

Swordsman 661

Chapter 661: Rejection

The various Palace Masters and Vice Palace Masters in the Dao Palace were amazed by Jian Wushuang's talent and they secretly felt regretful that they weren't good at the Daos that Jian Wushuang meditated on.

Of course, there were some that didn't feel that way.

Each of the thirteen Palace Masters in the Dao Palace explored different Daos, so there were two Palace Masters, Baiyu and Mo Tao, who were good at the World Dao and the Slaughter Dao, respectively. After seeing Jian Wushuang's information, both of these Palace Masters were a bit interested in him.

"Jian Wushuang is so talented. If he cultivates well, he'll definitely reach the Eternal Realm in the future."

"Although I have many disciples, there are no more than three who have a chance of reaching the Eternal Realm, but their chances of success are extremely low. Compared with Jian Wushuang, those three are far behind him in strength. It would really be a shame to miss out on such a genius."

Palace Master Baiyu remained silent as he quickly called upon a disciple under him and commanded, "You, go deliver my token to Jian Wushuang and tell him that Baiyu is willing to take him as a disciple. He can come see me if he agrees."

"Yes," the disciple immediately set out to look for Jian Wushuang.

At the same time, a middle-aged man in a black robe, surrounded by an endless killing intent, also appeared at Enlightenment Mountain.

"Jian Wushuang," a soft voice spread out and entered a specific cave mansion.

Jian Wushuang, who had been devoting himself to cultivation inside the cave mansion, woke up with a start and quickly appeared outside the cave mansion.

"This..." Jian Wushuang looked at the black-robed middle-aged man as if he was an unparalleled god of death because of the terrifying atmosphere that was almost suffocating.

"I am Mo Tao, one of Palace Masters from the Dao Palace, and I am good at the Slaughter Dao," The middle-aged man said.

"You're a Palace Master?" Jian Wushuang was stunned at first, but quickly regained his composure and bowed to him. "Respectful greetings, Palace Master Mo Tao."

"Stand up!" Jian Wushuang straightened his back when Mo Tao waved at him, and then he got to the point. "I've browsed through your information. You're a real talent with a exceptional potential. If you cultivate properly, you'll certainly be one of the top experts in the Ancient Sect. I'm willing to take you as my apprentice. Are you willing?"

"Personal disciple?" It seemed to appeal Jian Wushuang.

Not long ago, someone came to give him a token from Baiyu who also said he intended to accept him as a personal disciple, but now Mo Tao was here in person.

"You are good at the Slaughter Dao, and I currently remain as the foremost in comprehending the Slaughter Dao," Mo Tao added.

Jian Wushuang took a deep breath and immediately said, "I'm sorry, Palace Master Mo Tao. I currently have no plans to apprentice to anyone."

"Eh?" Mo Tao frowned.

Generally speaking, disciples would select an expert to apprentice to right after joining the Ancient Sect. Jian Wushuang should do the same, but he just said he had no intention to do so. Even though he said it in a tactful way, he had still refused Mo Tao.

"What a pity." Mo Tao shook his head, but he didn't force him.

"You should take some time and think about it."

After saying this, Mo Tao left.

Not long after Mo Tao left, several Vice Palace Masters from the Dao Palace and even the Vice Palace Masters from the Sword Palace, except Vice Palace Master Nie, visited Jian Wushuang for one purpose, to take him as their apprentice.

When Feng and Huo Ying heard about this preferential treatment, they got a bit jealous.

It was known to all that both of them wanted to apprentice to a Palace Master or even a Vice Palace Master, but they had to go through some trials and tribulations first.

Yet, these Palace Masters and Vice Palace Masters took the initiative to come to Jian Wushuang and even battle over him.

Surprisingly, however, all these experts who wanted him to become their apprentice were rejected by him.

Including the Palace Masters from the Dao Palace like Baiyu and Mo Tao, as well as that Vice Palace Master from the Sword Palace, Jian Wushuang had rejected them all.

Jian Wushuang stood there alone, inside the Ancient Sect, cultivating quietly.

During the day, he usually stayed at the Sword Palace, in front of the stone tablet at Sword Tower, meditating on the three sword scars. Sometimes he would head to the Dao Palace and listen to lectures delivered by experts who were good at World Dao and Slaughter Dao.

In the evening, he returned to Enlightenment Mountain, letting his two Original Bodies separate and meditate quietly.

He spent almost every day cultivating and meditating, maintaining a busy schedule.

In a flash, one month had passed.

At the Dao Palace, numerous disciples of the Ancient Sect sat with their legs crossed at the huge Martial Arts Practice Field. At the very front, the strapping Feng, with sword-shaped eyebrows, prostrated himself before a Palace Master and gave him three respectful kowtows.

“Master! I pay my respects!”

Feng’s voice echoed throughout the entire Martial Arts Practice Field.

Many of the disciples at the Martial Arts Practice Field looked at Feng with envious eyes.

“He’s really persistent!”

“Indeed! He spent a whole month going through trails, with an indomitable fighting spirit, until he finally managed to become apprenticed to Palace Master Destruction as a personal disciple.”

“The barrier for becoming an apprentice to Palace Master Destruction was very high. He’s so lucky to have become one of the personal disciples.”

Nearly all the disciples of the Ancient Sect would apprentice to an expert while most of them would apprentice to those Vice Palace Masters at the level of a superior Divine Realm expert. There was only a tiny minority who were lucky enough to apprentice to the 13 Palace Masters, and these disciples were still split into nominal disciples and personal disciples.

Nominal disciples existed only in name. Although they could attend the lectures of the Palace Master and be instructed, the treatment was poorer compared with those personal disciples.

In the Ancient Sect, almost every Palace Master or Vice Palace Master had plenty of nominal disciples, but the number of personal disciples was small.

They would try their best to instruct every personal disciple.

The reasons Feng was able to become the personal disciple of Palace Master Destruction were that, on the one hand, he was gifted in the Destruction Dao and, on the other hand, he had perseverance and determination. So, he was finally accepted.

Another month passed.

Today, Huo Ying, who had been brought back like Jian Wushuang and Feng, as an inner disciple, was finally apprenticed to an expert.

The one he apprenticed to was also a Palace Master, but he was somewhat unfortunate. That Palace Master was only willing to take him as a nominal disciple because his cultivation age was so long that his potential had been exhausted.

Even though he was only a nominal disciple, Huo Ying still felt happy about it.

In addition, the other three people, Bing Shan, Xuan Ying, and Wu Huang, were also able to apprentice to an expert within these two months.

However, these three were only able to apprentice to those Vice Palace Masters as nominal disciples. They would all have to try harder if they wanted to become personal disciples.

As of now, five out of the six people that Xuan Yi brought back from Firmament Territory Feast had been apprenticed. Only Jian Wushuang was still cultivating on his own.

Chapter 662: Jian Wushuang's Pride

There were 13 Palace Masters and plenty of Vice Palace Masters in the Dao Palace. They would occasionally gather together. Right now, four Palace Masters had gathered in a pavilion to drink. Among them was Feng's Master, Palace Master Destruction.

