

Unparalleled 1491

Chapter 1491 Immortal Ranking, You People Are Disturbing Me From Reminiscing About Master

The Alchemy Festival at Laojun City started with an auction, where all the master alchemists put their best items on auction.

When all the sky-prides saw the pills that caught their attention, they bid for it with exorbitant prices.

“The next pill is something big. A Seventh Rebirth Golden Pill!” said the auctioneer.

On the platform before him was a golden pill, dazzling in seven shades of gold.

The dazzling shine caught the crowd’s attention.

The pill-refining technique originated from Taishang Laojun himself from ancient times. It was said that the golden pills were divided into Third Rebirth, Fifth Rebirth, Seventh Rebirth, and the highest, Ninth Rebirth.

As for the technique to refine a Ninth Rebirth Golden Pill, it had been lost in the long history of the Immortal World. Hence, the Seventh Rebirth Golden Pill was the best that the current alchemist could produce.

Its effect was incomparable to the Ninth Rebirth Golden Pill, but it was enough for a Gilded Immortal to break through one grade, hence its value.

The appearance of the golden pill caused an uproar among the crowd. People started to gasp in awe as they glued their eyes to the pill.

“If I can get the golden pill, I’ll definitely break through to become a Gilded Immortal, and at least in the second grade at that!”

“You’re not even a Gilded Immortal, and you want that pill for yourself? What a joke!”

“The Ji clan is having the pill!”

It was then that a voice interrupted the crowd.

A man with a sword sitting in mid-air caught everyone’s attention.

He was one of the popular Prodigies of the younger generations, Ji De!

When the crowd heard that the Ji clan was after the golden pill, they were deterred. After all, the Ji clan had the support of the two major Immortal Halls, whose names alone were enough to frighten people.

“Hmph! Why should the Ji clan have this just because you say so?”

Another indifferent voice sounded.

This time, the voice was from a man in golden armor equipped with a halberd. The man had horns on his head, and he exuded a powerful energy presence.

There was no one beside him, and even those who were rather close to him felt intimidated.

"It's the Third Crown Prince of the Dragon Palace!"

Someone recognized the horns on his head.

The Dragon Palace was also one of the biggest forces in the Immortal World, second only to an Overlord-level Immortal Hall.

"I'm having the Seventh Rebirth Golden Pill, and no one shall contend for it!" the Third Dragon Crown Prince bellowed. His golden eyes scanned over the crowd, sending chills down everyone's spine.

"This is an auction. Only the bidder with the highest price can get it," said a man in black with a black sword hanging at his waist.

"Hen Changtian! The Side King of the Demon Kingdom!"

The younger generations had started forming their own forces around candidates that they believed would become the future Immortal World Ruler.

The Demon Kingdom was a new force formed by the Demonic Dao Prodigy, Shi Tianxuan. The kingdom consisted of only demonic cultivators, so it was no surprise that many demonic sky-prides joined them.

He was crowned the Side King because his cultivation was second only to the founder of the kingdom, Shi Tianxuan. As one of the marquises of the kingdom, he was also a powerful Prodigy.

Other than Hen Changtian, the Third Dragon Crown Prince, there were other sky-prides and Prodigies who voiced their desire and determination to acquire the Seventh Rebirth Golden Pill.

Every one of them had a reputation for themselves, and they were well-known figures among the younger generation.

"The Alchemy Festival in Laojun City is really lively. The place is filled with sky-prides and Prodigies."

"Yeah, everyone seems so strong."

"I heard they're not just here for the festival. Apparently, the recent Immortal Ranking is also involved."

"Immortal Ranking? What does that have to do with this?"

The Immortal Ranking only appeared under the spotlight just recently, and it was promoted by a mysterious organization. It was said that the ranking ranked sky-prides and Prodigies of the Immortal World based on their wins and losses.

The higher the ranking, the higher the chance of the candidate becoming the ruler of the Immortal World. Although exaggerated, it appeared to be a kind of acknowledgment of one's strength.

The names on the ranking were all top Prodigies of the Immortal World.

"Don't forget why we are here," Ji De said flatly.

"Of course, we remember why we are here. How dare the Immortal Ranking ranked us behind that person? I have to prove myself this time and show the world that the Immortal Ranking is nothing but nonsense!" the Third Dragon Crown Prince grunted coldly.

"If that's the case, the bidder with the highest bid will get the Seventh Rebirth Golden Pill."

"Fine."

The crowd started to bid for the pill, but ultimately, Ji De won it.

The Ji clan was wealthy, and as the top Prodigies that the clan prioritized nurturing, he was loaded with Immortal Crystals. Hence, no one was surprised that he got the golden pill.

"Look, someone is here."

Someone noticed a silvery white figure outside Laojun City, coming closer through the sandstorm.

No one would care if it was just some cultivator, but the silvery white figure was something else.

Equipped with silvery white armor, she approached bearing an unusual elegance, especially with her white hair and exquisite facial features. She was enveloped with a layer of Immortal Sparks and exuded a cold and unapproachable feeling.

She looked holy and majestic as though she was a God.

"The rumor is true. She's here."

"She's really loyal. I heard the Phoenix Maiden Chu Hong of the Phoenix Nest, the Jade Pool Maiden Sage Yu Zhi, and some other well-known Prodigies would come to mourn from time to time. I don't understand why they would mourn for a person like Chu Kuangren. He's better dead. If he's still here, how could we rise to power?"

"The Eleventh on the Immortal Ranking, Lan Yu!"

At her arrival, some reacted with grave looks in their eyes.

Even Ji De, the Third Dragon Crown Prince, had to take her arrival seriously. After all, he was the reason why they were here.

However, Lan Yu ignored the others and headed to the furnace. She stared at the furnace deeply, and a hint of wistfulness gleamed in her sapphire blue eyes.

"Master, it has been twenty years. When are you coming out?" Lan Yu muttered.

The world thought Chu Kuangren had fallen, but Lan Yu and a handful of people believed that Chu Kuangren was alive and trapped inside.

In the past twenty years, Lan Yu had left the academy and traveled to the Immortal World to grow stronger.

Even so, she would visit Laojun City from time to time to see if Chu Kuangren had come out.

"Lan Yu, you're finally here."

Several beams of light arrived behind her, and the one who spoke was the Third Dragon Crown Prince.

Lan Yu continued to ignore him, and her eyes glued to the Bagua Furnace.

Maybe she was overthinking, but the Bagua Furnance's temperature felt a lot lower compared to her previous visits.

The Daoist patterns etched on the surface had also grown weaker as they did not feel as pressured as before.

Could it be that Chu Kuangren was coming out?

A hint of hope gleamed in her sapphire blue eyes.

"Lan Yu, I'm talking to you. Can you hear me?" the Third Dragon Crown Prince frowned.

Lan Yu feigned a deaf ear and continued to show her back to the others.

"Damn it!"

The Third Dragon Crown Prince narrowed his eyes. Just as he wanted to reach out to Lan Yu, a powerful surge of Immortal's Core energy blasted out from her.

With its dense level of Gilded Traits, the energy blasted him away.

"You people are disturbing me from reminiscing about my master."

Chapter 1492 Lan Yu Challenges Three Prodigies, Ninth On The Immortal Ranking, Qinghua Imperial Commander

Bang!

Vast Radiant War Immortal Physique's Immortal Core erupted together with the precinct Gilded Traits. The aura burst out and swept every single direction.

Amid the explosion of aura, the land trembled, the sky shook, and it even blasted the Third Dragon Crown Prince away for several hundred meters. The halberd that he wielded even buzzed violently.

"What a powerful energy fluctuation!"

"Her powers are not to be underestimated," said the Third Dragon Crown Prince.

He finally understood why Lan Yu was ranked higher than the three of them.

"All of you came here for the Immortal Ranking, right?" Lan Yu said with her backs against them.

"That's right. The top ten on the Immortal Ranking are all well-known Prodigies who used to fight Chu Kuangren twenty years ago. But how could you, a mere follower of Chu Kuangren, rank eleventh even after twenty years since he died and be ahead of us? We want to let the world know that you, Lan Yu, are not worthy of that spot!" Ji De said coldly as he wielded the Heaven's Son Sword.

"You said the top ten on the Immortal Ranking used to fight my Master? Who gave you the idea that those people were his match?"

With that, Lan Yu slowly turned around. "If my Master comes back, the Immortal Ranking is nothing but a joke."

"Come back?"

Her words left the few of them stunned. Ji De then looked at Lan Yu compassionately. “What a pity. You still refuse to accept that Chu Kuangren has fallen.”

Lan Yu reacted expressionlessly to their words. She refused to argue with them.

“Whatever. We’re here today to defeat you and to prove that you should be ranked below us,” Ji De said as he drew his Heaven’s Son Sword with a clang.

Countless Daoist patterns swirled on the blade as it released a surge of sharp energy into the air.

It was already a top Arch Gilded Weapon and only one step shy from achieving Embodier Weapon status.

The sword qi that it released distorted the space around it.

