

Unparalleled 181

Chapter 181: Invisible Barrier, Faceless Swordsman, Corridor Murals

Numerous sky-prides of the swordsmanship world stood before the Sword Gauntlet, admiring this towering building.

The moment they got closer to the building, the more they could feel the mysteriousness of the Daoist Rhyme it contained. This was a kind of existence that people of their level could not comprehend.

The people from the Linghu clan were not in the mood to decipher the mysteriousness behind it. After all, they could not apprehend it even if they tried anyway. On the contrary, it was the gossip they heard from the crowd around them that made them look extremely downcast.

The other sky-prides, who were their equals, threw mocking glances at them too.

Clearly, the fact that the Linghu clan had lost one spot this time seemed to have made them associate it with something, and they were all taking pleasure at their misfortune.

“Chu Kuangren!”

Linghu Teng, Linghu clan’s Young Emperor, fixed Chu Kuangren a dead stare, his gaze filled with malicious hatred. From his perspective, this was all Chu Kuangren’s doing.

Not only that, but the clone that he had refined and produced was also destroyed by his adversary, and this made him despise Chu Kuangren to the very core.

Chu Kuangren had noticed the distaste that Linghu Teng had for him too, so he raised the edge of his lip and spoke, “Yo, isn’t this the guy whose guts I’ve burst open?”

Upon hearing that, the crowd directed their glances at him, curious as to what that meant.

“Seems that Linghu Teng has a history with Chu Kuangren.”

“Is this related to why the Linghu clan has lost a spot?”

“No clue.”

After Linghu Teng heard what Chu Kuangren had said, he jeered back. “That was just a clone of mine. Killing just one of my clones is enough to make you so delighted? Chu Kuangren!”

“If the clone was so weak, would the real body be any stronger?”

“Would you like to give it a try?”

“If you don’t intend to attempt the Sword Gauntlet, I don’t mind staying out here just so I can burst you open one more time.” Chu Kuangren laughed.

“You...”

“Enough, let’s head inside the Sword Gauntlet first.”

Linghu Teng was about to say more, but Third Forefather Linghu stopped him.

He flashed Chu Kuangren an ominous glare before he led the other few Linghu sky-prides into the Sword Gauntlet.

The rest of the people began entering the tower as well.

“Chu Kuangren, once we’re out of the Sword Gauntlet, I look forward to a battle with you!”

Lunatic Swordsman from the Tempest Mountain looked at Chu Kuangren and said.

“As you wish.”

Chu Kuangren replied with a smile.

There was a second part to the sentence which he did not say.

‘As you wish, because I’m unbeatable anyway!’

Everyone else entered the Sword Gauntlet one after another. Every time a new person entered, a new bright spark would light up the pitch-dark floors of the Sword Gauntlet.

That spark signified the sword cultivator who had just entered.

At this moment, all these sparks were gathered solely on the first floor with each one of them unique to everyone’s energy.

If one spent just a little more time to sense it, they would be able to tell which one was whom.

Chu Kuangren and his compatriots had entered the Sword Gauntlet too.

“Huh?”

Chu Kuangren let out a soft exclaim. As soon as he entered the Sword Gauntlet, he realized that Nangong Huang and the other people around him had all vanished.

Leaving him all by himself.

“Is this some sort of spatial manipulation? Every single person gets redistributed into a different time-space, but everyone coexists inside the Sword Gauntlet at the same time.”

“Whoever built this Sword Gauntlet must be very masterful in using spatial force. This would require the level of at least a Sage Ruler I reckon.”

Chu Kuangren muttered under his breath.

A cultivator would be able to utilize spatial force when they reached the Paradise Realm. However, that was just the most basic level of time-space manipulation.

One example was the Battle Monarch Realm, which utilized a certain extent of spatial force.

After crossing that realm, a person’s spatial Dao would become more and more profound, which not many people could soldier on and walk until they reached the light at the end of the tunnel.

Chu Kuangren then stopped dwelling too much on that matter.

He saw that there was a flight of stairs not far away.

"This must be the staircase to the second floor." Chu Kuangren slowly walked up, but then realized that there was a barrier in front of him.

"Is this the test?"

Chu Kuangren casually struck out a palm.

An immense Daoist Rhyme erupted, easily destroying this barrier.

He then climbed up to the second floor.

Chu Kuangren noticed that each of the subsequent floors all had a similar barrier too. In fact, the barriers became increasingly stronger the higher the floor count went.

However, they were not really a challenge for Chu Kuangren.

The moment he threw out a palm, no barrier could stop him in his tracks.

He was currently rising up the floors at an incredibly scary speed.

Outside the Sword Gauntlet, the people watched the bright spark which belonged to Chu Kuangren crazily ascending the tower. They were utterly bewildered.

"Isn't this too fast? That's already the eighth floor."

"He truly is the famed Chu Kuangren. Absolutely incredible."

"Hold on guys, take a look. Aside from Chu Kuangren, Lunatic Swordsman, Murong Yu, and Linghu Teng are climbing up pretty quickly too. They're following closely behind Chu Kuangren. It seems like quite a few prodigious swordsmen have emerged this time."

"That's right."

The Sages who were watching on silently in the dark were not at all surprised by this.

"The first few floors are only a warm-up, and the later few floors are where the actual challenge begins. It won't be that easy from the twentieth floor onwards."

"Yeah, let's see how far they can reach."

"When it comes to the Sword Gauntlet's greatest Opportunity of Fortune, nobody has gotten that in for so many years. I wonder if any of them could get it this time."

These Sages were once sky-prides too when they were younger, and they could still recall everything about the Sword Gauntlet since they too had attempted it before.

On the Sword Gauntlet's twentieth floor.

Just then, a figure appeared right before Chu Kuangren.

It was a faceless man who was holding a sword.

"Oh, finally some change."

Chu Kuangren became slightly more interested.

When that faceless man noticed Chu Kuangren's presence, he held his sword up high and charged towards him fiercely as an incredibly powerful sword qi erupted.

Chu Kuangren merely threw out the same old palm of his.

The Human Mountain Seal smashed the faceless man to smithereens. To Chu Kuangren's surprise, that faceless swordsman transformed into an infinite sword qi when he burst open, dissipating before his very eyes.

"His presence was birthed by the amassment of sword qi."

Chu Kuangren was now fascinated, and he walked on to the next floor.

From the twentieth floor onwards, Chu Kuangren would face off against sword-qi-made faceless swordsmen, and their strength slowly increased from the stage of a Battle Monarch. By the time he got to the thirty-eighth floor, they were already at the level of an Honorable.

"Is this really a test for sky-prides?"

"Tsk, isn't this too much? This is already an Honorable."

Chu Kuangren remarked after he raised his hand and shattered the Honorable.

Amongst the younger generation, not many had the battle strength that was equivalent to an Honorable level. Besides, this was only the thirty-eighth floor!

There were twenty more floors to go.

He successfully stepped onto the thirty-ninth floor, and this time, he did not meet any obstacles. Nonetheless, the corridor started to change.

Murals started appearing on both sides of the corridor.

For instance, the thirty-ninth floor had a mural of a mountain which, upon closer inspection, contained a Daoist Rhyme. It looked as though it had the record of some sort of mysterious swordsmanship technique, and it subconsciously captivated anyone looking.

There was also a line of words at the corridor entrance, and only by gaining insight into the Daoist Rhyme in the mural within an hour could he go to the next floor.

With the incantation of the Meditational Clarity trait, Chu Kuangren's Dao Techniques Realm was already comparable to a Sage, so it did not take him long to apprehend the mural.

Inside it recorded a Sage Technique!

The fortieth floor was surprisingly the same.

"If I continue to go up, will every floor's corridor have records of a Sage Technique? Is this purely just to test our cognizance?"

"No, wait, and also our Daoist core!"

“Without a great enough cognizance, one would not be able to gain insight from the Daoist Rhyme contained within the Sage Technique, thus failing to advance to the next floor! But if one’s Daoist core was not sturdy enough, one could end up overly immersed in the Sage Technique, which would not allow them to proceed to the next floor either.”

“Cognizance and Daoist core, they’re indispensable!”

Chu Kuangren mumbled to himself.

Whoever built this Sword Gauntlet was really intricate in its design.

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“They’ve already reached the part with the murals. Back then, I was too immersed in the Sage Techniques so I wasn’t able to pull through.”

Outside the Sword Gauntlet, one of the Sages commented.

“Same goes for me. One hour and that’s it. Once you spend more than an hour at the same corridor, it would automatically register as a failure and you would then be transported out of the Sword Gauntlet. This level is way too difficult.” One of the Sages made a shake of the head and sighed.

As soon as they said that.

A bright white flash appeared at the entrance of the Sword Gauntlet. One of the young people was transported out, and he stared at his surroundings in a daze before his expression changed into a dreadful one. “I’ve failed.”

Chapter 182: Break Through The Limit, Insane Forty-Eighth Floor

“Look, it’s someone from the Murong clan.”

“He has failed.”

“Thirty-eight floors. He only managed to get to the thirty-eighth floor.”

People started gossiping when they saw the guy who got sent out of the Sword Gauntlet.

Several other people too were transported out of the tower following this Murong guy’s acquittal. The few of them glanced at each other, looking extremely helpless.

“It’s too hard.”

“Yeah. It’s only the thirty-eighth floor and I’ve been asked to face an Honorable. I’m just a Battle Monarch, how could I have beaten such a thing? It’s way too difficult.”

“Tsk, I really have no idea how those Young Emperor sky-prides managed to pull through.”

“Hey, look. Chu Kuangren is currently in the lead.”

“Can’t say I’m surprised with that.”

Another few white lights flashed past and a few other people were kicked out of the tower.

They were sky-prides from several sage orthodoxies.

“D*mn it, there was only one last bit left before I could completely gain insight from that Sage Technique’s Daoist Rhyme. I was so close!”

A sky-pride from Tempest Mountain lamented.

Having only one hour to apprehend a Sage Technique, even though just a little Daoist Rhyme could very well have passed them, was still too arduous a task.

Only very few sky-prides could achieve that.

