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“Even though Huang Wei possesses a Tenth-level Martial Soul, Father is being too biased!” Su Yan said discontentedly, “At the year-end conference, does our Xiao Long really have to—?!” Her eyes reddened as she spoke.

“I’ll go talk to Father!” At that moment, Huang Peng abruptly stood up, frustrated.

“No need, Dad!” Suddenly, Huang Xiaolong spoke, “There’s no need to go to Grandfather!”

Huang Peng and Su Yan involuntarily looked towards their son.

Just as Huang Peng was about to speak, suddenly, he saw bursts of Fighting Energy radiance erupting from his son’s body.

“Fighting Energy, external release of Fighting Energy?!” After a moment of shock, Huang Peng and Su Yan exclaimed in disbelief.

External release of Fighting Energy, could it be?!

A thought flashed through Huang Peng and Su Yan’s minds, Warrior First Rank?!

Only reaching the Warrior First Rank could one externally release Fighting Energy, even successfully condensing Fighting Energy wouldn’t allow this.

“Xiao Long, you, have you already advanced to the First Order?!” Huang Peng asked with a trembling voice.

Even though he saw it with his own eyes, he still couldn’t believe it and feared it was not true.

“Yes, Dad, Mom, I’ve already advanced to First Order!” Huang Xiaolong nodded, he didn’t want his parents to worry about the year-end conference all the time, which is why he chose to reveal part of his strength now.

Hearing their son personally admit it, Huang Peng and Su Yan finally believed what they were seeing, and then their faces lit up with great joy, especially Su Yan who ran over excitedly and hugged Huang Xiaolong tightly, “Wonderful, wonderful, my son has finally advanced to First Order!”

Su Yan started crying, tears streaming down her face, tears of extreme joy.

With Su Yan’s ample chest tightly pressing against him, Huang Xiaolong felt almost suffocated, barely managing to wriggle free.

He inwardly sighed with a wry smile, it was just advancing to First Order, was such a big reaction necessary?

However, he could genuinely sense the love Huang Peng and Su Yan had for him.

After a long while, Huang Peng and Su Yan gradually calmed down from their great joy.

“Xiao Long, how did you advance to First Order?” Huang Peng voiced his doubt, knowing that with Huang Xiaolong’s Level 7 Martial Soul talent, it generally took about a year to advance to First Order.

Su Yan also looked at her son, clearly having the same question.

Huang Xiaolong did not speak but reached into his chest.

Under the puzzled looks of Huang Peng and Su Yan, his hand came out holding two red fruits.

The Red Fruits were dazzlingly red.

“Are these, are these Yang Fruits?!” Huang Peng and Su Yan cried out in surprise.

“That’s right.” Huang Xiaolong smiled, “One month ago, I happened upon them in a valley in the back mountains, a total of five; I’ve already devoured three.”

Indeed, there were five Yang Fruits, but at that moment, Huang Xiaolong had only devoured one.

“Devoured three!” Huang Peng and Su Yan exchanged a look, now they finally understood the “real reason” for their son’s advancement to First Order.

“Great, haha, Xiao Long, I didn’t expect you to have such an incredible encounter!”

These Yang Fruits are divine fruits of heaven and earth, their effects are no less than the Thousand-year-old Luo Xin Grass that your grandfather purchased for Huang Wei.”

Huang Peng laughed heartily, his heart filled with joy, "And they will greatly benefit your future cultivation!"

Su Yan also beamed with joy.

"Dad, Mom, take one Yang Fruit each and use them for your cultivation," Huang Xiaolong said.

Huang Peng and Su Yan's smiles faltered, just as they were about to refuse, Huang Xiaolong spoke up to interrupt, "I've already devoured three, devouring these two won't have much effect on me anymore.

It's better to let Dad and Mom use these two Yang Fruits for cultivation."

Huang Peng and Su Yan both remained silent.

After a while, Huang Peng nodded and said, "Alright." After finishing his words, he took the Yang Fruit from his son Huang Xiaolong, looked at the Yang Fruit in his hand, took a deep breath, and tried his best to suppress the excitement in his heart.

He had been stuck at the Sixth-stage Late Stage for more than a year, and with this Yang Fruit, he should be able to reach the Sixth-stage Late-stage Peak within two months.

He indeed needed this Yang Fruit very much.

As Su Yan looked at the Yang Fruit in her hand, her expression was almost the same as Huang Peng's.

Being at the Fifth-stage Late Stage Peak, with this Yang Fruit, she now held the hope of breaking through to the Sixth Rank.

"Xiao Long, don't talk about your breakthrough from the First Order to anyone for now," Huang Peng regained his senses and said to his son, "Also, even though you've consumed the Yang Fruit to break through the First Order, you still need to practice diligently and strive to reach the First Order Middle Stage by the end of the year."

In Huang Peng's view, as long as his son achieved the First Order Middle Stage by then, even if Huang Wei reached the First-stage Late Stage, he wouldn't be able to cripple his son with his own hands.

The gap between the First Order Middle Stage and the First-stage Late Stage wasn't big.

"Dad, Mom, don't worry, I won't let you down," Huang Xiaolong said.

Hearing this, Huang Peng and Su Yan felt relieved in their hearts.

After a while, Huang Xiaolong left the East Hall and went back to his own small courtyard.

Once back there, Huang Xiaolong resumed his cultivation.

After breaking through to the Third Rank, he ran the Asura Technique, and the speed at which the Two-headed Snake Martial Soul behind him devoured the Nine Netherworld Dark Energy increased significantly, and his inner Fighting Energy grew stronger.

Almost every other day, Huang Xiaolong's inner Fighting Energy would increase.

Huang Xiaolong's small courtyard was located in the farthest eastern corner of the Huang Family Manor, so aside from his parents and his sister Huang Min, few people passed by, which made it convenient for Huang Xiaolong to cultivate.

In his relentless practice day and night, Huang Xiaolong's Fighting Energy and Inner Strength increased at an astonishing rate.

Third-stage Early Peak, Third-stage Mid Stage, Third-stage Middle Peak, Third Stage Late Stage!

When three months had passed, Huang Xiaolong's Fighting Energy had reached the Third Stage Late Stage Peak and he was on the verge of breaking through to Fourth-stage, with only a few days left until the family's annual meeting.

However, the Fourth-stage was a watershed.

The barrier to the Fourth-stage was much thicker and larger than those of the Second and Third Ranks, making the breakthrough to the Fourth-stage far more difficult.

Some disciples within the Huang Family Manor, possessing Level 8 Martial Souls, had been stuck at the Third-stage Late Stage Peak for two years and still couldn't break through to the Fourth-stage.

Even for those with Level 8 Martial Souls, it generally took a year to breakthrough from the Third-stage Late Stage Peak to the Fourth-stage.

A dozen days passed quickly.

As the family's annual meeting approached, the Huang Family Manor was filled with joy, as the annual meeting was followed by the new year in two days, so the manor was decorated with lights and festivity everywhere.

Compared to other parts of the Huang Family Manor, the little courtyard where Huang Xiaolong stayed seemed lonely and quiet.

“Tomorrow is the annual meeting,” Huang Xiaolong stepped out from his room.

Despite ten days of intensive hard practice, he was still stuck at the Third Stage Late Stage Peak, and it seemed that breaking through to the Fourth-stage was not going to be a matter of just a few days.

Huang Xiaolong strolled out from his small courtyard.

“Tomorrow is the family’s annual meeting.

Have you heard?

The old manor master will also be there!”

“This year is Young Master Huang Wei’s first participation in the family annual meeting since his Martial Soul was awakened, so of course the old manor master will attend.

Not only that, but I also heard that the old manor master has invited the Old Clan Chief of the Li Family!”

“So, the Old Clan Chief from the Li Family is also coming?”

Both the Li Family and the Huang Family Manor were major forces in Canglan County, and Li Mu, the Old Clan Chief of the Li Family, had always had a good relationship with Huang Xiaolong’s grandfather, Huang Qide.

Huang Xiaolong listened to guards talking as they walked past, his eyes sparkling.

(In the next chapter, the family annual meeting begins!)

