

Y Master 1071

Chapter 1071: Accumulated Grievances

In the Xuan Beast Forest, slaughter and blood are the eternal themes, and only some powerful human cultivators dare to venture deep into the heartland to explore.

Just as Ye Fan and the others were heading out, Elder Ma from the Tianyuan Sect, along with Gu Yun and others, arrived at the small valley between the Xuan Realm and Earth.

Upon arriving at the small valley, Elder Ma and the others found that there was no sign of the world portal that Gu Yun had mentioned, and they frowned immediately.

“Gu Yun, what’s going on? Where exactly is the portal you talked about? Why is there no trace of any portal at all?”

Elder Ma called Gu Yun over with a serious face. This matter could be big or small. If Gu Yun was deliberately lying, not only would he be unable to join the core disciples, he might also face extremely severe punishment.

Elder Ma didn’t believe Gu Yun would be unaware of this, but everything in front of him was telling him that there was no such space portal here.

“Uh...”

Gu Yun was dumbfounded. The space portal was clearly supposed to be right here, how could it have disappeared?

Seeing Elder Ma's stern demeanor, Gu Yun knew that if he didn't provide a reasonable explanation, he might be facing a major disaster.

But the space portal in his memory was indeed in this small valley, so how could it suddenly vanish?

"Elder Ma, I absolutely dare not lie to deceive everyone, the space portal is indeed in this valley. I have entered before, and it was right here, there is no mistake!"

Gu Yun panicked. If the space portal couldn't be found, he didn't know how his master would punish him, but it certainly wouldn't be anything good.

Moreover, the suspicious looks from the elite disciples who originally backed him were even more unbearable for him.

Seeing Gu Yun looking panicked, apparently not lying, Elder Ma pondered for a moment and instructed: "Everyone search for it, even if you have to dig three feet into the ground, find the space portal for me!"

Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh...

With the order given, those elite disciples began to work, overturning almost the entire ground of the small valley, but still couldn't find the slightest trace of the space portal.

Elder Ma also didn't notice the sealed space portal. After quite some fuss, discovering nothing in the end, and fearing strong Xuan Beasts might be attracted, he had to temporarily give up.

Gathering everyone together, Elder Ma himself expanded the search area, even scanning within a hundred miles, ultimately finding nothing.

If it weren't for the fact that Gu Yun genuinely had no reason to lie, Elder Ma might have wanted to slap him to death.

Yet he didn't have the authority to punish Gu Yun, he could only decide to first lead everyone back to the sect.

Gu Yun was so depressed he was nearly coughing up blood. He couldn't understand, the space portal was obviously right in this small valley, how could it mysteriously disappear?

"Don't say anything, let's just go back first."

With a gloomy face, Elder Ma led everyone out of the valley, heading towards the Tianyuan Sect.

He was also extraordinarily dejected, having come in high spirits, originally thinking he could achieve an unprecedented feat, only to be disappointed.

...

Meanwhile.

Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen, along with others, after slaying the Double-headed Ape, rested at the spot for an hour, roasted some Xuan Beast meat, picked some berries, and only continued their journey after eating and drinking their fill.

Although there were no particularly strong Xuan Beasts on the outskirts of the Xuan Beast Forest, quite a few True Essence Realm mutant beasts surprisingly appeared, leaving everyone perplexed, not knowing what had happened or why these Xuan Beasts from the middle region moved to the outskirts.

After walking for less than a quarter of an hour, they encountered a True Essence Realm giant python again, but this time, since they came for experience, Elder Zhou Tian didn't step in and instead oversaw, allowing these young disciples to have some practice.

The round youngster, lacking the power to defend himself against True Essence Realm mutant beasts, just like Ye Fan, didn't participate in the battle.

The young girl Tong Qianchen and Zishan Chufeng, along with several other young cultivators, swiftly took it down together.

Especially Chu Feng, with his tremendous strength, delivered fierce blows, and finally pinned the giant python to the ground with a spear.

Afterwards, they repeatedly encountered several other powerful True Essence Realm mutant beasts, but under the joint assault of Chu Feng and Tong Qianchen, these beasts had no chance for violence and were all killed.

Among them, Chu Feng's performance was particularly impressive; his power was immense, often taking the lead in slaying the beasts, even the strongest ones couldn't withstand his blood-colored spear.

"Good, good, Brother Chu is indeed formidable, these mutant beasts are practically delivering themselves for Brother Chu to practice with."

"With Brother Chu's strength, he will surely enter the top five in the upcoming Core Disciple Tournament, overpowering all the heroes! Representing our Xuanwu Sect at the Tianyuan City's genius competition, bringing glory to Xuanwu Sect!"

The meatball-like boy, though unable to join the fray against the Xuan Beasts, was by no means idle, clapping hands and jumping feet to cheer for Chu Feng, his flattery booming loudly.

Chu Feng stayed silent.

After slaying the True Essence Realm Xuan Beast, he did not go to take the Beast Core, knowing no one would dare contend with him. Even if someone else took it, it would ultimately fall into his hands. He showed extraordinary calm to the boy's words, as if it was a matter of course.

Other participating youths looked at Chu Feng with envy — Chu Feng's strength was undoubtedly greater than theirs, an undeniable fact that earned their admiration!

"With Brother Chu here, this time our Xuanwu Sect should be able to suppress the Tianyuan Sect." one envious youth said, looking at the indifferent Chu Feng.

"That's right, Brother Chu is the pride of our Xuanwu Sect."

"What are those geniuses from Tianyuan Sect for?" one youth deliberately asked the others.

"To be stepped on, stepped on by Brother Chu!" another youth replied casually, his words immediately causing bursts of laughter.

Seeing the high spirits of everyone, seeming not to take Tianyuan Sect seriously, Elder Zhou Tian felt deeply gratified.

The Tianyuan Sect and Xuanwu Sect have always been arch enemies, with considerable grudges and numerous confrontations. If it weren't for another sect deterring them, fearing the fisherman's benefit of a battle between crane and clam, the two sects would have already engaged in large-scale battles.

Now, with Xuanwu Sect flourishing, it seems that surpassing Tianyuan Sect is just around the corner, how could Zhou Tian not feel gratified?

These True Essence Realm mutant beasts are incredibly powerful, but before Chu Feng and others, they couldn't even retaliate before being killed!

What puzzled him was that these True Essence Realm mutant beasts should have been lords within the Xuanshou Mountain Range's central area, yet they appeared at the outskirts; is it possible some upheaval has occurred within the Xuan Beast Forest?

This thought merely flashed through Elder Zhou Tian's mind; no matter what upheaval has befallen the Xuan Beast Forest, it's beyond his capacity to explore.

The deep regions of the Xuan Beast Forest hold formidable Xuan Beasts; even sect leaders of powerful sects dare not easily provoke them, otherwise, the Xuan Beast Forest wouldn't have become the Forbidden Land!

These were thoughts Chu Feng and the others didn't consider, and Ye Fan even less understood the situation, still thinking the Xuan Beast Forest was terrifying, with even the outskirts inhabited by True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts. Feeling he was truly lucky to emerge from the Xuanshou Mountain Range relatively unharmed; it was almost miraculous.

However, the strength of Chu Feng and others did deeply stimulate him. It was fine for Elder Zhou Tian to be powerful, as he didn't know how many years he had been cultivating, having such strength seemed natural.

But Chu Feng and others appeared younger than himself, and yet their strength far exceeded his by a long shot, making him feel a considerable crisis.

“Indeed, the Xuan Realm differs from Earth, the cultivators here are overwhelmingly powerful; my talent and qualifications, including strength, are outstanding on Earth but in the Xuan Realm...”

Ye Fan inwardly chanted, clenching his fist quietly; no matter what, he must elevate his strength quickly, even if not to Holy Embryo Realm, he can't be weaker than Chu Feng and the others.

Moreover, Chu Feng harbors malice toward Ye Fan; Ye Fan can clearly sense it. To survive better in Xuanwu Sect, he must quickly enhance his strength!

After resting for a bit, the meatball-like boy gleefully carried an ox-ear tipped knife to the corpses of Xuan Beasts to retrieve the Beast Core for Chu Feng.

Seeing the boy trying hard to show himself, everyone displayed faces of envy mixed with disdain.

Only Tong Qianchen remained calm, her face showing no ripples, as if it all had nothing to do with her, this kind of indifference greatly hurt Chu Feng.

All he did was to win a smile from the beauty, but Tong Qianchen persistently showed no favor towards him; she was kind to everyone else, only warm to him, making him want to confess but dare not, fearing to offend the beauty.

Hmm?

As everyone prepared to set off, Elder Zhou Tian suddenly had a mental stir, his keen sense detecting someone nearby, and the aura suggested Tianyuan Sect's Elder Ma.

Zhou Tian and Ma Biqian had interactions before, even fought once, so he's particularly sensitive to his aura, absolutely wouldn't mistake it.

Simultaneously, Elder Ma Biqian, accompanied by Gu Yun and others from Tianyuan Sect, also arrived nearby, planning to regroup with their sect after withdrawing from the small valley, like a defeated rooster, head hanging and crestfallen.

As they neared, Elder Ma sensed a familiar aura, initially thinking it was a sect expert arriving to assist, but soon realizing it was wrong.

Just like Zhou Tian, Ma was extremely sensitive to his aura, similarly unable to forget Zhou Tian's aura. From their last battle where he suffered a minor setback, he's been brooding, eager to reclaim his pride.

Upon sensing each other's aura, both sides opted to stop!

Chapter 1072: Identity Exposed

Ma Biqian from the Tianyuan Sect was seething with anger, leading Gu Yun and a group of elite disciples to quickly catch up with the people from the Xuanwu Sect.

“People from the Tianyuan Sect?”

The members of the Xuanwu Sect, upon seeing that it was indeed their rival sect, the Tianyuan Sect, couldn't help but become vigilant.

After all, they were outnumbered, and if a fight were to break out, they might not have the upper hand. Therefore, although they were fully alert, the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect did not really want to fight.

“Zhou Tian, what a surprise! Fate brings us together once more.”

“Indeed, we meet again. What do you want?”

Zhou Tian, unafraid, even though the opponent had more people, couldn't lose his momentum. He stepped forward and coldly looked at Ma Biqian, asking him.

“Haha... nothing in particular...”

Ma Biqian sneered, just about to speak, when he suddenly felt someone tugging at his clothes from behind. He was startled, and the rest of his words were cut off.

Turning around, Ma Biqian saw that it was Gu Yun, who was pulling at his clothes. Gu Yun, already filled with suppressed anger, wanted to slap him if not for Zhou Tian standing nearby.

“What are you doing?”

Ma Biqian asked coldly.

“——”

No response, Gu Yun was agitated.

Because, when confronting the Xuanwu Sect just now, he unexpectedly found that among them was Ye Fan.

Although he had never seen Ye Fan in person, he had seen Ye Fan’s appearance through live satellite broadcasts and was deeply impressed by Ye Fan’s daring move to lure the Flame Eagle of the True Essence Realm alone, and he was absolutely sure it was him.

Originally, he thought Ye Fan would surely die in that terrifying explosion, but unexpectedly, he survived and came to the Xuan Realm.

Gu Yun rubbed his eyes hard, afraid he had made a mistake, but everything in front of him confirmed he was not mistaken.

So, regardless of Elder Ma's anger, he interrupted his conversation with Zhou Tian. He had to inform Ma Biqian of this matter, otherwise, if fighting broke out, it would be too late to say anything later.

"Elder Ma, come here!"

Gu Yun swallowed a few times to calm his emotions, then pulled at Ma Biqian's clothes, leading him behind the group.

The elite disciples of the Tianyuan Sect were puzzled, not knowing what Gu Yun was up to.

But under these circumstances, they obviously couldn't say anything, much less inquire. They could only stand firm at the front, confronting Zhou Tian and others.

"What's the matter? Speak!"

Reaching the back, Ma Biqian casually set up a Soundproof Array to prevent the Xuanwu Sect from hearing. He frowned slightly and spoke to Gu Yun, knowing that such sneaky behavior must involve something very important, so he was not angry.