“Look, Chu Kuangren has reached the forty-fifth floor!”

“My word!”

Someone gasped in shock at that moment.

They could see that the bright spark which represented Chu Kuangren was leading by far.

“How is it possible for him to be so quick? Linghu Teng, Murong Yu, and Lunatic Swordsman are all still on the fortieth floor.”

One of the sky-prides said, unable to wrap his head around it.

“I don’t know if you guys have heard that three years ago in the Dharma Sect, Chu Kuangren took only half a day to finish gaining insight on the stele forest’s Eight Thousand Arts?”

“Yes, it’s true”

“No wonder he could climb up so quickly. This guy’s cognizance is on a different league than the rest of us.”

“It’s really frightening.”

Inside the Sword Gauntlet, with the incantation of his two traits — Rocksteady Daoist Core and Meditational Clarity — Chu Kuangren rose up the floors at a commanding speed.

Before long.

He arrived on the forty-eighth floor.

This floor was the highest record that anyone had ever reached in the history of the Sword Gauntlet. From its inception until now, nobody had been able to break through this.

Just as Chu Kuangren stepped foot into the forty-eighth floor, an incredibly sharp Sword-based Daoist Rhyme suddenly locked onto him.

A white shirt and faceless swordsman stood before him.

Chu Kuangren raised an eyebrow. “Oh, it’s this one again.”

He raised his hand and threw out a palm strike.

A majestic Daoist Rhyme suddenly erupted, crashing towards the faceless swordsman!

However, his opponent simply lifted his hand and let out a sword strike, easily shattering his palm strength. Chu Kuangren smiled faintly at that. "This seems more like it."

With a metal clang, he pulled out the Descendant Self Sword from his scabbard!

An incredibly majestic and sharp Daoist Rhyme emanated from it. As if the faceless swordsman had noticed the incoming threat, the momentum on his body rapidly increased too.

"This swordsman can adjust his power based on my strength? Isn't this too outrageous." Chu Kuangren rolled his eyes. No wonder nobody had passed through the forty-eighth floor all these years.

This faceless swordsman could modify its strength based on one. If they were strong, he would then strengthen itself to become stronger than them.

How would this be a fair fight then?

He might as well raise his hands in the air and surrender.

"But now there's the fun of a challenge." A bright flash glinted in Chu Kuangren's eyes as he took the initiative and charged towards his opponent first.

The moment the two of them clashed and their extremely terrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhymes collided head-on, the emanated sword qi crashed frenziedly against the whole Sword Gauntlet.

Outside the Sword Gauntlet.

The crowd sensed something amiss.

"I'm not sure if I'm hallucinating, but I felt the Sword Gauntlet quiver just now."

"Eh, you felt that too? So did I."

"What's going on?"

"The source of this quiver came from the forty-eighth floor of the Sword Gauntlet. Is Chu Kuangren battling with someone?"

"Wow, the forty-eighth floor huh? Since the existence of Sword Gauntlet, nobody had been able to push through this floor. Do you think Chu Kuangren can break this record and make history?"

The Sages fixed their gazes on the forty-eighth floor as well.

Right now, only Chu Kuangren was on the forty-eighth floor while the rest of the sky-prides, including those three Young Emperors, were all stopped at the corridor murals.

"The obstacle on that forty-eighth floor is downright horrifying. That swordsman has the ability to increase its battle strength infinitely, so it will forever be stronger than you. I have absolutely no idea how one could pass that," one of the Sages said with a shake of the head.

"That's right, I wonder if Chu Kuangren could figure out a way?"

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Inside the Sword Gauntlet.

Chu Kuangren swung out his sword, casting the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique.

A colossal Emperor's Aura was emitted, which rippled through the entire Sword Gauntlet. This one sword strike was so petrifying that even a Supreme Honorable would not be able to defend against it.

Even so, the sword qi on that faceless swordsman's body then condensed before he let out a sword strike as well. The incredible majestic sword qi was not the slightest bit weaker than Chu Kuangren's.

In fact, it was even stronger!

When the two forces collided, Chu Kuangren was forced back about ten feet.

Ever since Chu Kuangren descended to this world, this was the first time he felt himself breaking a cold sweat.

It was not fear, but excitement.

"Honorable are not my match. I can slay Supreme Honorables too. As for those sky-prides who are in the same batch as me, none of them could even warrant me a second look."

"I may not be able to defeat a Sage, but nobody under the Sage level could defeat me. So all this while, I've never had the privilege of a satisfying battle."

"Today, I can finally give in my all and fight till the very end!"

Chu Kuangren was not a single bit frightened by the notion that he might die here.

This was not because he had the Immortal Body, but because the Sword Gauntlet had some kind of protective mechanism as well, wherein times of a real fatal threat, it would automatically transport said person out.

Chu Kuangren tightened his grip on the Descendant Self Sword and dashed towards his opponent.

Many different kinds of techniques were constantly cast from his hands — Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique, White Lotus Light of Purification, Phantom Light Strike, Human Mountain Seal...

Every single one of these cultivation techniques would have shocked the normal folks when performed in the outside world.

Nine Heaven Sword Prison, Green Lotus Sword Song, Sword of the Heavens...

His Three Great Daoist Physique Transformations were unleashed!

The Five Supreme Foundation Levels glittered with dazzling divine rays inside his body as spiritual power whizzed and poured out from his body like a frenzied torrent of waters, slamming into the void.

At this moment, Chu Kuangren looked like a swordsmanship war god. Every single move he made had an earth-shattering, apocalyptic kind of horrifying energy.

Meanwhile, the sword qi which came from the faceless swordsman was extremely terrifying too.

Once Chu Kuangren became powerful, his adversary became even more powerful!

There were several occasions where Chu Kuangren almost could not hold himself through.

In spite of that, his concentration was kept on high and he focused his attention entirely on the battle. He was currently in an extremely high-pressured state.

Throughout this process, he felt as though his utilization of Dao Techniques had become even more masterful as the spiritual mound inside his body tremble.

The spiritual qi around him accumulated towards him which, against all odds, allowed him to step into the Perfected Battle Monarch Realm. He had broken through his limit in this battle!

“Have I broken through my limit?!”

“Very well, I can’t wait to see if you can get any stronger!”

Chu Kuangren was visibly delighted. Then, he dashed towards his opponent again with his battle strength greater than before, sending the whole forty-eighth floor into a chaotic quake.

“Break!” Chu Kuangren seized the opportunity and struck out with the Descendant Self Sword. The tremendously ferocious energy immediately swept the faceless swordsman off his feet, and the majestic sword qi wrecked wanton on the faceless swordsman’s body, tearing it apart and shattering it into smithereens!

“Phew, have I succeeded?” Chu Kuangren was slightly short of breath.

However, he saw the sword qi which had emanated in the air condense right before him, forming into the faceless swordsman again. Moreover, the sword qi on its body was even more powerful now.

“Godd*mn it!”

Even Chu Kuangren could not resist a curse word.

This was absolutely bonkers.

It was an indestructible being whose power was forever stronger than yours. Was this forty-eighth floor really possible for any human to pass through?

He had come to a point where he started to suspect if the host of this Sword Gauntlet had no intentions for people to pass through.

“If this was designed to not let anyone through, then this forty-eighth floor didn’t need to exist in the first place, what more the forty-ninth floor and up. There must be something that I’m missing here, some key concept that I have yet to figure out,” Chu Kuangren mumbled to himself.

Chapter 183: Disappointing, Climbing To The Top Of The Sword Gauntlet, Creating History

Outside the Sword Gauntlet.

The sky-prides had all been transported out one after another.

“I had a little bit left on the forty-seventh floor before I could gain insight from that Sage Technique Daoist Rhyme. D*mn it,” Linghu Teng said with gritted teeth.

He stared at the Sword Gauntlet, his face full of discontentment.

Right now, only three people were remaining in the Sword Gauntlet.

They were Chu Kuangren and Lunatic Swordsman who were both on the forty-eighth floor, and Murong Yu on the forty-seventh floor.

Just then, a white light flashed past the entrance of the Sword Gauntlet. Murong Yu too was sent out of the tower. He, like Linghu Teng, was halted at the forty-seventh floor, failing to pass through it.

"I can't believe Lunatic Swordsman and Chu Kuangren are on the forty-eighth floor." Murong Yu inadvertently narrowed his pupils as he said that.

"Throughout the ages, only so few sword cultivators had reached the forty-eighth floor. I can't believe that there are two at once this time."

"Not bad. Now we'll just wait and see who is better."

The sky-prides outside the Sword Gauntlet were engrossed in their discussions.

"But it's been a while since Chu Kuangren has reached the forty-eighth floor right? He has already been there for a good half an hour."

A sword cultivator suddenly said.

The rest of the crowd were stunned upon hearing those words, and they all gasped in surprise.

"Say what? It's been half an hour?"

"The heck. Even till this day, only a handful of sword cultivators were capable of reaching the forty-eighth floor, and none of them could bear staying on that floor for more than fifteen minutes. Now you're telling me that Chu Kuangren has withstood a whole half an hour in there?"

"With this point alone, he has already made history."

"He truly is the famed Chu Kuangren."

At this moment, Lunatic Swordsman Ling Feng had been transported out too. His energy was extremely frail as if he had just endured a great battle.

"Seven moves. I can't believe I could only withstand seven moves in the hands of that faceless swordsman. This forty-eighth floor is just too d*mn crazy."

"I reckon that amongst all sky-prides who had attempted the Sword Gauntlet this time, only I have managed to reach the forty-eighth floor. That's already an impressive achievement in itself."

Ling Feng looked back at the Sword Gauntlet as he said that.

Then, his eyes widened. "Someone's still in there! I can't believe someone else has reached the forty-eighth floor too!"

"This energy... it's Chu Kuangren!"

Although shocked, Ling Feng felt that it made sense after he took a moment to ponder. After all, his rival was not weaker than him.

“How long has he been on the forty-eighth floor?”

Ling Feng simply asked one of the sword cultivators beside him.

“Almost an hour now.”

When he heard of that, Ling Feng’s eyes were filled with disbelief. “No way, how is it possible for someone to withstand an hour on the forty-eighth floor!”