"Destruction, how's your new personal disciple, Feng?" A Palace Master asked casually.

"Not bad. Although his talent is only average among my personal disciples, he's perseverant and has a stable foundation. As long as he's taught step by step in the future, he'll be able to make good progress. He's even got a good chance of reaching the Eternal Realm," Palace Master Destruction said and laughed.

"Congratulations! You've accepted another good disciple."

"Among the six men Palace Master Xuan Yi brought back from the Firmament Territory Feast, Feng seems to be the best. The others are just ordinary and that Jian Wushuang... He's too disappointing," a black-clothed lady said, shaking her head slightly.

"Jian Wushuang?"

Hearing that, all the Palace Masters looked at each other speechlessly.

Two months ago, when they heard from Xuan Yi that Jian Wushuang had cultivated for less than 40 years and came from the Ancient World, they were astonished at Jian Wushuang's talent.

Had they been good at the type of Dao which Jian Wushuang mediated on, they would have chosen him as a personal disciple.

However, their impression of Jian Wushuang had been ruined to some extent during the past two months.

"He should have had a wonderful prospect. Unfortunately, he's too conceited and proud."

The black-clothed lady said, "Even though he's talented, he came from the Ancient World and his vision is too narrow. He has no idea how to develop himself in the future. What's most important for him now is to look for a good Master. With a Master's guidance and the cultivation resources in the Ancient Sect, his talent can be fully developed!"

"It's a pity that... he is too arrogant! "

"During the past two months, many Vice Palace Masters who are good at World Dao or Slaughter Dao have talked with him and wanted to accept him as a disciple. Even Palace Master Baiyu and Mo Tao went to talk to him in person, but all of them were rejected by him!"

"Palace Master Baiyu will master the nine Occults of the World Dao soon!"

“Palace Master Mo Tao’s comprehension of the Slaughter Dao is beyond anyone in the whole Ancient Sect.”

“Jian Wushuang should feel lucky to be a disciple of either of them. How could he reject their offer?”

“Does he think that he’s so talented that he doesn’t need any guidance?”

Upon hearing this, the other three Palace Master nodded quietly.

“He’s indeed too proud!”

“He’s too young. Feng is different, he has cultivated for 1900 years and possesses a persistent and modest personality.”

“I heard that Jian Wushuang often been staying in front of the Sword Tower over the past two months to meditate on the three sword scars left by Xuan Yi. If I haven’t guessed wrong, he does intend to choose a Master, but his target is Xuan Yi.”

“Palace Master Xuan Yi?” The black-clothed lady sneered, “Xuan Yi is indeed strong. But one should choose an appropriate Master instead of a strong one. Xuan Yi’s comprehension of World Dao and Slaughter Dao isn’t comparable to that of Palace Master Baiyu and Mo Tao. He can teach Jian Wushuang Sword Principle at most.”

“In addition, is it so easy to be a disciple of Palace Master Xuan Yi?”

“The three sword scars left by Xuan Yi are so enigmatic that no one has been able to fully comprehend them so far. The first two sword scars alone are enough to make many Sword Principle geniuses ponder for hundreds of years. When he fully comprehends the first two swords scars, he’ll have already missed his best stage of growth. The loss outweighs the gain!”

“If I were him, I would definitely choose to be a disciple of Palace Master Baiyu or Mo Tao. Then I would take my time to meditate on the three sword scars and try to be a disciple of Palace Master Xuan Yi. After all, in Ancient Sect, it’s acceptable for a genius to be a disciple of two or more experts.”

Other Palace Masters nodded their assent.

“Who knows what he’s thinking?”

“Every genius is proud. Just wait, when the Sect Competition starts in two years, he certainly won’t be able to keep his position as an inner disciple. The competition among the outer disciples is more intense. After he suffers some setbacks and learns some lessons, he’ll naturally understand how foolish his choice was and then he’ll find a way to make amends.”

“Ah, what a pity. After all, he’s still a peerless genius.”

Lots of disciples who were good at Sword Principle had gathered in the Sword Palace. When Jian Wushuang showed up, he immediately received many strange stares.

“It has already been two months. Hasn’t Jian Wushuang chosen a Master yet?”

“Hey, he’s really stupid. Does he think he can be so disdainful because of his talent?”

“Without guidance from experts, he will have to cultivate by himself. Hmph, wait and see, he’ll learn a lesson in the Sect Competition two years from now.”

Many disciples lowered their voices while talking about him, but Jian Wushuang could still hear some of their voices clearly.

However, he did not pay attention to these discussions and went directly to the Sword Tower. He quickly arrived at the stone tablet with the three sword scars on it.

Sitting down in front of the stone tablet, Jian Wushuang sighed in relief and slowly calmed down.

“Two months have passed. Feng, Huo Ying, and even Bing Shan, Xuan Ying, and Wu Huang have chosen their Masters. I’m still cultivating alone without guidance from any experts. It’s no wonder these disciples in the Ancient Sect are gossiping about me in private.”

“I’m afraid that lots of people are saying I’m conceited,”?Jian Wushuang thought with a smile. He did not care about these things though.

“They aren’t me and don’t know what I’ve been through. How can they know what I’m thinking?”?Jian Wushuang thought.

He had made his decision the moment he entered the Ancient Sect and saw the three sword scars on the stone tablet.

He would definitely choose a Master!

A Master’s guidance would help him improve faster.

However, he had never had a Master since the day he was born. Perhaps the super expert who created the Heavenly Creation Skill could barely be counted as his Master, but he had never really kowtowed to any Master.

Therefore, he would not choose his first Master easily. His Master should be able to guide his cultivation and more importantly, his personality and strength had to make Jian Wushuang genuinely admire him.

In the whole Ancient Sect, only one man was qualified, and that person was the Palace Master of Sword Palace... Xuan Yi!

Chapter 663: Comprehension

In the Eternal World, a man could have two, three, or even more Masters. The more Masters the better, as long as his Masters could help him with his cultivation.

But Jian Wushuang was different.

He came from the Ancient World, where a Warrior usually had only one Master or two Masters at most.

The relationship between the master and disciple was very important.

After all, as a Warrior's strength grew stronger and stronger, many of his relatives and friends would gradually grow old and die. The ones who could still accompany him were usually his disciples or Masters.

Therefore, he would not choose a Master easily.

"Both Palace Master Baiyu and Mo Tao have extremely high comprehension of the Dao and they're definitely qualified to be my Masters. However, I have no knowledge of their personalities,"?Jian Wushuang shook his head while pondering.

In the whole Ancient Sect, the only person he admired both in strength and personality was Xuan Yi.

Therefore, the only Master he wanted to accept was Xuan Yi.

He did not care if other people thought he was arrogant or conceited.

As for the condition to become Xuan Yi's disciple, it might be impossible for other people to completely comprehend the three sword scars, but not for Jian Wushuang.

He possessed the Strongest Sword Soul and heaven-defying talent in Sword Principle. In addition, he had reached the Heaven-treading Realm, which meant his comprehension ability was currently at its highest. He was sure that he could fully comprehend the three sword scars.