The Side King, Hen Changtian, also drew the sword from his waist. As the blade revealed itself, excruciating wails echoed throughout the realm as though the world had turned into purgatory!

It was a demonic sword — an ominous demonic sword that brought forth disaster!

As both the Heaven’s Son Sword and the demonic sword were pointed at Lan Yu, two drastically different sword qi released their aura that filled the realm. Even the void was torn apart by its sheer pressure.

Lan Yu stood before them with the Scepter of Light. “The Immortal Ranking is nothing but a joke. However, it’s a fact that I am more powerful than all three of you.”

“How arrogant!”

Ji De’s figure flashed and launched the first attack while Hen Changtian remained still and pondered. He had decided to observe before making a rash attack.

Clung!

The moment the Heaven’s Son Sword collided with the Scepter of Light, the clash released a powerful surge of energy outward.

“Are you not going to fight me all at once?” Lan Yu said indifferently.

“I alone am enough to defeat you!”

They came to prove the Immortal Ranking was wrong, and if they won with numbers, even if they really won, they would not be able to prove that Lan Yu was weaker than each of them.

Only by winning Lan Yu in a one-on-one battle could they prove that they were stronger than her.

“And you’re trying to defeat me by yourself? You’re the arrogant one in my opinion!”

The Radiant War Immortal Physique’s Immortal Core erupted. The dense Gilded Trait contained in it swept across the field and blasted Ji De away.

“Heavenly God Ray!”

Lan Yu's expression was as solemn as that of a real God. A massive amount of radiant light together with Daoist patterns gathered in her palm before she shot it out.

The beam perforated everything, including the void.

"Damn it!" Ji De's expression turned grave. He raised the Heaven's Son Sword and released a surge of sword qi forward to counter.

The sword qi, which contained a hint of prestige, clashed with the beam.

Following that, the impact of the clash sent Ji De flying away, and his face turned pale.

It was just a short exchange, yet he already noticed the difference in strength between him and Lan Yu.

"You're in the fifth grade?! You're a Fifth-grade Gilded Immortal?!"

Lan Yu had broken through to a Fifth-grade Gilded Immortal, whereas Ji De and the other Prodigies were only Third-grade Gilded Immortals. Moreover, some of the sky-prides had just achieved the Gilded Immortal Realm not long ago.

That meant they were far behind Lan Yu's cultivation level.

"No wonder she's ranked so high. Being a Fifth-grade Gilded Immortal and having the Radiant War Immortal Physique makes her really strong."

"Ji De, Hen Changtian, and the others are also Prodigies, but the difference in their strengths, when compared to Lan Yu, is obvious."

"I agree."

Ji De, Hen Changtian, and the others reacted bitterly when they realized the difference in strength.

"Together!"

"Alright!"

With that, Ji De and Hen Changtian attacked together. As the Heaven's Son Sword attacked together with the demonic sword, an unparalleled sword qi swept across the field.

It tried to overwhelm Lan Yu, but she simply swung her scepter around to destroy the sword qi.

Then, the dragon's roar sounded.

A blue dragon's shadow was dashing toward Lan Yu, attempting to crush her to bits.

It was the Third Dragon Crown Prince!

He wielded his halberd while surrounded by vast dragon qi. As though he was standing in the middle of the ocean, his aura was intimidating.

"Oh." Lan Yu swung her scepter once more to destroy the dragon's shadow, but she was forced backward for more than a dozen meters.

She, too, felt pressured when all three Prodigies attacked her together.

“Teaming up is the wiser choice,” Lan Yu said.

Her blue eyes were overflowing with battle intent that rumbled like a storm as the Radiant War Immortal’s Core energy surged higher.

Ji De and the other two Prodigies launched the second round of attack.

Sword ray, halberd ray, demonic qi, dragon qi, and even Heaven’s Son qi were blasted toward Lan Yu like a destructive tempest.

“Radiant River!”

As Lan Yu raised her hand, endless sparks scattered and intertwined with the countless Daoist patterns in the void to form a long river.

Each splash in the river contained a powerful Immortal’s Core energy fluctuation.

It was the divine ability of the Prominent Radiant War Immortal Physique!

The clash of several energies exploded above the sky of Laojun City. Dazzling lights lit up half the sky and caught the attention of all the cultivators in the city.

Kaboom!

After a destructive explosion, both Lan Yu and Ji De and company were blasted backward.

However, compared to Ji De and the other two, Lan Yu was in a much better sharp. Even her Immortal’s Core remained sufficient.

Meanwhile, Ji De and the other two looked weaker than before.

The outcome of the battle was obvious.

“It seems like Lan Yu is stronger than the three of them combined.

“Hmph. She’s been with Chu Kuangren for so many years. I knew she wouldn’t be that weak.”

“Yeah. If his followers are so strong, I can’t imagine what Chu Kuangren can do in his prime. It’s scary.”

The crowd was suddenly reminded of the figure in white who overpowered the world twenty years ago.

Unfortunately, they would not be able to see him again for the rest of their lives.

“This is over,” Lan Yu said as she raised her scepter to deliver the final blow.

It was at that moment that the clouds rumbled. An auspicious light flickered in the void, and a nine-headed lion came running from the sky.

Above the nine-headed lion was a figure in green robes, covered in endless Immortal Sparks and auspicious images.

Upon his arrival, a powerful aura erupted and shrouded half of the city.

“He’s Qinghua Imperial Commander, the person ranked ninth on the Immortal Ranking!”

Chapter 1493 You're Joking, Right? Impossible, White Robes Appears Again

The Qinghua Imperial Commander's arrival shocked many of the cultivators in Laojun City.

"He's Qinghua Imperial Commander, the one ranked ninth on the Immortal Ranking! Why is he here?"

"Was it because of Ji De? I heard the Ji clan got the support of both the Immortal Halls. Is he here to save Ji De?"

"Does the Immortal Hall think highly of the Ji clan?"

While everyone was surprised by the Qinghua Imperial Commander's arrival, they also turned to Lan Yu to see how she would react.

After all these years, the rumors about the Immortal Halls causing Chu Kuangren's death had never stopped. As one of Chu Kuangren's closest followers, what would Lan Yu do against an Immortal Hall Prodigy?

"Qinghua Imperial Commander, are you here to stop me?" she asked.

"I am here for something else. But since the Ji clan is closely related to the Immortal Hall, if you want him dead, I can't just let you kill him either."

A vigorous battle intent shot into the sky, and after a chuckle, Lan Yu said, "Is that so? What if I insist on killing him? Would you be able to stop me?"

"I'll try."

"Heavenly God Ray!" Lan Yu skipped the chatters and shot a white light beam at her foe.

"Break it!"

The azure sword at Qinghua Imperial Commander's waist unsheathed itself and shot out a dazzling sword ray that slashed even the heavens and crushed the beam with ease.

He looked at Lan Yu seriously. "I didn't expect more trouble to arise even after Chu Kuangren's death. To think that you, Chu Hong, Jue Wushen, and the others are still on the Immortal Ranking.

Chu Kuangren might be dead but his followers remained.

Each and every one of them was ranked high on the Immortal Ranking, and if they fully developed themselves, they would eventually be a formidable foe for the Immortal Hall.

One example was Jue Wushen, who led the Pseudo-Celestial Demon Tribe and reigned over the Holy Violet Emperor Planet. Other than his personal talent, his authority had become one of his greatest weapons.

"I should kill her here to prevent her from growing stronger!"

A chilling killing intent flashed in the Qinghua Imperial Commander's eyes.

As though she had read Qinghua Imperial Commander's thoughts, Lan Yu gripped her scepter tightly and channeled her Immortal's Core to the limit to activate the divine ability of the Radiant War Immortal Physique once again.

A vast and endless river was summoned.

"Endless Tempest Tribulation!"

The Qinghua Imperial Commander grunted as he fully utilized his cultivation abilities. Mystical Daoist patterns circulated around him, and the spiritual energy of the realm gathered upon him, forming a massive tempest.

With the wind howling and the lightning rumbling, its power alone trembled the universe.

The Radiant River clashed with the violent energy, causing half of the space around it to collapse. Then, a massive hole appeared in the void above Laojun City.

The Qinghua Imperial Commander got off his mount, and his energy gradually rose.

Immortal Sparks blinded the sky as the light of the Gilded Trait shone brightly, outshining even the sun.

He had broken through to a Seventh-grade Gilded Immortal!

The power of a Seventh-grade Gilded Immortal and the talents of a Peerless Prodigy granted him the strength to challenge even a Ninth-grade Gilded Immortal.

He peered down at Lan Yu condescendingly and said indifferently, "I am ranked ninth on the Immortal Ranking, and you are not even in the top ten. You're only in the fifth grade, while I am in the seventh grade."

"Gilded Immortal grades are vastly different even with just one minor grade. You should know better. Lan Yu, what do you have to challenge me?"

His energy was overflowing and wreaking havoc in the void, and the Immortal Sparks around him blinded even the heavens. It was as though he was an Immortal King who had descended on earth.

The might of an Immortal Hall's Imperial Commander shook the realm.