He knew for a fact that he had only resisted seven attacks and that did not even last half an hour, yet Chu Kuangren had withstood nearly an hour?

This was impossible!

“It’s true. It has been nearly an hour now. When I got out, he had just got up to the forty-eighth floor. I can’t have mistaken it.”

A sword cultivator added.

Upon hearing that, Ling Feng’s Daoist core started to shake.

He could not bear more than half an hour in there, while his rival had held up nearly one hour long. The gap between him and Chu Kuangren was so big!

It was not just Ling Feng, but the rest of the people found it hard to believe too.

“Do you guys think he can advance past the forty-eighth floor?”

A sword cultivator suddenly asked.

“There is no way!!”

Ling Feng replied affirmatively, “Nobody has been able to get past the forty-eighth floor. That floor was too terrorizing! Nobody has ever passed it throughout the ages, and Chu Kuangren won’t be an exception.”

“You’re right. If you’re strong, the faceless swordsman will be stronger. I have no idea how we’re supposed to pass it like this. No matter how strong Chu Kuangren is, he would never beat something who is stronger than him.”

Murong Yu looked quite convinced too as he explained.

As soon as he spoke.

They saw Chu Kuangren’s bright spark started to move, and to everyone’s astonishment, he had reached the forty-ninth floor!

Everyone at the scene was dumbfounded.

Nangong Huang and a few other people threw mocking glances at Ling Feng and Murong Yu.

“Who was it who said that Elder Senior Brother wouldn’t pass just now?”

“Well well well, seems that somebody has just ridiculed themselves.”

Ling Feng and Murong Yu's expressions looked incredibly awful. However, with their gaze fixed at the Sword Gauntlet, they were more occupied with their disbelief at what just happened.

They had even counted the number of floors several times over now.

Chu Kuangren was indeed on the forty-ninth floor at this point in time!

"How is this possible? How is it possible that someone has broken through the forty-eighth floor? That faceless swordsman would forever be stronger than its opponent. So how is it possible for it to be defeated?"

"How the heck did he manage that?"

Ling Feng and Murong Yu refused to believe that this was the reality.

The rest of the sword cultivators were shocked too.

The forty-eighth floor had been cleared!

It had been countless years since the forty-eighth floor, which no one could pass through, had finally been broken! This moment meant that they had witnessed history!

"Chu Kuangren, a true extraordinaire."

"He has managed to clear the forty-eighth floor which no one could pass through for so many years. I wonder how he did it?"

Even the Sages were quite taken aback by that.

Just moments prior.

Chu Kuangren was on the forty-eighth floor, cracking his head on how to solve this obstacle, whilst engaging in a fierce battle with that faceless swordsman.

However, no matter how hard he tried to think, he could not come out with a solution. The thought of just grinding it out with his Immortal Body for a few days long even crossed his mind.

Yet all of a sudden, the faceless swordsman turned into sword qi and dissipated as the stairway to the forty-ninth floor appeared right before his very eyes.

A stream of enlightenment suddenly surged through his heart.

It turned out that the requirement to pass through the forty-eighth floor was not to defeat the faceless swordsman at all for this faceless swordsman was unbeatable.

The key to clearing this floor came down to one word, perseverance!

As long as a person could withstand over an hour in the hands of the faceless swordsman, it would be considered as a pass. Nonetheless, to last a whole hour under the highly-pressurized state formed by the faceless swordsman was by no means an easy task.

Not only was the enemy immortal, but it was constantly stronger than you too. Such an opponent would suffice to push any cultivator to a stretch of hopelessness, much less resist the battle for an hour-long. Fifteen minutes was already considered torture.

Even so, Chu Kuangren had done it!

"If the forty-eighth floor was already so difficult, I wonder what lays next on the forty-ninth floor?" There was anticipation in Chu Kuangren's eyes.

He walked up to the forty-ninth floor.

However, it was very disappointing to him.

The test on the forty-ninth floor targeted the Daoist core, but the moment one stepped onto the floor, various illusions would be created to captivate and confuse them.

To be honest, this floor was quite difficult as well. In fact, it could be more difficult than the forty-eighth floor. Those illusions were incredibly realistic, even more so than the ones Chu Kuangren had faced at the Mental Staircase.

He reckoned that even Sages would not be able to pass the challenge on this floor.

Nevertheless, for someone like Chu Kuangren who had the Rocksteady Daoist Core, all these illusions were as transient and ephemeral as a fleeting cloud; it did not affect him one bit.

He spent almost no time at all on this floor before he advanced to the fiftieth floor, which was also the final floor of the Sword Gauntlet!

Unbeknownst to him, the speed at which he cleared the forty-ninth floor had caused quite a huge commotion amongst the crowd outside the Sword Gauntlet.

The crowd did not know what sort of challenge the forty-ninth floor posed, but if the forty-eighth floor was so arduous, then the forty-ninth floor should by right be even more of a nightmare.

Most of them had not expected Chu Kuangren to be able to pass through that floor. They had even started to guess as to how long it would take before he would eventually be transported out of the tower.

They had never once imagined that he would only stop by the floor for what seemed like no time at all before advancing to the final floor. The sight of that left everyone staring wide-eyed and mouths agape.

"What kind of test is on the forty-ninth floor? How could he clear it so quickly? Is it that easy?"

"In your dreams. Sword Gauntlet floors get tougher the higher you climb, so there's no way that the forty-ninth floor would be any easier. I really don't understand what happened there."

The crowd was extremely puzzled.

Either way, they knew for a fact that Chu Kuangren was, amongst countless years, the only one who had managed to get to the top floor of the Sword Gauntlet!

He had created history!

Chapter 184: Mindful Emperor, An Earth-Shattering Secret, Heavenly Emperor You Have Got To Be Kidding Me

“He has reached the top!”

“What Opportunity of Fortune is inside that Sword Gauntlet?”

“This Chu Kuangren is indeed too astonishing. It’s been so many years and no one has been able to climb to the top, but he has succeeded!”

“How did he do it?”

The few Sages were astounded by his achievement.

Black Heaven’s Third Forefather was especially delighted. “Haha, he truly is our Black Heaven Sect’s Lead Disciple. Nobody else can but he can!”

The other Sages could not help but feel jealous upon hearing that.

They hated the fact that Chu Kuangren was not from their respective sage orthodoxies.

Sword Gauntlet, the fiftieth floor.

When Chu Kuangren reached the fiftieth floor, ever-changing apparitions appeared before his very eyes, but what appeared in front of him, was a lake.

At the bank beside the lake was a man wearing a straw rain cape, fishing.

Chu Kuangren slowly walked up to him and checked his information with the Eye of Revelation. After one look, his heart skipped a beat.

“Mindful Emperor, an Ancient Emperor from two hundred and twenty thousand years ago. Currently exists in an Empyrean Thought Form. Skillsets are sword Dao, cultivation...”

Due to Chu Kuangren’s cultivation base, there was not much information that the Eye of Revelation could analyze and gather about the Emperor in front of him.

Nevertheless, it was still sufficient to shock him.

If he took into account Demon Emperor Pride’s clone which he had encountered before, Mindful Emperor, who was now in front of him, was the second Emperor that he had seen in real life.

Chu Kuangren stood behind him silently.

One was sitting down and fishing while the other stood motionless.

After a long while.

“Little guy, why aren’t you saying anything?”

Mindful Emperor could not stand the silence any longer and asked him curiously.

Should he not be asking himself that same question first?

However, Chu Kuangren reacted well to it. He had not spoken at all, showing that he was not at all worried about the situation he was in.

“Senior, you’re fishing so I, as a junior, dared not interrupt you.”

Chu Kuangren let out a faint smile.

When Mindful Emperor heard that, he was stunned for a moment.

‘That’s all?’

‘That’s all it took for you to stand at a side without uttering a word?’

“Haha, interesting little fellow.” Mindful Emperor laughed. He rose to his feet, then took off his straw rain cape and coolie hat, revealing his full appearance.

Chu Kuangren was slightly surprised when he took a look at him.

It was because this Mindful Emperor looked exactly like the white-robed man he saw when the Daoist Rhyme from the Sword Gauntlet’s plaque converged.

Indeed, this Mindful Emperor was the owner of the Sword Gauntlet.

So that day, the person who traversed the endless bounds of time and had a mental spar with him was not some Sage either, it was an Emperor!

“Little guy, do you know who I am?”

“The owner of this Sword Gauntlet.”

“That’s right, this Sword Gauntlet is indeed a relic that I’ve left behind, and I am an Emperor who paved the way for Dao enlightenment in ancient times. My name... is Mindful Emperor!”

Chu Kuangren bowed. “Greetings, Heavenly Emperor.”

Mindful Emperor was stunned.

Why was this junior not shocked at all after knowing his identity as an Emperor? His Daoist core was way too good.

What he did not know was that Chu Kuangren had already known his identity long ago.

“Your ability to reach the Sword Gauntlet’s fiftieth floor proves that you are worthy of receiving my inheritance.” Mindful Emperor smiled, and with a wave of his arm, an ancient scripture appeared right before Chu Kuangren.

The moment this scripture showed itself, surges of Daoist Rhymes coursed, and a majestic Emperor’s Aura poured out of it.

“This is... an Emperor’s Scripture!”

“Oh, this little fellow knows quite a lot of stuff. Speaking of which, I have sensed from your body an Emperor Daoist Rhyme that is completely distinct from mine. Have you received an inheritance from any other Emperors in the past?”

“Not going to lie, I have indeed obtained an Emperor’s Scripture before.”

The scripture that Chu Kuangren referred to was the Eternal Emperor Scripture.

However, he had gotten that from the gacha roll.

“Oh, to which Emperor did that belong? Could you tell me more?”

Chu Kuangren pondered. “Eternal Emperor.”

Mindful Emperor thought for a while after hearing that. Then, a hint of shock shone in his eyes. “Eternal Emperor, I can’t believe it’s him.”

“Emperor, you know him?” Chu Kuangren was surprised at that response too.

This was something that he had obtained from the gacha roll.

Was there really such a person as Eternal Emperor?

