

Unparalleled 171

Chapter 171: The Punishing Heart Sword, The Death Of Ling Huhong, Our Good Luck

Linghu Hong took out a small golden sword with an inexplicably mysterious Daoist Rhyme, shocking the crowd.

Honorable Zhuo Lang, Feng Wuchang, and a few others instinctively took a few steps back.

Honorable Xuan Qi's expression changed. "It's the Punishing Heart Sword!"

"Indeed it is!"

Linghu Hong laughed coldly.

The Punishing Heart Sword was one of the Linghu family's Sage Ruler Techniques, and only a few within the family's generations could successfully gain insights into it.

This sword could peer into one's Daoist's core and 'punish' their 'heart'!

"The Third Forefather initially gave me the Punishing Heart Sword to deal with you, but it looks like your disciple will have to bear the brunt for you."

Linghu Hong said nothing more before he launched the small golden sword at him.

"Kuangren! Watch out!"

Honorable Xuan Qi's face fell. He wanted to rush out of the Thundersoother Rods to block the sword qi, but the heavenly tribulation was here again at this moment, and it slammed into his body in the form of a light beam, rendering him immobile.

The small golden sword whizzed and cut through the void at top speed. In an instant, it pierced into Chu Kuangren, causing his body to tremble.

Linghu Hong's face shone with mirth.

"Behold! This is the Sage's Punishing Heart Sword! Even the strongest Honorable Supremes will be immediately torn apart by my sword qi if they have a weak Daoist core!"

Linghu Hong laughed out loud.

"So this is the Punishing Heart Sword? Nothing much to shout about."

Suddenly, Chu Kuangren's indifferent voice rang out softly.

Linghu Hong's smile hardened as he looked at Chu Kuangren, wide-eyed with shock. His jaw dropped.

"Impossible. How could this be?!"

"How can someone with your cultivation base block the Punishing Heart Sword?!" Linghu Hong could not believe it.

"The Punishing Heart Sword is capable of killing one's core. But did it ever occur to you that your Third Forefather cannot touch my Daoist core?"

Chu Kuangren responded blandly.

The Rocksteady Daoist Core within him stood firm and unmoving. Even Whitelock Sage's Mental Staircase didn't affect him in the slightest, and the Punishing Heart Sword was no different.

Meanwhile, Linghu Hong and a few other people too had made a guess, and they were shocked.

How could such a young disciple have such a Daoist core?!

"A natural affinity for cultivating his power and an unshakable Daoist core?! Monster! Chu Kuangren is a monster!" Honorable Zhuo Lang gulped hard.

He deeply regretted this.

He never should have come to the Black Heaven Sect!

Even retreating seemed impossible now!

Another beam of tribulation struck in Honorable Xuan Qi's direction with a loud boom.

The Thundersoothe Rods redirected the surges of tribulation towards the ground, but parts of the surge were already targeting Honorable Xuan Qi.

Thankfully, those surges did not affect him.

Chu Kuangren glanced over, laughing indifferently. "Honorable Teacher, you may focus on the surges. Leave the small fry to me."

He gently tugged the Soul Retriever, and its jet-black chains exuded a chilling aura as it headed straight for Feng Wuchang.

Having seen the might of the Soul Retriever before, Feng Wucheng's face morphed into fear as sword qi surrounded him, keeping the Soul Retriever at bay.

However, the moment Chu Kuangren's power surged into the Soul Retriever, the hook at the end of the chain filled with a dark aura.

Feng Wucheng's sword qi shattered, and the chain held him in a deadlock. He was so horrified that he tried to escape, but it was hard to break free from the chain's grasp.

"Retreat!" Honorable Zhuo Lang did not want to get deeper into this mess anymore and so he fled as a beam of light.

Instantly, another sword ray shot forth, sending Honorable Zhuo Lang flying back.

The Seventh Forefather made his appearance.

With an icy gaze, he declared, "All who have come to inflict disorder in the Black Heaven Sect today shall not leave!"

"F*ck! Get out of my way!"

Honorable Zhuo Lang struck back with a fiercely explosive Daoist Rhyme.

Chu Kuangren then tugged on the Soul Retriever and out fell Feng Wuchang's soul, defeated and fearful.

This very sight made Jade Watersword Sect's Senior Elder and Linghu Hong terrified of the Soul Retriever. Refusing to face it head-on, they attacked Chu Kuangren from the left and right after one glance at him, wanting to grasp at their last chance at life.

"Hmph. Foolish!"

Chu Kuangren huffed coldly. In one hand he had his Soul Retriever dealing with the Sect's Senior Elder, and in another, he killed Linghu Hong with a strike of his sword.

Even with his attention split, he stood his ground.

As time went on, they had eventually dealt with the people that Linghu Hong had sent to cause trouble in the Black Heaven Sect. Elder Ruyan and some others immediately rushed over.

"How despicable! The Linghu family is a disgrace."

"Hmph, they must die."

With Elder Ruyan and company's arrival, the tables had now turned for Linhu Hong's people. The Jade Watersword Sect's Senior Elder had his hands full dealing with both the Black Heaven Sect's Honorable and the Soul Retriever.

In the end, the Soul Retriever still caught him and ripped his soul apart.

Since it was Elder Ruyan's first time seeing the weapon in action, he too felt numb with shock.

"Thank the heavens that Chu Kuangren holds this weapon. One cannot imagine how it would be if it was in the hands of an enemy," Elder Ruyan said.

"Indeed. I wonder where our Lead Disciple got it from."

"It must have been good fortune."

Elder Ruyan chuckled.

The other Elders rolled their eyes as if Elder Ruyan's words were pointless.

"Die, Linghu Hong!"

Chu Kuangren raised his sword, and a domineering Emperor's Rhyme emanated. It was the newly ascended Emperor Technique, Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique.

Faced with an attack of such caliber, even an Honorable Supreme like Linghu Hong would not be able to block it. He roared, "Save me, Third Forefather!"

"Stop!"

A mildly angry voice came from the void.

Even so, Chu Kuangren had no intention of stopping as his sword struck Linghu Hong, and a raging purple sword ray engulfed the man.

An Honorable Supreme had perished just like that.

The void shook.

A white-robed elderly with a boundlessly oppressive aura stepped out. His poise was far stronger than an Honorable Supreme's!

Such was the pressure of a Sage's Aura.

The man before them was indeed a Sage!

"I told you to stop. Why didn't you?" The white-robed elderly stared at Chu Kuangren with anger seeping from his eyes.

Even in the face of a Sage Aura's, Chu Kuangren stood his ground. "He came to the Black Heaven Sect to disrupt my Honorable Teacher's ascension. He deserved to die!"

"Indeed, he did."

Behind Chu Kuangren, an elderly man slowly walked forward.

He patted Chu Kuangren's shoulder with a thin smile. "You did the right thing, young man. And your words are true as well."

"And you are...?"

"You would refer to me as the Third Forefather."

The Third Forefather?

The Third Forefather of the Black Heaven Sect?

The Sage behind the whole Sect?

Chu Kuangren's expression turned serious. "Greetings to the esteemed Third Forefather!"

"No need to be so formal."

The Third Forefather chuckled, then he looked up at the white-robed elderly in the sky. "Linghu's Third Forefather, your family's descendants came to cause trouble at Black Heaven Sect. They deserved to die for that. Do you plan to fight over this?"

"You..." Linghu's Third Forefather was rendered speechless.

They were indeed in the wrong, but they could not sit by idly and let the Black Heaven Sect gain another Sage.

Stopping Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension would have been doable with him and Linghu Hong's team of Honorable Supremes holding back the Black Heaven Sect's Third Forefather.

However, they did not expect Chu Kuangren!

While the rest of the Black Heaven Sect had their hands full with the others, this young man stood toe to toe with five Honorable Supremes!

To Linghu's Third Forefather, Honorable Xuan Qi was far less of a threat than the King of War that was Chu Kuangren!

"How lucky you are, Black Heaven Sect!"

Linghu's Third Forefather said through gritted teeth.

Regardless of whether Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension succeeded or not, the Black Heaven Sect was blessed to have a disciple like Chu Kuangren.

It was just not great news for the Linghu family.

Chapter 172: Honorable Xuan Qi's Successful Ascension, The Sword Gauntlet's Quota

Boom!

Another beam of heavenly tribulation struck!

It was Honorable Xuan Qi's seventh heavenly tribulation now.

The surges of tribulation were beyond powerful that even the Thundersoother Rods could not direct them all into the ground anymore.

When the seventh heavenly tribulation struck, the impact of the blast leveled the whole mountaintop and dislodged the Thundersoother Rods too, leaving Honorable Xuan Qi exposed to the surges of tribulation.

The crowd looked at him intently.

That included Linghu's Third Forefather too.

His plan may have failed, but he was in no hurry to leave. He wanted to see if Honorable Xuan Qi would successfully ascend.

"Hey, old friend. Fight with me again."

With his Purple Star in hand, the Sword-based Daoist Rhymes surrounding Honorable Xuan Qi continuously grew, pushing his Heavenly Crepe-myrtle Sword Art to its limits.

He looked at the accumulating eighth surge of tribulation solemnly.

When the surge emerged, it locked onto Honorable Xuan Qi.

The eighth surge immediately struck him with such violence that Elder Ruyan and the others felt their pulse race.

"Come at me!"

Honorable Xuan Qi lifted his sword and let out an attack!

The terrifying purple sword ray then gushed out in a frenzy. It was the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique!

He had gained full insights into this Sage Ruler Technique, and with his Honorable Supreme cultivation base, the world seemed like it was about to be torn apart.

The sword ray and lightning suddenly clashed in the void.

Terrifying shockwaves were sent out like the tide, wave after wave, in all directions.

Trees, rocks — everything around him was destroyed.

The blow sent Honorable Xuan Qi flying, and upon landing, the impact created a huge hole in the ground that left cracks spreading everywhere.

Honorable Xuan Qi laid in the hole with a tattered robe and blood running from the corners of his lips. There were pulses of electricity on his body that were continuously destroying him.

“The eight surge... it exceeded my expectations.”

Honorable Xuan Qi muttered.

One hit was all it took for him to sustain such injuries.

“Looking at his condition, he might not be able to handle the final surge!” A glint flashed in Linghu’s Third Forefather’s eyes.