"Elder Ma, did you see that young man among the people of the Xuanwu Sect? The one with the weakest strength, I met him on Earth, and I can guarantee with my life that this young man is definitely the one from Earth. I remember his Earth name should be Ye Fan..."

Gu Yun recounted in detail to Elder Ma Biqian the scene of seeing Ye Fan on Earth, leaving Ma Biqian very surprised that there was an Earth visitor mixed in their opponent's group.

This matter was significant, and Ma Biqian repeatedly asked Gu Yun for confirmation, fearing any mistake.

Gu Yun swore vehemently, taking oaths and claiming everything he said was true, willing to swear on his life.

Gu Yun's voice wasn't loud, but it was enough for the surrounding brothers to hear. Everyone was excited since an Earth visitor was even rarer to them than Divine Beasts.

"No one should spill the beans, I will negotiate with them!"

Ma Biqian knew how critically important this matter was and that not a whisper should leak.

Otherwise, if the Xuanwu Sect found out Ye Fan was from another world, they would surely compete with them. The fewer who knew, the greater the confidentiality!

These elite disciples naturally understood this principle, and more so because the other party, being the Xuanwu Sect, was in a hostile stance with the Tianyuan Sect. They wouldn't let the opponent learn such an earth-shattering secret.

Under the leadership of Ma Biqian, the people of the Tianyuan Sect approached Zhou Tian and others until both sides stopped at a distance of a hundred meters.

Ma Biqian casually scanned Zhou Tian and his group with his eyes, finally landing his gaze on Ye Fan, and asked nonchalantly, “Hmm, what’s the relationship of this young man with your Xuanwu Sect? He doesn’t seem like one of your disciples.”

Zhou Tian was full of disdain, wasn’t this a question where the answer was obvious? The clothes of the Xuanwu Sect’s disciples were all embroidered with one Mystic Turtle, yet Ye Fan had nothing on him. Not to mention he was an elder of the Tianyuan Sect, even an ordinary stranger could tell, right?

Before Zhou Tian could speak, Tong Qianchen said, “He is an Outer Disciple of the Xuanwu Sect. I wonder if Senior Ma has any other questions?”

Taking Ye Fan as an Outer Disciple of the Xuanwu Sect was her decision. Although she didn’t know what the cunning old fox Ma Biqian was up to, it would be better to make Ye Fan’s identity clear first to avoid being mocked by the Xuanwu Sect for creating a scene.

Hmm?

Ma Biqian was taken aback, not expecting Tong Qianchen to say such a thing. In his view, even if Ye Fan was with the people of the Xuanwu Sect, they should have only just met. Was it necessary to oppose him for someone just met?

But he recognized the girl opposite him, knowing she was the cherished daughter of the Sect Leader of Xuanwu, in Xuanwu Sect nearly revered like a pearl in the palm. Why would she defend someone she just met?

Instantly, Ma Biqian thought they might already know Ye Fan's background. If so, for the sake of a world, both sides fighting is the most normal thing; no one would give up a world full of potential.

However, he was also a scheming old hand and said calmly, "Is that so? Why doesn't he have the Xuanwu Sect's insignia on him? Even if he's an Outer Disciple, there should be an insignia of the Xuanwu Sect on his clothes, right?"

"There's no need for Senior Ma to worry about this. Since I've said he's a disciple of our Xuanwu Sect, do you think I would lie?"

Even when facing Ma Biqian, who was far stronger than herself, Tong Qianchen remained neither overbearing nor servile, maintaining the demeanor of her kind, truly the daughter of a Sect Leader, with courage and insight surpassing that of ordinary cultivators.

"Little girl, this old man didn't say you were lying, just something I must tell you all."

Ma Biqian's face turned cold. His hawk-like eyes swept over Ye Fan as if seeing through his entire being.

Then he shifted his gaze to Zhou Tian, continuing, "This person once killed two Outer Disciples of my Tianyuan Sect. He is a criminal our Tianyuan Sect seeks to capture. Meeting here today, this old man will

apprehend him and hand him over to the Sect Leader for punishment. I hope you hand him over—considering your cooperation, this old man will let you go today; otherwise... hmph!”

“Senior Ma, I respect you as a predecessor, but it doesn’t mean our Xuanwu Sect is afraid of you. You say hand over the person and we should hand over the person? What do you take our Xuanwu Sect for? I simply won’t hand him over, what can you do?”

Tong Qianchen was very assertive. From Ma Biqian’s expression, she also realized that Ma Biqian was bluffing, and it wasn’t Ye Fan who harmed their Outer Disciples, but she did not understand why a Tianyuan Sect elder would trouble a little cultivator who hadn’t reached True Essence Realm.

However, since she had decided to keep Ye Fan, she certainly couldn’t just hand him over. Moreover, it concerned the dignity of the Xuanwu Sect, which was even more non-negotiable.

“Hahaha...”

Ma Biqian laughed wildly to the sky, and after laughing, his face sank, taking a step forward, his whole being filled with war intent, his aura becoming particularly cold and terrifying.

“What did you say? Say it again?”

Ma Biqian’s threatening gaze turned to Tong Qianchen, coldly saying, as if he would strike if she dared to say again that she wouldn’t hand over the person.

Zhou Tian also took a step forward, standing in front of everyone, shielding them from the oppressive war intent, and his own aura began to grow strong.

However, Chu Feng's face changed dramatically. On his side, apart from Elder Zhou, only his own strength was the strongest, but they had only about seven or eight people, whereas the Tianyuan Sect had nearly thirty, the difference in strength was too great.

Chu Feng knew clearly that if a fight broke out, aside from Zhou Tian being able to hold Ma Biqian, their side was certainly no match for Tianyuan Sect's people.

If they fought, he would definitely become a key target of the Tianyuan Sect. He didn't want to lose his life and good prospects because of Ye Fan.

Worried, Chu Feng angrily glanced at Ye Fan and then thought of something, quickly walking to Tong Qianchen's side, whispering, "Junior Sister Tong, it's best to hand over this person. He's not officially part of our Xuanwu Sect, doesn't count as one of us. You see the current situation, if we start fighting, we'll definitely suffer a loss. Why stand up for an outsider?"

Other young cultivators of the Xuanwu Sect also agreed, thinking Chu Feng made sense. Ye Fan was merely someone they saved along the way, without any connection to the Xuanwu Sect, not worth going to war with the Tianyuan Sect over.

Moreover, given the disparity in strength between us and the enemy, if there were truly a conflict, the Xuanwu Sect would not have the upper hand, and even if there were immense hatred with Tianyuan Sect, it wasn't worth taking a risk for someone met only three days ago. It's not worth it.

“Qianchen, look...”

Elder Zhou Tian also looked at Tong Qianchen. He knew as well, although Ma Biqian lost to him last time by a single move, their strengths were essentially similar, and he had no sure victory.

Moreover, this time he brought far fewer people than Tianyuan Sect. In such a situation, it's best to avoid conflict if possible.

A temporary retreat, keeping one's patience for a future opportunity, such as regaining face at the Genius Tournament in Tianyuan City, isn't too late. So, he also thought of handing over Ye Fan. Anyway, they had fulfilled their responsibility and it wasn't worth risking a potentially losing battle with Tianyuan Sect over him.

“No one needs to say more. I said no handover means no handover. This isn't just about handing someone over; it's about the reputation and face of my Xuanwu Sect. I won't compromise!”

Tong Qianchen's pretty face turned cold, determined to protect Ye Fan.

“No handover?”

Ma Biqian's tone was as cold as ice, filled with anger, his battle intent surging.

War, imminent!

Chapter 1073: All-Out Brawl

“No way!”

Tong Qianchen said firmly, with a fearless expression.

“Little girl, you’ve really grown some guts!”

Ma Biquan’s war intent surged, and he said coldly, “Since you’re so ungrateful, don’t blame this old man for showing no mercy!”

Whoosh!

As soon as the words were spoken, Ma Biquan’s figure moved like lightning, his five fingers spread open, shooting out finger beams, grabbing towards Ye Fan, ready to snatch him away by force.

Ye Fan was too important, relating to a mysterious world. He absolutely couldn’t allow him to fall into other’s hands, especially not into the hands of the Xuanwu Sect which was hostile towards the Tianyuan Sect. It was utterly unacceptable.

If the Xuanwu Sect learned of Earth’s matters, the Tianyuan Sect would immediately have a formidable rival, and this was not the result he wanted.

Moreover, if both sides fought over Earth, other forces would surely find out. If the Di Clan were alarmed, it would all be for nothing, a wasted effort.

The two sides had already accumulated significant grievances. Although there hadn't been large-scale battles, small skirmishes were almost constant.

This time, with Tong Qianchen, the treasured jewel of the Xuanwu Sect's leader, if they couldn't capture Ye Fan, they must take Tong Qianchen to exchange for him. The Xuanwu Sect's leader would surely be pleased with such a trade.

"How dare you!"

Zhou Tian was also furious. Snatching someone in front of him, Ma Biqian completely disregarded him.

Not to mention the irreconcilable differences between both sides, just for his contempt alone, Zhou Tian could not allow him to succeed.

Swish!

Zhou Tian's body swayed, blocking in front of Ye Fan, both palms striking out, palm beams howling, hitting towards Ma Biqian's five fingers.

“Boom...”

With an explosive sound, Zhou Tian retreated three steps, a flush appeared on his face but he forcibly suppressed it.

Ma Biquan was momentarily caught off guard, not expecting Zhou Tian to attack directly for the weak Ye Fan, suffering a hidden loss, retreating several steps, his face drained of color, almost spewing a mouthful of blood, but he was ruthless, swallowing down the reverse blood with gritted teeth.

“Kill!”

With the elders on both sides taking action, it was like a battle cry, disciples from both sides also took action, fighting broke out. Tong Qianchen wielded a long sword, elusive, protecting both herself and Ye Fan impeccably. Even elite disciples from the Tianyuan Sect could do nothing but watch, unable to pierce her sword net.

Moreover, with Chu Feng wielding a blood-colored long spear, both sides went at it, soon turning the scene into ruins.

A punch from the Tianyuan Sect exploded intense true yuan, disintegrating nearby ancient trees and old vines into powder.

A strike from a Xuanwu Sect disciple's spear, intense gun light pierced a transparent hole the size of a fist through a ten-meter-thick boulder.

Swish!

Ma Biqian operated a secret technique, suppressing his injuries, unleashing his combat power to the extreme, rubbing his hands, pulling out a triple-edged blade, waving it into a flurry of blade light, pouncing ferociously towards Zhou Tian.

Whoosh!

Zhou Tian was not to be outdone, directly opened his mouth, spewing a glow, an azure small furnace instantly enlarged, suppressing down like a mountain towards the opponent, emitting a faint azure light.

“Humph!”

Ma Biqian snorted coldly, wielding his blade against the azure furnace, slicing it away with a single blow, the blade’s edge directly aimed at Zhou Tian, both sides clashing instantly.

Boom!!

Zhou Tian’s mind moved, retrieving the azure furnace, holding one of its feet single-handedly, like an octagonal hammer, swirling like a windmill, emitting a burst of azure light.

The two fought from the ground to the sky, accompanied by constant explosive sounds, true adversaries, unable to gain an advantage in a short time.

The ground battle also entered a fevered state, the Tianyuan Sect people all driven by a single thought, to definitely capture Ye Fan.

Meanwhile, Tong Qianchen resolutely protected him, and Chu Feng had to fight desperately to protect Tong Qianchen. Others, either for the Xuanwu Sect or the dignity of their own sect or to prove themselves in front of Chu Feng, also exerted all their strength.

This fierce battle was incredibly intense and awe-inspiring, scaring off nearby Xuan Beasts—Xuan Beasts were intelligent, having a natural instinct for danger.

They sensed the fighting over here, knowing it would only bring trouble, thus taking a detour.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Sword Qi crisscrossed, gun light pierced the void, and both sides' disciples and elders fought desperately.

Ye Fan could only watch, on one hand, his severe injuries had not healed, and on the other hand, even at his peak, he wouldn't be a match for these elite disciples of the Tianyuan Sect!

