

Chapter 561: A Mighty First Appearance!

As Wang Baole dashed out, he raised his right hand and summoned the tri-colored flying swords. They flew around him, exuding a fearsome aura. One flew under his feet, and it was as if he was standing atop a flying sword as Wang Baole's hair fluttered in the wind. On his left and right were two dazzling colored flying swords. They shot forward, like shooting stars, racing into the distance.

Kong Dao watched as Wang Baole left without another word, charging off like a force of nature. Alarm colored his face as he lifted his head and studied the aerial map above him. Somewhere near them, three keys had gathered and were approaching them. It was clear they were being targeted. The intruders had clearly noticed Wang Baole approaching them, but they didn't stop in their tracks and instead sped up. The two would likely cross paths within half an hour!

The sight sent anxiety coursing through Kong Dao. He immediately chased after Wang Baole, yelling after him.

"Baole, wait. We don't know who our opponents are or the level of their cultivation. We shouldn't fight them head-on. An ambush is the best option!"

Zhao Yameng was stunned to see Wang Baole and Kong Dao dashing off one after another. All her planning had been for nothing. She could feel a headache coming on. With a leap into the air, she dashed off in pursuit, speaking hastily.

"Baole, be careful of the hidden cultivators. I did some calculations earlier. More than a hundred cultivators have disappeared from the map!"

Wang Baole's speed picked up as Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao shouted behind him. He heard them, but he had his own views. This might seem reckless on his part, but Wang Baole felt that his way of doing things fit the cultivation techniques he was using. Most importantly... he was confident he could do it!

Even though he was only at the mid-stage Core Formation realm, and a majority of the participants were at the late-stage Core Formation realm, Wang Baole didn't believe he was inferior to them. Even if... his opponent was at the perfected Core Formation realm, he was confident he could beat him with his Flame Snatch Thearch Armor!

I've kept a low profile in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace for too long. I've forgotten what it's like to be in the public eye... Since Feng Qiuran cannot control Mie Liezi, and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace is unwilling to activate the teleportation for the second batch of Federation Seedlings, then... I'll show them my true power. I'm going to give it my best shot for this trial!

Even though there are benefits to taking a step back and hiding one's strength in the current situation, I will no longer choose to do that! A sharp glint flickered in Wang Baole's eyes. He took a deep breath and sped up. Countless lightning bolts snaked around his body. He looked like a lightning bolt himself, dashing through the skies, ripping the heavens apart. He approached the three keys that were also racing towards him at full speed!

The aerial map showed that both parties were traveling at high speeds. They approached each other rapidly, with only a fifty kilometers separating them!

Beyond the fifty kilometers, in the air, two men and one woman were traveling swiftly. They had a cold and fearsome aura. One of the male cultivators was a middle-aged man with a fearsome look on his face. The other was a young man with narrow, long eyes and a cold, dark demeanor. As for the female cultivator, she was extremely beautiful.

They belonged to Mie Liezi's faction. They knew one another very well and were rather well-known in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Based on their levels of cultivation, they were the stronger opponents in the trial. Even though they were only at the mid-stage Core Formation realm and not the late-stage Core Formation realm, when they worked together, they stood a fighting chance even if they were to cross paths with a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator.

"The three of them know that we're approaching and didn't run off. One of them is even approaching us. He is coming at us fast..." As the three of them continued flying, the female cultivator amongst them frowned and said.

"I hope we don't come across a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator..."

"There's no way we're that unlucky. There are only a few dozen late-stage Core Formation realm cultivators this round, so don't worry. There's something strange about the person approaching us though. If it's really a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator, we can just escape. I believe our opponent won't want to get injured right at the start of the trial either. If it's not a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator though... even though it's not right to kill him, we can still break all of his limbs as a warning!" The fierce-looking middle-aged man in the team sneered, and an icy glint flashed in the eyes of his teammates.

"If it's those three lowly lifeforms from the Federation, we can consider killing them!" The young woman smiled. A streak of cruelty lit her beautiful face.

Having come to a consensus, they deliberately slowed down their pace. It was clear that their opponent wasn't going to run away. Staying put and waiting for his arrival was the best course of action. They slowed down and activated their cultivation, bringing it to peak condition. The three of them spread out slightly, and their artifacts circled them. Wang Baole, who had been a fifty kilometers away, was now fewer than thirty-five kilometers away from them!

"Thirty-five kilometers... We have approximately ten minutes. He's in such a rush to give us our keys. Let's take our time when we break his limbs later. Consider that our token of appreciation to him." The fearsome-looking middle-aged cultivator licked his lips. He turned and looked around him. He wanted to find somewhere suitable for surrounding their opponent, to prevent the latter from escaping after being defeated.

As he turned around and surveyed the surroundings, trying to find a good spot, the beautiful female cultivator at his side suddenly gasped. Her breathing quickened, and her voice seemed different.

"It's not thirty-five kilometers... My god, this person's speed..."

The woman gasped. The young man beside her also let out a shout of shock.

“Fifteen kilometers!”

Everything happened unexpectedly quickly. When the middle-aged cultivator raised his head and looked over, his pupils suddenly contracted. He didn’t need to look at the aerial map. In the distant horizon, he could see a bolt of lightning rumbling loudly. It charged towards them thundering!

It moved incredibly swiftly. One moment, it had been at the distant horizon, the next... it was right before them!

Thunder crashed as lightning formed from Wang Baole’s Lightning Dao surged in the air. His startling speed made it seem as if the entire region of spanning thousands of feet was filled with lightning bolts. They danced in the air. From afar, he looked like a moving electromagnetic storm!

The three of them had no time to react. They felt a terrifying spirit energy flooding their surrounding area, enveloping them. It did that so quickly that they didn’t know how it had happened. They only felt the descent of what seemed like a heavenly punishment—a lightning strike of legends and myths. Countless lightning bolts surrounded them and exploded before their eyes, and a piercing wind blasted them in their faces!

Thunder rumbled in the skies and resonated in the air. The female cultivator screamed as, all around her, her artifacts disintegrated. She spat out a mouthful of blood, and her body fell limply to the ground, like a kite cut from its string. The young man beside her suffered the same fate. The weapons that he had taken out earlier seemed like fragile things that couldn’t withstand a single blow from the lightning. They exploded. His body was flung backwards.

The middle-aged cultivator was at the peak of the mid-stage Core Formation realm. That was why he had fared better. But blood still spilled from his lips. He staggered backwards, shock and alarm surging inside him.

“I wonder which personal disciple this is. I am Lu Song. We seek your forgiveness for offending you in any way...” Lu Song trembled and shouted out hastily. Their opponent was simply too powerful. He was alarmed and terrified. He could see, amidst the countless lightning bolts, the indistinct silhouette of a god-like figure. He couldn’t see his face though, and couldn’t identify who he was speaking to.

The person seemed slightly plump and didn’t look like any of those personal disciples who he couldn’t afford to offend and remembered. He didn’t spare too much thought on that though. He instinctively believed that their opponent must be a personal disciple!

He wasn’t the only one who thought that. His teammates thought the same. Their eyes were bright with terror, and they seemed ready to appease the new arrival.

However, as soon as Lu Song’s words rang out, Wang Baole’s calm voice sounded amidst the lightning bolts.

“Personal disciple? What’s that? Can it be eaten?” Wang Baole stepped out as soon as his voice entered Lu Song’s and the other two cultivators’ ears, buzzing. He approached Lu Song, whose lips were stained with blood and face colored with terror. He didn’t even take a close look at Lu Song’s face before he raised his right hand and yanked Lu Song’s key away. Then, with a stomp of his foot, he stepped on Lu Song’s right leg. There was a loud crack. Lu Song screamed as his leg was broken!

Wang Baole didn't stop. He did the same to the woman and young man, taking their keys and breaking their legs. Then, he stood in mid-air and stared coldly down at the pale-faced cultivators who finally saw clearly who he was. Their faces were filled with shock and incredulity!

"You... you're... how is that possible!"

"Federation's lowly..."

"Wang Baole!"

Their heads began to buzz loudly as an incredulous, surreal feeling overwhelmed them. However, as soon as it surged inside them, they heard Wang Baole's icy voice in the ears.

"What were you saying about the Federation?"

The three of them saw the ice in Wang Baole's eyes and shuddered. The surreal feeling they had was swept away by renewed horror!

Chapter 562: Breaking the Rules!

Thunderous sounds rumbled from the distant sky. Kong Dao and Zhao Yameng gradually appeared in the distant horizon. They were already traveling at extremely high speeds as they had been worried that something might happen. Zhao Yameng unleashed the array formation in her compass, which gave her and Kong Dao an additional burst of speed. That was how they managed to hurry over so quickly.

As they approached, they saw Lu Song and his teammates trembling on the ground, terror coloring their faces. They could tell that the three cultivators were at the mid-stage Core Formation realm. One of them had reached the peak of mid-stage Core Formation realm and wasn't far from advancing into the late-stage Core Formation realm. Zhao Yameng was startled at the sight. She stared at Wang Baole.

She had known all along that Wang Baole was extremely strong. Despite that, both her and Kong Dao were still shocked by the power that Wang Baole had displayed. He had faced off against three cultivators at the same level of cultivation fearlessly and managed to injure them heavily within such a short span of time. The extent of his strength was extraordinary.

Only someone at the late-stage or perfected Core Formation realm could have done that.

Kong Dao had witnessed Wang Baole's battle with the stone bat statue in the cave abode under the Sea of Fire. However, he had been focused on pushing the stone doors open and couldn't afford to spare too much attention on Wang Baole. Besides, the stone statue had been an insentient entity. That wasn't the same as fighting a living person. That was why he was shocked.

Wang Baole smiled when he saw Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao. He raised his right hand and made a grab through the air at the three cultivators sprawled on the ground. He got his hands on their storage bracelets. Then, he said indifferently, "Now, the three of them will be hidden from the aerial map. Their legs are broken, though, and they don't have their storage bracelets with them now. They're stuck here. It doesn't matter if their presence is hidden on the map!" Wang Baole threw the confiscated storage bracelets and the other two keys to Zhao Yameng.

"Let's go. To our next target!" Having said that, Wang Baole turned and marched into the distance.

Zhao Yameng had a strange look on her face. She stared at Wang Baole, then at the three disciples from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace who were trembling silently on the ground. She smiled wryly, shook her head, and followed Wang Baole.

Kong Dao took a deep breath. After realizing how powerful Wang Baole really was, he suddenly felt that there was a chance of someone from the Federation getting into the top three in the trial. In fact, they had quite a great chance of achieving that!

The three disciples from Mie Liezi's faction released a sigh of relief when the other three cultivators left. They stared at one another. They could see the bitterness in the others' eyes, as well as shock that they were still reeling from.