Many sky-prides were deterred, revered, and shocked.

"Seventh-grade Gilded Immortal! The top ten Prodigies are already in the Higher Third Grade of the Gilded Immortal Realm! How terrifying is that?"

"Others need tens of thousands of years to achieve such height, but it only took him a mere two decades! Is this the luck of a top Prodigy?"

The status of Heavenly Champion, plus one's luck and the talent of a Prodigy, allowed them to improve vastly in just mere decades.

Especially when the battle of Heavenly Champion was coming to an end, the adrenaline-fueled Prodigies got even stronger.

Lan Yu stared at the Qinghua Imperial Commander, feeling threatened.

Boom!

The Qinghua Imperial Commander dished out a palm strike. His rampant Immortal Core erupted as it struck Lan Yu, sending her flying more than a hundred meters away.

The fight with Ji De and the others, as well as challenging a strong foe like the Qinghua Imperial Commander, had demanded a lot from Lan Yu, who was near her limit already.

“With my current powers, I can challenge Chu Kuangren even if he comes back alive,” the Qinghua Imperial Commander said indifferently as he proudly unmounted his nine-headed lion.

However, a second later, he lamented. “Unfortunately, Chu Kuangren is dead. If he is still alive, I will fight him to relive the glory of the Immortal Hall!”

Boom!

As soon as he said that, a deafening blast shook heaven and earth.

Everyone was shocked, and when they turned to the source of the blast, their expression changed.

It was from the Bagua Furnace!

Meanwhile, further away in the deepest part of Kunlun Immortal Hall, the great ones were gathered together.

“It has been twenty years. I wonder how Chu Kuangren’s refinement is going? Are there any pills that contain his blood essence?” asked the white-robed elderly.

“The most important thing is the transcendental energy he possessed. If we can extract that, we might be able to reach out to the energy,” said one of the great ones.

His words incited greed in everyone else’s eyes.

That was the reason they chose to refine Chu Kuangren using the Bagua Furnace

“I’ve sent the Qinghua Imperial Commander to go and have a look. All we have to do is wait,” said the white-robed elderly.

Suddenly, a massive explosion echoed across the realm.

Even the great ones in the deepest part of the Immortal Hall could hear it.

“It came from Laojun City?”

“What happened?”

The great ones of the Immortal Hall frowned, and they quickly released their Immortal Consciousness to have a look.

When they tracked down the source of the massive explosion, their expression changed for the worse. Their pupils shrank in fear as if they were looking at something horrifying.

“I-It’s the Bagua Furnace! It came from inside the Bagua Furnace!”

“What’s going on?!”

An absurd idea suddenly popped up in their minds, and it fueled anxiety in everyone.

Not only the great ones of the Immortal Hall but even the Arch Gilded Immortals across the Immortal World felt the massive explosion and noticed the anomaly at Laojun City.

Countless Immortal Consciousness flooded into Laojun City from every direction to find out what happened.

Similar to the great ones of the Immortal Halls, they too expressed disbelief when they saw the Bagua Furnace.

“Are you kidding me?”

“Please don’t let that person out again!”

The great ones, who people deemed to be near omnipotent, started praying for some reason.

At that moment, they were panicking.

As the massive explosions continued inside the Bagua Furnace, the consecutive blasts echoed throughout the realm and even shook the whole furnace.

Everyone gulped nervously as they stared at the shaking furnace.

Bang, bang, bang!

The explosions got louder and louder as if a monstrous beast was trying to break out.

“Impossible...”

One of the sky-prides muttered as his body trembled uncontrollably.

Kakroom!

Following the explosion, a tremendous force blasted open the Bagua Furnace’s lid.

Endless flames erupted and devoured everything in their way.

Amid the blazing scene was a peerless figure in white, appearing once more in the public’s eye.

Chapter 1494 Arrogant As Always, Qinghua Imperial Commander Attacks, Is This Your So-Called Surpassing?

The Bagua Furnace’s lid blasted open violently.

Then, countless Daoist patterns on the furnace started to dim as the endless flames burst from within, setting everything ablaze.

Amid the heaven-searing flames, a figure in white that had been buried in many sky-prides’ minds suddenly appeared once more.

All the sky-prides gasped in fear.

Laojun City was engulfed in flames. However, not only did it fail to scorch or even warm people's hearts, but the place felt extremely chilly as if winter has arrived.

Chills ran down everyone's spines and left their heads numb.

All the sky-prides suddenly remembered the fear they had for the white figure.

"The furnace is really stuffy. The air out here is much fresher."

A calm voice sounded.

The white figure amidst the flames swung his sleeve, extinguishing all the flames in the area.

Only then did people finally get a clear look at the person's face.

The person had black hair, white robes, a handsome face that stood out from the rest, and a transcendental presence, unmatched by anyone in the universe.

He was someone who everyone knew too well.

He had disappeared for twenty years, and the people had almost forgotten him completely.

However, when he reappeared before the public again, the people were reminded that it was not that they had forgotten him. Rather, they refused to and were afraid to remember those days when the man single-handedly overpowered the world.

Following the person's appearance, the familiar feeling of reverence and fear assaulted every one of them once more.

"C-C-C-Chu Kuangren!" stammered one of the sky-prides.

Some of them went blank, unable to form a single word in their mind.

The Qinghua Imperial Commander, Ji De, the Third Dragon Crown Prince, Hen Changtian, and other Prodigies were in disbelief, their eyes trembling in fear.

They all shared a single question in their minds: why is he still alive?

It was unfair for him to continue his reign, and he should not be allowed to live anymore.

Not only the sky-prides and Prodigies but even the great ones were dazed by his appearance.

The monster lived!

Not even the flames of the Bagua Furnace could destroy him!

It seemed like his fate had yet to reach the end.

"What are those Immortal Halls fools doing? How could they fail to eliminate a junior?!"

"It seems like time has gone back twenty years ago."

"You can't be sure just yet. The other Prodigies had twenty years of growth, and he was trapped inside the furnace for as long. Maybe he wasted twenty years."

...

“Master!”

Back at Laojun City, Lan Yu was overwhelmed by happiness when she saw Chu Kuangren.

She knew Chu Kuangren was alive.

“Yo, Lan Yu, it’s been a while.”

Chu Kuangren noticed and greeted her. He also noticed the injuries she sustained.

With a cold gaze, he asked, “Did someone hurt you?”

“Yes, Master. It’s the Qinghua Imperial Commander. He hurt me using his Seventh-grade Gilded Immortal cultivation.” Lan Yu complained as she pointed at the Qinghua Imperial Commander and stared at him with her sapphire blue eyes.

She sounded like a child telling her parents that someone had bullied her at school.

It was rare for Lan Yu to behave this way, but it had been twenty years since she saw Chu Kuangren, so she ought to use the chance to her advantage, asking to be pampered.

Chu Kuangren looked at the Qinghua Imperial Commander. “Oh, look. An old friend.”

“Chu Kuangren, how are you still alive?!”

The Qinghua Imperial Commander clenched his fists tightly, his gaze shifted multiple times but all revealed a hint of reverence.

Ji De and the others looked at him, remembering what he said earlier.

“If Chu Kuangren is alive, I will fight him to relive the glory of the Immortal Hall!”

His wish had been granted.

Chu Kuangren was alive, and they all waited for him to fight the man.

Deep inside their hearts, they scoffed at the Qinghua Imperial Commander for acting cool.

“You look disappointed to see me alive,” Chu Kuangren said calmly. His hands were behind his back as he took a step forward to the Prodigies.

The sudden approach shocked and terrified them, causing them to instinctively retreat rapidly with pale faces.

However, when they finally came to their senses, they felt humiliated.

All he did was take a step closer to them, yet they were horrified as if they saw ghosts.

Had Chu Kuangren scarred them for life?

“So what if you are alive? You think this is twenty years ago?”

"It's different now. You were trapped in the Bagua Furnace for twenty years, and we have surpassed you. Your appearance now is a chance for us to defeat you!" said the Qinghua Imperial Commander as his energy surged gradually.

The azure sword in his hand shone brightly.

"I'm interested to see how far you have surpassed me," Chu Kuangren said.

He stood on the spot with his hands behind his back and an expressionless look on his face as if he did not take their words seriously.

Twenty years later, he remained as arrogant as ever.

"Chu Kuangren!"

To prove his claims, the Qinghua Imperial Commander attacked.

As he swung his sword forward, his Immortal Core energy surged and expanded the endless tempest outward.

"Endless Tempest Tribulation!"

The wind and lightning, coupled with the sword qi and bolts of lightning, formed a violent tempest. It swept across the field and attacked Chu Kuangren.

It all happened in a blink of an eye, but the tempest devoured him completely.

Kaboom...

A series of loud explosions later, the seemingly endless energy scattered in the void.

Even a Higher Third-grade Gilded Immortal would have to suffer before such a powerful attack.

However, the Qinghua Imperial Commander knew Chu Kuangren was no ordinary foe, so he did not stop after the first attack. Quite the opposite, he infused even more energy into his sword and channeled even more of his Immortal's Core.