“I don’t know him, but I’ve read about him in the ancient archives. He was an Emperor from the Old Ages. I’m surprised that you’ve gotten his inheritance.”

The Old Ages was a period of time that dated further back than the ancient times, even for Mindful Emperor.

He had only seen some records from the ancient archives.

“I see.”

Chu Kuangren nodded, but deep in his mind, he wondered if there was really a chance for the items he drew from the gacha roll to be related to this world?

He promised himself that he would revisit this at some point later in the future.

“For a person to obtain two Emperor’s Scriptures, I can say that your luck is beyond extraordinary,” Mindful Emperor said admirably.

After that, he passed the Mindful Emperor Scripture to Chu Kuangren.

“Aside from this Emperor’s Scripture, the Sword Gauntlet is also a relic, and I bestow them both upon you,” Mindful Emperor said.

Chu Kuangren’s eyes glittered.

This Sword Gauntlet was indeed a relic. Without factoring in the other stuff, just those Sage Techniques that were recorded within the corridor murals alone were enough to invoke envy for a sage orthodoxy, not to mention the numerous unique uses that it could be utilized for.

“Thank you, Heavenly Emperor. Oh, right, I have a question. Although you are standing in front of me now, this is not your actual physical form, isn’t it?”

“Little guy, not a bad guess. What’s appearing in front of you right now is merely one of my Emphyrean Thoughts,” Mindful Emperor said.

“So, Heavenly Emperor, where is your actual form currently at? Don’t tell me that you’ve fallen?”

“To hell with you, I’m still perfectly alive and well now.” Mindful Emperor made an eye-roll and said in an unimpressed tone.

Chu Kuangren quickly bowed his head down. “Apologies, please forgive my disrespectful remark.”

“As for where I am, or more precisely, where those historically recorded Emperors are, I can’t reveal it to you.”

“When you become an Emperor yourself, the answers will naturally open up for you.”

After Mindful Emperor finished his sentence, the Empyrean Thought began to fade off.

As such, Chu Kuangren quickly bowed. “Farewell, Heavenly Emperor.”

“Hah, little guy, you have very good talent. I look forward to the day when we would meet again. I have high hopes on you.” Mindful Emperor smiled as he said.

There was a pensive color in Chu Kuangren’s eyes.

His meeting with the Mindful Emperor today had massively benefited him. Besides the Emperor’s Scripture and the Sword Gauntlet, he had even gained knowledge of an earth-shattering secret!

The secret being that there was a huge possibility that the historically recorded Emperors of Old had not perished but hidden at some corner of the world.

“Such a magnitude of mystery is not something that I can solve at my current stage.”

Chu Kuangren shook his head and put the thought at the back of his mind.

When Mindful Emperor’s Empyrean Thought was gone, the lake started quaking all of a sudden. The fishing rod that the Emperor had left behind began to tug, and what flew out of the lake in that instant was a body of a pitch-black... dragon!

This dragon was up to several hundred meters long, and its whole body was covered in black scales. An incredibly terrifying ferocious energy engulfed the entire place.

The dragon tossed and turned in the air while it growled fiercely. Only at a closer glance would one notice that inside its mouth was a trapped silver string.

The other end of the silver line led to the fishing rod that was right in front of Chu Kuangren.

“What the hell. Mindful Emperor was fishing for a dragon?!”

Chu Kuangren was flabbergasted.

When he thought about it more, he realized that there was no problem with that narrative.

The only problem was that the dragon was currently staring at him maliciously!

“Oh right, the way to control the Sword Gauntlet is inside the dragon’s body. Little guy, take this as a final challenge that I’ve left for you.”

Mindful Emperor's voice once again rang out.

It was from the last bit of Empyrean Thought that was left dangling on that fishing rod.

"Heavenly Emperor, you've got to be kidding me!" Chu Kuangren complained as he stared at that dragon that was already charging at him. He wanted to cry but no tears came out.

Chapter 185: Slaying The Dragon, Seeking Revenge on Chu Kuangren, You Are Too Weak

The black dragon charged towards Chu Kuangren with its vicious murderous intent that was as ferocious as a typhoon. If it were any other ordinary cultivator, they would have been frightened out of their wits by now.

However, Chu Kuangren was not ordinary. He simply held up his Descendant Self Sword and slew at it.

An incredibly sharp sword qi lashed out frenziedly and struck the dragon's body. A huge amount of its scales was broken, and bloodied fluids spouted out from it like a geyser.

"Growl..."

There was an agonizing howl. The excruciating pain seemed to have intensified the black dragon's murderous intent as it opened its mouth and breathed out a jet of black spiritual power.

Chu Kuangren cast the Phantom Light Strike, his body disappearing from his original spot like a beam of light before he instantly appeared again at the dragon's right side.

He raised his arm and unleashed another sword strike!

This sword strike was placed immaculately on where he had landed the previous blow.

With a loud shrieking noise, the dragon's flesh was torn apart.

The vicious black dragon was cruelly sliced into two halves. It dropped right back into the lake with a loud splash, which generated a violent ripple of waves and the dragon's blood dyed a good whole half of the lake in red.

This day.

Chu Kuangren had slain a vicious dragon at the lake on the Sword Gauntlet's fiftieth floor.

"Sigh, what a shame. Nobody saw my heroics just now." Chu Kuangren sighed in disappointment before he sheathed his Descendant Self Sword back into the scabbard.

Just then, a ray of golden light surged out from the black dragon's carcass, turning into a bead about the size of a fist. The bead had stripes all over its surface.

"This is..."

Startled, Chu Kuangren reached out his hand and grabbed the bead in his palm.

A stream of enlightenment overwhelmed his heart.

"This is the Sword Gauntlet's core. As soon as I refine it, I would then assume control over this Sword Gauntlet." Chu Kuangren's eyes lit up.

There was no time to waste as he quickly got into the business of refining this Sword Gauntlet core.

...

Outside the Sword Gauntlet.

Everyone was transfixed on the Sword Gauntlet's top floor.

Since Chu Kuangren reached the final floor, his bright spark remained there not moving at all, and there was nothing but silence.

"Did Chu Kuangren finally obtain the potential within the Sword Gauntlet?"

"Who knows? Not that I've ever reached the fiftieth floor."

"This is really testing my patience."

Right then.

The whole Sword Gauntlet suddenly started to quake.

"What's going on?"

The crowd's faces turned pale, and they quickly retreated backward. All they saw in the midst of the quake was that the Sword Gauntlet kept shrinking smaller and smaller until it became a tiny black tower hovering high up in the air.

A bright spark swooped out of the tiny tower abruptly, and it was Chu Kuangren.

"I've made it." Chu Kuangren looked at the tiny tower with a contented smile. At this point, he was already capable of controlling the Sword Gauntlet at his will.

He waved his hand and deposited the Sword Gauntlet into his Yin and Yang Ring.

The group of people around him were extremely shell-shocked. Meanwhile, Murong Yu, Linghu Teng, and the other sky-prides stared at Chu Kuangren, their gaze filled with mixed emotions.

The potential within the Sword Gauntlet was of utmost importance to them, yet now, they could only stand and look as this Opportunity of Fortune fall into the hands of Chu Kuangren.

How could they ever bear with this?

"Chu Kuangren, what really is the Opportunity of Fortune within the Sword Gauntlet?!"

Linghu Teng could not resist anymore as he confronted him aggressively.

"Oh, do I owe an obligation to tell you?" Chu Kuangren said in a flat tone as he glared at his rival.

"Chu Kuangren, what kind of gimmick are you playing here? You even got past the forty-eighth floor!" Murong Yu was getting so impatient too that he asked.

The other people around them were very curious as well.

"I passed the floors because I felt like it. Do I need any gimmicks?"

"Pft, that Sword Gauntlet's forty-eighth floor was just impossible. If it weren't for some cheats or tricks, you can't even get past it!"

Murong Yu responded, seemingly unconvinced.

"Not that you guys have cleared the floor either, so who are you to question how I cleared it? You guys are like frogs at the bottom of the well with such a limited and naive outlook," Chu Kuangren said bluntly.

This statement of his had cheesed off Murong Yu and his few compatriots.

"Chu Kuangren, I haven't even settled my score with you for destroying my clone. I might as well claim my unfinished business with you right here and right now!"

Linghu Teng's voice was stone-cold. He took a step forward as the sacred sword in his hand emitted an incredible dazzling brilliance.

"Just nice, a few days ago, Murong Feiyu challenged you to a battle. He only wanted to do a friendly spar to compare his strength with yours, but you murdered him in cold blood instead. As the Young Emperor of the Murong clan, this is a vengeance that I must seek!"

A majestic Sword-based Daoist Rhyme erupted from Murong Yu's body too and it locked down on Chu Kuangren. He was ready to deal with his sworn enemy alongside Linghu Teng.

"Shameless people. That Murong Feiyu was only killed because he tried to ambush Miss Lan Yu from behind. He was dead for all the right reasons!"

Nangong Huang said coldly.

Murong Yu let out a cold scoff, completely ignoring that fact.

Right now, there was only one thing on his mind, which was to kill Chu Kuangren. As for what happened to Murong Feiyu, that was nothing but an excuse. He did not even care about it in the first place.

With that, the two Young Emperors joined forces and prepared to attack Chu Kuangren from both sides, but despite that, Chu Kuangren still looked calm and composed. In fact, he glanced at Tempest Mountain's Ling Feng not far away before he said casually, "They've already launched their attack. Are you just going to stand by and do nothing?"

Upon hearing that, Ling Feng responded coldly, "I'm not interested in allying with someone else to battle you. If I want a fight, I intend to go up against you on my own!"

"I advise you to just join forces with them. This way, you could at least pull off a few more moves instead of losing in a terrible fashion."

"You... your arrogance!"

Ling Feng gritted on his teeth furiously.

If there was to be someone with this kind of arrogance, it had to be him. Throughout the years, he had challenged so many strong cultivators of the swordsmanship world in which some were of the younger generation and some were of the old.

Yet today, he met someone who was more arrogant and crazy than he ever was.

“Utter bullsh*t! I’m coming for you!”