For a time, the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect fell into disadvantage, and the battle in the sky was in full swing.

Although Zhou Tian originally should have been evenly matched with Ma Biqian, he had consumed a large amount of true yuan when shooting the double-headed ape earlier, so the battle hadn't even started, and he was already at a disadvantage.

Initially, he could still rely on his burst of strength to hold a tie with Ma Biqian, but as time passed little by little, he began to struggle.

Their original gap was tiny, almost nonexistent, evenly matched, but he had consumed a lot of true yuan earlier, while Ma Biqian had virtually no consumption. In this mutually offsetting circumstance, he gradually fell into a disadvantage.

At their level of realm, combat not only relied on strength but also on strategy and momentum, with various factors possibly becoming crucial to victory or defeat.

Moreover, in this level of battle, once one side falls behind, it is almost impossible to turn the situation around without any unforeseen events; the opponent will absolutely not give you any chance.

"Admit defeat, you are not my match. As long as you admit defeat and kneel to kowtow to me three times, I can consider sparing your life and only abolishing your cultivation!"

Ma Biqian seemed confident of his victory. He knew Zhou Tian very well, having mastered various martial arts techniques. Seeing that he had already gained the upper hand, he sneered and kept verbally attacking Zhou Tian.

“That’s bullshit from your mother, even if I die in battle, I will never admit defeat. You were originally my defeated subordinate; if my True Yuan wasn’t depleted, I’d send you to the road directly!”

Zhou Tianhu was defiant in defeat. Though disadvantaged, he refused to back down verbally, pointing out that Ma Biqian only had an advantage because Zhou Tian’s True Yuan was severely depleted, otherwise he wouldn’t be unable to defeat him.

“Heh, then I’ll send you to the road!”

Ma Biqian sneered, tightened his offensive, and aimed to resolve the battle quickly and take Ye Fan.

Despite being at a disadvantage, Zhou Tian was a strong individual in the Holy Embryo Realm, and his long-standing vigor made it impossible for Ma Biqian to take him down quickly.

Woosh!

Both sides engaged in a fierce battle in mid-air. Ma Biqian’s triple-edged blade continuously shot out several feet of sword light, attacking Zhou Tian with sounds of slicing through space relentlessly.

Although Zhou Tian rarely counterattacked, he wielded a massive azure furnace that defended impeccably. Coupled with the Azure Furnace's remarkable defensive power, it wasn't easy for Ma Biqian to break his defense.

Occasionally, Zhou Tian delivered surprise counterattacks, leaving Ma Biqian in a mess.

Ma Biqian knew that the injuries suppressed by the secret technique would not stay controlled for long. Once the secret technique lost its effect, a tragic outcome awaited him, which he wouldn't allow to happen.

Therefore, Ma Biqian increased his attack power further, striving to completely defeat Zhou Tian before his secret technique lost its efficacy.

On the ground, Ye Fan's heart was in his throat.

After analyzing, Ye Fan almost guessed the truth; likely someone among the Tianyuan Sect's disciples recognized him, wanting to know about the sealed spatial passage from his mouth.

It's imaginable that falling into the hands of the Tianyuan Sect and his fate would be dire.

Looking at the current situation, the outlook was indeed grim because Xuanwu Sect disciples couldn't withstand the elite disciples from the Tianyuan Sect, even if they used human wave tactics, they couldn't hold their line.

At this critical moment, Tong Qianchen suddenly shouted: “Elder Zhou, catch the sword!”

With that, Tong Qianchen surprisingly threw her crystal-clear treasure sword to Zhou Tian fighting in mid-air, and immediately took out a silk ribbon from her waist, infused with True Yuan, instantly transforming the ribbon into a Spiritual Artifact that could be soft or hard.

Bang!

Zhou Tian was initially at a disadvantage, but upon seeing the treasure sword flying, he suddenly regained spirit and fiercely struck Ma Biqian’s blade away with the furnace, then grabbed the sword with his right hand and spun it into a sword flower, with the sword tip shooting out small True Yuan vortices towards Ma Biqian.

This treasure sword was a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact from the Holy Embryo Realm, granted by the Sect Leader, superior to his Azure Furnace in grade, and belonged to the category of Big Killer weapons.

Woosh!

Woosh!

With a sword in hand, Zhou Tian instantly regained spirit, each move targeting vital points, and in a blink, he reversed his disadvantage, now suppressing Ma Biqian!

Ma Biqian nearly fainted from rage!

Originally, he believed victory was assured, but unexpectedly, an unforeseen event occurred, causing such a blunder.

Furthermore, his earlier carelessness led to injury, and now the secret technique suppressing those injuries was gradually failing, leaving him in a dilemma.

With a Top-grade Spiritual Artifact from the Holy Embryo Realm in hand, Zhou Tian fought with renewed vigor and ferocity, ultimately stabbing and wounding Ma Biqian with one strike.

Though seemingly just a superficial wound, internally the True Yuan invasion coupled with the prior suppressed injuries erupted, causing Ma Biqian to collapse instantly with severe internal injuries, plummeting towards the ground.

Zhou Tian roared like a tiger in a flock of sheep, his treasure sword shooting out several beams of Sword Radiance, injuring all Tianyuan Sect's elite disciples.

This was still the result of him showing mercy!

Had he not feared triggering a full-scale sect conflict, Zhou Tian would have wanted to slaughter Ma Biqian and his company entirely!

“Pff—”

Ma Biqian landed on the ground, spewing blood once more, utterly defeated; there was no hope for a comeback.

“Scram! Xuanwu Sect is no pushover to be bullied, dare confront us again, next time I’ll show no mercy!”

Zhou Tian pointed his sword at Ma Biqian and others, suppressing his soaring killing intent, shouted angrily.

Shush shush shush...

Ma Biqian felt humiliated but understood, given the current situation, he couldn’t turn the tide, staying would only disgrace himself further, thus, with the support of two disciples, he departed filled with hatred.

“Whew~”

Ye Fan sighed in relief internally, yet his sense of urgency increased further!

He must quickly elevate his strength, otherwise, he would have no footing in the Xuan Realm!

Chapter 1074: Strength is Paramount

Ma Biquan originally intended to forcibly take Ye Fan, but unexpectedly, he was injured by a fierce move from Zhou Tian due to a moment of carelessness.

Subsequently, he utilized a secret technique to suppress his injuries and managed to gain the upper hand with great difficulty, almost ensuring victory. At the critical moment, the master of Xuanwu Sect's daughter, Tong Qianchen, intervened with her sword, altering the final outcome...

This series of events left Ma Biquan extremely frustrated.

"This affair is not over!"

Ma Biquan vowed secretly, determined for the sake of Ye Fan and a world, even if it meant fully breaking off relations with the Xuanwu Sect. He planned to report this matter to the sect leader upon returning.

"It's all because of you, you jinx. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have had this fight with Tianyuan Sect. I really don't understand how you got into such a feud with Tianyuan Sect."

After the people from Tianyuan Sect left, the round-faced youth incessantly complained about Ye Fan, considering him a bringer of disaster, causing ruin wherever he went.

In the earlier battle, the round-faced youth nearly perished due to his lack of power, and even now his head remained swollen, resembling a well-soaked pig's head, with his eyes puffed shut.

Precisely because of his severe injuries, his grievances soared to the skies, believing he wouldn't have received such a beating if it weren't for Ye Fan.

All these troubles were thanks to Ye Fan, naturally sparing no consideration for Ye Fan when speaking.

"Junior Brother Hao speaks rightly! Engaging Tianyuan Sect fiercely over an utterly worthless and prospect-less individual, leading to our injuries, is simply not worthwhile."

Chu Feng, usually poised and distinguishingly gallant, also followed up, his gaze towards Ye Fan filled with undisguised disdain and loathing.

Safeguarding such a useless person had nearly caused him to fall to Tianyuan Sect's hands earlier. Without his formidable strength, this battle would have posed great danger.

Moreover, if Elder Zhou Tian hadn't defeated Ma Biqian from Tianyuan Sect, the consequences of a Tianyuan Sect victory would be unimaginable.

The people from Tianyuan Sect are not so easy to negotiate with, especially with the sect leader's daughter Tong Qianchen among them. Controlling Tong Qianchen effectively means indirectly controlling the Xuanwu Sect, something Ma Biqian from Tianyuan Sect certainly realized.

"Chu Feng, Hao Jian, enough!"

Tong Qianchen's face sank as she scolded the two, "What do you understand? This is not just about handing over Ye Fan; it concerns the dignity of our Xuanwu Sect—beheading can happen, blood can flow, but dignity must not be lost!"

"If we hand him over this time, it would be tantamount to admitting that our Xuanwu Sect is inferior to Tianyuan Sect, effectively conceding to Tianyuan Sect. Have you considered the consequences of this? Once this becomes widespread, our Xuanwu Sect will never lift its head in the Southern Domain of Tianxuan Continent, and everyone will ridicule us!"

Tong Qianchen's words were righteous and stern, leaving Chu Feng and the round-faced youth Hao Jian awkwardly rubbing their noses, choosing silence.

Ye Fan observed coldly, aware that Chu Feng and Hao Jian were definitely allied against him, harboring deep-seated hostility. However, Ye Fan, having weathered many storms, could maintain an outward calm despite internal emotions.

Seeing Ye Fan somewhat distracted, Tong Qianchen assumed he was self-reproaching for causing trouble for Xuanwu Sect and softened her tone, gently consoling, "Ye Fan, you mustn't feel guilty or carry any psychological burden, understand? Even if not for you, our Xuanwu Sect would clash with Tianyuan Sect. This is a longstanding feud, unrelated to you."

Ye Fan nodded appreciatively, clearly seeing that Tong Qianchen was genuinely kind-hearted and honestly intended to comfort him. However, she had no idea that what occupied Ye Fan's mind wasn't the triggering of a conflict between two sects due to him.

At this moment, Ye Fan's thoughts were on the behavior of Tianyuan Sect's people, as he realized from their emergence from the Xuanshou Mountain Range that they must have sought the space portal to Earth.

Judging from their dejected appearances, they evidently failed to locate the sealed space portal, which allowed Ye Fan to quietly sigh in relief.

Nevertheless, seeing Tianyuan Sect's insistence to take him away, he knew his identity had been compromised, necessitating greater caution from now on!

After the heated battle, Zhou Tian feared some powerful Xuan Beasts might gather due to the commotion, so he dared not linger, urging everyone to leave once Tianyuan Sect departed.

Everyone understood the recent battle couldn't escape the notice of strong Xuan Beasts, and if encircled by such formidable creatures here, the consequences would be disastrous.

Despite the peril, the battle did have the benefit of scaring off weaker Xuan Beasts, and until exiting the Xuan Beast Forest, they encountered no True Essence Realm beasts, not even a Half-step Yuan realm mutant beast.

Exiting the Xuan Beast Forest, the scene suddenly opened up, with distant mountain ranges extending continuously, the sky a pure azure blue, and the air even more pristine than Earth's, free from industrial pollution.

Ye Fan took a deep breath, the ample spiritual energy made him exceptionally comfortable, as though all his pores were opening up.

“Alright, we’ve exited the Xuan Beast Forest. Let’s rest and heal, ye injured should seize the time to recuperate. Ye Fan, come with me!”

Finally out of danger, Elder Zhou Tian knew that forcing a march would burden the injured disciples, worsening their injuries and possibly causing lingering ailments hard to treat, so a temporary rest was advised.

Thus, he decided everyone should rest on the spot, allowing the injured to hurry their healing to avoid residual problems.

Then, Zhou Tian called Ye Fan aside, inquiring, “Did Ye Fan really kill the two Tianyuan Sect Outer Disciples? What exactly happened? Provide a detailed account.”

As the words fell, Zhou Tian stared intently into Ye Fan’s eyes.

“So it has come!”

Ye Fan thought to himself. He had known all along that Zhou Tian might be suspicious, so he had already prepared a story in advance.

No matter what, the fact that he came from Earth had to be concealed, not only for his own safety but, more importantly, for the safety of Earth. More people must not find out about the existence of Earth!