Endless wind and lightning crushed the land that Chu Kuangren stood on, leaving everything in desolation.

The full strength of the Qinghua Imperial Commander left everyone in awe.

"What terrifying power! I believe Chu Kuangren can't withstand it!"

"Indeed. It's really powerful."

"He has been trapped in the furnace for so long, suffering the Heavenly Flame's endless burning. I don't think he had the time to continue his cultivation. He should be grateful that he isn't dead."

A heated discussion sparked among the sky-prides, and some had a thin sliver of hope that someone would be strong enough to match Chu Kuangren's strength.

Twenty years ago, the entire younger generation was overpowered by a single person, and everyone lived under his shadows.

It was a terrible feeling, and no one would want to live that fearful life again.

“Chu Kuangren, you are still as arrogant as ever. To think you’re not even trying to dodge my full attack. You’re either heavily injured or dead!” The Qinghua Imperial Commander grinned.

“So this is the so-called surpassing me?”

At the end of the tempest came a slightly disappointed voice.

The tempest was then torn apart by a vast Immortal’s Core energy.

A white figure stood in the eye of the storm with Immortal Sparks shimmering around him, and the land that he stood on was badly ruined.

However, he remained standing on the spot, unharmed.

The Qinghua Imperial Commander’s eyes shrank in fear. He had unleashed his full attack, yet he was unable to leave a scratch on Chu Kuangren.

How was it possible?

Chapter 1495 A Blast of Sword Qi Destroying the Heavenly Soldiers, Weak and Helpless, One Slash Killing Three Prodigies

Chu Kuangren stood firm on the spot, completely unscathed.

He swung his sleeve and released a vast Immortal’s Core energy to disperse the violent tempest.

Then, with a step forward, he appeared before the Qinghua Imperial Commander. He raised his finger and pointed at his opponent’s face.

There was no Immortal’s Core energy contained in his fingers, and it seemed extremely common, like an ordinary person pointing at someone.

However, it was the ordinary point of the finger that enveloped the Qinghua Imperial Commander with immense fear because he could not dodge it!

Enraged, he channeled his Immortal’s Core to the limit and blocked his sword in front of his chest. The finger landed precisely on the azure sword’s blade.

Clunk!

The sound of metal breaking echoed.

Countless Daoist patterns shone from the blade as if it was giving its best to defend against Chu Kuangren’s finger.

Following that, the sword started to distort, and its blade struck the Qinghua Imperial Commander. Both he and the sword were sent flying backward, crashing onto the walls of Laojun City.

Laojun City’s walls were built using all kinds of Immortal Metal and enforced using countless mystical Daoist patterns. Hence, it could be said as indestructible.

However, when the Qinghua Imperial Commander crashed into it, a large crater appeared, and the cracks spread like a massive spider web.

Splat!

Blood spurted from the Qinghua Imperial Commander's mouth. His chest caved in terribly, countless bones were broken, and the Daoist patterns on his Immortal body started to dim out to the point of fading.

It was just one finger!

One finger and it left the Qinghua Imperial Commander severely injured!

The jaw-dropping scene left everyone speechless.

The one that Chu Kuangren struck was no common sky-pride or Prodigy.

He was the Imperial Commander of the Immortal Hall and the Qinghua Imperial Commander with the Seventh-grade Gilded Immortal cultivation base!

Moreover, he ranked ninth on the Immortal Ranking!

The man was considered the top among the younger generation, yet he was sent flying and was severely injured by a single point from Chu Kuangren's finger!

Chu Kuangren's power was traumatizing!

"Weak. I thought twenty years later, you people would've improved a lot. However, it seems like before me you guys are still as weak as paper," Chu Kuangren exclaimed with a shake of his head.

The Qinghua Imperial Commander, who was left embedded in the wall, reacted with a horrified look on his pale face. Then, when he heard Chu Kuangren, he felt deeply insulted.

"Chu Kuangren, you spoke too soon! I still have my trump card!"

As the Qinghua Imperial Commander shouted, shimmering runes shot out from his body.

The runes intertwined and formed countless mystical avatars above him.

They were the Heavenly Kings who wielded treasured swords, Godly Generals who rode the fiercest stallions, and Heavenly Soldiers who mastered all four elements of wind, fire, lightning, and water.

The sky was instantly shrouded by countless runed-formed Heavenly soldiers.

The Qinghua Imperial Commander had summoned an army to his aid!

"Oh, these are all Rune Puppets. It's a rather interesting technique with the rune," Chu Kuangren said with a nod.

"Go!"

The Qinghua Imperial Commander bellowed and sent tens of thousands of Heavenly soldiers charging at Chu Kuangren.

Some controlled lightning, some controlled water, some rode the wind, and some charged forward with fire. Some even wielded Immortal Swords and were equipped with Godly Weapons and halberds. All the soldiers were unique from one another.

Even a Ninth-grade Gilded Immortal would be defeated by such a massive attack.

At that moment, Immortal Sparks started to shimmer around Chu Kuangren, who stood with his hands behind his back and took a deep breath.

Spiritual energy gathered upon him rapidly as though a whale was sucking in water. As the spiritual energy converged in his body, it was converted into a massive amount of Immortal's Core energy.

Then, he blew the condensed Immortal's Core energy outward, forming countless sword qi in the air that soon condensed into a tidal wave of sword qi.

The sword qi wreaked havoc in its wake, leaving the void shattered and destroying Heavenly soldiers.

In the blink of an eye, the army of Heavenly soldiers that the Qinghua Imperial Commander summoned was destroyed by a single breath from Chu Kuangren.

"Is he even human anymore?"

Everyone was at a loss of words when they witnessed the scene.

"We were all wrong. We thought that being trapped in the furnace for twenty years might halt his cultivation progress, but now, it seems like he's even stronger than before."

"Someone, please tell me what just happened?!"

"He inhaled and absorbed all the spiritual energy in the realm before exhaling and spitting out an endless sword qi forward, destroying tens of thousands of Heavenly soldiers! Damn, he's really a Peerless Prodigies!"

The strength that Chu Kuangren displayed completely obliterated the younger generations' sky-prides and Prodigies.

It reminded people of the saying that circulated in the Immortal World twenty years ago: the maddest man in the entire universe!

"So this is the strength of the one who overpowered all the sky-prides?!"

Those who did not get the chance to see Chu Kuangren's glory back in the day were intimidated.

Further away, the Qinghua Imperial Commander was shocked when he saw Chu Kuangren annihilating his army of Heavenly soldiers with just a single breath.

How could such a monster be alive in the universe?

An indescribable fear enveloped him as he stared at the man in white.

"Jiuling, bring me away immediately!" the Qinghua Imperial Commander shouted at his mount.

However, the nine-headed lion was already on its knees, trembling in fear like a lost kitten. No matter how loud the Qinghua Imperial Commander shouted, it dared not lift a foot.

“Good little kitty.”

Chu Kuangren went over and patted one of its heads.

The nine-headed lion was a terrifying yokai beast. Any common cultivators that got near would be deemed hostile, and only a handful of people were worthy enough to be recognized as its master.

Even the Qinghua Imperial Commander invested a lot of effort to tame it.

Now, the terrifying yokai beast was kneeling like an obedient cat, allowing Chu Kuangren to pat its head at will. It trembled and dared not resist at all. The ferocity that it used to bear was long gone.

It felt helpless, tiny, and weak before absolute power.

“Damn it!” the Qinghua Imperial Commander cursed. He knew he had lost his mount, so he forcefully channeled his Immortal’s Core, grabbed his sword, and slipped away in a stream of light.

Many sky-prides were in awe when they saw the scene.

Be it twenty years ago or twenty years later, Chu Kuangren’s enemies always had only two options: die or flee.

“You are not running away this time,” Chu Kuangren said.

Countless silvery-white Daoist patterns had somehow encaged the space without anyone knowing.

It was the Spacetime Sealing Technique!

As the technique sealed space and time, the Qinghua Imperial Commander felt extremely heavy and could barely move a muscle. It was as if he had fallen into a swamp.

“The Immortal Hall is behind the little incident with the Bagua Furnace, am I right? So, I’d take a little interest from you first,” Chu Kuangren said as he pointed his sword hand sign forward.

A dazzling sword ray shot out and blasted the Qinghua Imperial Commander into a cloud of blood mist.

The second Imperial Commander of the Immortal Hall had been killed by the hands of Chu Kuangren, following the first being the Holy Violet Imperial Commander.

Further away, Ji De, Third Dragon Crown Prince, and Hen Changtian were petrified. They cautiously stared at Chu Kuangren and dared not make any rash move.

“You people’s energy presences are on Lan Yu’s injuries as well, so it means you guys attacked her,” Chu Kuangren said.

“Damn it!”

Horried, the three of them wanted to leave.

However, all they saw was a sword ray flashing across the void before everything in front of them turned dark.

Before anyone could react, three heads flew into the sky before falling onto the ground in succession.