Linghu Teng took charge and made the first strike. He lifted the sacred sword in his grip and an incredibly majestic sword qi surged into the air, turning into a tornado-like sword qi that lashed out at his enemy.

Murong Yu then made his move too. The weapon he used was a very clunky steel sword. He exhaled sharply and then drew out his sword. The black sword ray looked like a crescent moon as it glided across the sky, aimed towards Chu Kuangren.

The two types of swordsmanship techniques and two distinct Sword-based Daoist Rhymes attacked Chu Kuangren at the same time. In spite of that, Chu Kuangren was too lazy to even dodge it. As a matter of fact, he did not even bother using his sword. All he did was raise his one hand and then throw out a palm attack.

His fair jade-like hand landed on them. The collision force was incredibly tremendous that it spread out like a tsunami. Murong Yu and Linghu Teng were so shaken that they staggered backward.

“What an insane palm strength!”

Linghu Teng could not help but feel shocked.

At this moment, a beam of light suddenly arrived in front of him, and what unfolded before his very eyes was a palm that kept expanding in size before it pressed onto his face.

Linghu Teng felt like he had lost control as his whole body tumbled backward. Then, the back of his head was directly smashed onto the floor with a loud boom. The agonizing pain made him feel like his brain had been blasted open.

From the others’ point of view, Linghu Teng’s head was pressed against the surface of the ground by Chu Kuangren. With a loud bang, a dent was created on the surface of the ground, and cracks started to appear. His blood was splattered all over the place, making Linghu Teng look incredibly dreadful and miserable.

“Told you, if your clone was that weak, how strong would your actual self be?” Chu Kuangren stood up and sent the dead Linghu Teng flying over a hundred feet out with a kick, smashing Linghu Teng’s dead body onto the wall of the canyon.

“Sword Hail Technique!”

From not far away, Murong Yu let out a loud battle cry. Daoist Rhyme flowed on him, and surges of sword qi lashed out crazily and endlessly, jetting towards Chu Kuangren’s direction.

Each surge of sword qi had the power to split rocks into half, and with the amassment of these hundred thousands of sword qi, it was just like a sword qi torrent!

Chu Kuangren remained uninterested in trying to evade. Instead, he took a step out and a mysterious Daoist Rhyme began to emanate. White lotuses started to form around him.

Countless sword qi landed on the white lotuses, but they were unable to cause any ripples as the Daoist Rhymes and spiritual powers were all dispelled easily.

In an effortless fashion, Chu Kuangren held himself against this gush of sword qi, slowly walking up to Murong Yu step by step. In front of his opponent's terrified gaze, he lifted one hand and slammed out a palm at him, sending his opponent flying neatly.

"Weak, you're truly very weak, so weak that it's not even worth mentioning."

Chapter 186: Sword Runes, Will You Strike Or Will You Fall?

Chu Kuangren stood there, looking at Linghu Teng and Murong Yu lying on the ground. His eyes showed a hint of disappointment.

"Weak. So utterly weak. I can't even muster any energy to fight you properly."

The other sword cultivators around them swallowed hard, shaken by seeing how effortless he had suppressed the duo.

"Chu Kuangren's power is far too horrifying."

"Exactly! Is he even human?!"

Linghu Teng gingerly lifted his head that was bloodied and bruised and stared at the white-robed figure not far off with blazing reluctance of his defeat.

"How could he be this powerful?!"

"Despicable!"

In the distance, Murong Yu, who was sent flying by Chu Kuangren, leaped into the air with eyes red with rage. Beams of light swirled around his body before it merged to form ancient and mystical runes that emanated heavy Daoist Rhymes.

The runes piqued Chu Kuangren's interest.

"Boundary Sage sword runes. Interesting."

The runes were a form of connection between heaven and earth; they existed to catalyze and simplify the condensation of heaven and earth's power.

Thousands of runes existed in the world, and each one of them was mystical in its own way.

Sword runes were runes specifically tied to sword Daos, and it had the incantation that was capable of increasing a sword cultivator's power. The higher level the sword runes, the more power one would be granted.

In this world, Honorable runes were considered very rare, let alone Boundary Sage runes.

With the Boundary Sage runes' boost, Murong Yu's sword qi intensified, exploding in a burst of exceptional Daoist Rhymes.

"Chu Kuangren! Let's see you take this!"

Murong Yu howled like thunder as he struck with the sacred sword in his hand. Thousands of sword qis shot forth, weaving together to form a terrifying python that looked like it could consume the skies. It let out an ear-piercing cry before charging towards Chu Kuangren.

Faced with this sword attack, the target simply lifted his hand calmly. The Five Supreme Foundation Levels within him then glowed faintly, and his spiritual power surged like crashing waves.

He still did not draw his sword and struck out his same old palm attack.

The majestic power of his Godly Mountain instantly exploded, easily shattering the terrifying python that was weaved from sword qi.

The impact of the collision between the sword qi and Chu Kuangren's palm strength lashed back at Murong Yu. Forced to bear the full brunt of it, he was thrown into the air like a kite with cut strings while he coughed blood.

Even with Boundary Sage runes, he was still no match for Chu Kuangren. He could not even get the man to draw his sword!

Two great Young Emperor swordsmen were utterly defeated in the hands of one man!

Next, Chu Kuangren looked in the direction of Tempest Mountain's Ling Feng. Him, who was called Lunatic Swordsman, a Young Emperor swordsman whose obsession with swords was unparalleled, stood frozen in place, staring at Chu Kuangren with trembling eyes.

He was terrifying!

Even he could not easily defeat both Murong Yu and Linghu Teng like how Chu Kuangren did.

Not to mention that he had not even drawn his sword yet, so this was not his full power!

It went without saying that his opponent was so much stronger than him.

"I already said this earlier. Had you attacked with those two, you could have at least shown a few more moves. Now, you only have one chance."

"Draw your sword! Show me the Tempest Mountain's ultimate sword Dao!"

Chu Kuangren simply stated.

Ling Feng gripped his sword as his body trembled, but he did not strike in the end.

He was frozen in fear.

"I told you to strike!"

Chu Kuangren said coldly as if he were reprimanding a child.

At that, the Sword-based Daoist Rhyme surrounding him surged like a tidal wave, suppressing Ling Feng like crazy!

Forget striking Chu Kuangren, he could barely lift a finger under the deadlock of Sword-based Daoist Rhymes!

“I-impossible!”

“I... I am the Tempest Mountain’s great sky-pride, and yet I’m unable to even draw my sword before him? At least, just a single strike!”

With those thoughts, Ling Feng slowly drew his longsword with his teeth clenched and raised it towards the sky, channeling a Sword-based Daoist Rhyme.

The sword qi swirled and formed an illusory sword shadow above his head.

Under the heavy suppression of Chu Kuangren’s Daoist Rhyme, Ling Feng’s sword shadow continued to tremble as if it would crumble at any time.

“Good! Now, Strike!”

Chu Kuangren said indifferently, but his Sword-based Daoist Rhyme only intensified.

“Ah!!”

Ling Feng howled, insanity taking over as he felt the horrifying Daoist Rhyme intensify. Still, the sword shadow above him had yet to strike.

The onlookers were horrified at this sight. Just how strong and terrifying was the pressure to drive the Lunatic Swordsman insane?!

“Come on! Do it!”

Ling Feng screamed in his heart.

Sadly, the sword in his hand could not even keep from trembling under the pressure of the Daoist Rhyme, let alone land a blow.

“Sigh, in the end, you still couldn’t break through your limitations. Even as the Lunatic Swordsman, this is the best you can do.”

Chu Kuangren shook his head.

The rampant Sword-based Daoist Rhyme burst once more, and the surge shattered Ling Feng’s illusory sword shadow.

Ling Feng’s willpower finally gave way as he crumpled to the floor.

In the end, he couldn’t strike even once.

“I lose.” The Lunatic Swordsman sat there on the ground, crestfallen. He felt extremely frustrated and defeated.

The onlooking sword cultivators felt like they were witnessing history in the making. The dignified Lunatic Swordsman was suppressed so hard that he could not even strike once!

It was too shocking.

“Lunatic Swordsman’s abilities are definitely stronger than both Murong Yu and Linghu Teng, but even he was suppressed to the point that he couldn’t strike. Clearly, Chu Kuangren wasn’t using his full power against the other two.”

“I doubt he was even using half of his power.”

“Good heavens, Chu Kuangren is too abnormal.”

“Absolute beast!”

“I don’t believe it! I refuse to believe it!” Linghu Teng forced himself to stand as he howled in a crazed rage. He then urged his spiritual power to keep fighting.

Yet right at that moment, an immense pressure fell from the heavens, instantly suppressing every sword cultivator in the area except for Chu Kuangren.

The weaker ones collapsed on the ground, unable to move.

It was the aura of Sage Dao!

In the sky, four figures appeared.

It was the four powerful Sages of the One Sword, One Mountain, and Two Families. Among three of the four Sages were giving Chu Kuangren a nasty glare.

After all, their families’ sky-prides just took a severe beating from him.

Their Daoist cores would likely be affected by this.

“What? Could you possibly be thinking of striking a junior?”

Black Heaven’s Third Forefather simply said.

The three Sages retracted their glares at those words. They knew that this was a fight between the sky-prides. If they interfered, the playing field would change and cause a huge war between the orthodoxies.

However, standing idly and watching Chu Kuangren, someone from the Black Heaven Sect, steadily grow increasingly powerful still left a bad taste in their mouth.

“Just stop,” Tempest Mountain’s Sage said.

He looked at Chu Kuangren before continuing, “Young junior, I’d like to ask what Opportunity of Fortune laid within the Sword Gauntlet.”

It was not just him but all the other Sages were equally curious.

The Opportunity of Fortune that laid within the Sword Gauntlet had been hidden for years without a soul knowing, and now someone had finally gotten it. Chu Kuangren was not from their families, but the curiosity clawed at the Sages’ minds.

“Kuangren, you don’t have to tell them. I’m still here, so no one can force you to speak.” Black Heaven’s Third Forefather suddenly spoke up.

"Yes, Third Forefather." Chu Kuangren nodded faintly.