Deep down, he wished for Honorable Xuan Qi’s ascension to fail.

However, he watched as Honorable Xuan Qi stood up and took a golden medicinal pill. A burst of healing energy then spread throughout his body, and as Daoist Rhymes emanated, his injuries rapidly recovered.

Linghu’s Third Forefather was stunned.

“Isn’t that a Sage Healing Pill?!”

“No, even regular Sage Healing Pills don’t have such an effect! It has to be a Sage Supreme Pill that’s above the seventh grade!” Linghu’s Third Forefather said dumbfoundedly.

There were only a handful of alchemists in the Firmament Star who were capable of making Sage Supreme Pills, let alone Sage Seventh Grade Supreme Pills and above!

Where did the Black Heaven Sect find such an alchemist?

“As expected of Kuangren’s medicinal pills. It is very effective.”

Honorable Xuan Qi laughed before he channeled the sword qi within him, ready to face the ninth surge of tribulation with a victorious attitude.

Rumble, rumble...

Dark clouds swirled as the lightning churned wildly.

The beam of tribulation locked onto Honorable Xuan Qi once more!

From the dark clouds emerged a vicious dragon-like beast that was formed from the condensed electrical energy.

The lightning dragon roared, filling the atmosphere with a domineering aura.

It then charged towards Honorable Xuan Qi, and everywhere it passed, the void trembled and the earth shook.

The attack was on par with that of a Sage's!

Worry flashed in Elder Ruyan and the others' eyes.

"It's no wonder so many people are terrified of ascension. What kind of Honorable Supreme could block such overwhelming power from the ninth surge?"

"Only an experienced Honorable Supreme could block that! But don't forget, there were eight surges before this as well."

"Ascension is truly a matter of life and death!"

Even Chu Kuangren broke out in a cold sweat as he watched Honorable Xuan Qi from the sidelines. He had to suppress the urge to rush in and take his place.

With his abilities and immortal body, he had nothing to fear.

However, even if he did rush in, the surges of tribulation would not let Honorable Xuan Qi go just like that. If anything, the both of them would end up suffering from a war that was more terrifying.

No one could escape from the heavenly tribulation, and there was no substituting either.

Faced with the final surge, Honorable Xuan Qi bellowed and took out a bronze shield instead of a sword.

The shield placed before him grew larger and blocked the lightning dragon. All that was heard after was a crash, followed by a loud boom!

Then, the shield started to crack.

Honorable Xuan Qi's eyes narrowed. He did not expect that his preparations for the ascension would be insufficient to block the ninth surge of tribulation.

With the shield broken, the lightning dragon slammed easily into Honorable Xuan Qi's body. Although he urged the sword qi within him to fight back, the overwhelming amount of lightning energy was still destroying his body.

Honorable Xuan Qi was at his wit's end, so he bit into the two Vibrant Rejuvenation Pills that he had kept in his mouth, activating the medicinal power and healing in his body.

His body was being destroyed and healed at the same time. It was like a tug-of-war, pulling him back and forth on the fine line between life and death.

Finally, he made it. Honorable Xuan Qi survived the final surge thanks to the large amounts of spiritual energy that he had stored and the medicinal power from the Vibrant Rejuvenation Pills.

"He did it!"

"Haha! Marvelous!"

The weight on Elder Ruoyan and everyone else lifted, and they were utterly glad

With that, the dark clouds in the sky dissipated, revealing a boundless blue sky with clusters of fluffy purple clouds dotting the horizon. Daoist Rhymes echoed across the firmament.

Honorable Xuan Qi stood on the spot. An inexplicably mysterious feeling welled in his heart as the Daoist Rhymes around his body continuously grew stronger.

At that moment, powerful cultivators from all over the world looked towards the Black Heaven Sect as if they had felt something.

“Oh, someone survived the ascension.”

“The world will witness the birth of another Sage as long as they don’t die. Looks like they hail from the Black Heaven Sect.”

“Hmph. Black Heaven Sect sure is lucky.”

Within the Black Heaven Sect, Linghu’s Third Forefather’s face was as dark as the abyss. He let out a cold huff before he turned to leave.

Right then, a Sage Daoist Rhyme locked him into place and a murderous aura loomed over him. Deep inside, he could not help but chuckle.

It was the Black Heaven Sect’s Third Forefather.

“You really thought you could just come and go as you please? The Linghu family really looks down on us a lot.”

“Hmph. Take it.”

Linghu’s Third Forefather tossed a Yin and Yang Ring in Chu Kuangren’s direction.

“Oh. There are over sixty million high-grade soulstones and thirty drops of Heaven Spiritual Marrow in it. Do you take me for a beggar?” The face of Black Heaven Sect’s Third Forefather turned cold.

“Don’t you try to push me. All these items would cause a bloody fight amongst countless sage orthodoxies if left there. Isn’t this enough for you?”

“No. Far from it.”

“Then what the f*ck do you want?!”

“The Black Heaven Sect wants an extra position in the Sword Gauntlet’s quotas!”

“Absolutely not!” Linghu’s Third Forefather spat out coldly.

“Then so be it. Today, the Linghu family will lose a Sage.” Black Heaven Sect’s Third Forefather’s tone was ice cold. In the distance, deep within the sect, a horrifying vital force erupted and locked onto Linghu’s Third Forefather.

“Black Heaven Sect’s Second Forefather?! That old bat is still alive?”

Linghu's Third Forefather's face fell as he gritted his teeth. He said with an aching face, "Fine. The Linghu family will give you another position in the quota."

"Words mean nothing. Swear it on your Daoist core."

Swearing on one's Daoist core meant that one invoked an oath with the dharma as one's witness. Going back on said oath would crumble the Daoist core, leaving one unable to progress with cultivation and it would plague one's heart with demons. As such, they would never rest in peace.

Even demonic cultivators feared the taboo that came with swearing on one's Daoist core.

Linghu's Third Forefather was left with no choice. All he could do was obediently swear on his Daoist core and left frustratingly.

Not only did the Linghu family fail in stopping the Black Heaven Sect from gaining another Sage, but they also lost an Honorable Supreme, a lot of soulstones, and a very important quota.

Chapter 173: Jade Watersword Sect, Linghu's Young Emperor, I Look Forward To Meeting Him

Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension was over, and with that, he had made it to the Boundary Sage State.

As long as he would continue to accumulate wisdom, he was well on his way to becoming a Sage.

"Congratulations, Xuan Qi."

The Black Heaven Sect's Third Forefather smiled at Honorable Xuan Qi.

"Haha, it's all thanks to Kuangren. Had it not been for him, my ascension this time would have been much harder with the Linghu family's interference."

Honorable Xuan Qi smiled.

He then looked to Chu Kuangren with gratitude.

"This young man is absolutely stunning. I requested the Linghu family for another position in the Sword Gauntlet's quota so that he can lead."

"A position in the Sword Gauntlet's quota? Fantastic!"

Honorable Xuan Qi beamed.

Beside them, Chu Kuangren was a little confused. This Sword Gauntlet seemed extremely important even to Sages.

Even so, he suppressed confusion for now.

Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension was over, but there was still unfinished business to take care of. Besides the Linghu family, there were a few others that had gotten involved thanks to them.

These parties would get their just desserts. The Black Heaven Sect would make sure of it.

Of these parties, the Jade Watersword Sect was the strongest of them all. They were one of the best honorable orthodoxies, second only to the sage orthodoxies.

The Black Heaven Sect would not let this go. They would send their forces to oppress them, and their leader would be none other than Chu Kuangren.

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On the Fairy boat, Chu Kuangren stood on the deck, staring at the clouds in the sky.

"This is too much work. I had just settled the issue of the demonic onslaught in the Qian Nation, only to come home to help my Honorable Teacher with his ascension. And now, I need to go and oppress a whole honorable orthodoxy. What happened to free will?"

He looked at the sky and sighed helplessly.

Beside him, the Seventh Forefather smiled awkwardly. "There's a reason for the Sect Leader's actions, young lad. You know that our Sect Leader needs to gradually accumulate wisdom to attain Sagehood now that he has reached the Boundary Sage State, right?"

"It's a long process, and if fortune is not on his side, it could take him a few hundred years to a few thousand years. The less interference, the better. He's afraid that he would need to step down to focus."

Chu Kuangren froze for a moment. "Step down? Wait, what about Black Heaven Sect? After all, we're quite large. Has the next Sect Leader been chosen?"

It was only a casual question, but seeing at how Seventh Forefather was staring right at him, his heart almost stopped. He lifted a finger and pointed at himself doubtfully. "It can't possibly be me... right?"

"Yes, it's you."

"For f*cks sake, you've got to be kidding! Me? Sect Leader? There are so many other elders in the Sect. Even Elder Ruyan would be better."

"You have the prestige, the power, and you're the current Sect Leader's only disciple. Who else, if not you?" The Seventh Forefather grinned.

"But I'm only a King of War."

"Go and tell that to other people and see if they believe you."

The Seventh Forefather rolled his eyes.

'Give me a break.'

'You may be King of War, but you can beat up Honorable Supremes with one hand behind your back!'

"Treat this task of oppressing the Jade Watersword Sect as practice and a way to build your public prestige in preparation for you to take the place of Sect Leader," the Seventh Forefather continued.

"Sigh... Let's talk about this later."

Chu Kuangren shook his head helplessly.

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In Jade Watersword Sect, several elders paced around anxiously.

"What do we do now? The reports say that our Senior Elder was killed by the Black Heaven Sect. There's no way they'll let us go."

One elder spoke anxiously.

"We should have stopped our Senior Elder from acting on his emotions from the start. Now look, we're in trouble!"

"Exactly!"

"Let's just think of how to deal with the Black Heaven Sect now."

"How are we supposed to deal with them by ourselves?"

"Enough."

Suddenly, a green-robed lady silenced the crowd with a cold shout. The person in question was the Jade Watersword Sect's current Sect Master.

"Quit fretting about. The Jade Watersword Sect will not die," she hissed coldly.

"Sect Master, do you have a plan?"

"The Linghu's Young Emperor is still here, and he has pledged to fully protect the Jade Watersword Sect. Let him handle it," the Sect Master of Jade Watersword Sect replied.

