

War God 581

Chapter 581 The Demon King Shen Cheng Is Just That!

"Kid, you're looking for death!"

Seeing his younger brother thrown into the sea, Shen Cheng was furious. A powerful aura emanated from him as he moved step by step toward Shi Potian, his eyes filled with killing intent.

"Looking for death?" Shi Potian said coldly. "You're no longer a member of the Divine Machine Camp, so you're next!"

"Damn!"

Hearing Shi Potian's words, the members of the Divine Machine Camp were all shocked, and Monkey even cursed outright.

"The captain is awesome!" Ma Biao declared, not hesitating to call Shi Potian his captain.

"Starting today, Captain Shi is my idol!" Monkey said excitedly.

"Get lost, you brat!" Ma Biao kicked Monkey away. "You have way too many idols."

Jiaolong, however, spoke in a deep voice, "Do you guys think that... Captain Shi is a match for Shen Cheng?"

Even without a fight, Jiaolong had already been won over by Shi Potian's sheer audacity. Just the fact that he kicked Shen Lian into the sea right in front of Shen Cheng was a display of courage most people simply did not possess. Because of this, Jiaolong finally acknowledged Shi Potian as the captain of the Divine Machine Camp.

"Whether he is or not, I, Ma Biao, am truly convinced by Captain Shi!" Ma Biao said. "However, Shen Cheng did defeat our entire Divine Machine Camp. His strength is on par with Teacher Lin's. Moreover, you may not understand just how terrifying Shen Cheng is."

"When he was captain before, his strength was already terrifying," Jiaolong said with a grave expression. "I haven't seen him for several years, and he's become even stronger!"

"But I still think Captain Shi is stronger," Mad Dog mused. "Back then, Captain Shi literally dragged a boat while walking on the waves and even tossed a yacht onto the shore with one hand. I doubt Shen Cheng could do that."

Shen Cheng narrowed his eyes, sizing up Shi Potian. "Since you're the captain of the Divine Machine Camp, it seems you have some skill. Otherwise, you wouldn't be so arrogant. But once I deal with you, I'm going after your instructor. I'll make him understand that even though I've left the Divine Machine Camp, the power I possess is something you mere mortals cannot comprehend!"

As soon as Shen Cheng finished speaking, his figure vanished like a ghost. When he reappeared, he was already behind Shi Potian.

Everyone was shocked. Such incredible speed!

BOOM!

Shi Potian spun around and threw a punch.

The figure dissipated without a trace of blood. It was just an afterimage!

At the same time, Shen Cheng appeared at Shi Potian's side, scoffing, "You're too slow!"

"Am I?" Shi Potian's lips suddenly curled into a mocking smile. "I've been waiting for you!"

His body shuddered, and a ferocious surge of energy swept out from him.

"Hmph!" Shen Cheng's expression changed as he threw a furious punch in response.

BANG!

Their fists collided fiercely, and the resulting shockwave kicked up a layer of sand from the ground. Those standing closer felt a sharp sting on their faces, as if cut by a knife. It was the residual internal energy!

Jiaolong's expression turned grave. So strong! Not only was Shen Cheng powerful, but Shi Potian was as well.

"It's useless," Zou Ju sneered coldly. "Shen Cheng is known as the Demon King. In terms of both strength and fighting style, he is in a class of his own. No one here is his match."

Having been scolded by Lin Mu and taught a lesson by Kong Lin, Sister Zou had by now completely lost all fondness for the Divine Machine Camp.

"That's not necessarily true," Leng Feng retorted without ceremony. "Even I can't beat Brother Xiao Tian. How could that Shen Cheng possibly be a match for him? Instructor Lin, you agree, right?"

Lin Mu simply smiled without speaking, but the confidence in that smile startled Zou Ju.

Could it be... that Shi Potian can really defeat Shen Cheng? But how is that possible?

BOOM!

The two men both took a step back before crashing into each other again. They were like two raging yaks, or perhaps more like two colliding mountains. The battle kicked up sand and stones, shocking everyone who watched.

They had never witnessed such a wildly ferocious and frenzied fight in their entire lives. This was because their fighting styles were too similar. Each was crazier than the other, each more desperate than the last. The thud of fist meeting flesh was thunderous! The sheer, heavy force of their blows made everyone's face pale in horror.

A wide smile spread across Shi Potian's face.

Elder Brother Mu was right. Divine Demon Transverse Refinement is all about using battle to fuel battle, growing and strengthening through combat. It tempers the flesh and hones the body. The more I fight, the stronger I become!

Shen Cheng, in contrast, grew more and more alarmed as the fight wore on. His opponent's physical toughness was unlike anything he had ever seen. Even the strongest person from *that place* wouldn't dare claim their body was as formidable as Shi Potian's. Moreover, his opponent's strength seemed endless, as if he only grew more valiant the longer they fought.

For the first time, Shen Cheng felt that he was outmatched.

With a ferocious expression, Shen Cheng roared inwardly. How is this possible! I am Shen Cheng, hailed by all as the Demon King! I am the chosen son of the Shen Family! No one can defeat me!

The ground cracked, and head-sized rocks were instantly pulverized by his internal energy. With a roar, Shen Cheng charged toward Shi Potian. Wreathed in swirling internal energy, he growled, "Madness Demon Earth-moving Palm!"

The Madness Demon Earth-moving Palm integrated both raw power and destructive capability. A single strike could carry the power of wind and clouds, capable of shattering mountains and splitting the earth! This was Shen Cheng's killing move!

"Divine Demon Fist!"

Facing Shen Cheng's deadly attack, Shi Potian remained undaunted, meeting it with a punch of his own.

BOOM!

Shen Cheng was sent flying backward, his feet scraping across the ground for dozens of meters.

Just as he steadied himself, he violently spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion dimming significantly.

I lost? I actually lost!

But Shi Potian didn't let him off. He let out a wild laugh and charged forward like a rampaging bull, making the very ground tremble.

"You..."

Seeing Shi Potian's aura still burning so intensely, Shen Cheng was utterly shocked. He's fought me for so long, yet he still hasn't tired? He, on the other hand, couldn't hold on any longer.

Without another thought, Shen Cheng turned and fled.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Shen Cheng, the man known as the Demon King, was actually fleeing?

This...

Watching Shen Cheng's rapid escape, everyone was at a loss for how to react.

"Brother Xiao Tian, no need to chase," Lin Mu called out as Shi Potian prepared to give chase.

Since Shen Cheng has been defeated, I should give Kong Lin some face. It wouldn't bother me if Shi Potian killed him, but Kong Lin would probably fly into a rage.

"Demon King?" Shi Potian stopped in his tracks and snorted coldly. "Is that all he was? If there's a next time, I will surely kill you!"

In the distance, Shen Cheng hauled Shen Lian from the water onto a yacht and stared back in the direction of the Divine Machine Camp. "Next time, I will definitely kill you!"

Shen Cheng had been defeated and had fled, leaving the onlookers in a state of sheer astonishment.

"Captain Shi is mighty!"

"The captain is awesome!"

"If I were a woman, I'd definitely have your babies!"

"Get lost!" Monkey roared furiously.

Chapter 582: I'm Going to Kill Someone!

Shen Cheng fled in defeat.

Once the excitement died down, everyone fell silent.

"Good!"

After a moment of silence, a loud roar suddenly erupted.

Kong Lin's face was flushed with excitement, and his eyes blazed with brilliance. "A good fight! A splendid fight!"

He slapped Shi Potian's shoulder vigorously and laughed heartily. "Good lad. Not bad at all. Who taught you all these skills?"

"Instructor Lin."

Shi Potian answered honestly. He was somewhat unaccustomed to Kong Lin's overwhelming excitement.

"Good!" Kong Lin shouted again before bursting into laughter. He looked around at the crowd and declared, "Did you see that? Did you hear that?"

"This lad was taught by Instructor Lin! Are you all convinced now?"

This question was directed at the Divine Machine Camp.

"We're convinced!"

How could they not be?

If Lin Mu had only produced a talent like Leng Feng, it might have been chalked up to luck. But how could they explain Shi Potian?

Someone who could even defeat the Demon King, Shen Cheng. Shi Potian's strength was beyond doubt.

So, just how strong was Lin Mu, the man who had taught both Shi Potian and Leng Feng?

Did anyone still need to ask?

No.

He had already proven everything with facts. His training method was correct—it was the most correct.

"Since you've lost, what are you all still standing around for?" Kong Lin's eyes widened as he bellowed.

Monkey, being the sharpest, took a step forward. He stood before Lin Mu, snapped to attention, and gave a military salute, his expression solemn. "Teacher Lin, I'm sorry. I was wrong!"

"Teacher Lin, we're sorry!"

The entire Divine Machine Camp saluted and apologized to Lin Mu in unison.

They had lost this battle, but they were utterly convinced by their defeat.

Even Kong Ying felt the same.

"Instructor Lin, I was being stubborn before. I shouldn't have questioned you," Kong Ying said respectfully. "Your training method is the correct one. I apologize for my previous ignorance."

"I will diligently clean the toilets from now on and promise to never oppose you again."

Ma Biao added, "Teacher Lin, please train us! With your training, we can definitely win the championship in the grand competition!"

Everyone looked at Lin Mu with immense anticipation, hoping he would agree.