"Is he really a cultivator... from the Federation, that Wang Baole?"

"He's obviously at the mid-stage Core Formation realm, but his fighting abilities... may match that of a personal disciple!"

"We've... underestimated the cultivators from the Federation! This Wang Baole is extremely powerful!" They grimaced. They knew that this meant they were eliminated from the trial. Their feelings were mixed as they struggled to sit up. Their hearts still raced with fear as they recalled the earlier battle. They waited silently for the teleportation that would occur hours later.

Wang Baole and his team, who had left them behind, were speeding off presently. They were silent as well. After a long moment, Zhao Yameng began massaging her forehead. She still firmly believed that regardless of how powerful one was, it was still necessary to have a strategy. It would increase their chances of success. After some thought, she turned and looked at Wang Baole.

"Baole, we should stay away from others now and avoid trouble. We should be more careful of those who are hidden from sight. Not everyone who's invisible on the map has lost their ability to fight. They are the hunters."

"Yameng!" Wang Baole stopped in his tracks. He turned and looked at Zhao Yameng, a serious look on his face. He said slowly.

"All plans fall apart in the face of absolute power. The rules of this trial are secondary to that of absolute law. You shouldn't be so concerned with the rules. If this were the Federation, I would do exactly what you would do and choose the course of action that would reap the greatest rewards with the smallest amount of effort. That is because even though the Federation has entered the Spirit Inception Era, it did so recently. We cultivators are still bound by law, as rules have not completely fallen apart!

"But this is the ancient greenish-bronze sword... the true world of cultivation! I've thought it through and finally understand... Running away won't solve the problem. The strong will devour the weak. In the end... we have to rely on our strength!"

"I may not be able to hide my presence, but I'm a hunter as well!" As Wang Baole spoke, the look in his eyes grew fiercer. He raised his right hand and pointed at the map in the sky.

"Our seventh key is five hundred kilometers away from us. I'll lead you there!"

Zhao Yameng was shaken by Wang Baole's words. She admitted to being overly concerned with the rules. Array formations were, after all, another system of rules. She didn't think that her analysis was of no use, but she respected Wang Baole's decision and thus kept her silence.

Kong Dao stood at one side as he listened to Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng's conversation. He thought that there was nothing wrong with what Wang Baole had said, but he felt that Zhao Yameng was reasonable in her choice of strategy as well. He smiled wryly and said.

"Baole, we have six keys with us now. It's enough to last us three days. Why don't... we wait for the next teleportation to be over before we begin snatching more keys?"

Wang Baole didn't reply immediately. He lifted his head and stared at the night sky as he considered Kong Dao's suggestion as well as what Zhao Yameng had said earlier. A moment later, determination flashed in his eyes, and he shook his head. Then, with his back to the duo, he said slowly, in a low voice, "Yameng, the rules of this trial are complicated and allow for too many probable scenarios. You and Kong Dao won't be able to predict all possible scenarios without missing anything. It's impossible to have a full grasp of what's going on and predict every single thing that's going to happen!

"This is because the inherent probabilities are a result of the invisible participants on the map. They are mobile. It's impossible to predict their exact movements and actions. Even if I helped, the three of us wouldn't be able to predict everything. There is one thing I know though... One powerful man can defeat ten men. The strongest will prevail!

"There's no need to plan strategies and consider rules. I only need to remember one thing, and that is to advance and never look back. I don't care about the participants hidden from the map. I don't even care how many keys there are. That's because I don't care about the rules of this trial!

"Taking the top three spots is simple... just get all the keys we can find and eliminate everyone that we come across. I'll naturally become one of the top three. I might even get first in place!

"I understand you're worried that we might incur the wrath of the public. But so what if the other participants are forced to join forces to attack us? There are spectators watching. If we manage to achieve that, it'll also prove the worth of us cultivators from the Federation!"

"These are my views. Only weaklings are bound by rules. Only those who break and set the rules have the right to become the strongest!" Wang Baole's voice might be calm, but as he spoke, his cultivation began churning again. His cultivation technique and his will achieved a resonance, and the resonating waves of spirit energy began to exude from his person again!

This time, the resonance was stronger than the previous two times. It had formed a kind of presence that seemed to have summoned indistinct hurricanes in the surrounding area. They rose into the air. It was an overpowering aura that was fearsome and fearless. It was forceful, akin to a blade that could slice through anything—including oceans and mountains—that stood in its path!

The aura was much more distinct this time, allowing Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao to feel it immediately. Kong Dao's breathing stilled momentarily. He couldn't control the trembling inside him. He stared at Wang Baole, emotions surging inside him. He finally knew why he couldn't compete with Wang Baole despite his strong battle lust. He had grown accustomed to hiding in the shadows. He lacked... a certain overpowering aura that belonged to a true prodigy!

“A cultivator is supposed to fight with other cultivators and challenge the heavens. He’s supposed to face challenges head-on and go against the flow of nature and the heavenly laws. That’s how he can advance fearlessly. If he doesn’t fall, he will definitely be able to create new paths to the Great Dao!”

Zhao Yameng stared at Wang Baole in a daze. There was comprehension in her eyes. Just as understanding dawned on both her and Kong Dao, there was a sudden transformation in the aerial map!

In the distant northwestern region, far away from them, four keys had gathered together. It might seem as if they were in the possession of three to four people, but it was more likely that they were in the possession of only one person!

The person moved swiftly in a straight line. Where he passed, other keys around him swiftly vanished and clustered around him. The original number of keys kept increasing in number. In a short period of time, it reached more than a dozen keys!

It was as if an invisible vortex had formed where the dozen or so keys had been, affecting the surrounding area and triggering a chain reaction, causing more keys to disappear and new keys to reappear and replace their absence. Those who had lost their keys had begun fighting for new keys.

The cluster of a dozen keys moved swiftly. It charged ahead, seemingly crushing everything in sight. The number of keys grew. If these keys were truly being held by one person, then at this moment...

The impression that he was giving all cultivators looking at the map was that of a forceful entity that was overwhelming and overpowering, advancing fearlessly against all forces of nature!

The feeling it gave Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao was even more intense. This was because... the aura that this cluster of keys was giving in the northwestern region was exactly the same as that which Wang Baole had exuded earlier!

One that disdained hiding and disregarded the rules!

“If there’s only one person in the northwestern region, then... it must be one of the prodigies!” Zhao Yameng reeled back with shock once again. She turned and stared at Wang Baole, and understanding dawned on her.

Wang Baole had noticed what was going on in the aerial map as well. His eyes flashed brightly, like starlight. A smile appeared on his face, and he was bathed in an intense battle lust!

That is my true opponent!

Chapter 563: Good Luck!

Just as something drastic was taking place in the northwestern region of the world, outside, in the public square atop the mountain in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, the spectating crowds of cultivators watching the three vortexes began to gasp. Many got to their feet and stared unblinkingly at a particular image in the vortex, at a disciple from Mie Liezi’s faction!

There were too many images moving in the vortexes. However, the one that currently held everyone’s attention was showing something most incredible!

On the projection was Mie Liezi's personal disciple, Dugu Lin, his face expressionless and cold. He was racing in mid-air presently, so quickly it seemed that he had reached the limits of how fast a Core Formation realm cultivator could go. In the blink of an eye, he approached a cultivator from Feng Qiuran's faction. The other had no chance to speak before Dugu Lin struck. With a single finger, he sent the other cultivator flying backwards, blood spilling from his lips. The latter passed out from what appeared to be serious injuries.

His key flew out from his grasp and towards Dugu Lin, who was already racing off. It was clear that Dugu Lin required the key, but he didn't seem particularly concerned about getting it!

The crowd watched with their own eyes as the earlier scene repeated itself in all images with Dugu Lin in them. The number of keys he possessed continued to grow. It had exceeded forty!

That was the highest number of keys a single participant had in the entire trial!

The spectators in the public square started making noises as their breathing quickened. Those from Mie Liezi's faction, especially, grew extremely excited as they cheered.

"Eldest Senior Brother Dugu Lin, he is invincible amongst all Core Formation realm cultivators!"

"Haha, I bet five hundred battle credits on Eldest Senior Brother Dugu Lin. It's a sure win!"

"I've said it before, this trial is essentially a battle amongst the personal disciples. The other personal disciples must be growing nervous."

As compared to the cheers from Mie Liezi's faction, the cultivators from Feng Qiuran's faction all had sullen expressions on their faces. They stared at the projections showing Xu Ming and Lu Yun and longed to see their incredible performance.

While the disciples of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace got carried away emotionally, the Nascent Soul realm cultivators were relatively calm. They were slightly surprised by what they had seen though, as the battle prowess that Dugu Lin was displaying was clearly extraordinary.

Even Feng Qiuran was frowning. Next to her, You Ran narrowed his eyes and seemed lost in thought. He turned and saw the faint smile on Mie Liezi's face.

The three Elders didn't speak, but the expressions on Feng Qiuran's and You Ran's faces shifted as they continued to watch the trial, paying special attention to Dugu Lin.

There was a commotion in the outside world. Similarly, all the participants in the trial were shocked by the drastic changes shown on the aerial map. Feng Qiuran's personal disciple, Lu Yun, was the first to react. After a few moments of silence, his eyes flashed brightly. He unleashed his cultivation and abandoned his original plans for stability. An aura of icy violence oozed from his person, and with a sudden burst of speed, he began to sweep the vicinity for keys!

He was doing what Dugu Lin was doing, relying on his superior strength and striking those he came across, then snatching their keys away!

The next to follow suit was Xu Ming. He knew that the rules had changed with Dugu Lin's actions.

He's trying to speed up the trial and get most of the participants eliminated by the first teleportation. Seems interesting! Xu Ming laughed, a cold glint flickering in his eyes. He chose to go on the offensive as well.

There was also Zhou Chudao and his Dao partner. They had stuck together at first, but after discussion, they decided to split up and strike independently. They attacked from two directions with overpowering force and began their hunt for keys!

The five of them going on the offensive created a strong chain effect that affected the entire trial. It intensified, and numerous cultivators lost their keys. No one had died yet, but there were cultivators who were maimed as well as those who were seriously injured and lost their ability to fight.

There were also some people who lost their keys but retained their ability to fight. Those were often the ones who met the prodigies in their own factions and had surrendered their keys willingly.

They had become truly invisible on the map. They were often the ones who posed a threat and danger to others, and the ones who engaged in battle with others as well!

The map showed that as all five prodigies went on the offensive, the entire world was affected. Keys disappeared off the map every moment and reappeared again, shining. Exchanges occurred endlessly. It was as Zhao Yameng had predicted—an intense first day with countless casualties!

