

Rebirth Of The Urban Immortal Cultivator

Chapter 51: Martial Arts Tournament.

Sunday morning, Zhou Tianhao's vehicle was parked right at the entrance of the Lake Side Community.

Other than Chen Fan, Master Guo and Zhou Tianhao, A'Biao and ten other bodyguards also tagged along. They drove five cars in total. A'Biao was driving the car that Chen Fan and Zhou Tianhao were in.

"Are we going toward Dong Jiang Province?" Chen Fan asked curiously.

"Yes, the land there is expansive, and therefore our event is always hosted in the Dong Jiang Province." Zhou Tianhao explained. "The Qin Yang County was the border town between Dong Jiang Province and Hu Dong Province. People there adored martial arts. Every year around this time, the villagers will host a wrestling competition.

"Every year around this time, people from all the other villages and counties will flock to join the competition. It was quite a sight to behold." Zhou Tianhao said yearningly. "We had chosen this time to host our Martial Arts Tournament in order to honor their tradition.

"The business aspect aside, the tournament is a competition for the best martial artist. There will be many wealthy people from as far as Dong Jiang Province coming to spectate the tournament.

"The large crowd the tournament drew to the country helped the local economy significantly. After so many years, it had become one of the major income sources for the local people. "

"I see." Chen Fan nodded.

The Chu Zhou City was only two hours away from Dong Jiang Province. Once they drove across the border, the scenery outside of the car window changed drastically.

Chu Zhou City was located in the northern part of the coastal province: Hu Dong, and therefore its economy was not as developed as those cities in the south. Dong Jiang Province was even less developed due to its land-locked location. From the narrow gravel roads to the dingy shacks along the side of the road, Chen Fan felt that the quality of life here in this small county was five years behind that of Chu Zhou City.

As for Qin Yang County, Chen Fan found it very similar to the countryside that he visited when he was a child. Time seemed to have stopped here, and everything looked exactly how they were in the '80s

Once they entered the Qin Yang County, they pulled over beside a luxury three-story building.

"Boss Zhou, you are finally here!" Someone was already waiting for them at the entrance.

"Master Chen, Master Guo, this is Boss Zhang From Qin Yang County." Zhou Tianhao introduced the owner of the house lazily.

"Oh my. Don't call me boss. Just call me Xiao Zhang." Boss Zhang hurried a reply.

To a local gentry from a small village, Zhou Tianhao was considered a powerful magnate. As such, Boss Zhang fawned over him to gain his favor. Even a small favor from Zhou Tianhao would be so beneficial to a local gentry that he would laugh in his dreams.

"Is this Master Chen?"

Boss Zhang glanced at Zhou Tianhao's entourage, and he quickly spotted Chen Fan and noticed the authority the boy commanded.

"Yes. Master Chen is the Third Lord's friend." Zhou Tianhao said thinly.

Excitement flashed across Boss Zhang's face. He reached out both hands and pumped Chen Fan's hands vigorously. "Oh my! Third Lord's friend! I am so honored!"

The Wei Family was a household name across China, and therefore, Boss Zhang was familiar with the Third Lord and his clout.

Seeing how young Chen Fan was, Boss Zhang was even more convinced that Chen Fan came from a prestigious family. Otherwise, he would not befriend the Third Lord. So thinking, Boss Zhang's smile broadened and became even more enthusiastic to please Chen Fan.

"It is Master Chen's first time visiting your village; please take good care of him." Zhou Tianhao said.

"You can count on me!" Vice Mayor Zhang pondered his chest and announced.

Once they entered the three-story building, Chen Fan was greeted by a few attractive young girls. The beauty of their youth was evident on their smooth face that was devoid of any makeup.

One of the girls sat beside Chen Fan. She was the youngest and the most attractive.

While waiting, Chen Fan started a short conversation with her.

Her name was A'Xiu, and she was from a large family and had many siblings. Her parents couldn't afford for all the kids to go to university, and therefore, A'Xiu was forced to quit school ever since junior high. Because of her good looks, she was hired by the local government to be a waitress in the local government-owned hotel.

After they had lunch, Chen Fan suggested walking around the village and explore.

Boss Zhang hurried to caution him that the local residents of Qin Yang were quite ill-mannered and short tempered. If he walked alone, the locals might pick on him over a stare. He suggested Chen Fan bring A'Xiu with him. The locals were less likely to stir up trouble if they saw one of them was among the visitors.

As he offered his suggestion, Boss Zhang shot a knowing glance at A'Xiu.

A'Xiu blushed and then she lowered her head.

The tournament stretched over a few days, and only on the last day would the audiences see the competition among bosses from Jiang Bei Region. After all, only the wealthiest businessman would have afforded the best fighters who would last until the end.

Wealthy men and women who could afford the tickets flocked into the county to see the matches on the last day.

As Chen Fan strolled in the streets of the small village, he saw groups of visitors pass him on many occasions. Their fine dress and pale complexions were a telltale sign that they were from the city and had never worked one day in the field.

Among these city visitors, Chen Fan saw newly-wed couples, school mates, and beer-bellied middle age men walking beside their young mistress with a group of bodyguards following them. All of them came to see the tournament.

"What is the schedule of the tournament like?"

Chen Fan asked.

A'Xiu was a shy girl; she spoke quietly, "The tournament is usually hosted in the evening. The stage was used by the locals for their wrestling competition. After the tournament, we have a bonfire party every night.

"The wrestling competition was just for fun, and therefore, the rewards are not very high.

“But the tournament was the real deal. The participants were no ordinary fighters.”

After she said that, her eyes lost focus for a second.

She wanted to get out of this village and go study in the city, get a job and marry a city boy. However, since she was a girl and her grades were nothing to brag about, her family had decided to prioritize her brothers' education and let the girls quit the schools.

Chen Fan noticed her sudden silence. He shot her an indifferent glance.

Having lived for five hundred years, Chen Fan had become insensitive to humanity's suffering. He knew that time would wash away everything, so why should he care for the mortals and their troubles. If he were a sixteen-year-old boy, he would have felt so bad for the girl and would give her a ticket out of the small town then and there.

A'Xiu quickly gathered herself and led Chen Fan to other parts of the village.

As they walked on the main street of the town, a large group of people were heading toward the opposite direction. Their confident and imperious strides suggested the immense power of their leader. At the center of the group, Chen Fan saw Xu Ao.

The group had blocked the road, and Chen Fan had to stop.

After Xu Ao noticed Chen Fan, he paused a second and looked at the boy with a frown.

“Why are you here?”

Chapter 52: An Encounter In The Village

“Mr. Xu. “Chen Fan nodded and didn't answer his question.

Xu Ao's face hardened as he was not pleased by Chen Fan, ignoring his question. However, he didn't want to press the boy for an answer in public. He simply told Chen Fan, “Come find me at the Qin Yang Hotel tonight.”

He then walked past Chen Fan without a word.

Chen Fan and A'Xiu stepped aside to make way for the large crowd. He felt many watchful eyes staring at him, some of those belonging to powerful Internal Force users. However, Chen Fan was not concerned at all.

A brawny bald man was walking side by side with Xu Ao, and he asked, “Lord Xu, who is that kid?”

“A distant nephew. I have no clue what is he doing here.” Xu Ao said with a dark face.

“Hehe, the tournament is very popular among the kids nowadays.” The skinhead smiled and said. “That little girl beside your nephew looked so damn hot. If she were not with your nephew, I would have already made a move on her.”

Xu Ao snorted displeasedly.

This skinhead was a rich magnate from the city of Clear Water, and he was well known for his appetite for women. However, he wouldn’t make a fool of himself while Xu Ao was here.

“This boy gets around. He was courting my daughter at the Chu Zhou City while flirting with another girl at the Qin Yang County. I will be blind if I trust my daughter with him.”

So thinking, Xu Ao furrowed his brows as his impression of Chen Fan deteriorated further.

After the big group of people was gone, A’Xiu patted her chest and stuck out the tip of her tongue.

“They are scary people. Especially that Mr. Shiny Head. The way he looked at me is scary.”

She said as she gazed at Chen Fan, batting her lashes.

“Brother Chen, do you know them?”

“I have met the leader once; his name is Xu Ao.” Chen Fan said lightly.

“Lord Ao of Hai Dong?” A’Xiu exclaimed, drawing many people’s attention. She grabbed Chen Fan’s arm and urged him to walk away as she asked under her breath. “Do you know Boss Ao?”

“Ah, what am I thinking. You are an honored guest of Boss Zhang; It makes sense for you to know Boss Ao.”

“Do you know Xu Ao as well?” Chen Fan asked lightheartedly.

Was Xu Ao really that famous that even a country girl had heard of his name?

After hearing Chen Fan’s question, the smile on A’Xiu’s face disappeared.

“I know a lot of people working for Boss Ao.”

A'Xiu led Chen Fan through an old district and arrived at a plaza just outside of the village.

The plaza was already packed with spectators. There was an equal amount of villagers and visitors. A large stage was set at the center of the plaza for the wrestling competition.

The stage was huge, enough for three competitions to be carried out at one time.

On the stage, a few combatants were wrestling each other. Cheers and applause came from the audiences in fits and starts.

Chen Fan lost interest in the wrestling game very quickly. These were all amateurs, and there were no skills involved in their contest. Most of the combatants had inferior skills to A'Bian much less to the Internal Force users such as Linbao.

As he was about to tell A'Xiu to head back, a girl among the crowd spotted Chen Fan and called out to him.

"Chen Fan?"

Chen Fan paused a second after he saw a girl wearing a broad-brim hat and a pair of sunglasses. He couldn't recall who this girl was

"Do I know you?"

"I am Yang Li! Your cousin's best friend plus roommate. Don't you remember me?" The city girl took off her sunglasses, revealing a small face with fine features. She was at least as attractive as Chang Wen.

"Ah, Sister Li-Li!" Realization finally dawned up Chen Fan.

The girl was Chen Fan's cousin, Chen Ning's roommate. When Chen Fan visited Jin City, his cousin, Chen Ning introduced her to him before. However, that was a good five hundred years ago, and therefore, it took Chen Fan a while to recall the piece of memory.

"I wonder how is my cousin Chen Ning doing." Chen Fan thought to himself.

Chen Ning was his cousin on his dad's side of the family. She went to Jin City for university, and she should be in her fourth year as of now.

Although Chen Fan's father's family could not compare with the Wang Family, the Chen Family had a reputable name in the city of Jin.

All children of the Chens had outstanding grades in school. Chen Ning, for example, was admitted to one of the top ten universities in China because of her exceptional grads. In Chen Fan's distant memory, Chen Ning worked at Wall Street after she graduated and became a successful Investor consultant. She married a hedge fund manager and lived an opulent life; a stark contrast with Chen Fan's tragic fall from grace.

However, those were the stories of another life; Chen Fan was reborn to rewrite a new chapter in the book of fate.