“Yes, I did kill the two outer disciples, but here’s what happened in detail...”

Ye Fan recounted the lie he had crafted to Zhou Tian, stating that it was because he was hunting a Xuan Beast and while retrieving the Beast Core, he was discovered by the two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect. Those two disciples wanted to steal his Beast Core and kill him to keep it secret, leaving him no choice but to fight back.

The result was that those two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect were not strong enough and were killed by him instead.

This statement was seamless, as Ye Fan had deliberated over it repeatedly, considering every detail to ensure not a single flaw would be revealed.

“I see...”

Upon hearing this, Zhou Tian’s suspicions were completely dispelled.

He would never in his wildest dreams imagine that Ye Fan came from another world!

Moreover, Ye Fan’s words were consistent with Ma Biqian’s account, making them seem even more credible and not fabricated.

“Your strength is quite remarkable among cultivators of the same realm.”

Zhou Tian furrowed his brow, his eyes flashing shrewdly as he looked at Ye Fan. To have killed two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect, and after struggling against a Xuan Beast, he might indeed be a rare genius!

“Elder, if the Tianyuan Sect refuses to let this go and comes to our sect to demand the person, what do we do? Are we really going to go to war with the Tianyuan Sect because of him?”

Just as Zhou Tian was lost in thought, Chu Feng walked over from a distance and asked.

He had heard that after killing a Xuan Beast, Ye Fan was able to kill two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect, which he found hard to believe.

However, he chose not to question Ye Fan’s words—he didn’t know what the true strength of those two outer disciples was, so perhaps Ye Fan was telling the truth.

He was more concerned about whether the Xuanwu Sect would completely fall out with the Tianyuan Sect for Ye Fan’s sake, because once relations broke down, a war between the two sects would be inevitable.

Therefore, Chu Feng looked at Ye Fan with some hostility; had it not been for Tong Qianchen fiercely defending him and the elders remaining silent, he would have handed him over already.

“If it breaks down, it breaks down. We will have to face the Tianyuan Sect sooner or later, so why be afraid of war? Are we really afraid of the Tianyuan Sect?”

Before Zhou Tian could speak, Tong Qianchen walked over, looked Chu Feng straight in the eye, and spoke first.

Her gaze was sharp; though she was a young girl, she was as brave as any man, and her fearless expression left Chu Feng feeling awkward.

“Um...”

Chu Feng felt quite frustrated, but he said no more; he didn’t want to leave a bad impression in front of Tong Qianchen.

“Alright, everyone, go rest. Ye Fan, you should rest as well. Make the most of the time to heal your injuries; none of us can make the decision about this matter. We should report to the Sect Leader and let them decide.”

Seeing the two of them about to argue, Zhou Tian quickly waved his hand, signaling everyone to disperse and rest. This matter wouldn’t be addressed until they returned to the sect.

Ye Fan quietly found a spot far from the others and sat down cross-legged, preparing to use the Mystical Skill to heal his injuries when Elder Xuan suddenly spoke to him in his sea of consciousness, “Kid, although this little girl is kind-hearted and righteous, they don’t understand what you mean to the

Tianyuan Sect. And the Tianyuan Sect will certainly come to the Xuanwu Sect to find you. By then, even with this girl protecting you, the Xuanwu Sect, for the sake of the bigger picture, will hand you over!”

“What should I do then?”

Ye Fan had also thought of this point and immediately asked Elder Xuan through his mind. He was like a blind man in the Xuan Realm, falling into a crisis as soon as he arrived, and it left him momentarily at a loss.

Elder Xuan was silent for a moment, then said, “The only solution is to display extraordinary strength and potential during the entry test, making the Xuanwu Sect value you. Only then can you earn their protection.”

Ye Fan fell silent. He knew that everything Elder Xuan said was true. In the Xuan Realm, strength was paramount; everything depended on one’s strength!

Chapter 1075: Envy and Contempt

The Xuanwu Sect is located in a famous Cave Heaven Blessed Land, Xuanwu Mountain, in the Southern Domain Tianyuan State of the Tianxuan Continent. The mountain gate is at the foot of Xuanwu Mountain.

Aside from the Xuanshou Mountain Range, the Southern Domain Tianyuan State on the Tianxuan Continent has only three blessed lands imbued with natural beauty, and Xuanwu Mountain is one of them.

The entire mountain resembles a giant old turtle lying on the earth, hence the name Xuanwu. The Xuanwu Sect is also named after this mountain.

Xuanwu Mountain is divided into the Inner Sect and the Outer Sect. The Outer Sect is located halfway up the mountain, not far from the foot, where there are clusters of buildings where Outer Disciples cultivate and live.

Every few years, the Xuanwu Sect opens its mountain gate wide, accepting some talented disciples into the Outer Sect. Inner Sect Disciples are the most outstanding ones selected from the Outer Disciples.

In any sect, Inner Sect Disciples are always selected from the best among the Outer Disciples.

The Tianxuan Continent is extremely vast, even just the Southern Domain is so expansive that an ordinary cultivator might not be able to fly across the entire Southern Domain using a Flying Artifact, even after flying continuously for decades.

Throughout the Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent, sects are countless, but in Tianyuan State, there are only three major sects regarded highly, and the Xuanwu Sect is one of them.

Thus, every time any of the Three Great Sects open their mountain gate wide to recruit disciples, many youths come to participate in the entry test.

When Ye Fan returned to the Xuanwu Sect along with Tong Qianchen and others, thousands of youths had already gathered outside the mountain gate of the Xuanwu Sect. The oldest were fifteen or sixteen years old, while the youngest were even seven or eight years old children.

Despite their young age, these youths have remarkable cultivation, otherwise, they would not dare to come to participate in the entry test.

Outside the mountain gate, everywhere was bustling with heads of people, and within the mountain gate, two Outer Disciples were continuously guiding these youths who came to participate in the entry test into the mountain gate.

Inside the mountain gate there are numerous houses that can be used for these youths to rest, although the conditions are nothing to boast about.

From a distance, these youths who came for the test saw Zhou Tian leading Ye Fan and others landing outside the mountain gate, and they quickly made way.

Clearly, they all realized that Zhou Tian and others were people of the Xuanwu Sect, with a distinguished identity.

“Hey, who’s this person? Why doesn’t he have the Xuanwu Sect’s emblem?”

Someone with sharp eyes immediately noticed the peculiarity of Ye Fan in the crowd. Everyone else had the Xuanwu Sect’s emblem—a mystic turtle embroidered on the left arm—on their clothing, but Ye Fan’s clothes had nothing.

Swish!

As soon as these words were spoken, all eyes focused on Ye Fan. Under the gaze of so many pairs of eyes, anyone who hasn't experienced grand occasions might embarrass themselves on the spot.

And the pudgy youth Hao Jian and Chu Feng were also watching Ye Fan with mocking expressions, waiting to see him make a fool of himself.

However—

Ye Fan's demeanor disappointed both of them.

He was very calm, showing no signs of nervousness, and didn't even glance at those people.

Hmm?

This realization gave Chu Feng and Hao Jian a slight pause.

Not only them, but even Tong Qianchen was slightly surprised.

As the daughter of the Sect Leader of the Xuanwu Sect, she was naturally used to being in the spotlight since childhood. But Ye Fan, clearly someone who hasn't seen much grand occasions, could also act so naturally, which made her find it very unusual.

"Could he be a hidden gem?"

Tong Qianchen pondered secretly in her heart, being able to remain calm under the attention of so many people is definitely not something ordinary people can achieve.

Led by Zhou Tian, the group soon passed through the mountain gate, entering within. At this moment, Chu Feng asked Tong Qianchen: "Junior Sister Tong, you don't intend to directly bring him into the mountain gate, do you? So many people are watching outside, it doesn't look good."

Tong Qianchen indeed planned to directly bring Ye Fan into the mountain gate, arranging for him to undergo the test. But hearing Chu Feng say this, she also felt it was inappropriate; it would be tantamount to clearly opening the back door.

So Tong Qianchen smiled apologetically at Ye Fan, and said: "Ye Fan, how about you go in for the test with them, to prevent others from saying we, the Xuanwu Sect, engage in favoritism and fraud."

"Alright, thank you!"

Ye Fan nodded. He knew that if he were really brought in directly, Tong Qianchen's identity could accomplish it, but as Chu Feng said, it wouldn't look good.

“Just wait here; we’ll send someone to bring food. Participate in the test early tomorrow! Meanwhile, you can operate your skills to heal your injuries and strive to perform well in the test.”

Tong Qianchen comforted Ye Fan for a while, then went inside with the others, leaving Ye Fan with the youths who came to take the entry test.

“Who is this guy? He actually knows the Sect Leader’s daughter, Fairy Tong Qianchen. What a lucky person!”

“Exactly, if I knew Fairy Tong, would I even need to take the test? I’d go straight into the outer sect!”

“You? Forget it, stop dreaming. Just wait for tomorrow’s test honestly. If you pass, then you can talk about entering the outer sect. Inner sect? Don’t even think about it. It’s beyond our reach.”

Seeing Ye Fan being left behind, those who came for the test gathered around, pointing fingers and murmuring about him.

“What a pity! He’s too old; he’s already missed the best period for cultivation. Even knowing the Sect Leader’s daughter won’t help. He no longer has much potential or room for improvement.”

“Exactly, he’s over twenty years old and is still taking the test with us fifteen- or sixteen-year-olds. Isn’t he ashamed?”

Although they mocked Ye Fan with sarcasm, they were quite envious inside, wishing they were the ones who knew the Sect Leader's daughter, Fairy Tong.

"What are you all clamoring about? If you continue, I'll cancel your test qualifications. Line up properly and enter one by one; each person has a room assigned. Rest for a night and take the test in the morning."

After a round of threats from two outer disciples who wielded power through the Sect, the teenagers who came for the test quickly quieted down.

After all, their purpose for coming here was to join the Xuanwu Sect's outer sect and slowly climb their way to the inner sect for future success. If their test qualifications were canceled, wouldn't this trip have been in vain?

Even though the youths were assigned rooms after entering the mountain gate, due to excitement, they were reluctant to sleep in their rooms and instead chatted in groups outside.

Ye Fan wasn't assigned a room, but he didn't need one. As long as he could cultivate, it was the same anywhere, though he required peace and didn't want to be disturbed.

Thus, after some observation, Ye Fan headed towards a less crowded area, hoping to find a quiet place to operate his skills and heal his injuries, as he had not yet fully recovered.

Unfortunately, things didn't go as planned. Those youths seemed uncomfortable if they didn't taunt him a bit, continuously discussing behind his back.

"What luck did this guy have to know Fairy Tong and even be personally brought into the mountain gate by her?"

"Who knows? But it seems his relationship with Tong Qianchen isn't that good; otherwise, he wouldn't have been made to take the test like us. He would've been directly admitted."

"Hmph! The younger you are, the more potential and room for growth you have. He's already this old taking the test; even if he passes, he's still a waste, with no great future prospects, at best, just finding a place to eat."

The speaker was a twelve- or thirteen-year-old youth, who, relying on his excellent talent and age advantage, mercilessly belittled Ye Fan.

"Sigh... At such an age, wouldn't it be better to honestly farm and till the land at home? Why take the test and cause trouble for us?"

The youths behind Ye Fan were chattering with varying degrees of envy and jealousy towards him for knowing Tong Qianchen, along with disdain for Ye Fan for only reaching the late-stage True Qi Realm at over twenty.

Ye Fan merely smiled faintly at their words, not taking them to heart. Instead, he found a secluded spot, sat cross-legged, and began to operate his mystical skills to heal his injuries. The Pure Yang Qi traveled through his meridians, slowly recovering the areas damaged by the Ice Snow Spirit Ape.

Over the past days, Ye Fan made the most of every moment he rested to operate his skills for recovery, which was why his injuries healed rapidly.

After another night of cultivation, he might achieve complete recovery, with his strength returning to peak condition.