Wang Baole's team was dashing through the air presently as well. What had changed were Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao, who now knew Wang Baole's choice after a comparison and after understanding his views. They followed him like guards flanking his sides, racing through the sky, advancing forward.

Their target... was the cluster of seven keys that they were drawing near!

From the map, it seemed that the seven keys weren't being held by a single person but by many people. There were various scenarios they might meet with, but Wang Baole didn't care. No matter how many people their opponents had, he would simply crush them!

His aura grew increasingly more powerful as he sped forward. He became a shooting star encircled by lightning bolts, approaching the location of the seven keys speedily as thunder boomed in the skies!

As he approached, Wang Baole's Spiritual Sense, which far surpassed that of other Core Formation realm cultivators, allowed him to see an image of his opponent as he came within a certain distance, even before his opponents could sense his presence!

Li Bin? A smile appeared on Wang Baole's face. His eyes were icy cold. With another sudden burst of speed, he dashed ahead!

Ahead of them, where the seven keys were clustered, not one, but thirteen people stood!

They were all cultivators from Mie Liezi's faction. Their leader was the one who had clashed with Wang Baole in the cave abode under the Sea of Fire and had been stopped by Chi Lin, the one who had been harboring murderous intentions towards Wang Baole—Li Bin!

He still believed that Wang Baole had been lucky that day. If not, he would have definitely been able to kill the latter and seize the opportunity to scavenge the cave abode that had been opened for the first

time in many years. This was a regret that he still held on to. Every time he thought about it, his desire to kill Wang Baole intensified.

That lowly life form from the Federation, Wang Baole, is here at the trial as well. Hopefully, he won't be as lucky this time, and we cross paths... At that thought, Li Bin sneered. He eyed his companions proudly.

As a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator, he could be counted as one of the more powerful cultivators in this trial. As long as he didn't cross paths with the five prodigies—those freaks of nature—he believed it would be a piece of cake for him to be placed in the top ten.

In addition, besides himself, he had gathered many followers as well. That being said, Li Bin knew that his chances of getting into the top three were minuscule. That was why he had thought it through and decided that he would trade his keys with a personal disciple for a personal favor!

Because of such a mindset, and because of his extreme arrogance, even though he had noticed the six keys racing towards him in the aerial map, he hadn't paid it much mind. He had already concluded that his new opponent wasn't one of the five prodigal freaks. The five of them had more than ten keys now. It was clearly shown on the map.

The highest level of cultivation that the arrival could have was the late-stage Core Formation realm, similar to his level of cultivation. Unless the size of the incoming party was almost that of his, they were simply bringing their keys to him.

We still have to be careful though. He might have done what I did and gathered people who have lost their keys. At that thought, Li Bin finally realized that the new arrival was very near his location. He waved his hand immediately, and the cultivators around him scattered. Li Bin raised his hand and unleashed his late-stage Core Formation realm cultivation. He was about to speak, but Wang Baole had been traveling at extremely high speeds. When he appeared at the distant horizon, Li Bin immediately recognized his face.

Wang Baole? Li Bin was overjoyed when he saw that the new arrival was Wang Baole. He lifted his face skyward and laughed out loud. Without hesitation, he took a step forward and spoke with a voice filled with murderous intent.

"I can't believe I actually managed to come across the lowly life form from the Federation, Wang Baole. Today, I'm going to see if you're really that lucky and if a Nascent Soul realm cultivator will enter the trial and save you!" Amidst his laughter, Li Bin waved his hand and pointed his finger at Wang Baole.

"Kill him!" His voice rang out. The cultivators around him began to sneer. In their opinion, a mere lowly cultivator from the Federation was never going to be able to compete with a disciple from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Even if they killed him, nothing would happen to them. After all, the trial didn't forbid killing. However, everyone was of the same sect and had friends in the sect. Unless it were the last resort, no one would truly try to kill someone. But if that someone were a cultivator from the Federation... the situation would be different!

The dozen cultivators charged at Wang Baole as they sneered cruelly.

Wang Baole grinned as they approached him of their own accord.

I can't let this great opportunity go to waste... A blood-colored light flickered in his eyes. The diamond-shaped Thearch Armor seal on his heart erupted and surged outward, emerging from within Wang Baole's body and expanding outwards. It wasn't the complete Thearch Armor, but a mad dance of meridians—a red glow bathed the skies!

Chapter 564: The Flame Snatch Devours

They're trying to kill me. If that's the case... I'll fight to kill too! Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He knew that the trial didn't forbid killing other participants. But everyone was of the same Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Even if they belonged to different factions, killings rarely occurred. It was clear that double standards were at play where he was concerned.

With that thought in mind... Wang Baole's lips twitched with mockery. His eyes flashed with an icy glint. He didn't hesitate and dashed out so quickly, instantly colliding with the dozen or so cultivators in front of him.

"Lowly life form from the Federation, die!"

"Kill him!"

The disciples from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace all shouted and attacked. All manners of spells and artifacts lit up the air. They erupted with power as soon as Wang Baole approached.

However, as soon as they attacked, Wang Baole suddenly shifted. A Lightning Avatar that looked identical to him split from his person. It was as if he had suddenly replicated himself!

The avatar didn't stop moving. It charged at the crowd, drawing their spells and artifacts to him. Wang Baole's true form took another step, and the Thearch Armor appeared outside his body. Tens of red-colored meridians, like sharp blades, extended outwards speedily and charged at the crowd!

Everything happened too quickly. The crowd's spells all landed on Wang Baole's avatar. They were about to modify their attacks, but it was too late. In the blink of an eye, the red-colored meridians outside Wang Baole's body sliced through all artifacts, disregarded the power of all spells, and pierced the foreheads of five people!

The five cultivators screamed. As they screamed, their bodies shuddered and shriveled right before everyone's eyes. Their bodies were dragged along, without their control, by the red-colored meridians that were Wang Baole's Thearch Armor. They swayed and circled the surrounding.

Everything happened right before everyone's eyes. From the crowd's first attack to the five cultivators being pierced in their foreheads and screaming painfully—everything took but a moment. The remaining cultivators had been stunned. Before they could react, they saw the five cultivators, who had been pierced through by the red-colored meridians around Wang Baole, sway in the air as they were drained of all blood, flesh, and will. They were transformed instantly into mummies. With heavy thuds, they were flung onto the ground.

What was even more creepy were the red-colored meridians. They kept wriggling their bodies as if they were sending back everything they had absorbed to Wang Baole rapidly. The scene sent alarm flashing across the surviving cultivators' faces. They gasped in shock and terror, then retreated hastily.

Li Bin's eyes almost popped out. His breathing quickened, and he could feel a prickling on his scalp. But he was a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator and mentally more resilient than the others. He took a deep breath and was about to console the others so that they wouldn't lose their will to fight due to terror.

Before he could speak, Wang Baole, with a sudden burst of speed, took a step and appeared in front of an early-stage Core Formation realm cultivator. Wang Baole was so fast the latter had no time to react. He was still reeling from shock at the earlier creepy sight. It was too late when he finally sensed Wang Baole's approach. Just as he was about to retreat, Wang Baole raised his right hand. Every spell and defensive artifact around this cultivator shriveled up and seemed to be rendered completely useless. A hit landed straight on the cultivator's forehead!

There was a loud thud, like the sound of an exploding melon, and the cultivator's head exploded. As his dead body fell to the ground, a blood-colored meridian dashed out. Wang Baole didn't spare the dead body a single glance. He took another step, relying on his lightning-fast speed, and appeared next to a mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator!

He found this person familiar. He had been there outside the cave abode and had harbored rather strong murderous intent towards him—one of Li Bin's companions. This mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator's reaction was significantly quicker than the early-stage Core Formation realm cultivator. Shocked, he didn't hesitate as he yelled.

"Wang..."

He only managed to get the first word out. Nothing else followed. He had bitten the tip of his tongue, spilling a mouthful of blood after speaking. It was no ordinary blood but his secret weapon. The blood transformed into a blood mist. It exuded extraordinary energies of a spell and charged straight at Wang Baole!

However... before Wang Baole, everything was rendered useless. He sent his fist punching out, striking through the blood mist and landing straight on the mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator's chest. With a loud series of cracks, the cultivator's chest collapsed inwards as he spat out mouthfuls of blood. A red-colored meridian pierced through him the moment he died.

Everything happened suddenly. Within the blink of an eye, out of the original thirteen cultivators... seven had died. Including Li Bin, there remained six cultivators!

"You... how is it possible for you to be so powerful!" Having seen Wang Baole kill seven people with such strange methods, Li Bin couldn't control the shudders traveling down his body. His breathing grew uneven, and his scalp felt numb. He couldn't believe what he had just witnessed.

Even if he was at the late-stage Core Formation realm, he immediately realized that he was no match for Wang Baole. Wang Baole's spell was incredibly bizarre and strange. It stank of blood and violence. As he shuddered, he suddenly remembered how Chi Lin had appeared outside the cave abode. It was him that Chi Lin had saved then, not Wang Baole!

He could imagine that if Chi Lin hadn't appeared then, he would have died. He suddenly felt so absurd. To think that he had thought Wang Baole was the lucky one then.

What irony. The one who had been lucky then was him. However, even though he had seen Wang Baole's power, he still couldn't believe his eyes.

He's hidden himself very well! He shuddered again. Li Bin didn't hesitate. He retreated immediately and attempted to escape. He didn't get far before he heard five separate cries of terror and pain behind him. The screams struck terror into Li Bin's heart. He was still a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator though. At such a critical moment, as he distinctly sensed an immense danger approaching him speedily from behind, Li Bin gritted his teeth and, with a holler, turned and formed a series of hand seals with both his hands!

An enormous, illusory seal appeared before him, standing before the approaching single blood-colored meridian. A thunderous boom sounded in the air. The blood-colored meridian shook and was flung away, while blood spilled from Li Bin's lips as he staggered backwards.

He didn't feel as if he had just escaped from the jaws of death though. Instead, he descended into further despair!

This was because... a single blood-colored meridian had been so powerful that Li Bin had to use his full strength to retaliate against it. He had even sustained injuries from the backlash of their collision. Before him was Wang Baole, who was walking slowly towards him. Around him were blood-colored meridians swaying in the air. They numbered in the dozens!

The difference in power between them was so vast, Li Bin's mind broke. He shrieked, his voice shrill in his terror.

"I'll hand over all the keys to you. Don't kill me, Wang Baole. This is a trial. The entire sect and all the elders are watching."

His reply was the dozens of blood-colored meridians extending from Wang Baole's body. They approached swiftly and pierced through his body. Li Bin screamed, resentment and hate clear in his eyes. His body shriveled up and was drained dry. He died!