"The last time I saw Yang Li was two years ago. Surprisingly she still recognized me." Chen Fan felt lighthearted by the encounter. He shook his head and asked, "Sister Li-Li, why are you in the Qin Yang County?"

"Hey! That is my question for you!" Yang Li rounded her eyes and put her hands on her hips.

"Aren't you supposed to be at school right now? Did you come here by yourself?"

"No... I came with my friends."

Yang Li's reprimand had rendered Chen Fan wordless. He might be a five-hundred-year-old cultivator, but in the eyes of ordinary people, he was still a child.

Amused by Chen Fan's embarrassed expression, A'Xiu covered her mouth to suppress her sniggers.

"Hum? Who is this girl? Your girlfriend?"

Yang Li was astonished by A'Xiu's beauty as her eyes were lit up with surprise.

Although A'Xiu was wearing plain and ordinary clothes, her natural beauty made her stand out among the crowd. Her skin was smooth, and her eyes were wide and cutesy-looking.

"No." Chen Fan answered lightly.

A'Xiu lowered her head and was blushing. Her embarrassed look made Chen Fan's denial powerless.

"Ok... I see."

Yang Li gave Chen Fan a knowing look and then shook her head.

"The kids nowadays are beyond me. Not only did you start dating way too early, but also traveled so far to such a dangerous place!"

By then, some of Yang Li's friends had also gathered around her.

One of the men who looked like Yang Li's boyfriend furrowed his brows and asked.

"Xiao Li, who are these two?"

There were five of them, three men and two women, all from big cities. All of the three young men looked around at A'Xiu, and their eyes were brimming.

"This is Xiao Fan and his girlfriend." Yang Li introduced. "Xiao Fan is the cousin of my best friend."

"Why don't they tag along with us?" A young man asked.

Judging by the way he talked, he seemed to be Yang Li's boyfriend. He was wearing brand name clothes from head to toe. Wrapped around his wrist was a piece of Vacheron Constantin and a BMW key chain was also hitched at his belt.

"Brother Zhang was a member of the Provincial Sanshou team. I bet you that he is going to kick everyone's asses."

Brother Zhang was the tallest young man among the three.

He was wearing a small black tank top, exposing his incredible pecks. His callused hands were an indication of years of training behind him.

Brother Zhang shook his head and said

"I am here only for the tournament, not for the wrestling during the day."

"They can bluff all they want; I will defeat them regardless." Brother Zhang said contemptuously.

The others nodded in agreement.

However, Chen Fan disagreed, but he kept his opinion unspoken.

Brother Zhang was too full of himself. He thought Sanshou was all there was in the vast world of martial arts. He had the delusion that he would be victorious because he had been living under a rock so far.

Yang Li's boyfriend urged Chen Fan and A'Xiu to follow them to watch Brother Zhang's match.

Chen Fan knew they wanted them to tag along because of A'Xiu, but not because they wanted to befriend him.

Chen Fan was going to refuse the invitation, but Yang Li insisted on him going, so he eventually caved in and followed them.

Chapter 53: Tournament Start.

Chapter 53: Tournament Start.

Brother Zhang was a member of the provincial team; as such, he defeated his opponents with ease. One young man collapsed to the ground after just one sweep kick. After a few rounds of victories, no one dared challenge Brother Zhang any longer.

“Boring.”

Brother Zhang hopped off the tournament stage; he shook his head and lamented.

“You are too powerful for them.”

Yang Li’s boyfriend praised Brother Zhang

Yang Li’s boyfriend was called Xiao Wang, and he was from Jin City. His family owned at least a few dozen million since otherwise, he would not be able to find a girlfriend as beautiful as Yang Li. Rich friends such as Xiao Wang practically surrounded brother Zhang.

After all, someone had to clean the mess after these rich brats. Whenever they were in trouble, they would ring Brother Zhang up for help. In most cases, the fight was over once Brother Zhang arrived and told his opponents that he was from the provincial Sanshou team. Most of these opponents were ordinary high school kids, and therefore no one dared to butt heads against a professional.

Due to the protection Brother Zhang could offer, Xiao Wang was resolved to be on his good side. He never knew when he would have to give the big brother a phone call to fish him out of troubled water.

As such, Xiao Wang had planned this trip to the Qin Yang County, specifically for Brother Zhang. He had told his other friends to invite as many attractive teenage girls as possible for Brother Zhang to choose. However, the timing was bad, and therefore, only one girl had come with them besides Yang Li. The girl was only average looking, and therefore Brother Zhang was not all that interested in her.

Xiao Wang had been lamenting his back luck, but his eyes lit up as soon as he saw A’Xiu. If Brother Zhang didn’t want her, he might dig his claws into her.

As soon as Brother Zhang saw A'Xiu. His eyes were glued to the girl's face. Seeing Brother Zhang's interest, Xiao Wang formed a plan in his mind and spoke to Brother Zhang, "Since there is nothing else to do, why don't we make it to the tournament stage right now."

He then looked to Chen Fan and A'Xiu and said, "Xiao Fan, you two are too young, and this county is too dangerous. Why don't you come with us? We have the protection of Brother Zhang; no one would dare lay a finger on you."

"I agree! Xiao Fan, come with us. If I leave you alone here, your sister is not going to let me get away with it." Yang Li nodded in agreement.

"There is no need." Chen Fan furrowed his brows.

He had felt a bad vibe from the group except for Yang Li, who was oblivious of her friend's true nature. He wondered what had spurred these young men's nefarious intent after meeting him for the first time.

"Of course, you are coming with us! Haven't you see that someone had just broken their head on the stage? This place is dangerous; you better follow us, another wise I will call your sister and tell her what you are up to." Yang Li put her hands on her hips and refuted Chen Fan firmly.

"Er..." Chen Fan suddenly felt at a loss for words.

Yang Li's threat worked. If she snitched on him to his cousin Chen Ning, his mother would also know that he had skipped classes to go to Dong Jiang Province. Then he would be in knee deep trouble.

"Fine, fine." Chen Fan agreed lightly. He was here for sightseeing anyway, what difference did it make who he toured the town with.

The seven of them drove two cars towards the outskirts of the Qin Yang County.

The stage for martial arts tournament was much bigger than that of the wrestling competition, and therefore it had to be set up outside of the city.

When they arrived, they already saw a few vehicles parked by the stage. Besides a little lake erected a huge circular wall made out of tarp. The wall marked the perimeter of the tournament event, and the stage was just inside of it.

The entrance fee started at one thousand per person, and the ticket booth only took cash.

Xiao Wang paid for everyone's front row ticket at double the price. As he produced a thick stash of cash from his jacket, he glanced at A'Xiu, and he was satisfied to see that the girl's eyes were filled with admiration.

After they entered the threshold, they felt a heat wave sweep across their faces.

Chen Fan studied the enclosure and noticed that the seats were already half full. There were at least a few hundred attendees here. The stage was set, and a few dancers and a singer were performing while the rest waited for the tournament to start.

There were many waitresses with bunny ears and bikinis walking about while carrying a platter.

On the platters were drinks, fruits, and snacks. One could call a bunny girl over and pay for the food or drink directly with a credit card. Credit was not an issue here since most of these men and women were super rich.

Chen Fan shook his head.

"Anyone want to make a 'donation'?" Xiao Wang asked his friends while wagging a slip of a betting form.

Brother Zhang betted a hundred thousand yuan on a retired Sanshou fighter. Other people in the group also "donated" a dozen thousand here and there.

By then, A'Xiu and Chen Fan were the only ones who hadn't filled out their forms.

Seeing that the donation started at ten thousand, A'Xiu shook her head and backed away from them.

Xiao Wang cracked a smile and said, "Don't worry, I can lend you some money now, and you can pay me back later."

As he spoke to A'Xiu, he gave Chen Fan a look.

Xiao Wang knew that the fledgling would not be able to stomach such humiliation and therefore, he would have to borrow from him.

To his surprise, Chen Fan didn't even grace him with a glance as he kept his placid and indifferent expression on his face.

Xiao Wang cracked a smile and let the matter rest.

Yang Li asked curiously, "Isn't it kind of like those illegal underground cage fights?"

Xiao Wang shook head and said, "Are you kidding me? They are totally different.

“A Cage fight’s reward was astronomical, and a cage fight had no rules.

“The tournament, on the other hand, was a public event, and the reward was only a fraction of a cage fight.

“It followed strict rules, and no one was ever hurt on the stage.

“As you can see, the tournament and a cage fight are very different.

“So stop being so silly. This is nowhere close to a cage fight.

“Only girls like you would believe that this is a cage fight.”

Ashamed at herself, Yang Li nodded slightly.

After a while, the match finally started. The first two contestants were two tall and brawny men. One had learned professional boxing, and the other was a self-taught martial artist. The two fighters were at each other right away, and their aggressive advances lit up the enthusiasm of the audiences.

As the match progressed, the fights were getting more and more entertaining and thrilling to watch. Some attendees had already taken off their shirts and waved them in the air to cheer for their fighter. After each fight, there were elated cheers as well as hateful curses and lamentation. Many “donations’ were at stake.

“He won again! Good pick, Brother Zhang!”

As soon as one of the fighters fell to the ground, Xiao Wang jumped out of his chair and waved his fists in the air excitedly.

Brother Zhang let out a smug smirk. As a professional fighter, he had more insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each fighter. He had helped his friends place their bets and so far, none of the fighters he picked had lost a fight.

Even A’Xiu was excited by the promise of making a huge return on bets.

Xiao Wang came up to the girl again and asked.

“Xiao Fan, A’Xiu, are you guys going to place your bet or not?”

“Don’t worry; we have Brother Zhang. You won’t lose a nickel! I can lend you some money right now, and you can pay me back once you have made more money.”

“Sure.”

A'Xiu agreed hesitantly. She looked to Chen Fan and seeing he didn't object to her participation, she gritted her teeth and agreed to Xiao Wang's offer.

Xiao Wang's eyes flickered, and then he exchanged a knowing glance with Brother Zhang.

The girl had finally risen to the bait.

Chen Fan watched from the side, and he knew exactly what was going on. However, he was too lazy to intervene in the trivial drama of these mortals.

He was a cultivator, and freedom of body, mind, and soul was his ultimate goal. Therefore, he wouldn't let worldly morals and values to weigh him down.

Chapter 54: Gathering Of Super Rich.

The first bet that A'Xiu had made was a win. A'Xiu's face blushed for winning a huge amount of cash. She looked at Brother Zhang and Xiao Wang excitedly.

"Brother Chen, why don't you have some fun too?"

Xiao Wang wrapped his arm around Yang Li and asked Chen Fan with a cold smile.

The moment that A'Xiu rose to the bait, he had already forgotten about Chen Fan. He invited Chen Fan to join the group only to lure the girl into his trap.

The excitement was written all over A'Xiu's face. However, her mind was calm and clear. She spoke quietly under her breath, "Mr. Chen is a powerful man; he wouldn't bet on such small games."