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“For this family annual meeting, Grandpa Huang Qide actually invited Elder Li from the Li Family, Li Mu, to come.

It seems he’s really put a lot of thought into it!” Huang Xiaolong thought to himself.

However, the intention behind Grandpa inviting Elder Li, Li Mu, might not be so simple.

As Huang Xiaolong made his way to the East Hall, he passed by guards and maids who, upon seeing him, all stopped in their tracks, “Young Master Xiao Long!”

Huang Xiaolong nodded in acknowledgement.

But as he walked past, Huang Xiaolong could feel the strange looks from the guards and maids behind him; probably, the news about Huang Wei intending to cripple both of Huang Xiaolong's hands during the annual meeting had reached their ears as well.

Huang Xiaolong arrived at the East Hall.

In the great hall, both Huang Peng and Su Yan were present.

"Dad, Mom," Huang Xiaolong said as he entered the great hall.

"Xiao Long, you're here." Su Yan asked Huang Xiaolong to sit next to her, then enquired, "The family annual meeting is tomorrow, how is your cultivation coming along?"

Huang Peng also stared intently at Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong smiled, "Dad, Mom, don't worry.

Tomorrow, I won't let you down."

Unexpectedly, just as Huang Xiaolong finished speaking, Su Yan excitedly said, "Xiao Long, have you broken through to the First Order Middle Stage?!" It seemed that Su Yan thought her son was referring to advancing to the First Order Middle Stage.

At that point, Huang Peng also laughed, "Good, son, you really haven't let your dad down!"

Upon hearing this, Huang Xiaolong let out a wry smile inwardly.

Could it be that reaching the First Order Middle Stage before the annual meeting was the highest expectation his parents had for him?

"Dad, I heard from the guards that Elder Li, Li Mu, from the Li Family will also be attending this family annual meeting?" Huang Xiaolong shifted the topic to ask.

Huang Peng nodded, "I've heard about it too.

Apart from Elder Li, he's also bringing his granddaughter, Li Lu, along."

"His granddaughter, Li Lu?" Huang Xiaolong was somewhat surprised, then joked, "Surely Elder Li isn't thinking of bringing his granddaughter over for a matchmaking visit?"

But then Huang Peng said, "Your grandfather and Elder Li probably have this in mind.

After the family annual meeting, they plan to engage Huang Wei to Li Lu and thus connect the Huang Family and the Li Family by marriage!”

Huang Xiaolong was startled.

“I heard that Li Lu has an exceptional talent.

Her Martial Soul is the Dark God Sword, one of the top-level Martial Souls among the ninth levels!” Su Yan continued.

A top-level Martial Soul among the ninth levels, the Dark God Sword!

Huang Xiaolong was taken aback; he hadn’t expected that Li Mu’s granddaughter, Li Lu, possessed the Martial Soul of the Dark God Sword.

In the Martial Soul World, Martial Souls are categorized in many ways, such as Beast Martial Souls, Artifact Souls, Plant Martial Souls, and some people even possess Natural Martial Souls, like thunder, wind, water, fire.

The Dark God Sword is a type of Artifact Soul.

Of course, most Martial Souls in the Martial Soul World are Beast Martial Souls, like Huang Wei’s Three-eyed Black Tiger, Huang Qide’s Six-winged Golden Monkey, and Huang Xiaolong’s own Mutant Two-headed Snake.

A while later, Huang Xiaolong returned from the East Hall and continued to cultivate the Asura Technique.

The night slowly descended.

Huang Xiaolong had finished cultivating the Asura Technique and went to the back mountain, standing motionless on the mountaintop.

But he wasn’t cultivating, he was calmly gazing at the sea in the distance.

Honestly, Huang Xiaolong had never taken Huang Wei seriously in his heart.

Huang Xiaolong released his Two-headed Snake Martial Soul, which hovered above his head behind him.

Having reached the Third-stage Late Stage Peak, Huang Xiaolong felt the power of his Two-headed Snake Martial Soul more acutely than ever, a strength that only he could deeply comprehend.

“It seems that I need to find an opportunity to visit the Book Collection Pavilion to verify exactly what kind of Martial Soul I possess,” Huang Xiaolong mused to himself.

However, one must reach the Fourth-stage to enter the Huang Family Manor's Book Collection Pavilion, so Huang Xiaolong needed to break through to the Fourth-stage as soon as possible.

The moonlight stretched Huang Xiaolong's small frame long and drawn out.

As the night slowly receded and dawn brightened, Huang Xiaolong watched the sun slowly rise and murmured to himself, "The family clan gathering is finally about to start!"

The family clan gathering is finally about to start!

Huang Xiaolong flashed through the air, rushing back to Huang Family Manor, and then headed towards the East Hall Courtyard.

Upon seeing Huang Xiaolong's arrival, Huang Peng and Su Yan didn't say much before leading him towards the front hall of Huang Family Manor.

The front hall of Huang Family Manor was twice as large as the Martial Arts Hall, large enough to accommodate a thousand people.

In the center of the front hall was a Martial Arts Arena, surrounded by seats that were reserved for the Huang Family Manor's elders and stewards; other disciples could only stand in the open space behind the seats.

Not long after Huang Peng and Su Yan entered with Huang Xiaolong, many elders and stewards had already arrived in the Great Hall.

"Second Manor Master!"

"Second Manor Master!"

The elders, stewards, and disciples all greeted him in turn.

Huang Peng nodded and, with Su Yan, escorted Huang Xiaolong to the front row of seats on the right side in the front of the hall.

Once Huang Xiaolong sat down, he felt a cold gaze on him, prompting him to look up, only to see Huang Wei sitting opposite him.

At that moment, the gaze of Huang Wei and Huang Xiaolong collided; Huang Wei's eyes were full of pride, looking down from above, provocative, and brimming with satisfaction.

Next to Huang Wei sat Huang Ming.

Huang Ming still wore that deathly expressionless face, devoid of any emotion.

Huang Peng did not greet him after sitting down.

Ever since the incident at the North Hall, the two brothers had become like strangers, no longer speaking to each other.

Shortly after the arrival of the three, a hearty laughter sounded from outside the hall.

Upon hearing the laugh, everyone stood up.

Huang Xiaolong saw his grandfather, Huang Qide, coming in with a smile on his face.

Beside the old man was a silver-haired, sprightly elder about the same age as his grandfather; Huang Xiaolong recognized him as Elder Li of the Li Family, with a cute, doe-eyed little girl trailing behind him with her hair tied in pigtailed.

“Old Manor Master!”

“Elder Li!”

The crowd hurriedly paid their respects, followed by Huang Ming and Huang Peng who both stepped forward, “Father, Elder Li!”

“Grandfather, Elder Li,” Huang Wei and Huang Xiaolong followed suit.

Huang Qide chuckled and nodded at everyone, then pointed at Huang Wei and said to Li Mu with a smile, “This is my grandson, Huang Wei.” However, he only introduced Huang Wei and did not mention Huang Xiaolong.

Elder Li sized up Huang Wei with approval and said, “Very good, indeed.

Qide, I’ve heard that your grandson became a First-stage Warrior in less than two months.

When I advanced to First-stage, it took me over five months!”

Hearing this, Huang Qide laughed heartily and said, “Elder Li is too kind.

I hope you’ll offer him more guidance in the future.”

“That, of course,” Elder Li replied with a laugh.

A while later, everyone returned to their seats and settled down.

Then, the chief steward Chen Ying stood up and began his address for this year’s meeting.

After he completed the address, he looked towards Huang Qide and, upon receiving a nod of approval, he announced loudly, "Now, the annual meeting begins!"

As Chen Ying's voice fell, the Great Hall fell into silence.

According to the rules of past annual meetings, the disciples whose Martial Souls had awakened that year would ascend the stage first.

The crowd couldn't help but look towards Huang Wei, knowing that Huang Qide's main purpose for attending this year's meeting was likely centered around Huang Wei, who was destined to be the focus of the gathering.

"Huang Wei, go up there and show everyone the fruits of your hard work over the past five months, so that they can see your achievements!" Huang Qide encouraged his grandson with a smile and eyes full of support.