Lin Mu smiled slightly and was about to speak.

But Zou Ju cut in with a cold scoff, "The grand competition championship? Are you all daydreaming?"

"What do you mean by that?" Ma Biao said defiantly.

"Because your qualification to compete is about to be revoked," Zou Ju sneered. "You killed a member of the Bagua Sect and injured Shen Cheng, and you still think you can continue in the grand competition? Wishful thinking."

Disqualified?

Then what was the point of Lin Mu's training methods, no matter how correct they were?

At this thought, the faces of everyone in the Divine Machine Camp darkened, including Jiaolong's.

With a look of indignation, Kong Lin demanded, "By what right do you revoke the Divine Machine Camp's qualification to compete?"

"By what right?" Zou Ju laughed coldly. "Do you even need to ask? You killed a member of the Bagua Sect and injured Shen Cheng. Do you have any idea how much trouble you've caused?"

"Especially him!" she said, pointing a finger at Lin Mu, her face twisting in a sneer. "The Bagua Sect Leader will certainly not let him go. Moreover, you can't even begin to imagine the extent of Shen Cheng's power."

"Think I'm lying? You'll find out soon enough," Zou Ju finished with a cold smile.

Just then, Kong Lin's phone rang. After listening to the call, his expression became incredibly grim.

"Grandfather, what's wrong?" Kong Ying asked nervously, noticing his dark expression.

Kong Lin didn't speak, only glancing at Lin Mu with a look of guilt.

"Commander Kong, just say what you need to say," Lin Mu said, unconcerned.

Kong Lin took a deep breath. "The Military Department called. They said... they're revoking your position as General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy."

The words stunned everyone into silence.

His position was being revoked?

"Not only that," Kong Lin added, his expression turning bleak, "our Divine Machine Camp's qualification to compete has also been canceled."

This statement was like a clap of thunder, leaving the members of the Divine Machine Camp reeling.

Lin Mu was dismissed. The Divine Machine Camp was disqualified.

Either of these announcements was an extremely heavy blow.

Jiaolong clenched his teeth, his hands balled so tightly into fists that his nails dug into his palms. The others were in a similar state, their faces etched with utter frustration and guilt.

Seeing this, Zou Ju was inwardly ecstatic. This is what you get for offending me, Lin! Just you wait for the Bagua Sect and Shen Cheng to exact their revenge! she thought, glaring at Lin Mu.

So what if you won? What does it matter if your training method is correct? Without the right to even compete, the Divine Machine Camp can just wait to be disbanded!

The soldiers' expressions grew even dimmer. They hung their heads in bitter frustration. Without the right to compete, the Divine Machine Camp faced disbandment. Naturally, that meant Instructor Lin would no longer train them.

"Why are you all hanging your heads?" Kong Lin roared. "All of you, lift your heads!"

Looking at the dejected crowd, he said in a deep voice, "So what if we can't compete? Is it the end of the world? Or has a single grand competition championship dulled your fighting edge entirely?"

"Remember this! Even if the Divine Machine Camp is gone, you are still soldiers of my Southeast Military Region! You are still my men, Kong Lin's men!" Kong Lin bellowed. "If you really think you can't live without the Divine Machine Camp, then get the hell out! I can't afford that kind of embarrassment!"

His words immediately made the members of the Divine Machine Camp flush with shame. Many of their eyes turned red.

"Commander, we were wrong!" Jiaolong said, biting his lip with tears welling in his eyes. "Commander, I... I've let you down."

"Hold those damn tears back!" Kong Lin said angrily. "You're all proud men, Soldier Kings of Huaxia, yet you're crying in front of me? You're making me ashamed."

"But Instructor Lin..." Monkey started to say, then quickly shut his mouth.

The others also looked deeply ashamed and frustrated. They felt they were the ones who had cost Lin Mu everything.

"Heh."

Lin Mu suddenly laughed.

"What's all this about?" Lin Mu asked. "For the men of the Divine Machine Camp to look like a bunch of sulking brides... that's not a good look."

"Instructor Lin..." Monkey's eyes reddened, and he looked like he was about to cry again. But a sharp glance from Lin Mu made him quickly hold it in.

"Do you remember what I said on my first day here?" Lin Mu smiled faintly. "I told you that you are my people now. No one dares to cancel your qualification to compete. Not even the Heavenly King!"

"Hmph, who do you think you are? This is an order from above! The official document will arrive shortly!" Zou Ju snorted. "Moreover, the Bagua Sect Leader has already submitted an application to the Martial Alliance. In three days, he will fight you in a duel to the death!"

"And the Martial Alliance has already approved it!"

Zou Ju's words made everyone's expression change drastically, including Kong Lin's.

First revoking Lin Mu's position, then the Bagua Sect Leader challenging him to a duel—this chain of events was clearly the work of the Bagua Sect and Shen Cheng.

"Good. Very good," Lin Mu nodded. "Then go and tell the Bagua Sect Leader that I accept his challenge!"

He accepted?

He actually accepted?

"Instructor Lin, you..." Kong Lin began, but Lin Mu cut him off.

"Commander Kong, don't worry. I promise you, the Divine Machine Camp will not be disbanded. And I am still going to lead them to win the grand competition championship!"

Zou Ju didn't bother saying anything else. You're a dead man walking. How are you going to train the Divine Machine Camp?

"Xiao Tian!"

"Present!"

"While I'm away, you will be in charge of their training," Lin Mu instructed. "Remember to follow the method I taught you."

"Yes!" Shi Potian affirmed.

"Instructor Lin, what about you?" Monkey asked instinctively.

"Me?" Lin Mu flashed a faint smile. "Of course, I'm off to kill people."

Chapter 583: Tearing Up the Crocodile, Riding on the Tiger!

"Murder?"

Everyone was stunned.

Kong Ying asked in shock, "Instructor Lin, are you... are you really going to duel the Bagua Sect Leader?"

"You're wrong," Lin Mu shook his head. "He isn't qualified to duel me."

"Since he insists on seeking death, then I'll oblige him!"

Lin Mu's words carried a powerful, innate confidence, so natural that it seemed impossible to oppose.

But still...

"Ignorant junior!" Zou Ju sneered. "Do you even know who Qiu Yi, the Bagua Sect Leader, is? How dare you make such outrageous claims? You're simply courting death!"

"I've always been this audacious," Lin Mu said coldly. "Do you want to test me?"

Zou Ju was still somewhat afraid of Lin Mu. For some reason, she always felt that this new instructor of the Divine Machine Camp was very... mysterious. His unique temperament was something she couldn't begin to fathom.

But to kill Qiu Yi?

How is that possible?

Qiu Yi was a prestigious Martial Arts Grandmaster. It was even rumored that he had once captured a fierce tiger in the mountains and subdued a giant crocodile in the sea. Such a person was beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. So, Zou Ju dismissed Lin Mu's words as mere boasting.

"Fine. We'll wait and see in three days!" Zou Ju said deliberately. "If you actually win, I can plead with the higher-ups to let the Divine Machine Camp continue in the competition. However... you'll have to apologize to me!"

Although she knew it was impossible, Zou Ju still wanted to infuriate Lin Mu.

"Get lost!" Lin Mu rebuked coldly. "Or I can kill you right now!"

"You..."

Zou Ju wanted to fly into a rage, but she forced herself to hold it back.

Kid, I'll let you be arrogant for three more days. After three days, you will surely die!

"Instructor Lin, are you really confident?"

After Zou Ju left, Kong Lin asked with concern, "That Qiu Yi is a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Otherwise, he wouldn't have had the chance to become the chief consultant of our Southeast Military Region."

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "Unfortunately, your chief consultant is doomed."

What did he mean by that? That Qiu Yi is certain to die? Where did Lin Mu get such confidence?

Kong Lin didn't dare to ask, nor did he know how.

He could only resolve to plead with the higher-ups to call off this fight.

But Kong Lin soon received a reply: the Military Department had no right to interfere in a dispute between martial artists. Moreover, since the Martial Alliance had approved Qiu Yi's request and Lin Mu had accepted the challenge, this battle was inevitable!

Kong Lin sighed helplessly and went to find Lin Mu. "Instructor Lin, the final battle is tomorrow. Are you really... going?"

"I've said it before. Since Qiu Yi is seeking death, I will oblige him," Lin Mu said with a smile.

"Commander Kong, don't worry. I've had Xiao Tian training the Divine Machine Camp these past few days. I definitely won't delay the Southeast Military Region's grand competition."

"Instructor Lin, you've misunderstood me," Kong Lin sighed deeply. "The higher-ups already know about this. The Military Department is just waiting for the result of this battle. If..."

If Lin Mu won, there might still be a chance for a turnaround. If he lost, all bets were off.

But defeat Qiu Yi? How could that be possible?

Although Lin Mu had been recommended by the higher-ups, no one had spoken up for him in the past two days. Kong Lin guessed that Lin Mu's backer probably hadn't been of much use.

However, Lin Mu appeared completely unconcerned.

"Alright, just relax," Lin Mu said. "He's only a Grandmaster. It's not like I haven't killed one before."

「In the Capital.」

"Commander, this Bagua Sect is being too arrogant. Should I go give them a warning?" Han Xiaochuan's face flashed with anger as he looked at the intelligence report in his hand. "And the Martial Alliance has been making a lot of moves lately, even daring to meddle in the Military Department's affairs!"