"Powerful man?" Xiao Wang pouted his lips as he tried to suppress a peal of laughter.

"You mean him?"

Chen Fan was so stingy that he would not even give his girlfriend ten thousand yuan for some fun. What kind of powerful person would do that?

However, seeing the sincerity in A'Xiu's eyes, he let the matter rest and didn't say anything more.

In the next few days, Xiao Wang guided Chen Fan and A'Xiu around the village in the day and went to bet on the tournament matches in the night. A'Xiu had borrowed a lot of money from Xiao Wang, but she had won even more. Despite her excitement for her streak of luck, she didn't let herself get carried away. For most of the time, she stayed

close to Chen Fan and only bet on the matches once or twice in a night. Seeing his advance was slowing down, Xiao Wang started to loath Chen Fan and wanted to remove him out of the picture.

Chen Fan was not interested in the tournament at all. It was still very early in the game, and therefore, most of the fighters were not very powerful as those who survived until the final.

At last the final match was going to draw back its curtains.

Chen Fan arrived at the outskirts of the village in the afternoon, and right away, he noticed the stage set up was different. There were no more enclosures. Instead, the wall had been taken down to make space for a tall platform beside the stage.

The platform was surrounded by buff and brawny bodyguards who looked like very powerful fighters.

The audience sat in their chairs and waited in silence.

This was the day when all the bosses in Jiang Bei region came to gather around. To these tycoons, this event was like an annual conference.

“There they are.”

A murmur rose from the audience as a group of people walked to the platform.

“That one is Boss Xin Zhong from my home town: Tian He City.”

“Humph, Baldy Liu had come as well.”

“Wait a minute, I only see Zhou Tianhao, where is the Third Lord of Wei?”

Every time a businessman appeared at the platform, a swell of murmurs rose from the audience. Some voices were packed with jealousy, and others loathing.

“How come Lord Wu of Jiang Zhou City had sent a girl to come in his stead?”

Some visitors from Jiang Zhou spoke under their breath.

After a while, the last tycoon appeared on the stage. The entire arena fell into a reverential silence as everyone gazed at the middle age scholarly looking man.

“The Greatest Lord of the Jiang Bei Region.

“Xu Ao of Hai Dong”

Of all the people on the platform, Xu Ao was the most powerful one.

Not only did he control the biggest city in the Jiang Bei region, but he also owned a majority share in a public company that was worth tens of billions of yuan. Thanks to his powerful protectors and immense financial capability, he overwhelmingly dominated the power dynamic with the other tycoons.

Seeing Xu Ao's imposing demeanor, some business magnates snorted.

Xu Ao let their jealous insults slide off his mind and sat stately in the center seat of the table. Master Gu, however, gave the scorner a cold and sharp glance.

The scorner was none other than Xin Zhong.

To Master Gu's surprise, he only saw Master Wu sitting beside Xin Zhong, but didn't see the overseas master that everyone had been talking about.

"Humph! Laugh while you still can." Master Gu thought to himself.

After everyone had sat down, Baldy Liu stared at the only woman among the bosses and said with a smirk,

"Is there really no one else in the Jiang Zhou City that they had to send a girl?"

The person who represented Jiang Zhou City was a girl in a green shirt.

She was not the drop-dead gorgeous kind but looked dainty and refined. She wore a green Qipao dress and a pair of silk slippers with delicate embroidery. Her snow-white arm was decorated with a pair of wrist bands made out of green jade. Her unique style of antiquity and culture made her look like a beauty from ancient times.

The girl didn't even grace Baldy Liu with a glance, but a middle age bodyguard stepped forward angrily.

"Calm down, both of you. Lord Wu is not feeling well and therefore, had asked Miss Lu to come in his stead. Lord Wu had informed me about it ahead of time." Xu Ao explained slowly.

Baldy Liu murmured something under his breath and kept his silence.

The buff middle age bodyguard looked to Miss Lu for any instructions, and the latter waved a dismiss at him.

Everyone was shocked by the authority held by Xu Ao. Without his consent, no one at the table dared to cross the line.

“Nice to see everyone gather here at this corner of China.

“As we all know, today is the day that gentlemen across all cities of Jiang Bei gather here to settle past scores, in our own way and on our own terms. We will fight all we want on that stage, but off that stage, no one should stir up disorder, at least not under my watch. ”

Xu Ao sat in the armchair and announced firmly. No one dared to say a word while he was speaking.

After Xu Ao was done talking, Baldy Liu was the first one who piped up.

He sneered at Zhou Tianhao and asked, “Zhou Tianhao, why didn’t I see your protector, The Third Lord of Wei?

“I had spared you many times for the sake of House Wei, and today I won’t let get you to get away with it again.”

Baldy Liu waved a hand as a short and dark-skinned man stepped forward and darted toward the stage.

When he was about ten paces away from the stage, he jumped, and carried by his momentum, he leapt across the guard railing and landed firmly on the stage. He looked contemptuously at the representative’s form Chu Zhou City.

Zhou Tianhao’s face darkened as he clutched the armchair.

The City of Clear Water was adjacent to Chu Zhou City, and therefore the two factions had frequent run-ins. The Baldy Liu had been Zhou Tianhao’s longtime rival.

“Master Guo, can you handle it?”

Zhou Tianhao looked at the sharp young man on the stage and answered.

“He is an expert of Muay Thai. They started training when they were kids. They hit rocks with their fists until every single bone in their hands were broken. When those wounds were healed, their fists were as if they were made out of iron.” Guo Wei studied the young man cautiously. And then he said confidently.

“As long as he didn’t practice the ancient school of Muay Thai, I am confident that I can defeat him.”

Before his words faded, Master Guo had already flown into the air and landed on the stage.

“Bravo!”

Master Guo's entrance won a wave of cheers from the audience.

Since the other combatant didn't look Chinese, the audience had already chosen their side. Seeing Master Guo's dressed in classical Chinese Kung Fu outfit, the audience heaped their patriotic support on him.

"Please!"

The short man's Chinese sounded a little bit strange to the ear but was understandable.

As soon as he finished the necessary courtesy, the man sprang forward like a loaded spring as he threw a punch at Master Guo.

His attack was not only sneaky but was also packed with force from his waist and hip. His fist traveled at incredible speed as it wheezed across the air. The audiences' hearts were suddenly caught in their throats.

Master Guo was an Internal Force user who had achieved initial success; as such, he was unflinching before the surprise attack. He pulled a taut face and pushed both hands out to block the punch.

Seeing his first attack had been blocked, the Muay Thai fighter followed up with more strikes. In a blink, Master Guo was embattled by a downpour of assaults from all directions. If he slipped up once, he might as well have lost the match.

Finally, he was dealt a blow, and right away, he felt the incredible weight in the attack.

Master Guo's heart sank after having the first taste of his opponent's power. He knew he had met a real Muay Thai master.

By then, he had already lost the initiative and was forced to defend himself. His only hope was to wait for his opponent to make a mistake so that he could unleash a counter strike.

The audience held their breath and watched as Master Guo was being forced into a corner by the foreign young man.

"How about that!" Baldy Liu scanned around him and smirked smugly."Although Master Song Tao was young, he is one of the most powerful Muay Thai masters in southeast Asia. People call him the 'Eighth-Armed Arhat' "

The other magnates furrowed their brows after hearing Baldy Liu's words.

The word Arhat held much more respect in southeast Asia than in China. In southeast Asia, the Hinayana school of Buddhism revered Arhat as the highest enlightenment a

mortal can achieve. It was not a nickname that could be easily tossed around from mouth to mouth.

Only the most accomplished Muay Thai fighter could be called an Arhat.

On the stage, the young Muay Thai fighter moved his arms and legs with lightning speed. He attacked with fists, legs, elbows, knees and turned his body into a walking death machine.

No wonder they called him the Eight-Armed Arhat.

Everyone's face paled at the development.

Brother Zhang's face was bleak. Although he was from the provincial Sanshou team, he had never expected such power from a Muay Thai fighter.

Even Guo Wei's power had exceeded his expectations, much less the Muay Thai fighter.

Brother Zhang tried to put himself in Guo Wei's shoes and realized that he might not even be able to block one of Song Tao's furious blows.

Chen Fan also furrowed his brows as he worried that Guo Wei was going to lose.

Lo and behold, in a matter of minutes, Guo Wei was defeated.

Chapter 55: Lin Hu Arrived

Master Guo's lack of initiative had eventually become his downfall.

Although Master Guo had lasted as long as he could, hoping that his opponent would slip up and give him an opportunity to fight back, he had underestimated Song Tao's ability. The Eight-Armed Arhat had poured attacks on him, in a blink, he had unleashed thirteen punches, six kicks, five elbows strikes, and seven knee strikes. The fourteenth punch had finally hit home and destroyed Guo Wei's defense. The lightning-fast fist landed solidly on Guo Wei's chests.

"Urhh!"

A gush of blood spilled out from Guo Wei's mouth, and the punch sent him stumbling back until he fell off the stage.

"Bam!"

Master Guo collapsed to the ground beneath the stage.

By then, the audience had finally noticed that there was a depression at the center of Guo Wei's chest. His shirt was in tatters around a fist-sized area on his chest.

The gruesome sight sent a chill down everyone's spines.

With only one punch, Song Tao had driven Guo Wei off the stage. If the blow landed on more of a vital point of Guo Wei's body, he might as well be dead.

"I submit!"

With a smear of blood at the corner of his lips, Guo Wei pushed himself to his feet. He could barely stand straight.

Song Tao's contorted face suddenly returned placid after he heard his opponent's surrender. He folded his hands and bowed slightly to Master Guo and started off the stage.

Baldy Liu sneered at Zhou Tianhao and then said, "How about that, Brother Hao?"

"Well, I have lost. Until next year, I will not compete with you in business."

Zhou Tianhao's face was bleak and overwrought, and he managed to let out a few words

"Great!"

"I will take you up on it." Baldy Liu laughed and then announced with joy. A waitress carried a piece of paper on a platter to Zhou Tianhao. Without examining the contents of the contract, Zhou Tianhao signed the document and transferred his share to Baldy Liu.

Seeing that deal was sealed, Baldy Liu's face was lit up with glee.

Zhou Tianhao wanted to dig a hole and hide. He didn't care for the share he had just given away; however, by doing so, he had also given away his place in one of the richest villages around this area. The village of Lin Fu bordered three cities and therefore was an important transportation node. Due to its large amount of visitors from nearby cities, the entertainment industry had boomed there and was Zhou Tianhao's main source of income.

Losing the share in those companies located in the village of Lin Fu directly translated to losses of over a few dozen million yuan of profit, nearly half of his annual cash flow.

Zhou Tianhao managed to gather himself and asked one of his men, "Where is Master Chen?"