"The first sword scar contains nine sword movements, while the second one... looks identical with the first one, but it actually contains three sword movements that originate from those nine sword movements..."

The three sword scars were extremely enigmatic.

The nine sword movements in the first sword scar alone were extremely profound.

For example, Zhu Lie, who had a certain level of talent in Sword Principle, still spent more than 10 years on the first sword scar before he fully comprehended the nine sword movements.

However, no one knew that Jian Wushuang had fully comprehended them in two months.

Jian Wushuang had thoroughly comprehended the first sword scar.

It took Zhu Lie more than ten years to do it, but Jian Wushuang succeeded in only two months.

He had already started meditating on the second sword scar.

Jian Wushuang insisted on his belief and goal, continuing to cultivate while relying on his Strongest Sword Soul and supreme talent that had been endowed to him by the Heaven-treading Realm and the Heavenly Creation Skill.

Time flew.

No matter what the disciples in the Ancient Sect said about him, Jian Wushuang still cultivated and meditated alone.

Half a year had elapsed since Jian Wushuang first entered the Ancient Sect.

In front of the dark stone tablet at the Sword Tower, Jian Wushuang opened his eyes which were sparkling with surprise.

“I finally succeeded!”

In the past six months, he had spent most of his time meditating in front of the Sword Tower. Four months ago, he had already fully comprehended the first sword scar.

The second sword scar should be far more difficult to comprehend than the first one for ordinary experts. But Jian Wushuang had reached the Heaven-treading Realm and had a terrifying level of talent in comprehension.

Four months!

Four months after Jian Wushuang fully comprehended the first sword scar, he had also completely comprehended the second one.

“Palace Master Xuan Yi will give a lecture in the Sword Tower two days from now. It’s a good time for me to have finished comprehending the second sword scar,” Jian Wushuang smiled faintly and then turned to inspect the third sword scar.

The last sword scar.

“This sword scar...” Jian Wushuang frowned slightly.

He thought the three sword scars were exactly the same half a year ago. However, after he comprehended the first one, he felt the second and third were different.

The second sword scar contained three sword movements that originated from the nine movements in the first one.

The third sword scar contained one sword movement which was the integration of the nine sword movements.

So, naturally, the third sword scar was the most difficult.

“It took me half a year to fully comprehend the first and second sword scar. I wonder how long it’ll take me to comprehend the third one,” Jian Wushuang thought and then continued to meditate.

The next day, a woman with sky blue hair and a beautiful face was sitting on the highest platform in the huge Martial Arts Practice Field of the Sword Palace. Many disciples from the Sword Palace had gathered around her and were listening carefully to her lecture.

This Absolute Beauty was the second Vice Palace Master of Sword Palace, Ling Yu.

When Jian Wushuang first came to the Ancient Sect half a year ago, Ling Yu also expressed her wish to accept Jian Wushuang as her personal disciple, but she was rejected by Jian Wushuang.

Ling Yu quickly finished her lecture and was about to leave when Jian Wushuang stood up.

“Vice Palace Master,” Jian Wushuang appeared in front of Ling Yu and bowed slightly.

“Jian Wushuang,” Ling Yu glanced at him, her beautiful eyebrows slightly raising.

She had been shocked by Jian Wushuang's talent. However, Jian Wushuang had not chosen a Master from the Ancient Sect even now, so he had been pegged as being proud and conceited. Many experts, including her, were disappointed with him.

"If Jian Wushuang had chosen me, Palace Master Baiyu, or Palace Master Mo Tao as his Master, he would have already reached a new level. Nevertheless, he chose to cultivate by himself. It's unlikely that he'll make great progress during this period of time. It can be said that he wasted half a year," Ling Yu thought, shaking her head slightly.

Although it was a pity, she would not force him to change his mind.

Everyone had to make their own choices and follow their own path in life. Since Jian Wushuang chose to refuse the offer of her and the other experts, they would not insist no matter how talented he was.

"Jian Wushuang, what can I do for you?" Ling Yu asked.

"Well, I've been meditating on the three sword scars left by Palace Master Xuan Yi and I had some comprehensions yesterday," Jian Wushuang said.

"Oh?" Ling Yu raised her eyebrows.

The Sword Palace disciples on the Martial Arts Practice Field turned to Jian Wushuang in surprise.

"Some comprehensions?"

"Has he fully comprehended the first sword scar in just half a year?"

"Impossible. The three sword scars left by Palace Master Xuan Yi are so enigmatic. Even the nine sword movements contained in the first sword scar are so profound. Even though Jian Wushuang has an extremely high gift in Sword Principle, it's impossible for him to fully comprehend the first sword scar in half a year."

"I've been meditating on the first sword scar for nearly 20 years and have only just mastered the seventh sword movement. Did he expect to comprehend the nine sword movements in half a year? He must be joking."

Chapter 664: Three Sword Movements

All the Sword Palace disciples here knew how enigmatic the three sword scars left by Palace Master Xuan Yi were.

In their view, it was not possible to fully understand the first sword scar in only half a year.

Even Ling Yu was a little surprised, but she still said, "Display it to us."

"Yes," Jian Wushuang nodded his head. As he turned over his palm, the Heart-killing Sword appeared in his hand.

The disciples surrounding Jian Wushuang immediately stepped backward.

Without much preparation, Jian Wushuang just took a deep breath and then started.

He waved his sword and began executing the three sword movements.

The first sword stroke was a straight stab and the blade possessed an unprecedented sharpness that seemed to tear through everything. As it swept through the space in front of him, the air began to hum softly.

The second sword stroke was a harsh chop. Endless power was accumulated at a point and then burst out in an instant, giving off the impression that it was invincible and could destroy anything.

Then he released a sword slash. This stroke was extremely dazzling and seemed to contain a special magic power. Even Vice Palace Master Ling Yu could not help being attracted when by the slashing movement of this longsword.

He displayed the three sword strokes, one after the other, without pause.

Then he stopped.

The whole Martial Arts Practice Field fell into complete silence. The Sword Principle disciples were endlessly shocked. Some were stunned while others were full of doubts and had a hint of ridicule written on their faces.

“Just three sword movements? As expected!”

“The first sword scar contains nine sword movements, but he only displays three. His sword movements looked strong, but he’s still far from fully mastering the nine sword movements,” a disciple who had a shallow comprehension of the first sword scar said sarcastically.

Just as he finished speaking...

“Shut up!”

Zhu Lie, who stood next to the disciple, scolded him in a low voice, “You idiot. Don’t speak nonsense when you don’t understand!”

“What do you mean?” The disciple was confused, but he quickly realized that other disciples, as well as Vice Palace Master Ling Yu, were staring at Jian Wushuang in astonishment.

The next moment, the audience burst out in an uproar.

“Three sword movements?”

“They, they’re the three sword movements from the second sword scar!”

“How... how is that possible?”

The disciples who had some knowledge of the three sword scars were stunned.

Even Vice Palace Master Ling Yu was full of unprecedented shock.

Just now they had doubted whether Jian Wushuang could display the nine sword movements contained in the first sword scar, but...

Jian Wushuang had only displayed three sword movements, but they originated from the integration of the nine sword movements.