He was eager to restore his power to peak condition because Elder Xuan had said that in the entry test, he must demonstrate extraordinary strength and potential to receive the full protection of the Xuanwu Sect.

He strongly agreed with this, which was why he spared no effort in ensuring he would be in peak condition before the test!

Ever since arriving in the Xuan Realm, he hadn't wasted a single moment. Whenever he had time, he would cultivate and heal, as the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi here was far richer than on Earth.

And as one of the three blessed lands, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi at the Xuanwu Sect was even denser than elsewhere. Just after nightfall, a faint white mist of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi started to envelop the entire mountain. The higher one went, the denser the Primordial Qi became.

Cultivating in such a rich atmosphere was akin to refining essence stones on Earth, and Ye Fan immersed himself completely in cultivation, with every pore fully open, allowing the delicate streams of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to enter his body and refine his flesh.

While recovering from his injuries, he simultaneously cultivated, making final preparations for the outer disciple test tomorrow!

Chapter 1076: The Eve of the Test

As one of the three blessed places, the Tianyuan Sect occupies the best resources, with Yao Grass growing everywhere in the sect, strange flowers and herbs competing in beauty, Azure Pines welcoming guests, Immortal Cranes dancing, and White Apes offering peaches, all resembling an Immortal Realm.

Elder Ma Biqian of the Tianyuan Sect returned defeated with his elite disciples, not only failing to find the space channel to Earth but also getting injured by his nemesis, Elder Zhou Tian of the Xuanwu Sect, leaving him extremely vexed.

However, he knew that Ye Fan's matter was too important, so upon returning to the sect, he didn't even care to operate his Primordial Qi to heal and went directly to the mountain peak where the Tianyuan Sect's Sect Leader lived to report.

"It seems only by capturing that kid can we find out what the intrigue is!"

The Sect Leader of the Tianyuan Sect suddenly stood up, the disappearance of the space channel was inexplicable, how could this be? But from what Elder Ma Biqian said, Gu Yun wasn't lying.

In his opinion, since Ye Fan was able to come to the Xuan Realm, it indicated that the space channel actually existed, it's just that it couldn't be found now.

As long as they capture Ye Fan, he firmly believed they could surely get information about the space channel from Ye Fan's mouth!

"Elder Ma, you've worked hard, heal yourself well, I'll personally go to the Xuanwu Sect to demand the person, I don't believe that old fellow Tong Tianhao dares not to hand him over!"

For Earth, for this massive strategic reserve of talent, the Tianyuan Sect Leader decided to personally go to the Xuanwu Sect to demand the person!

In terms of overall strength, Tianyuan Sect is stronger than Xuanwu Sect, so the Tianyuan Sect Leader isn't worried at all that Xuanwu Sect won't hand over the person.

...

Meanwhile.

After Zhou Tian returned to the Xuanwu Sect with Tong Qianchen and others, he directly found Sect Leader Tong Tianhao to report about Ye Fan's matter.

After listening to Zhou Tian's report, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao pondered for a long time, and finally asked Zhou Tian, "What's your opinion? Should we hand over the person or protect him?"

Zhou Tian shook his head with a bitter smile, saying: "Sect Leader, this matter must be decided by you, I don't have any say, after all, this matter affects the entire Southern Domain Tianyuan State's landscape of the Tianxuan Continent and concerns the survival and demise of our Xuanwu Sect, it's a matter where pulling one hair moves the whole body, I dare not make decisions by myself!"

Tong Tianhao also knows that what Zhou Tian said is true, he pondered for a long time before saying, "Let's do this, if Tianyuan Sect insists on having us hand over the person, let's give him up. Currently, our strength isn't enough to go head-to-head with Tianyuan Sect, if a real fight breaks out, we will surely suffer heavy losses of Primordial Qi. It's not worth it! It's not worth sacrificing too much for an ordinary cultivator without much room to ascend."

"Exactly, I think so too, but if we don't at least make them lose some momentum first, it might make them look down on us."

Zhou Tian also nodded in agreement with the Sect Leader's decision, both of them were well aware of the Xuanwu Sect's current situation, Xuanwu Sect is indeed not as strong as Tianyuan Sect in terms of comprehensive strength.

However, the younger generation of Xuanwu Sect is quite promising, with a group of powerful and potential genius cultivators emerging.

As long as these geniuses can grow smoothly, eventually, Xuanwu Sect will surpass Tianyuan Sect, and avenging won't be too late then!

When the strength is insufficient, laying low, hiding one's claws is necessary, temporary endurance can bring future glory, this account Tong Tianhao can certainly calculate.

“You arrange this matter yourself, after tomorrow’s test, if Tianyuan Sect comes to request the person, don’t agree immediately, even if we eventually have to hand him over, don’t let them succeed too easily, otherwise, it will damage our Xuanwu Sect’s reputation!”

Being able to sit in the position of Sect Leader, Tong Tianhao’s scheming and determination are exceedingly deep, and he excels in strategy and can utilize all available resources to create favorable conditions for himself.

“Alright, I’ll go arrange it!”

Zhou Tian nodded, turned and left, then suddenly thought of something, turned back again to say to Tong Tianhao, “Sect Leader, there’s one more thing that requires your personal attention.”

“Oh? What is it?”

Tong Tianhao just planned to return to his room, but upon hearing this, he stopped and looked at Zhou Tian in confusion.

“Qianchen is determined to protect that boy! It’s precisely because of this that we fought with Ma Biqian and his folks in the Xuanshou Mountain Range, if you’re going to hand over the person, she might be unwilling.”

Zhou Tian, also a cunning veteran, first pushed the responsibility away, holding himself entirely free from any responsibility, regardless of the final result, he could cleanly detach himself.

“Alright, I’ll talk to Qianchen, you go get busy!” Tong Tianhao smiled wryly.

Within the entire Xuanwu Sect, whether it’s the Outer Disciple, or the Supreme Elder, he could handle them all, but he was somewhat helpless when it came to his darling daughter, trying to persuade Tong Qianchen to hand over Ye Fan, he couldn’t help but scratch his head.

The night was cool as water, cold dew wetting clothes!

The other youths who came to partake in the Xuanwu Sect’s Outer Disciple test all went to their rooms to cultivate, plunging the Xuanwu Sect’s outer areas into silence.

Ye Fan was also cultivating.

During the latter part of the night, under his strong self-healing ability and the operation of Mystical Skill, Ye Fan finally healed all his injuries, brimming with energy and power surging throughout his body.

Suddenly, Ye Fan opened his eyes, resembling two streaks of cold lightning, lightly clenched his fists, producing a slight sonic boom, with Blood Qi surging from his body, Blood Qi like a Jiao Elephant, Gang Qi almost condensing into a liquid state, flowing throughout his body.

Through internal observation, Ye Fan found that his internal organs were as transparent as crystal, his meridians wide and resilient, surging with Gang Qi, his bones emitting a faint golden color.

With injuries fully recovered, his strength even slightly increased, though he still hadn't broken through to the Peak of True Qi Realm, but he wasn't far!

"Tomorrow is the Entry test, should I use Magic Attack with Flying Sword Skill to drive Xuanye Flying Blade for the test? Or use Domineering Fist?"

Ye Fan woke from cultivation, asking Elder Xuan.

Each has its strengths and weaknesses, Magic Attack is sharp and unmatched in power, suited for long-range attacks, and the best choice for ambushes, when cultivated to the extreme, can decapitate enemies thousands of miles away as if taking something out of a bag.

Domineering Fist is fierce, its domineering power unparalleled, can exert the utmost mighty attack power, delivering a shocking effect.

Magic and Domineering Fist, each has its merits, hard to choose, Ye Fan was caught in a dilemma, constantly feeling both are great, but when it came to choosing between them, he wasn't sure which to pick.

Just as Ye Fan was torn between his choices, Elder Xuan spoke: "Still go with Domineering Fist, after all, Domineering Fist is what you obtained on Earth capable of rivaling the attacks of Xuan Realm martial arts. While Flying Sword Skill is greatly renowned in Xuan Realm, once recognized, it might cause unnecessary trouble, so, Flying Sword Skill can be a trump card, try not to use it in front of others, once used, it must ensure to kill the opponent, dead men keep secrets forever."

Elder Xuan's words finally made Ye Fan resolve, since Flying Sword Skill can't be used openly, there is no choice left but to test with Domineering Fist.

"Kid, Domineering Fist is a martial art capable of rivaling any martial arts in Xuan Realm, but you haven't fully comprehended the third form 'Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World', take advantage of the remaining time, delve into it once more, maybe you'll unexpectedly gain, boosting your strength further."

Elder Xuan couldn't help but remind Ye Fan that the third form of Domineering Fist, Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World, when truly comprehended can unleash tremendous power which is not negligible.

At least, in the True Qi Realm!

Ye Fan was shocked and thought Elder Xuan made sense, so he began to earnestly comprehend the third form of Domineering Fist 'Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World'.

Previously, Ye Fan had already grasped the Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World move and could exert terrifying attack power, but upon reevaluating it now, he felt some aspects weren't fully comprehended.

Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World isn't just its superficial meaning, it has deeper essence, if not for Elder Xuan's reminder, who knows when he could have comprehended it.

Punching out, infused with emotion, using Gang Qi as a bridge, communicating with the Power of Heaven and Earth, can draw a trace of heaven's rules to adhere to the fist, exerting unbelievable power.

"So the essence of Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World is like this..."

Until this moment, Ye Fan finally truly comprehended the move Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World, and felt elated.

Thinking of this, Ye Fan considered that perhaps the first two forms of Domineering Fist also have other meanings, so after fully comprehending and integrating Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World, ready to unleash it at any moment, Ye Fan reevaluated the first two forms as well.

However, due to the power difference, the first two forms don't have the deeper essence found in the third form, though the understanding is deeper, it doesn't greatly impact the power it manifests except allowing for more proficient execution.

Of course, as strength improves, so too does the power of Domineering Fist rise alongside it, now delivering blood gang showing much more power than before.

"Tomorrow's Outer Disciple test should go smoothly!"

Ending his contemplation, Ye Fan displayed a confident smile.

After thoroughly comprehending the lethally powerful move Domineering Fist Overwhelms the World, Ye Fan believed that in terms of Combat Power, he was certainly not weaker than any genius of the same realm!

Chapter 1077: Isolated, Public Enemy

Within Xuanwu Sect's inner sect, it was completely silent, only occasionally interrupted by the sounds of insects and the incessant flow of water.

In an inconspicuous room within the inner sect, a lamp was still lit. From the shadows cast by the window, it was evident there were two people inside—one tall and well-proportioned, the other chunky and plump.

These two were none other than Hao Jian and Chu Feng, who were on the worst terms with Ye Fan.

After returning to the inner sect, Hao Jian grew more indignant, wondering why someone picked up from the road could join Xuanwu Sect, even the outer sect.

Yet he knew he didn't have the power to drive Ye Fan away; he lacked that authority. If Tong Qianchen realized he was secretly scheming, she definitely wouldn't give him a good face.

His mind was simple, but he knew Chu Feng didn't want Ye Fan to stay either. Unable to come up with a solution, he went to Chu Feng for advice.

“Brother Feng, what should we do? Are we really going to let that trash join the outer sect? I can see Senior Sister Tong cares a lot about him, and if he stays, she might make an exception and promote him to an inner sect disciple.”

Hao Jian said worriedly to Chu Feng. He knew Chu Feng was pursuing Tong Qianchen, and letting Ye Fan stay would undoubtedly create trouble for Chu Feng, which he wouldn't allow.

“Hmph! Just a piece of trash, I have a hundred ways to make him leave on his own.”

In front of a trusted confidant, Chu Feng didn't need to maintain his gentlemanly image. He finally tore off his hypocritical mask, glaring viciously, “Hao Jian, tomorrow you'll do this...”

Saying this, Chu Feng lowered his voice, whispered to Hao Jian for a while, then said, “I bet this will drive him away; I'll make him leave Xuanwu Sect on his own!”

“Brilliant, truly brilliant!”

The meatball Hao Jian grinned cunningly, “Let's do it, Brother Feng, your plan is genius. All right, I won't disturb your rest; tomorrow we'll wait for the fun to start.”