“Master Chen said he had met a group of friends, so he was out with them. There are simply too many visitors in this small place so we couldn't find him.” A'Biao said. “Don't worry, if Master Chen had promised to show up, I believe he will.”

“As long as Master Chen Shows up, he will defeat Song Tao with ease.”

Zhou Tianhao nodded after realizing that he had no other option but to wait.

He had invited Master Chen as a contingency measure, thinking that Master Guo should suffice. However, he didn't expect his fellow businessmen to invite much stronger fighters than they used to. As such, Master Guo was defeated in the first round.

Master Guo's defeat had also exposed his weakness. Zhou Tianhao wagered that Baldy Liu would not be the first one to challenge him.

He had sat at the table representing the Chu Zhou City; as such, he had to accept any challenge thrown at him and admit any losses.

Lo, and behold, another few factions challenged Zhou Tianhao. Guo Wei was injured, and Master Chen was absent, the only person who could fight was A'Biao. However, Zhou Tianhao was convinced that if he let A'Biao get on that stage, he might as well send him on a suicide mission.

Having no champion at his disposal, Zhou Tianhao had to submit to the challenges and gave up more shares that he owned.

“Just wait.

“When Master Chen shows up, I will let you spit out what you take.”

Zhou Tianhao cursed the vouchers in his mind.

By then, Chu Zhou faction was nearly picked clean, and the powerful factions had already ignored Chu Zhou faction and focused competing against Baldy Liu from the city of Clear Water.

The girl in green said thinly, “Fourth Uncle, Guo Wei is an Internal Force user who had achieved Initial Success, is he not? How come he was no match against a Muay Thai fighter?”

“Your ladyship, he was not just any master of Muay Thai.” The middle age man standing behind the girl said with a pair of glinting eyes. “His power and speed have exceeded that of a normal person. I bet he is a practitioner of the ancient Muay Thai.

“The Ancient Muay Thai had a method to stimulate human’s strong growth, and it was only passed down to the closest disciples. Those who were chosen to carry down the secret art were not any less powerful than an Internal Force user. The power of the strongest Ancient Muay Thai fighter was on par with that of a Transcendent Master.

“Nonetheless, there are too few people who practiced this ancient form of Muay Thai. Song Tao was only slightly stronger than Guo Wei. Master Guo would not have lost the fight if he didn’t underestimate his opponent. ”

“How does he compare to you?” The girl in green asked under her breath.

“Hehe.” The middle age man smiled smugly. “Of all the fighters, only that old bone from the Gu family is my worthy opponent.

“As for that Muay Thai fighter...

“I can defeat him in ten moves. ”

The middle age man spoke with a great measure of confidence and assuredness.

Miss Lu nodded approvingly; everything was still under control.

“Since Uncle Wu had invited my family to help out, I will uphold my family’s honor and reputation. It’s not a big deal for us to claim the number one title of the Jiang Bei region.”

“Touche, Our Lu family had deep roots in martial arts, and no ordinary fighter could challenge us.” The Fourth Uncle agreed. “That old man from the Gu family was also from an ancient martial arts lineage. However, he had sustained some serious injury when he was young, and therefore, I should have an advantage when fighting against him. ”

Meanwhile, Xu Ao was also conversing with Master Gu.

Old age had carved deep lines into Master Gu’s face and his voice were husky. “Rest assured, Lord Xu. Song Tao is no match against me.

“The most powerful contender had reached only Initial Success in their cultivation. They stand no chance before me.”

“Thank you for your reassurance. I am relieved.” Xu Ao nodded.

Meanwhile, Master Gu glanced surreptitiously at Miss Lu and the middle age man behind her. They looked very family to Master Gu, but the old man could not pinpoint where or when he had met them.

In an hour, five more matches had finished.

So far, Song Tao had achieved a smashing success. His last opponent was a Karate master. However, he had defeated the Japanese master with one kick.

All the bosses, except for Xu Ao and Miss Lu had started to feel unnerved by Song Tao's display of strength.

He was simply too powerful!

Most of the tycoon's champions were no match against the Muay Thai fighter. Baldy Liu wore a smug face as he scanned the table, looking for his next victim.

Everyone at the table looked to Xu Ao for rescue.

Xu Ao furrowed his brows as he reckoned that he had put a stop to Baldy Liu's act. Even as he was going to order Master Gu to prepare for the fight, a loud and contemptuous voice came from the stage.

"Humph! Is there really no one can stop this dude from Thailand? What a shame!"

Everyone looked toward the voice, and they saw Xin Zhong sprawled inside a large armchair. Disdain and contempt were written all over his face.

Xin Zhong's words riled up Baldy Liu; he shouted at him, "Xin Zhong, are you courting death?"

"Very well. I can help you fulfill your wish."

As he spoke, Baldy Liu scanned around Xin Zhong. A contemptuous smirk appeared on his face as he said, "Is that all you brought with you?"

"Haven't you invited some hotshot from overseas? Where is he? Was he scared of Song Tao's power?"

Baldy Liu's question resonated with many other magnates as they furrowed their brows in confusion.

Other than half a dozen normal bodyguards, only Master Wu sat beside Xin Zhong.

Master Wu looked like in his seventies, and therefore people doubted that he would go on to the stage and fight against a young man in his prime.

"No kidding. Where is the overseas martial arts master that Xin Zhong had claimed to have invited?"

Everyone was asking the same question in their mind.

Xin Zhong rounded his eyes and flung back at Baldy Liu vehemently, “Baldy Liu, how dare you talk down about Lord Hu. You will pay for your conceit!

“Lord Hu has just arrived. I can’t wait to see your reaction.”

After Xing Zhong had finished his words, he stood up and bowed toward the small lake, and then he shouted.

“Welcome, Lord Hu!”

Xin Zhong’s bodyguard followed his lead as they shouted out in unison. “Welcome, Lord Hu!”

The development dumbfounded everyone. There was not even a boat on the lake, much less a living person.

Suddenly, Chen Fan gasped under his breath. He fixed his gaze on the flicking surface of the lake and smiled. “Interesting. I think I have underestimated the Martial Artists on Earth after all.”

However, most people were still oblivious of what was going on. Some audiences were ready to stand up and question Xin Zhong.

Suddenly, Master Gu and Fourth Uncle both stood up abruptly and looked into distance incredulously

“Master Gu(Fourth Uncle), what is going on?” Miss Lu and Xu Ao asked almost simultaneously.

The Fourth Uncle didn’t utter a word, but his body was tense as if a powerful opponent was going to descend upon him. Meanwhile, Master Gu’s face looked bleak and gloomy.

“Lord Xu, I think we have some trouble.”

Even as Xu Ao was wondering what Master Gu meant, he heard loud cheers by the shore of the lake. He traced the source of the din, and then he was shocked by what he saw.

On the placid surface of the lake was a line of white broken waves extending from the other side of the shore to the shore by the stage. The leading head of the wave traveled at incredible speed. Upon close look, Xu Ao saw a man running on the lake, kicking up the water creating the line of turbulent water on the lake.

“Is that.. a human?”

Someone asked with a shaky voice.

Everyone was asking the same question in their mind.

Not only was the man running on water, but he was also traveling as fast as a speedboat. How did he do that?

The Fourth Uncle gaped at the scene and finally managed to let out a few words:

“Walking on the water... Gosh... he had reached the ultimate state of the Internal Force.”

The person on the lake had reached the Perfected stage in his Internal Force cultivation. He was only one step away from being a Transcendent Grand Master.

A powerful grandmaster like him would have dominated the current martial arts landscape with ease.

Xin Zhong’s lips curled into a smile. He bowed deeply again and shouted.

“Welcome, Lord Hu!”

While many pairs stared incredulously, Linhu kicked the water under his feet forcefully and flew himself into the air. A second later, he landed on the stage. He linked his hands behind his back and said lightly to Song Tao.

“You are my opponent?”

Song Tao’s face paled almost instantly.

This was the first time since he stepped onto the stage that he felt afraid.

Chapter 56: Who Is Master Chen?

Ever since he was accepted by his master as a disciple and started practicing the ancient Muay Thai, he had never lost a fight. Therefore, not until he saw Lin Hu’s incredible power of running on water, did he think that there could be someone more powerful than him.

However, Song Tao quickly turned his fear into motivation. His dedication to martial arts had made him eager to fight against such a powerful opponent.

“Please!”

He bowed to his opponent.

“You first.”

Lin Hu put one arm behind his back; the other reached out toward Song Tao.

Song Tao was angered by his opponent’s stance. “Did he think that he could defeat me with only one arm?”

Although this man seemed to have incredible abilities, Song Tao himself had been invincible across southeast Asia. Who would emerge victorious was yet to be seen.

Song Tao snarled at his opponent and started the secret art of the Ancient Muay Thai. Suddenly, his skin turned coal black as his body drastically increased in size. In a blink, he had become a seven-foot tall giant.

“The Secret Art of Sacrifice? That’s what I am talking about.”

Lin Hu nodded.

The Fourth Uncle spoke under his breath, “Song Tao is going all out. The Secret Art of Sacrifice could only be used three to four times in a lifetime before the user spent his life energy. After each and every use, the fighter will have to rest for a few months before they could fight again.”

Miss Lu didn’t speak a word; her eyes were glued to Lin Hu.

Song Tao howled a few more times before he threw himself at his opponent.

Song Tao’s speed had slowed down significantly; however, the power in his fist was immeasurable.

Guo Wei’s face paled. He wagered that if Song Tao had used the secret art against him, he wouldn’t last longer than three moves.

Meanwhile, Lin Hu stood on stage unflinchingly. He didn’t counter the attack until Song Tao’s fist was only a few inches away from him.

His counter-attack was quiet but precise.

“Kacha!”

After the two fists collided, Song Tao’s body flew back like a lifeless rag doll.

Silence fell to the arena as everyone gaped at the man who had defeated a seven feet tall giant with one punch. Lin Hu shook his head and said:

“You are too weak. Maybe we can fight a bit longer after you have trained for another twelve years.”

Lin Hu linked his hands behind his back and turned to look at the audience.

“Who else wants to challenge me?”

Although all the businessmen sitting at the platform had brought their champions, no one had answered Lin Hu.

The businessmen were shaken after seeing Lin Hu ‘s dramatic entrance from the lake. Their champions couldn’t even defeat Song Tao, much less the man who had crushed Song Tao with one punch.

Baldy Liu’s smile curdled on his face; he wished that he could hide in a hole so that Lin Hu would never notice him again.

Miss Lu seemed less confident as well; her face looked concerned.

Lin Hu’s involvement had spoiled her plan. The fighter was too powerful even for the Fourth Uncle.

“No one else?”

Lord Hu scanned the audience until his gaze landed on Xu Ao. He was not the only person who looked to Xu Ao; everyone else also wanted to know how Xu Ao was going to handle the situation.

Xu Ao took a deep breath; he knew that he could no longer keep quiet.