That was to say, not only had Jian Wushuang fully comprehended the first sword scar, he had also comprehended the second one.

Just half a year.

He had comprehended the first and second sword scar in just half a year.

“God!”

Among the crowd, Zhu Lie opened his eyes wide and stared at Jian Wushuang, “I’ve been meditating on the three sword scars this whole time. It took me over ten years to fully comprehend the first one, but it’s too difficult to integrate the nine sword movements into three movements. It will take me at least dozens of years, or hundreds of years. Jian Wushuang, Senior Brother Wushuang...”

“Has he fully comprehended the first and second sword scar in just half a year?”

Zhu Lie was in a complete daze.

“Vice Palace Master Ling Yu, have I reached the requirements?” Jian Wushuang looked up at Ling Yu, who was standing on the high platform.

Ling Yu finally recovered from the shock. She glanced at Jian Wushuang in horror and immediately nodded, “Palace Master has said that those who comprehend the first sword scar are qualified to listen to his lecture in the Sword Tower. Those who comprehend the second one can be his nominal disciple. Since you’ve completely comprehended the second sword scar, you can be his disciple now. I’ll send a message to Palace Master Xuan Yi right now.”

“Thank you,” Jian Wushuang said.

Ling Yu took a deep breath and then took out a Messaging Slip.

“Palace Master Xuan Yi...” Ling Yu had just begun to talk...

“I already know. I’ll be lecturing in the Sword Tower tomorrow. Tell him to come,” Xuan Yi had already responded.

I see.” Ling Yu turned to Jian Wushuang and said, “Palace Master Xuan Yi has replied. He said for you to go to the Sword Tower and attend his lecture tomorrow. He’ll have some arrangements for you.”

Jian Wushuang nodded and then left the Sword Palace without paying any attention to the awe and admiration in the gazes of the disciples around him. He headed directly towards Enlightenment Mountain.

However, at the moment, in the sky above the Sword Palace, a man was standing quietly, his eyes gazing through the endless Void at Jian Wushuang who was walking slowly toward Enlightenment Mountain.

“In just half a year he has completely comprehended the second sword scar... He really is the owner of the Strongest Sword Soul!” The white-robed Xuan Yi stood there with his hands behind his back and a gentle smile on his face.

Sword Soul was determined by the person's talent in Sword Principle.

The stronger the Sword Soul was, the higher their gift in Sword Principle was.

The Strongest Sword Soul meant that Jian Wushuang's talent for Sword Principle was matchless in the world.

So it was only natural that it was not difficult for a genius with such an amazing talent in Sword Principle to fully comprehend his sword scars.

"This boy is good at Sword Principle, possesses the Strongest Sword Soul, and he has long since decided to choose me as his Master!

The moment he entered the Ancient Sect, he already understood himself and had chosen his path.

Even if many of the experts in the Ancient Sect think his choice is wrong, as long as he thinks it's right, he'll persist.

No matter how others think of him, he insists on his own choice.

He may look stupid and stubborn. However, such a person has real willpower!

What's more, he has the Strongest Sword Soul, so he has a good reason to be so confident. Everyone thought that it would take him a long time to comprehend the three sword scars, but it only took him half a year to fully comprehend two of them.

He's very confident and I like his confidence!

It seems like I'll have another disciple soon."

Xuan Yi murmured to himself, but the smile on his face showed that he was very satisfied with Jian Wushuang.

He brought Jian Wushuang, Feng, and Huo Ying back from the Firmament Territory Feast. He had watched their growth in the Ancient Sect during the past half year. Even though Jian Wushuang was thought to be wasting his talent in the eyes of the numerous experts in the Ancient Sect, Xuan Yi did not show up and try to persuade him to change his mind.

He wanted to see whether Jian Wushuang could persist with his own choice and not be affected by others.

It had been proven that the choice Jian Wushuang made was right.

Chapter 665: Acknowledging Xuan Yi as Master

On that same day, the news that Jian Wushuang had completely comprehended the first and second sword scars left by Palace Master Xuan Yi spread through the whole Ancient Sect.

Those who had thought Jian Wushuang was too proud and conceited were immediately dumbfounded.

They never dreamed that Jian Wushuang's gift in Sword Principle would be so high.

Recalling Jian Wushuang's behavior in the past half year, no one dared to say that he was conceited any more.

There was a thin line between confidence and conceit.

If Jian Wushuang did not succeed in half a year or if his future performance was mediocre, it could be said that he was conceited, but now Jian Wushuang had given those people a severe slap in the face.

Jian Wushuang had absolute confidence in his own choice.

Since he had comprehended the second sword scar in just half a year, who could guarantee that he would not comprehend the third one in the future?

Once he comprehended it, he would be the personal disciple of Palace Master Xuan Yi and would definitely have limitless prospects with Xuan Yi's personal guidance.

"Palace Master Xuan Yi!"

Many disciples in the Ancient Sect were jealous of Jian Wushuang.

Palace Master Xuan Yi had a very supreme and special position in the Ancient Sect.

One of the important reasons that the Ancient Sect, as a top Sect, was able to surpass the three magnates to some extent was the existence of Palace Master Xuan Yi.

Many experts in the Ancient Sect were proficient in various Weapon Daos, but only Palace Master Xuan Yi was able to establish Sword Palace.

Everyone in the Ancient Sect knew about the strength and mystery of Palace Master Xuan Yi. They all dreamed of being his disciple, but the requirement was too harsh.

The experts who knew that Jian Wushuang wanted to be the disciple of Palace Master Xuan Yi looked down on his choice, as Xuan Yi's condition was too harsh and it would take a long time for Jian Wushuang to achieve it.

But now, in only half a year, Jian Wushuang had become Xuan Yi's nominal disciple. His achievement filled people with envy and admiration.

The next day, Sword Tower opened.

Since Palace Master Xuan Yi would be giving a lecture in person, all the Sword Principle disciples who had completely comprehended the first sword scar went to the Sword Tower.

Inside the Sword Tower, over 20 Sword Principle disciples sat cross-legged in the open space.

Naturally, Jian Wushuang was among them.

Before long, a white-robed Xuan Yi appeared at the top of the Sword Tower.

Everyone immediately quieted down. Xuan Yi looked around at all the people below and nodded slightly, then directly started teaching.

"Swords, are predominately for killing!"

“You can use the sword tip to stab, the sword edge to chop, the sword back to block, and the sword blade to slash!”

“It can be said that the sword is a moderate weapon, as it can be used to attack and defend. It’s comprehensive and balanced!”

“Sword Principle is the way of killing, broad and profound!”

“Sword Soul is just the beginning of Sword Principle. Awakening the Sword Soul means that you’re qualified to meditate on Sword Principle. That’s is to say, no matter how strong your Sword Soul is, you still have not mastered Sword Principle!”

“The real Sword Principle is based on the Sword Heart!”

“*Sword Heart?*”?Jian Wushuang was listening carefully.

The explanation on Sword Principle by Xuan Yi was completely different from that of Vice Palace Master Nie and Ling Yu.