"Black Heaven Brother, this is slightly unreasonable, don't you think? We're simply asking without any intention of taking it. Why do you need to hide it?"

Linghu's Third Forefather frowned.

"Hmph. Whether we tell you or not is our choice. Are you saying you're going to force us to speak?" Black Heaven's Third Forefather shot back.

"You-!"

Linghu's Third Forefather was rendered speechless, and he could only grit his teeth in silence.

Chapter 187: In The Unknown Lands, It's Every Man For Himself, Honorable Teacher

Chu Kuangren had obtained the Opportunity of Fortune within the Sword Gauntlet. The other sword cultivators, on the other hand, took a huge blow to their confidence. Some even lost interest in their training.

It was soul-crushing.

Why bother training when people like Chu Kuangren existed?

Except for a few people that stayed in Hidden Sword Canyon to observe the sword marks in the ground, most of the people left, including the One Mountain and Two Clans.

"Mister Qian, see you again sometime."

"Take care on your journey, Brother Chu."

Qian Fugui laughed out loud. He had interacted with Chu Kuangren a lot the past few days, and while they were not exactly friends, they were at least on good terms with each other.

Watching Chu Kuangren's retreating figure, Qian Fugui smiled. "Coming to Hidden Sword Canyon was a good idea. We've gained some good stuff that's worth quite a bit."

A green figure appeared behind Qian Fugui. "Boss, did you plan to make friends with Chu Kuangren by following him around the last few days?"

"That goes without saying."

"Then why didn't you just tell him who you were?"

"Tsk, making friends is all about the heart. How could you not know this?"

The green figure rolled his eyes. "Boss, you know very well why you tried making friends with him. You have your eye on who he is and the potential talent he has, don't you? Saying you're making friends with him is so fake."

"Shut it. To think you have the guts to talk back to your boss."

"Yes, yes. My boss is always right."

The green figure could only go along with Qian Fugui helplessly.

Qian Fugui looked back at Chu Kuangren's retreating figure while he rubbed the white jade ring on his finger with his thumb. "There's an endless amount of investment opportunities in this Era of Great Battles. And this Chu Kuangren will be a great asset for business."

"We can't go wrong with maintaining a friendly relationship with him."

...

"An Emperor's Scripture?"

On the Fairy boat, the Black Heaven's Third Forefather let out a gasp of shock upon hearing that the Opportunity of Fortune in the Sword Gauntlet was an Emperor's Scripture.

Something like that was extremely valuable.

Even Sages would go green with envy.

"Thank goodness you didn't tell them. If not, I bet that those three old fogeys wouldn't hesitate to start an orthodoxy war over it."

"An Emperor's Scripture is surprising indeed." The Black Heaven's Third Forefather rejoiced slightly.

"Kuangren, lady luck seems to always be on your side, but an Emperor's Scripture is very valuable. You must never tell anyone. If this gets out, even Black Heaven Sect will have trouble keeping you safe." The Black Heaven's Third Forefather heavily emphasized his point.

Something stirred in Chu Kuangren when he heard those words.

After all, he had three sage orthodoxies backing him up.

If even they could not guarantee his safety, then just what kind of forces were they up against?

"Kuangren, things in the world aren't as simple as they seem. Sage orthodoxies are not necessarily the most powerful force we know. Many things lurk in the unknown lands, still undiscovered."

The Black Heaven's Third Forefather said deeply.

"Undiscovered things in the unknown lands..." Chu Kuangren muttered before he nodded. "I understand."

"Good. Train and attain the Emperor's Scripture well. Fight until the day you get to be an Emperor. Only then can you stand fearlessly before everyone."

"Thank you for your guidance, Third Forefather."

Soon enough, the group was back at the Black Heaven Sect.

Honorable Xuan Qi felt pleased knowing that Chu Kuangren had obtained the Opportunity of Fortune within the Sword Gauntlet. "I knew that you could do it, Kuangren."

"No one else but him could've done it."

Elder Ruyan smiled as she stood at the side.

“By the way, what was the Opportunity of Fortune?”

Some elders asked curiously.

At that moment, Black Heaven’s Third Forefather’s voice came from the void. “No one is allowed to ask about the Sword Gauntlet’s Opportunity of Fortune!”

Everyone looked at each other pensively.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren smiled at them sheepishly.

“Don’t worry, Lead Disciple. Since the Sage has spoken, we will obey. We won’t ask about it anymore.”

“Hm, it makes sense. It would be bad if the Sword Gauntlet’s treasured Opportunity of Fortune attracted unwanted attention. The fewer people know about it, the better.”

The elders expressed their understanding.

“Alright, thank you for your hard work in the Sword Gauntlet, Kuangren. Go back and rest. You still have the Inauguration Ceremony to attend in two weeks.”

“Yes— what?” Chu Kuangren was about to turn around and leave, but the words had him turn back immediately. He asked, “Wait, what Inauguration Ceremony?”

“Of course, the ceremony for you to take over as Sect Leader!”

Only when Chu Kuangren heard the words did he remember. “Honorable Teacher, are you really not going to reconsider? Look at the elders we have. They’re all as capable as me. Could you not have chosen one of them?”

“Ah, Lead Disciple, you can’t just say that. There’s no one else more qualified than you.”

“Exactly. It has to be you.”

“Kuangren, please accept it.”

A few of the elders laughed heartily, and none of them had any objections.

Chu Kuangren felt like crying. Why must they all look up to him so much?

“See? All the elders are in agreement, Kuangren. The title of Sect Leader belongs to you alone. You need to accept it since your Honorable Teacher is now a Boundary Sage and needs to retreat to accumulate wisdom to become a Sage.”

Honorable Xuan Qi patted Chu Kuangren’s shoulder. “You don’t have to worry about this affecting your cultivation. The elders will help you out with managing things. All you need to do is make decisions for bigger issues.”

“As for other times, you can just become a ‘hands-off’ Sect Leader and do nothing. Thinking back, that’s something I used to do as well.”

As Honorable Xuan Qi spoke of his past experiences, the mouths of the elders who were standing to the side twitched and they really wanted to slap him.

D*mn it, of course it was comfortable for you to do the bare minimum as a Sect Leader!

In the end, they were the ones that ran themselves ragged doing work!

“Okay, Honorable Teacher. I understand.”

Chu Kuangren quickly cut him off after seeing the elders’, including the ever beautiful Elder Ruyan’s, faces turn as black as coal.

Any longer and his Honorable Teacher would have gotten slapped to death.

“Good, good. Being Sect Leader isn’t all too bad!” Honorable Xuan Qi grinned in satisfaction as if he was testing the elders’ patience.

“Kuangren, please go on ahead. I’d like to have a little discussion with your Honorable Teacher regarding the ceremony.” Elder Ruyan’s smile was sickly sweet.

“Okay,”

Chu Kuangren immediately felt goosebumps creeping up his skin. He then sent Honorable Xuan Qi a look, praying for him to not say anything else stupid before he turned to leave.

He even kindly closed the palace doors upon leaving.

Soon enough, a shriek came from behind the doors.

“Didn’t we already talk about the ceremony? What else— Hey, what are you guys doing? Ow! Why are you hitting me?”

“Hey! What’s going on??”

“So... ‘hands-off’ Sect Leader, huh? I see you speak from experience.”

“Xuan Qi, you *sshole! Do you know how much white hair I’ve grown dealing with internal affairs? And here you are, without a care in the world!”

“Get him!”

“Hey! Wait, stop!”

“I— Ow! I’m sorry! Great Elder Ruyan, please stop pinching me!”

“Kuangren, save me!”

Outside the palace doors, a chill shot up Chu Kuangren’s spine. He faced the doors and bowed as he said, “My deepest apologies for the betrayal, Honorable Teacher, but... every man for himself. I can’t help you.”

He sighed before turning tail and bolting out of the area.

When he got back to the Daoist Palace, Lan Yu and Lil Bing were organizing some clothes.

“Oh, what’s happening here?”

“Master, welcome back. These are the clothes that the internal affairs office sent over for you to wear during the Inauguration Ceremony.”

Lil Bing walked over with an armful of clothes.

Chu Kuangren took one look and thought, ‘Wow, all these clothes were made with high-quality materials. One outfit alone would cost a few hundred thousand soulstones.’

Chapter 188: The Godly Phoenix Egg Hatches, The Beasts Come To Attack

The Inauguration Ceremony was two weeks away.

Of course, such a monumental occasion for a sage orthodoxy would be nothing short of grand. Following tradition, Honorable Xuan Qi sent out countless invitations to various people, inviting them to attend the Inauguration Ceremony.

News of Chu Kuangren taking over as the Black Heaven Sect Leader spread all across the Firmament Star, and it shocked people with larger forces.

Was this a joke?

How old was Chu Kuangren again? Were they letting a young man control the Black Heaven Sect?

It was insanity!

Was he powerful enough?

Was he prestigious enough?

Was he experienced enough?

However, stopping to think about it, they realized that Chu Kuangren’s power easily surpassed an Honorable Supreme, and his prestige was through the roof — everyone knew his name!

As for the experience, the Black Heaven Sect had plenty of knowledgeable people.

F*ck!

People soon realized that Chu Kuangren really did have the qualifications to manage the Black Heaven Sect!

Instantly, all the people in the larger orthodoxies were dumbfounded.

The sky-prides felt even more conflicted.

While they were fighting amongst themselves, Chu Kuangren was about to become a sage orthodoxy’s Sect Leader which was a far loftier status than theirs.

“How old is he now?”

“He looks younger than twenty to me. F*ck, a sage orthodoxy’s Sect Leader at twenty? You would find few with such achievements throughout history.”

“I have a hunch that the Black Heaven Sect will enter a new era under Chu Kuangren.”

“But Honorable Xuan Qi is really daring to be handing the whole orthodoxy to a young man who’s barely twenty. It’s such a risk.”

“Chu Kuangren is quite remarkable.”

News of Chu Kuangren taking over as the Black Heaven Sect Leader made for wild gossip amongst the public.

However, the man himself paid no attention to any of it.

He was currently focused on attaining the Mindful Emperor Scripture that he had gotten from the Sword Gauntlet.