"Yes, grandfather," Huang Wei responded loudly, stood up, and then leapt onto the Martial Arts Arena in the center of the Great Hall.

Once on the arena, Huang Wei circulated his cultivation technique, releasing his Fighting Energy to its full extent.

As Huang Wei released his Fighting Energy, his Tenth-level Martial Soul, the Three-eyed Black Tiger, appeared suspended in the air, emanating a not insignificant aura.

"First-stage Late-stage Peak!"

Feeling the aura of Huang Wei's Fighting Energy, the elders, stewards, and disciples of Huang Family Manor were all taken aback, causing a stir; after only five months of cultivating Fighting Energy, Huang Wei had actually reached the First-stage Late-stage Peak!

13: Chapter 13 Beating You Beyond Recognition (Minor Climax) 13: Chapter 13 Beating You Beyond Recognition (Minor Climax) First-stage Late-stage Peak!

Li Mu looked at Huang Wei, his eyes equally shocked.

He had thought that despite Huang Wei possessing a Tenth-level Martial Soul, in five months he could at most reach First-stage Late Stage, but now Huang Wei had reached the First-stage Late-stage Peak, and it seemed that he could break through to the Second Rank at any moment!

The surprise that Huang Wei had given him was truly significant!

He had had a sliver of doubt about the marriage alliance, but now that doubt had completely vanished.

Looking at Huang Wei on the Martial Arts Arena, the more Li Mu looked, the more satisfied he became.

Huang Qide saw the expression on Li Mu's face and couldn't help but feel proud in his heart.

Over the past five months, he had gone all out to cultivate his grandson, Huang Wei, and Huang Wei had not let him down.

Just like Li Mu, as he watched Huang Wei on the arena, Huang Qide felt increasingly gratified and happy.

Meanwhile, Huang Peng and Su Yan couldn't help but start to worry.

Huang Wei was not just at the First-stage Late Stage, but at the First-stage Late-stage Peak.

What about their son later on?!

On the Martial Arts Arena, Huang Wei listened to the shocked discussions of the crowd around him and felt even more proud.

At this moment, he spoke to Huang Qide, "Grandfather, I've heard that Xiao Long has also been diligently cultivating behind closed doors these past months.

I would like to have a friendly sparring match with Xiao Long."

Upon hearing this, everyone's faces became a kaleidoscope of colors as they turned their gazes toward Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Qide was taken aback but then nodded and smiled, "Good, a friendly match, but let's limit it to points."

Huang Xiaolong's expression remained indifferent.

If his Martial Soul were truly only at the Seventh Level, then it was certain that he couldn't break through to the First Order within five months, and going up there would only be humiliating.

However, knowing full well that Huang Xiaolong would only make a fool of himself, Huang Qide still nodded in agreement!

Huang Qide had not considered Huang Xiaolong's feelings at all.

Hearing his grandfather's consent, Huang Wei turned back and looked down at Huang Xiaolong with a smile, "Xiao Long, how about it?"

Don't dare to come up?

Don't worry, later I will let you use both hands."

Huang Wei's smile shone brightly.

"Xiao Long!" Huang Peng and Su Yan couldn't help but look at Huang Xiaolong with worried faces.

Huang Xiaolong shook his head at his parents, signaling them to be at ease, and then with a calm expression, he slowly stood up and walked onto the Martial Arts Arena, standing in front of Huang Wei.

Huang Wei looked at Huang Xiaolong, a flash of bloodthirsty light passing through his eyes, "Are you now regretting not having knelt down and begged me back then?"

Huang Xiaolong's expression was cold, "You talk too much!" As Huang Wei was getting angry, Huang Xiaolong suddenly turned to look at Huang Qide on the main stage and said, "Grandfather, according to the rules of the family gathering's friendly matches, no one else is supposed to interfere or stop the match, right?"

Huang Qide was taken aback, not understanding the point of Huang Xiaolong's question, but still nodded and replied, "Correct."

While everyone including Huang Qide was confused about the meaning behind Huang Xiaolong's words, Huang Xiaolong suddenly grinned at Huang Wei, "Later, I will beat you so badly even your father won't recognize you!"

The crowd was taken aback upon hearing this, and then they shook their heads, chuckling.

Li Mu, sitting next to Huang Qide, laughed, "Brother Qide, has your grandson gone mad?"

He must be the one with the Seventh Level Martial Soul, Huang Xiaolong, right?

Lacking strength and yet still so arrogantly bold, I don't like such a child!"

Huang Qide also felt his face burn with embarrassment, giving an awkward smile.

He looked down at his son Huang Peng.

It seemed it was time for his second son to properly discipline his own child, to prevent him from making such an overestimation of his capabilities in important situations in the future, thereby losing face for the family.

On the stage, Huang Wei laughed even more, "What did you say?"

I must have misheard you?

You, beat me so badly even my dad won't recognize me?"

But just as he finished speaking, suddenly a figure flashed before him.

Huang Wei was shocked, his eyes bulging as he saw a huge fist heading toward his left eye.

By then, it was too late for him to dodge, and just as he was about to speak, that huge fist landed on his left eye, causing him to scream out in pain, staggering back while seeing stars in his vision.

The members of the Huang Family Manor who had been quietly ridiculing Huang Xiaolong for his overconfidence stopped abruptly, staring in astonishment at Huang Wei, who was clutching his eye and shrieking.

At this point, Li Mu frowned and said, "Such a young age and already learning to attack by surprise.

What will he become when he grows up, surely a crafty and sinister character!"

Huang Qide frowned as he looked at Huang Xiaolong.

"You, you actually sneak attacked me?!" On the Martial Arts Arena, Huang Wei roared furiously as he lowered his hand from his left eye, revealing it to be blackened, resembling a panda's eye.

Huang Xiaolong didn't speak but flashed forward, standing right in front of Huang Wei, and then threw another punch at his right eye.

The punch made a solid connection once again.

Huang Wei screamed out continuously.

Seeing Huang Wei's panda eyes, Li Lu, who was sitting next to her grandfather Li Mu, couldn't help but let out a soft laugh, revealing two adorable dimples.

Li Mu couldn't help but turn his head and glare at his granddaughter.

Li Lu tried her best to suppress her laughter, but it was clear she was struggling to do so.

Below the stage, the crowd had an odd look on their faces.

“Huang Xiaolong, I’m going to kill you!” Huang Wei finally lost control over his anger and bellowed, his whole body’s Fighting Energy releasing as he violently hurled a fist towards Huang Xiaolong’s chest.

As Huang Wei’s fist was about to strike Huang Xiaolong’s chest, Huang Peng and Su Yan tensed up and could not help but exclaim in shock.

With Huang Wei being at the First-stage Late-stage Peak and throwing his punch, how could Huang Xiaolong’s slender body withstand it?

However, sitting on the main platform, Huang Qide didn’t speak out to stop it, thinking that it would be good for Huang Wei to teach Huang Xiaolong a lesson.

Just as Huang Wei’s punch was about to hit Huang Xiaolong’s chest, Huang Xiaolong suddenly vanished with a flash, dodging Huang Wei’s attack.

Then he clenched his right fist, released his Fighting Energy, and struck Huang Wei’s back with a palm.

Huang Wei let out a pained cry and fell face forward onto the ground in a mess.

“Fighting Energy released externally!”

“Warrior First Rank!”

The entire Great Hall erupted into commotion, everyone staring at Huang Xiaolong incredulously, including Huang Qide, Li Mu, and Huang Ming.

In just five months, Huang Xiaolong had also reached Warrior First Rank!

As Huang Wei scrambled up from the ground, his face was beet-red with humiliation and rage, far beyond the shock of others, his eyes bloodshot as he once again pounced toward Huang Xiaolong in a frenzy, his fists tearing through the air.

Now, the only thought in his mind was to cripple Huang Xiaolong, to kill him!

Death!

Watching as Huang Wei furiously rushed over, Huang Xiaolong’s eyes were cold and indifferent.

This time, he didn’t dodge, but instead raised his fists and lifted his Fighting Energy to the same level, the First-stage Late-stage Peak, and met Huang Wei’s punches head-on as everyone watched.