"I've said it before. You were lucky the last time!" Wang Baole said coolly. With a wave of his hand, the partially formed Thearch Armor vanished. His body resumed its normal appearance, and while he seemed to be in a slight daze, he soon recovered.

The Flame Snatch Thearch Armor does affect one's mind. However, one will recover after shedding the armor. Wang Baole mused. Then, he stared at the dead bodies around him.

Wang Baole didn't mind killing others. Firstly, the trial had no requirements and restrictions against killings. Secondly... Wang Baole knew very well that as long as he got first place, Feng Qiuran would seize the opportunity. If she didn't, she wouldn't deserve her status as an Elder.

At that thought, Wang Baole lifted his head and stared at the aerial map. He narrowed his eyes. After some time, Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao finally arrived. They looked at the corpses all around them, then at each other. They walked over silently and retrieved the keys from the dead bodies. There were seven keys. Added to the six they already had, they now had thirteen keys!

The thirteen keys clustered together. Even though the number of keys might not rival that possessed by the five personal disciples, it was still a striking cluster on the aerial map!

A long moment later, Wang Baole withdrew his gaze from the night sky. He turned towards Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao, nodded at them, then continued advancing. The other two took a deep breath and chose to follow him.

Presently, in the outside world, amidst the numerous projections, someone finally noticed... Wang Baole's earlier massacre!

Chapter 565: This is... the Legendary Thearch Armor Inheritance!

Initially, no one on the public square in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace would have willingly paid attention to Wang Baole and his team. The most they would do might be to spare a passing glance as their eyes browsed past other projections.

That was why even though the spectators could see the aerial map as well, not many noticed when their three keys turned to six. Only the group of Federation Seedlings that had gathered at the periphery of the public square had their eyes fixed constantly on the images showing Wang Baole's team.

They had seen with their own eyes when Wang Baole had charged out, how he had struck instantly, broken the legs of three disciples from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and doubled their number of keys. They had been invigorated by the scene, but they hadn't made a loud fuss. Even Li Yi had been silent. They had already realized the key to this trial from Wang Baole's team.

Then, they had seen the battle between Wang Baole and Li Bin's party. They had seen the terrifying blood-colored meridians and Wang Baole's brutal massacre. The sight had made their breathing turn uneven and quick, and they had grown agitated. That had drawn the attention of the surrounding disciples from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

Wang Baole's massacre had ended by the time the disciples who had noticed something strange was going on had looked over. However, on the aerial map, Wang Baole's team's keys had increased from six to thirteen keys. The discovery of that... caught many people's attention. They gasped in shock!

"The keys held by the participants from the Federation... their numbers have increased!"

"Hmm? Thirteen keys! Are my eyes playing tricks on me? I haven't been paying attention. How did they suddenly get so many keys without anyone's notice!"

"Something's not right here!"

The gasps of shock drew more people's attention. Soon, increasingly more disciples in the public square had their eyes on the projection showing Wang Baole's team. They were all stunned by the thirteen keys. Currently... in the trial, the participant with the greatest number of keys was Dugu Lin. He had more than forty keys!

The next person with the most number of keys was Zhou Chudao and the other prodigies. Each had two dozen keys or so. Their presences were extremely visible on the map. Wang Baole's team... with their number of keys, actually placed six!

To possess so many keys in such a chaotic situation was seen as an unwise move by many. It had a great likelihood of drawing too much attention. Despite their shock, most of them shook their head secretly. Many, who looked down on the Federation, displayed scorn and mockery on their faces openly.

That was why no one had really paid attention to Wang Baole's violent murders. Even Mie Liezi himself was the same. After all... there were six hundred projections. It was impossible to pay attention to all of them at the same time. Those who had lost their keys, especially, had vanished from the map. They typically found a hiding spot and stayed there without moving a single inch.

The matter couldn't be hidden for long though, especially with more people paying attention to Wang Baole. They wanted to see how their factions had been robbed of their keys. Wang Baole's strength and power were exposed. The spectators saw with their own eyes as he attacked instantly, injuring four participants heavily and snatching another four keys. That brought the tally to seventeen keys. Many spectators caught those scenes. Soon, a wave of shocked gasps stronger than the previous erupted in the spectating crowd.

"This Wang Baole is hiding his true strength!"

"He only took three seconds to crush four other cultivators at the same level as him, at the mid-stage Core Formation realm. Heavens!"

With the rising commotion, Feng Qiuran, Mie Liezi, and many other Nascent Soul realm cultivators began to notice the strange happenings occurring around Wang Baole. They were all taken aback. Feng Qiuran, especially, was stunned. Her eyes widened as she stared at a screen. Wang Baole and his team were racing forward.

"Wang Baole? That's quite interesting..." Mie Liezi said suddenly. He raised his right hand and pointed. Suddenly, amongst the many screens showing what the disciples from Feng Qiuran's faction were doing, the one showing Wang Baole's team expanded in size. It took up half the entirety of the vortex. Mie Liezi waved his right hand, and the image began to rewind. The events that had taken place since Wang Baole's team had entered the trial and everything that had happened after were being replayed!

Everyone's eyes zoomed onto the enlarged screen. They saw Wang Baole strike and break the legs of those three cultivators, and Wang Baole's battle with Li Bin!

They saw with their own eyes the blood-colored meridians extending out from Wang Baole's body and his massacre of the other participants. A wave of shock and fury instantly erupted amongst the spectators. Many got to their feet and began shouting.

"What cultivation technique is that?"

"He killed him!"

"The cultivator from the Federation dares to kill our fellow disciples from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!"

As these cultivators raged, the Federation Seedlings clenched their fists and fumed secretly. They could do little to help though. Even a few Nascent Soul realm cultivators were staring with icy, murderous light in their eyes. A few turned towards Mie Liezi and the other two Elders with the intention of saying something. They soon stopped themselves as they saw the myriad of emotions flashing across the

Elders' faces. Feng Qiuran stood up, her breathing clearly agitated and her eyes shining with an intense light.

The sight sent the Nascent Soul realm cultivators, who had been planning to say something, thinking. They didn't speak but continued to observe closely. The disciples around them also noticed the Elders' reactions. The entire public square fell silent. Mie Liezi's breathing quickened slightly, and his eyes revealed the complicated feelings he was experiencing. He said, with a low voice, "Is this... the legendary... Thearch Armor inheritance?"

"It might look slightly different from what's documented in our records, but there is no doubt that this is the ultimate inheritance that our Vast Expanse Dao Palace has placed in the Eye of Infinite Techniques—the Thearch Armor inheritance!" Feng Qiuran's eyes shone brightly. She seemed overwhelmed with emotions.

"This kid must have been to the Eye of Infinite Techniques and uncovered a golden opportunity. Not bad, not bad at all. To be able to earn the recognition of our sect's sacred land. He is indeed a true disciple of our Vast Expanse Dao Palace!" Feng Qiuran burst out into laughter. She took a deep breath and sat down again. Her eyes showed her strong approval as she watched Wang Baole through the projection!

She believed that this was the reason why Wang Baole had suddenly become so strong!

As for the massacre... after a moment of silence, Mie Liezi decided not to mention it. He knew that to be recognized by the Land of Inheritance and receive an inheritance was, to a certain degree, to gain the status akin to a core disciple. The sect had collapsed. Else, if they were to follow the traditions of old, one who had his name written on the Dao Plate would be promoted to the status of a core disciple after walking out from the Land of Inheritance.

This was a status that was vastly more elevated and esteemed than theirs, which was that of inner sect disciples!

Mie Liezi might harbor ill will towards the Federation, but his loyalty to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was eternal and unchanging! Even though he held no goodwill towards Wang Baole, in his silence, he couldn't help but observe the latter. He wanted to know... what made one who had earned an inheritance in the Land of Inheritance special!

You Ran was silent as well. He narrowed his eyes, and a flicker of cold light flashed in the hidden depths of his eyes, hidden from discovery. It vanished in an instant. The smile on his face remained, and he seemed unfazed by it all.

The Nascent Soul realm cultivators and the other disciples around them watched as the three Elders chose not to pursue the matter of the massacre. They stared at one another and kept quiet. The Federation Seedlings, after a moment of stunned silence, began to grow hopeful amidst their confusion and doubt.

The entire public square descended into silence. All eyes watched the five personal disciples as well as the projection showing Wang Baole.

Time passed swiftly, and a day soon went by. The first teleportation was going to occur... in two hours' time. The aerial map showed the five personal disciples each staking their own territory in a corner of the map. Countless keys shone on the map. They looked like stars in the night sky, dazzling beyond measure!

Wang Baole had acquired twenty keys by now. He stood out like a dazzling cluster of keys on the aerial map as well. He was the sixth star on the map in the eyes of the spectating cultivators!

The world where the trial was taking place began to grow increasingly quiet. There were still plenty of keys scattered across the map, but their exchanges were growing more infrequent. This was like the calm before the storm. The silence seemed to contain a mad violence that could turn the heavens and earth upside down!

The spectators could sense the tense atmosphere before the storm. Streaks of tension began to appear amidst the silence. Everyone stared unblinkingly at the screens, waiting... for the storm to descend!

In the trial, Wang Baole was presently standing atop a mountain peak. He lifted his head and stared at the aerial map, a deep look in his eyes. Behind him were Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao. They were slightly injured. Kong Dao appeared as he had always been. On the other hand, Zhao Yameng's eyes had become fiercer after half a day.

They were going to be the main attack force in the coming days. Their targets were the participants who were hidden from the map and planning to ambush them. Wang Baole would only interfere if they came across someone they couldn't handle. Otherwise, the both of them would fight the enemy. This resulted in not only Kong Dao's but also Zhao Yameng's will to fight intensifying rapidly!

They were both silent at the moment. Zhao Yameng stared at Wang Baole's back as she recalled everything that had happened in the trial. A strange light began to appear in her eyes. She was about to say something when Wang Baole, with his back facing them and his eyes on the night sky, suddenly said, "Yameng, Kong Dao, how about we... do a big one?"

Chapter 566: The Stars Quake!

"A big one?" The expression on Zhao Yameng's face shifted slightly. She was a smart woman, skilled at analysis. She was also a numinous being. She was a master at both cultivation and research in array formations, both came easily to her. If Wang Baole weren't one of the participants in this trial, based on her analytical mind, she stood a good chance of being placed in the top ten.

That was why she immediately understood Wang Baole when he said that. She could guess vaguely what he was trying to say. Kong Dao caught on slightly later, but his keen animal instincts allowed him to arrive at a rough guess as well.