Hearing Han Xiaochuan, Xiao Xuan chuckled. "What are you so worried about? Do you think the kid can't beat him, or do you think he's too arrogant for daring to threaten even Zou Ju?"

"No!" Han Xiaochuan said. "On the contrary, I think the kid is being quite domineering this time. He's acting like a proper instructor! The Bagua Sect has gone too far, daring to set foot on the Divine Machine Camp's base. Don't they know that the Divine Machine Camp is..."

Before Han Xiaochuan could finish, Xiao Xuan laughed. "Alright, why bring up that nonsense?"

"As for the Bagua Sect and the Martial Alliance..." A cold smirk flashed across Xiao Xuan's eyes. "The Martial Alliance has indeed overstepped these past few years. However, their little schemes are severely miscalculated."

Han Xiaochuan clenched his fists. "If it really comes down to it, I'll just go and beat up the Martial Alliance Leader and tell him to quiet down. After all, with the situation at Changbai Mountain..."

Xiao Xuan glanced at Han Xiaochuan, who gave a sheepish smile and fell silent.

"Alright, when this battle is over, have that Zou Ju go home and take care of her grandkids. An old hag like her should have been kicked out of the Military Department long ago!"

「A forest adjacent to Hu Hai.」

In the mountains, fierce tigers roared; in the lakes, crocodiles hissed.

BOOM!

The lake's surface exploded as a crocodile burst into a mist of blood. A figure shot out from the crimson mist, landing on the shore.

Tearing a crocodile apart with his bare hands! If an ordinary person were to witness this, they would be scared to death.

"Congratulations, Master, on perfecting your divine technique!" A group of men in robes printed with the bagua symbol stood ramrod straight. Their auras were sharp and powerful, their True Qi flowing. They were clearly experts.

"Master, he's just a junior. Why must you personally act?" The one who spoke was Qiu Yi's third disciple. "I will go take his head and present it to you to avenge our martial brothers!"

He's just a military instructor. How formidable can he be?

Moreover, he had heard that it wasn't this man who had killed their eldest martial brother. It was a mysterious expert from the Divine Machine Camp. With his eldest martial brother brutally killed, his second martial brother severely injured, and even his youngest martial brother crippled, the culprit had to die, no matter who their backer was!

"Do you really think a mere junior could force my hand?" Qiu Yi snorted. He was a Grandmaster. Why would he need to kill someone himself?

"Previously, when that man presided over the Divine Machine Camp, who in the Martial Arts World of the Southeast Five Provinces didn't show Leng Shan some respect? Now that he's disappeared, it's time for someone new to take charge of the Southeast Five Provinces!"

Qiu Yi's challenge to Lin Mu wasn't simply about avenging his disciples. To become the chief consultant of the Southeast Military Region, one had to display some power. With his Grandmaster-level strength and his connections, conquering the entire Southeast Five Provinces would be child's play, would it not?

And Lin Mu's actions had given him the perfect pretext. Under the guise of revenge, he would make a move on the entire Southeast Five Provinces and truly establish the name of Qiu Yi of the Iron Eight Trigrams!

With his divine technique newly mastered, his heart was set on supremacy! Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp? Nothing but an ant!

"Master is right. That's why this time, I've invited half of the influential powers of the Southeast Five Provinces. Even three of the great clans are coming. They said they've already prepared a tournament stage as a sign of respect for you," said Qiu Yi's third disciple. "However, it seems the Tang Family is feigning ignorance."

Qiu Yi smiled coldly. "Hmph. It seems that after I, Qiu Yi, have been out of the public eye for so long, everyone has forgotten my name. Since that's the case, the Tang Family no longer needs to exist."

"Vile beast, come out!"

With a tiger's roar, a fierce tiger emerged from the forest with a foul, bloody wind, then obediently prostrated itself before Qiu Yi.

Qiu Yi let out a hearty laugh, leaped onto the tiger's back, and sped off toward Suzhou.

Chapter 584: Southeast Five Provinces, Three Clans and Five Surnames!

News of the duel involving Qiu Yi, the Bagua Sect Leader, spread like a whirlwind. When this information quickly spread among the upper echelons of the Southeast Five Provinces, it caused a massive stir.

Qiu Yi was a Martial Arts Grandmaster and the leader of the Bagua Sect!

In his youth, the mere mention of his Iron Eight Trigrams struck fear into many hearts, his fame echoing throughout the entire Southeast Five Provinces. In that star-studded era, the Southeast Five Provinces boasted many renowned and charismatic figures. Qiu Yi was one of them.

Rumor had it that if an instructor from the Divine Machine Camp, surnamed Leng, hadn't intervened and suppressed him, Qiu Yi would have completely dominated the Southeast Five Provinces long ago.

Martial Arts Grandmasters rarely took action. But when they did, it shook the world!

However, after Instructor Leng vanished from the public eye, Qiu Yi's legendary feats—capturing fierce tigers in the mountains and wrestling crocodiles in the sea—propelled his prestige to its zenith. Even other Martial Arts Grandmasters had to treat Qiu Yi with a degree of caution. The reason for this was simple: it was said a mysterious and powerful expert stood behind him, though no one knew this person's true identity. Given how cautiously even Qiu Yi spoke of this individual, they had to be an exceptionally formidable power.

As the years passed, Qiu Yi's own strength had grown to a terrifying, unfathomable level. As the Bagua Sect Leader, his disciples were scattered across the country, many of them prominent figures in their own right. His mere decision to accept a duel was enough to alarm half of the Southeast Five Provinces. This alone was a testament to how formidable Qiu Yi truly was.

"Have you heard? Qiu Yi, who's been in seclusion for years, has finally come out and is dueling someone!"

"That news is already causing a commotion. Now, half of the great families and powers in the Southeast Five Provinces are going to watch."

"I just wonder who's bold enough to agree to a duel with Grandmaster Qiu Yi."

"No matter who the opponent is, Grandmaster Qiu Yi is guaranteed to win this fight."

"That's right! I heard that before coming out of the mountains, Grandmaster Qiu Yi tore a crocodile apart with his bare hands and rode a tiger down the slope. That's a sure sign his divine techniques have reached completion!"

"..."

The battle had yet to begin, but it was already attracting attention from all sides, setting the entire region abuzz. This was exactly what Qiu Yi intended. He wanted to make an example of someone to intimidate the others, display his power, and put the entire Southeast Five Provinces on notice.

Qiu Yi was preparing to re-enter the public sphere. Therefore, he not only had to win this battle but had to win it beautifully.

While the crowd was abuzz with discussion, many were speculating about the identity of the person who dared to duel Grandmaster Qiu Yi. After all, who but another Grandmaster would possess such audacity?

The Divine Machine Camp remained silent, and Qiu Yi was not foolish enough to publicize Lin Mu's name for him. As long as his opponent was strong enough, crushing them would only earn him even greater prestige.

「On the day of the duel.」

A dueling platform, financed by the Shen Family and built with the collaboration of countless prominent families and powers, had become the gathering place for a host of influential figures.

Patriarch Shen of the Shen Family laughed heartily, unable to contain his sheer joy. Shen Lian and Shen Cheng were also visibly excited. Just moments ago, they had received news that the most legendary figure in the Southeast Five Provinces had arrived. And it was their Shen Family who had personally extended the invitation. With that great figure present, who in the entire Southeast Five Provinces could stand as an equal?

"Patriarch Shen, you seem to be glowing today. Has some joyous occasion befallen you?" the Feng Family Head asked with a chuckle. As two of the Three Clans and Five Families of the Southeast Five Provinces, the Shen and Feng Families were quite close.

Therefore, they knew full well that the person dueling Qiu Yi was Lin Mu, the Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp. First, he drove away Professor Feng, then he injured Shen Lian. Even when Shen Cheng intervened, he failed to gain any advantage. Furthermore, he had killed Chang Chun of the Bagua Sect.

These actions were all reasons why Lin Mu had to die. Because Professor Feng was, in fact, a member of the Feng Family.

"Haha, you seem to be in high spirits as well, Family Head Feng," Patriarch Shen replied with a noncommittal laugh, not wanting to mention that great personage.

Although his relationship with the Feng Family was good, it wasn't *that* good. These powerful families might be all smiles on the surface, but who knew how much they schemed and plotted behind each other's backs. Truly treacherous!

"Patriarch Huang and Patriarch Shao have arrived." Patriarch Shen suddenly stood up and walked toward the two elderly men.

"The Huang Family came as well?" The Feng Family Head quickly got up, afraid of being a step behind.

Among the Three Clans and Five Families of the Southeast Five Provinces, the Huang Family—one of the three great clans—was naturally the most formidable. Although the Huang Family had long since moved its main operations to Harbor Island, its family members were spread all over the world, a terrifying prospect. Even on Harbor Island, the Huang Family was considered a powerful clan.

The Shao Family was naturally not weak either. They were also one of the Five Families and maintained a close relationship with the Huang Family.

"Patriarch Shen, Family Head Feng, good morning to you both," Patriarch Huang said as he approached, cupping his fists with a smile. He looked even more radiant than Patriarch Shen.

Two people followed behind him. One was a young woman in her early twenties who exuded an air of nobility, yet her disdainful expression made her seem exceptionally arrogant. The other was an old man with a remarkable bearing, though one of his sleeves hung empty, revealing he was one-armed.