He was the most powerful and influential tycoon of the Jiang Bei region, as such he would have to carry the burden of confronting Lin Hu. He asked Master Gu under his breath, “Master Gu, can you handle him?”

Master Gu stood up solemnly and bowed deeply to Xu Ao. “Lord Xu, I appreciate your care over the years.

“I am halfway to my grave, so what the heck, let me fight for you one last time.”

Master Gu was ready to fight with abandon.

Xu Ao regarded Master Gu with a concerned look. “Don’t force yourself. We can admit defeat for now. ”

Master Gu nodded slightly and started off toward the stage. He straightened his back and looked as if he was 20 years younger.

Seeing Master Gu walking onto the stage, the smile evaporated from Lin Hu's face. He looked at the old man suspiciously and asked:

"As someone who had achieved Phenomenal Success, you should be a worthy opponent. However, it's a shame that you had sustained an injury a long time ago and it affected your power significantly.

"Based on your combat stance, I wager you are from the Gu family. Do you know Gu Shitong."

Master Gu furrowed his brows and said, "You know my family?"

"Haha. When my teacher came to China seventeen years ago, Gu Shitong was the first person who had tasted defeat at the hands of my teacher." Lin Hu said lightly.

"How is that possible?" Master Gu's face turned bleak.

The Gu family was a two-hundred-year-old martial arts family. The family's head, Gu Shitong was a legendary figure who had reached the top level in Internal Force cultivation. During his entire life, he was defeated only once. He was gravely injured in that battle, and the wound had greatly impeded his cultivation. If not for those wounds, he would have already entered the Transcendent State.

Master Gu felt a nagging fear inside of him, and he asked reluctantly:

"Who is your teacher?"

Lin Hu linked his hands behind his back and gave him the name.

"Lei Qianjue of the Hong Sect!"

The name of his teacher stirred the audience as a swell of surprised murmurs rose around him.

Although not a lot of people had heard of Lei Qianjue, Hong Sect was a household name. It was an ancient organization that spread across the globe. It was the largest organization among overseas Chinese. Compare to the behemoth might of the ancient secret organization, the power of these businessmen and women from Jiang Bei was near non-existent.

Even if Xu Ao was the most powerful man in Jiang Bei, he was nothing before he became a member of the Hong Sect.

Someone gasped as realization finally dawned upon him.

“Lin Hu? He was the ‘Alaskan Tiger’ from the Hong Sect”

Some audience members who had lived overseas were surprised by the revelation.

Although no one had heard of Lin Hu, that was not the case for the name Alaskan Tiger. Rumor had it that he was a rich Chinese man from Alaska. He controlled the shipping route near the Arctic, and all shipping fleets would have to pay a toll directly to his family should they wish to cross the Bering Strait.

His company was as powerful as a small country; these businessmen from Jiang Bei simply couldn’t compare.

Xu Ao’s heart sank after hearing the revelation as he lost all hope.

He knew right away that Linhu was not after the reward; he came here to fry a much bigger fish.

Linhu was richer and more resourceful than most people at the tournament, and he also had the support of the mighty Hong Sect. If he planned to stay in Jiang Bei for a long time, he would be able to consolidate the fragmented local power in no time.

The Fourth Uncle remarked under his breath.

“He is Lei Qianjue’s disciple. No wonder he is so powerful.”

“Who is Lei Qianjue?” Miss Lu asked.

“Your ladyship, you are too young to remember him. When Lei Qianjue became famous, you were only ten years old.” The Fourth Uncle smiled wryly. “Lei Qianjue was a hermit grandmaster from the Hong Sect. Rumor had it that he had reached enlightenment on the arctic tundra and he had created a secret art called ‘Thousand Trickeries’ that had otherworldly powers.”

“When he first came to China, he had defeated sixteen grandmasters in a row and quickly made a name for himself. ”

“That’s insane!” Miss Lu gasped. Her illustrious families achievement was what had lent her strength and confidence, especially the fact that there was a Transcendent Master among her ranks.

However, since Lei Qianjue was the number one grandmaster in and outside of China, she wagered that he was more powerful than any Transcendent Master.

“What happened later?” Miss Lu asked curiously.

“Fortunately, Master Ye Nantian intervened and put a stop to Lei Qianjue’s rampage. He made Lei Qianjue swear to never to step on Chinese soil again.” The Fourth Uncle said and then heaved a sigh.

“Ye Nantian from Yan Jin city?” Miss Lu gasped again. The surprise was written all over her face.

Compared to Lei Qianjue, Ye Nantian’s name was all too familiar to her.

He was regarded by everyone as a martial arts genius and was thought to be the most likely martial artist to enter the immortal state. He was the pillar of the martial arts community in Northern China. Even Miss Lu’s father, the transcendent master of the Lu family admired Ye Nantian greatly.

“Indeed, Master Ye had become a household name after his duel with Lei Qianjue.” The Fourth Uncle nodded.

By then the fighting on the stage had already finished.

Despite the disadvantages, Master Gu had to face his opponent. After all, the honor of Xu Ao and the entire Jiang Bei business community was at stake.

However, the gap between him and Lin Hu was too great. His old age and the old injuries had taken a toll on his performance.

Master Gu was dealt a blow on his opponent’s seventh move. He was sent flying by Lin Hu’s palm strike.

Fortunately, Lin Hu had held back his power.

He was here to consolidate the factions, and not to kill anyone. As for now, he only wanted to display his strength and didn’t meant to gravely injure Master Gu.

“Do you want to keep going?”

Lin Hu glared at the businessmen on the platform and asked.

Xu Ao’s face was contorted by fear; he lowered his head and admitted defeat, “We submit!”

“Bravo! BRAVO!”

Xin Zhong jumped out of his chair and waved his fists in the air excitedly.

Xu Ao had been sitting in the number one position for too long, and things were finally about to change.

Everyone felt the silent beating of war-drums as the former number one's position being challenged by a rising new power.

Lin Hu surveyed the faces of the businessmen and women sitting on the platform; everyone lowered their heads and dared not to hold Lin Hu's gaze. Despair and fear were written all over Zhou Tianhao's face.

"Lin Hu? That's him! Linbao's brother!"

"He came to avenge his brother!"

However, Lin Hu simply glanced over him. It was evident to Lin Hu that Zhou Tianhao was too weak to have defeated his brother.

Lin Hu announced: "My brother Linbao had disappeared in Chu Zhou City. I have no issue with anyone defeating him in a fair fight, but I need to find him. He is my brother and a disciple of my teacher Lei Qianjue.

"If no one knows where my brother is, I will have to take one of you so that I can report back to my teacher."

Lin Hu rounded his eyes and announced vengefully.

"Master Chen! I know you are here!"

"You defeated my brother and tainted my teacher's reputation. Do you think you can get away with it?"

"I, Lin Hu have come for you. Show me what you got!"

No one dared to speak a word, and only Lin Hu's booming voice reverberated in the open space.

All the audience asked the same question.

"Who is Master Chen? What had he done to stir the ire of such a renowned and powerful fighter?"

Someone among the audience murmured:

"Is he talking about Master Chen from Chu Zhou City?"

Everyone was shocked after hearing the question. They recalled the news about a certain Master Chen from Chu Zhou City who was able to control the lightning. However, would he come out and face the challenge of such a terrifying opponent?

Most people didn't think so.

"I am afraid that Master Chen had long since run away from Jiang Bei. Now we have to bear the consequences of his actions."

Lin Hu stood still like a flag pole on the stage after he had asked the question.

One minute, two, three...

Master Chen was still nowhere to be seen.

Zhou Tianhao's legs were trembling as he was about to lose the last sliver of hope.

"Did Master Chen really run away?"

Xu Ao shook his head and let out an ugly grin.

"What am I thinking? Do I really expect to see an all mighty Master Chen to show up and stand against Lin Hu and save the day?"

"Stop daydreaming; Master Chen is probably a charlatan at best "

Suddenly, someone among the audience stood up slowly.

"Are you talking about me?"

Chapter 57: One Punch Does It

Chapter 57: One Punch Does It

Everyone looked at Chen Fan.

"Are you crazy? Sit down!" Xiao Wang growled at Chen Fan.

"Haven't you seen that none of the tycoons of the Jiang Bei dare to speak a word, you are courting death!"

Xiao Wang was convinced that if Chen Fan ticked off Lin Hu, not only would Chen Fan be in trouble, but people around him would also suffer collateral damage.

So thinking, Xiao Wang glared at Chen Fan and wished that he could make the boy disappear.

Yang Li and the other girl's faces paled. As they wondered if it was too late to pull Chen Fan back to his seat, they saw Lin Hu looking toward their direction.

Xiao Wang and his friends felt a chill down their spines after being glared at by Lin Hu's murderous gaze. They looked down and didn't even dare move a finger. Meanwhile, they hoped that Lin Hu would not drag them into his conflict with Chen Fan.

Suddenly, people around Chen Fan took a step away from him, as none of them wanted to appear to be related to him.

Brother Zhang was the first to distance himself from Chen Fan and stood the furthest away from him.

Song Tao's performance had robbed him of his confidence, while the arrival of Lin Hu had shattered whatever ambition he still harbored to become the victor of the event.

Chen Fan was surrounded by onlookers and had become the center of the event.

Only A'Xiu stood beside him. Despite the girl's destitute life, she was kind and had a heart of gold.

A'Xiu tugged at Chen Fan's shirt and pleaded, "Brother Chen, sit down, I beg of you. That guy on the stage is too terrifying."

"Fear not, I can handle him." Chen Fan gave the girl a reassuring smile.

And then, he rubbed the top of A'Xiu head and said:

"Thank you for standing with me. You have my promise that I will give you an opportunity in the future, as long as you can catch that opportunity first."

Without offering any explanation to his words, he brushed away A'Xiu's finger on his shirt and walked toward the stage with his hands linked behind his back.

A'Xiu was left among the crowd. The image of Chen Fan's caring and warm smile stayed in her mind and would not go away.

Out of the blue, she felt a sense of unnamed regret and sorrow as tears welled in her eyes.

Chen Fan sauntered toward the stage, and the audience quickly made way for him.

Most people glared at him as if he was a nut job. Some who still had a conscience urged the boy concernedly, "Hey, little guy. He is looking for Master Chen, not you. Stop!"

Everyone thought Master Chen was a middle age man in his forties, like Master Wu. However, this boy was only seventeen, and people found it hard to believe that he was Master Chen.

Chen Fan cracked a smile and kept his silence as he sauntered on.

When he arrived at the foot of the stage, he looked up at the deck of the stage above his head and started clambering onto the stage. His entrance was the least flattering compared to previous fighters who had leapt onto the stage heroically.

When Xu Ao saw the boy clambering onto the stage, he felt the boy looked very familiar, and therefore he narrowed his eyes and looked carefully. When he realized that it indeed was Chen Fan, he was seized by a fit of unease.