The group of elders slightly relaxed at those words.

If they were to fight the Black Heaven Sect by themselves, they would lose, hands down. However, with the Linghu's Young Emperor, it was different.

After all, he represented the Linghu family, a sage orthodoxy.

Even the Black Heaven Sect would have to think twice, right?

In one of the Jade Watersword Sect's gardens, a black-robed young man sat with a young lady who smiled sweetly at him. The young lady seemed very intimate and close to the young man.

"Darling Linghu, thank you for all your guidance! I've improved a lot." The young lady smiled.

The black-robed young man's eyes softened. "It's the least I could do. Also, Lu Yan, I plan to return to the Linghu family in a few days. Would you like to come with me?"

The young girl was surprised at those words. "Really? You're really willing to take me back to the Linghu family, darling Linghu?"

"Of course, you're my woman. Where else would you go? Don't worry, you're qualified. With my guidance, you'll definitely become an Honorable in a few years."

"You're so nice, darling Linghu." Lu Yan hugged the black-robed young man, eyes filled with affection.

"Silly goose. Who else would I be nice to?" The young man grinned.

At this moment, he suddenly frowned. Not far away, Sect Master of Jade Watersword Sect slowly walked over and greeted him. "Greetings, Young Emperor."

Lu Yan's face flushed with embarrassment as she let go of the black-robed young man's hand before addressing the Sect Master of Jade Watersword Sect. "Sect Master, you're here."

"Yes. I have something to request of the Young Emperor."

"Speak," the black-robed young man spoke indifferently.

"The Black Heaven Sect's people are fast approaching Jade Watersword Sect. Our current forces are insufficient, so we hope that the Young Emperor can lend us a hand."

"Fret not. My uncle made a promise to Jade Watersword Sect, and although he has passed in the Black Heaven Sect, the Linghu family will honor it. Besides, Lu Yan is here."

"Darling Linghu..." Lu Yan was touched.

"I'm deeply grateful, Young Emperor." The Jade Watersword's Sect Master's eyes lit up before she continued, "Also, Chu Kuangren is leading the group this time."

Surprise flashed past Linghu's Young Emperor's eyes. "Chu Kuangren? You mean that legendary man who is placed first in the Hundred Swords Spectrum?"

"Yes, the very one."

"Darling Linghu, I've heard how powerful he is. Perhaps you should request backup from the family?" Lu Yan stood there worriedly.

Linghu's Young Emperor was slightly fearful, but he would not show it in front of his woman. Instead, he laughed coldly and said, "Chu Kuangren, huh? I've been looking forward to meeting him, so how could I turn down such an opportunity? Let's see how he holds his weight against me."

Seeing Linghu's Young Emperor in such high spirits made Lu Yan look up to him even more. "Darling Linghu, I believe you can defeat Chu Kuangren! You'll always be the strongest in my heart."

"Of course."

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At the same time, the Fairy boat from Black Heaven Sect had already entered the Jade Watersword Sect's territory, and many cultivators recognized Black Heaven Sect's flag on the Fairy boat when they saw it.

On the Fairy boat stood many sword cultivators. Each of them emanated an extremely sharp sword qi around their bodies, and they were powerful.

Chapter 174: Two Choices, Linghu Teng, The Solitary Young Emperor

"Those are the Black Heaven Sect's people! Why are they here? And why are there so many of them?"

"Oh God, they're all sword cultivators."

“One, two, three... Oh god, there are eighteen Fairy boats in total, and each boat has at least a hundred of them. By the looks of it, I can tell that they’re all part of the Black Heaven Sect’s most skilled combat disciples!”

“What are they going to do?”

“They’re in Jade Watersword Sect’s territory. Could they be trying to start a fight with them? Oh no, this is big news!”

Everyone who saw the Black Heaven Sect’s Fairy boats was shaken to the core as it flew past them overhead. Even those that stood the furthest away could feel the sword qi circulating in the air.

It was terrifying.

On the Fairy boat, one of the combat disciples came up to Chu Kuangren and reported respectfully, “Elder Senior Brother, Jade Watersword Sect is right ahead of us.”

Chu Kuangren simply nodded. “Understood.”

A moment later, the Jade Watersword Sect came into full view.

It was a breathtaking treasure land that was surrounded by mountains and rivers.

However, it was such a pity that this treasure land would soon be tainted with blood.

Within Jade Watersword Sect itself, numerous disciples too saw the momentous Fairy boats and the sword cultivators who were surrounded by fierce sword qis.

“What is going on? Why is the Black Heaven Sect here? And why does it look like they want us dead?”

“It can’t be. The Jade Watersword Sect is one of the most prestigious honorable orthodoxies in the world. Do they intend to start a fight with us?”

“But why do this for no apparent reason?”

Most disciples were unaware of the mess that their Senior Elder had caused in Black Heaven Sect. Only the higher-ups had seen this coming and it was as expected. Their faces were extremely solemn.

“They’re finally here.”

“Whether the Jade Watersword Sect survives this is up to fate.”

Rumble...

At this moment, the space above Jade Watersword Sect suddenly distorted before a large barrier began to form, enclosing the Sect like a protective bowl from the sky.

“This is the Jade Watersword Sect’s biggest defense.”

The Seventh Forefather stated indifferently. Many orthodoxies had a similar mechanism, but because it was often not easy to operate, it would only be triggered in times of grave danger.

The Jade Watersword Sect was likely at the crossroads between life and death.

Upon triggering the mechanism, a green figure flew into the sky. It was a beautiful woman — the Sect Master of Jade Watersword Sect.

“Dearest brothers from the Black Heaven Sect, you’ve come a long way. Pray tell, to what do I owe the pleasure of this visit?” With a faint smile, the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master asked rhetorically.

The corners of Chu Kuangren’s lips lifted as he stepped out.

The Sword-based Daoist Rhymes surrounding Chu Kuangren intensified with every step he took. It crashed against the void like raging waves as it was directed at the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master.

Below, the disciples of the Jade Watersword Sect had noticed Chu Kuangren too

Although he was the enemy, they could not help but be attracted by Chu Kuangren’s ethereal and otherworldly presence.

“So this is Chu Kuangren... As expected, he’s no ordinary man.”

“I heard that he’s placed first in the Hundred Swords Spectrum, far surpassing an Honorable in terms of power. I never expected him to show up personally.”

“Nothing seems normal here.”

“Even the Gods in heaven would stand on the same level as him.”

“Say, is it too late to surrender?”

In the crowd, Lu Yan had also seen Chu Kuangren.

A hint of shock flashed past her eyes as she glanced back at Linghu’s Young Emperor who was standing beside her. She thought that her man was more handsome than Chu Kuangren.

She kept her thoughts to herself but still let out a soft scowl. “He’s just someone with good looks. My darling Linghu is so much better.”

At that, the weight in Linghu’s Young Emperor’s heart lifted a little. “Lu Yan’s right. A pretty shell of a human is inferior to me.”

“Of course! My darling Linghu is the greatest!”

Had the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master heard their conversation, they would have gotten a scolding. That was because out of everyone else here, she could feel how terrifying Chu Kuangren was.

The horrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme had locked onto her, and even as an Honorable Supreme, she could feel her heart lurch.

Could a ‘pretty shell of a human’ have such overwhelming Daoist Rhymes?

Bullsh*t!

“Word said that Chu Kuangren’s cultivation realm isn’t high, but he’s capable of sparring with Sages! It’s absolutely terrifying.” Jade Watersword’s Sect Master then looked at the white-robed Chu Kuangren before her and beads of cold sweat started to line on her forehead.

Chu Kuangren looked at Jade Watersword's Sect Master indifferently. "I'm sure you're well aware of the reason as to why we're here. You have two options now. one, surrender to the Black Heaven Sect as our vassals and present us with offerings annually."

"And two, submit and descend into hell!"

Upon hearing option two, the Jade Watersword's Sect Master's face fell. "Aren't you being rather heavy-handed now? What the Senior Elder did had nothing to do with the rest of us. It was all him alone."

She fished out a letter as she continued, "Look, this is the letter he left behind. It clearly states here that he has cut his ties with Jade Watersword Sect, so everything he did has nothing to do with us!"

Chu Kuangren spared no glance at the letter. "The man is dead. You can say what you want, but how would you prove that this isn't fabricated? You could show me a dozen letters, and it would prove nothing."

"The Senior Elder's Daoist Rhymes are on the letter! We can't fake that."

"Hmph, it's just a simple Daoist Rhyme. What can it prove? If we take a step back and say that he really did write the letter, then why didn't the Jade Watersword Sect immediately announce it?!"

"Only after he had caused a mess in the Black Heaven Sect and dropped dead do you take out this letter to wipe your slate clean? Did you think it is that convenient? Besides, if you are truly innocent, why did you activate your defense mechanism when you saw us?" Chu Kuangren said mercilessly.

The Jade Watersword's Sect Master's face turned as white as a ghost.

F*ck.

'How could we not activate it when you marched in with blaring signs and glaring bloodlust? What if you charged in and attacked us?'

Of course, the Jade Watersword's Sect Master knew that those words were useless.

No matter what they said and no matter what evidence they brought out, Jade Watersword Sect only had two choices left.

Surrender and bow down to them, or perish.

"Haha! The rumors can never compare to meeting you in person. Chu Kuangren, you certainly live up to your name." At that moment, a hearty laugh rang out.

Linghu's Young Emperor had risen to the skies and exited the barrier to approach Chu Kuangren.

However, he was so shocked that his complexion suddenly changed, and he looked at Chu Kuangren with a face full of fear.

Only once he had left the barrier did he feel the terrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme coming off Chu Kuangren. It made his heart tremble.

"The Jade Watersword Sect is under the Linghu family's protection!" Linghu's Young Emperor followed suit and channeled his Daoist Rhymes as he said with a cold voice.

Chu Kuangren glanced at him. "So, you're representing the Linghu family?"

"I am the Linghu family's Young Emperor, Linghu Teng! I'm more than qualified to represent the Linghu family," Linghu Teng said arrogantly.

"Oh, so you're a Young Emperor."

Chu Kuangren had a moment of realization before he raised a palm and let out an attack. The violent palm strength immediately forced Linghu Teng backward by a hundred feet.