...

Early the next morning, before dawn, all the youths who came for the entrance examination were up. Led by an elder of the inner sect, they arrived at a huge square.

In the center of the square stood a massive stele, about three meters high and a meter wide. No one knew what it was for; it bore no words or marks, like a blank slab yet to be engraved with names.

Over a thousand youths gathered chaotically in the vast square, their chatter resembling the buzzing of a swarm of flies, so loud Ye Fan wished he could plug his ears.

These youths hadn't slept; for today's test, they'd chosen to cultivate, sharpening their skills even at the last moment. This principle was known not only to Earth people but also to those of the Xuan Realm.

Amidst these youths, the twenty-something-year-old Ye Fan stood out like a crane among chickens, incongruous with those around him. Though surrounded by people, his heart was solitary.

After bringing them there, the inner sect elder instructed them to wait for the test, then disappeared.

As soon as the elder left, the meatball Hao Jian appeared in the center of the square. No one knew when he mingled among the people.

Especially as he was an inner sect disciple, he shouldn't have had any interaction with these youths who hadn't been tested yet.

“Everyone, everyone please quiet down, I’m an inner sect disciple of Xuanwu. I’d like to say a few words.”

As soon as Hao Jian revealed his identity, the whispered chatter among the crowd ceased; everyone knew what an inner sect disciple meant and was curious about what he would say.

These people didn’t know how the entrance test for the outer sect would be conducted. If a senior could disclose some details, it would be invaluable experience.

Thus, although there were over a thousand people in the square, it was suddenly silent enough to hear a pin drop, with everyone staring eagerly at Hao Jian, hoping he’d share some testing insights.

Seeing everyone quiet down, the meatball Hao Jian nodded contentedly, his beady eyes almost squeezed into slits.

Then, he fixed his gaze on Ye Fan, cleared his throat, and loudly addressed the crowd, “Everyone, do you see the big guy among you? The one who returned with us yesterday.”

As he spoke, everyone’s gaze shifted to Ye Fan, puzzled about what this fat guy intended to say.

Ye Fan frowned; he knew Hao Jian was targeting him but was unsure what he was up to now.

Sure enough, once everyone's attention returned, Hao Jian continued, "This person killed two Tianyuan Sect outer sect disciples and provoked the colossal entity that is Tianyuan Sect. He's a typical bringer of bad luck. If not for begging Sect Leader's daughter Senior Sister Tong, he'd have been killed by Tianyuan Sect. Now, despite being over-aged, he shamelessly wants to join our Xuanwu Sect to seek protection. Scum like him, everyone tell me, can we accept him in Xuanwu?"

"No! Kick this scum out!"

It was unclear if Hao Jian organized this in advance, but the youths participating in the test shouted angrily, demanding Ye Fan be expelled from Xuanwu.

"Indeed, such scum doesn't deserve our protection. Kick him out; he doesn't belong with you, being with him is your disgrace."

Hao Jian's skill in inciting people was top-notch. In a few words, he not only blackened Ye Fan's name but also stirred the crowd's emotions to expel him.

After this incitement, these naive youths instantly seemed as if they had been injected with adrenaline, their eyes turned red.

In their simple minds, Ye Fan is someone who, after provoking a powerful sect, knew he couldn't protect himself, so he shamelessly, regardless of his conditions, limitations of age, brazenly joined the Xuanwu Sect, using this big tree to save his own life.

Such a person is simply scum, that fat guy is right, being with such a person is simply a disgrace.

Even though in a hostile state, Ye Fan can't help but applaud Hao Jian, this fat guy, these words are simply classic.

However, unfortunately, Ye Fan has experienced Huaxia's officialdom and knows how to use the rules. His mentality is no longer the impulsive one of his youth, where a few words from others would heat up his head.

If these words were said to a young inexperienced lad, they might be extremely destructive, but for Ye Fan, he didn't take Hao Jian's words seriously at all.

However, as soon as these words were spoken, Ye Fan's surroundings immediately turned into a vacuum, everyone seemed to want to draw a clear line with him, staying far away, and for a while, Ye Fan became the target of public criticism.

"Everyone, this person's face is incredibly thick, he refuses to leave, what should we do?"

Seeing that his words had no effect on Ye Fan, Hao Jian became a bit anxious too, but Chu Feng had already taught him how to cope with such a situation, he quickly continued to stir up the crowd's emotions.

"Kick him out, for such a person, no need to show any mercy."

"Exactly, kick him out, Xuanwu Sect does not welcome such people."

The crowd was agitated, those young people, ignorant of the heights of the heavens and the depths of the earth, got heated up with just a few words, ignoring the consequences, they all rolled up their sleeves, ready to take action against Ye Fan.

However, the Xuanwu Sect has strict rules, any grudges among disciples can be resolved through challenges on dedicated stages, but private fights are strictly prohibited. Once discovered, expulsion from the sect is immediate with no compromise.

These new people didn't know this rule, but Hao Jian did. Once large-scale fighting breaks out, not only would they be expelled, but he couldn't escape either.

He felt no sympathy for these reckless youths, but he was very concerned about his own fate and future.

Seeing the crowd was impulsively about to make a move, Hao Jian quickly continued, "Everyone, everyone, don't make a move, hear me out!"

At this point, the crowd's emotions had been stirred by him, there was no resistance to his words, and those preparing to make a move stopped.

"Everyone, you are all geniuses, elites, fighting with such a person is beneath you, isn't it? Let's not make a move, let him leave on his own, if he continues to stay here, you don't need to care, after all, he's just a waste, there's no need for us to argue with a waste!"

Hao Jian continued to deride, ridicule, and strike at Ye Fan, trying to get Ye Fan to leave on his own.

Upon hearing Hao Jian's words again, those hot-blooded youths calmed down a bit, but still looked at Ye Fan with disdain, unwilling to stand with him, isolating Ye Fan all at once.

Ye Fan secretly sighed in his heart. After this disturbance by Hao Jian, even if he enters the outer sect, he would be looked down upon.

If he hadn't chosen to endure, eager to join a sect to improve his strength, given his temper, he would have left long ago!

...

While Ye Fan was being isolated, the Sect Leader of the Tianyuan Sect was rushing towards the Xuanwu Sect with the sect's elder elites.

The sky seemed to be covered with a large cloud, these people are the backbone of the Tianyuan Sect, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the Tianyuan Sect was fully mobilized this time.

Flying at the forefront was the Sect Leader of the Tianyuan Sect, who was urgently pushing his speed to the limit.

Because...

He knows, no matter what, he must bring Ye Fan back to the Tianyuan Sect, absolutely cannot let Ye Fan fall into the hands of the Xuanwu Sect.

Otherwise, if the Xuanwu Sect gains control of Earth, this huge strategic talent reserve base, geniuses and strong people will emerge in large numbers in the future!

If that happens, the power balance in Tianyuan State will be broken — Xuanwu Sect will dominate!

Once Xuanwu Sect dominates, given the enmity between Tianyuan Sect and Xuanwu Sect, Xuanwu Sect will absolutely not spare Tianyuan Sect.

This...is the result he does not want to see!

So, no matter what, he must bring Ye Fan back to the Tianyuan Sect!

Chapter 1078: Outer Disciple Selection (Part 1)

As the Golden Crow rose, when the first ray of golden sunlight pierced the darkness, the east was illuminated with rays of brilliant light.

The Outer Disciple test had mobilized almost the entire high echelon of the Xuanwu Sect.

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao of the Xuanwu Sect, leading the elders and core disciples of the sect, grandly arrived at the square.

In the square, a row of Taishi Chairs was set up, directly facing the mountain gate; a dense crowd gathered in front.

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao sat on the central Taishi Chair, and the other elders took their seats as well. Looking at the young hopefuls who came to sign up for the test, they wore satisfied smiles.

In the past, when the Xuanwu Sect opened its gates widely to recruit disciples, such a spectacle had never been seen; having five or six hundred people come for the test was already impressive. This year, the number has more than doubled.

Though less than a tenth might eventually stay, at least the sheer number is vast. Even a tenth is far more than the number of disciples admitted in the past.

The prosperity and rise of the Xuanwu Sect seemed imminent. Sect Leader Tong Tianhao smiled at a forty-something elder and said, "We can begin now. Let's see the strength of these youths."

The elder in his forties nodded respectfully, stood up, took a few steps to the smooth Stele, and channeled his Qi Yun Dantian. His voice, forced out with True Yuan, was like rolling thunder, clearly audible to all cultivators standing in any corner of the square.

“Young heroes, I represent the Xuanwu Sect in welcoming you for choosing our Xuanwu Sect. You are all young elites with limitless prospects. As long as your performance meets our requirements, you can become a member of the Xuanwu Sect’s outer sect.”

“Here, you will receive systematic teachings and cultivation resources to help you grow faster. If you perform well, there is even a chance to be absorbed into the inner sect, where cultivation resources are richer than the outer sect.”

“This will be the place to change your destiny, whether you will remain unknown or become renowned across the world, depends on your own efforts and comprehension. Of course, the premise is that you can pass the test and officially become a member of our Xuanwu Sect...”

The elder, much like a peddler of snake oil, gave a lengthy speech filled mostly with words of encouragement for these young cultivators, painting a stunningly bright future for them.

After finishing the long-winded talk, the middle-aged elder cleared his throat to remind everyone to pay attention, then said, “Did everyone remember what I just said?”

“We remember!”

The young cultivators participating in the Outer Disciple test shouted in unison, their voices echoing throughout Xuanwu Mountain.

The middle-aged elder nodded with satisfaction, saying, “Very well, now I announce that the test officially begins. The test is simple. Do you see the Stele behind me? Each of you will take turns to deliver your strongest strike to the Stele, which will show your cultivation and strength.”

“The testing Stele is divided into seven colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. As long as you surpass the blue limit, you are considered to have passed the assessment!”

After speaking, the middle-aged elder respectfully gestured towards Sect Leader Tong Tianhao seated at the center of the dais. Tong Tianhao nodded slightly in response.

Only then did the middle-aged elder step to the side of the Stele, instructing everyone to line up properly for the test.

Next to him was a table, behind which sat an elderly scholar-like figure. Paper was spread out on the table, with a brush and inkstone beside it, evidently prepared to register those who passed the assessment.

With so many people attending the entry test, it was impossible for the Xuanwu Sect to register everyone. Only those who qualify will be registered, and as for those who do not, they will return from whence they came.

After the middle-aged elder stepped aside, the young attendees, after a bit of commotion, automatically formed a long line.

Ye Fan’s position was quite at the front, intentionally arranged by the youths—they intended to see Ye Fan make a fool of himself.

The first youth in line strode confidently to the testing Stele, stopping at a distance of one punch from it, his demeanor suddenly erupted.

“Hah!”

With eyes wide, the youth roared like a tiger, striking the Stele with a punch. The Stele flashed with multicolored light, eventually settling on a blue glow that illuminated the surroundings in indigo hues.

“Test passed, what’s your name?”

The middle-aged elder appeared pleased; this was a good omen. The first person tested passed, indicating that the overall strength of the young cultivators this year was higher than before.

“Xiao Long!”

The youth replied neither humbly nor arrogantly, casting a proud glance at Ye Fan.

“Very good, proceed to register over there. From now on, you are a member of the Xuanwu Sect’s outer sect disciples.”

The middle-aged elder looked at him approvingly, as if he were gazing upon a flawless piece of jade.

“Thank you, elder!”

After he left, the second person stepped up and also struck the Stele with all his might; the Stele’s light flickered, finally settling on a green glow, with green light radiating brightly.

“Not qualified, return home, but don’t be discouraged; come again next time, you are still young, and there are more chances!”

The middle-aged elder expressed regret, but rules were rules. This youth was only fourteen, and reaching green was already quite remarkable, so he offered a few words of consolation.

The youth stood there dazed for a while, eventually only leaving dejectedly after being urged by others. Coming with confidence, yet ending up unqualified, the drastic contrast was somewhat hard for him to accept.