Although he was not pleased by the boy's arrogance, his girl was infatuated with him, and as Xu Rongfei's father, he couldn't just sit around and watch the boy perish. Lin Hu's nickname was Alaskan Tiger, and little did the boy know that the nickname carried countless unfortunate souls who once made the same mistake as he did.

"What the hell are you doing here? Get off the stage!"

Xu Ao shouted at Chen Fan.

Chen Fan said sarcastically, "He is looking for me."

Xu Ao wished he could walk to the stage and slap the boy's face. Instead, he shouted hotly, "He is looking for MASTER Chen, not you!"

"Do you think anyone who has the last name Chen is a Master?"

Like most of the audience, Xu Ao couldn't make the connection between the young boy and the image he had of Master Chen.

Chen Fan blinked dumbfoundedly and said, "Yes, I am Master Chen."

Xu Ao's mind reeled. He felt that he was barking at a tree stump.

By then, Master Gu had clambered onto the stage and walked over to Chen Fan and scolded him hotly, "Get lost, young boy. You can't even defeat me, much less Lin Hu."

"Get back now! Lin Hu is an honorable fighter; he wouldn't hold a grudge against an arrogant child."

So saying, he squeezed his face at Chen Fan, willing him to get off the stage and save himself.

Lin Hu crossed his arms in front of his chest and regarded the boy perplexedly.

Based on his experience, he could tell that this boy had never undergone a full day of martial arts training.

He couldn't even defeat any of the bodyguards, much less Linbao. In addition, it took a long time to cultivate Inner Force and therefore an Inner Force user would have to be at least as old as Master Gu.

However, the boy in front of him did match Xin Zhong's description of Master Chen.

"Regardless, since he had the audacity of challenging me, I should make an example out of him and show everyone what will happen if they rise against me."

Lin Hu thought to himself as his eyes darkened.

The other businessmen on the platform looked at Chen Fan with equal measures of lament and admiration.

They admired his mettle for rising against Lin Hu. However, they also lamented his short-sightedness due to his young age.

Miss Lu said under her breath:

"Fourth Uncle, can you save him? We can't just sit around and watch a boy being killed."

The Fourth Uncle shook his head helplessly.

"Rescue is unlikely to do any good. Lin Hu is determined to consolidate power in the Jiang Bei region. If we stand up right now, we will be the first faction to be eliminated."

Miss Lu's eyes dimmed as she lamented helplessly in her mind.

She had been very optimistic about the outcome of this year's tournament and didn't have a shred of doubt that they would emerge victoriously. However, the arrival of Lin Hu had completely ruined her plan.

Lin Hu was not what she really afraid of; it was the power behind Lin Hu, the power that had even more clout than all the factions at the table combined.

"It appears that I had been living under a rock all the while." Miss Lu lamented.

Many audience members were thinking the same thing:

"This boy is a nut job, if he wanted to court death, then let him."

A'Xiu was so distressed by the situation that she might break down into tears at any moment.

Suddenly, Lin Hu said thinly:

"I am looking for a Master, not just anyone whose last name is Chen. But of course, I will oblige if you really wanted to fight me. But I warn you; it's going to hurt a lot."

Chen Fan was unfazed by the water-walking and near invincible martial arts grandmaster. He rubbed his nose and said lightly:

"If you are looking for Master Chen who had defeated your brother, then you are looking at him right now."

Everyone was taken aback by what they have heard.

"What did he say? Did he say that he is Master Chen?"

The business tycoons sitting on the platform were also shocked by the revelation.

"For real?"

Lin Hu was stunned and didn't speak a word for a while.

Chen Fan said again, "Your brother, Linbao's martial arts were laughable. I scared him with just one move, and he spun his tail, so I had to follow up with another one. "

Chen Fan ignored the severe expression on Lin Hu's face and continued: "I thought your teacher Lei Qianjue would come to avenge him, so I had prepared a few coups de grace just in case, but since it's only you, I guess I didn't have to prepare after all.

"Nonetheless, you have quite a creative mind. I have never thought of walking on water before, good for you!"

He had been mulling over the technique Lin Hu had used to walk on water and therefore was late to reply to Lin Hu's challenge.

Although Chen Fan was impressed by the water-walking skill when he first laid eyes on it, once he thought it through, he realized that it was just a gimmick and lacked practical use.

Zhou Tianhao finally gathered himself and jumped out of his armchair.

"Master Chen, you are finally here!

“Master Chen, please teach Lin Hu a lesson on behalf of all the residence of Jiang Bei region.”

At first, the audiences couldn't believe what they had heard, but after a while, they had finally come to terms with the fact that the young boy really was Master Chen.

He was the one who had defeated Linbao and caused the racket that spurred the overseas grandmaster to come to China and seek revenge.

So shocked was Xu Ao that he could only gap at Che Fan.

“Chen... Is Chen Fan, Master Chen? How is that possible?”

He had looked into all the details of Chen Fan's background and found out that other than being a solid fighter, he was nothing extraordinary. He found it hard to believe that underneath Chen Fan's ordinary appearance was a mighty, lightning-wielding grandmaster.

Xu Ao wagered that Linbao's power should not be too far than Lin Hu. If Chen Fan could so easily defeat Linbao, how powerful exactly was the boy?

Yang Li and her friends stood with their mouth open in sheer surprise. None of them could form a word. After a while, A'Xiu seemed to have remembered something, and she shouted:

“No wonder Boss Zhang called him Master Chen. I thought that's just some weird custom of the Chu Zhou City.

“So you really are Master Chen.”

A'Xiu gazed at the powerful Master Chen who smirked casually at his deadly opponent. She conceded that she was wrong about this boy.

“So it IS you!”

Lin Hu murmured to himself. Then he shouted with a booming voice.

“I don't give a damn about who you are!

“You have defeated my brother and humiliated my sect! I will avenge my brother today!”

Before his voice faded, he stomped the ground as his body surged in size. All the while, a white mist formed around his burgeoning frame. He reached out both arms and brushed the mist with surprising deft fingers. In a blink, the shapeless mist had formed many thin threads.

The threads lanced about around Lin Hu. They were so sharp that they could pierce through metal with ease. If one such thread landed on a human body, it would almost definitely kill the person outright.

The surprised look on Fourth Uncle evaporated and was replaced by grave concerns.

“He had unleashed Internal Force and formed Qi threads. This was the infamous coupe de grace of the Hong Sect.”

“Thousand Trickeries! ”

Chen Fan smiled light-heartedly and then said:

“You have just reached the Perfected state, so in theory, you wouldn’t be able to project your internal force outward just yet. I bet you are using a Secret Art of your sect.

“Fine, fine. I guess I will show you the real power of Martial Arts.” Chen Fan lifted both hands and closed his fingers. It was as if he had grabbed hold of the very fabric of time and space.

“True Martial Thirty-Six Forms”

“First Form: Skyfall Hammer!”

Chapter 58: Famous In Jiang Bei

“Fourth Uncle, how is the power of the Thousand Trickeries?”

Miss Lu asked.

“His Power?” The fourth Uncle grunted wryly and continued, “Lei Qianjue had reached enlightenment on the arctic tundra and gained the ability of the Thousand Trickeries. He had been invincible ever since.”

Rumor had it that he had shredded a polar bear that weighed a few hundred pounds into pieces with a wave of a hand.

“So... Is that boy in big trouble now?” Miss Lu paused. She covered her mouth to suppress a cry.

“Even if Lin Hu didn’t use the Thousand Trickeries, the boy was no match against him nonetheless.” Fourth Uncle shook his head and said.

In the eyes of Fourth Uncle, Lin Hu had already reached the precipice of Internal Force cultivation. Even if he was facing a Transcendent Master, he should be able to escape unharmed. Judging by Chen Fan's appearance, Fourth Uncle was convinced that the boy had never undergone martial artist training. Even if he were a powerful caster, he would be no match against a martial artist in close range.

Despite spellcasters' unimaginable power, they needed to play their ability in the right circumstances. In a close quarters tournament stage such as this, the casters were in a severe disadvantage since the martial artist would be able to take the initiative and finish off the caster before the latter had a chance to unleash his or her power.

Therefore, Fourth Uncle was convinced that Master Chen was going to lose the fight.

Fourth Uncle was not alone, as his worry was shared by all the bosses that sat around the table. The difference between Lin Hu and Chen Fan was unbridgeable. One was a renowned fighter overseas, and in China, the other was a no account.

They watched as Chen Fan waved a hand and drew all those deadly stringy energies into his arms as easily as a professional noodle maker would to flours.

"Impossible!"

Lin Hu's face darkened.

The energy inside the Thousand Trickeries was highly concentrated Internal Force and lacked any physical substance. Therefore, it was impossible to be drawn into Chen Fan's arm.

"I have already told you, you haven't seen real martial arts yet."

Chen Fan moved his hands about before his chest as if he was holding a giant ball.

"Humph! What you used is not martial arts; it was just a spell!" Lin Hu was still in denial. He granted and decided to ditch the Thousand Trickeries and use one of his most powerful abilities instead.

Suddenly, Lin Hu snarled at Chen Fan, and his frame increased in size again. As his body grew bigger, his muscle also increased in volume. Without any warning, he charged out and slid past Chen Fan. With an abrupt about-turn of his body, he hurled a fist at the back of Chen Fan's head.

The fist traveled at lightning speed and boomed in the air as a fighter jet would. The execution of the punch was the epitome of the Internal Force's deadliness.

"Ah!"

Chen Fan heaved a sigh. He turned around, raised both hands, and bore down onto his opponent.

Chen Fan's move seemed ordinary. However, Lin Hu's face paled at the sight of the incoming attack. He could feel the immeasurable power carried by Chen Fan's strike. It was as if a powerful immortal had lifted the Pillar of the World above his head. He knew right away that he should avoid a direct impact.

"Sh*t!"

Lin Hu was startled by the power of the blow; he was forced to retreat his punch to defend himself.

Even as everyone was wondering why Lin Hu wouldn't finish his opponent off, they watched as Chen Fan pressed one hand on the ground.

"Kaboom!"

It sounded like a meteor striking the earth, and the loud din was followed by a shock wave.

The earth trembled, and many audience members were tossed out of their chairs by the shock wave. A large crack appeared on the stage, originating from where Chen Fan's fist had landed.

"Is this real Martial Arts?"

Lin Hu, Fourth Uncle, and Master Gu were all stunned by the display of power.

Nothing seemed to make sense. The Thousand Trickeries was Lei Qianjue's most famous art, yet it was countered easily. Furthermore, Chen Fan was supposed to be a spellcaster, but not a martial artist. Where did he learn such a belligerent and mighty fist technique?

Although his punches appeared to carry a measure of levity, its blows were as heavy as a mountain. There was no doubt that such power was beyond the ability of a mortal.

Lin Hu's mind reeled after seeing the development.

Master Chen was not a spellcaster, but a Martial Artist, a mighty one while at it. Chen Fan's physical strength and inner force cultivation were not any less powerful than his. He wagered that even his teacher, Lei Qianjue could not defeat the boy without struggling, much less him.