The sword ray at Chu Kuangren's fingers faded, and he remained calm as if he had not killed three Prodigies but three ants.

Chapter 1496 News Is Out, You Are All Horrified, Unmatched By The Power Of One Man

"Hahaha!"

Somewhere in the Immortal World, Mister Zhang, who was riding his donkey, sensed the energy presence at Laojun City and cackled with laughter.

"You guys didn't kill him! You guys didn't kill him!"

Mister Zhang looked up at the sky, as though he was sneering at those old geezers in the Immortal Hall.

Many other great ones in the Immortal World sensed Chu Kuangren's energy presence as well, and it put a grave look on their faces. Their mood immediately became worse.

Chu Kuangren had appeared again and was stronger than ever before!

"History has repeated itself!" said one of the great ones.

"Back then, the Ape Forefather was also trapped in the Bagua Furnace, but after he broke free, he got divine visions and an indestructible body! Now, the same thing has happened to Chu Kuangren! Not only did he not get refined in the furnace, but he also got stronger!"

"Is the Bagua Furnace's sole purpose to defy the Immortal Hall?" some great ones ridiculed.

Regardless, it was already a cold hard fact that Chu Kuangren was alive.

Everyone knew that the terrifying times of the madman overpowering the universe were about to return.

Back at Laojun City, Chu Kuangren cast the Yin Yang Life and Death Symbol to heal Lan Yu.

Then, he asked her about how she had been doing recently.

"Master, something called the Immortal Ranking has been circulating around the Immortal World recently. Now that you are out of the Bagua Furnace, you're going to be ranked first!" Lan Yu said with a smile.

"The Immortal Ranking? Oh, I heard of it."

"Huh?"

Lan Yu was confused. As far as she knew, Chu Kuangren was trapped in the Bagua Furnace for twenty years, so how would he know about the Immortal Ranking?

Besides, he did not ask anything about how the Immortal World's development after he came out. It was as if he knew about what was happening in the outside world.

Despite having questions, Lan Yu was not in a hurry to meet them with answers.

They chatted before they planned a trip back to the academy.

The news of Chu Kuangren reappearing spread like wildfire across the Immortal World.

On a mountain peak somewhere in the Immortal World, a surge of violent demonic qi burst into the sky and shook the land.

The demonic qi even carried a vast destructive intent.

A man with a solemn look stood firm on the mountain peak with his spear.

"It's been twenty years. Why must you come back? Chu Kuangren..."

He was none other than Shi Tianxuan.

After twenty years of cultivating, he had gained the bearing of a ruler, and every move he made screamed of extraordinary dominance.

On top of that, his cultivation base had become even more unfathomable.

Beside him were several other top elites from the Demon Kingdom, all Gilded Immortals. However, despite being Gilded Immortals themselves, they revered Shi Tianxuan.

"Fine. You remain a piece of a thorn in my flesh, a trauma that I must face sooner or later, Chu Kuangren. If I can't defeat you, I won't be able to ascend into the Arch Gilded Realm."

One must go through countless trials and tests in order to ascend into the Arch Gilded Realm, and one's Daoist core played a crucial part.

Chu Kuangren traumatized him greatly in the past and became the sole reason that stopped his Daoist core from perfecting. Only by defeating his arch-nemesis could Shi Tianxuan perfect his Daoist core.

Other than the Demon Kingdom, there was the East Sovereign Immortal Hall.

The Eastern Sky Divine Daoist also received news about Chu Kuangren's return. Due to the sudden shock, he accidentally released the Grand Solar Flame and scorched several thousand kilometers of mountains and rivers.

"Chu Kuangren, a name long due," the Eastern Sky Divine Daoist muttered.

"What are you planning to do about it?"

In front of the Eastern Sky Divine Daoist was a young man in blue robes. He was one of the Divine Daoists from the Nine Houses, Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist.

"Observe."

The Eastern Sky Divine Daoist had no plans to go into direct conflict with Chu Kuangren immediately.

"You're afraid."

Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist glanced at him and spoke his mind honestly.

"Yes. I am indeed afraid of him." The Eastern Sky Divine Daoist admitted his fear as well.

“You’re afraid of him, but I am not. He killed Shang’er, and I must make him pay for what he did.”

The Shang’er that Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist mentioned was the late Lady Shang Divine Maiden, who was also his Daoist partner.

Lady Shang Divine Maiden was killed by Chu Kuangren back at the Interstellar Arena.

His feud with Chu Kuangren started when the man killed his Daoist partner.

He swore an oath to never stop until he avenged his dead wife.

“I’m jealous of you because you have never faced Chu Kuangren before. You have no idea how terrifying that man is,” the Eastern Sky Divine Daoist said indifferently.

Only the sky-prides who had faced Chu Kuangren before understood how much of a monster he was.

Since Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist had never faced Chu Kuangren before, he did not know how terrifying the man could be. He had no reverence for the man as well.

“I think you guys are simply too scared to act. Twenty years might not be long, but it’s enough for us Prodigies to evolve into a greater state. While he was trapped in the Bagua Furnace, we improved and are no longer who we used to be. He’s just a remnant of time,” Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist said.

“A remnant of time? I think I might have to look at you differently just because you have the nerves to say that.”

A teasing voice sounded.

The Great Arbiter Divine Maiden came over and glanced at Gentleman Shang Divine Daoist with a ridiculing gaze.

“Hmph. You’re the same as well, Great Arbiter Divine Maiden. You have been afraid of him for twenty years.”

“Anyone who was in the Interstellar Arena twenty years ago is afraid of him,” she said.

The sole thought of that white figure filled her heart with fear, reverence, and a hint of admiration.

Despite being the superior Divine Maiden, she could not stop herself from falling for such an extraordinary man.

“Hmph. I really have to meet him myself soon.”

...

Zhuanxu’s successor and Xuanyuan’s successor from the Human Emperor Sect received the news as well.

“He’s not dead.”

Zhuanxu’s successor had multiple black water droplets floating around him.

Compared to twenty years ago, his cultivation base was a lot stronger, and the Nether Black Water’s power had reached new heights.

The droplets of water felt like they contained the unfathomable ocean inside them.

In fact, not only his, but even the Xuanyuan's successor's energy presence felt a lot stronger. The Xuanyuan Sword at his waist was also surrounded by multiple golden sword qi, granting it a prestigious look.

"Yes. He is not dead. This is...great!" Xuanyuan's successor grinned.

"If he's alive, it means the Ultimate Human Emperor Technique isn't lost! We still have a chance to get it and succeed in the Human Emperor's fate!"

"You're right about the chance, but you must first defeat him."

Zhuanxu's successor gleamed. Then, a sudden epiphany hit him, and he said, "Do you think Long Xuan is his match?"

Long Xuan, the eldest crown prince of the Dragon Palace, ranked first on the Immortal Ranking. Other than Chu Kuangren, he was the only Peerless Prodigy in the current era.

"Chu Kuangren isn't someone anyone can fight alone," Xuanyuan's successor said.

His words meant that although Long Xuan was a Peerless Prodigy, he might still be lackluster in front of Chu Kuangren.

Even though it had been twenty years, Xuanyuan's successor somehow had an ominous feeling that Chu Kuangren was even more terrifying than he was before.

The news of Chu Kuangren's reappearance spread across the Immortal World. All the sky-prides and Prodigies were shocked to various extents.

The horrifying scene from twenty years ago replayed in their minds again.

The fear of being occupied by the figure in white terrorized them.

Chapter 1497 The Origin Of The Immortal Ranking, Eastern Sovereign Divine Daoist, Demon Kingdom Skyward King

After Chu Kuangren returned to Hundred Academy, Mister Lu, the teachers, and the students came.

"The Chief is really back!"

"This is great! I knew the Chief would be fine. Luck is always at his side!"

"Sobs. Thank goodness the Chief is fine..."

The students were excited at Chu Kuangren's return, some of the female students even had the urge to cry tears of joy.

"It's great that you're back," Mister Lu said as he looked at Chu Kuangren sentimentally.

He viewed Chu Kuangren as the pillar of the academy, and when he heard something terrible happened to Chu Kuangren twenty years ago, he was petrified.

Now that Chu Kuangren was back, it was time for him to wake up from the nightmare of twenty years.

Chu Kuangren glanced over everyone.

A while later, Wang Chentian and the other Heavenly Champions came.

“Chief! You’re finally back! The Immortal World is boring without you!” Wang Chentian cackled with laughter.

“I thought the sky-prides were fighting for a spot for the so-called Immortal Ranking. How could things be boring?” Chu Kuangren chuckled.

“It’s just a lame ranking. Now that you’re back, Chief, that ranking is nothing but a piece of paper,” Wang Chentian said.

Similar to Lan Yu, he believed that even all the sky-prides in the world combined were not Chu Kuangren’s match.

The student’s admiration for Chu Kuangren had reached the point of fanaticism.

After reuniting with the folks of the academy, he received many more transmissions from other parties, inquiring about his well-being.

Chu Hong, Yu Zhi, Jue Wushen, Ye Zhu, and even Shi Ying contacted him.