The test continued. The third youth stood in front of the Stele, taking a deep breath. With one success and one failure before him, he felt some pressure.

However, this test couldn’t be falsified; it depended entirely on strength. As long as you had the strength, you could certainly pass the test; otherwise, no amount of unwillingness would help.

Steadying his consciousness, the youth roared, instantly burning his Gang Qi, and fiercely unleashed a punch.

Bang!

The stele's light flickered, finally settling on a blue glow. The blue light shone brightly, indicating he had successfully passed the test.

"Succeeded? I succeeded..."

The young man cheered and quickly approached the middle-aged elder, who looked at him with satisfaction and said, "Very good, your strength is not bad. Go over there to register. From today on, you are an Outer Disciple of the Xuanwu Sect."

"Thank you, elder!"

The joy on the young man's face was unmistakable. He bowed deeply to the middle-aged elder and promptly walked to the table to register his name and other details.

The fourth one...

The fifth one...

The test proceeded in an orderly manner. Overall, there were few who passed; most were eliminated. However, a few youths did succeed in the test.

Those who passed stood on the other side, watching others take the test with eased expressions.

Meanwhile, those who did not pass looked dejected. Even the middle-aged elder's consolation was of little use to them. They thought themselves geniuses, yet here at the stele, they met their 'Waterloo.'

Seeing the number of people ahead of Ye Fan decrease, those who had passed couldn't help but look at him, their eyes openly mocking.

Finally, when everyone ahead of him had tested, some leaving happy and some disheartened, it was Ye Fan's turn.

Watching Ye Fan walk towards the testing stele, one youth who had passed couldn't resist mocking him, "A person must know their own limits. Even in the Late-stage True Qi Realm, there are differences in strength. If your combat power is insufficient, you won't pass the test. Someone has already perfectly demonstrated this; do you still want to disgrace yourself?"

Saying this, the youth who had passed looked at Ye Fan with disdain.

Ye Fan chose to ignore such comments. Strength is not proven through words but through fists.

At this moment, everyone's eyes were focused on Ye Fan. The middle-aged elder, unsure of Ye Fan's background, frowned slightly seeing someone in their twenties still taking the test.

But he said nothing, as even Sect Leader Tong Tianhao remained silent, so it wasn't his place to speak.

Meanwhile, Elder Zhou Tian and Sect Leader Tong Tianhao of the Xuanwu Sect were also observing Ye Fan's performance.

Although they were unsure of Ye Fan's true combat power, they had heard that Ye Fan had killed two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect after slaying a Xuan Beast, indicating that he wasn't weak.

After all, the outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect and the Xuanwu Sect were of similar strength. Even if there were some differences, they weren't significant.

That Ye Fan could kill two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect suggested he had considerable strength.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Under everyone's attention, Ye Fan walked towards the testing stele with a steady and powerful stride.

Hmm?!

At this moment...

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and the elders of the Xuanwu Sect suddenly sensed multiple auras, one of which was particularly powerful.

Swish!

The next moment, they turned unanimously towards the source of the aura and saw the leader of the Tianyuan Sect approaching the Xuanwu Sect aggressively with a group!

This discovery caused Sect Leader Tong Tianhao's pupils to suddenly dilate, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

"What's happening?"

Not only was Sect Leader Tong Tianhao surprised, but the elders around him were also taken aback.

They had a vague suspicion that the leader of the Tianyuan Sect coming with reinforcements might be related to the earlier events in the Xuan Beast Forest.

But then again, Ye Fan had only killed two outer disciples of the translucent Tianyuan Sect—outer disciples were not nearly as valuable as inner disciples, so there was no reason for the Tianyuan Sect to go to such lengths.

Yet now, not only had the leader of the Tianyuan Sect come, but he had also brought many strong people!

“They still came!”

Ye Fan too sensed a strong aura approaching, sighing inwardly. What was destined to come would come eventually; it seemed the Tianyuan Sect was determined to capture him.

At this moment, Tong Tianhao was puzzled to the extreme. Judging by Ye Fan’s appearance, he didn’t seem to be a particularly talented cultivator. Even being able to kill two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect shouldn’t have warranted such a sweeping response from the Tianyuan Sect.

“Is there something fishy going on?”

As Sect Leader Tong Tianhao looked at Ye Fan, several thoughts flashed through his mind.

Chapter 1079: Outer Disciple Selection (Part 2)

“Tong Tianhao, hope you are well!”

Before the person arrived, the voice reached first.

The next moment, before Tong Tianhao could make sense of it, the Tianyuan Sect Leader's confident voice echoed across the sky above Xuanwu Sect, like a thunderbolt, reverberating in the heavens, lingering persistently.

As the words fell, the silhouette appeared.

The Tianyuan Sect Leader, accompanied by a group of powerful individuals, descended onto the square, confronting Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao from afar, his cold gaze devoid of emotion, akin to eternal unmelted profound ice.

Whoosh!

The young cultivators in the square instinctively cleared a wide area for these strong individuals, their eyes filled with undisguised envy.

"When will I achieve such cultivation?"

All the young cultivators pondered the same question, thinking this is the genuine strong people.

The Holy Embryo Realm strong people brought an immense pressure upon everyone, causing many to retreat repeatedly, fearing they might get caught in the crossfire.

“Haven’t the Tianyuan Sect and Xuanwu Sect always kept to themselves? Although the animosity runs deep between them, they’ve been restrained, never erupting in large-scale battles, what’s happening today? Could it be they’re about to engage in an official fight?”

All the young cultivators thought of this question, as the enmity between Xuanwu Sect and Tianyuan Sect was well known among the local Tianyuan State inhabitants.

Yet, with another sect eyeing them covetously, both sides, despite incessant small-scale brawls and skirmishes, hadn’t torn their relationship apart; what’s happening today?

Some quick-witted young cultivators had their attention shift to Ye Fan, thinking perhaps this harbinger of doom had summoned all this trouble.

Near the shelter stood the Xuanwu Sect disciples, with the inner sect disciples at the core.

At this moment, even these inner sect disciples were perplexed, not knowing the reason for the Tianyuan Sect Leader’s grand arrival at Xuanwu Sect.

They were unaware, but a few knew, with Chu Feng being the representative, quite aware of why the Tianyuan Sect Leader had come personally.

However, he was puzzled too; logically, every sect has numerous outer disciples, thousands of them, who die every year for various reasons.

The lives of these outer disciples were insignificant to the Sect Leader; Ye Fan merely killed two outer disciples, which shouldn't have warranted the Sect Leader's attention!

Even if seeking revenge or demanding people, there's no need for the Sect Leader to personally intrude, especially bringing this many elder-level strong people; whose disciples had Ye Fan killed from Tianyuan Sect's outer sect?

Hao Jian was dumbfounded too; he expected Tianyuan Sect to demand someone, but didn't expect the Sect Leader to lead the team, indicating not merely a demand but a serious challenge against Xuanwu Sect.

In the crowd, Tong Qianchen looked worried, knowing well why the Tianyuan Sect Leader came personally, certainly for Ye Fan; yet she didn't expect a single Ye Fan warranted the Sect Leader's personal arrival and bringing so many strong people, obviously exerting power, if Xuanwu Sect doesn't hand Ye Fan over, they might forcefully take him.

Bang!

The middle-aged elder guarding the stele abruptly stood, meeting the Tianyuan Sect Leader's sharp gaze, fearless, stepping forward, shielding Ye Fan and the testing stele behind.

"Harbinger of doom, truly a harbinger of doom, isn't this inviting disaster to Xuanwu Sect?"

Chu Feng muttered softly, before finishing, sensing a pair of angry eyes on him.

Turning around, it was Tong Qianchen; Chu Feng nervously fluttered his lips but said nothing, although the ruthless light in his eyes revealed him.

Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao slowly stood, meeting the Tianyuan Sect Leader's gaze, shifted next to the testing stele.

Today was the big day for Xuanwu Sect, open doors to recruit disciples; Tianyuan Sect's disruption enraged him.

If Tianyuan Sect came for Ye Fan, even if eventually handing Ye Fan over, Tianyuan Sect must pay a corresponding price, or else Xuanwu Sect would be deemed dishonored.

Once word spreads, Xuanwu Sect's reputation would be ruined, for the sect's honor, he wouldn't yield.

Today is Xuanwu Sect's significant day, all sect elders, except the extremely special Great Elder, were present.

In terms of numbers and momentum, Xuanwu Sect didn't fall short compared to Tianyuan Sect, and this is Xuanwu Sect's mountain gate!

Therefore, Tong Tianhao had decided, if Tianyuan Sect truly came for Ye Fan, first protect Ye Fan, if truly unavoidable, then concede slightly for the greater good, at least an outward explanation.

As Tong Tianhao rose, the remaining Xuanwu Sect elders immediately stood, a powerful momentum emanating from them.

The compelling momentum immediately offset Tianyuan Sect's momentum; although no words were exchanged yet, the antagonistic stance was very clear.

The Tianyuan Sect Leader furrowed his brows, surprised by the unfolding situation.

Originally, he thought bringing so many elites, Tong Tianhao would show some restraint, directly handing over Ye Fan; unexpectedly, the other side poised for a fight.

Frankly, the Tianyuan Sect Leader was reluctant to resort to violence, as it's no trivial matter, once a fight starts, it's an all-out war between the two sects, too late to retreat.

Based on this, the Tianyuan Sect Leader took a deep breath suppressing his anger; small skirmishes occurred frequently between Tianyuan Sect and Xuanwu Sect, casualties on both sides, many Tianyuan Sect disciples perished at Xuanwu Sect disciples' hands.

While meeting foes intensifies hatred, ultimately it's a complex matter affecting everything, better to resolve peacefully, avoiding conflict.

He also feared after battling Xuanwu Sect, another sect as strong as theirs might exploit the situation.

The Southern Domain of Tianxuan Continent currently was a tripartite balance, none dared act first, or risk the third party reaping benefits, none wanted this.

“Tong Tianhao, I didn’t come today to declare war on Xuanwu Sect; I came to take one individual, hope you can hand him over.”

The Sect Leader of Tianyuan Sect struggled for quite some time to suppress the overwhelming war intent, and with a calm voice, he said to Tong Tianhao, while turning his gaze to Ye Fan standing in front of the testing stele.

“My Xuanwu Sect does not have the person you are looking for. If you have no other business, please leave. My Xuanwu Sect does not welcome you all!”

Tong Tianhao displayed a very strong attitude, refusing the Tianyuan Sect Leader’s request outright without even asking who it was.

In fact, he didn’t need to ask; he already knew that the person the Tianyuan Sect Leader referred to was Ye Fan. However, he was also puzzled. A mere Ye Fan, whose strength had just reached the late-stage True Qi Realm, didn’t seem to warrant such a grand mobilization, did it?

“You...”

The Sect Leader of Tianyuan Sect momentarily flashed with anger, which he then forcibly suppressed again. Pointing at Ye Fan, he said, "The person I want is him! He killed two outstanding outer disciples of my Tianyuan Sect. It's only right and proper to repay a life for a life and a debt with money. I want to take him back to face the punishment of my Tianyuan Sect and give an explanation to the many disciples there!"

Shua!

The words of the Tianyuan Sect Leader were like a bolt from the blue, leaving everyone stunned. Then, those outer disciples who came to participate in the test all turned to Ye Fan, their faces full of astonishment!

Indeed...

Astonishment!

Because they never dreamed that Ye Fan had actually killed two outer disciples of the Tianyuan Sect.

One must know, even the outer disciples of the sect were very powerful. This was evident from the previous test.

Even if they were at the same late-stage True Yuan Realm, there could still be differences in strength, but regardless of the differences, they were at the late-stage True Qi Realm! Such people could defeat a large group of ordinary people without any problem. How did Ye Fan do it?

Not to mention, those were two late-stage True Qi Realm strong people. In other words, two young geniuses who had passed the test.

Many of them had not even passed the test yet, and Ye Fan could actually kill two geniuses who had?

For a moment, their expressions towards Ye Fan were complex, unable to tell whether it was admiration or aversion, but one thing was certain — they absolutely couldn't achieve killing two tested young geniuses.