The Sword Principle explained by Palace Master Xuan Yi was a process from simplicity to complexity, like a tree that gradually evolved from a common seedling to a towering tree.

It was very profound and complicated. Jian Wushuang and other disciples present could not fully understand all the things being explained by Xuan Yi, but the part which they understood benefited them greatly.

Every word from the mouth of Palace Master Xuan Yi seemed to contain special magic and directly explained the essence of Sword Principle. Currently, inside Sword Tower, every disciple was fascinated by his words, including Jian Wushuang.

Palace Master Xuan Yi kept teaching for one whole day and night.

“The greatest Sword Principle starts from simplicity, then strives for complexity, but eventually returns to simplicity.”

When he reached this point, Xuan Yi finally stopped.

Most of the disciples who attended the lecture below had fallen into meditation. It was only after a while that they finally recovered themselves.

Their faces were full of pleasure and regret.

They were pleased because Xuan Yi had talked directly about the essence of Sword Principle, which benefited them a lot. They had also learned many things which they had never thought of before. It was much better than what Vice Palace Master Nie and Ling Yu taught them.

They felt regret because Palace Master Xuan Yi rarely gave lectures. He usually only gave a lecture once a year or sometimes even once every few years. The opportunity was too rare.

“Jian Wushuang!” Palace Master Xuan Yi looked down.

Jian Wushuang had just woken up from the meditation when he heard Palace Master Xuan Yi call his name. He immediately stood up and stepped forward.

"Palace Master Xuan Yi," Jian Wushuang greeted him with a hint of humility.

"When I left the three sword scars outside of the Sword Tower, I set some rules. Since you've completely comprehended the second sword scar, you're my nominal disciple from now on," Palace Master Xuan Yi said.

"Disciple Jian Wushuang pays respects to Master!"

Jian Wushuang immediately knelt down in front of Xuan Yi and respectfully kowtowed three times.

"Rise," Xuan Yi waved his hand.

Jian Wushuang stood up immediately.

"Follow me. The rest of the people can leave," Xuan Yi said.

The disciples inside Sword Tower immediately dispersed one after another, while Jian Wushuang followed Xuan Yi to the second floor of the Sword Tower.

Jian Wushuang sat face to face with Xuan Yi at a long table as Xuan Yi looked at him with a gentle smile on his face.

"When you began to study the three sword scars, I knew I would have a new disciple. But I never expected it to be so soon," Xuan Yi smiled. "In the Ancient Sect and even the entire Firmament Territory, only you can comprehend the second sword scar in half a year as you possess the Strongest Sword Soul."

Jian Wushuang was shocked by his words.

"Master, you knew?" Jian Wushuang was surprised.

After he came to the Eternal World, he had never exposed his Strongest Sword Soul in front of people. Even at the Firmament Territory Feast, he only exerted 80% of his Sword Soul Power when he fought with Gong Chao because he did not want people to find out about his Strongest Sword Soul.

He had thought that he hid it well.

He never expected that Palace Master Xuan Yi had discovered the existence of his Strongest Sword Soul long ago.

"The moment I saw you, my Sword Heart was provoked, so I immediately knew that your Sword Soul was extraordinary."

Xuan Yi explained with a smile, "At that time, only my doppelganger went to the Firmament Territory Feast, so I was not sure whether you owned the Strongest Sword Soul. However, when you arrived at the Ancient Sect and my Original Body saw you, I became certain that you indeed possess the Strongest Sword Soul which make all Sword Principle Warriors envious."

Chapter 666: Nine-World Picture, Slaughter Book, and Dao Origin Fruit

"Make all Sword Principle Warriors envious?" Jian Wushuang smiled silently and then nodded his assent.

Sword Soul determined one's gift in Sword Principle.

Jian Wushuang's Strongest Sword Soul represented that he had the strongest gift in Sword Principle, which was sufficient to fill any Sword Principle Warrior with envy and admiration.

"Even though you're just my nominal disciple, I'll try my best to guide you," Xuan Yi looked at Jian Wushuang and asked, "In the past half year, you spent most of your energy meditating on the three sword scars. But I guess you've also improved your comprehension of the Dao, right?"

"I did improve it to some extent," Jian Wushuang nodded and said, "I've been comprehending the World Dao and Slaughter Dao simultaneously. I've fully comprehended the second Occult of the World Dao and have a basic understanding of the third Occult. I also comprehended the second Occult of the Slaughter Dao a few days ago."

Half a year.

In the past half year, Jian Wushuang stayed in the Sword Tower to meditate on the sword scars in the daytime and returned to Enlightenment Mountain to comprehend the Dao at night.

His comprehension of the Dao while at Enlightenment Mountain was three times quicker than it would be outside. With the talent endowed by the Heaven-treading Realm, his two Original Bodies had made amazing progress in just half a year.

For example, after Feng became the disciple of Palace Master Destruction, he received personal guidance from Palace Master Destruction and some cultivation resources which Palace Master Destruction acquired for him. However, he had only comprehended the second Occult of the Destruction Dao, which was slower than Jian Wushuang.

"Without any instruction and cultivation resources, it's very impressive for you to have made such progress with only the use of Enlightenment Mountain in the past half year," Xuan Yi nodded slightly and then said solemnly, "I'm not proficient in the World Dao or the Slaughter Dao. I can't compare with Palace Master Baiyu and Mo Tao in terms of comprehension on these two Daos. Nevertheless, my vision is far broader than them."

"There are many resources in the Ancient Sect that could be of great help to your cultivation, but very few of them actually suit you!"

"I'll apply for a batch of cultivation resources for you according to your actual situation. Go back to Enlightenment Mountain and wait. I'll have those resources delivered to you soon."

"Thank you, Master," Jian Wushuang expressed his gratitude.

"Go back and continue your cultivation. Don't disgrace me in the Sect Competition which is being held one and a half years from now," Xuan Yi said.

"Yes," Jian Wushuang nodded solemnly and left.

Xuan Yi sat alone in the Sword Tower.

He thought, *“This little boy is extremely talented. He’s reached this level in the World Dao and Slaughter Dao while comprehending Sword Principle. Among the treasures which are suitable for him, which ones should I choose?”*

He began to select resources for Jian Wushuang.

As he said, he might not have the same understanding towards the World Dao and Slaughter Dao as Palace Masters Baiyu and Mo Tao did, but his vision was extremely broad. He knew which treasures were useful and beneficial for Jian Wushuang, as well as which ones were a waste.

He quickly made up his mind.

“The Nine-world Picture, which dissects the nine Occults of the World Dao into various world essences, is the most suitable resource for this little boy to comprehend the World Dao.”

“In terms of Slaughter Dao, the Slaughter Book, left by Zhuo Ming, should be sufficient.”

“As for Sword Principle... he has a deep comprehension of Sword Principle now. If he wants to go further, he has to condense his Sword Heart. It’s too difficult, so it’s impossible for him in a short period of time. He doesn’t need any resources for the cultivation of Sword Principle right now. Listening to the lectures or meditating on the third sword scar is enough for him.”

“I’ll give him a Dao Origin Fruit. That will be sufficient for him to keep cultivating for a while.”

...