"Baole, you mean you want to..." Kong Dao started speaking and then stopped. He didn't finish what he had planned to say. His eyes narrowed and shifted from Wang Baole to the aerial map and the five clusters of stars representing the five prodigies!

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes and did some calculations. Then, he took a deep breath and suddenly said, "Follow me. Let's go get him!" Upon saying that, Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He took a step off the mountain peak and into mid-air. His cultivation erupted, and he dashed into the distance.

Even though Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao had confirmed their guesses were right, they couldn't stop their hearts from racing. They didn't hesitate, however, and followed Wang Baole hurriedly. There were less than two hours to the next teleportation. The entire world could be said to be relatively quiet and calm. Wang Baole's team's movements were like a pebble flung into a peaceful lake, stirring ripples across the peaceful surface of the lake and drawing everyone's attention!

Wang Baole cared nothing for these hidden, watchful eyes. He advanced with extraordinary speed, racing towards one direction. His speed increased steadily. There seemed to be a fire burning inside him. It was clearly not fury, but battle lust!

The "big one" that he had been talking about was... the five personal disciples of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

After all, they were the only five people in the trial who had collected nearly two hundred keys. Regardless of who was eliminated, it would be sufficient to increase their opponent's number of keys multiple times, transforming the latter into the focus of the most attention.

Wang Baole didn't care for becoming the focal point of everyone's attention. However, he knew something clearly. If his opponent... were any of these five people, even though he was confident he could take them in a fight, they were different from other disciples. If they lost their keys and became hidden from the map, they would become extremely dangerous threats when they tried to rise to prominence or ambush him later in the trial.

The only exception was if he maimed them. However, Wang Baole knew that he might be able to explain away his killing of ordinary disciples, but if he did maim a personal disciple, even Feng Qiuran wouldn't be able to contain the murderous intent coming from that personal disciple's master.

That is why... the timing is critical! As he raced ahead, a faint smile appeared on Wang Baole's face. He had been thinking about this problem earlier. He had an answer now. What he had been waiting for was the present, when the teleportation was about to occur!

To be exact, the most ideal time was half an hour before the next teleportation!

Half an hour wasn't too long or too short a time. It was just right for an intense fight, and enough for one to become frantic with madness. This was especially so for the half an hour before the next teleportation. Every participant hidden on the map would go mad within this half an hour. That was because they would be eliminated if they didn't get a key within this period!

Similarly, during this half an hour prior to teleportation, everyone holding keys would be on high alert. No one wanted to have their keys snatched at the final moment and be teleported away and eliminated in the trial. They wouldn't even have time to save themselves from elimination!

As a result, any ordinary person would conclude after analysis that within this half an hour prior to teleportation, those without keys would go mad and seek fights frantically. On the other hand... unless

those with keys were indeed crazy, they wouldn't choose to engage in any fighting or snatching of keys during this period. They would wait for the teleportation to take place, then attack after.

To attack before teleportation would be risky and dangerous—regardless of whether one ultimately won or not. If one lost, he or she would be eliminated. Even if one won, he or she would have to be wary of participants, who were hidden from the map, attacking them with mad frenzy. The risks outweighed the gains.

After all, depending on whether one had a key or not, one would be in a completely different mental state when facing the impending teleportation. That was why... be it the cultivators in the trial or the spectating disciples, they all determined that during this period before teleportation, the ones who would seek battle fiercely and frantically would be those hidden on the map!

There was a saying in ancient times in the Federation—madness was required for success. To a certain extent, this saying could be used to describe some prodigies as well. Like Wang Baole... he was exactly like that!

What he was waiting for was now. He was going to go against the laws of reason. He was going to make use of the approaching teleportation to eliminate the presence that was a threat to his!

After some consideration, he decided that his target would be... the personal disciple nearest him. He didn't know who that was going to be, and he had no need to know. He only knew... that no matter who the other party was, and which faction he or she belonged to, he would attack!

Just as Wang Baole dashed across the skies and raced towards his target, somewhere else in the sky, there was another personal disciple who had chosen to do exactly what Wang Baole was planning to do!

This person was Dugu Lin!

He noticed Wang Baole's cluster of keys on the map, situated far from him and moving at high speed. Even though he couldn't tell who it was, he immediately realized Wang Baole's intentions after having noticed the cluster of keys.

That's interesting. Who could that be? Is it Zhou Chudao? No matter who it is, to be able to go on the offensive now, he or she must not be a simple character! Dugu Lin narrowed his eyes. Truth be told, he had been surprised to find another cluster of keys besides those belonging to the five prodigies on the aerial map. He had believed that only five people, including himself, would have been able to achieve this.

I hope this person lasts until the end. I want to know who exactly has hidden his or her strength so well! Dugu Lin smiled faintly. He leaped into the sky and, with a sudden burst of speed, rushed towards the personal disciple nearest him!

His and Wang Baole's locations were too far apart. That was why they had not chosen the other as their target and had instead chosen a different personal disciple nearest them. As Dugu Lin released a sudden burst of speed, he transformed into a lightning bolt shooting across the aerial map. Both he and Wang Baole did nothing to conceal their intentions. Their actions sent cultivators in the trial reeling back. The disciples outside watching the trial were completely stunned.

They saw clearly on what had been a calm and peaceful aerial map, two stars suddenly shifting and approaching the star nearest them speedily!

“It’s Wang Baole and Dugu Lin. Heavens, they’ve chosen to attack now!”

“Wang Baole’s target is... Zhou Chudao!”

“Dugu Lin’s target is... Xu Ming!”

The disciples in the public square reeled back with shock. They had predicted that this calm before the storm would persist until the teleportation was over and that the fight would start again after the teleportation had ended. They hadn’t expected Wang Baole and Dugu Lin to choose this moment, the most inappropriate and also the most appropriate moment, to strike!

It had been a completely unexpected move. After some thought though, it seemed like a completely reasonable move to make. That being said, it still surprised and shocked many people. This included some Nascent Soul realm cultivators, whose eyes were shining with a bright, intense light. Feng Qiuran’s, Mie Liezi’s, and You Ran’s focus on the trial had also intensified considerably.

One not only required sufficient cultivation to make a move now, one had to have the guts to do it!

The most excited and nervous of the lot were the Federation Seedlings. It had been an emotional roller coaster ride for them. The cause of this was Wang Baole. Presently, some of them were anxious while others were high-spirited.

With tens of thousands of eyes watching him, Wang Baole continued to race across the skies. He had noticed Dugu Lin doing the same. What was different was how when Wang Baole saw the other move, an image of Dugu Lin immediately appeared in his mind. This was a result of his instincts and the analysis he had done previously. It had led to his conclusion!

It should be him!

Wang Baole withdrew his gaze and slowed down. After Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao caught up with him, he began to pick up speed again. They sped across the night sky like fiery shooting stars, approaching ever nearer to where Zhou Chudao was!

Time passed speedily as they raced onwards. There was another half an hour to the next teleportation. On the aerial map, the star that represented Dugu Lin finally neared its target. He struck instantly. Even though Wang Baole couldn’t hear the sounds of battle, he could guess at the intensity of the fight!

Now, it’s my turn! Wang Baole took a deep breath. His battle lust erupted at that moment, and he charged forward. From a distance, he could see a mountain peak ahead of him. Sat there facing him was Zhou Chudao, his moping face resembling that of an old peasant!

When Zhou Chudao saw Wang Baole, he sighed. His low voice echoed in the air.

“Why are you doing this... As I expected, it’s you!”

Chapter 567: Defeating You With Five Punches!

Like Dugu Lin, Zhou Chudao was similarly suspicious of the sixth star that appeared on the night sky map. Even though voice transmissions couldn't be sent in the trial grounds, as a personal disciple, especially one from Daoist You Ran's lineage that didn't participate in the battle between Mie Liezi and Feng Qiuran, he had many friends. That was especially so as he had a warm personality.

Therefore, he came to know about the identity of the sixth star from someone who had lost his key. However, despite knowing that, he still felt that it was unbelievable. It was only after he saw it with his own eyes that he started to believe it. A solemn look appeared in his eyes.

When Zhou Chudao looked in the direction of Wang Baole, Wang Baole also stopped in mid-air, cupping his fists and greeting Zhou Chudao.

"Fellow Daoist Zhou!"

"Fellow Daoist Wang, is there really a need to battle? You... might not be my match." With a bitter expression on his face, Zhou Chudao wanted to convince Wang Baole to give up.

After thinking about it, Wang Baole nodded his head and spoke.

"I'm engaging in this battle for more than just myself. Please understand, Fellow Daoist Zhou. Please... Begin the attack."

"Why should we do this..." While shaking his head, Zhou Chudao stood up from the mountain peak. As he stood up, he straightened his body, and the bitterness on his face gradually dissipated, replaced by an aura that seemed to be able to strike the heavens!

Amidst the loud boom, it seemed as though a hurricane was being produced around Zhou Chudao. The hurricane swept in all directions, producing crazy winds in the surroundings. Looking from a distance, as the winds howled, the hurricane seemed to have transformed into a vortex with Zhou Chudao as the center.

As the vortex turned, the aura from Zhou Chudao grew increasingly stronger. In the blink of an eye, it had already spread in all directions. Numerous cultivators standing near him appeared in shock and retreated quickly. It was then that the voice of Zhou Chudao, who was in the center of the hurricane on the mountain peak, reverberated.

"Junior Brothers, please do not come within ten thousand feet of this area. If you wish to watch the battle, do it from a distance!"

At the same time, Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao had arrived in the air. As they neared, they could already hear Wang Baole's chilly and stern voice reverberating.

"Yameng, lay the array formation. Kong Dao, guard the area. The battle between Fellow Daoist Zhou Chudao and I should not be interrupted by busybodies!"

Zhao Yameng nodded and immediately took out the compass to lay array formations around the mountain peak. There was only one use for the array formations, and that was to block anyone from going near. There may have been people who were hiding within the array formation, and Wang Baole seemed to acknowledge that, but he didn't say anything. Therefore, Zhao Yameng only took a glance and didn't bother with it anymore.

Soon, the array formations were completely put in place, and Kong Dao guarded the surroundings vigilantly. Wang Baole didn't attack immediately and instead waited until the aura from Zhou Chudao had grown increasingly stronger, causing the vortex to be transformed into a typhoon that could tear the space apart. That was when Wang Baole suddenly spoke.

"Fellow Daoist Zhou, there is no time to lose. Let's... begin!" Wang Baole looked at Zhou Chudao, and when their eyes met, their gazes seemed to have been transformed into extremely sharp swords that showed their intent to battle!

In the next instant, Zhou Chudao moved, descending the mountain peak while bringing the winds that were sweeping in all directions with him. He was like a Heavenly Venerate as he neared Wang Baole, his aura so strong that it could be felt even before he neared Wang Baole. His strong aura resulted in loud bangs being produced, and carried a force that seemed to be able to wither and decimate everything in his path the moment it was released!