This was the second Emperor’s Scripture he had attained, and with prior experience, he had figured out the process fairly quickly. There would not be a second time of him accidentally slipping into closed-door meditation for a few years.

He realized that the Mindful Emperor Scripture was slightly weaker than the Eternal Emperor Scripture. Emperors were divided into strong and weak ones as well, and this scripture naturally had grades that differed in difficulty as well.

Even though it was not as powerful as the Eternal Emperor Scripture, it was still an Emperor’s Scripture and something useful to Chu Kuangren.

Thanks to both the Emperor’s Scriptures’ mutual recognition, Chu Kuangren’s Dao Techniques Realm progressed well, producing gratifying results.

What shocked him more was that there was an Emperor Technique in the Mindful Emperor Scripture which was very useful for his current level of sword Dao.

“The Sword Qi Transformation!”

“This technique can condense your sword qi into a clone attack. When successful, the sword qi will multiply into thousands of copies of you. One man will become an army!”

Chu Kuangren looked at the Emperor Technique in the Mindful Emperor Scripture. He was very eager to master it immediately.

The Eternal Emperor Scripture actually had an Emperor Technique in it as well, but it was a recovery-type technique and was practically useless to the immortal Chu Kuangren. That was why he did not look very deeply into it in the end.

However, this Sword Qi Transformation was different. For someone who mainly used sword Dao, it was a great help. Chu Kuangren could further perfect his Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique after attaining the Emperor Technique.

Chu Kuangren then started to gain insights into the Sword Qi Transformation.

Soon enough, ten days had passed.

There were still three days to the Inauguration Ceremony.

On this day.

Chu Kuangren suddenly felt a vibration from inside his Yin and Yang Ring. He immediately snapped out of studying the Emperor Technique and touched it suspiciously.

“Oh, it’s this little guy.”

He was mildly surprised.

The vibrations came from the Godly Phoenix Egg inside the ring.

The Godly Phoenix Egg had absorbed countless treasures throughout the whole time it existed. Some were taken from other people by Chu Kuangren, while others were obtained from the daily gacha rolls. Today was finally the day it hatched.

“At such a time... this guy really knows how to pick his timing.” Chu Kuangren shook his head exasperatedly.

However, the child’s head was already out, so pushing it back in was not possible.

“I still have three days. That should be enough.”

He said to himself.

With that, Chu Kuangren stood up and flew off in a beam of light.

“Huh? What is our Master doing?”

“No clue.”

Lil Bing and Lan Yu exchanged a look of confusion.

Chu Kuangren flew off alone in a beam of light, looking for a suitable place for the Godly Phoenix Egg to hatch.

He soon came to an area with a volcanic crater.

The magma bubbled in the volcanic crater, and a rich fiery Daoist Rhyme emanated from it.

He took out the Godly Phoenix Egg hesitantly. “Won’t throwing it in just cook the egg?”

Instead, the egg gently vibrated with excitement. It seemed to be pleased with the area.

“If you say so. Here it is.” Chu Kuangren threw the Godly Phoenix Egg into the volcanic crater with no hesitation.

Now, all he needed to do was wait.

Another two days had passed.

Chu Kuangren then noticed that the volcano’s Fiery Daoist Rhymes were becoming fainter as if the Godly Phoenix Egg was sucking it all up.

“This guy really has a big appetite.”

He muttered.

Besides that, he too felt that the air was beginning to fill with an inexplicably mysterious and lively Daoist Rhyme.

It was the Daoist Rhymes of the Phoenix!

Unfortunately, the Daoist Rhymes were extremely intoxicating, they attracted numerous beasts from the vicinity that came in hopes of consuming the Phoenix to evolve.

“Hiss...”

A giant python hissed as it crawled out from an area nearby.

Its lantern-sized eyes locked onto the volcano. Its instincts told it that a great Opportunity of Fortune was within the volcano.

It could transform into a dragon immediately if it got that power!

The giant python’s scales shimmered with excitement at the thought, but upon reaching the volcanic crater, a man stood in its way.

A white-robed young man sat cross-legged at the volcanic crater, unfazed and untouched by the volcanic ash.

Danger!

The python sensed great danger from the man!

The python was not the only one.

Several other beasts had also flocked to the volcanic crater. Moreover, those that dared to eye the Godly Phoenix were extremely powerful beings with noble bloodlines. Even the worst ones were at least Honorables.

The beasts currently congregated in a small group, staring eagerly at the volcanic crater.

Unfortunately, none of them dared to make a move with Chu Kuangren around.

“If this goes on, that thing in the volcano will be born, and we’ll lose our chance.”

A giant ape covered in red fur spoke.

“I don’t care. I can’t take it anymore. There has to be some ancient energy in that volcano, and my bloodline will grow stronger if I consume it.” The flaming python could not stay patient anymore.

With that, the giant python’s eyes burned with desire as it crawled to the volcanic crater.

“No way. I want to go too.”

“There’s only a single human there. Nothing to be afraid of.”

“Indeed, how could we miss out on such a pristine Opportunity of Fortune?”

One by one, the beasts made their move.

Even if they knew that Chu Kuangren was not easy, the allure of the Godly Phoenix Egg's Daoist Rhymes was too tempting.

Their desire for a higher lifeform gave way.

They wanted to evolve!

As for Chu Kuangren who was sitting at the volcanic crater's entrance, the man slowly stood up as soon as he noticed their entrance.

A terrifying Daoist Rhyme burst from the seemingly thin figure as if it could shake the earth and skies so much that it could shatter.

Chapter 189: The Sword Qi Clones, The Godly Phoenix's Birth, A Scene That's A Grand Sight To Behold

"If you had just stayed put like good children, I wouldn't even have bothered to deal with you. But now, wanting to touch my child will be instant death for you."

Chu Kuangren spoke emotionlessly.

Beside him, the Descendant Self Sword, who had been sitting quietly in the dirt, shot out a sword ray at one of the beasts.

The beast was rendered defenseless against the sword ray, and with a sound of a tear, the beast was sliced in half immediately.

"Charge! Do not be afraid. It's simply one human."

"We can evolve once we devour that ancient energy! All we need to do is get rid of the nuisance before us!"

"Die!"

None of the beasts wanted to give up on the great Opportunity of Fortune to consume the Godly Phoenix.

The giant python charged in first with open jaws, its throat emitting a hot glow before it spitted out molten lava.

Chu Kuangren raised his palm, and the majestic Daoist Rhyme in the form of a Godly Mountain burst forth with a loud bang.

The molten lava washed away as the force of the Godly Mountain landed directly on the giant python's head and shattered half of it.

"Die!" The giant ape leaped into the air and with his hand clenched into a fist, he charged at Chu Kuangren like a shooting star.

"Insolent."

Chu Kuangren said monotonously. He simply flicked his hand, and the giant ape was abruptly slapped into a forest ten thousand feet away.

However, no matter how much Chu Kuangren showed them that he was not a force to be messed with, the beasts had already given into the allure of the Godly Phoenix Egg's energy. One after another, they blindly charged at him with hungry eyes only to drop like flies at his feet.

"I suppose this is the perfect time to test out the Sword Qi Transformation."

Chu Kuangren muttered under his breath.

A powerful Daoist Rhyme suddenly erupted around him, and large amounts of sword qi weaved together to form a human figure in the air.

The figure looked exactly like him.

Some of the beasts were stunned.

What kind of trick was this?

Unfortunately, the real shocker was yet to come.

The sword qi surrounding Chu Kuangren swirled. One became two, two became four — suddenly, there were four more Chu Kuangrens. Five when you included the real one!

Each one of the clones emanated with the same terrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme and the beasts had no idea which was the real body.

"Vanquish these monsters."

Chu Kuangren's main body spoke indifferently.

The four sword qi clones charged in different directions with swords in hand, all created by condensed sword qi. Their blades danced around, beheading all the beasts until only their souls remained.

Chu Kuangren walked over to a large rock and sat down once he wiped away some ash. He then watched the massacre with a hand on his chin.

"The sword qi clones' abilities are based on the sword qi's power. With my current level of mastery of this technique, the clones should have an eighth of my power."

"The higher the numbers, the more spread out the sword qi is, and the clones will become less powerful. So with four sword qi clones, each of them has half of my power. That's more than enough to deal with these beasts."

Chu Kuangren nodded happily at his clones' performance.

The Mindful Emperor's Sword Qi Transformation was quite frightening. If he gained full insight on the technique with a cultivation base below the Emperor Realm, he could create a clone with the exact power level as his.

Not to mention that the clones could take on different forms, such as beasts and other people.

It would not be called the Sword Qi Transformation if it could not even transform at will.

The faceless swordsmen and beasts he saw in the Sword Gauntlet were also created by the Sword Qi Transformation.

“Roar!”

With a growl, a tiger-like beast covered in jet-black scales lunged at a clone.

The sword qi clone struck back with a blast of sword qi and sent the tiger beast flying, but it could not kill the tiger beast.

“The scales on my body are the hardest in the world! Your sword qi won’t make a dent in it!” The tiger beast growled at the sword qi clone angrily.

However, the clone did not possess emotions, so his face remained unfazed.

Not far away, Chu Kuangren witnessed the situation unfold. He stroked his chin in contemplation before taking out the Sacred Emerald Sword Case.

He tapped the sword case, and it slowly opened. A jet-black longsword flew out, zooming past all the other beasts to appear in front of the sword qi clone.

It was the Troop-Breaker Ominous Sword!

The clone grabbed the Troop-Breaker, infusing it with its sword qi. The energy grew fiercer and intensified the clone’s combat strength.

“What?!”

The tiger beast’s eyes widened in shock.

Not only was he able to clone himself, but his clones could also wield weapons?!

One glance was enough to see how insanely powerful the weapon was.

The man was shamelessly messing with him!

However, the sword qi clone did not hesitate to strike once the Troop-Breaker was in its hands. With this Troop-Breaker, the tiger beast’s scales were no longer an issue as it tore apart easily.

In a few more strikes, the tiger beast perished.