Don't mention two; even one would be a question of who would ultimately prevail, even if they also passed the test.

Not only were they shocked, but even the elders of Xuanwu Sect and Tianyuan Sect who knew nothing of the incident, and the inner sect disciples of Xuanwu Sect, had their mouths agape.

With their strength, killing two outer disciples was certainly an easy task. However, Ye Fan had not yet undergone the test, and nobody knew how strong he truly was, leaving a question mark in everyone's minds.

At this moment, all eyes on Ye Fan were filled with doubts — could this be true that he killed Tianyuan Sect's outer disciples before joining any sect? Did Ye Fan truly have such immense combat power?

They couldn't believe it.

Unexpected?

Disbelieving?

“Elder, it’s my turn to test!”

Ye Fan said to the middle-aged elder blocking the testing stele, deciding to prove everything with his actions.

Hmm?

The middle-aged elder was taken aback and involuntarily stepped aside under Ye Fan’s gaze, although he was also puzzled about where Ye Fan’s confidence came from.

“Uh...”

Including Tong Tianhao, everyone else had peculiar expressions.

After such an event occurred, no one thought the test would continue, but upon hearing Ye Fan’s mention of the test, everyone remembered that the entry test was still ongoing.

“You don’t need to take the test. Obediently come with me!” The Tianyuan Sect Leader said with a cold snort.

Pa!

No response.

Under everyone’s gaze, filled with a sense of urgency, Ye Fan took a step forward, fiercely mobilizing the Gang Qi within his body and executed the third movement of the Domineering Fist mental method, Domineering Fist. Gang Qi swirled around his fist, and with a mighty punch, he struck the testing stele.

He ignored the Tianyuan Sect Leader and immediately proceeded with the test.

Because he knew that only by taking the test and showcasing his strength and potential could the Xuanwu Sect fully protect him.

Otherwise, he believed that the Sect Leader of Xuanwu Sect, Tong Tianhao, would most likely do as Elder Xuan said and ultimately hand him over.

Whoosh!

The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi instantly went berserk, adhering to his fist, fusing with the Gang Qi and blood Qi within, forming a mysterious Tao pattern that emitted terrifying energy waves.

With one punch, dominate the world!

Ye Fan unleashed the strongest punch he had cultivated to date!

Chapter 1080: Outer Disciple Test (Part 2)

Time seemed to stand still, everyone involuntarily held their breath, eyes unblinking as they watched Ye Fan's dazzling fist.

Even the Sect Leader of the Tianyuan Sect was drawn to Ye Fan. There were young cultivators who could remain so calm in front of him, but Ye Fan should not have been among them.

Yet, the scene before him gave him a misconception, that Ye Fan truly did not regard anyone, his eyes contained only his own punch.

This punch would decide whether the Xuanwu Sect would fully support him!

This punch would decide whether he could continue to survive in the Xuan Realm!

As he delivered the punch, in his mind appeared the image of Su Liuli lying pale in his embrace.

At this moment, he infused his profound longing for Su Liuli into this punch.

Evoking emotions through passion!

He transformed his longing for Su Liuli into a survival instinct, thereby unleashing potential, rendering this punch more powerful than ever before.

Crackling sounds!

The sound of a sonic boom arose, the speed of this punch had already surpassed the speed of sound!

Although the youths participating in the outer sect test watched intently, none could make out how Ye Fan's fist smashed into the testing stele.

"Oh my god..."

"So powerful..."

"Is this really just the power of the late-stage True Qi Realm?"

As Ye Fan delivered the punch, exclamations and gasps erupted around him!

At that moment, the air in the Xuanwu Sect's large square was almost drawn empty by the collective gasp, the surrounding seemed to plunge into a vacuum.

Boom——

Amidst the exclamations, Ye Fan's fist hit the testing stele, Gang Qi clashed with the stele, producing a deafening sound that drowned out all voices.

In a blinding light, the stele, three meters tall and about one meter wide, shook violently, as if it could topple at any moment.

The young cultivators standing behind the stele quickly fled from the spot, fearing the stele might really fall and crush them below.

Fortunately, the stele's material was extraordinarily unique, after a period of violent shaking, it gradually stabilized and ultimately did not topple.

On the stele, chaotic flashes of light, the resplendent display of colors lasted for a full ten seconds, finally settling on purple.

The purple light shone brilliantly, illuminating the entire square in a regal shade of purple, and this purple was so deep it was nearly black.

As the glow receded, a clear fist seal appeared on the stele!

Those closest to the testing stele were naturally the young cultivators, whether they had passed the test or were next in line, all saw the wealthy purple glow and the clear fist seal on the stele.

“Gasp...”

Once again, the scene turned into a vacuum, a series of gasps echoed, the young cultivators were completely stunned, frightened by what they saw. The clear fist seal on the stele constantly reminded them of Ye Fan’s powerful attack power.

“Purple light, it’s actually purple light?”

“And... and it even left a fist seal on the stele?!”

The youths felt as if someone was squeezing their throats, making it hard to breathe.

They knew what the purple light represented, even though it was their first entry test, among all the young cultivators present, probably none had the confidence to reach the level of purple light.

Yet Ye Fan not only reached the level of purple light, but also left a fist seal on the stele!

With such attack power, not to mention entering the Xuanwu Sect's outer sect, he might even qualify to enter the inner sect!

All the young cultivators' minds went blank, unable to think of anything, even the youth next in line to take the entry test forgot to step forward, standing there dumbfounded, mouth agape, eyes glazed.

Even the middle-aged elder standing by the stele was dumbfounded, forgetting to announce that Ye Fan had passed the test and could go over to register.

Silence!

The scene was eerily silent, even the sound of breathing seemed to become noise.

"This can't be, this absolutely can't be!"

Chu Feng, who always valued composure, had his mouth twitching uncontrollably, his eyes filled with shock and disbelief.

Hao Jian was also dumbfounded, his legs shaking like a sieve, his eyes not just filled with shock, but more with fear.

With Ye Fan's combat power, even he might not be his match.

Thinking of how he had slandered Ye Fan in front of so many people, Hao Jian felt a chill run up his neck, and he became even more determined to expel Ye Fan from the Xuanwu Sect.

Such a person left unchecked will sooner or later become a huge threat to me.

But this isn't something I can decide, I can only wait for the Sect Leader's decision.

With great difficulty, Hao Jian turned his head and saw Tong Tianhao's face full of delight, instantly feeling doomed. Such a genius, once grasped in hand, who would be willing to let go easily?

"So strong, unbelievably strong..."

As a strong person in the True Essence Realm, Chu Feng was very clear about the power of Ye Fan's punch to what extent it had reached.

Such a powerful attack has already surpassed what the Peak of True Qi Realm can deliver, directly approaching the True Essence Realm. How did he do it?

Moreover, from ancient times to the present, since the establishment of the Xuanwu Sect and the testing stele, never has any Outer Disciple left an imprint on this stele...

Ye Fan is the first!

Not far from them, Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao's daughter Tong Qianchen was also full of delight. It seems she truly stumbled upon a treasure; Ye Fan's strength exceeded her expectations by far.

At this moment, her gaze at Ye Fan was like looking at a piece of exquisite jewelry, reminiscent of how Little Wolf looked the first time it saw a wild rabbit.

Tong Qianchen didn't know what Ye Fan was thinking, she only knew she really discovered a jewel. Such a talented disciple is hard to find, surely her father wouldn't hand him over to the Tianyuan Sect anymore?

Yesterday, Tong Tianhao personally approached her to analyze the advantages and disadvantages between the Tianyuan Sect and the Xuanwu Sect and subtly suggested that if the Tianyuan Sect forcefully demanded someone in the future, for the sake of the sect's interest, they might have to sacrifice Ye Fan and hand him over.

At the time, Tong Qianchen disagreed but also understood her father's difficulty; after all, the rise and fall of a sect hinge on his decisions, and no wrong decision could be made.

But today, Ye Fan gave her a huge surprise by, at the Late-stage True Qi Realm, delivering an attack reaching near the True Essence Realm.

Moreover, he is the first Outer Disciple to leave an imprint on the testing stele...

This honor, this power, and this talent can absolutely make Tong Tianhao change his mind!

After all, Ye Fan achieved such an astonishing realm without any systematic cultivation. Once he receives systematic training and guidance, with his talent and potential, though his age might be slightly advanced, what he could achieve in the future is only known to the heavens.

Thinking of this, Tong Qianchen glanced sideways at Chu Feng. There was no denying that Chu Feng was also a genius, but next to Ye Fan, his brilliance paled significantly.

It's conceivable that with time, it might not be difficult for Ye Fan to surpass Chu Feng.

So long as Ye Fan remains in the Xuanwu Sect, the Xuanwu Sect will inevitably stand in all of Tianyuan State, even the Southern Domain, and possibly the entire Tianxuan Continent!

What she could think of, Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao could naturally think of as well, but he was also shocked by Ye Fan's power.

Originally, he didn't hold much hope for Ye Fan, only deciding to keep him momentarily to prevent Tianyuan Sect Leader Helian Chang from easily succeeding, and if things really didn't work out, to exchange Ye Fan for peace between the two sects.

However—

Ye Fan gave him an answer beyond imagination, displaying power that borders on the True Essence Realm at the Late-stage True Qi Realm. Such a disciple is simply a treasure!

Similar to him, Helian Chang was also stunned—Ye Fan's prowess genuinely surprised him!

He hadn't expected that Ye Fan, merely at the Late-stage True Qi Realm, could deliver a punch comparable to those of a True Essence Realm cultivator.

In this instant, Helian Chang's mind swiftly turned; he secretly resolved that no matter what, he must take Ye Fan today and inquire about the spatial tunnel matters from him.

If Ye Fan was sensible, he'd have him help the Tianyuan Sect govern Earth and serve the Tianyuan Sect.

On the contrary, if Ye Fan didn't know how to adapt to circumstances, after clarifying the mystery of the spatial tunnel, he would eliminate Ye Fan to avert any future problems!

The elders of the Tianyuan Sect didn't know what Helian Chang was thinking but looked eagerly at Ye Fan, longing to take him as a disciple—only Ma Biqian knew Ye Fan's true identity but was still recuperating in the sect, and thus hadn't come along.

Had it not been for the eerie atmosphere at the scene, those Tianyuan Sect elders might have bluntly spoken, some even contemplating directly snatching him.

Such a promising cultivation seedling is hard to find; over the years, although the Tianyuan Sect thrived, most disciples of the younger generation had mediocre talent, with little growth potential and room.

Finally coming across a young man of excellent talent and potential, they all hoped to take him under their wing.

Likewise, the elders of the Xuanwu Sect were looking at Ye Fan with shining eyes, their expressions akin to a starved Taotie eyeing a feast.

Such a flawless piece of jade, once sculpted by them, would certainly excel in the future. However, some elders were self-aware, realizing they likely couldn't guide Ye Fan, and dismissed the idea of accepting him as a disciple.

But as long as Ye Fan was in the Xuanwu Sect, he remained part of their sect, so at all costs, they had to keep Ye Fan from being taken by the rival Tianyuan Sect, lest they become a formidable foe in the future.

With such thoughts brewing, the elders' gazes toward the Tianyuan Sect brimmed with hostility.

Tong Tianhao also understood—no wonder Helian Chang personally came. It wasn't worth it to travel for two dead Outer Disciples, surely he eyed Ye Fan's cultivation talent, using it as an excuse to snatch him.

In that case, he absolutely couldn't release him. Ye Fan's talent and potential were indisputable, such a disciple was a once-in-a-thousand-year find, and even if it meant breaking ties with the Tianyuan Sect, it would be worth it.

Tong Tianhao decided, under no circumstances would he hand over Ye Fan.

After making his decision, Tong Tianhao took a step forward, facing Helian Chang coldly and said, "I already know what happened; it was your Tianyuan Sect's Outer Disciples who provoked first. He was merely forced to counterattack. Now, he has become our Xuanwu Sect's disciple, and wanting the Xuanwu Sect to hand him over—you're dreaming!"