Not long after Jian Wushuang returned to Enlightenment Mountain, he received the cultivation resources which Xuan Yi acquired for him.

Nine-world Picture, Slaughter Book, and a Dao Origin Fruit?

He was shocked at the cultivation resources.

They were all useful for his comprehension of the Dao.

The Nine-world Picture and Slaughter Book were used to assist his cultivation in the World Dao and Slaughter Dao. As for the Dao Origin Fruit...

Jian Wushuang was no stranger to the Dao Origin Fruit. During the Firmament Territory Feast, the first prize of the third-round arena battle was 1,000,000 Divine Gems and, more importantly, a Dao Origin Fruit.

It was a precious treasure which could help in comprehending the Dao.

Even in a top Sect like the Ancient Sect, where there were numerous Dao Origin Fruits, they were still highly valued.

Jian Wushuang was allocated a Dao Origin Fruit because of Xuan Yi and his own amazing talent. Especially the fact that he comprehended two of the sword scars within half a year had shocked the whole Ancient Sect, so the high officials agreed to give him a Dao Origin Fruit after discussing it.

Under normal circumstances, even personal disciples of Palace Masters could not receive a Dao Origin Fruit if they had not shown amazing talent.

As for the Nine-world Picture and Slaughter Book...

The Slaughter Book was the record of the Slaughter Dao comprehension experiences of an Eternal Realm expert named Zhuo Ming, who had completely comprehended the nine Occults of the Slaughter Dao.

Each of the 101 words in the Slaughter Book contained concepts related to the Occults of the Slaughter Dao.

Jian Wushuang could comprehend the Slaughter Dao by reading each word in the book.

"The Slaughter Book is similar to the Six-story Pagoda that was given to me by Elder Di Jing. The Six-story Pagoda is more complicated and involves a wider range. The Slaughter Book is simpler, but every word is extremely profound..." Jian Wushuang thought with a surprised smile on his face.

He already had the Six-story Pagoda to help him comprehend the Slaughter Dao. Now, he also had the Slaughter Book, which would make his comprehension even easier.

As for the Nine-world Picture...

The Nine-world Picture was even more wonderful. It contained nine pictures, a flower, a tuft of grass, a stone, a tree, a lake, a mountain, a piece of cloud, a drop of water, and a person.

They all seemed to be simple and ordinary. However, after careful observation, Jian Wushuang discovered that each picture was a complete world.

Nine pictures that were equal to nine complete worlds and were full of concepts on the Occults.

Chapter 667: Two Years

"The Nine-world Picture consists of nine paintings in total and each of them represents an Occult of the World Dao.

Among the paintings, I've comprehended the Occults of the two with a flower and a leaf drawn on it. I'll need to work on the remaining seven."

Jian Wushuang thought to himself as he hung the remaining seven paintings on the wall.

He then sat down with his legs crossed and began to observe the third painting, on which there was only a pebble. However, as he continued to stare at it, he discovered that the pebble was, in fact, a small world, containing many laws of the universe and the nature of the World Dao.

What he needed to do was to comprehend those laws and nature.

"It's wonderful."

Jian Wushuang brightened up at the thought of how much faster he could comprehend the World Dao now with those paintings as reference.

"Now, I have the paintings to help me comprehend the World Dao.

"The Six-story Pagoda and Slaughter Book will help me comprehend the Slaughter Dao.

I also have Enlightenment Mountain and a Dao Origin Fruit at hand... I'm like a fish in the sea!"

His eyes flickered.

"Master has tried his best to acquire sufficient resources for my cultivation, so I can't slack off in the remaining year and a half before the Sect Competition begins.

"I really want to see how much progress I can make in this period of time."

He swallowed the Dao Origin Fruit on that same day and started cultivating with the resources he had been given.

Since then, he had spent most his days in the Enlightenment Mountain, meditating. Sometimes, he would go to the Sword Palace or the Dao Palace and listen to the lectures and he never missed one of Xuan Yi's lectures. If he was confused about something, he would ask his master for help.

The arrival of winter signaled that two years had elapsed since Jian Wushuang first entered Ancient Sect.

One day, he was sitting down on a peak, which towered up into the clouds, with the white-robed Xuan Yi beside him.

"Master, I can feel that I've reached the threshold in Sword Principle, so why do I kept failing to condense even one trace of Sword Heart?" Jian Wushuang asked Xuan Yi with a frown.

"Because your heart is not really at peace." Xuan Yi smiled at him. "The most important aspect of Sword Heart is the Sword, but you can't leave out the Heart. Your success will depend on both, so calm down and let it be."

"Understood." Jian Wushuang nodded.

"The Sect Competition will begin tomorrow. Are you ready for it?" Xuan Yi added while looking at him.

"Yes." Jian Wushuang gave him a smile. In fact, he had nothing he needed to prepare in advance. His power was all that he would rely on in this competition.

"You look confident. I shall await your success." Xuan Yi grinned and continued, "Show us your power as much as you can. Only in this way can I help you acquire more resources."

"I will." Jian Wushuang nodded.

"Then go." Xuan Yi waved his hand. Jian Wushuang bowed to him and left.

Watching Jian Wushuang's back, Xuan Yi had an inscrutable smile on his face. *"He has better perception than anyone I've met. He really is incredibly gifted."*

...

Not long after Jian Wushuang came back to Enlightenment Mountain, Huo Ying presented himself at his door.

“Jian Wushuang, have you heard that Feng managed to break into the sixth level of the Dao Tower today.” After taking a seat at a table, Huo Ying spoke seriously to Jian Wushuang.

“Really?” Jian Wushuang was surprised.

Dao Tower was a place used to test the disciples’ comprehension in the Dao.

He heard that there were 13 levels in total, and the better one’s comprehension in the Dao, the further he could go in the tower.

When Jian Wushuang had just entered the Ancient Sect and possessed a little comprehension in the Dao, he had once taken the test in the tower as well. However, at that time, he was only able to make it to Level Three.

“It’s very difficult for a disciple who has comprehended the third Occult to make it to Level Six, but Feng did it. He must have comprehended the third and maybe even the fourth Occult. He has made a lot of progress in these two years.”

Jian Wushuang was lost in thought for some time before replying to Huo Ying. “Feng is indeed talented.”

“He is more than just talented,” Huo Ying echoed his words. “His Master has said that he is well-grounded and only lacking resources, which is why he had cultivated slowly when he was in the Ancient World. However, now that he has entered the Ancient Sect, he has progressed faster and faster while depending on his previous accumulations. In these two years, his power has skyrocketed.

“Now, everyone in our sect has learned of his power. Surely, he will be able to keep his place in Enlightenment Mountain during the Sect Competition tomorrow.”

“I agree.” Jian Wushuang nodded.

It was clear to him and everyone else in the sect that Feng could keep his place as an inner disciple in tomorrow’s competition. As for the other competitors, few of them had made it to the fourth Occult and, therefore, could not be his match.

“Alas, I really envy him.” Huo Ying looked worried as he continued speaking, “As for me, I’ve only comprehended the second Occult and can only be ranked in the middle among all the outer disciples. I’m afraid I will no longer be an inner disciple after tomorrow and won’t be able to return to Enlightenment Mountain for a long time.”