Their four fists collided with a loud “bang!” Huang Wei was forced to step back repeatedly, while Huang Xiaolong pretended to step back as well.

“What?!”

This, this!”

“First-stage Late-stage Peak!”

The elders and stewards of the Huang Family Manor, who had just been shocked by Huang Xiaolong’s breakthrough to the First Rank, all suddenly stood up from their seats.

Huang Qide, Li Mu, and Huang Ming all stood up with a loss of composure, as did Huang Peng and Su Yan.

Huang Peng and Su Yan’s eyes were wide open in astonishment as they looked at their son.

Wasn’t their son at the First Order Middle Stage?!

After a while, Huang Peng felt a mix of surprise and a wry smile in his heart.

This kid had kept him in the dark so well that even he didn’t know he had reached the First-stage Late-stage Peak!

(Enjoying the excitement?

Why not show your appreciation with a reward?)

14: Chapter 14: Warrior 2nd Rank (Climax Progression) 14: Chapter 14: Warrior 2nd Rank (Climax Progression) First-stage Late-stage Peak!

Like Huang Peng, Su Yan had a similar reaction.

However, joy filled her heart even more.

Looking at her son on the stage, her eyes suddenly reddened, “This kid!”

She smiled.

Now, finally, she understood what her son meant earlier when he said he wouldn’t disappoint them.

It turned out that her son had already reached the First-stage Late-stage Peak!

No wonder, no wonder her son had always been so confident!

Shocked by Huang Xiaolong's punches and slowly regaining sanity from his frenzy, Huang Wei raged, "Impossible, impossible, you, you couldn't possibly have also broken through to the First-stage Late-stage Peak!"

He possessed a Tenth-level Martial Soul, was indeed a child favored by the heavens, and had even consumed a Thousand-year-old Luo Xin Grass.

It took him five months of arduous cultivation to reach the First-stage Late-stage Peak!

What about Huang Xiaolong?

His Martial Soul was merely a Seventh-level Martial Soul!

Like Huang Wei, Huang Qide, Huang Ming, and others were all equally puzzled.

At that moment, Huang Peng stepped forward to explain to Huang Qide, "Dad, over four months ago, Xiao Long found five Yang Fruits in a valley behind the mountain."

"What?"

"Yang Fruit?!" Huang Qide and the crowd were astounded.

"That's right.

Afterwards, Xiao Long consumed three for his cultivation, while the remaining two were given to me and Su Yan.

"I've now reached the Sixth-stage Late-stage Peak!" Huang Peng nodded, releasing his Sixth-stage Late-stage Peak Fighting Energy as he spoke.

"Consumed three Yang Fruits for cultivation!" Huang Qide looked at Huang Xiaolong on the stage, unsure what to say.

In the Great Hall, the people of the Huang Family Manor came to understand the "real reason" behind Huang Xiaolong's reaching the First-stage Late-stage Peak.

Three Yang Fruits!

Each Yang Fruit was comparable to a Thousand-year-old Luo Xin Grass!

"I didn't expect Xiao Long to have such a fortuitous encounter; this is a good thing." At this time, Huang Qide managed a smile, speaking not very naturally.

“If these three Yang Fruits had been consumed by Huang Wei for his cultivation, he might have already made a breakthrough to the Second Rank by now!” Huang Qide thought to himself.

Even Li Mu felt that it was a waste for Huang Xiaolong, with a mere Seventh-level Martial Soul, to have consumed three Yang Fruits.

A while later, the crowd recovered from their shock and slowly returned to their seats.

On the stage, Huang Wei’s eyes were filled with jealousy.

He stared at Huang Xiaolong resentfully, “I thought it was strange; turns out you just got lucky, consuming three Yang Fruits to cultivate to the First-stage Late-stage Peak!”

Huang Xiaolong replied coolly with a smile, “Are you saying, then, that your breakthrough to the First-stage Late-stage Peak wasn’t because of that Thousand-year-old Luo Xin Grass?”

Huang Wei’s face turned crimson, but without saying a word, he charged furiously towards Huang Xiaolong.

He threw a fierce punch, which Huang Xiaolong countered with a punch of his own, sending Huang Wei reeling back.

Advancing in a swift motion, Huang Xiaolong lifted his foot and landed a kick on Huang Wei’s stomach.

Like Zhou Xuedong a few months prior, Huang Wei screamed miserably, doubling over and tumbling back, rolling out for seven or eight meters.

Clutching his belly, Huang Wei felt as if all his internal organs had shifted, tears rolling from the corners of his eyes due to the pain.

Huang Xiaolong approached Huang Wei and sneered, “Five months ago, didn’t you say you would cripple my hands at the clan’s annual meeting?” Having said that, he stamped his foot down on Huang Wei’s face.

Huang Wei screamed again.

Hands crippled?

On the main platform, Huang Qide frowned, turning to look at his eldest son, Huang Ming, not aware of this matter.

Huang Ming dared not meet his father’s gaze, looking away.

As Huang Wei's cries echoed once again, Huang Qide glanced over, just as Huang Xiaolong's foot came crashing down again.

Huang Qide opened his mouth, about to speak and intervene, but remembering Huang Xiaolong's earlier question about not intervening in their sparring, he hesitated and stopped himself, smiling bitterly inside.

Now, he finally understood why his grandson had asked that question beforehand.

Huang Xiaolong stepped down three times in succession, and Huang Wei's originally decent-looking face finally turned into a pig's head.

Watching his son being beaten to an unrecognizable state, Huang Ming clenched his hands tightly, anger flaring across his usually expressionless face as a cold gleam flashed in his eyes.

But Huang Qide had not spoken to stop him, so Huang Ming did not dare to break the rules in public.

"Ah!" Having been stepped on three times in succession by Huang Xiaolong, Huang Wei, like a crazed beast trapped in madness, let out a beastly howl as the glow of his fighting energy suddenly surged, and a different aura wildly burst forth from him.

This sudden change stunned everyone before their eyes bulged in disbelief.

Sensing the change in his son's aura, the anger on Huang Ming's face disappeared, replaced by great joy.

"Young Master Huang Wei has actually made a breakthrough!"

"Second Rank, this is the aura of Second Rank!"

Some elders of the Huang Family Manor couldn't help but exclaim in amazement.

Second Rank!

Huang Peng and Su Yan saw that Huang Wei had actually made a breakthrough to Second Rank at this moment, and their hearts tightened once again; if Huang Wei had broken through to Second Rank, then what would become of their son?!

"Good, good!" Huang Qide watched his grandson Huang Wei undergo his transformation, laughing heartily.

It was truly an unexpected joy that Huang Wei had broken through to Second Rank during this year's clan competition!

Huang Xiaolong took a few steps back, also surprised at Huang Wei's breakthrough.

"A Second-stage Warrior, huh." Huang Xiaolong said calmly.

At that moment, Huang Wei slowly rose from the ground.

His eyes blood-red, he looked at Huang Xiaolong, and feeling the fighting power within him that was now twice as strong as before, he said to Huang Xiaolong, word by word, "Later, I want you to kneel and lick my toes!" Only then could he wash away his previous humiliation!

"Is that so." Huang Xiaolong appeared unconcerned.

Huang Wei roared in fury, and in an instant, he was in front of Huang Xiaolong, his fists erupting with fighting energy as he struck at Huang Xiaolong.

After his breakthrough to Second Rank, not only had his strength increased, but his speed had improved greatly as well.

Huang Peng and Su Yan's hearts were in their throats, about to cry out in alarm when suddenly, Huang Xiaolong, who stood there, raised his hands and his aura skyrocketed in an instant as he counterattacked with his fists.

"Bang!" A louder crash resounded, and Huang Wei was repelled.

"What?!"

Impossible, how could this be!"

"Second-stage Warrior!"

This is the fighting power of a Second-stage Warrior!"

The elders of the Huang Family Manor and the steward, who had just sat down, screamed in disarray and abruptly stood up from their seats again, all staring at Huang Xiaolong in disbelief.

Huang Qide and Li Mu were equally shocked as they stood up, their eyes wide.

What the hell was going on?

How could this kid's luck be so goddamn strong?!"