This pair immediately drew the attention of the Shen and Feng clans. "Patriarch Huang, and this is...?" Patriarch Shen asked, feigning curiosity as he looked at the young woman.

Patriarch Huang chuckled and replied, "This is a distant niece of mine who just arrived from her hometown."

Patriarch Shen's eyes flickered with interest for a moment before he lost it. Everyone knew that the Huang Family's roots in the Southeast Five Provinces traced back to... a small mountain village in Handong Province?

"My dear niece," Patriarch Huang said by way of introduction, "these are Patriarch Shen and the Feng Family Head." The young woman merely nodded curtly, her attitude exceptionally haughty.

The others didn't take offense. After all, what young person doesn't have a bit of a temper?

"Patriarch Shen, has the Zhao Family not come today?" Patriarch Huang asked curiously.

Patriarch Shen's expression darkened slightly before he sneered, "It doesn't matter. The Zhao Family will show up eventually."

A thought flickered through his mind, but Patriarch Huang's expression remained unchanged as he began to chat with the heads of the various prominent families, and the atmosphere grew lively.

Countless onlookers marveled at the scene. A single duel had managed to bring together a majority of the Three Clans and Five Families of the Southeast Five Provinces. It was truly a battle for the ages!

「Elsewhere.」

The young woman found a place to sit and suddenly asked, "Master Feng, do you think this will be a battle between Grandmasters?"

The one-armed elder, Master Feng, chuckled. "Miss Huang, you're overthinking it. How could there be so many battles between Grandmasters in this world? It's nothing more than baseless rumors."

If Lin Mu were present, he would have definitely recognized these two. The young woman was named Huang Ning, and the old man was Feng Chen.

"Who says? What about Lin Wudi? Since his debut, he's slain nearly ten Grandmasters! He's a legend in the Martial Arts World!" Huang Ning said, her eyes glistening. "If I could just have one night with Master Lin in this lifetime... I would be completely satisfied."

Knowing Huang Ning's characteristically forward nature, Feng Chen could only offer a wry smile in silence.

Yet, for some unknown reason, his thoughts drifted to a certain young man from his past. Even though two full years had passed, the memory was still vivid for the old man. Thinking back on it now, that man had to have been a Grandmaster, at the very least.

With this in mind, Feng Chen cautioned her, "Miss Huang, if we were to meet that person again, you should apologize to him."

"Who?"

"Lin Mu."

Chapter 585: Healing Wounds Empty-Handed, Divine Methods!

"Lin Mu?"

Upon hearing this name, Huang Ning's expression turned somber. It brought back some unpleasant memories.

"Let's cross that bridge when we come to it." Completely unwilling to discuss him, Huang Ning changed the subject. "Master Feng, do you think we can really get him to come this time?"

Master Feng's gaze sharpened slightly as he shook his head. "I don't know. We've been running around for so long, only to learn that he's come to the Southeast Five Provinces. We still have no idea of his exact whereabouts."

Huang Ning sighed, feeling a sense of powerlessness. Master Lin, where on earth are you?

"Huh, isn't that Kong Ying? What's she doing here?" Huang Ning suddenly looked up and saw a spirited woman entering the Duel Field. A trace of joy appeared on her face as she hurried over to greet her.

"Kong Ying, it really is you! I thought I was seeing things." Seeing Kong Ying, Huang Ning immediately smiled. "What brings you here? I heard you've been very busy lately."

"Huang Ning?" Kong Ying recognized her as well and immediately took her hand. "What are you doing in Suzhou?"

Huang Ning rolled her eyes. "Didn't I call you? But you're so important and busy, you've almost forgotten about your dear friend here."

"I'm sorry, I've just been swamped lately."

Kong Ying had indeed been very busy. After half a month of relentless training, she thought she could prove herself, but to her surprise, she had been the one who was most mistaken. Not only that, but Lin Mu had also offended people from the Bagua Sect and was scheduled to duel their leader, Qiu Yi, today. This filled her with worry. She had sneaked out of the Divine Machine Camp today specifically to see Lin Mu, yet after searching the entire area, she still hadn't found any sign of him.

Seeing Kong Ying glancing all around, Huang Ning asked, "Kong Ying, what are you looking for?"

"I'm looking for a friend."

Kong Ying was searching for Lin Mu. Today was the day of the duel, and she still hadn't seen the guy. He couldn't have secretly hidden somewhere, could he? But based on his personality, he would never do something like that... Then again, you never know. After all, he's about to duel a Grandmaster.

"Looking for a friend? A guy or a girl?" Huang Ning's curiosity was instantly piqued. "It's not a boyfriend, is it?" she teased.

"It's not a boyfriend." Kong Ying was preoccupied and couldn't be bothered to explain.

Huang Ning knew Kong Ying well. Her looks, abilities, and even her family background were all top-notch. Even the Huang Family was a step below the Kong Family. It couldn't be helped, not when Kong Ying's grandfather was the renowned Kong Lin.

"By the way, I heard you've been getting close to a guy recently. Is he the one you're looking for?" Huang Ning asked, a gossipy look on her face.

"Ugh, I'm really worried right now. Can you please stop gossiping?" At the mention of gossip, Kong Ying grew even more troubled. Lin Mu, where on earth are you?

...

On the public road outside the Duel Field, luxury cars were gathered, and the road was even covered with a red carpet. Apart from the Zhao Family, practically all the other elite families had arrived. Everyone was waiting under the scorching sun, sweating profusely, their mouths parched.

Any one of these individuals was a heavyweight in the Southeast Five Provinces. Which of them wasn't a young master or lady from a wealthy family? This kind of waiting was utter torture, but no one dared to speak a word of complaint. They all stood there quietly, not a single person revealing a hint of dissatisfaction.

After more than two hours of waiting, a huge, striped tiger slowly appeared at the end of the road, its paws stepping onto the carpet.

"ROAR!"

The tiger's aura was ferocious and overwhelming, its presence imposing and extraordinary.

Qiu Yi had arrived.

Many of the Family Heads, including Huang Ning, personally went up to greet him.

"Kong Ying, aren't you coming?" Huang Ning asked, puzzled when she saw Kong Ying remain motionless. This is a great opportunity to speak with Grandmaster Qiu Yi; even just getting him to recognize your face would be worthwhile.

"It's fine, you go ahead." Kong Ying gave a small, bitter smile. Qiu Yi is here. Lin Mu, if you really don't show up, you won't be the only one to lose face. Even Kong Lin will be implicated.

"Alright, then." Seeing Kong Ying's reluctance, Huang Ning inwardly shook her head. As a merchant's daughter, I naturally understand the importance of seizing such opportunities. First, I'll make myself a familiar face. It'll be easier to deal with Grandmaster Qiu Yi in the future. After all, the Bagua Sect also has branches on Harbor Island.

"We humbly welcome Master Qiu!" The crowd of tycoons all bowed low in salute, their reverence palpable.

The scene was simply staggering, especially the manner of Qiu Yi's arrival. Previously, many people didn't believe anyone could actually tame a fierce tiger. It was the king of beasts, after all; an ordinary person would tremble with fear at the mere sight of one. But now, seeing it with their own eyes, they were utterly astounded. A new fear took root in many hearts, mingling with a profound reverence for Qiu Yi.

Shen Lian sat in a wheelchair, his body wrapped in bandages, but he couldn't conceal the elation in his heart. Chief Instructor of Shenji Camp? In front of my master, you're nothing!

The smile on Patriarch Shen's face was also impossible to hide, as he felt his family had gained immense prestige. His youngest son, Shen Lian, was a Disciple of Grandmaster Qiu Yi. As for his eldest son, Shen Cheng, his current status was also extraordinary. With the Shen Family having produced two such remarkable figures, perhaps the rankings of the great families and clans in the Southeast Five Provinces will have to be reshuffled.

"Master, Eldest Brother... he..." As Shen Lian spoke, he began to cry, his tears a mix of performance and genuine grievance. Being thrown into the sea twice in a row had left him with a phobia of water.

"I know." Qiu Yi glanced indifferently at Shen Lian, then suddenly slapped a palm onto his shoulder.

The onlookers gasped. The next moment, their mouths fell open in terror. A large amount of white mist emerged from Qiu Yi's hand and poured into Shen Lian's body.

In the next instant, something unbelievable occurred. The bandages on Shen Lian's body gradually split apart, revealing smooth, unblemished skin. All of his injuries had vanished without a trace.

Shen Lian tentatively stood up and took a few steps. "I... I'm healed?"

Qiu Yi nodded lightly. "When your master takes action, there is no injury that cannot be healed."

"Thank you, Master!" Shen Lian immediately dropped to the ground and kowtowed repeatedly to Qiu Yi.

"Thank you, Master Qiu, for healing my son." Patriarch Shen also bowed a full ninety degrees, his face beaming with joy.

The others were already completely shocked by Qiu Yi's methods. To heal such injuries with his bare hands... such a feat was no different from a miracle performed by a descended immortal.

Qiu Yi asked, "Has that person not arrived yet?"

Patriarch Shen said with a smile, "No. He's probably intimidated by Master Qiu's reputation and doesn't dare to come."