"Not even your family's Sage could help the Jade Watersword Sect. What makes you think a mere Young Emperor like you could do more?" Chu Kuangren said coldly.

"Chu Kuangren! How dare you strike me?!" Linghu Teng's gaze turned ice-cold as a sword materialized in his hand. He then lifted it and cast a strike.

A sharp Daoist Rhyme burst forth, and thousands of sword qis merged to form a tornado that headed straight for Chu Kuangren.

Chapter 175: Shattered In A Single Strike, The Four Seasons Sword Formation, Lu Yan's Thoughts

The sword qis merged to form a raging tornado.

As such, Chu Kuangren lifted his hands. With a thrust of his palm, the power of the Human Mountain Stamp suddenly erupted, shattering the tornado easily.

"What?" Linghu Teng's face morphed into disbelief.

"I don't know where you get that courage from, to think a mere clone dares to stand before me." Chu Kuangren said coldly. The Daoist runes in his eyes swirled as he thoroughly analyzed Linghu Teng.

The figure before him was not Linghu Teng's actual body but a clone that was conjured from a special technique.

"How did you know that it was a clone?!" Linghu Teng was shocked. Even the Jade Watersword's Sect Master could not tell, yet Chu Kuangren somehow saw right through it!

"Hmph, I can still defeat you with a clone!" Linghu Teng cried out as surges of sword qi flew out from his body and merged around him to form a giant sword shadow. It released a boundless and godly light that then cut down at Chu Kuangren.

The power of his strike was equivalent to an Honorable!

"Defeating me with a clone? What a joke."

With a lift of his hand, Chu Kuangren gathered his spiritual power and majestic earth qi, forming a Godly Mountain that crushed and shattered the sword qi. The strike landed directly on Linghu Teng, and he burst open alive in an explosion of blood!

The Jade Watersword Sect disciples were shell-shocked.

Although that was only Linghu Teng's clone, it was still plenty terrifying to them. Even their most elite Daoist was powerless before the enemy.

Chu Kuangren blew him up with just one light palm technique!

“Darling Linghu!”

In the crowd, Lu Yan’s face flooded with grief.

He had promised to bring her home to the Linghu family! With the Linghu family, she would soon rise to the top!

However, now all her hopes had crumbled to dust with Chu Kuangren’s single palm attack.

In the sky, the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master was equally shaken by Chu Kuangren’s sheer power. As an Honorable Supreme, she asked herself if she could have withstood Chu Kuangren’s blow earlier. The answer was yes, but she certainly would not come out unscathed.

Not to mention that this was not even his full power.

In fact, this was not even half of it!

“The Linghu family cannot protect the Jade Watersword Sect!”

“Now, make your choice.”

Chu Kuangren straightened his posture. Behind him, a group of combat disciples stood at the ready with overwhelming sword qis, pressuring the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master.

Faced with this dilemma, the Jade Watersword’s Sect Master’s face flashed with a myriad of expressions before finally letting out a resigned sigh. “We surrender.”

“Wise choice.” Chu Kuangren stated indifferently.

Their fate was sealed the moment their Senior Elder made his move against Honorable Xuan Qi.

The Jade Watersword Sect then deactivated their barrier, and the group of Black Heaven Sect’s cultivators rushed in. None dared to stop them.

Everything else after that went smoothly. The Jade Watersword Sect opened their treasure vault, library archives, secret realms, and other resources for Chu Kuangren and his party to take at will. That was the price they had to pay.

After that day, word of the Jade Watersword Sect becoming the Black Heaven Sect’s vassal spread far and wide, causing quite the commotion.

...

In the Scarlet Phoenix Domain.

Terrifying energy burst from one of the Linghu family’s palaces. “Chu Kuangren! The sky is too small for both of us!”

The maids and servants in the palace squirmed on the floor, shivering in fear, clueless as to why their Young Emperor was suddenly so enraged.

In the room, Linghu Teng’s face was so dark that it could resemble a black hole.

Chu Kuangren may have killed his clone only, but it was still made out of his painstaking effort and hard work!

All that hard work was now destroyed by Chu Kuangren!

To make matters worse, all it took was one palm strike!

He was so pissed off that he wanted to vomit blood.

“Just you wait, Chu Kuangren!”

...

In the Jade Watersword Sect.

Chu Kuangren was resting and recovering.

It would take a few days to get all the Jade Watersword Sect’s affairs in order. All the treasures needed to be cataloged, and he needed to go through every disciple list thoroughly.

Of course, none of that worried him.

The next day.

“Congratulations, the host has rolled the legendary spell, Four Seasons Sword Formation!”

Chu Kuangren’s eyes lit up

Legendary spell?

Upon obtaining the spell, a feeling of enlightenment filled his heart, and the corners of his mouth curled up in a smile.

“This is such a powerful spell!”

The Four Seasons Sword Formation may sound tame, but its power was utterly fearful and mysterious.

After all, would a simple spell really be classified as legendary?

The spell had four layers to it — the Four Seasons, the Twelve Months, the Twenty-four Solar Terms, and the Three Hundred And Sixty-Five Days.

The mystery of the changing seasons and the passing of time swirled within it.

The spell’s power levels were also tied closely to the caster’s cultivation base. So the higher one’s cultivation base was, the more terrifying the spell’s power would be.

“The Four Seasons require four swords to execute, while the Twelve Months require twelve swords, and so on. Since the Sacred Emerald Sword Case currently has twenty-seven swords, I can execute up to the third layer realm.”

“With this sword spell, my combat powers can grow again.”

Chu Kuangren muttered.

To think he previously wondered what he was going to do with all the swords in the sword case; this was perfect timing for him to obtain a sword spell from the gacha roll

Suddenly, a knock came from outside the door.

"Come in."

A beautiful young lady wearing a green dress walked in.

Seeing her, Chu Kuangren frowned slightly. "Who are you?"

"Greetings, Master. My name is Lu Yan. The Sect Master instructed me to serve you." Lu Yan looked at Chu Kuangren as she said affectionately.

She suddenly realized that Linghu Teng could not hold a candle to Chu Kuangren's looks, power, and status at all. Latching herself onto him would be much more beneficial than Linghu Teng.

"Serve me? I have no need for that. Leave."

"Is Master unhappy with Lu Yan in any way?"

"No. I simply don't need you."

"But the Sect Leader arranged for this. If I leave just like that, she will punish me." Lu Yan sounded like she was about to tear up.

Chu Kuangren frowned. "Leave. I'll speak to the Jade Watersword's Sect Master about this. You will not be punished."

Lu Yan could only grit her teeth and leave.

She ran into Lan Yu before she exited and when she saw the lady's stunning face, she felt shame creep into her heart.

"No wonder he's not interested in me. He already has someone so stunning beside him," Lu Yan thought to herself. However, upon seeing the faint hostility that was coming from Lan Yu's eyes, she promptly lowered her head and exited the room.

Lan Yu furrowed her brows. "Master, who was that woman?"

"Someone that the Jade Watersword's Sect Master sent to serve me. I rejected it."

Chu Kuangren responded dismissively.

"I see."

Lan Yu whispered under her breath, watching him.

She then realized in the next few days that Lu Yan would often appear in front of Chu Kuangren. She even got into the good graces of some Black Heaven Sect disciples to figure out what he liked, his habits, and the likes.

It clicked for Lan Yu.

This woman was trying to seduce him, and even though Chu Kuangren paid no attention to Lu Yan, it still ticked Lan Yu off.

It was especially when Lan Yu caught wind of something, she snapped.

"Miss Lan Yu, I made some biscuits and cakes especially for Master Chu. Is he in?" Lu Yan asked with a sickly sweet smile.

Lu Yan was standing outside Chu Kuangren's room, holding a wooden box.

Lan Yu looked at her coldly. "My Master isn't here. You need not come here anymore."

Chapter 176: A Slap On Lu Yan, The Return To Black Heaven Sect, You've Already Said It All

Taken aback, Lu Yan asked, "Miss Lan Yu, what do you mean?"

"Don't think I'm not aware of the little schemes you're plotting. My Master is not someone that you can just easily get involved with. Be it status or appearance, you're not even worthy of my Master's attention, so you better mind your actions. "

Lan Yu replied coldly.

Upon hearing that, Lu Yan's expression darkened, and she said, "I'm very well aware of Master Chu's noble status, mind you. However, when is liking someone ever a mistake? I'm only treating him well because I'm fond of him."

"I don't understand, Miss Lan Yu. Why do you have to treat me like someone with a hidden motive? I know you like Master Chu as well, but can you just simply disallow others from doing the same just because you do?"

Lu Yan's tone was firm as if she was battling in a war of love.

However, Lan Yu's gaze turned even colder when she heard Lu Yan's reply. It was almost as if there was a chilling veil of frost layered all over her face. "Shut it. Your words make me sick!"

"Firstly, my Master is the Royal Azure Dynasty King's future son-in-law, which is a fact known by everyone here. So you're telling me whatever you're doing is simply to treat him well? Don't you have any shame for seducing a soon-to-be-married man? And still, you dare spout such outrageous nonsense at that."

"Secondly, so you mean to say you like my Master? What about Linghu Teng then?"

Lu Yan's expression became pale at the mention of Linghu Teng.

"Apparently not long after Linghu Teng and his uncle arrived at the Jade Watersword Sect, you and he already became an item. That's some skill you have there. So what's your plan now? Since Linghu Teng is gone, I guess you have your eye on my Master instead?"

"What do you take my Master as?"

"A mere tool for you to climb up the ranks of status? You vile b*tch!"

It was something that Lan Yu could not stand.

Having respected Chu Kuangren all this time with a god-like reverence, how could she stand idly as someone used him in the name of liking him and defile his image?

"You... How dare you berate me!" Lu Yan was stunned.

"You think that's all? I'm going to whack you as well."

Lan Yu took a step forward with her right arm raised and landed it on Lu Yan's cheek. That slap she gave immediately knocked Lu Yan down to the ground.

"Don't you ever let me catch you wandering in front of my Master again. If not, I'm afraid this slap will be the least painful thing you'll ever experience," Lan Yu said coldly.

Lu Yan laid on the ground, her expression full of hate and anger.

Soon, the rage in her eyes instantly vanished when she saw someone. She then put up a pitiful look and looked at the person behind Lan Yu.