"Wang Baole, you aren't my opponent!" Zhou Chudao's voice was like Heavenly Thunder. When it was heard, it was as if an invisible hand or a crashing wave was being brought along, pressuring Wang Baole!

The scene shook Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao. The spectators in hiding also quickened their breathing. Even the Dao Palace cultivators on the public square outside, who had focused all their attention on the individual battles involving Wang Baole and Dugu Lin, were gripped with shock when they noticed the aura given off by Zhou Chudao.

While everyone was immersed in shock, Wang Baole laughed and stepped out. He was someone who had come to battle, not someone who had come to be challenged, and there was no way he could lose out in terms of aura. Therefore, when his foot landed, an extremely strong desire to battle was similarly emanated from Wang Baole!

As the desire to battle was unleashed, Wang Baole had already clenched his right fist. The force from his physical body, the Lightning Core, as well as the Dark Core, were all released and combined together. That, integrated with Wang Baole's desire for battle, resonating his will and cultivation at that very moment!

What that resonance meant was that, in this state, Wang Baole could exhibit a force that was beyond his capabilities depending on the degree of resonance!

If Zhou Chudao's aura were described as crashing waves, then right now, Wang Baole would be like an indestructible reef that remained undamaged in the face of the turbulent waves!

It was perhaps still inappropriate to describe Wang Baole as the reef. That was because right now, as Wang Baole unleashed his aura and his foot landed, his right fist punched the powerful Zhou Chudao who was fast approaching in mid-air!

Supernova!

Ten percent boost from the resonance!

Everything happened in an instant. In the blink of an eye, the duo made contact with each other. It was a battle between their auras and a clash of their consciousness. Loud booms reverberated in all

directions, and at that moment, the waves produced from the impact exploded between the duo, creating a force that swept in all directions. Noticing it, Wang Baole laughed.

“Zhou Chudao, I can defeat you with five punches. That was the first punch, and now... the second punch!” As Wang Baole spoke, the desire to fight in his eyes grew even more frightening. That was especially so as his desire to fight was complemented by his long flowing hair and the viciousness in his eyes. It made someone feel that he was indescribably overbearing and that his aura was extremely overwhelming. That was especially so as he dared to battle Zhou Chudao as if he were an equal, without bowing down to him!

The moment Wang Baole’s voice was heard, he moved, charging forward at high speed. He was like a shooting star as he dashed towards Zhou Chudao with an extremely strong aura. He grew faster and faster, as if he could pass through the emptiness and set off a series of sonic booms. When he neared in an instant, he punched, and the impact caused the heavens and winds to transform!

Thirty percent boost from the resonance!

“How interesting that you’re announcing your battle plans! If you manage to fulfill it, it means that you can showcase how formidable you are, with me as an example. Then, let’s see whether you can really make use of me to show how capable you are, or... if you will fail!”

A glow flashed across Zhou Chudao’s eyes. At that moment, there was no look of disdain in his eyes at all. Instead, as his aura emanated from his body, an indescribable sense of sharpness could be felt. That was also what made Dugu Lin value him.

As he spoke, Zhou Chudao raised his right hand before sealing it and pointing his finger. Instantly, a purple ball of fire was produced from his finger, transforming immediately from a flame to a sea of fire that enveloped him. As Wang Baole’s punch landed, the sea of fire enveloping Zhou Chudao was turned into the skull of a giant fire beast!

The fire beast was like a kirin mentioned in the ancient myths of the Federation. It charged towards Wang Baole at high speed, and amidst the loud boom, it made contact with Wang Baole’s second punch.

Loud bangs could be heard in all directions. Wang Baole trembled, and the Blood Qi in his body churned. At the same time, the kirin skull formed from the sea of fire broke apart, revealing Zhou Chudao, who now had the same desire to fight in his eyes. He had his hands sealed, and his internal Blood Qi was similarly churning!

“Void Awl!” A glow flashed across Zhou Chudao’s eyes as he waved his hands. Instantly, nine cracks appeared in Wang Baole’s surroundings, transforming into nine purple-colored awls that piercingly charged towards Wang Baole!

Each of those nine awls released a combat force that was similar to a cultivator who was in late-stage Core Formation realm. The collective force of the nine awls was so powerful that it was capable of suppressing any late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator, and even someone who had perfected the Core Formation realm would be taken back!

After unleashing the Void Awl, Zhou Chudao didn’t stop. Instead, he neared Wang Baole instantly, and with a glow of fire being given off his finger, he pointed at Wang Baole’s forehead!

Wang Baole felt its force but didn't retreat. He didn't even unleash Thearch Armor, as like Zhou Chudao had said, not only did he need to eliminate Zhou Chudao, he also needed to use this battle to hone himself!

As he waved his right hand, Wang Baole took out a ribbon from his storage bracelet, wrapping it around him to block the nine awls. Wang Baole's thunderous voice could be heard as he gripped his right fist and moved his body forward!

"Fellow Daoist Zhou, this is... the third punch!"

Chapter 568: Whetstone

Seventy percent boost from the resonance!

The moment Wang Baole spoke, the two neared each other. As the fist and the finger landed, and as their cultivation was instantly unleashed, a combined force that was so powerful that it seemed to be able to destroy everything was released from both of them!

Amidst the boom, blood flowed out from the corner of Zhou Chudao's mouth as he retreated. Similarly, blood flowed out of the corner of Wang Baole's mouth. However, the glow from Wang Baole's eyes was even brighter right now. He stepped forward while laughing heartily as he attacked Zhou Chudao once again!

A loud boom was produced when the duo made contact, and Zhou Chudao retreated from the impact. Wang Baole seemed unrestrained and aloof. As a contender and a challenger, his aura grew even stronger as he unleashed his cultivation once again and neared Zhou Chudao in an instant.

"Now, this is the fourth punch!" Wang Baole's voice was like Heavenly Thunder. At this moment, complemented by his aura, he seemed unbeatable. Zhou Chudao's breathing uncontrollably quickened, and he had a strong gut feeling that if Wang Baole were allowed to continually boost his aura without restraint, his fifth and last punch would be incredibly astonishing and earth-shaking!

This cannot continue! The fighting spirit in Zhou Chudao's eyes didn't diminish, and instead burned even more strongly. As Wang Baole neared him at high speed, he retreated while raising his right hand and sealing it. Instantly, moonlight emerged from his chest. It was extremely brilliant, and as Zhou Chudao sealed his hands, the moonlight was turned into an image of the moon in front of him!

Even though the moon was bright, it didn't carry a sense of pureness. Instead, it seemed extremely bizarre, and evil murmurs that could make people and spirits tremble with fear could be heard from it.

It made one feel that those murmurs were extremely evil curses!

"Cursed Moon!" Zhou Chudao bellowed as he pointed with his sealed right hand at Wang Baole. The moment his finger landed, Wang Baole was shocked, and a strong sense of crisis exploded in his heart. He didn't have time to think too much, and he turned his body at a weird angle while it was still moving at high speed.

However, as a personal disciple of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace who was valued by Dugu Lin, Zhou Chudao's ferocity had far exceeded that of ordinary Core Formation realm cultivators. Even the Nascent Soul realm cultivators would likely not stand a chance against him.

As Zhou Chudao's voice reverberated, and as his finger landed, it was evident that it was still too late for Wang Baole to dodge the impact. Instantly, moonlight appeared around Wang Baole's body. With crisis looming, an undetectable flash appeared across Wang Baole's eyes, and overlapping figures of his body also seemed to have appeared. However, everything had happened too quickly. As the moonlight gathered at high speed, the image of the moon, which was just in front of Zhou Chudao the previous moment, enveloped Wang Baole. At that moment, Wang Baole seemed to have transformed into the moon!

The moment the moon enveloped Wang Baole, feelings of weakness, sleepiness, and fatigue overwhelmed him. Wang Baole's breathing quickened, and his body trembled. His eyelids grew so heavy that he almost couldn't keep them open, and he was about to fall into a slumber. The fatigue from his body spread from within him like the tides, and the feeling of weakness he felt seemed to have turned him from a cultivator to a commoner!

His mood and emotions were also all being affected. Despair, sadness, thoughts of suicide, as well as all the different negative emotions, were being strongly experienced by him at that moment!

Even his cultivation seemed to be affected. Put more accurately, it wasn't his cultivation, but his ability to control it, that was affected. He was previously able to control his cultivation perfectly, but due to all the negative effects that he was experiencing, his power of control was weakened by fifty percent!

That was one of Zhou Chudao's trump cards, the Cursed Moon!

If it were someone else and not Wang Baole, Zhou Chudao would have neared immediately and killed his opponent without wasting too much of his cultivation or his Dharmic treasures. However, his opponent was Wang Baole. Even though he didn't understand him deeply, having gone through this short battle, Zhou Chudao had already elevated Wang Baole's position, placing him as an equal opponent like Dugu Lin was!

In the face of such a strong opponent, Zhou Chudao couldn't afford to be careless. Therefore, a chilly flash appeared in Zhou Chudao's eyes. Even though Wang Baole was affected by the Cursed Moon, Zhou Chudao didn't go near him. Instead, he retrieved a wooden figurine from his storage bag!

The wooden figurine was black in color. The moment it was taken out, a chilly aura was released from it. It was the figure of a ferocious hound which carried an evil glow in its eyes. When the wooden figurine was taken out, the ferocious hound bit its own tongue, and a mouthful of blood was spat from the figurine. Instantly, a large amount of Black Qi was produced from the wooden figurine.

A ferocious roar that shook the heavens and earth also reverberated. The wooden figurine seemed to have come to life, transforming into a hundred-foot-tall, black-colored ferocious hound!

The ferocious hound's teeth were extremely sharp, and its eyes carried a look of madness and greed. As it roared, it charged towards Wang Baole, wanting to swallow him!

It was like... a hound swallowing the moon during a lunar eclipse!

"This is the end. It's a pity that you didn't manage to show how formidable you are in the end!" Zhou Chudao narrowed his eyes and spoke slowly. The ferocious hound had already neared Wang Baole with

its mouth opened wide in an exaggerated manner. It was about to swallow both Wang Baole and the image of the moon surrounding him!

The onlookers around them, as well as the cultivators outside the trial grounds, were all deeply shaken. That was especially so for the Federation Seedlings, who were all extremely anxious!

That was when... something unexpected occurred!

A voice that carried a sense of regret was heard from Wang Baole, who was enveloped by the moon.

"It's indeed a pity that you didn't come near..."