"He wouldn't dare!" Qiu Yi snorted coldly. "Since he has accepted the challenge, he must come. Otherwise, the Martial Alliance won't let him off the hook!"

Qiu Yi had made such grand arrangements; if he wasn't completely confident, would he have wasted his time like this?

"You're right, Master Qiu. Please, come inside!" Patriarch Shen gestured with an open hand. "We have prepared some food and drinks for you, Master Qiu. We hope they are to your liking."

"Very well," Qiu Yi nodded. "We can consider it his last meal."

And so, inside the Duel Field, a table stretching over ten meters long was set, laden with all sorts of delicacies from the mountains and seas, including abalone and lobster. Qiu Yi sat at the seat of honor while all the bigwigs stood on either side. Numerous young women in qipao served him wine and food in a display of sheer indulgence. Even Qiu Yi's tiger mount was being massaged and relaxed by four qipao-clad beauties.

Chapter 586: Do You Dare to Fight?

"Lin Mu, why aren't you here yet?"

As Qiu Yi enjoyed his meal, Kong Ying's expression was filled with anxiety. Everyone was waiting for Lin Mu to show up. If he didn't come, the consequences would be severe.

Just then, a commotion rippled through the crowd. It seemed an important figure had arrived.

"Haha, Master Qiu, this is quite the grand scene you've arranged."

The voice arrived before the person. A group of people approached together, each one radiating a powerful aura.

"That's... Zhang Zhenren of Wudang!"

"Not just him, but also Master Hong of the Form-Intention Fist!"

"And Qing Yang Daoist of the Temple of Infinity!"

Three Grandmasters!

"Master Qiu, we haven't arrived late, have we?" asked Qing Yang Daoist of the Temple of Infinity. With his goat-like beard and a dust whisk in hand, he had the air of a transcendent master.

"Not at all, not at all." Qiu Yi laughed heartily. "Please, take a seat, gentlemen. Just wait for me to finish my meal, and he should arrive."

As soon as Qiu Yi finished speaking, an icy chill descended upon the Duel Field, spreading out a hundred paces in every direction. Numerous people shivered, silently exclaiming how cool and refreshing it felt.

But in the next moment, a bridge of solid ice suddenly materialized in the sky. A figure strode across it, causing countless people below to cry out in shock.

"Heh heh, Brother Spirit Seer, it's been a long time!" This time, Qiu Yi himself stood up, offering a cupped-fist salute to the figure in the sky. With the Spirit Seer himself present, even Qiu Yi dared not be arrogant and rose to greet him personally.

"Brother Qiu Yi, this is your first battle since coming out of seclusion. Of course I had to come and show my support," the Spirit Seer said.

The Cold Bridge slowly bent, forming a staircase of ice. The Spirit Seer descended the steps at a leisurely pace.

All the elites in attendance fell silent as if struck by a paralyzing chill. Many even dropped to their knees, crying out that he was an immortal. Zhang Zhenren, Master Hong, and Qing Yang Daoist also bowed in salute, not daring to show the slightest disrespect.

The newcomer was none other than the Spirit Seer—a mighty figure who held sway over the entire Southeast Five Provinces and was a venerated guest of countless prominent families.

"Brother Qiu Yi, it seems your divine arts have reached completion." A sharp glint flashed in the Spirit Seer's eyes as he looked at Qiu Yi.

"Heh heh, how could I dare compare myself to you, Brother Spirit Seer? You flatter me," Qiu Yi said humbly.

The crowd was even more shocked into silence. Because... they were actually sworn brothers?

Kong Ying's face turned pale, and her palms began to sweat. This was the Spirit Seer, an immortal-like figure whom even her own grandfather, Kong Lin, had to treat with the utmost respect. Legend had it that this man had cultivated the Great Dao. Seeing him now, she knew the rumors were true.

"Brother Spirit Seer, with your current strength, you are surely the undisputed number one in all of Huaxia, are you not?" A faint smile touched Qiu Yi's lips, and he spoke loudly, as if intending for everyone to hear.

"Ah, I dare not accept such praise." The Spirit Seer shook his head. "I used to believe that if I wasn't number one, I wasn't far from it. But that was before I met a certain individual. Only then did I understand the meaning of 'heavens beyond the heavens, and experts beyond experts.'"

"The vast world is full of crouching tigers and hidden dragons. There are many beings that neither you nor I would dare to offend lightly." A flicker of humiliation, and even fear, appeared in the Spirit Seer's eyes.

"Oh?" Qiu Yi's eyebrows rose. "Could it be that you've met someone, Brother Spirit Seer?"

"Indeed." The Spirit Seer nodded. "In front of that person, I wasn't even qualified to make a move!"

"What?" Qiu Yi exclaimed. "Such a person truly exists in this world?"

Qiu Yi knew full well how terrifying the Spirit Seer was: a colossal figure in the Southeast Five Provinces, a venerated guest in countless prominent families, and a living immortal in the eyes of mortals. If even he feared someone, just how powerful could that person be?

"Brother Spirit Seer, if the opportunity arises, please introduce me," Qiu Yi said cautiously, afraid of offending the person the Spirit Seer had mentioned.

"Alright, if there's a chance, I will definitely introduce you," the Spirit Seer chuckled, nodding in agreement.

At that, everyone respectfully backed away, not daring to get any closer.

「...」

The duel was about to start when Lin Mu finally made his way toward the Duel Field. Seeing Qiu Yi chatting happily with the Spirit Seer, he smiled slightly.

"Instructor Lin!" Kong Ying grabbed Lin Mu and pulled him far away. "Instructor Lin, you really came?" she asked anxiously.

"Why would I not dare to come?" Lin Mu asked.

"Are you crazy?" Kong Ying said urgently. "If it were just Qiu Yi, perhaps I could still plead for you. But now the Spirit Seer himself is here! Never mind me, not even my grandfather could help you now."

Fear showed in Kong Ying's eyes. "That's the Spirit Seer! You arrived late and didn't see it, but he just conjured a bridge of solid ice. It was terrifying."

Looking at the pale-faced Kong Ying, Lin Mu smiled faintly. "The Spirit Seer? In my presence, he wouldn't dare let out a fart. So what if he's here?"

Kong Ying was speechless. This guy is just too arrogant.

"Instructor Lin, listen to my advice and leave now," Kong Ying urged. "With the Spirit Seer backing Qiu Yi, you can't possibly win."

It was true that Lin Mu had trained Shi Potian and Leng Feng, but that only proved his training methods were effective. However, that's not enough to prove his personal strength is on par with a Grandmaster's, is it? Besides, Kong Ying simply couldn't believe that Lin Mu had already reached the Grandmaster realm.

"Heh," Lin Mu chuckled lightly. "Since I am here, I won't leave without killing Qiu Yi."

Kong Ying wanted to say more, but Huang Ning suddenly came over. Upon seeing Lin Mu, she paused for a moment before scolding, "What are you doing here? Get out!"

Previously, Huang Ning wouldn't have taken a mere duel seriously. But with the Spirit Seer present, the stakes were entirely different. Lin Mu's arrival, therefore, made Huang Ning feel as disgusted as if she'd swallowed a fly.

Just moments ago, she had exchanged a few words with Master Qiu and even given him her contact information. She had invited him to visit Harbor Island whenever he had the time, promising that the Huang Family would welcome him with the highest honors. Master Qiu had agreed and even mentioned bringing the Spirit Seer along. This news had thrilled Huang Ning, and she was just about to share it with Kong Ying when she ran into Lin Mu.

"What I do here is none of your business," Lin Mu retorted, holding Huang Ning in low regard.

Rebuffed by Lin Mu, Huang Ning's expression turned exceedingly ugly. This guy... Does he really think he can be so arrogant just because he has a little skill? Compared to Master Qiu and the Spirit Seer, he's nothing!

"Hmph, don't think I don't know why you're here. You heard Master Qiu and the Spirit Seer were coming, so you came running, hoping to cling to their coattails, didn't you?" Huang Ning sneered. "If your attitude were a bit more humble and your words more polite, perhaps I could have even put in a good word for you."

Shaking her head, Huang Ning's disdain for Lin Mu deepened. "But for someone like you, with so little ability and so much arrogance, this is as far as you'll ever get in life."

"Kong Ying," Huang Ning added before walking away, "you should associate less with people like him in the future. You never know when he'll drag you down with him."

Kong Ying was about to explain when, over on the platform, Qiu Yi stood up. A faint smile appeared on his face as he walked slowly onto the battle stage.

"I, Qiu Yi, Leader of the Bagua Sect, hereby challenge the Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp!"

His voice thundered across the field.

"Do you dare to fight!"

Chapter 587: It's your people from the Southeast Five Provinces who acted!

Silence descended. No one dared to answer.

"Hah, it seems the Commander of the Divine Machine Camp is nothing special after all!" Patriarch Shen sneered, his eyes full of mockery. "Master Qiu's reputation makes cowards of all who hear it. He wouldn't dare come!"

"You're wrong, Dad," Shen Lian said, shaking his head smugly. "That man is no longer the commander. He's been relieved of his duties."

"Oh?" Patriarch Shen's eyes lit up. "Haha, so that's how it is. In that case, he's truly doomed!"

"Not only has my master arrived, but there are also so many Grandmasters present. He's probably scared witless and hiding somewhere," Shen Lian said, puffed up with arrogance. "If he really dares to show up, I'll slap him to death with a single palm!"