In the distance, Chu Kuangren tapped the sword case a few more times, and three more treasured swords flew out, zooming towards the other three sword qi clones.

Every sword in the sword case was a treasured weapon that countless sword cultivators dreamed of owning. Now in the hands of the clones, the swords’ sword qi shone through and made the massacre more efficient.

“The Sacred Emerald Sword Case and sword qi clones are a perfect match!”

Chu Kuangren figured that if he had enough treasured swords in the future, he could create an army of eighty sword qi clones, each with a supreme or sacred sword in hand. That would be a grand sight to behold!

Chu Kuangren was not joking about it.

If he wanted swords, he could just go to the Black Heaven Sect's Sword Mountain and take it. He did not even need to go to Sword Prayer City to ask for people to forge it.

The four sword qi clones and four treasured swords looked like four unstoppable killing gods as the hoard of beasts dropped like flies.

Soon enough, the area was littered with corpses of various beasts.

The air was filled with the pungent stench of blood and violent energies that raged around. The area was a mess.

Upon noticing it, Chu Kuangren raised his hand to cast Gluttonous Devouring Technique, sucking in all the corpses into the Avarice dimension to convert them into raw spiritual power.

The beasts' blood and flesh essences were as good as a few Honorable Supremes, and it was enough to give Chu Kuangren's cultivation base a huge boost.

Suddenly, the whole volcano shook.

Within the volcanic crater, a horrifying Daoist Rhyme emanated out, and as if the surviving beasts had felt something, pure panic flashed in their eyes.

A surge of aura from an ancient bloodline had everyone crawling on the ground, trembling from the pressure.

"Squak..."

A sharp roar burst from the volcanic crater and pierced the skies.

Following that, a blood-red Godly Phoenix burst out from the volcano to soar in the sky with a fiery glow.

Surges of Daoist Rhymes pierced the heavens and shook the earth.

A chicken's head, a swallow's jaw, a snake's neck, a turtle's back, a fish's tail...

Such is the image of the legendary Godly Phoenix.

The instant the Godly Phoenix soared through the sky, all the birds and beasts within the Firmament Star let out a long howl in the direction of the Godly Phoenix as if they were celebrating the birth of a divine beast.

At this moment, millions of birds faced the Godly Phoenix!

At this moment, heaven and earth congratulated them!

Chu Kuangren gazed at the Godly Phoenix and could not help but gasp. "The little guy finally hatched."

He let out a low whistle. "As expected of a divine beast. It truly is a grand sight to behold."

Chapter 190: Withered Cloud Sage, The Sacred Palace Of Death Again, The Four Seasons Sword Formation

The birth of the Godly Phoenix was felt by every soul in the world.

At that moment, the whole Firmament Star shook.

After all, this was a divine beast!

Godly Phoenixes, like dragons, were divine beasts that only existed in legends. Every one of them was a priceless treasure.

Their existence was rare even in ancient times.

As long as a divine beast did not die, they often ended up living in the Emperor Realm. If they were tamed, it would become a great asset to the cultivators.

There was a time when many people were constantly looking for divine beasts. This was especially for those who possessed skills of deduction as they tried to deduce the location of these Godly Phoenixes.

On a certain mountain.

The divine protector, clad in commoner's clothes, was using his deduction skills to locate the Godly Phoenix as Daoist Rhymes emanated and mysterious heavenly powers appeared.

He had a bronze mirror in his hand, and in the mirror swirled with clouds that contained powerful deduction abilities.

A long time had passed, and the clouds in the bronze mirror remained. The divine predictor shook his head. "So hard to deduce. Divine beasts are still tied to the fate of heaven and earth, and their lives are far more valuable than even the ancient Emperors."

If even he failed, no one else could do it. Every effort in deducing the Godly Phoenix's location had failed.

...

On top of the volcano, the immortal Godly Phoenix appeared, soaring through the skies with her majestically stunning figure as ethereal Daoist Rhymes emanated from its body.

Eventually, the Godly Phoenix landed in front of Chu Kuangren and extended her fluffy head to him, expressing her pleasure and affection.

Chu Kuangren tousled the Godly Phoenix's head before using the Eye of Revelation to get information on it.

"The immortal Godly Phoenix, the King of the Godly Phoenix clan. Honorable cultivation base, possesses supernatural fire essences like the Fire of Nirvana..."

Chu Kuangren could not help but sigh at what he saw. As expected of a Godly Phoenix, she was already an Honorable from birth.

To think that the 'child' he hatched had a higher cultivation base than he did.

Chu Kuangren felt slightly ashamed at the thought.

"It really is the legendary Godly Phoenix!"

Suddenly, a voice of surprise came from the sky.

An elderly man in Daoist robes flew towards them from the horizon. He had a long face with eye sockets that sunk inwards which made him look quite gloomy.

The elderly man's face was filled with glee upon seeing the Godly Phoenix. "To think that I would be so lucky to encounter such an opportunity on my journey. If I can tame this Godly Phoenix, the Firmament Star will be mine to reign!"

Since the elderly man was nearby, he rushed over as soon as he felt the birth of the Godly Phoenix.

He could tell that the Godly Phoenix was just born and its cultivation base was in the Honorable Realm. It was a far cry from his own Boundary Sage status.

His chances of taming the Godly Phoenix were very high!

Unfortunately, he soon noticed Chu Kuangren by its side and his otherworldly appearance. He could not help but be surprised.

He watched how intimate the Godly Phoenix acted with Chu Kuangren and felt his heart lurch. He thought to himself, 'Could it have already been tamed?'

The thought filled him with murderous intent.

The Godly Phoenix must be his!

"Hello! Which orthodoxy does this junior hail from?" The elderly man slowly approached Chu Kuangren with a smile.

Unfortunately, his appearance was unflattering, and he still gave out a hint of gloominess despite his smile.

Chu Kuangren's Eye of Revelation activated, scanning the man before him.

"Master Daoist Withered Cloud, one of the guardians of the Sacred Palace of Death. Cultivation base: Boundary Sage. Cultivating the Sage Techniques: Withering Shadow, Scorched Palm Of The Earth..."

Eh?

The Sacred Palace of Death's guardian?

Them again?

Chu Kuangren was mildly surprised. The Black Light Sage that he had killed back in the Luminous Moon Sage's secret realm was also from the Sacred Palace of Death.

What kind of power did they hold?

He had met two of their people — one Sage and now a Boundary Sage.

It was all rather scary.

Even the sage orthodoxies might be weaker than them.

“What orthodoxy I come from doesn’t matter. More importantly, can you please stop coming any closer? Your face is making me nervous.”

“Don’t be afraid, young junior. I may look a little scary, but I’m a good guy.” Master Daoist Withered Cloud smiled while the hand behind his back gathered a surge of grey qi.

A ruthless look flashed past his eyes before he shot out his palm to strike.

However, someone was already one step ahead of him. Behind him, four different sword rays locked onto him from four different directions!

“What?!” Master Daoist Withered Cloud was stunned. The attack that was meant for Chu Kuangren had turned to face the sword rays behind him.

The sword rays and his palm strength collided, and a horrifying energy swept outwards. All four sword qi clones stumbled back by a few hundred feet.

With this, Chu Kuangren took the chance to strike back by lifting the sword in his hand.

The majestic Sword-based Daoist Rhyme locked onto Master Daoist Withered Cloud and landed on his back, hard. The horrifying sword qi immediately erupted, and even a Boundary Sage like him felt as if his body was being split in two from a single strike.

“Ah!!”

The blow sent Master Daoist Withered Cloud flying with a painful screech.

Beside him, the Godly Phoenix saw what was happening and moved without needing to be told. She spat out a golden fireball and sent it in Master Daoist Withered Cloud’s direction.

The fireball was so extremely hot that it distorted the rays of light around it.

“F*ck!”

After all, Master Daoist Withered Cloud was still a Boundary Sage and he was not going to go down easily. With a roar, a burst of gray qi of death was blasted out before it collided with the fireball.

Master Daoist Withered Cloud landed on the ground as traces of gray qi seeped out from his body that was almost cut in half by Chu Kuangren’s attack.

He took out a lifesaving medicinal pill that he had treasured for many years and ate it to temporarily stop his injury from deteriorating.

“You rascal! I’m going to tear you limb from limb!” Master Daoist Withered Cloud howled in anger. He no longer faked his intentions.

However, he was actually rather shaken.

After passing his heavenly tribulation to the Boundary Sage, coupled with him bathing in qi of death for so many years, his body had undergone numerous transformations. Even if he were standing still, normal Supreme attacks would not hurt him.

Yet somehow, Chu Kuangren's single blow left such a grave injury!

He could have died without the lifesaving medicinal pill!

Where did such a terrifying sky-pride come from?

"Tear me limb from limb? I'd like to see you try." Chu Kuangren looked at the qi of death swirling around his body with disgust.

He hated this kind of energy.

The four sword qi clones channeled their sword qi and charged at Master Daoist Withered Cloud like four Honorables joining forces. It was terrifying.

Master Daoist Withered Cloud froze in shock.

"Clones? Wait, how are there so many?! What kind of technique is this?!"

He had never seen this technique before. Clone-type techniques were rare enough as it is, let alone one that could create so many.

"Scram!" After all, Master Daoist Withered Cloud was still a Boundary Sage. Even with the blow from Chu Kuangren earlier, his own power was still horrifying.

The instant he shot out his palm, qi of death surged forth like a raging tide.

The four sword qi clones crumbled under the powerful attack!

The four longswords they held fell to the floor with a loud clang.

"Prepare to die, bastard!"

Master Daoist Withered Cloud channeled the qi of death from within him before he struck out his palm which burned with a black flame and emanated gloomy Daoist Rhymes.

However, Chu Kuangren simply tapped the sword case in front of him and out flew eight longswords. The mysterious Daoist Rhymes and majestic sword qi within them immediately forced Master Daoist Withered Cloud back.

The four swords on the ground too rose in the air to resonate with the other longswords, forming a shocking sword formation.

"Looks like I'll be using you, a Boundary Sage, to test out the power of the Four Seasons Sword Formation." Chu Kuangren spoke indifferently as he lifted his sword case with one hand.