When that voice emerged, a hand that was formed from lightning was extended from the Cursed Moon. It was so fast that it landed on the ferocious hound's teeth in an instant!

As it landed, thunder was instantly produced. Explosive waves spread in all directions, and as the noise reverberated, an extremely powerful force emerged from within the Cursed Moon. Not only did it devastate the Cursed Moon, but it also landed on the ferocious hound. In the blink of an eye, the Cursed Moon was destroyed, and the ferocious hound retreated while screaming painfully. Zhou Chudao was gripped with shock, and at that moment, Wang Baole emerged from the devastated Cursed Moon. His speed had increased significantly from before. He neared Zhou Chudao at the speed of lightning and punched forward!

That was the fourth punch!

One hundred percent boost from the resonance!

The punch clearly harnessed an even stronger force from the resonance. It was like the crashing waves during a hurricane, with each subsequent wave being stronger than the previous. To a certain extent, the lethality of that punch was twice that of Wang Baole's own combat power!

That was because the effect of the resonance allowed Wang Baole's cultivation and spirit energy to break through their respective limits. As his fist landed, even Zhou Chudao couldn't avoid it and could only try to resist it with all his might. As the loud boom reverberated, Zhou Chudao spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, and the protective Dharmic treasures covering him were destroyed. His chest caved in while blood spurted endlessly from it. As he retreated, a look of indignation could be seen in his eyes!

"Lightning Avatar!"

"You're right!" Wang Baole created a lightning avatar during the crucial juncture previously. Both the Cursed Moon and the ferocious hound had targeted Wang Baole's avatar, and as his avatar self-exploded, which resolved the crisis, Wang Baole's true self emerged and landed the fourth punch.

If Zhou Chudao hadn't been vigilant and chose to go near Wang Baole, this battle would perhaps have already ended!

Right now, as the duo conversed, Wang Baole turned and charged towards Zhou Chudao. He was so ferocious and formidable that if one were to look at everything from afar, Zhou Chudao seemed to be on the brink of being completely suppressed!

“Next up, the last punch!” Wang Baole’s desire for battle was extremely strong at this moment. He was about to go near when, at that moment, Zhou Chudao screamed. His retreating body suddenly stopped moving, and his eyes grew bloodshot. A sense of resonance suddenly emerged from Zhou Chudao’s body!

“You will not be able to unleash your last punch!” As Zhou Chudao spoke, he raised his hands and sealed them. Green veins bulged from his forehead, and his cultivation vibrated heavily!

“Nine Generations...”

“False Killing!”

When Zhou Chudao spoke, illusory figures appeared from Zhou Chudao’s body. Each of the illusory figures was an image of him. Together with his true body, it looked as if the reincarnations from nine generations had appeared together. When he sealed his hands, so did the illusory figures. Frightening auras that could freeze the spectators in fear emerged from Zhou Chudao’s body at that moment!

Chapter 569: Domineering!

The reincarnation of the Nine Generations clearly shared the same origins as the mystic technique of the Federation’s Five Generation Sky Clan!

The difference lay in that the Five Generation Sky Clan could only call upon reincarnations from five generations, while Zhou Chudao could call upon reincarnations from nine generations. Right now, as the illusory images appeared behind him as he sealed his hands, nine awls appeared between him and Wang Baole!

At the same time, those illusory figures also sealed their hands, causing the number of awls existing between the duo to grow instantly from nine to eighty-one!

The moment the eighty-one awls appeared, they caused such a strong wave of impact that it shook the entire area, causing the night sky map over the region to warp. Turbulent winds were also triggered, and even the mountain peak beneath them was vibrating vigorously. Large amounts of rock fragments were tumbling down as if the mountain was about to collapse.

The ground seemed to be unable to withstand the impact as well. Cracks were seen in the ground, and, coupled with the turbulence of the mountain, it seemed as if the entire area was crumbling!

At this moment, Zhou Chudao’s eyes were bloodshot. He roared and raised his hands, and the illusory figures behind him followed suit. They seemed to be moving the eighty-one awls, pressing on them and directing them towards Wang Baole!

“Imprison him!” Zhou Chudao exclaimed loudly. The illusory figures behind him all carried a frightening expression on their faces at the same time. They opened their mouths and screamed in unison, resulting in the formation of a sonic wave that exploded instantly. An astonishing aura was also emanated from the eighty-one awls as they criss-crossed in mid-air, forming a giant cage that charged towards Wang Baole while carrying a suppressing force!

The killing intent carried by the eighty-one awls, as well as the imposing threat they had on Wang Baole, were combined together, such that he wasn't able to throw out his fifth punch!

It wasn't that he was unable to release the fifth punch. Instead, the shock that he felt from the imposing manner of the awls made him lose confidence in the ability of his punch to lead him to victory!

In addition, as the cage formed by the eighty-one awls neared Wang Baole, an indescribable suppressive force that seemed impossible to fight against exploded like a tsunami. It contained an extremely high pressure as if it could decimate him!

With crisis looming, a chilly glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. He didn't wish to dodge, nor did he wish to activate Thearch Armor so soon. He narrowed his eyes and raised his right hand, and three one-use eighth-grade Dharmic Armaments flew out from his storage bracelet, surrounding him!

The three Dharmic treasures, which were each in the form of a clock, looked identical. Once they were taken out, they began to grow larger in size, each bigger than the other as if they were building on top of each other. They enveloped Wang Baole. Looking at it from a distance, the three Dharmic treasures seemed to have formed a protective covering so sturdy that they appeared like the mountainous rocks that even a tsunami couldn't destroy. Suppressive forces emanated from the Dharmic treasures as they took on the impact of the eighty-one awls head on!

It all took place in an instant. In the blink of an eye, the eighty-one awls neared and made contact with Wang Baole's one-use eighth-grade Dharmic Armaments!

"You can block it!" Zhou Chudao bellowed as he stepped forward. However, just as he said that and his foot landed on the ground, Wang Baole's voice reverberated.

"It is not part of my Dao to use blocking as a strategy!" The desire for combat could be seen in the eyes of Wang Baole, who was within the protection of the clocks. As he spoke, he pushed his hands towards both sides of the protection and roared with a deep voice.

"Explode!"

The moment his voice was heard, the clock on the outermost layer vibrated and exploded in an instant. A powerful force churned and spread in all directions, forming an invisible hand that charged towards the incoming tsunami-like awl!

That wasn't the end!

The fighting spirit in Wang Baole's eyes grew even stronger. His voice was heard again, and this time, he ordered for two explosions. The second, as well as the last clock exploded almost at the same instant, creating an impact that added on to the previous one that was produced. That caused the invisible hand to swell, and it slapped the awls hard!

It was as if it wanted to open up a pathway within the cage formed by the awls!

In this battle with Zhou Chudao, the spells, as well as the thought and flexibility that both sides adopted in their battle techniques, were on the level of someone who was at the peak of the Core Formation realm. To a certain extent, the battle between them could be used as a case study. If their opponents

weren't each other and were instead any of the bystanders, that opponent would have long been defeated, unless they were as savage of either of them.

However, that was still a hypothetical scenario. Wang Baole had a strong desire for combat, and that was the case for Zhou Chudao as well. He seemed to have predicted Wang Baole's tactics, as he sealed his hands and pointed just as the three clocks self-exploded and the invisible hand was carrying out the slap!

Instantly, the awls gathered together, transforming the cage formed by the eighty-one awls into an awl shield!

The shield took on the impact from the self-explosion of the three clocks head-on. When contact was made, a force that was several times more powerful instantly reverberated. Zhou Chudao's breathing became disorderly, and his hair was disheveled. Blood spewed out of his mouth as he let out a battle cry!

"Wang Baole, you've taken the bait... Nine Generations... Anti-Shock!" As Zhou Chudao's voice was heard, an astonishing anti-shock force was released from the awl shield. That large force, which resulted from the destruction of half the number of awls, combined with the explosive force of the three clocks, and it landed directly to propel Wang Baole away!

That was an extremely unexpected turn of events. Wang Baole's body trembled, and blood spewed from his mouth. His body, which was in mid-air, suddenly tumbled backwards, and even though he clenched his right fist, he seemed to have lost the strength to flail it. As blood spurted out of his mouth continuously, a sense of fragility and weakness could be seen from Wang Baole.

At the same time, an indescribably powerful impact formed visible waves that spread in all directions. Wherever the waves passed, the mountains crumbled and the ground cracked. Even the array formation set up by Zhao Yameng was destroyed at that instant. It was as if a strong gust of wind had blown off all the fallen leaves!

Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao were extremely taken aback. In their anxiety, their bodies were also forced to retreat by the impact, without their control. The cultivators who were previously hiding in the area had blood spurting out of their mouths as they escaped to distance themselves from the area. Those people were the participants hidden on the map who had lost their keys. As they escaped with fear, there were three of them who looked frightened on the surface but carried a look of greed deep in their eyes.

If it were some other time, they might not have harbored such malicious thoughts. However, right now, Wang Baole was visibly and severely injured. The three keyless participants didn't think too much as they leaped into the air, activating their cultivation. One of them was in the late-stage Core Formation realm, while the other two were at the peak of the mid-stage Core Formation realm. They dashed right towards Wang Baole, who was now retreating with blood in his mouth!

They wanted to kill Wang Baole and snatch his keys!

Zhou Chudao frowned slightly, but as a glow flashed across his eyes, he gave up the thought of going after the three keyless participants. If such an elite from the Federation died in his hands, it would be disadvantageous for him in the future.

Of course, if the trio hadn't made the ambush, Zhou Chudao would still have attacked Wang Baole one last time. He wouldn't have killed him, but he would definitely have taken away his keys.

However, just as Zhou Chudao gave up his intention to pursue, and as the three greedy Dao Palace disciples were about to launch their attacks, a chilly voice that carried a sense of regret was heard from Wang Baole, who seemed to have been severely injured and lost all ability for combat.

"Damn it, the three of you really deserve to die!"

The moment those words were heard, the sense of weakness that was emanating from Wang Baole vanished instantly. Right now, the resonance of the fifth punch spread on Wang Baole's clenched fist. That stunned Zhou Chudao, and his heart was gripped with shock!

It was only now that he realized that Wang Baole didn't suffer from injuries as severe as he had thought. Rather, it could also be said that Wang Baole's physique was peculiar and could recover extremely quickly. Regardless, if not for the idiotic trio, had Zhou Chudao neared Wang Baole, he would have come face to face with Wang Baole's fifth punch, which he had secretly been preparing until now!

Without a doubt, that would be the case!

Therefore, right now, Wang Baole's anger and regret could be clearly felt. The waves of resonance on his fist dissipated, and just as the three Dao Palace disciples retreated in shock, Wang Baole, with a chill in his eyes, pointed his right finger at each of the trio's foreheads!