Huang Qide turned his head to look at his son Huang Peng, and Huang Peng, his face full of shock, could not help but smile bitterly, "Dad, I..."

I don't know either." Son, oh son, the depth of his concealment pained him deeply!

He had not anticipated that his son's true reliance was not the First-stage Late-stage Peak, but Second Rank!

Second Rank, Second Rank!

Huang Peng looked at his son on the stage, his body trembling with excitement to the point where he felt an urge to rush up and embrace his son in tears.

A surge of pride swelled within Huang Peng's heart; this son who had broken through to Second Rank in just five months of cultivation was his son, Huang Peng's son!

Su Yan stood there, her eyes red, her expression not much different from her husband's.

"No, it can't be, it can't be true, this can't be real!" On the stage, Huang Wei, who had been shaken back, looked at Huang Xiaolong in a frenzy, shaking his head repeatedly and crying out.

15: Chapter 15 A Momentary Slip-up 15: Chapter 15 A Momentary Slip-up Watching Huang Wei scream like a madman, Huang Xiaolong sneered and slowly walked towards him.

As Huang Xiaolong got closer, the frenzied screaming of Huang Wei abruptly stopped.

His eyes widened in terror as he frantically backed away, but just as he was about to concede defeat, a figure flashed, and Huang Xiaolong punched him in the left cheek.

With a miserable scream, he staggered back repeatedly.

After punching him, Huang Xiaolong closed the distance and threw another punch.

Several punches later, Huang Wei was dizzy and disoriented, unable to tell north from south, and his already swollen face turned even more grotesque.

Below the stage, Huang Ming watched his son's miserable state and felt extreme anger.

Finally, he couldn't help but turn to Huang Qide and said, "Dad, you see, is this acceptable?!"

Huang Qide hesitated for a moment, then said, "That's enough, Xiao Long."

Upon hearing his grandfather Huang Qide speak, Huang Xiaolong kicked one more time fiercely before he stopped.

"You!" Huang Ming glared furiously.

Huang Xiaolong, ignoring Huang Ming's glaring eyes, smiled at Huang Ming and said, "Uncle, it was just an accident.

Please forgive me!"
An accident?!

The crowd looked at Huang Wei, who had been beaten to a pulp, with bizarre expressions on their faces.

Next to Li Mu, Li Lu couldn't help but burst into laughter once more.

Huang Qide looked at Huang Xiaolong on the stage and frowned slightly, but he did not speak.

He could tell that Huang Xiaolong had not been lethal; Huang Wei only had superficial injuries.

Huang Ming was so furious he almost vomited blood.

At this point, Huang Wei finally had the chance to cry out, his cries echoing around as he approached Huang Ming: "Dad, he hit me, he hit me!" He pointed at Huang Xiaolong, tears streaming down his face.

After all, Huang Wei was just a seven-year-old child, and being beaten like that, he cried uncontrollably.

The elders and stewards of the Huang Family Manor shook their heads secretly, while Huang Ming's face showed extreme embarrassment.

Thus, the competition between Huang Xiaolong and Huang Wei ended with Huang Wei looking like a pig's head.

Following that, other disciples proceeded with their matches.

However, compared to the earlier competition between Huang Xiaolong and Huang Wei, the subsequent matches of the other disciples seemed less interesting.

Several hours later, this year's annual event concluded.

After the event, the people from the Huang Family Manor were inwardly sighing.

This annual event, which should have highlighted Huang Wei, turned him into a laughingstock, while Huang Xiaolong, who was never taken seriously before, became the most dazzling figure!

North Hall Courtyard.

In the Great Hall, Huang Wei roared, "If it weren't for Huang Xiaolong's dumb luck in swallowing three Yang Fruits, how could someone with a Seventh Rank Martial Soul talent break through the Second Rank!"

I don't accept this.

Huang Xiaolong, I want revenge.

At the next annual event, I will repay this humiliation a hundredfold, a thousandfold!" His face, smashed into a pig's head, became ferocious and twisted.

Huang Ming sat there, expressionless, with a cold glint occasionally flashing across his eyes.

At this year's annual meeting, Huang Xiaolong truly embarrassed him.

Compared to the North Hall, the East Hall was filled with cheers and laughter.

"Good son, you really didn't disappoint your dad this time!" Huang Peng laughed heartily, "Awesome, just awesome!" The thought of his elder brother Huang Ming's angry face at the meeting delighted him tremendously.

"Xiao Long, come here, let Mom have a good look at you." Su Yan pulled Huang Xiaolong in front of her, looked him over, and smiled, "You, breaking through to Second Rank without telling your mom and dad, made us worry for a long time." Huang Xiaolong didn't know how to start talking and could only smile.

If his dad and mom knew that he was actually not a Second-stage Warrior, what would their expressions be like?

However, Huang Xiaolong still planned to conceal his true strength for the time being.

If he revealed his Third Stage Late Stage Peak strength now, it would likely be more than just troublesome.

Right now, as a Second-stage Warrior, he could explain it by having consumed three Yang Fruits.

But for Third Stage Late Stage Peak, it would definitely arouse suspicion.

If people knew his Martial Soul was a Super Martial Soul, it might bring disaster of annihilation to the Huang Family Manor.

In the East Hall, after being "nagged" by his parents for a long time, Huang Xiaolong finally returned to his small courtyard.

Just as he entered the small courtyard, a small figure pounced towards him.

Huang Xiaolong didn't dodge but smiled instead, "Little fellow, where have you run off to these past few days?"

This small figure was the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey.

Half a year had passed, and the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey's size hadn't changed much.

However, its eyes had become more lively, and the ice-blue color in its eyes emitted a daunting brilliance.

"Chirp chirp chirp!" The Soul-devouring Purple Monkey arrived on Huang Xiaolong's shoulder, chirping and gesturing with its hands.

"Are you saying, you want me to go with you to the back mountain?" Huang Xiaolong asked.

Having spent half a year together, he roughly understood the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey's body language.

"Chirp chirp chirp!" The Soul-devouring Purple Monkey's face lit up with joy, and it nodded.

"Alright, let's go!" Huang Xiaolong nodded, since he had nothing else to do, and then he left the Huang Family Manor with the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey, guided by the monkey, to a mountainous area in the back mountain.

Upon arriving there, they saw a ten-meter-long Big Flower Python sitting cross-legged ahead!

Seeing the Big Flower Python, Huang Xiaolong gasped in surprise and realized what the little fellow, the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey, meant by bringing him here to the back mountain—it was to get into a fight!

Spotting Huang Xiaolong and the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey, the Big Flower Python suddenly raised its head, its eyes fixed on them, and with a flick of its tongue, it charged at them instantly.

Huang Xiaolong's expression became solemn; he could tell that the Big Flower Python was a Fourth Rank demon beast.

Although it was only Fourth Rank, it was extremely dangerous for him, who was currently just at Third Stage Late Stage Peak.

However, Huang Xiaolong dodged swiftly, barely evading the Big Flower Python's attack.

The Soul-devouring Purple Monkey screeched oddly and leapt from Huang Xiaolong's shoulder, soaring above the python's head and slamming down with its monkey paws.

The Big Flower Python's head got hit and, shrieking in pain, it twisted its body, its mouth gaping wide as it ferociously attempted to devour the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey.

Huang Xiaolong's heart tightened, but just then, the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey flew a few meters in mid-air, barely dodging the Big Flower Python's gaping mouth.

Huang Xiaolong heaved a sigh of relief.

Huang Xiaolong activated the Asura Technique, his body enveloped in swirling black killing energy as his eyes turned blood-red and his hair turned white and stood on end.

However, Huang Xiaolong did not attack immediately but stood aside, his blood-red eyes coldly watching the ongoing struggle between the Big Flower Python and the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey.

Just as the Big Flower Python twisted its body again, suddenly, Huang Xiaolong, who had been standing at the side, moved.

He soared into the air, resembling a dark cloud under the sunlight.

Unbeknownst to when, two Shura Blades appeared in Huang Xiaolong's hands, and arriving beneath the Big Flower Python's head, he swung his arms violently.