When Qiu Yi was treating his injuries earlier, he had also taken the opportunity to clear his meridians, making him even stronger.

"Who did you say you were going to slap to death?"

Just then, Lin Mu arrived, with Kong Ying unable to hold him back.

Seeing Lin Mu, a cold gleam flashed in Shen Lian's eyes. "You actually dare to come? You're really courting death!"

SLAP!

Without another word, Lin Mu slapped him across the face, and Shen Lian's cheek immediately began to swell.

"You dare to hit me?" Shen Lian bellowed, clutching his face. "Are you trying to get yourself killed? You're alone, and there are four Grandmasters here! You're dead for sure today!"

SLAP!

Lin Mu slapped him again without the slightest hesitation.

"You really think you're someone special just because you found a Grandmaster for a master?" Lin Mu sneered coldly. "Forget slapping you. What if I killed you instead?"

Just as Lin Mu was about to strike, Patriarch Shen roared, "You little beast, how dare you—"

SLAP!

A backhanded slap from Lin Mu cut him off, sending Patriarch Shen flying.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Who is this guy? So ferocious! It was one thing to slap Shen Lian, but he even dared to strike Patriarch Shen? Doesn't he know that Grandmaster Qiu Yi is right here?

"You little beast... Good, very good!" Patriarch Shen's face was twisted with rage as he stared fiercely at Lin Mu. "I swear, I will see you dead today!"

"Noisy." Lin Mu's gaze turned cold, and he prepared to strike again.

"Stop!"

Huang Ning appeared once more. With a frosty expression, she addressed Lin Mu, "Lin Mu, you're too arrogant. Who do you think you are?"

"Get out!" Lin Mu rebuked, his expression utterly cold.

"What?" Huang Ning was stunned. Lin Mu actually told her to get out? Thinking back to what had happened at Tiger's Lair Mountain, to everything Lin Mu had done to her, she could no longer control herself. She screamed with murderous intent, "Kill him for me! Kill him!"

"Men, hack this little beast into a thousand pieces!" Patriarch Huang roared, pointing a finger at Lin Mu with a murderous aura.

"Who dares lay a hand on my man!"

At that moment, an exceptionally cold voice rang out, and a group of people rushed in. The leader was a tall, stunningly beautiful woman.

Qin Luoli! She was actually in Suzhou!

Not only that, but behind her were figures like Shi Potian and Cheng Bugui.

"Who said Teacher Lin is alone?"

Even men from the Divine Machine Camp had arrived, along with Kong Lin, numerous heavyweights from Jiangling, and the entire Divine Machine Camp. This scene left everyone in shock. While they didn't recognize most of the newcomers, they certainly recognized figures of Xie Dingtian and Kong Lin's caliber.

"Kid, were you comparing numbers earlier?" Xie Dingtian grabbed Shen Lian by the collar, the flat of his steel blade slapping against Shen Lian's cheek. "So, tell me. Are these enough people for you?"

RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

In the next moment, a thousand men in black suits and sunglasses appeared. Each held a blade, their cold steel glinting. Even if Shen Lian was a true Martial Artist, he couldn't possibly handle so many opponents.

"Hehe, how could we, the Five Dragons and Six Phoenixes of Jiangbei, miss out on such a fun event?" A seductive voice that sent tingles down the spine announced the arrival of Hua Meiniang, Long Ao, and the others. They, too, had brought over a thousand people.

This spectacle was enough to intimidate everyone from the Southeast Five Provinces. Anyone from the underworld had heard of these people, especially a provincial powerhouse like Xie Dingtian. As for Kong Lin, his mere presence represented the entire Southeast Military Region.

"What are you all doing here?" This time, even Lin Mu was stunned.

Good heavens. They've brought my entire power base from Handong Province here.

Qin Luoli shot Lin Mu an exasperated look. "If Xiao Tian hadn't called me, I wouldn't have even known you'd gotten yourself into trouble again."

Lin Mu fell silent.

Well, I'm being lectured by my wife. But why does it make me so happy?

Qin Luoli turned to Huang Ning, exuding a queenly aura. "What did you just say to my man?" A captivating smile bloomed on her gorgeous face. "You want to kill him? Were those your words?"

Huang Ning's face turned pale.

"Insolence!" Patriarch Huang stepped forward and yelled coldly, "What do you think this place is? This is the Southeast Five Provinces, not your Handong!"

"The Southeast Five Provinces is exactly who I'm here to mess with!" Qin Luoli declared with stunning arrogance. "Chop off his hand!"

"You dare point a finger at my man? You must be tired of living!"

At Qin Luoli's command, Cheng Bugui immediately stepped forward. With a flash of his steel blade, Patriarch Huang's hand fell to the ground.

Chopped off? He really chopped it off!

HISS!

Everyone gasped in shock.

Who is this woman? How can she be so audacious? To go against the entire Southeast Five Provinces... all for one man?

"Damn, Instructor Lin's wife is a badass!"

"No kidding. Why else do you think Instructor Lin is so overbearing?"

"Go on."

"It's all because his wife taught him well."

Cheng Bugui did not sheathe his blade. Instead, he said respectfully, "Mistress, he said he wanted to hack the Venerable Master to pieces. I..."

"What? Do I need to teach you what to do?" Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes narrowed fiercely.

Cheng Bugui understood immediately.

A few minutes later, Patriarch Huang was nothing but a heap of minced flesh. Not just chopped, but minced.

At this moment, even the men of the Divine Machine Camp dared not speak.

This woman... she's terrifying!

...

"The Southeast Five Provinces is exactly who I'm here to mess with!"

That one line instantly made Qin Luoli the most dazzling presence in the room. All eyes were on her. This woman. Beautiful. Exquisite. A remarkable temperament. An overwhelming aura. No one seemed to dare meet her alluring gaze, yet she gave off an incredibly ruthless vibe.

"And you," Qin Luoli said, looking at Huang Ning with a smile, a rare hint of killing intent in her eyes. "Do you have anything else to say?"

"I..." URRGH!

Seeing Patriarch Huang reduced to a pile of meat was more than Huang Ning could handle. She promptly threw up.

Qin Luoli scoffed contemptuously, then glanced at Qiu Yi on the stage. "Are you the one who wants to challenge my man?"

"And who do you think you are?" she sneered. "The man who belongs to me, Qin Luoli—do you think you're worthy of challenging him?"

Holy shit! She's directly confronting a Grandmaster? How can this woman be so domineering? Does she have any idea what the title 'Martial Arts Grandmaster' even means?

Qiu Yi's expression turned icy.

A woman... daring to point her finger and curse at him in public? This was an absolute, unforgivable humiliation!

Chapter 588: The Dominant Queen Qin!

"What an insolent woman! To think she'd dare to run wild on the territory of my Southeast Five Provinces!"

Qing Yang Daoist of the Temple of Infinity stepped forward, his expression grim as he said in an icy tone, "Do you really think the Southeast Five Provinces has no one to stand up to you?"

"I'm bullying you precisely because there's no one in the Southeast Five Provinces!" Qin Luoli raised an eyebrow. "What are you going to do about it?"

The crowd drew a collective sharp breath. This woman is too domineering. She's more arrogant than anyone we've ever seen.

Kong Lin was at a loss, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. I'm from the Southeast Five Provinces too, you know. That insult just looped me in as well.

"How dare you!" Qing Yang erupted in fury. "Do you really think this Daoist doesn't kill women?"

"Are you a Grandmaster, too?" Qin Luoli asked, a question that seemed rather strange.

Qing Yang Daoist nodded proudly. "This humble Daoist may be untalented, but I managed to break through to the Grandmaster Realm three years ago."

"That's good."

Qin Luoli flashed a brilliant smile. The sudden radiance of it dazzled the crowd, causing many to nearly lose their focus. She was astonishingly beautiful, and combined with the sheer dominance she had just displayed, it stirred the hearts of many men.

"What do you mean by that?" Qing Yang Daoist asked, confused.

"Because if you weren't a Grandmaster, I'd be too embarrassed to call for more backup."

A wave of shock rippled through the crowd. There are more? But who could possibly compare to a Grandmaster? An ordinary Martial Artist might be able to fight a hundred men, but a thousand would be useless against a Martial Arts Grandmaster.

Qing Yang Daoist's face darkened. This woman... she's gone too far!

"Xiao Lin," Qin Luoli said, "didn't you say that if someone bullied your godmother, you'd help me beat them up? Now's your chance."

"Who dares bully my godmother? Are they tired of living?!"

A childish, clear voice rang out, and two figures squeezed through the crowd. Instantly, all eyes fell upon the child, because he was the one who had just spoken. But this was completely absurd. A child, speaking such domineering and forceful words in such a youthful, almost comical tone, shattered everyone's perception of reality.

"What are you two doing here?" Seeing Liu Zijian and Liu Xiaolin, Lin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"We came to back you up!" Liu Xiaolin said huffily. "Godmother said a lot of people were bullying you, so we came."

Lin Mu glanced at Qin Luoli, who playfully stuck out her tongue. She grabbed his hand, swaying it back and forth like a pouting child. "I missed you, that's why I came." Yet the deep affection in her tone was unmistakably genuine.

The crowd shuddered with goosebumps.

"Damn, I can't look! It's too much!"