Each and every one of them was close to him before, and now that they knew he had returned, they all welcomed him back wholeheartedly.

As for the rest, they were either busy preparing for a fight or busy with something else.

Chu Kuangren’s return was huge news to the Immortal World, and many Prodigies had to be prepared to face him sooner or later.

“How would you people welcome me back? I’m intrigued,” Chu Kuangren muttered as he looked up into the sky.

It was then that a figure in white robes appeared behind him.

Strangely, the figure looked exactly like him and had a similar demeanor.

It was his clone!

While Chu Kuangren was trapped in the Bagua Furnace for twenty years, his clone had been hiding in the outside world without anyone’s knowledge.

That was the reason why he was able to grasp what had happened in the past twenty years while being isolated in the furnace.

He even sufficiently prepared himself for all the potential impending encounters.

“Welcome back, my true self,” Chu Kuangren’s clone said.

“Thank you for all you’ve done for the past twenty years.”

“You know I disliked doing all this, but now that you’ve returned, I can put the matters aside,” the clone explained.

“Have you found out the origin of the Immortal Ranking?”

“It’s related to the Immortal Hall.”

“The Immortal Hall again, huh? They really are full of tricks.” Chu Kuangren pursed his lips.

In the past twenty years, his clone and the Feng clan in Holy Violet Planet had expanded their intelligence network greatly. Once he got news of the appearance of the Immortal Ranking, he started to investigate.

What he found out only made the origin of the Immortal Ranking even weirder.

First of all, the Immortal Ranking was not a complete list. The names on the list were all known sky-prides and Prodigies.

The way it ranked the sky-prides and Prodigies was not exactly fair either. Some of the names felt like they were just there to fill in the spots.

More importantly, the appearance of the Immortal Ranking brought the battle of the Heavenly Champion to the climax.

All the sky-prides and Prodigies fought fiercely for a spot on the ranking.

Someone also used the ranking to eliminate their rivals.

“The names on the ranking, are they planning to eliminate the current Heavenly Champions before they truly show themselves in public?”

The elimination of Heavenly Champions only benefited other Heavenly Champions who were contending for the position of Immortal World Ruler.

The Immortal Hall created that Immortal Ranking so that they could reap the spoils from the battles between the Heavenly Champions.

“A ranking that contains all the known sky-prides... They were treated as chess pieces that the people behind the scene could control at will. The Immortal Hall is really full of cunning people. Interesting.” Chu Kuangren smiled.

“Oh, and Yuan Zhan of the tenth place appeared at Five Ways Mountain. He sent out challenge invitations to the sky-prides and claimed that he wanted to have a spar with them.”

“Yuan Zhan? The Battle Saint Ape?”

“Yes.”

“I’ll go have a look. I’d like to see how people have improved over the past twenty years.” Chu Kuangren smiled interestingly.

...

Meanwhile, at Eastern Sovereign Immortal Hall, a figure enveloped by endless Immortal Sparks looked at the jade scroll in his hand with an odd gaze.

“Chu Kuangren is back,” the figure muttered with slight surprise.

“Chu Kuangren’s reemergence is going to disrupt your plan.”

Beside the figure was another man in white robes. The man with the profound and subtle aura was the Cloudy Deity Divine Daoist.

His gaze at the figure enveloped by the Immortal Sparks showed a hint of respect.

Among the same generation within the Immortal Hall, only one was worthy of his respect.

That person was known as the one who ruled over the Nine Houses, the Eastern Sovereign Divine Daoist!

The most prestigious God among the Nine Houses.

“Yeah. I was going to use the Immortal Ranking to list out the sky-prides so that they can fight each other and exhaust themselves. It will also be a stepping stone for my emergence in the future. Once the Immortal Ranking has rooted itself into people’s hearts, I will seize the first place and gain an unparalleled reputation, but... the plan is built upon Chu Kuangren’s absence!”

Only without Chu Kuangren, the madman who overpowered everyone, would the sky-prides fight each other, hence exhausting themselves.

Only without Chu Kuangren, the Eastern Sovereign Divine Daoist could seize the first place and reap an unparalleled reputation.

However, with an absolute force like Chu Kuangren, no matter what plans he had for the rest of the sky-prides, Chu Kuangren would be an uncrossable hurdle.

No matter what he did, he would be compared to Chu Kuangren, and once he lost, his plan to reap reputation would go down the drain.

The only thing that people cared about was the strongest person that ruled the universe.

“The Qinghua Imperial Commander, who was ninth on the Immortal Ranking, couldn’t even take a few moves from Chu Kuangren. His power was beyond anyone’s imagination,” the Eastern Sovereign Divine Daoist said.

Being slightly stronger than everyone was not a problem, but being ridiculously powerful in the universe would make one become a common enemy.

Chu Kuangren was the embodiment of such a concept.

“Do you need me to test him out?”

“Not necessary. He has been away for twenty years, and his reappearance will definitely attract interested parties to do the job for us.”

On the other hand, a figure with a vast energy presence arrived at the Hundred Academy.

The entire academy was shaken by his presence.

"I am the Skyward King from the Demon Kingdom. Chu Kuangren, I challenge you!"

The person was a buff man equipped with a pitch-black halberd. His Immortal's Core also contained Gilded Traits that filled the land, and he had come to challenge Chu Kuangren.

The students of the academy spotted him in the sky, but they were looking at him as if they were looking at a clown.

Chapter 1498 Run, Killing Skyward King, Shi Tianxuan Spewed Blood

"Who is this fool? Why is he here challenging the Chief?"

"The Skyward King of the Demon Kingdom. He's a Prodigy who rivals the Side King in terms of strength, and the two of them seemed to be close."

"That explains a lot. I heard the Chief killed several Prodigies when he came out from the Bagua Furnace, including the Side King of the Demon Kingdom. He must be here for revenge."

The Skyward King stood in the air with demonic qi overflowing from his body.

Chu Kuangren was sparring with Lan Yu inside the academy as he wanted to test her improvements from the past twenty years.

The sudden arrival of the Skyward King put a frown on his face.

"Master, I'll send him away," said Lan Yu, who was prepared to fly up to the sky.

"It's okay. I'll go myself."

"Master, you don't have to deal with someone as petty as him."

"It's fine. I plan to leave the academy for Five Ways Mountain soon, so I'll just deal with this Skyward King along the way," Chu Kuangren said indifferently.

Dealing with a powerful Prodigy was something only Chu Kuangren could say in such an indifferent tone.

Lan Yu nodded. "If so, let's go together, Master."

"Very well."

...

The Skyward King stood in the air, with his eyes bloodshot and anger overflowing.

He was one of the newest Prodigies who rose to prominence in the past twenty years. Hence, he had never seen Chu Kuangren before.

The only thing he knew was that Chu Kuangren had killed his brother-in-arms, the Side King.

Anger took over his sanity and drove him to Hundred Academy for vengeance while disregarding consequences.

It was then that the jade scroll at his waist buzzed.

"It's from the King?"

The Skyward King tapped on it.

“Return immediately!” Shi Tianxuan ordered him to return to the Demon Kingdom at once.

However, the Skyward King frowned. “Your Majesty, Chu Kuangren killed my brother. I must avenge him with my own hands!”

“Fool! You are not Chu Kuangren’s match! Hen Changtian can’t even stand one slash from him. What can you possibly do? Return immediately!” Shi Tianxuan bellowed furiously.

Losing Hen Changtian cost the Demon Kingdom a proficient general, and if the Skyward King died, Shi Tianxuan would suffer tremendous losses as though he lost an arm.

“Your Majesty, I came with absolute resolution. I am above life and death now. I am not just here to avenge my fallen brother. I am also here to test his strength for you, hoping that it will increase your confidence in facing him in the future!” The Skyward King took a deep breath as strong determination flashed in his eyes.

He had to fight Chu Kuangren, for his fallen brother and for his King.

“Skyward King, don’t do something stupid—”

Shi Tianxuan continued to dissuade him but was interrupted by himself, “Your Majesty, it’s too late now.”

Before him was a figure in white, approaching him steadily, and behind the figure was a woman in silver armor.

The Skyward King had heard a lot about Chu Kuangren, but that would be his first time meeting the man in person.

With his white robes and black hair that resembled a deity, and his each and every move that screamed transcendental, all it took was a glance, and he left a deep impression on the Skyward King.

Unparalleled seemed to be the word invented for him exclusively.

“So, this is Chu Kuangren?” he muttered.

Shi Tianxuan heard him from the other end of the jade scroll. His expression changed as he screamed, “Run! This is an order!”

Back at the sky above Hundred Academy, Chu Kuangren stared at the Skyward King. However, he heard a familiar voice from the jade scroll, his lips curled into a grin. “Shi Tianxuan, your man is much more courageous than you are, facing me in person.”

Crack!

The Skyward King crushed the jade scroll in anger. He took a deep breath and glared at Chu Kuangren. “Do not insult His Majesty! You shall pay with your blood for taking my brother’s life!”

Kaboom!

Even more terrifying demonic qi erupted from him and shook the void like an endless tide.