Twin black light flashes crossed the air.

The Big Flower Python screamed miserably, blood spraying everywhere as it rolled on the ground, but after a while, it stopped moving completely.

Huang Xiaolong's eyes and hair slowly returned to normal.

He retracted the Shura Blades into his arms, then walked over with the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey.

16: Chapter 16: Breaking through Fourth-Stage 16: Chapter 16: Breaking through Fourth-Stage Just as he approached the body of the Big Flower Python, the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey leaped onto the python's head and, with a swipe of its claws, tore open a blood hole and extracted a small earthy-yellow bead.

Seeing this earthy-yellow bead, Huang Xiaolong's eyes widened.

A Demon Core?!

Generally speaking, there was only a one in ten-thousand chance for middle-level demon beasts to condense a Demon Core; only those above the seventh rank, high-level demon beasts, were guaranteed to have one.

And yet, there was one inside this fourth-stage Big Flower Python!

This fourth-stage Demon Core, if sold on the market, was worth at least two or three hundred Gold Coins.

At this moment, the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey came to the Big Flower Python's belly and once again dug out two thumb-sized, disgustingly green items with a swipe of its claws.

Snake Gallbladder!

Huang Xiaolong's eyes shone brightly.

The gallbladder of a fourth-stage demon beast like the Big Flower Python was a great tonic, which when ingested, not only could enhance one's Fighting Energy but also strengthen the body!

The Soul-devouring Purple Monkey dug out the snake gallbladders and handed them to Huang Xiaolong.

Giving a squeaky smile, the monkey then opened its mouth and swallowed the fourth-stage Demon Core just like that.

"Ate it?!" Huang Xiaolong exclaimed in surprise.

A demon beast's Demon Core, which accumulated the beast's Demon Essence Power, was not pure Demon Essence Power; it had to be combined with other Spiritual Medicines and refined into a pill before it could be safely ingested.

If a cultivator directly consumed it, the violent Demon Essence Power would cause their body to explode and die.

But now, this little Soul-devouring Purple Monkey managed to swallow the Demon Core directly without any problems!

Huang Xiaolong was somewhat speechless.

After a while, he turned his head back to look at the several-hundred-pound body of the Big Flower Python on the ground, thought for a moment, and then, without dealing with it, took the Soul-devouring Purple Monkey and returned to the Huang Family Manor.

Back at the Huang Family Manor, Huang Xiaolong had the manor guards buy some wine.

He then broke open the snake gallbladders, mixed them with the wine, and drank the concoction.

After it went down, it was initially ice-cold, but then a warm current surged continuously.

Huang Xiaolong quickly started to circulate the Asura Technique to refine the medicinal power of the snake gallbladders.

A night passed.

When Huang Xiaolong woke up, his eyes brightened with joy.

His cultivation of Fighting Energy had greatly improved overnight, the effect of one snake gallbladder equating to half a month of his strenuous cultivation.

Huang Xiaolong had a feeling that his breakthrough to the fourth stage was imminent!

The barrier to the fourth stage was thinning, and he could break through at any moment.

He got up from the Cold Jade Bed and, just as he had put away the bed into the Asura Ring, he heard the voice of his younger sister Huang Min outside the courtyard, "Big brother, big brother!"

Huang Xiaolong was slightly surprised; it had just begun to dawn, and his little sister was already looking for him, so he wondered what it was about as he walked out from his room.

"Big brother, father and mother want you to go to the Main Hall," said Huang Min as she came in.

"The Main Hall!" Huang Xiaolong was puzzled.

The family only gathered there to discuss major matters.

Exiting the courtyard, Huang Xiaolong arrived at the Main Hall and saw that his parents were already there, as well as his uncle Huang Ming, Huang Wei, and all the family elders.

As Huang Xiaolong entered, everyone in the Great Hall looked his way, their expressions varied, and Huang Wei glared at Huang Xiaolong with venomous hatred.

"Father, mother," Huang Xiaolong greeted as he approached Huang Peng and Su Yan, and then he sat down.

Huang Peng and Su Yan looked at their son, nodding with smiling eyes.

Just then, outside the hall, Huang Qide and Li Mu entered, followed by Li Mu's granddaughter Li Lu.

Seeing Li Mu and Li Lu, Huang Xiaolong had a hunch about the matter.

Sure enough, after Grandfather Huang Qide took his seat, he glanced around the Great Hall and then began with a smile, "Today, I have gathered everyone here to tell you that from now on, our Huang Family Manor and the Li Family shall be joined by a marriage alliance."

"Betrothal," there was a small commotion in the Great Hall, yet the crowd was not very surprised since rumors of the matter had already spread.

Upon hearing this, Huang Wei's face lit up with joy; then, Huang Qide followed up with a smile, "That's right, it's our Huang Family Manor's Huang Wei and the Li Family's Li Lu's engagement."

All the elders in the hall stood up, "Congratulations, Manor Master!"

"No, I don't agree!" Suddenly, a voice rang out.

The abrupt sound startled everyone, and as they turned to look, it was none other than Li Lu, who was sitting beside Li Mu.

"Lu'er, you!" Li Mu was about to scold her when Li Lu spoke again, "No, Grandfather, I don't like this Huang Wei!" As she said this, she suddenly turned her head to point at Huang Xiaolong, "I like him; if I'm to be engaged, I want to be engaged to him!"

Suddenly, the Great Hall fell dead silent.

Expressions on people's faces became varied and colorful.

Huang Ming and Huang Wei, who had just been smiling, now had their smiles freeze awkwardly, their faces looking as unpleasant as could be, especially Huang Wei, whose complexion turned red with rage as he stared at Huang Xiaolong, his eyes filled with a hatred that seemed as if he wanted to devour Huang Xiaolong whole.

Huang Xiaolong was equally astonished as he looked at Li Lu, who was pointing at him.

"Absurd!" After a moment of astonishment, Li Mu shouted angrily.

Li Lu pouted her lips, her eyes firm, "Grandfather, I'm not being absurd; I'm serious, I like him!" Li Lu looked at Huang Xiaolong, "He looked so handsome when he was fighting!"

Upon hearing this, Huang Xiaolong and the rest couldn't help but feel torn between laughter and embarrassment; just because Huang Xiaolong looked handsome beating up Huang Wei at yesterday's annual gathering, did Li Lu now 'like' Huang Xiaolong and refuse to marry anyone but him?!

Li Mu was also at a loss whether to laugh or cry, but no matter how much he scolded, Li Lu insisted on choosing Huang Xiaolong, not Huang Wei.

"Brother Qide, this...!" In the end, Li Mu looked helplessly at Huang Qide.

This matter had already been decided, and announcing it now was just a formality, but now!

After pondering for a moment, Huang Qide replied with a smile, "Then let's wait another two years."

Li Mu nodded; that was all he could do.

Seeing that the matter was 'ruined' by Huang Xiaolong, Huang Wei glared at him with even more venom in his eyes, while Huang Xiaolong sat there with an indifferent expression.

He was well aware of Huang Wei's hatred towards him, but he didn't take it to heart.

After a while, the crowd dispersed.

Huang Xiaolong left the Main Hall and parted ways with his parents, returning to his own courtyard to continue his cultivation, eager to see what Soul Skill he would acquire after his Martial Soul's first transformation upon breaking through to the Fourth-stage.

Soon, five days passed.

That night, Huang Xiaolong sat cross-legged on the Cold Jade Bed, operating the Asura Technique while Nine Netherworld Dark Energy surged down continuously from the void, and his Two-headed Snake Martial Soul fervently devoured it.

The Nine Netherworld Fighting Qi roared through his meridians, assaulting the Fourth-stage barrier over and over.

Just like his previous Second Rank and Third Rank breakthroughs, persistent cultivation efforts finally tore a gap in the Fourth-stage barrier, which then widened.

Fourth-stage breakthrough!

However, as Huang Xiaolong achieved his Fourth-stage breakthrough, suddenly, his Two-headed Snake Martial Soul's light intensively brightened, and streams of blue and black light shot towards the heavens.