"Ah, my poor heart can't take it!"

"Fine, I'll swallow this sickeningly sweet display. You all are on your own!"

Liu Xiaolin pointed a pudgy little finger at Qing Yang Daoist. "Is that ugly monster who looks like a goat trying to bully Godfather? I'll go kill him."

As soon as he finished, Liu Xiaolin trotted forward, his little bottom wiggling in a way that should have been laughable. But no one could laugh at that moment, because a powerful, cold aura was emanating from Qing Yang Daoist. His True Qi was circulating, coalescing into tangible killing intent!

"Don't!" Kong Ying cried out, reaching to grab Liu Xiaolin.

But with a twist of his small hips, Liu Xiaolin darted right past her.

Kong Ying froze. My skills are certainly not weak. How could I fail to grab a child? Was it just a coincidence?

"Instructor Lin, stop him! He'll be killed!" Kong Ying yelled, hopping on her feet in anxiety.

"It's all right," Lin Mu said. "Let him try."

Kong Ying panicked. Try? He'll be killed if he tries! Qing Yang Daoist is a Martial Arts Grandmaster! Those words represent absolute power!

Many of the great families from the Southeast Five Provinces shook their heads slightly. So this is the instructor of the Divine Machine Camp... underwhelming. To actually let a child fight for him. Is he trying to humiliate himself or Qing Yang Daoist? If the child wins, it would be an honorless victory. But lose? That's impossible!

Qing Yang Daoist sneered, "Scram, kid. This humble Daoist disdains to fight a child. Get your elders out here!"

Liu Xiaolin shook his head, his expression serious. "You can't even beat me, let alone my godfather."

Qing Yang Daoist was furious. I'm being humiliated! By a child!

"I advise you to take this seriously," Liu Xiaolin said, wiping his nose. "I'm not a three-year-old. I'm almost five."

Qing Yang Daoist nearly choked with anger. A sniveling brat is telling me to be serious? Who would believe it if they hadn't heard it with their own ears?

"If you're not going to make a move, then I will," Liu Xiaolin said, wagging his little hand with a very serious look. "But if I attack first, you won't get another chance."

"Enough, enough! Just get lost!" Qing Yang Daoist could no longer bear it. He reached out to grab Liu Xiaolin and toss him away.

However, the moment he moved, his expression changed. The child had disappeared.

"Qing Yang Daoist, behind you!" someone shouted a warning.

Qing Yang Daoist spun around and saw Liu Xiaolin grinning at him. He drew a sharp, cold breath, his eyes filled with terror. When did he get behind me? Could it be? Is this child really an ancient master in the body of a child? An old monster in disguise?

"I don't believe it!" he roared inwardly, lunging forward.

Just then, however, a wave of intense unease washed over him, and he hesitated for a split second.

SPLURT!

A fountain of blood burst from his neck, splattering onto the ground.

"You... how is this possible?!" With terror and despair in his eyes, Qing Yang Daoist staggered back two steps before collapsing.

Qing Yang Daoist was dead.

A dignified Grandmaster... was dead?!

The crowd exploded. Everyone shot to their feet, staring at Liu Xiaolin in utter shock. What in the world had just happened?

All they saw was Liu Xiaolin slowly retracting his finger, a faint shimmer of light fading from its tip.

"I told you that if I made a move, you wouldn't stand a chance," Liu Xiaolin muttered to himself, shaking his head. "Why didn't you believe me?"

He returned to Lin Mu's side, a proud, boastful look on his face. "Godfather, how was that? Wasn't I amazing?" He looked just like any child desperate for praise from a parent, because that's what he was.

Amazing? That was beyond amazing! It was monstrous! Freakish! A four-year-old child killing a Grandmaster? Who would believe it?

However, Lin Mu simply shook his head. "It took you three seconds. Too slow." He added, "And in the future, no pointless chatter when you fight."

The members of the Divine Machine Camp fell silent. Three seconds is slow? Are those even the words of a human being? How humiliating! A mere child killed a Grandmaster, while all of us were defeated by a single hand. This is utterly shameful!

"Oh. I'll definitely do better next time!" Like a child being scolded, Liu Xiaolin immediately lowered his head, admitting his fault.

"You're already amazing," Qin Luoli said, patting his head with a warm smile. "Your godfather is just a monster; we won't compare ourselves to him."

After comforting Liu Xiaolin, Qin Luoli raised her head and scanned the surroundings. Her voice was cool yet imperious, causing everyone present to lower their heads, feeling inadequate.

"Now... is there anyone left in the Southeast Five Provinces?"

A moment ago, Qing Yang had asked if she was bullying them because the Southeast Five Provinces had no one to stop her. For that, he died. Now, she asked again if there was anyone left. The gap between those two questions wasn't just the death of a Martial Arts Grandmaster.

Who knew how many other terrifying monsters she had behind her? This woman... she was like a queen, radiating absolute dominance!

Chapter 589 I'll vent your anger for you!

"It seems I, Qiu Yi, have been away from the martial world for so long that even a lone woman dares to run wild in the territory of the Southeast Five Provinces."

On the stage, Qiu Yi, who had been ignored by the crowd, suddenly spoke, instantly capturing everyone's attention.

With a cold expression, he pointed at Liu Xiaolin and shouted, "Speak! What sorcery did you use to kill Qing Yang Daoist!"

Qing Yang Daoist was, after all, a genuine Martial Arts Grandmaster. And yet, he had been killed by a child.

Even now, Qiu Yi's heart was filled with shock and disbelief. It was hard to believe such a thing, even after seeing it with his own eyes. Other than sorcery, there was no other explanation.

"Sorcery?"

Upon hearing Qiu Yi's words, everyone was startled. They looked at Liu Xiaolin with expressions of shock and fear. The inexplicable always inspires terror.

"How shameless," Qin Luoli said with a sarcastic sneer. "It seems this is all your Southeast Five Provinces amounts to. When you lack strength, you blame it on sorcery. I heard that you, Qiu Yi, tore crocodiles apart and subdued tigers with your bare hands. Was that also sorcery?"

"How presumptuous! How dare a wretch like you slander Master Qiu?"

"Master Qiu Yi may not stoop to arguing with a woman, but I, Fu San, will not tolerate it!"

"Impudent witch, I'll flay you alive!"

The martial artists of the Southeast Five Provinces all began to hurl incredibly foul-mouthed insults.

His face swollen like a pig's, Shen Lian hid behind the crowd and shouted, "You, Lin! If you have any guts, stop hiding behind a woman! Today is your duel with my master. Are you really going to let a woman protect you?"

"If that's the case, you should just get on your knees and beg for mercy. Kill yourself to atone and save my master the trouble of doing it himself!"

Shen Lian's words successfully redirected everyone's animosity toward Lin Mu. Qin Luoli was too dominant for him to provoke, but Lin Mu was just a worthless nobody. He was no match for his master!

"That's right, a guy like him can only rely on a woman!"

"So the great Divine Machine Camp Instructor is nothing but a kept man! Pah!"

"Get lost! Don't embarrass yourself here!"

Qin Luoli ignored the torrent of insults, but the smile on her face turned bone-chilling.

"You, and you!" Qin Luoli pointed at Shen Lian and a sleazy-looking man in the crowd. "You cowards who hide in the shadows! If you have something to say, stand up and say it!"

The sleazy man was Fu San. Seeing that he'd been singled out, he didn't shrink back but stepped forward boldly.

"So what if I stand up?" Fu San said, licking his lips. "You're quite a beauty, I'll give you that. It's a real pity you've fallen in with the wrong crowd."

"Why don't you offer yourself to Master Qiu? That way, you won't waste your youth on a loser!"

Fu San's words spurred the crowd on.

"Yes, Master Fu's suggestion is excellent!"

"Hey, why didn't I think of that?"

"That woman should consider herself lucky!"

Even Qiu Yi lifted his chin slightly and looked at Fu San. "Mm, Master Fu's idea coincides with my own," he said, signaling his agreement.

He had never married because he felt no woman in the world was worthy of him, preferring to devote all his energy to the Martial Way. But now that his divine skill was perfected, having a fine woman by his side to serve him wouldn't be so bad.

Hearing Qiu Yi's approval and being addressed as "Master Fu" almost made Fu San laugh out loud. It seemed he had definitely picked the right powerhouse to support.

"Darling, they're insulting me."

Everyone had expected Qin Luoli to erupt in fury. Given her fearless temperament, it was a shock to see her acting coquettishly with Lin Mu instead.

"Hmph, so what if we insult you?" Fu San sneered. "Becoming Master Qiu's woman is a blessing you couldn't earn in ten lifetimes. What's there to be dissatisfied about?"

"Besides, what is that pathetic man of yours without a woman to protect him? Nothing!"

At Fu San's words, Lin Mu's eyes narrowed, and a terrifying killing intent erupted from him.

The Feng Family Head chimed in, "Kid, I advise you to make a wise choice! Otherwise, with several Grandmasters present today, killing you would be as easy as flicking a wrist!"

The Feng Family Head's words served as a reminder: there were indeed several Grandmasters present.

"So you're finally scared, are you?" Shen Lian sneered. "I thought you were so powerful? But now my master is about to take your woman, and you don't even dare to make a peep!" He thinks he's so great just because a woman's backing him up, but in front of my master, he's nothing.