"What should I do now?"

Lin Hu hesitated.

Chen Fan opened his arms abruptly like a crane stretching its wings

“The second From, Humble Cloud Hand.”

“Shit! That’s enough!”

By then, Lin Hu had lost all appetite for fighting, so he retreated. Even as he pulled back. Chen Fan waved both hands in front of him and caught up with Lin Hu in a heartbeat

“That’s impossible!”

Anger and fear spurred Lin Hu to attack again as he threw one last punch at Chen Fan.

This punch was his coup de grace as he had channeled all of his Internal Force into his fist. It would be able to crush a granite boulder much less human flesh.

Chen Fan’s counter-attack seemed almost lazy. He swept his finger gently across the air and reached Lin Hu’s chest.

“AHRR!”

Lin Hu shouted, and his attack was halted cold in its tracks.

Lin Hu stumbled but managed to stand up. When everyone had seen the damage done by Chen Fan, they gasped.

On Lin Hu’s body was a large wound that opened up his chest. The wound was so deep that one could see the white rib bones.

Chen Fan was able to devastate his opponent with only a gentle sweep of fingers. If he had used a fist or a palm strike, Lin Hu might as well be dead by now.

“He is too powerful.

“Pull back; I need to get out of here.”

Lin Hu could only think of escaping; time is running out. Ever since he became a martial artist, he had never met anyone this powerful. Let it be the Sky Hammer or the Humble Cloud hand; he could not withstand the power in either of them.

Desperate, he channeled out his last remaining energy and started the water walking secret art to help him run away.

He turned on his heels and ran toward the lake.

Lin Hu's plan was simple: get to the lake first. If Chen Fan happened to be able to walk on water as well, he would have to deal with him then. But now, the lake was his only hope.

In a blink, Lin Hu had arrived at the lakeshore, and when one of his feet touched the water surface, he nearly let out a sigh of relief. However, a booming voice came from behind.

"Third form: Void Dimension Shockwave!"

Everyone watched as Chen Fan closed his fingers, and with a great measure of levity, he threw a punch at the air. His movement seemed almost lazy.

No one felt anything after Chen Fan's punch; not even the air was stirred.

However, far away from the stage, Lin Hu's body trembled, and his back was dealt a blow. The force in the blow rippled through his body from the back as a fist-sized relief suddenly burgeoned on Lin Hu's chest. He wished to take another step, but his feet were too heavy. After a few seconds, Lin Hu finally collapsed to the ground.

Chen Fan had dealt a solid blow to his opponent at a few dozen paces.

"The Hundred Paces Fist of Immortals?"

Fourth Uncle gasped as he jumped out of his seat.

This was the staple technique of a Transcendent Master! None of the previous techniques, let it be the Thousand Trickeries or the Sky Hammer, had directly unleashed the Internal Force without any aid like the Chen Fan's last attack. Therefore, only the last blow was the true indicator of Chen Fan's power.

Only a Transcendent Master could kill from a hundred paces away, and he could do it as quietly as a ghost.

Lin Hu managed to push himself to his feet, trembling. He smiled wryly and asked:

"What kind of technique is it called?"

"The first three forms of the True Martial Thirty-Six Forms."

Chen Fan gathered himself and said lightly, "I have prepared seven forms thinking that I will fight your teacher. What a shame that I couldn't show you the rest four I have prepared."

“Hehe, the True Martial Thirty-Six Forms? Is it an art of the Immortals?” Lin Hu’s voice was waning.

“I have been wrong from the outset. How could I fail to see that Master Chen was a Grand Master of Martial Arts? I thank you for opening my eyes to the real power...”

Lin Hu’s feeble voice faded, and he collapsed to the ground again. This time, he didn’t get up.

A renowned fighter and businessman, the confidant and disciple of Lei Qianjue was finally defeated.

Chen Fan linked his hands behind his back and asked lightly:

“Is there anyone else that wants to try me?”

The field suddenly became pin-drop quiet.

The audience and businessmen alike kept their silence.

Chen Fan had pulled the rug from under everyone by defeating Lin Hu in less than ten minutes. However powerful and mighty was Lin Hu, he was no match against Chen Fan’s god-like abilities.

Chen Fan’s power didn’t belong to a mortal.

Chen Fan’s casualness and levity had also added into the theatrical effect when he defeated Lin Hu — making his power all the more terrifying to the audience.

Yang Li and the people around her gaped at Chen Fan incredulously.

A’Xiu covered her mouth and looked at the stage with joy and disbelief.

Miss Lu was shocked by the development. This was the first time she had misjudged the power of a fighter. She felt ashamed for being shortsighted at the beginning of the match.

Brother Zhang’s eyes were filled with regret as he lamented his foolish thoughts earlier.

Xin Zhong collapsed in his chair, and despair was written all over his face. If Master Chen were able to defeat his champion, he could dominate the stage for the rest of the event.

A broad smile broke over Zhou Tianhao’s face. He hadn’t felt so relieved for a long time.

“Master Chen... Master Chen Fan

“No wonder you didn’t listen to Master Gu’s warning.”

“If I were you, I wouldn’t care for money nor power either. As you said, you can overcome any problem with a sweep of your blade. I didn’t believe you, but now I do.”

Xu Ao watched the boy and recalled their conversation by the Yan Gui Lake. He had thought the boy was unbearably arrogant; now the joke was on him.

He knew from that moment that the boy was going to be a dominating figure in the entire Jiang Bei region if not in the Hu Dong Province.

Most importantly of all, Xu Ao could stop hoping that he could bend the boy’s will to work for him.

Chapter 59: Hail To You, Master Chen

Chapter 59: Hail To You, Master Chen

Chen Fan stood indifferently on the stage, while his audience was stunned by the development.

To the audience, Lin Hu was an illustrious martial arts tycoon that had glorious titles. He was the Alaskan Tiger, the disciple of the Hong Sect’s Grand Master, and he was also revered as an expert in Internal Force.

However, Chen Fan had defeated him like squashing a bug.

Lin Hu was right about Chen Fan’s technique; it does not belong to mortals.

The True Martial Thirty-Six Forms was a fighting technique used by the True Martial Sect’s disciples when they were in the Qi Refinement stage. This fighting technique was more powerful than any other martial arts technique in the mortal’s world.

After Chen Fan had achieved Jade Bone, he was able to use seven out of the thirty-six form; enough even to deal with Lei Qianjue.

Once a cultivator of Qi Refinement level had mastered all thirty-six form, he or she was able to defeat a grand cultivator at Connate Spirit level easily. However, Chen Fan was only at the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment, and in order to master all thirty-six form, he would need to be at least the level of Divine Sea.

That being said, the first three forms had already stunned the mortals watching his fight, particularly the last form, the Void Dimension Shockwave.

Chen Fan scanned the crowd and noticed that all the businessmen, except for Xin Zhong on the platform had lowered their heads and didn't dare to hold his gaze. Xin Zhong's face was pale, he gave Chen Fan an ugly grin and said:

"Master Chen, would you let me go?"

"What do you think?" Chen Fan linked his arms behind his back and took a step forward. In a blink, Chen Fan had flown himself to the edge of the platform.

He walked slowly toward Xin Zhong and then said, "I have given you a chance during our last run in at the Chu Zhou City. But you had to spit on my goodwill and had invited Lin Hu to seek revenge on me. Now, why don't you tell me what I should do with you?"

Xin Zhong's body trembled as Chen Fan inched closer toward him. Finally, he pulled out a gun and pointed it at Chen Fan's head.

"Don't come any closer! I will shoot you!"

"Do it." Chen Fan didn't stop.

"I am going to shoot you! I will!" Xin Zhong's hands were shaking, and so was his voice.

Fourth Uncle shook his head and gloated at Xing Zhong's impending doom. The gun would be a threat to anyone but Chen Fan.

Chen Fan was not just any normal martial artist; he was a Transcendent Master!

Even if he had not reached the Transcendent State, the power in his last move was not any less than that of a real one. What would a gun do to a Transcendent Master?

Suddenly, Chen Fan shouted at Xing Zhong.

"DO IT!"

Xin Zhong was startled and he accidentally pulled the trigger.

Surprised by the turn of events, everyone looked to Chen Fan to see if he was harmed.

Most of them had never heard of anyone who could dodge a bullet.

However, they would never forget the scene they saw next as if it was tattooed into their mind.

They saw Chen Fan was covered with a faint golden glow, and even though the bullet hit the layer of golden energy, it was unable to penetrate the barrier. Instead, the elastic energy in the bullet caused a ripple on the energy shield.

“Not even the gun can hurt him?” Those who still had a sliver of hope that they could defeat Chen Fan using modern weapons finally gave up.

Fourth Uncle announced slowly, “Release the Internal Force, Fortify the Internal Strength! Such was the way of a Transcendent Master!

“A Transcendent Master fears no guns.”

Chen Fan brushed away the bullet that lodged into the barrier and said lightly:

“How dare you?

“I was going to let you live, but not anymore.”

“No, NO... it was an accident!” Xin Zhong’s face was contorted by fear as he begged Chen Fan for his life.

Chen Fan’s shot out one of his arms and threw the bullet back at Xin Zhong. The bullet landed squarely at the Xin Zhong’s head, like hammer delivering a death blow to a cattle.

Master Wu could no longer hold back his fear. He dropped both knees in front of Chen Fan and implored:

“Please, Master Chen. Spare me!”

Chen Fan didn’t even grace him with a glance. He scanned the businessmen at the table again.

Knowing they could no longer avoid acknowledging Chen Fan’s power, they reluctantly held Chen Fan’s gaze.

Finally, Xu Ao broke the silence. He stood up and saluted to Chen Fan, “Thank you so much, Master Chen.”

“From this day on, the gentlemen in the Jiang Bei Region will be at your service.”

After Xu Ao had finished his words, Baldy Liu spoke up, “Hail to you, Master Chen.”

“Master Chen, Master Chen!”

One after another, the magnates at the table stood up and joined the chant.

Some of them had reserved their respect for Chen Fan, thinking that modern weapons could easily kill the boy. However, after they had watched Chen Fan blocked a bullet, they couldn’t help but admire Chen Fan’s power.

The world was big, but they doubted that they could find a second person who could do what Chen Fan had just done.

They had no qualms with Xu Ao's proposal of letting Chen Fan be their leader.

Seeing all the powerful tycoons bowed to a young man, the audience beneath the platform was convinced that they would never forget what happened today for the rest of their lives.

"He is a real man!"

Many people heard the same voice in their mind.

They knew that from now on, there would be only one dominant figure in the Jiang Bei region, and his name was Chen Fan.

After the tournament was over, the tycoons and the audience left the stage for home. Accompanied by Yang Li and her friends, A'Xiu walked toward the village.

Their hearts were filled with strong yet contradicting emotions.