Having an idea of who it was, Lan Yu turned around and looked.

It was Chu Kuangren approaching both of them with a cold look on his face.

"Master, I'm just here to bring you some cakes and cookies, but I don't know why Miss Lan Yu suddenly hit me out of nowhere." Lu Yan sobbed.

As soon as she said that, Chu Kuangren's complexion became colder.

Lu Yan was secretly delighted at the sight of that. It seemed like her efforts for the past few days had been worth it. 'Now that I've been hit, Chu Kuangren must be very distressed for me. From his expression, I bet Lan Yu is going to be punished soon.'

As long as she got rid of Lan Yu, would anything stand in her way to seduce Chu Kuangren then?

Lu Yan's face became even more pitiful as she thought of that. Paired with her red swollen cheek, it would make anyone feel pity for her.

"Master..."

"Lan Yu, how's your hand? Does it hurt?"

Chu Kuangren took Lan Yu's hand and said distressingly.

Meanwhile, lying on the ground, Lu Yan's expression turned stiff.

'Are you kidding me?'

'I'm the one who was hit!'

Fear started to seep out from Lu Yan's eyes as she realized that the current matter had developed in a completely different way from what she initially expected.

"Master, I..." Lan Yu then tried to speak, intending to explain why she would do what she did to Lu Yan just now.

Chu Kuangren replied gently, "I know all about it, don't worry."

Chu Kuangren glared at Lu Yan on the ground with an extremely cold gaze. It was as if he's looking at a mere tiny ant. He then said, "I've already warned you many times to keep your distance away from me. Obviously, it seems that you didn't even listen at all. Since this is the Jade Watersword Sect, I shall let the Jade Watersword's Sect Master deal with this."

After that, Chu Kuangren turned around and left with Lan Yu.

"Master, Master, I really really like you..."

"I'm even willing to serve you as a lowly servant..."

Lu Yan said loudly behind him. She even wanted to dash towards and catch up to Chu Kuangren, but she was flung away by a surge of invisible sword qi.

She looked unwillingly at Chu Kuangren's retreating silhouette. "Why! Why can't you even give me a chance!"

"Am I that worthless in your eyes?"

"I can't believe it! Damn you!"

The Jade Watersword's Sect Master arrived not long after.

Looking at Lu Yan whose cheeks were reddened and swollen, she simply uttered, "I've told you a long time ago that Chu Kuangren is not a man that you can simply covet for yourself."

"You and him are like clouds and mud! (TN: Having a great difference in social standing)"

"Your techniques might've worked on Linghu Teng, but Chu Kuangren is rumored to have a stable Daoist core that is unlike any other in this world. How can he possibly fall for your advances?"

Lu Yan was still very dissatisfied even after she had heard those words. "It's a miscalculation on my part. I didn't expect Lan Yu to suddenly take action on me."

"Things would've still turned out the same even without Lan Yu, so just let it pass. From this day onwards, you will leave the Jade Watersword Sect," said the Jade Watersword's Sect Master.

At that, Lu Yan's expression instantly changed. "Why."

"As of now, the Jade Watersword Sect is already a vassal of the Black Heaven Sect. And besides, now that you've offended Chu Kuangren, I cannot let you stay here any longer. Go pack your things and leave tomorrow morning," the Jade Watersword's Sect Master said mercilessly.

After she left, only Lu Yan remained at the scene, still yet recovered to her senses but resentment gradually appeared in her eyes. "Chu Kuangren, Lan Yu..."

...

Not long after, the affairs at Jade Watersword Sect were more or less handled.

Chu Kuangren then brought everyone back to the Black Heaven Sect.

When he returned, Chu Kuangren went to Honorable Xuan Qi and gave him a brief report about the Jade Watersword Sect's rectification.

"I see, you've handled this well. I also have something to inform you about, it's regarding the Sword Gauntlet." Honorable Xuan Qi chuckled.

"The Sword Gauntlet?"

Chu Kuangren felt a jolt in his heart.

He recalled that the Black Heaven's Third Forefather had demanded a position in the Sword Gauntlet's quota from the Linghu family, and it had caused them great distress.

He could see that the Sword Gauntlet was no simple matter.

"The Sword Gauntlet can be found in an area called the Hidden Sword Canyon, located on the border between the Scarlet Phoenix Domain and Azure Dragon Domain. According to legends, it was once a venue for an ancient orthodoxy to pass on their Daoist teachings. There are records of countless swordsmanship techniques and many opportunities of fortune in there."

"That place opens up every ten years, and only a fixed quota of thirty positions are allowed into it. Among that thirty positions, each of the renowned One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families have five positions within the quota, while the remaining ten are left for the remaining swordsmanship groups to split among themselves."

"Now that the Sword Gauntlet will be opened soon, I want you to bring along Murong Xuan, Nangong Huang, and a few others to the Hidden Sword Canyon to enter the sword gauntlet."

After hearing that, Chu Kuangren nodded. "Alright."

He was very interested in the Sword Gauntlet as well.

Besides, since many talented swordsmen would enter the Sword Gauntlet as well, then he might as well go have a taste of everyone's skills.

"Another thing. After you return from this excursion, you'll have to make some preparations to take my place as the Sect Leader of Black Heaven Sect," Honorable Xuan Qi said.

Chu Kuangren froze for a moment. It was just as the Seventh Forefather had said — Honorable Xuan Qi really wanted him to be the next Sect Leader!

"Um, regarding that, Honorable Teacher, can we still talk about this..."

"No can do." Honorable Xuan Qi interrupted him firmly. "There's no one more suitable than you to take on this position."

"It's just that I haven't even been an Elder Senior Brother for that long and now you want me to take over as the next Sect Leader so suddenly, I'm going to be under a lot of pressure."

"Just tell me, what kind of pressure are you facing? I'll settle them for you."

"It's mainly my lack of experience and fame. I'm afraid I won't be able to win everyone's support," Chu Kuangren hurriedly said.

"It's fine if you're still lacking in experience since there are the other elders to assist you with that. As for your prestige... Do you believe that if I were to spread the news of you becoming the next Sect Leader, every person in the Black Heaven Sect would fully agree? Your fame has long exceeded mine, and you think it's still not enough?" Honorable Xuan Qi retorted frustratingly.

Chu Kuangren was speechless.

"Anything else you want to say?"

"You've already said it all. What else can I say then..."

Chu Kuangren said helplessly.

Chapter 177: Sighing All Day, The Hidden Sword Canyon, Crossing Swords Through Time

Sitting atop the Fairy boat on the way to the Hidden Sword Canyon, Chu Kuangren's chin rested on his palm as he gazed towards the sea of clouds, sighing from time to time.

Meanwhile, Murong Xuan and Nangong Huang watched from nearby.

"That makes it the sixth time now."

Murong Xuan said.

"Sighing six times within two hours, what troubles are our Elder Senior Brother met with?" Nangong Huang said anxiously.

"It can't be, right? Our Elder Senior Brother is so awesome, what trouble can possibly weigh him down?" Beside him, the confused Daoist Jun Yi asked.

Lan Yu was just walking past them at that time, so Jun Yi quickly went up to her and asked, "Lan Yu, do you know why our Elder Senior Brother is sighing so much?"

Lan Yu pondered a while. "Sigh..."

Everyone then looked at each other.

'Wait, no, why are you sighing as well?'

"Here are some fruits, Master."

Lan Yu held a plate of fruits and walked to Chu Kuangren's side.

"Alright."

Nangong Huang and the others went up to both of them. After being pressured by the curious crowd, Murong Xuan approached Chu Kuangren unwillingly and asked, "Um... Uh... Elder Senior Brother, have you gotten into some trouble recently?"

"Trouble? Nope. I've been eating well, dressing well, my cultivation progress has been smooth sailing. I'm even getting increasingly handsome every day, so there are no troubles for me at all."

"This doesn't seem right. If there's no trouble, then why is Elder Senior Brother sighing here all day?" Jun Yi said.

"Oh, so you all are talking about that I see..."

Upon realizing that, Chu Kuangren proceeded to shake his head and sigh. "Sigh, I'm feeling a bit helpless and frustrated now that we're bringing this up. You guys just take a look at how old I am now, yet Honorable Teacher is already insisting that I become the Sect Leader. Don't you think he's screwing around with me?"

Everyone froze when his words.

'What?'

'That's it? That's all there is?'

'So you've been sighing for two hours just because of this?'

One must know that not many even had the chance to be a Sect Leader, let alone the Sect Leader of a sage orthodoxy.

That was something to be extremely proud of!

However, seeing Chu Kuangren's look of disgust in the face of that news, Murong Xuan, Nangong Huang, and the others felt it was absurd.

"I'll give my hundred percent support if they want Elder Senior Brother to be Sect Master."

"That's right. No matter if it's prestige or combat strength, no one in the Black Heaven Sect can contend with Elder Senior Brother. Having you as the Sect Master is very normal."

Nangong Huang and the others thought that it was natural for something like that to happen.

As such, Chu Kuangren felt even more helpless.

"Are there any Sect Leaders who're as young as I am in this world?"

Only then did everyone come to their senses.

He was right. Chu Kuangren was not even twenty years old yet, and there were no Sect Leaders who were as young as him in the whole Firmament Star.

Let alone those who were in charge of a whole sage orthodoxy.

"When it comes to this then, Elder Senior Brother is possibly the youngest Sect Master of a sage orthodoxy in history!"

"My gosh, that's just too prestigious."

"Haha, no doubt it's something only our Elder Senior Brother can achieve. He's truly amazing."

Chu Kuangren froze.

'Why are each and every one of you more excited and delighted than me?'

‘Shouldn’t you think that something like this is very inappropriate and you should voice out that concern to the current Sect Leader when you return later? And not let him pass on that position to me?’

“Sigh, I can’t believe that at this young age, not only do I have to bear such extravagant handsomeness which I shouldn’t have at such an age, but to also carry such a large burden as well.”

Chu Kuangren looked up into the heavens and sighed again.

...

The Hidden Sword Canyon was located at the border between the Scarlet Phoenix and Azure Dragon Domain.

According to legends, that place was once a venue for an ancient orthodoxy to pass on their Daoist teachings. Although it was now in a dilapidated state, the Daoist Rhymes of countless sword cultivators had still been left behind; hence the endless stream of sword cultivators who visited there.