The halberd in his hand shone with a demonic light.

Lines of violet demonic patterns appeared on him and boosted his energy presence higher.

“Oh? That’s Chiyou’s demonic patterns. You’re one of the Chiyou Tribe.”

Chu Kuangren narrowed his gleaming eyes. Then, slivers of demonic qi also started circulating his body.

“Since you’re from the Chiyou Tribe, this technique will be fitting to deal with you.”

“I heard you have acquired Chiyou’s inheritance and mastered the Great Wasteland Halbert Technique. Show me what you’ve got!”

“Demonic Tranquil Ocean Art!”

The Skyward King wielded his pitch-black halberd high and released violet demonic light into the air. The sea rumbled following the eruption of his energy, and even the realm trembled.

As the halberd swung down, the space around him was torn into pieces.

A rampant halberd ray shone, containing intense Gilded Traits inside.

Chu Kuangren stood firm. He pointed his sword hand sign forward and shot out a surge of demonic qi. He substituted the halberd with his finger and expanded the Daoist patterns of the Great Wasteland Halberd Technique.

“Great Wasteland Halberd Technique, Planetary Annihilation!”

At that moment, the space around him shattered, revealing terrifying images of planets imploding.

The Skyward King’s halberd ray melted like paper in water before the cosmic strike.

The Images from Planetary Annihilation continued forward indomitably, carrying dazzling light and great fear.

The halberd strike astonished the Skyward King.

“So this is Chiyou’s cultivation technique? It is powerful.”

Bang!

The strike destroyed the Skyward King’s body instantly, causing him to burst into a cloud of blood mist in the sky.

Standing in the sky, Chu Kuangren retracted the demonic qi from his finger with an expressionless look on his face. It was as though he had just squashed an ant.

The students of the academy who witnessed the battle were deeply inspired and astonished.

“Is this the Chief’s true strength? It’s terrifying!”

“He’s too strong!”

“Of course! The man who overpowered the universe was not a groundless title!”

“The Chief is invincible!”

After the initial shock, the students looked at Chu Kuangren with zealous admiration.

Chu Kuangren nodded at the crowd with a smile before he left with Lan Yu.

Back at the Demon Kingdom, Shi Tianxuan choked out of anger and spat a mouthful of blood.

Aside from the fact that Chu Kuangren was alive, the man had killed two of the Demon Kingdom's strongest generals as soon as he returned.

Shi Tianxuan could not bear the losses.

"Chu Kuangren, Chu Kuangren! It's either you or me!"

Shi Tianxuan clenched his teeth tightly, his eyes bloodshot. He gripped the Godkiller Spear tightly as demonic qi overflowed from his body. He looked to the general beside him and bellowed, "Hasten the expansion of the kingdom. I want to boost the kingdom's fortune to a new height so that it can benefit my cultivation!"

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

"And send someone to keep a close eye on Chu Kuangren. Report to me if there's anything out of the blue."

"Yes, Your Majesty..."

A number of the generals reacted heavily to the loss.

They knew the crisis had befallen the kingdom, and if Shi Tianxuan, their King, could not rival Chu Kuangren, the kingdom would end sooner or later.

As part of the Demon Kingdom, the only thing they could do now was to expand their lands to strengthen the kingdom's fortune and fate, as well as help Shi Tianxuan increase his power by all means necessary.

Chapter 1499 Randomly Increase An Ability, Soul Flower, Ape Forefather's Legend

After Chu Kuangren left the academy, he and Lan Yu headed to Five Ways Mountain directly.

His trip to Five Ways Mountain was purely out of interest. He wanted to see if Yuan Zhan was able to invite promising sky-prides to the event.

Besides, he was also expecting some familiar faces there.

Along the way, he also took time to do a gacha draw.

While he was trapped in the Bagua Furnace for twenty years, he would do gacha draws occasionally. However, his cultivation level was already high enough, and the things he drew were barely useful to him anymore.

Other than some top God-tier and Transcendent-tier items, all the items he got were useless and they were all kept as spare in his Enchanted Sleeve.

After he came out from the Bagua Furnace, he gave a portion of them to his clone to fund the underground organization and sent a portion back to Firmament Star.

“Congratulations, Host! You have won a God-tier reward, one Random Increment Card.”

The prize from this gacha draw was rather surprising.

Random Increment Card, as its name suggested, could increase anything from the cultivation realm to physique, divine abilities, and more.

It was a useful prize indeed.

If he could use it to increase his cultivation realm, would he be able to ascend to the Arch Gilded Immortal Realm?

The thought lingered in his head for a while.

He was already at Ninth-grade Gilded Immortal, a few more steps shy from reaching the Arch Gilded Immortal threshold.

In fact, his physical body already contained the condensed Arch Gilded Intent, which allowed him to challenge some of the Arch Gilded cultivators.

“Use!”

Chu Kuangren withdrew it and used it on himself immediately.

For a moment there, he felt a stream of energy shuttling in his body as though it was looking for something.

In the end, the energy entered his mind ocean and fused with the three Gilded Souls.

“Random Increment Card has been successfully used. Soul ability increased!”

Boom!

Chu Kuangren felt like his mind exploded all of a sudden, and the three Gilded Souls in his mind ocean shone in dazzling gold!

The Eighteen-Cycle Trinity Soul Refinement was automatically activated.

Fourteen cycle, fifteen cycle...

The Gilded Trait-infused light shone so brightly that it enveloped his entire mind ocean.

When the Eighteen-Cycle Trinity Soul Refinement reached the sixteenth cycle, Chu Kuangren felt a drastic change in his soul.

It was as though his thought could leave his body and roam into the void and then infinity.

It felt bizarre!

“Desolation state! My soul realm has increased from a Gilded Soul to Desolation! I can send my thoughts into the desolated infinity and observe the universe using the vision of the Desolation state!”

Chu Kuangren was delighted.

It was difficult to increase one's soul realm. The later the stage, the harder it would be. Even Arch Gilded Immortals might find it difficult to achieve Desolation with their souls.

With a single thought, a beautiful lotus bud appeared above his head.

The lotus bud then bloomed into a seven-petaled lotus.

Anyone who saw the scene would definitely be shocked.

Having three flowers on one's head symbolized the Arch Gilded Realm.

After his soul realm got the increment, Chu Kuangren was half a step away from achieving Arch Gilded realm.

"The first realm of the Arch Gilded, the Trinity Flower realm. The three flowers are Immortal's Core Flower, Life's Core Flower, and Soul Flower. Usually, one would first manifest the Immortal's Core Flower, then the Life's Core Flower, and lastly the Soul Flower. But it seems like I'm going the different way by manifesting the Soul Flower first."

Chu Kuangren shook his head as he chuckled. He was not overly concerned because he had differed from people's normal cultivation path from a long time ago.

Manifesting the Soul Flower first was nothing to be surprised by.

After his soul acquired the increment, Chu Kuangren happily continued his journey, looking forward to the trip more than before.

...

Five Ways Mountain was where the Ape Forefather went into seclusion during ancient times.

It was said that the Ape Forefather was favored by the heavens and was blessed with matchless talent as soon as he was born. Along his cultivation journey, he improved ridiculously fast without any hindrance, but due to his arrogance, he caused a lot of problems.

One of the biggest troubles he caused was charging up to Kunlun Immortal Hall alone with his battle staff and wreaked havoc.

The battle was one of the fiercest in history. It cost the Immortal Hall many soldiers and generals, but the Ape Forefather was severely injured in the end as well.

Although he survived, he went away to recuperate for a long time.

"I heard after the Ape Forefather wreaked havoc in the Immortal Hall, he started to see the flaw in his own emotions. He's too hot-tempered. Although he is extremely talented, he was unable to achieve Grand Daoist, so he sealed himself under Five Ways Mountain for five hundred years to calm his Daoist core.

“After he came out from seclusion, he affirmed his Dao to become a legendary Embodier. People said that the Five Ways Mountain calmed his hot-tempered self and allowed him to affirm his Dao to the Embodier Realm and get enlightenment on the Dao.”

One of the cultivators was talking about the legend passed down from ancient times at Five Ways Mountain.

The other cultivators enjoyed his storytelling.

“Damn. The Ape Forefather is crazy. Before he sealed himself under Five Ways Mountain, he went charging at the Immortal Hall when he was not even in the Embodier Realm. That was the Immortal Hall of ancient times, where they had six Imperial Commanders at their side! They were the overlord of this realm, yet an Arch Gilded like him caused them that much trouble and escaped alive?”

“Of course. The Ape Forefather is adept at fighting. He possessed combat capabilities that surpassed even the sky. It wasn’t impossible for him to challenge someone a few realms above him!”

“Not only that, but I heard that other than wreaking havoc, the Ape Forefather ate many of Taishang Laojun’s pills and was thrown into the Bagua Furnace. He got his divine vision and indestructible body from there. That was how he got stronger than before, and it allowed him to challenge Embodier cultivators while he was only a Arch Gilded Immortal.

