min, her beautiful eyes fixated on the vast mountain range, said to Jing Yan.

“Sister, are you an Outer Court or an Inner Court student?” Jing Yan casually asked.

“The Inner Court isn’t so easy to enter.

Let me tell you, to enter the Inner Court, one must ascend the Heavenly Ascension Ladder.

Even martial artists at the Peak of Innate sometimes fail to ascend the ladder,” Zhang Min’s eyes gleamed with longing.

“Oh, it seems quite difficult to become an Inner Court student,” Jing Yan nodded.

“Not just difficult, it’s as tough as reaching the heavens.

Inner Court students hold a much higher status than us from the Outer Court,” Zhang Min shook her head, “Jing Yan, if you ever meet an Inner Court student, you must not offend them and always be respectful.

Otherwise, if you anger them, they might kill you on the spot.”
“Oh?”

Inner Court students can kill Outer Court students at will?” Jing Yan blinked.

“Although the academy rules state that students should not kill each other indiscriminately, if an Inner Court student kills an Outer Court student, they usually receive only a minor punishment.

The Criminal Punishment Hall does not really pursue the responsibilities of Inner Court students too harshly,” Zhang Min said with a somewhat helpless expression.

“Hmm, it seems Inner Court students truly are superior,” Jing Yan nodded again.

“Yes, Inner Court students are martial artists who hold great hope of becoming Dao Spirit Realm warriors.

Jing Yan, look, that’s our Dao Yi Academy’s Treasure Vault.

Students of Dao Yi Academy can exchange resources in the vault.

However, you can only exchange using academy points.

After you register, the academy will award you some points,” Zhang Min pointed to a large building and explained to Jing Yan.

“Can I exchange them for Secret Techniques?” Jing Yan’s eyes twinkled.

“Exchange Secret Techniques?” Zhang Min blinked, “That’s not easy, ordinary students cannot exchange for such resources!”

“To exchange for Secret Techniques, you must be a high-level student and have enough points!

Jing Yan, our Outer Court students are also ranked.

There are low-level, intermediate, and high-level students.

High-level students have the highest status among the Outer Court students.

The higher the rank, the more precious the resources you can exchange for in the Treasure Vault.

Secret Techniques require the status of a high-level student; otherwise, no matter how many points you have, you cannot exchange for Secret Techniques.”

“Generally, martial artists at the Innate Middle Stage can advance to intermediate students.

Martial artists at the Late Innate Stage can advance to high-level students.

And those at the Peak of Innate Stage can try to ascend the Heavenly Ascension Ladder and become Inner Court students,” Zhang Min’s gaze swept over Jing Yan as she smiled.

“Jing Yan, you’ve just arrived at our Dao Yi Academy; you’ll naturally come to know these things in time,” Zhang Min gently waved her jade-like hand.

“Look, there’s the Pill Tower!

That’s the Artifact Tower, and that’s the Array Tower!”
Zhang Min pointed to the three connected buildings in the view.

“Jing Yan, there’s the Affairs Hall up ahead!”
It had taken almost thirty minutes from their entrance into Dao Yi Academy to reach the Affairs Hall.

Inside Dao Yi Academy, the Affairs Hall was a rather special institution.

It might not appear very important, but it was closely related to every student of Dao Yi Academy.

New martial artists joining Dao Yi Academy had to report to the Affairs Hall.

Students seeking promotion also needed to apply for assessment at the Affairs Hall.

Even Outer Court students ascending the Heavenly Ascension Ladder had to register at the Affairs Hall and obtain permission before they could proceed.

Zhang Min led Jing Yan into the Affairs Hall.

There were quite a few martial artists inside the Affairs Hall, as in recent days, many newcomers had joined Dao Yi Academy, making these days some of the busiest for the Affairs Hall.

Fortunately, there were several registration counters set up, so Zhang Min and Jing Yan didn't need to line up and soon approached a deacon in charge of registering information.

"What's the matter?" The deacon, dressed in a gray robe, glanced at Zhang Min and Jing Yan and asked indifferently.

He was He Kun, a deacon within the Affairs Hall.

"Lord Deacon, there's a new recruit reporting," Zhang Min spoke first.

"Name!" He Kun asked in a flat voice.

"Jing Yan!" Jing Yan responded.

“Jing Yan?” He Kun, who had been half-squinting his eyes, suddenly opened them wider, a spark of keen interest flashing as he began to scrutinize Jing Yan.

“Which Jing Yan?” He Kun asked again after a slight pause.

“Donglin City’s Jing Yan!” Jing Yan said with a slight frown.

Beside him, Zhang Min also showed a puzzled look, seeing the expression of Deacon He Kun, as if he had heard the name Jing Yan before.

Zhang Min subconsciously looked at Jing Yan, contemplating that within Lanqu County City, there seemed to be no prominent families with the surname Jing.

Why did Deacon He Kun appear as if he recognized the name Jing Yan?

Descendants of prominent families from Lanqu County City who came to register were generally given more attention.

It was natural for people of different statuses to receive some attention or preferential treatment.

Then, Zhang Min heard Jing Yan mention himself as Jing Yan from Donglin City.

She furrowed her brows and recalled, realizing she had never heard of Donglin City; a city she hadn't heard of must be a small one.

Although she had almost never visited the larger cities within Lanqu County, she had at least heard their names.

But Donglin City, she had no recollection of it.

However, what surprised Zhang Min even more was that Deacon He Kun suddenly stood up, even his breathing momentarily halted as he stared intently at Jing Yan.

“Jing Yan, wait here for a moment,” He Kun left these words and then turned and quickly walked away.

Jing Yan frowned as he watched He Kun leave, unsure of what was happening.

Zhang Min, too, had a face full of confusion.

This was somewhat different from the normal registration procedure.

Usually, when new recruits came to Dao Yi Academy to register, they would directly register their personal information with the deacon in charge, receive their identity token, and officially become a student of Dao Yi Academy.

So, what was the situation now?

Why had Deacon He Kun suddenly left, asking Jing Yan to wait a bit?

Zhang Min's surprised gaze rested on Jing Yan, her beautiful eyes intently staring, as if trying to discern what was special about him.