It was especially so now that the Sword Gauntlet was going to open. The number of visitors who came to witness the action had increased by tenfold compared to before, gathering many talented swordsmen.

Soon, Chu Kuangren and the others had arrived at this place.

“So this is the Hidden Sword Canyon? Its name is truly well-deserved.”

Nangong Huang said in admiration.

The Hidden Sword Canyon was a very huge gorge that was cut into the earth. Numerous sword marks were carved onto both sides of the canyon’s rocky wall where various mysterious Daoist Rhymes emanated.

For the sword cultivators, this location was like a very holy place.

“The Sword Gauntlet is located in the deepest part of the canyon. Elder Senior Brother, why don’t we go take a look then?” Murong Xuan said.

“Alright.”

Chu Kuangren nodded as everyone walked towards the depths of the Hidden Sword Canyon.

They were a very eye-catching group of people.

This was especially for Chu Kuangren who was leading the group. With his extraordinary and transcendental aura, he would undoubtedly become the focus of everyone wherever he went.

Not long after, someone had already figured out their identities.

“It’s the Black Heaven Sect’s people.”

“They’ve arrived.”

“Tsk, judging from the extraordinary looks of the person who’s leading, I suppose he must be the rumored Chu Kuangren.”

"It's definitely him. Rumor has it that this person once mentally sparred with a Sage and even killed an Honorable Supreme as well. The strength he possesses is truly terrifying."

"Among the sky-prides in the whole Firmament Star, I'm afraid only a handful are able to contend with this guy. Besides, he's also known as the most promising person to become an Emperor in the future."

There was a lot of discussion among the crowd.

Chu Kuangren did not care as he was used to the feeling of being gazed at by large crowds. He would ignore anyone as long as they did not rush towards him suddenly.

Compared to the crowd's discussion, he was more interested in the countless sword marks that were on both sides of the canyon.

Some of those sword marks were very ancient, and they contained a slight remnant of Daoist Rhyme within them. However, some of the sword marks were very new too, as if they were carved onto the canyon walls not long ago.

Along the way, Chu Kuangren witnessed a sword cultivator gain insights on one of the sword marks, and he suddenly had a sense of realization. He then swung his blade and unleashed a slash, leaving a sword mark of his own on the canyon wall.

"Seems to me that the sword marks in this canyon are increasing by the moment!" Chu Kuangren mumbled.

Yet although the sword marks were numerous, it was a shame that not many of them were useful to Chu Kuangren.

The insights he possessed regarding Dao Techniques, especially sword Dao ones were too deep that even an ordinary Sage could not surpass him.

Most of the sword marks left on the canyon wall were only left by swordsmen who were on the level of Honorable Supremes. What benefit could they possibly provide for his reference?

"I can only hope that Sword Gauntlet will give me some pleasant surprises then."

Chu Kuangren whispered.

Gradually, he felt a surge of mysterious Daoist Rhyme coming from somewhere in front, and a black tall building then came into view.

That building was nine hundred and ninety feet tall, consisting of fifty floors. It stood tall and upright like a sword piercing through the heavens and bewildering everyone who saw it.

A plaque was seen at the gate of the tall building with the words "Sword Gauntlet" carved onto it. The carvings were skilfully made as with each stroke was carved gracefully with a sword like a pair of dragon and phoenix dancing. It emanated an immeasurably sharp Sword-based Daoist Rhyme!

The Daoist Rhyme which Chu Kuangren felt from afar came from the two words that were carved on the plaque.

It was merely two words, yet it exceeded the countless sword marks that were left on the canyon walls.

Chu Kuangren stared at the two words and vaguely saw a white-robed man demonstrating a sword dance in front of him as a sharp sword qi surged in all directions.

Hum...

Chu Kuangren's body trembled slightly and his Sword-based Daoist Rhyme surged forth. He then rushed towards the Sword Gauntlet plaque as if he was spanning countless years to cross swords with the white-robed man across time and space.

The two surges of Sword-based Daoist Rhyme intertwined and collided. At that moment, the whole Hidden Sword Canyon rumbled, and the numerous surges of Daoist Rhymes within the sword marks started to mess up, while the weaker ones were immediately dispersed.

Everyone was shocked, not knowing what was happening.

Only the stronger sword cultivators who were near the Sword Gauntlet realized what had happened as they looked towards Chu Kuangren's silhouette in horror.

"He's resonating with the Sword Gauntlet's Daoist Rhyme!"

"This phenomenon is akin to two great sword Sages mentally sparring before us! How did Chu Kuangren manage to do this?"

"The rumors are true. This person can truly mentally spar with a Sage."

...

"So this is the Sword Gauntlet. I guess this trip here was worth it after all."

Chu Kuangren chuckled before he retracted his gaze and dispersed the Sword-based Daoist Rhyme around him, no longer looking at those two words on the plaque.

Chapter 178: Murong Xuan's Strange Behavior, The Sword In Lan Yu's Arms

Outside the Sword Gauntlet, Chu Kuangren crossed swords, through time, with the unknown swordsman who had carved the words "Sword Gauntlet" on the plaque. As the Daoist Rhyme from the duel spread through the whole Hidden Sword Canyon, it made everyone who had witnessed the situation incredibly shocked.

After pondering for a while, some of the sword cultivators went up to greet him.

"Rumors say that the Black Heaven Sect's Lead Disciple is an extraordinary person, and being able to witness such a remarkable sight today, I must say that you are indeed extraordinary. Greetings, I'm the wielder of the Moon Seeker's Sword, ranked number sixty-one on the Hundred Sword Spectrum."

"Haha, greetings Black Heaven Sect's Lead Disciple, my name is Li Zhen."

"Hello again, Black Heaven Sect's Lead Disciple. We've met before in the Sword Prayer City. "

"How's it going, Brother Chu?"

All the sword cultivators outside the Sword Gauntlet went to greet Chu Kuangren one by one with friendliness, unwilling to miss an opportunity to make friends with him.

Chu Kuangren just smiled and greeted them politely in return.

Naturally, he was long familiar with situations like these.

At that moment, a figure joined the crowd.

He was a middle-aged man who was wearing a lavish long robe, unlike the other sword cultivators. There was also an air of gentleness about him that was similar to merchants.

That man gave Chu Kuangren a flattering smile and said, "Brother Chu, based on my previous experience, the Sword Gauntlet is only going to open in the next few days. If you don't mind, why don't you come to my place for a stay then."

"Sir, you are..."

"My name is Qian Fugui. I'm the owner of the Famed Blades Hotel in the Hidden Sword Canyon, which specially provides food, clothing, housing, and transportation for every fellow sword cultivator."

"I see."

Chu Kuangren was slightly surprised. "Then I shall go with you then, Brother Qian."

"Please follow me, fellow brothers and sisters of the Black Heaven, I shall show you the way."

Qian Fugui shouted as he led the way at the front.

Upon seeing this, the onlooking sword cultivators could not help but gossip again.

"Tsk, this Qian Fugui really acts fast huh. No doubt he's a businessman alright, having built up a connection with Chu Kuangren so quickly."

"B*llshit, who do you think Chu Kuangren is? He's ranked first in the Hundred Sword Spectrum. Having a good relationship with a person like that will only bring no harm but benefits."

...

Along the way, Qian Fugui showed Chu Kuangren and the others the various interesting places in Hidden Sword Canyon. Especially the locations of the most mysterious sword marks, the locations of the ones that were the easiest to gain insight on, and more. He seemed very well-versed with the area.

"Brother Qian, do you currently live in Hidden Sword Canyon?"

"Not really, I just opened a hotel there and hired some people to manage it. However, since business is always booming the most during the period when the Sword Gauntlet is about to open, I've decided to come to take a look and join in on the fun."

"As time passed, I've started to get more familiar with the area too."

It was only then that Chu Kuangren understood. "So that's how it is."

When they arrived at the hotel that was owned by Qian Fugui, the group could not help but be surprised.

'Is this really a hotel?'

‘This is clearly a huge palace!’

Multiple towers and pavilions stood upright from the ground, forming rows upon rows of buildings that made up the whole palace structure. The entire area it took was comparable to the White Jade Hotel that Chu Kuangren had visited in the past.

Being able to open such a large hotel would require tonnes of resources and manpower to manage. It would be an even harder task to defend these hotel buildings, seeing that a slight mistake made would easily lead to death for any perpetrator.

That Qian Fugui was not some simple person it seemed.

Taking a look at him, Chu Kuangren activated the Eye of Revelation.

“Qian Fugui, owner of the Fugui Firm, owns and controls over ten percent of the total soulstone reserves in the Firmament Star, his businesses span all over the four domains in the Firmament Star...”

Chu Kuangren’s mouth twitched upon seeing the information that was provided by the Eye of Revelation. He could not believe that man was the owner of the Fugui Firm...

The Fugui Firm was the largest merchant firm in the whole Firmament Star. They were present in every business, every venture, or any matter that required soulstones. Despite that, no one ever knew who the owner of that large merchant firm was.

Yet now such a person was standing in front of him right now?

Undoubtedly, it was too much of a coincidence.

After Qian Fugui arranged a few rooms for Chu Kuangren and his group, all that was left for them to do was to wait for the Sword Gauntlet to open.

...

“Chu Kuangren, my name is Murong Feiyu and I’ve come to have a duel with you to gain some experiences!”

A voice could be heard from outside the Famed Blades Hotel.

A man clad in black robes and holding a long sword was seen standing outside the Famed Blades Hotel, and his voice rang throughout the restaurant.

Every sword cultivator who had noticed the commotion hurriedly looked towards him.

Everyone was incredibly surprised when they heard the name of that person.

“It’s him, Murong Feiyu!”

“Oh, that’s a very familiar name I think. He seems to be an Honorable Swordsman who’s ranked number seventy-one on the Hundred Sword Spectrum. He’s one of the people of the Murong clan.”

“The Murong clan of the Black Warrior Domain, one of the clans of the famed One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families huh. I guess things are going to get interesting soon.”

Every sword cultivator watched attentively to how the situation was developing.

When Nangong Huang and the others heard his voice, they all looked at Muring Feiyu outside and an unpleasant expression was plastered all over their faces.