An odd cry, resembling yet not resembling a dragon's roar, echoed as the heads of the Two-headed Snake Martial Soul split apart, turning into a blue snake and a black snake!

No, to be precise, they were not blue and black snakes because after the split, both creatures grew four claws under their bellies, and their scales had transformed, appearing like Dragon Scales.

17: Chapter 17: Huang Wei Enters for Cultivation 17: Chapter 17: Huang Wei Enters for Cultivation Huang Xiaolong sensed the change in the Martial Soul behind him and felt a deep shock within the depths of his heart.

This, this was no Two-headed Snake—it was clearly an Ancient Divine Dragon!

And not one, but two dragons!

“Twin Martial Souls!” A thought flashed through Huang Xiaolong's mind, unbelieving.

In the Martial Soul World, those with Twin Martial Souls were extremely rare, and each one without exception was a proud child of the heavens!

Moreover, Huang Xiaolong's Twin Martial Souls turned out to be Dual Birth Super Martial Souls!

Although the shape of the Martial Soul behind him was still far from that of the Ancient Divine Dragons, this was only the first transformation.

By the time he broke through to the Seventh Rank, his Martial Soul would undergo a second transformation, and by then, Huang Xiaolong's Martial Soul would completely turn into the form of Divine Dragons!

After the shock, joy surged uncontrollably within Huang Xiaolong's heart.

He did not expect that this Martial Soul transformation would result in Dual Birth Super Martial Souls!

So what were the Innate Soul Skills of this awakening?!

“Actually, actually two of them!” Two sets of memories emerged in Huang Xiaolong's mind, precisely the inheritance of the Lifebound Soul Skills of the Black and Blue Double Dragon Martial Soul.

When others underwent their first Martial Soul transformation, they would get one Innate Soul Skill, yet because he had Twin Martial Souls, Huang Xiaolong had two!

Muttering the Innate Soul Skills in his mind, Huang Xiaolong's body, seated cross-legged on the Cold Jade Bed, suddenly became blurry and eventually disappeared completely.

About six breaths later, Huang Xiaolong's body slowly reappeared on the Cold Jade Bed.

This was Huang Xiaolong's first Innate Soul Skill: Space Concealment!

Space Concealment, hidden within space, Shadowless and Formless!

"This is just too powerful!" Huang Xiaolong's eyes twinkled with delight.

Imagine, in the middle of a fight, Huang Xiaolong suddenly disappears, reappears behind the opponent, and executes a strike.

The opponent would be caught completely off guard—it was truly the ultimate Soul Skill for assassination!

Although currently Huang Xiaolong could only maintain his concealment for six breaths, as his Cultivation increased, the Innate Soul Skill would grow stronger, and the concealment duration would extend.

If the first Innate Soul Skill was Space Concealment, what then was the second?

At that moment, Huang Xiaolong's body suddenly floated up from the Cold Jade Bed, moving like a wraith; in an instant, he had left the room and arrived in the courtyard.

The second Innate Soul Skill: Swift Shadow Following!

After using the second Innate Soul Skill, Huang Xiaolong's speed had increased by about a third!

In a fight against someone of the same rank, speed was extremely important.

Combining Huang Xiaolong's second Innate Soul Skill with the first, it was simply powerful to the extreme!

Huang Xiaolong took a deep breath, a sense of pride and arrogance emanating from him.

After a while, Huang Xiaolong's mood gradually calmed down.

Suddenly, he leaped into the air, swinging his hands vigorously.

A series of Mian Palm Handprints struck towards the night sky.

Compared to before his breakthrough, Huang Xiaolong clearly felt that his body had become about twice as agile, and each attack unleashed a ferocious burst of physical strength.

In particular, the tendons throughout his body were strong and flexible in a way that had been absent even at the peak of the Third Rank.

Warriors from First to Third Rank focus on tempering their muscles with Fighting Energy through their meridians, making their muscles full and solid, thus enhancing their strength.

After breaking through to the Fourth Rank, apart from tempering the muscles, the Fighting Energy in the meridians could also temper and strengthen the entire body's sinews!

Huang Xiaolong struck a half-meter-tall stone in the corner of the small courtyard with his palm, and then leaped down.

The night wind blew, and the half-meter stone slowly turned into powder, scattering into every corner.

From First to Third Rank, each Rank increases one's strength by the weight of one stone.

After breaking through to the Fourth Rank, the strength doubles.

Now, Huang Xiaolong's single strike possessed the power of Six Stones!

At this time, the sky gradually brightened, and the rising sun shone on Huang Xiaolong's body, casting a layer of golden light.

Huang Xiaolong stood inside the small courtyard until the sun's warmth enveloped him, then he left for the East Hall.

However, when he arrived, his father Huang Peng was not there; only his mother Su Yan was present.

"Dad went to the Main Hall?" Huang Xiaolong was somewhat surprised.

Su Yan nodded, "This morning, your grandfather summoned your father over."

Huang Ming and all the elders in the manor went as well, though I don't know what they're discussing."

Hearing this, Huang Xiaolong waited in the East Hall for his father's return.

Inside the Main Hall at the moment, Huang Qide, sitting in the main seat, glanced over everyone and said, "Tomorrow, we will open the Spirit Pond, and Huang Wei will enter to cultivate for a month."

In the Great Hall, the elders exchanged glances, then turned to look at Huang Peng.

The Huang Family Manor was created by Huang Qide himself.

When Huang Qide made a decision, none of the elders dared to oppose it.

However, according to the rules established in the past, the disciple who ranked first in the annual Martial Soul awakening and contest would earn the opportunity to cultivate in the Spirit Pond for a month.

This year's first place was clearly Huang Xiaolong.

Logically, it should be Huang Xiaolong who entered for cultivation.

Hearing his father's decision, Huang Peng stood up in shock and anger after a moment of surprise, "Dad, this is not fair!

In this year's contest, Xiaolong clearly won against Huang Wei, so why should Huang Wei be the one to cultivate in the Spirit Pond when it opens!"

Huang Qide's expression turned a bit embarrassed, but he knew what he was doing was unjust and hence had no grounds to scold his second son.

He pondered for a moment before saying, "It is true that Xiaolong won against Huang Wei at this year's contest, but that was an accident.

If we talk about talent alone, Huang Wei's talent is immeasurably higher than Xiaolong's.

Xiaolong only managed to break through to the Second Rank because he consumed three Yang Fruits.

The rule I set before, that the first place of the annual contest could enter the Spirit Pond for cultivation, actually means that only the disciple with the best awakened Martial Soul talent each year should enter the Spirit Pond for cultivation!"

Huang Peng couldn't contain his anger, retorting sharply, "Bullshit!

Only the disciple with the best talent can cultivate in the Spirit Pond?

Then why wasn't it said before?

Now that Xiaolong has won, you change the criteria to the best talented disciple?"

Huang Qide was at a loss for words, not knowing how to respond.

At this moment, Huang Ming spoke up, "Second brother, is Dad the Manor Master, or are you the Manor Master?"

Do you have the authority to question and comment on Dad's decisions?"

Huang Peng clenched his fists, glaring at Huang Ming.

Yet, he knew what Huang Ming said was the truth – once Dad had made a decision, no one could change it.

"Second Manor Master, the Old Manor Master makes such decisions for the good of the Huang Family Manor," elder Zhou Guang added his voice, "Everyone knows Young Master Xiao Long's talent is inferior to Young Master Huang Wei's.

If Young Master Xiao Long were to cultivate in the Spirit Pond, it would just be a waste of the Spirit Pond's Spiritual Medicine!"

Huang Peng pointed at Zhou Guang, shouting furiously, "Shut your damned mouth; it's not your place to speak here!"

Zhou Guang squeaked in response, his face reddening, yet he dared not say another word.

After a while, Huang Peng managed to suppress his rage and turned to Huang Qide, "Alright, Dad, since you say this time was an accident, what if Xiaolong still beats Huang Wei at the next annual contest?"

Huang Qide was taken aback.

"You think Xiaolong could get lucky again at the next annual contest?" Huang Ming chimed in, "Fine, if Xiaolong wins again next time, I will compensate you with a hundred Fighting Qi Pills and apologize to you!"