Huang Ning had already adjusted to the situation, her eyes burning with resentment as she glared at Qin Luoli. That detestable woman. Let's see how arrogant you are after Lin Mu is dead! It isn't just Master Qiu here today; the Spirit Seer is present as well!

"Heh..."

Lin Mu finally spoke. He stood with his hands clasped behind his back, his gaze sweeping over the crowd. He had already memorized the face of everyone who had insulted Qin Luoli.

"I'm sorry you had to endure that," Lin Mu said, turning to Qin Luoli. "But you're my woman, so just stand back and let me handle this. Fighting and killing is a man's job, after all."

His tone was slightly domineering, yet filled with intense warmth.

"But I wanted to help..." Qin Luoli pouted.

This exchange made Cheng Bugui and the others marvel inwardly. If those business magnates from River City saw this, their jaws would hit the floor! The formidable River City Queen, showing such a cute, girlish side... it was truly a sight to behold. However, the only person who could speak to the Venerable Master in such a tone was the Lady herself.

"Alright. I'll get justice for you now," Lin Mu said, patting Qin Luoli on the head before slowly stepping forward.

"Talk is cheap!" Shen Lian sneered. "You should worry about saving your own skin first!"

"I'll let you live a little longer," Lin Mu said, glancing at Shen Lian. "After I kill this trash, you're next."

As soon as these words, laced with icy killing intent, left his lips, Lin Mu took a sudden step and appeared instantly before Fu San.

"What was that you just said? That it's the fortune of a lifetime to be the woman of that piece of trash?"

Fu San was startled by his eerie speed, but then he snorted. "Kid, I'm a full-fledged Inner Strength Martial Artist! You think I'm afraid of you?"

Internal Energy surged through his body as he threw a punch at Lin Mu.

SMACK!

Lin Mu's slap sent Fu San flying. Before his body even hit the ground, it exploded into a paste of flesh and blood.

Everyone was shocked by Lin Mu's terrifying move. Fu San was an Inner Strength Martial Artist... and he was killed with a single slap? Just how much power was in that blow?

"Since when have I, Lin Mu, ever needed a woman to protect me?"

The murderous look on Lin Mu's face did not fade. His indifferent voice was like a death sentence, sending a chill down everyone's spine.

"The only reason I didn't deal with you sooner is because trash like you isn't worthy of my attention." His eyes blazed with killing intent. "But since you're all so determined to die, I'm happy to oblige!"

Chapter 590: After killing you, I must continue to kill!

"The second one!"

As his voice faded, Lin Mu vanished once more. The next moment, he reappeared in front of another Martial Artist and unleashed another palm strike. The man had no time to react before he was reduced to a pulp of flesh.

If killing Fu San was luck, what about this time?

Panic swept through the crowd. Some began to slowly back away, preparing to flee.

"Don't be hasty. None of you are getting away!"

A cold smile touched Lin Mu's lips. With a grasping motion of his hands, two men from the crowd were seized by an invisible force and smashed violently into each other.

THUD!

With a sickening, dull sound, both of them exploded. Having killed two more in quick succession, Lin Mu had no intention of holding back. He began walking toward the man who had humiliated Qin Luoli.

He's going to kill again?

"Stop, you villain!" Qiu Yi bellowed, his eyes glacial as he stared at Lin Mu. "Such murderous intent. Do you truly believe no one here can stop you?"

Lin Mu gave a chilling smile. "I intend to kill. Who dares to stop me?"

"Arrogant fool!" Qiu Yi sneered. "To kill you, I don't even need to lift a finger myself!" The murderous glint in his eyes intensified. "Go, kill him!"

ROAR!

The ferocious tiger at his feet instantly stood and leaped from the arena, pouncing toward Lin Mu. Its speed was incredible, and the imperious aura of the king of beasts made everyone's face pale. This tiger of Qiu Yi's was no ordinary animal. It had often sparred with him and had watched him practice for years, gaining spiritual intelligence in the process. Forget Inner Strength experts; even a master halfway to the Grandmaster Realm would have trouble fending it off. As for killing Lin Mu? That would be child's play.

"Scram!"

However, facing the massive tiger, Lin Mu's eyes shone with a brilliant light as he barked the cold command.

WHIMPER!

The tiger's body shuddered violently. It froze in mid-air before plummeting to the ground, where it prostrated itself, trembling. Witnessing this, the spectators' pupils contracted.

Master Qiu's mount, terrified into submission by a single word from Lin Mu? Is that really a tiger? It's more timid than a cat!

"Judging by your savage aura, you must have devoured countless people. Today, I will eliminate this threat to the public!" Lin Mu snorted, lifting his leg to kick the tiger's head.

"You dare!" Qiu Yi's expression changed drastically, his face contorting with ferocious killing intent. "If you dare kill it, I will annihilate your entire clan!"

A mount was a reflection of its master's dignity! If his mount was killed, wouldn't he, its master, be slapped squarely in the face?

"You think I don't dare?" Lin Mu sneered viciously and kicked.

SPLAT!

The tiger's head burst like a watermelon. The spray of blood sent the surrounding crowd crying out in shock as they scrambled back even farther.

Too brutal! Too ferocious!

This is going to offend Qiu Yi completely!

"This kid is dead meat, daring to kill Master Qiu's mount!"

"He's courting death! No one can save him now!"

"You... you have some nerve!" With another furious shout, the Feng Family Head pointed at Lin Mu.
"You're outrageously bold! How dare you kill Master Qiu's mount? You're simply tired of living!"

"It was just a beast throwing its master's weight around. If I killed it, so be it," Lin Mu said coldly. "Even the so-called Grandmaster you speak of... killing him would just be like slaughtering one more animal!"

Lin Mu walked toward the arena step by step. His utterly cold words made the expressions of all who heard them change drastically.

"This is bad!" Seeing Lin Mu actually going to challenge Qiu Yi, Kong Lin's face fell, his worry palpable.

"Grandfather, what is it?" Kong Ying's heart tightened.

"I just remembered. I think Qiu Yi went into seclusion to master some divine technique. For him to emerge now, he must have succeeded. Instructor Lin is in danger," Kong Lin said with a grave expression.

"Ah? Then what should we do?" Kong Ying's eyes reddened with anxiety.

"What's there to worry about?" Qin Luoli, however, just pursed her lips. "You're fussing over nothing."

"Instructor Lin is your husband! Aren't you worried at all?" Kong Ying asked indignantly.

"You all underestimate my man." Gazing at the figure on the platform, Qin Luoli's eyes filled with profound love. "He is incredibly powerful. He was in the past, he is now, and in the future... he will be even more so!"

"You've surprised me." For the first time, Qiu Yi sized Lin Mu up properly, but then he shook his head slightly. "But a young man who is too sharp and conspicuous will ultimately pay a heavy price."

"You talk too much," Lin Mu said, his hands behind his back. "I saw you eating quite a bit earlier, so you must be full. Since that's the case, it's time for you to be on your way."

At these words, Qiu Yi's expression turned completely grim. The others just shook their heads. This Lin Mu was simply beyond arrogant. The man was the Sect Leader of the Bagua Sect, a long-established figure. He might not be on the Heavenly List, but that was only because he disdained it, not because he lacked the strength.

How old is Lin Mu? Does he really think he's something special just for killing a few minor Martial Artists? So contemptuous.

Huang Ning was inwardly ecstatic. Lin Mu, oh Lin Mu, you will finally pay the price for your arrogance. Not just you, but your woman, too. Her fate will be even more miserable than yours! If only you hadn't been so arrogant. If you'd just agreed to become a servant of the Huang Family, fight for them, and offer up your woman to Master Qiu... then I could have pleaded for you. I could have asked Master Qiu to spare your worthless life. But clearly, you didn't make the right choice.

"Young man, you are too arrogant," Hong Lie said coldly from below before Qiu Yi could even speak. "Such disrespect is a monstrous crime. You will not be leaving this place today!"

"And who are you supposed to be?" Lin Mu retorted coldly.

"I am Hong Lie of the Form-Intention Fist!" Hong Lie replied, his face stern as he stared unflinchingly at Lin Mu.

"Never heard of you. If you object, you can come at me together," Lin Mu said, showing him no regard whatsoever.

"Ignorant child!" Hong Lie snorted. "You should worry about surviving Master Qiu first. If by some chance you do, I wouldn't mind teaching you a lesson on behalf of your elders. Of course, that includes your woman. For someone so cold-blooded and cruel, killing her would be an act of righteousness."

Hong Lie's tone was incredibly arrogant, born from the confidence in his own strength.

However, the look in Lin Mu's eyes grew colder still. Hong Lie's words had touched his Ni Lin.

"After I'm done with him, if you don't have the guts to come up here, I will annihilate your entire family!" Lin Mu pointed at Hong Lie. "Not just your family, but the entire Form-Intention Fist lineage! I will wipe it from existence!"

His killing intent was so tangible it was bone-chilling, causing all who felt it to shiver.

"Good!" Hong Lie's own killing intent flared. "Let everyone here bear witness! Ignorant whelp, if you actually win, I will deal with you myself!"

He actually dares to threaten to annihilate my entire family? Sheer insanity!

Lin Mu had no desire to speak further. He pointed at Qiu Yi and commanded, "Come forward and face your death! After I slaughter you, I have more people to kill!"