“Who the hell is he? Is he even worthy to face our Elder Senior Brother?”

“Ranked number seventy-one on the Hundred Sword Spectrum huh? My god, with a low ranking like this, how does he still have the courage to challenge our Elder Senior Brother who’s ranked first.”

“Not everyone knows what our Elder Senior Brother can do, you know. Besides, most people think that our Elder Senior Brother is ranked first in the Hundred Sword Spectrum only because the Descendant Self Sword he owns is fused with a Sword Soul which helped him gain an upper hand. That’s why a large number of people are dissatisfied with our Elder Senior Brother. I suppose this person must be one of those people then.”

Nangong Huang explained patiently.

Meanwhile, a strange look flashed across Murong Xuan’s eyes as he looked at Murong Feiyu. His expression was unnatural.

“What’s up with you?”

Nangong Huang could not help but be surprised when he noticed that something was not right with Murong Xuan.

“No, it’s nothing.” Shaking his head, Murong Xuan then said, “This Murong Feiyu’s strength is quite extraordinary. Having reached the level of an Honorable many years ago, he cultivates the Murong Clan’s Flame Splitting Sword Art, a technique that is powerful enough to scorch rivers and boil the very oceans. He’s undoubtedly an expert even in the Murong Clan.”

“Then again, these people are not the trickiest ones to deal with. The ones that will prove to be trouble will no doubt be the Young Emperor of the Murong Clan, Murong Yu...”

Murong Xuan was just about to continue when he noticed Nangong Huang and the others giving him a weird look. He promptly stopped and asked, “What’s up with you guys?”

“Murong Xuan, how do you know so much about the people from the Murong Clan? Hold up, your first name is Murong as well, can it be that...”

“I have nothing to do with the Murong Clan!”

Murong Xuan said decisively.

“Oh.”

Everyone let out a slight mumble and no longer pursued the subject.

Having come back to his senses as well, Murong Xuan realized that his denying behavior earlier made him feel very suspicious.

He said, "These are all matters in the world of swordsmanship. Shouldn't we learn more about things like this since we're swordsmen ourselves?"

"We're located in the Azure Dragon Domain, while the Murong Clan is located in the Black Warrior Domain. Who will even know this given that our group is so far apart from theirs."

Jun Yi murmured.

"Look, it's Lady Lan Yu," Nangong Huang said.

Lan Yu slowly walked out of the hotel with a sword in her arms. When she was before Murong Feiyu, she said indifferently, "So you're the one challenging my Master?"

Murong Feiyu stared at the sword in Lan Yu's arms as a fiery look appeared in his eyes. "I'm the one challenging Chu Kuangren now. Lady, I see that the sword in your arms is no ordinary blade, can you let me take a look?"

Lan Yu shook her head and replied, "No can do, this is my Master's sword."

"I see, so where's Chu Kuangren now?"

"My Master is still recuperating inside. However, because you've caused such a big ruckus here, he has allowed me to take his sword out. He said that he'll show himself if you can hold yourself against a single attack."

"How can he possibly attack without showing up? Is he messing with me!" Murong Feiyu said coldly.

"There's no problem for the sword to attack right now."

Lan Yu said casually.

At that, the Descendant Self Sword in her arms trembled lightly before it revealed half of its jade-like body, emitting an incredibly horrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme.

Chapter 179: Two-Thirds Sword Qi Killing An Honorable, The Sword Gauntlet Opens

The Descendant Self Sword trembled slightly as it unsheathed half of its body.

Following that, an immeasurably sharp Sword-based Daoist Rhyme emanated as a clear sword ray shot out from the sword's body.

The sword ray locked onto Murong Feiyu, making it hard for him to evade the attack.

"Not good!"

In a split second, Murong Feiyu made his judgment to unsheathe his sword and unleash bursts of Daoist Rhyme too. The moment he launched a sword attack, a billowing heatwave surged out!

However, the indomitable sword ray tore through the heatwave and landed on his body which instantly shredded apart his spiritual protection shield and sent him flying dozens of feet away.

"How's this possible!" Vomiting blood, the pale-faced Murong Xuan laid on the ground with horror in his eyes.

Lan Yu shook her head after taking a look at him. "This is merely one-third of my Master's sword qi and you already can't take it. What makes you think you have the right to challenge my Master? You can leave now."

At that, Lan Yu turned around with the Descendant Self Sword that sheathed itself in her hands and left.

"So this is the Honorable Swordsman of the Murong Clan? That's all huh."

"That's just too disgraceful. He has come here to challenge someone, yet he can't even defend half a sword qi from his opponent. This Chu Kuangren truly is terrifying."

"Can it be that Murong Feiyu is too weak then?"

"It's possible."

Listening to the whispers from the people around him, Murong Feiyu's expression became increasingly unpleasant. On top of how he was easily defeated without even seeing Chu Kuangren himself, he felt more unwilling and embarrassed the more he thought about it.

"Stand where you are and leave that sword behind!"

Murong Feiyu yelled and leaped into the air with surges of Sword-based Daoist Rhyme emanating around him, forming into terrifying waves of flames that rushed towards Lan Yu.

Lan Yu's back was facing him at that time.

Everyone could not help but berate him for being so shameless when they saw what he was doing.

"Wanting to steal the sword because he can't win it? What a disgrace."

"Is this the Murong Clan's style to attack people from behind?"

Some of the people in the crowd had their eyes closed as they could not bear to watch a beautiful lady like Lan Yu perish.

However, at that moment, the Descendant Self Sword in Lan Yu's arms trembled slightly as it unsheathed itself with a clang. An unparalleled sword ray was unleashed.

Infused with an indomitable Sword-based Daoist Rhyme that seemed like it could rip through everything, the sword qi instantly tore apart the flame waves.

A mist of blood exploded in the air!

Murong Feiyu was brutally ripped apart in half by the sword ray.

With a hum, the Descendant Self Sword sheathed itself once again, and the incredibly sharp Sword-based Daoist Rhyme soon disappeared. Just like that, the surrounding returned to its usual peacefulness.

If it were not for Murong Feiyu's corpse on the ground, everyone would have thought that they were hallucinating just now.

"Here's the remaining two-thirds of sword qi then. That sneak attack from behind is vile and disgusting, hence your death is well-deserved."

After Lan Yu finished speaking, she left with the sword in her arms without even turning back.

Everyone in the crowd who originally wanted to witness the action was stunned on the spot. They could not help but gasp with shock.

A strand of sword qi was used twice.

One-third was used to defeat an Honorable, while the remaining two-thirds were used to kill an Honorable!

'F*ck me, what the hell is going on?'

'That's too horrifying!'

"The sword's owner did not even show up, yet a single strand of his sword qi already contained such terrifying power. How strong is Chu Kuangren exactly?"

"It's too powerful. The first rank of the Hundred Sword Spectrum really is no joke."

"Awesome and badass."

"Among all the sky-prides who've come to the Hidden Sword Canyon, I guess Chu Kuangren will no doubt rank first in terms of strength. It's truly terrifying."

"I feel the same way too."

The sword cultivators who were secretly observing that fight were extremely surprised.

They did not expect for an Honorable, who did not even see Chu Kuangren in the flesh at all, to be so easily killed by his opponent's sword qi.

Such strength was just too frightening.

Inside a court, the atmosphere was somewhat solemn as fine strands of sword qi fluttered and destroyed everything in it. Even the wine glasses, tables, and other furniture were not spared. There were sword marks cut onto the walls too.

All that sword qi originated from one young man in the room.

This young man was in a black robe and had long black hair that reached his waist. His eyebrows were narrow and mean-looking while his face was grim.

"So that's how it is Chu Kuangren! You dare to kill even my people!"

That person was the one that Murong Feiyu was following.

The Young Emperor of the Murong Clan, Murong Yu!

"Young Emperor, shall we deal with this person right now?" Behind Murong Yu, a grey-robed elder asked with a chilling gaze.

Since Murong Feiyu had a good relationship with him as they both were followers of Murong Yu, that old man was extremely enraged at Chu Kuangren as well.

“No, the Sword Gauntlet is opening soon, so I’ll have to first refine my senses and recharge my energy in preparation to run into the Sword Gauntlet. The matter of revenge can wait until later.”

Murong Yu gritted his teeth while he spoke.

Based on the Sage from his clan, the matter of the Sword Gauntlet was a very important one since there would be a very valuable opportunity of fortune on the final floor.

Compared to that opportunity of fortune, taking revenge was trivial.

“D*mn it. I initially wanted to let Feiyu probe Chu Kuangren’s strength, but I did not expect it to end like this.”

“This Chu Kuangren is a very strong enemy!”

Although Murong Yu resented him, he had no choice but to acknowledge Chu Kuangren’s strength. If they were to face off in the future, he might not be able to defeat him.

“Oh right, Young Emperor, there’s something else.”

“Speak.”

“Someone also saw Third Young Master Murong by Chu Kuangren’s side as well. His identity is now a Daoist of the Black Heaven Sect. ”

When Murong Yu heard that, a glint of surprise flashed across his eyes and he sneered. “That’s really unexpected. I didn’t expect the bastard to have gone to Black Heaven Sect after not hearing any news from him for so many years.”

“Seems like this trip to the Sword Gauntlet is going to be a whole lot more interesting now.”

...

More forces started to gather at the Hidden Sword Canyon.

Besides the gradual arrival of the four famous swordsmanship forces which comprised of the One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families, the representatives from other swordsmanship groups had also come.

Those sword cultivators were gathered there together, and although there were occasional conflicts between them, no large fights that broke out.

Everyone was waiting for the moment for the Sword Gauntlet to open.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren was chilling leisurely during those days. Ever since he had killed Murong Feiyu, no one dared to challenge him anymore.

Although some controversial remarks and discussions were made about him being ranked first in the Hundred Sword Spectrum, those words were simply harmless and did not affect him at all.

Boom!

It was today that a surge of sword qi suddenly rose into the heavens.

Within a moment, the whole Hidden Sword Canyon was rumbling. Even the numerous Daoist Rhymes that were contained within the countless sword marks trembled violently as if it was going to gush out from the marks.

Having felt something too, every sword cultivator looked towards the Sword Gauntlet.

“The Sword Gauntlet is open!”