A hundred Fighting Qi Pills were equivalent to a month of cultivation in the Spirit Pond.

"Agreed!" Huang Peng looked straight at Huang Ming, "Remember what you said today!" With those words, he didn't even wait to be excused by Huang Qide before turning and leaving the Great Hall.

18: Chapter 18 Cultivation Combat Skill 18: Chapter 18 Cultivation Combat Skill Huang Ming watched Huang Peng turn around and walk away, a sneer hidden in his heart.

He naturally did not believe that next year's annual event would see Huang Xiaolong once again get a stroke of dumb luck and beat his own son!

Therefore, the so-called one hundred Fighting Qi Pills was simply an impossibility!

As for an apology, that was even more out of the question!

In the Great Hall, the elders looked at each other, none daring to speak.

In the East Hall, Huang Xiaolong had just sat down when he saw his father, Huang Peng, storming back from the North Hall, visibly furious.

"Dad, what's wrong?" Huang Xiaolong couldn't help but ask.

Su Yan also stood up and came forward.

Huang Peng, feeling guilty, did not respond but went to sit in his seat in the Great Hall, hanging his head, his anger not dissipating but instead growing stronger.

"This is too much!"

"This is too much!"

Recalling the cold look of his older brother, Huang Ming, and the favoritism his father showed towards Huang Wei, Huang Peng could not hold back his anger any longer and slammed his right palm onto the nearby chair, shattering it instantly.

With a single palm, Huang Peng smashed the nearby chair, startling Su Yan.

"Brother Peng, what happened?"

"What's wrong?" Su Yan asked urgently, worried.

Huang Peng looked up and glanced at his wife Su Yan and his son, sighed, and finally spoke out about what had happened in the Main Hall.

He relayed how his father, Huang Qide, had given Huang Wei the qualification for the Spirit Pond cultivation, which should have belonged to Huang Xiaolong.

As he spoke, anger overwhelmed him, and he sent another chair flying with a strike of his hand.

"Dad is being blatantly biased!"

He only has eyes for that grandson, Huang Wei!" Su Yan, after hearing this, glared furiously, "Does he not even consider our Xiao Long as his grandson?!"

Huang Xiaolong kept silent, his heart sneered.

Although he had beaten Huang Wei a few days ago at the annual event and shown his Second Order Strength in front of his grandfather, Huang Qide, his grandfather still had not acknowledged him truly.

He imagined in his grandfather's eyes, his breakthrough to Second Order was just a fluke, and his future achievements could not possibly compare to those of Huang Wei.

"And that Zhou Guang, he even dared to say our Xiao Long entering the Spirit Pond to cultivate was a waste of the Spirit Medicine's power!" Su Yan spoke angrily, "That dog servant, if it wasn't for his backing from big brother Huang Ming, he wouldn't dare to say such things!"

Zhou Guang might be an elder, but in Huang Family Manor, an elder's status is only slightly higher than that of high-level guards, and at the end of the day, he is still a servant.

"Xiao Long, I'm sorry!" Huang Peng looked at his son, his voice filled with low and guilt, "I was useless.

I not only failed to secure your entry to the Spirit Pond but also let Huang Wei snatch it away!"

Upon hearing this, Huang Xiaolong smiled indifferently, "Dad, Mom, don't worry.

At the next annual event, I will not only beat Huang Wei so badly that even his own father won't recognize him, but also so that his grandfather will fail to recognize him too!"

Since grandfather Huang Qide was so biased and valued his precious grandson Huang Wei so much, Huang Xiaolong, a grandson with a "Seventh-level" Martial Soul, intended to show him that his supposed fluke would only get better and stronger!

Not just at the next annual event, but at every single one hereafter, he would beat Huang Wei until he became the ultimate invincible target!

When Huang Peng and Su Yan heard Huang Xiaolong's words, they thought they were just their son's way of comforting them, trying to keep them from worrying; Huang Peng felt even more guilty.

In Huang Peng and Su Yan's minds, their son only had a Seventh-level Martial Soul and as time went by, the gap between him and Huang Wei would only grow.

A year later, Huang Wei could likely break through to Third Order or even higher, while their son, possessing a Seventh-level Martial Soul, would generally need about two years to move from Second Order to Third Order.

At the next annual event, could their son really still beat Huang Wei?

“Unless, my son can swallow three more spiritual medicines like the Yang Fruit!” Huang Peng sighed inwardly, but how many such spiritual medicines like the Yang Fruit could his son possibly encounter again by chance?!

Seeing his parents’ expressions, Huang Xiaolong knew they didn’t believe he could still defeat Huang Wei at next year’s gathering.

“Dad, Mom, I want to cultivate in the backyard mountains in the future!” Huang Xiaolong said after some thought.

This would also facilitate the cultivation of the Yijinjing, otherwise always running back and forth would be a bit troublesome, and currently, Huang Xiaolong did not want to reveal that he was practicing the Asura Technique.

“No way!” Su Yan shook her head in opposition almost without thinking.

Huang Peng also followed up, “Xiao Long, I know you want to cultivate in the backyard mountain to focus on your cultivation, but your strength is only at the Second Order now, it’s too dangerous!”

His parents’ opposition was something Huang Xiaolong had anticipated since he was only a seven-year-old child, and no parent would feel at ease letting their seven-year-old child leave home to cultivate.

“Dad, Mom, I’ll just be on the outer periphery of the backyard mountain, as long as I don’t venture deep into the mountain, there won’t be any danger!” Huang Xiaolong said.

“Don’t worry.”

However, no matter how much Huang Xiaolong tried to persuade them, Huang Peng and Su Yan simply did not agree.

“Then what if next year at the gathering, I manage to defeat Huang Wei?” Huang Xiaolong said helplessly, finally changing his tone.

“Defeat Huang Wei?!” Huang Peng and Su Yan looked at their son incredulously.

“If at next year’s gathering, you really can defeat Huang Wei, then I will allow you to go cultivate in the backyard mountain!” After a moment, Huang Peng spoke thoughtfully,

“However, let’s wait until you defeat Huang Wei at next year’s gathering before we discuss this.”

“Alright then!” Huang Xiaolong said, resigned to waiting another year since there was no other option.

Meanwhile, in the North Hall, Huang Wei, upon hearing what his father, Huang Ming, reported about grandfather Huang Qide’s decision at the Main Hall, couldn’t help but smile brightly: “Grandfather is wise, knowing that even if that boy is allowed to cultivate in the Spirit Pond, it’s a waste!”

Returning from the Main Hall, Huang Ming was also in a good mood, smiling as he said, “Since your grandfather has given you this opportunity to cultivate in the Spirit Pond, don’t disappoint your grandfather or me when the time comes.

Even though you have great talent, you must still put in effort to cultivate!”

Huang Wei smiled and said, “Dad, rest assured, once I start cultivating in the Spirit Pond, it won’t take a year for me to break through to the Third Order!” With hatred intensifying in his eyes, he added, “At the next year’s gathering, I want that damn dog to kneel before me, I will cripple both his arms and legs!”

After returning from the East Hall to his small courtyard, Huang Xiaolong did not continue with his cultivation of the Asura Technique, but instead took out the diagram from within the Asura Technique.

Now that he had broken through to the Fourth Order, he could begin cultivating combat skills.

The diagram recorded two sets of combat skills, one was the Asura Sword Technique which coordinated attacks with the Shura Blade, and the other was the Asura Ghost Claw.

The Asura Sword Technique consisted of eighteen moves, each split into three forms, but the Asura Ghost Claw had fewer moves, only five claws.

After reviewing both the Asura Sword Technique and Asura Ghost Claw, Huang Xiaolong’s eyes landed on the first small diagram of the Asura Sword Technique, and he decided to start with the Asura Sword Technique.

Stepping outside his room into the courtyard, Huang Xiaolong summoned the Asura Blade, recalled the first small diagram’s attack position and Qi Force running method from the Asura Sword Technique, and with a swing of the Asura Blade, several blade lights appeared out of nowhere, slowly rotating and forming two wind clusters that continuously revolved and rolled around in the courtyard.

Asura Sword Technique's first move: Hell's Wind.