“You remind me of Chu Kuangren. He was thrown into the Bagua Furnace as well, and his strength grew.”

“The Bagua Furnace is really an irony. The Immortal Hall used it to deal with their enemies twice, yet it only made their enemies stronger.”

A heated discussion sparked among the cultivators.

The topic eventually revolved around Chu Kuangren, who had just reappeared. The crowd could not help but feel sentimental about it.

“I wonder if Chu Kuangren will show up.”

Someone looked up to the peak of Five Ways Mountain.

A majestic figure wielding a golden battle staff stood tall at the peak.

It was a massive ape!

Being a few hundred meters tall, he had a golden headband around his head while being surrounded by vast ferocious qi and battle qi. The muscles bulged like hills, making him look indestructible.

The massive ape that stood tall on the peak was Yuan Zhang of the Battle Tribe from the Great Ten Thousand Mountains!

Rumor had it that he was originally a top sky-pride but not a Prodigy yet. However, he got the cultivation method and divine steel left behind by the Ape Forefather at the Interstellar Arena.

He used them to his advantage and slowly rose up the ranks. When he came back from Interstellar Arena, he went into closed-door meditation in Five Ways Mountain.

After he came out, his strength increased, and he rose up to the tenth place on the Immortal Ranking.

He could almost rival the Golden Crow Pseudo-Forefather, who was seventh on the Immortal Ranking and was known as one of the best Yokai Kings from the Great Ten Thousand Mountains.

“Someone is here!”

Yuan Zhan narrowed his eyes at the distant sky.

A golden light came flying in and transformed into a figure with a long saber at his back.

“It’s Gu Tiandao, the twenty-seventh on the Immortal Ranking!”

Chapter 1500 Contending For A Spot At Five Ways Mountain, Chu Kuangren Arrives

Gu Tiandao was one of the newer generations of Prodigies from the ancient clan, Immortal Saber Gu clan. His amazing strength allowed him to roam rampantly in the Immortal World with almost no rival.

He laid his right hand on his saber with a solemn look and said to Yuan Zhan, “Gu Tiandao, I came at your invitation.”

“Very well. You are the first to answer my invitation.” Yuan Zhan nodded.

Then, several other energy presences exploded from the void. Each carrying their respective uniqueness and power, and they were all Gilded Immortals.

Clouds rumbled in the sky as a stream of dazzling light swirled from the void.

A woman with a voluptuous body came riding on an Immortal deer.

“That’s the daughter of the Ji clan, Ji Feiyu!”

Someone cried in shock upon seeing the woman.

The woman rode the Immortal deer while carrying a guqin. She was surrounded by Immortal Sparks, which granted her a prestigious and distant feeling.

The Ji clan had the support of the two major Immortal Halls, which granted them rich resources. Other than the well-known Xuanyuan’s successor, Ji Wu, Ji De, and Ji Feiyu were among the popular ones.

Ji De died in Chu Kuangren’s hands and his Heaven’s Son Sword was taken away.

The only one among the younger generation who was slightly reputable was Ji Feiyu. It was said that she was proficient in Guqin Dao and possessed strength that could rival a Fifth grade Gilded Immortal.

She was ranked twenty-one on the Immortal Ranking.

“A courageous woman indeed.”

Yuan Zhan cackled with laughter before he looked in the other direction.

Five distinctive dragon roars echoed throughout the horizon as five dragons of different elements emerged from the clouds, carrying domineering dragon qi.

Amidst the endless Immortal Sparks came a man in dragon robes surrounded by five dragon qi. His unrivaled presence deterred many of the sky-prides.

“The only son of the Qin clan, Qin Tianya!”

Qin Tianya was of the Qin clan from Holy Violet Emperor Planet.

Twenty years ago, the planet fell into Chu Kuangren’s control and he passed the control to Jue Wushen with the assignment of reorganizing the factions of the planet.

The Qin clan refused to comply.

In order to carry out his assignment, Ju Wushen attacked the Qin clan with absolute power.

Although the Qin clan has Arch Gilded Immortals with them, under the influence of the Holy Violet Crown, they were unable to defy Jue Wushen. Half of the clansmen were dead, and the only one who escaped the planet was the one who acquired the will of the Immortal World and ascended to Heavenly Champion status, Qin Tianya.

Due to that clan massacre, Qin Tianya listed Jue Wushen as his arch-enemy. He ought to fight the man dead if he had the chance or see him on any battlefield.

However, after Qin Tianya arrived at the Immortal World, he acquired quite a sizable opportunity, which boosted his strength, allowing him to rank twenty-four on the Immortal Ranking.

After Qin Tianya came several other sky-prides and Prodigies.

They were yokai from the Chimera Tribe, the Phoenix Tribe, and some humans that originated from ancient forces.

Kakroom!

Thunder rumbled at the horizon. Tens of thousands of lightning bolts gathered and formed a massive lightning ball.

The lightning ball was as massive as a planet, and it contained unrivaled rampant energy within. It burned and scorched the land as soon as it appeared.

Inside the lightning ball, a figure slowly emerged.

“This energy... Could it be Lei Yangzi, the thirteenth on the Immortal Ranking?” someone cried in shock.

Even Ji Yufei, Gu Tiandao, Qin Tianya, and Prodigies who ranked in the top thirty were deterred by Lei Yangzi’s arrival.

The twentieth spot on the Immortal Ranking was a threshold line that divided the Prodigies into different groups.

Those ranked Prodigies might share a similar cultivation base, but the strengths they display were completely different.

It was the difference between common Prodigies and top-notch Peerless Prodigies!

“Go!”

An indifferent voice sounded, and the massive lightning ball crashed onto Five Ways Mountain, enveloping it whole.

The sheer strength of the lightning bolts almost tore the mountains apart.

“This is the sealed place of the Ape Forefather, not a place that you can destroy at will!” Yuan Zhan shouted.

Then, he plunged his golden battle staff into the ground and then beat his chest furiously.

Terrifying ferocious qi exploded and filled the realm.

A loud roar later, Yuan Zhan’s Yokai qi surged as he grew in size. In just the blink of an eye, he grew into a million meters.

Each of his fur was as robust as stone pillars, his muscles were as big as mountain ridges and they contained unimaginable power.

“Roar!”

Yuan Zhan breathed heavily, his eyes bloodshot. As he clenched his fist in the air and threw a punch upward, the void was crushed.

The fist energy clashed with the lightning ball, causing a terrifying shockwave that scattered clouds of a million kilometers.

The void crashed as if the apocalypse had arrived.

Mountains outside Five Ways Mountain were leveled to the ground.

Shocking fist energy wreaked havoc inside the lightning ball. A while later, the lightning ball exploded and burst into endless arcs of lighting, scattering across the sky.

The entire Five Ways Mountain was turned into a sea of lightning.

Though the arcs of lightning were no longer strong enough to damage the Five Ways Mountain.

“Hmph. Tenth of the Immortal World, I see you are indeed powerful.”

A flat voice came from the void.

At the end of the rumbling lightning bolts stood a figure in white and with messy hair.

“It’s really him. Lei Yangzi of the Eastern King School”

The Eastern King School was another ancient force, second only to the Immortal Hall, and they also produced a number of Prodigies.

One of them was the late Zhuo Donglai, who had made a name for himself decades ago.

He even cultivated the Honorable Supreme Immortal Physique, Duality Rites Immortal Physique, but ultimately died in Chu Kuangren’s hands.

Lei Yangzi was the successor that the Eastern King School devoted to raising.

The man possessed one of the top Immortal Physiques, Lightning Flare Immortal Physique, and cultivated pure solar energy and another top cultivation technique, Thunderbolt Cultivation Technique.

With the effect of Lightning Flare Immortal Physique, the two cultivation techniques were combined together, creating the Lightning Flare Fusion Dao.

He was able to stand out from the rest of the younger generation with this.

“Now that the guests have almost arrived, why aren’t you fighting back? Yuan Zhan, you invited us here to spar, what are you waiting for?” Lei Yangzi said. It was also the reason why attacked upon arriving.

As soon as his voice subsided, the other Prodigies narrowed their eyes cautiously. They were prepared to engage in a fierce fight.

“I disagree with the Immortal Ranking. My strength is far higher than just the twenty-seventh spot!” Gu Tiandao raised the saber from his back, releasing solemn saber intent into the realm.

“You are right. I wanted to meet the top twenty Prodigies and see why they’re ranked higher than me,” Qin Tianya said powerfully as he enveloped himself with Five Ways Dragon qi.

Just before the fight broke out, a sudden energy presence filled the realm.

It was not particularly strong, but it possessed a natural transcendental intent, catching everyone’s attention as it expanded.

Everyone turned to the source of the energy presence.

At the mountain foot, two figures came walking side by side.

The leading figure was a man in white robes and handsome looks. He had an ancient sword and some scrolls hanging around his waist.

His energy presence was not particularly powerful, but it somehow became the center of the realm.

Everyone gulped nervously as their eyes widened at the sight of him. They finally had a clear look and realized who the man was.

“The madman who overpowers the universe!”