He looked toward Jian Wushuang and continued, “Jian Wushuang, with Xuan Yi as your master, over the last two years, I reckon you’ve progressed no less than Feng has. Are you sure that you can survive tomorrow’s competition?”

“Well, not quite.” Jian Wushuang thought he should be humble.

“Not quite?” Huo Ying shot him an odd glance but continued, “Anyway, it’s better than having no chance. You’re not like me, I know I’ll be removed from the list of inner disciples tomorrow.”

Jian Wushuang could not find any words to reply with, so he sighed in secret.

Huo Ying was the weakest one among the six from the Ancient World. Relying on the resources in the Ancient Sect, he had progressed a lot, but he was still far from being Feng's match.

Chapter 668: The Competition Begins

In fact, Jian Wushuang did have some confidence in tomorrow's Sect Competition.

"The Heavenly Creation Skill is amazingly helpful. I have been able to cultivate ten times faster than before since I reached the Heaven-treading Realm. This has been the most efficient period of my life so far. At my current level, I can roll through Feng and the other disciples."?Jian Wushuang thought to himself.

With Xuan Yi as his master, possessing treasures like the Nine-world Picture, Slaughter Book, and a Dao Origin Fruit, all of this contributed to his making achievements that were beyond belief at the time. Not to mention that he also had two Original Bodies cultivating separately at Enlightenment Mountain.

He was confident that he could defeat Feng and the other disciples in the competition.

"It all depends on tomorrow."?A light of firmness flashed in Jian Wushuang's eyes as he clenched his hands.

The next day, the ten-year Sect Competition began.

The whole sect was bustling with people.

This competition was the only way that outer disciples could become inner disciples, so they valued this chance very much. They were dying for the opportunity to cultivate at Enlightenment Mountain like the inner disciples because it meant they could cultivate three times faster than in other places.

The rules for the competition were quite simple. The top 10 outer disciples and the 10 weakest from among the inner disciples would fight each other for the 10 empty positions to be inner disciples.

At first light, the fight among the outer disciples began and the list of the top 10 was released at noon.

As for their opponents, the masters directly appointed 10 inner disciples to fight against them, including Jian Wushuang, Feng, and Huo Ying.

At one of the Sects large Martial Arts Practice Fields, which was used to hold competitions, the 10 outer disciples and 10 inner disciples stood at the center of the field, surrounded by many other disciples who desired to watch the battles.

"10 outer disciples and 10 inner disciples."?Jian Wushuang looked around and saw many new faces.

He had spent the last two years cultivating alone, so he had little contacts with others.

Nevertheless, he had heard some things about them from his talks with Feng and Huo Ying.

Overall, the outer disciples were powerful, and some of them had comprehended up to the third Occult. Jian Wushuang believed the top 10 must have at least reached that level.

While looking around, he noticed a bronze-skinned burly man with a fierce aura. The man was called Luo Yong and he was recognized as the number one among all the outer disciples. Rumors had it that he had comprehended the fourth Occult.

Besides that man, there was a white-clothed woman who also caught many eyes.

She was named Dong'er. Even though she was regarded as being the weakest among the inner disciples, she was, in fact, very powerful and had comprehended the fourth Occult.

There seemed to be a very good chance that those two would win a place as inner disciples.

The same was true for Feng.

Apart from them, there were several other geniuses who might succeed in the competition as well.

As for the rest of them, it remained to be seen.

Jian Wushuang was among the rest.

This was because he had been immersed in cultivating and had not battled against the others over the years or adventured in the Dao Tower. No one knew how strong he really was.

"The competition is about to start, but how will it start?"

The onlookers discussed in confusion.

Generally, the Sect Competition would be decided by many rounds of fighting, but it wasn't the same every year.

Right then, a stunning figure appeared on the field. It was no other than the Vice Master of Sword Palace, Ling Yu, Jian Wushuang's acquaintance.

She was the hostess of the competition.

As soon as she landed on the field, she crushed a token and a huge wormhole immediately appeared before everyone's eyes. Her voice then echoed.

"This time, the Sect Competition will be held inside the Ninth Heaven Road."

The words caused an uproar among the audience.

"Ninth Heaven Road!"

"This is beyond my expectation."

"Haha, those competitors have a lot suffering ahead of them as they walk through those 31 floors."

"Ninth Heaven Road is a separate space, so we won't be able to see their performance, only their final results. What a pity!"

The onlookers sighed.

Jian Wushuang had heard of the Ninth Heaven Road before.

It had 31 floors in total, with an obstacle on each floor. The more powerful one was, the higher he could reach.

The Ninth Heaven Road had been used several times before during the Sect Competition and it had been proven that it could test the disciple's power by having all 20 disciples climb the floors together.

"Jian Wushuang, you must have progressed a lot, right?" Feng suddenly looked toward Jian Wushuang and asked.

Jian Wushuang seemed surprised by this question. "Just a bit."

"well, let's see who can go further in this competition," Feng added.

"OK." Jian Wushuang nodded with a smile.

Chapter 669: Ninth Heaven Road

"This wormhole leads to the Ninth Heaven Road. Go ahead and enter," Ling Yu said to the 20 competitors.

The competitors immediately entered the wormhole without hesitation.

The moment Jian Wushuang entered it, he found himself in front of a towering mountain.

The mountain looked like it had been thrust into the clouds, with no end in sight and only a long path leading to its peak.

While staring at the path in front of him, he spotted several figures standing a short distance away, but they had no signs of life.

The 10 figures were black-armored Puppet Fighters, each armed with a long black spear, and they appeared to be guarding the path forward.

After glancing at them, Jian Wushuang began to walk forward, along the path. However, the moment his foot touched the first floor, the 10 Puppet Fighters all opened their eyes and stared at him emotionlessly. The next moment, whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The Puppet Fighters all charged at him at the same time. Then, after drawing near, they all attacked him with their spears.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

A cold light emanated from the spears and they appeared as if they could pierce through anything.

Jian Wushuang watched calmly as the spear attacks quickly approached him, waiting until the last moment to make his move.

The Heart-killing Sword was already in his hand as he slashed out with a dazzling flash of sword light, at a speed that greatly exceeded the incoming spears as it passed the throats of the Puppet Fighters.

With a single strike, he had defeated all the Puppet Fighters, who then moved back and opened up the path for him.

"It seems that the obstacle on the first floor is not that difficult." Jian Wushuang smiled and looked forward as he moved on along the path.

The puppets that guarded each floor of the Ninth Heaven Road were in the same realm as their challengers.

Since Jian Wushuang was in the Skyscraping Realm, the 10 puppet fighters he encountered were at that realm as well.

Among the 20 challengers, those who had reached the Divine Realm would have to face puppet fighters that possessed the same power as a Divine Realm expert.

As a result, the game was fair to everyone.

The challengers could only depend on their comprehension of the Dao, skill, and offensive ability.

A moment later, Jian Wushuang arrived at the second floor. Again, there were 10 Puppet Fighters waiting for him. They were more powerful than the previous 10, but it did not change their fate.