They were amazed by Chen Fan's power, but they also feared Chen Fan's revenge.

Fear was particularly strong in Brother Zhang. He hated Xiao Wang for dragging him into this mess.

Without Xiao Wang's foolish encouragement, he would never have made a move on A'Xiu.

However, it turned out that A'Xiu's boyfriend was not just a no account; he was Master Chen, who was able to bend the will of powerful tycoons such as Xin Zhong. It would be as easy as squashing a worm for Chen Fan to deal with Brother Zhang: a lowly provincial Sanshou fighter.

The promise of Chen Fan's revenge hangs over Xiao Wang's head like a sharp knife. He trembled from time to time and looked at his girlfriend with shifty eyes.

His only hope in saving himself was the connection between Yang Li and Chen Fan's cousin. He would have to beg his girlfriend, who he often sneered at for her uselessness, to save his life.

Yang Li was taken aback by the development and started to take a long hard look at her boy friend's motivation. It wasn't long before she saw through Xiao Wang's ruse. He was trying to set up Brother Zhang and Chen Fan's girlfriend all along! What a fool! If Chen Fan was just an ordinary high school student, the worst harm he could do was a fall out in a relationship with Chen Fan.

However, he was revealed to be the all mighty Master Chen, and he wouldn't react too kindly to Xiao Wang and Brother Zhang's scheme.

Suddenly, a body of black suits stopped them, one of them said with a stoic face: "Master Chen wants to see you."

Struck by fear, Xiao Wang and Brother Zhang nearly collapsed to the ground.

Yang Li managed to keep calm and replied, "Take us to him, please."

They met Chen Fan in a small courtyard.

He sat in a chair and was fidgeting with a grey crystal between his fingers. He looked relaxed, and one would be hard pressed to see a mighty master in this teenage boy.

Around him were the bosses from Jiang Bei. They all held a solemn cast on their faces and listened to Chen Fan's airy remarks with a great measure of respect.

Yang Li and her friends walked into the courtyard quietly, scarcely daring to breathe.

Chen Fan said lightly.

"Although A'Xiu was not my girlfriend, you had made a move on her nonetheless. What do you think I should do with you?"

Xiao Wang and Brother Zhang quivered. Without much thought, they both dropped their knees and started begging for their lives.

Yang Li also put in, "It's all our fault, but please let them live for Yang Li's sake!"

"Let them live?" Chen Fan smiled. "Sure. But you are not allowed to tell my cousin what had happened today.

"If you break your promise, I will see to it that you and your family will suffer. Do you understand? "

"Yes." Yang Li answered. She knew that the lives of her entire family were at stake. Xiao Wang and Brother Zhang looked to Yang Li appreciatively.

"Fine, you can leave now." Chen Fan waved a dismiss. Everyone hurried out of the courtyard except for A'Xiu.

"Master Chen, you are just going to let them leave?" Xu Ao asked incredulously.

"I don't want to waste my time on them. It isn't worth it." Chen Fan said lightly.

After all, he didn't care all that much about A'Xiu either.

If it were Xiao Qiong whom they were scheming against, he would not let them leave alive.

Afterward, He looked at another person kneeling on the ground in front of him.

"Master Wu, how do I know you have told me the truth?"

"My lord, if I had told you one single lie, I will be hit by a bus as soon as I walk out of here. Oh.. and so will my teacher and his teacher." Master Wu swore, and then he continued, "It's true that The Yin Dragon Pond in my sect produces Yin Crystals. However, due to its powerful Yin spirit, these crystals are only suitable for Ghost Reining and nothing else."

"Fine, I will let you live in exchange for this piece of information." Chen Fan looked at the grey crystal in between his fingers and smiled. "I was worried that I would never be able to complete the Misty Mountain Array. But look what I found! Haha."

"Well, it looks like I will have to leave Chu Zhou City for a while."

He looked into the distance with glinting eyes. The meaning of his words escaped everyone around him.

Of all the Numinous Treasures, the Yin Crystals were perfect for replacing the deep sea stones and the pine driftwood in the Misty Mountain Array. With these crystals, Chen Fan could finally finish the array and speed up his progress toward the Ethereal Enlightenment stage.

One might ask, what was the Ethereal Enlightenment? Although its exact nature was convoluted, its effects were clear: unlocking the Immortal Enlightenment.

Once Chen Fan reached the Ethereal Enlightenment, he should be able to face off against any Transcendent Masters in the world easily. Then and only then, Chen Fan would have the ability to protect his loved ones from harm.

"Your sect is located in Zhong Zhou Province and Dong Du City?" Chen Fan asked Master Wu.

"Yes, yes." Master Wu nodded vigorously.

Chu Zhou City nodded slightly. There was no time to waste, as soon as he finished up his personal business at Chu Zhou City, he would leave for Zhong Zhou.

Everyone watched as Chen Fan stood up, and no one dared to ask him where he was going.

As soon as Chen Fan went through the exit, he was greeted by Miss Lu outfitted with an alluring smile on the other side. Behind her stood a brawny middle-aged man.

"I am Lu Yanwu from the Lu Family. Nice to meet you, Master Chen."

Miss Lu put one leg ahead of the other and curtsied like a well-mannered lady from the antiquity period.

Chen Fan nodded a reply and walked past her. His mind was preoccupied with the Yin Crystals and had no time to talk. Having been given the cold-shoulder by Chen Fan, Lu Yanwu stood speechless as shame and embarrassment crept onto her face. Never once had she been ignored by anyone.

Even those high born ladies and lords would have to greet her back, because of her illustrious family's ancestors.

Plus, with her attractiveness, she didn't even need her family's influence to catch the young men's attention.

The Fourth Uncle comforted the girl, "My lady, please don't mind him.

"Master Chen had reached an impossible height in his career at such a young age; we would expect him to be a bit difficult to work with."

Lu Yanwu pondered a moment and then sighed.

Since she was from a martial arts family, she knew better than anyone else the power of a Transcendent Master.

Ye Nantian was a perfect example of a Transcendent Master and what they are capable of. He was able to dominate the entire Northern China during his prime. However, Chen Fan's power was not any less than that of Ye Nantian.

Unbeknownst to Chen Fan, his audience had mistaken his Diamond Art as the signature protective energy of the Four True Righteousness used by the Transcendent Masters.

Although Chen Fan was not a real Transcendent Master, he was able to hold his ground against one.

Chu Zhou City, Yun Wu Mountain...

Jiang Churan walked toward Chen Fan while the latter stood by a cliff drop with his hands linked behind his back. He looked into the distance where the clouds sprawled across the vista.

She paused a second and then asked, "Why do you want to see me?"

"I want you to know that I am going to leave the Chu Zhou City for a while, I need you to deliver a message to Auntie Tang." Chen Fan said lightly.

"You are... leaving?" Jiang Churan was taken aback. She hurried a question, "Where, for how long?"

"I am going to Zhong Zhou Province, Dong Du City. I could be as long as four months." Chen Fan said.

Jiang Churan felt fire burst inside of her.

"Dong Du City? What are you doing there? So you won't be back until the Chinese new year?"

Jiang Churan continued with a sharp voice, "Your mother had sent you here to study and look what you have been doing? Working in the bar, and taking vacations for days on end!

"And what is this now? Leave for four months? What about your study?"

There was a sharp edge in her voice. "If you don't put yourself together, you will never be good enough for Fei-Fei! You won't even get into a university, much less keep on providing for Fei-Fei. Are you planning to mooch off Miss Wei for the rest of your life?"

Then, her face softened a little, and so did her voice. "Don't go, Chen Fan. Don't be stupid."

Chen Fan shook his head and replied, "I have to. I have my reasons. "

Afterward, he handed a key to Jiang Churan.

"This is the key to the mansion at the top of the mountain.

"I knew Auntie Tang always dreamed of living in that mansion. It will be hers for the time I am gone. I said I would get her one of these mansions, and I always keep my word."

Chen Fan turned around and started off.

"Chen Fan?"

"Come back, you!"

Jiang Churan shouted at Chen Fan. Seeing Chen Fan had outright ignored her, she stomped the ground in frustration.

She looked at the key and then cursed.

“Are you still trying to fool me, loser?”

However, she paused with the key in her hand for a while, hesitating.

Reason told her that Chen Fan was just bluffing. However, she heard another voice from deep down, telling her to try to use the key.

“I guess I could go up there and see for myself.”

However, after much contemplation, Jiang Churan gave up with a sigh; she put away the key and started down the mountain.

There were no talking frogs in the real world, and neither was she a princess.

Magic kisses belong only in fairy tales, and in the real world, there was only one kind of magic: hard work. So far, she didn't even see a tad bit of effort from Chen Fan to change his future for the better.

Once Chen Fan reached the end of the mountain path, he pulled open the door of a black Mercedes and got in.

Master Wu was already waiting for him inside the car. He asked respectfully,

“Master Chen, are we going to Dong Du City right now?”

Chen Fan had already bid farewell with Jiang Tanqiu and Wei Ziqin before he came to talk to Jiang Churan. He had asked Old Man Zhen to call the school and ask for a long vacation on his behalf. Since Old Man Zhen was one of the stakeholders of the school, the teachers gave Chen Fan the green light without raising an eyebrow.

“No, not now, there is somewhere I need to be before we leave.” Chen Fan narrowed his eyes and said wistfully.

They arrived at the entrance of the Foreign Language Academy in Jin City.

Chen Fan got off the car and walked to a large tree beside the entrance. He stood and watched the boys and girls come out of the school.

They were all his age, energetic and blessed with a bright future. They prattled and laughed with each other as they walked and frolicked out of the school.

After a while, a graceful and elegant girl walked through the gate. She was no more than sixteen. However, her beauty was already budding.

She was accompanied by a few attractive boys and girls. They surrounded her as worker bees would to their queen.

The elegant girl didn't notice the young boy under the tree; she bid farewell to her classmates and walked away.

A luxurious race car pulled out of the school gate, and a young boy with a face that was tattooed into the dark side of Chen Fan's brain emerged from the car. He offered a ride to the girl.

The girl refused with a graceful smile. After exchanging a few words, they parted ways.

The handsome young man didn't seem upset by the girl's rejection. Under many infatuated gazes of the other teenage girls, he got into the car and revved the engine before he was gone.

Chen Fan didn't pay attention to anyone else. He had dedicated this moment to the girl.

He watched as she walked out of the school, waved goodbye to her friends, and refused the ride with the smile.

As quietly as he had been so far, he watched as she eventually disappeared among the flood of people in the street.

"Master, do you want me to catch up with her?"

After a few cautious moments, Master Wu braved a question.

"No need. I just wanted to see her face. "

Chen Fan shook his head and walked away.

"Let's go."

"I have waited for over five hundred years for this moment; I can wait a little more.

"The next time I see you, I will have the power to protect you until the end of the time."

— I am back after five hundred years; There you stand with the same smile I loved.