One by one, the sword cultivators all headed towards the Sword Gauntlet.

However, a vast majority of them were pushed away by an invisible force field when they got near to the Sword Gauntlet, hence they could not enter.

“What happened?”

“Why can’t we go in?”

Everyone’s expression changed as they were surprised by what happened.

Some of the Honorables did not believe it, so they tried to force their way through the forcefield only to be sent flying by that invisible force.

“Ha, this restriction is placed by multiple Sages, yet these mere Honorables think they can break through it.” Someone could not help but snort.

“The Sages?”

“You’re right, the Sages from the One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families are preventing us from entering the Sword Gauntlet. Every time the Sword Gauntlet opens, only thirty people in a set quota are allowed to enter. How can they possibly allow another small fry to get a piece of the pie?”

One of the sword cultivators who knew some insider facts sneered.

“This is just too domineering. On what basis can they just simply occupy the Sword Gauntlet for themselves and not allow us to enter?” a dissatisfied sword cultivator asked.

“On what basis? On the basis that they are Sages!”

Everyone could not help but turn silent upon hearing that.

That was how the world was, where the weak would always be bullied and wronged.

Only those with big enough fists could stand a chance to make their voices heard. Most ordinary humans were already like that by nature, let alone the cultivators who advocated strength above all else.

Chapter 180: Buzzing And Humming Like A Fly How Annoying, Chu Kuangren Is Kinder

As the Sword Gauntlet opened, a ray of sword qi shot into the skies like a rainbow. Since the Sages of the One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families took action to place a restriction there, they made it extremely difficult for outsiders to approach the Sword Gauntlet.

Soon after, the disciples from the great sage orthodoxies had arrived.

The ones who showed up first were the people from the Murong Clan. Murong Yu could be seen leading a few other qualified Murong Clan disciples to enter the Sword Gauntlet.

The people from the Linghu Family and Tempest Mountain followed after...

Lastly, Chu Kuangren too had arrived at the scene with Nangong Huang and the others.

Their group had attracted a lot of attention when they arrived, with most of it focused on Chu Kuangren who stood at the forefront of the group.

News of Chu Kuangren killing an Honorable Swordsman with two-thirds of his sword qi a few days ago had already spread far and wide, and it had caused a sensation in the whole Hidden Sword Canyon.

The sky-prides of each great orthodoxies were extremely curious about him.

"So this guy is Chu Kuangren, ranked first in the Hundred Sword Spectrum!"

"He's very extraordinary indeed."

"Rumor has it that this person's combat ability is extremely powerful. He can easily kill an Honorable and even an Honorable Supreme. It seems like this guy will be the biggest enemy for everyone during this excursion."

Having seen Chu Kuangren, some female cultivators looked at him with googly eyes. They suddenly felt that all the men around them were worthless in comparison to him.

In the direction of the Tempest Mountain group, a swordsman holding a sword, dressed in commoner clothes and shoes, was staring at Chu Kuangren with fighting intent in his eyes.

Upon noticing his gaze, Chu Kuangren looked back at him as well.

However, unlike the commoner-clothed swordsman's gaze who was filled with fighting intent, Chu Kuangren's expression was very calm. He merely took a look at him and looked away right after.

"Oh, isn't that a disdainful look?"

The commoner-clothed swordsman's eyebrows quirked.

Many sword cultivators around him had noticed that scene as well.

"Tsk, the Tempest Mountain's Lunatic Swordsman has targeted Chu Kuangren now."

"The Lunatic Swordsman's strength is no joke. It's rumored that he has defeated several ancient sky-prides. He's crazy for swords and his power is extremely terrifying."

"Just before Chu Kuangren entered the world, the older generation of strong sword cultivators once said this person's swordsmanship was ranked first among the younger generation."

Everyone in the crowd discussed secretly.

The Lunatic Swordsman, whose real name was Ling Feng, was a Young Emperor of the Tempest Mountain. Among the Young Emperors, his strength could definitely be ranked in the top five.

Due to his crazy obsession with swords, his keen interest in challenging swordsmanship masters, and not letting even the older generation sword cultivators go, he was hence known to everyone as the Lunatic Swordsman.

Chu Kuangren was not so interested in that so-called Lunatic Swordsman.

He had just used the Eye of Revelation to check out everyone at the scene and realized that there was no one around who could make him get serious.

On the other hand, something strange was going on with the people in his group instead.

"Murong, what's the matter?"

Chu Kuangren looked at Murong Xuan and asked. Ever since they came to Sword Gauntlet, he had been hiding at the back of the group as if he was unwilling to face a certain someone.

"It's nothing." Murong Xuan shook his head.

"Hey, isn't that Young Master Murong over there?"

At that time, a teasing voice came from the Murong Clan's group.

A young man walked out from the group, looked at Murong Xuan, and said, "We haven't seen you in many years, Young Master Murong. We thought you might've died in some terrible alleyway somewhere, but never did we expect you to end up at the Black Heaven Sect instead."

Chu Kuangren was a little surprised.

He did not expect Murong Xuan to have some conflict with the Murong Clan.

"What do you want, Murong Hai?"

Murong Xuan asked with an unpleasant expression.

"Nothing much. I just want to have a chat with your fellow brothers and sisters, that's all. From the looks of it, I guess they don't know that you were born from the Murong Clan's lowly servant, right?" Murong Hai said teasingly.

Several of the Murong Clan's disciples looked at Murong Xuan's unpleasant expression from behind him as if they were enjoying a good show.

"A Young Master, given birth by a lowly maid, can't even get along in the Murong Clan and so he ran to the Black Heaven Sect to become some Daoist there. Now that I think of it, you people from the Black Heaven Sect really have no standards for accepting a random piece of garbage like him..."

Murong Hai was just speaking when a sudden surge of overbearing Daoist Rhyme erupted from beside him. His expression changed the moment it happened, and he immediately urged forth his Daoist Rhyme to resist that attack.

However, that overbearing surge of Daoist Rhyme formed into a majestic Godly Mountain that instantly landed on him, and its violent impact immediately sent him flying hundreds of feet away. He then tumbled on the ground dozens of times before he eventually hit the rock wall of the canyon.

“Buzzing and humming all around like a fly, how annoying.” Chu Kuangren fiddled with his fingers slowly as some remnants of the terrifying Daoist Rhymes swirled around his fingertips. It was obvious that he was the one who attacked just now.

“Chu Kuangren, you’ve gone too far!”

“You dare take action even before the Sages?”

“D*mn it!”

Everyone from the Murong Clan immediately glared at Chu Kuangren angrily.

With that, multiple surges of Daoist Rhyme erupted and headed towards him.

However, Chu Kuangren’s gaze turned cold, and a Sword-based Daoist Rhyme that was far more terrifying than theirs surged forth. It instantly dispersed everyone’s Daoist Rhyme like a tsunami, causing every disciple of the Murong Clan to turn pale.

“You guys are the ones who’ve gone too far!”

“I don’t care about the conflict you Murong Clan people have with Murong Xuan, but there’s no doubt that he’s a Daoist of the Black Heaven Sect now! So your insults and humiliation towards him are a provocation towards my Black Heaven Sect!”

“Based on that matter alone, not killing that guy on the spot earlier is already the best gesture I can offer in the face of your Murong Clan’s Sage.

“If any of you still can’t watch your mouth, then I shall end you!”

Chu Kuangren’s words were as sharp as a knife while his gaze was as sharp as a sword. His words made the disciples of the Murong Clan and others present speechless, and the expression on their faces shifted.

Meanwhile, Nangong Huang, Jun Yi, and the others all stood by Chu Kuangren’s side and glared at the Murong Clan’s people with a chilling gaze. Their message was clear.

Murong Xuan would not be insulted, and the Black Heaven Sect would never be humiliated as pleased!

“Alright, stop making a fuss now.”

At that time, a voice could be heard from the void.

Everyone was suddenly in awe.

It was a Sage!

“Young people just like to have little fights and quarrel.”

“Oh, so provoking my Black Heaven Sect is also a little fight then?”

The voices of two Sages rang out.

Chu Kuangren remembered one of them as it was the voice of the Black Heaven’s Third Forefather.

“Black Heaven Third Brother, do you still intend on pursuing this matter?”

“Hmph. You should be thankful for Chu Kuangren’s kind action since he only gave that little sly-mouthed junior a slap on the face. If not for that, I would’ve ended him on the spot.”

The Black Heaven’s Third Forefather snorted softly.

Upon hearing those words, everyone could not help but shudder as they looked at the half-dead Murong Hai who was blasted into the rock wall in a distance by a palm attack.

‘Tsk, oh how kind he is. That guy is only beaten half to death, that’s all.’

Hum...

At that moment, the void started to tremble. Not far away, the Sword Gauntlet retracted the sword qi that it had emitted, and the sealed great gate of Sword Gauntlet soon opened with a creak.

An ancient and sharp Daoist Rhyme emanated out of the Sword Gauntlet.

Everyone then looked towards the Sword Gauntlet.

“The Sword Gauntlet has opened, let them in.”

The Sage’s voice sounded once again.

The people from the Tempest Mountain were the first to enter. After that, the representatives of the other orthodoxies too passed through the Sages’ restriction one by one.

Only thirty people could enter the Sword Gauntlet. With five people each from the famed One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families respectively, the other ten positions in the quota were allocated to the remaining groups to distribute.

However, something was a little different today.

Everyone noticed that only four people from the Linghu Family entered the Sword Gauntlet. The last person remained to be seen.

“Let’s go.”

Chu Kuangren patted Murong Xuan on the back and said, “We’ll talk about your matter later. Let’s go into the Sword Gauntlet now.”

“Of course, Elder Senior Brother.” Murong Xuan nodded.

With that, their group walked towards the Sword Gauntlet.

However, there were a total of six people from the Black Heaven Sect entering the Sword Gauntlet.

When everyone recalled the missing position from the Linghu Family’s quota, they then took a closer look at the Black Heaven Sect’s group who had an extra position, and they suddenly had an idea of what had happened.

“Tsk tsk, looks like the Black Heaven Sect has something on the Linghu Family, seeing that the latter is willing to give the former a position in the Sword Gauntlet’s quota.”

“Quite interesting indeed.”

“I wonder if anyone can reach the top of the Sword Gauntlet this year...”