As Jian Wushuang continued on, he effortlessly passed through the third, fourth, and fifth floor. However, when he reached the sixth floor, things changed. He found out that there was a qualitative leap in terms of the Puppet Fighters' power on this floor.

However, they were still unable to prevent him from moving forward.

The sixth floor, the seventh, the eighth... Jian Wushuang continued on.

At the same time, in a big hall of the Ancient Sect, many Palace Masters and Vice Palace Masters had gathered together, including Xuan Yi.

They were watching the progress of the 20 disciples challenging the Ninth Heaven Road.

"They're moving so fast!"

"Yeah, because it's just the beginning. They will slow down as they go further, especially once they reach the 16th floor."

"The Puppet Fighters' power becomes a level stronger every five floors and the 16th floor, which is the middle of the path, is a big obstacle for the challengers. They will all be forced to slow down at that floor."

These masters chatted casually while smiling.

Things went just as expected. At the first, the 20 disciples were breaking through the blockades very quickly, but as they continued moving forward, they were all forced to slow down.

When they finally reached the 16th floor, 19 of them made it to the next floor, while only one person failed.

That person was Huo Ying.

"It's obvious that Huo Ying tried his best. Generally speaking, only those who have comprehended the third Occult can defeat the puppet fighters on that floor. He was lucky to even make it that far given his level of power," one of the Vice Palace Masters commented.

"Among the six geniuses Xuan Yi brought back from the Firmament Territory Feast, Huo Ying was the weakest, but he has a determined mind. It's possible that he may reach the superior Divine Realm in the future."

Huo Ying was the first one to be thrown out of the wormhole. He displayed a bitter smile under the watchful eyes of the onlookers.

He had expected his result, but when the time came, he still could not help feeling embarrassed and frustrated.

He had nobody to blame but himself.

The remaining 19 disciples continued moving forward, even though most of them visibly became slower after the 16th floor. All of them except for Luo Yong and Dong'er. These two had comprehended the fourth Occult and were much more powerful than the others.

"Look, Luo Yong has made it to the 20th floor and is still moving at a fast pace."

"He has not reached his limit yet, so I guess that he should be able to at least make it past the 24th floor."

"I agree, but I think he will fail to break through the 25th floor."

"Dong'er's situation is similar."

Chapter 670: Jian Wushuang's Swordsmanship

The masters in the hall all knew very well about the Puppet Fighters' power. Therefore, based on their disciple's strength, they knew how far they could go.

In their eyes, Luo Yong and Dong'er could definitely break through the 24th floor.

As for the others, they also had their judgments on them.

"Palace Master Destruction, your personal disciple Feng is brilliant. It seemed easy for him to make it to the 18th floor, so I reckon he will get to the 21st floor."

The voice came from a black-clothed lady. She was Palace Master Ming Xin, one of the 13 Palace Masters in the sect and an expert in the Light Dao.

"Haha, this boy really surprised me with his progress. As things stand, he should be able to challenge those top disciples now. However, I still don't think he can break through to the 21st floor. The 20th floor sounds more realistic."

"Even so, he will still be able to keep his place among inner disciples," Someone chimed in.

They could tell most of the 19 disciples would not even make it to the 20th floor, so for Feng to make it that far was already quite excellent.

“Hey, has anyone been paying attention to Jian Wushuang?” An icy voice suddenly echoed out. It came from Palace Master Mo Tao, who was good at Slaughter Dao and had once wanted to take Jian Wushuang as his personal disciple.

“Jian Wushuang?”

On hearing his words, the others immediately looked toward Jian Wushuang and narrowed their eyes.

Jian Wushuang was busy fighting the 10 Puppet Fighters on the 17th floor. One moment he moved like a shadow, but in the next moment he was like a sharp sword. Even under the attacks from his 10 opponents, he was still able to move easily dodge them all.

“Brilliant!”

“What great swordsmanship!”

“His skill is simple and pure. Every time he strikes, he defuses the Puppet Fighters attacks. With swordsmanship, it’s always the simpler, the better. Good boy, he’s quite talented to have such brilliant skills at such a young age and he is very close to condensing his Sword Heart.”

“He deserves to be Xuan Yi’s nominal disciple.”

The masters all looked toward Xuan Yi unconsciously.

They all thought it was because of Xuan Yi’s guidance that Jian Wushuang was able to make such huge progress.

Xuan Yi revealed a causal smile to their way of praising his disciple. He knew very well that it was Jian Wushuang’s gift in Sword Principle, not him, that had benefited Jian Wushuang the most.

“*This boy...*” Palace Master Ming Xin could not help frowning as she watched Jian Wushuang.

Back when Jian Wushuang refused to be a disciple of Palace Masters Baiyu and Mo Tao, his behavior had displeased many of the masters. Ming Xin was one of them.

In her eyes, Jian Wushuang was too proud and arrogant. She even had disparaged him while chatting with other masters. However, soon after that, to her surprise, Jian Wushuang comprehended the second sword scar left by Xuan Yi and became his nominal disciple, which had been a big blow to her.

After that, she began to dislike Jian Wushuang even more.

“Hump, he is only good at Sword Principle. However, there are so many other things that matter in Ninth Heaven Road other than Sword Principle. Judging by his current power, he might not be able to break through the 18th floor, and he has to make it to the 19th floor to keep his position as Xuan Yi’s nominal disciple,” Ming Xin said in a mocking tone.

The others in the hall smiled at her words but remained silent.

Xuan Yi, who was standing beside her, kept quiet regarding the discussion and just stared at Jian Wushuang with a smile. *“He is trying to find his limits in Sword Principle and take this chance to condense his Sword Heart. So, up til now, he has only used his cultivation in Sword Principle without applying World Dao and Slaughter Dao.*

“However, condensing a Sword Heart is not easy.?”

“After the 17th floor, he will have to use all of his power.”

On the 17th floor of the Ninth Heaven Road, when Jian Wushuang brandished his sword there was a flurry of blows, both smooth and elaborate. It seemed like he was battling the Puppet Fighters effortlessly and even trying to make fun of them, but only he knew that he was at his limit.

“Indeed, it’s quite difficult to condense my Sword Heart. I will have to wait until there is a better opportunity.”? Jian Wushuang smiled while looking around at all the Puppet Fighters, then his eyes became sharp.

“Master told me that the better I perform in this competition, the more resources he can obtain for me. From this moment on, I’ll stop restraining my power. I really want to see how far I can make it.”?

The next moment, a sliver of light flashed in his eyes and he released a burst of killing intent.

Whoosh!

He moved forward like a ghost while striking out with his sword.

This move caused a dazzlingly stunning sword light to flash across the sky, which then swept past all the Puppet Fighters’ throats.

The 10 Puppet Fighters were defeated in an instant.

When he arrived on the 18th floor, he struck at his targets like lightning. This time, he used his World Energy.

The moment he struck out, everything seemed to freeze. The 10 Puppet Fighters on this floor were defeated without struggling.

The Puppet Fighters on the 19th floor suffered the same result.

In just a short amount of time, Jian Wushuang had made it to the 20th floor.

...