Flame Snatch!

A scream that sounded so painful that it didn't seem human was heard from the trio. Their bodies could be seen withering visibly, while their energy and life seemed to have been stripped at that instant. They were turned into dried corpses that landed heavily on the ground. That was when Wang Baole turned around with a solemn expression on his face to look at the surprised Zhou Chudao.

"Even though I didn't physically unleash the fifth punch, in my mind, I have already successfully executed it and have already defeated you!"

"Therefore... The teleportation is about to begin, and this battle... should end now!" As Wang Baole spoke, Zhou Chudao suddenly felt a strong sense of crisis. He reacted quickly, sealing his hands and controlling the awl shield to move towards Wang Baole. However, Wang Baole suddenly raised his right hand!

A blood-colored meridian emerged beneath the skin on Wang Baole's right hand and spread throughout his body!

It was extremely sinister and overbearing!

It was... the Flame Snatch Thearch Armor!

Chapter 570: Observing From Above!

The battle between Wang Baole and Zhou Chudao sent shock waves in all directions. All the spectators were gripped with surprise and shock, especially as they watched Zhou Chudao demonstrate his ability to anticipate Wang Baole's moves, and as they watched Wang Baole using a series of lures as he attacked.

That was especially so for the last moment where the three ambushers suffered a pitiful death. Regardless of whether it was the way or the speed of their miserable deaths, it implied that Wang Baole's abilities were at a level similar to the peak of the Core Formation realm, and was sufficiently powerful to suppress others on the same level as him!

What was most important was that Wang Baole was still a mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator!

What happened scared everyone, preventing them from going near. No one had any intention to attack sneakily, and all the Dao Palace disciples who were watching the battle couldn't help but sweep their gazes at the Federation Seedlings in the public square.

After this battle, no one would dare to say that there were no elites in the Federation anymore!

That made all the Federation Seedlings in the public square extremely emotional. After all, since their arrival on the ancient greenish-bronze sword and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, they had lived like second-class citizens.

The Dao Palace disciples' disdain towards them, as well as the scornful and cold attitude that they had experienced throughout the past year, resulted in pent-up frustration in their hearts. They were cautious in whatever they did, and some of them had even wavered and thought about getting into the good books of the Dao Palace disciples.

However, at the current moment, all those thoughts had vanished, replaced by a sense of pride and agitation. Through Wang Baole's hard work, all the Federation Seedlings had proven their worth!

Even though it seemed like Wang Baole was the only elite, at the very least, they were no longer nobodies in the Dao Palace and were able to have a presence!

Many people understood that principle. Therefore, the Dao Palace disciples, who were experiencing a myriad of emotions, were much less scornful towards the Federation Seedlings. That was seen in both their gazes and attitudes. They had become more solemn, and that was especially so when they watched Wang Baole on the screen. From their eyes, a look of respect and awe towards Wang Baole could be seen.

However, in their hearts, they were still somewhat unable to accept the fact that Wang Baole and the Federation were more powerful than they had thought. Thankfully, before the first teleportation, Wang Baole wasn't the only one who had performed spectacularly, as there was also Dugu Lin who fought well!

The battle between Dugu Lin and Xu Ming was similarly earth-shaking, sending shock waves in all directions. That filled all the Dao Palace disciples in the public square with excitement. As the duo were both Dao Palace disciples as well, the exhilaration that the Dao Palace disciples felt was multiplied, and could somewhat alleviate the emotional discomfort that they felt due to Wang Baole!

Dugu Lin was indeed formidable. Even though Xu Ming was also a personal disciple and could beat many other Core Formation realm cultivators, he still lacked compared to Dugu Lin!

Right now, the battle between Du Guilin and Xu Ming was held on a plain. Numerous cracks had appeared on the ground, and Xu Ming's screams had become the theme song of the area. His body was blown into the air before crashing onto the ground again and again, and this would be repeated every time he picked himself up from the ground!

Dugu Lin, who was standing expressionlessly in mid-air and hadn't spoken much since the beginning, was like an inescapable fate for Xu Ming. No matter how hard Xu Ming tried—regardless of whether he had self-exploded his Dharmic treasures, unleashed his trump cards, or even boosted his attacks with mystic techniques—it had all been useless!

All those efforts were simply negated by a single punch from Du Guilin, and that was the case from start to finish!

It was, without a doubt, a complete suppression of Xu Ming. From the beginning until the present, Xu Ming had bled profusely, and his hair was a mess. The hopelessness and indignation in his heart had been transformed into a form of torture that drove him crazy.

"Dugu Lin! Your opponent... is me!" After being thrown towards the ground from mid-air yet again, Xu Ming vomited a clot of blood. When he struggled to stand up, blood flowed from his forehead into his eye, turning his world blood-colored. He looked even more frightening, but his voice didn't carry a sense of madness, only bitterness and struggles.

That was because... from the second punch onwards, the quiet Dugu Lin no longer focused his attention on Xu Ming. Instead, he had raised his head, focusing on the night sky map, and specifically on the location where the battle between Wang Baole and Zhou Chudao was taking place.

Even though Dugu Lin couldn't see the actual battle, a look of desire and anticipation had appeared in his eyes. As such, to him, Xu Ming was merely...

A nobody!

Dugu Lin's disregard towards him was what made Xu Ming feel most bitter. He was also a personal disciple, and before this, he was filled with confidence about himself. However, it was only after this battle that he realized that compared to Dugu Lin, he was nothing.

That sense of powerlessness made Xu Ming bitter, but he was still indignant. Therefore, as he quickened his breathing, a burning desire for battle was rekindled in his eyes. He was about to attack once again, as he wanted to battle despite the possibility of failure!

However, at that moment, Dugu Lin suddenly spoke.

"You are... too weak."

"You will definitely die under my next punch, and I am too lazy to kill you. So... hand your keys over." Dugu Lin retracted his gaze from the night sky map and lowered his head to look at Xu Ming, speaking calmly. There was no change to his facial expression, it was still cold and distant.

However, as that gaze and those words landed in Xu Ming's eyes and ears, he suddenly trembled. His intuition told him that what Dugu Lin said was true!

If he continued to attack, then the moment he flew into the air beside Du Guilin would be the moment he would truly be defeated...

Should he battle or not?

Amidst the silence, Xu Ming felt increasingly bitter and hopeless. The desire to battle in his eyes slowly dissipated. He realized that if he dashed out and survived, he would definitely be transformed, but ultimately, he didn't want to die.

As he laughed bitterly, Xu Ming tossed out over twenty keys. As that happened, he seemed to have lost all energy and couldn't support his body any longer, and he landed on the ground. He was looking towards the sky, not at Dugu Lin but at the other battleground in the night sky map.

"Is that Wang Baole...?" Xu Ming murmured. Dugu Lin retracted his gaze. This time, he wasn't looking at the night sky map but in the south-eastern direction where Wang Baole and Zhou Chudao were battling.

In the south-eastern direction, as Xu Ming was defeated and lost all his desire to fight, the battle between Wang Baole and Zhou Chudao had also reached its final moments. Zhou Chudao was shocked, but he had been able to swiftly control the awl shield. He also saw that blood-colored meridians had appeared on Wang Baole's raised right hand.

As the meridians spread, and as more blood-colored meridians appeared on other parts of Wang Baole's body, a large human-shaped outline appeared around Wang Baole's body in the blink of an eye!

The aura was extremely strong and sinister, and it was also presented in an overbearing manner. As Wang Baole's aura was unleashed and complemented with the resonance from his body, he seemed to have become a divine being!

"This is the end!" As he spoke calmly, Wang Baole's emotions were clearly affected. His cold and distant voice carried a hint of ruthlessness. He moved his body, and between steps, he unleashed a punch!

That punch had exceeded the limits of the Core Formation realm. It was directed towards the air. Immediately, cracks appeared, and a force that could create chaos in the sky, as well as winds, erupted from it!

Looking from a distance, Wang Baole's body seemed like a blood-colored hurricane. As lightning and thunder interlaced, it seemed as if demons were dancing, sweeping across the skies towards Zhou Chudao!

That was the real fifth punch!

Two hundred percent boost from the resonance!

The first stage of the Flame Snatch Thearch Armor was unleashed at three times the force!

As the loud boom reverberated, the blood-colored hurricane landed directly on the awl shield, which was controlled by the screaming Zhou Chudao. When contact was made, the awl shield shook violently and

began to crack apart loudly. In the blink of an eye, under the force of the blood-colored hurricane, the awl shield was completely devastated!

Without stopping, the blood-colored hurricane continued to send shock waves in all directions, and it arrived in front of Zhou Chudao almost immediately. At this critical juncture, blood spewed from Zhou Chudao's mouth as he took out several protective Dharmic treasures, putting in his utmost effort to resist the force.

However, those Dharmic treasures were extremely weak in the face of the blood-colored hurricane. They were blown apart and turned to ash as the blood-colored hurricane swept through the clouds. Seeing that the hurricane was nearing him, Zhou Chudao was turned into a maniac as he flailed his arms in a final attempt at resistance. He controlled all of his illusory figures to pass through his body in an attempt to block the force!

However, it was all futile!

As the loud boom was heard, his illusory figures made contact with the blood-colored hurricane and were instantly devastated. It was then that the blood-colored hurricane stopped advancing, arriving an inch from Zhou Chudao, who had lost all hope.

The hurricane dissipated and was transformed into Wang Baole's Thearch Armor fist!

As Zhou Chudao's hair was blown, he looked at the powerful fist in front of him, which carried a sense of madness. He felt bitterness in his heart as Wang Baole's cold and distant voice arrived by his ears.

"You have lost."

Zhou Chudao shut his eyes, and as the bitterness in his heart grew, he suddenly sighed. When he opened his eyes, he looked extremely indignant. He put on the aura of an old peasant before tossing his keys to the side. He stood up and began staggering into the distance while sighing.

"I shouldn't have let the elderly ladies leave... Why did I find trouble..."

Without looking at the keys that Zhou Chudao had tossed out, Wang Baole stood there. He seemed to have felt something as he raised his head to look towards the north-west direction. That was... where Dugu Lin was on the night sky map!

As Wang Baole looked in that direction, Dugu Lin was also looking in his direction. As the distance between them was great, they couldn't physically see each other. However, that didn't affect their desire to battle each other and didn't influence their decision to look in each other's direction!

All this was seen by the disciples in the public square. In their eyes, the scene of Wang Baole and Dugu Lin looking in each other's direction on different screens cast such a strong impression that it seemed to have been transformed into a deep memory that couldn't dissipate.

The entire public square was silent until someone let out a soft murmur.

"Elites indeed!"