

Y Master 1081

Chapter 1081: Unprecedented

Are you kidding? Such a rare prodigy, since he has already chosen the Xuanwu Sect, how could Tong Tianhao let him go easily?

If it were another powerful major sect, Tong Tianhao might reluctantly let him go for the current interests of his sect, but the one demanding him is the Tianyuan Sect, and Tong Tianhao is not going to hand him over—such a genius, once in the hands of the Tianyuan Sect, would undoubtedly be a great threat to the Xuanwu Sect in the future!

“What did you say?”

Helian Chang’s long-suppressed anger suddenly erupted, as he looked coldly at Tong Tianhao and sneered, “Tong Tianhao, are you really going to protect this kid, at the risk of a complete rupture between our two sects?”

Although it sounded like he was negotiating, the threat was apparent to everyone, Helian Chang was trying to intimidate with power.

Relying on the fact that the Xuanwu Sect is slightly inferior to the Tianyuan Sect now, they would rather go to war than let Ye Fan slip away, as it involved significant stakes, and he had to go all out.

Even knowing the Xuanwu Sect is slightly inferior to the Tianyuan Sect, Tong Tianhao still displayed great firmness, with a cold smile he said, “Helian Chang, is this what you want? Or did you come to my Xuanwu Sect today just to use the matter of Ye Fan as an excuse to declare war on my Xuanwu Sect?”

They were in fierce opposition, and neither sect leader would give in, all for the sake of a mere Ye Fan, both were almost ready to roll up their sleeves and fight.

Tong Tianhao knew that at this moment, he absolutely could not show the slightest weakness, he had to stand firm.

Firstly, Ye Fan’s talent moved him deeply, and he was determined to keep him in the Xuanwu Sect, no one should think about taking Ye Fan from his hands.

Secondly, with the sect leader of the Tianyuan Sect, Helian Chang, bringing so many strong people to cause trouble at his mountain gate, as the sect leader of the Xuanwu Sect, naturally, he couldn’t show weakness, otherwise if it spread, it would be a massive blow to the reputation of the Xuanwu Sect and himself.

Moreover, it would make the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect feel humiliated and lose cohesion, and it would also make the youths coming to register for the entry test feel that their sect is inferior to the Tianyuan Sect, which would not be good for the long-term development of the sect.

With these two reasons, he was determined to protect Ye Fan at all costs!

“Hmph!”

Seeing Tong Tianhao was determined to protect Ye Fan, Helian Chang became furious, he also knew that Tong Tianhao's strength was equal to his, so taking Ye Fan from his hands was probably impossible.

With rage consuming his heart, fierce light flashed in Helian Chang's eyes, he gritted his teeth and struck a palm towards Ye Fan.

At this moment, he was determined to kill Ye Fan!

In his view, as long as Ye Fan was killed, then the secret of Earth would only be known to his Tianyuan Sect, since there was this space channel, he believed that with some effort, it would definitely be found.

By that time, Earth would still be the back garden and strategic reserve base of his Tianyuan Sect, and dominating the Tianxuan Continent would be just around the corner.

But if Ye Fan stayed in the Xuanwu Sect, and if by any chance Ye Fan knew the location of the space channel and revealed it to the Xuanwu Sect, with the strength of the Xuanwu Sect, controlling Earth would just be a matter of days.

Once Earth became the rear base of the Xuanwu Sect, the Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent would inevitably be unified by them in the future, and by then, the Tianyuan Sect might face destruction.

Helian Chang's palm was terrifyingly powerful, how could the strength of a cultivator in the Holy Embryo Realm be underestimated?

Before the palm even arrived, its imposing momentum completely covered Ye Fan, and in that instant, Ye Fan felt as if a Divine Mountain was crashing towards him, unable to evade or resist, his face instantly turned pale.

Only at this moment did he realize that with his strength on Earth, he was already considered a top-level expert, but upon reaching the Xuan Realm, just starting on the cultivation path, he didn't even have the ability to protect himself!

"This is outrageous!"

Tong Tianhao shouted angrily, darting in front of Ye Fan, meeting the palm head-on with his own.

Since he had decided to protect Ye Fan, he naturally wouldn't allow Ye Fan to be killed by Helian Chang.

Boom!

With a loud explosion, the surging power waves overturned the young cultivators who had already retreated far away, with many bleeding from their seven orifices.

The battle at such a level was simply not something they could watch; even though they were far away and protected by a defensive array, many were still knocked over.

“Helian Chang, let’s go fight in the sky so as not to implicate these innocent young ones!”

With that, Tong Tianhao launched himself into the air, soaring swiftly, and Helian Chang coldly snorted, leaping into the sky as well, the two collided rapidly in the air, like comets crashing into Mars, emitting dazzling light.

At the same time, the elders of the Tianyuan Sect also took action, and the elders of the Xuanwu Sect, receiving Tong Tianhao’s signal, went forward one after another.

The True Yuan of both sides intertwined, and various magical treasures wove into magnificent patterns in the sky.

A streak of Sword Radiance pierced through, instantly piercing a distant mountain peak, and above the grand square of the Xuanwu Sect, the strong people of the two major sects launched an unprecedented large-scale chaotic battle.

Even the inner sect disciples do not have the qualification to interfere, in such a grand battle, going forward would mean death, serving no purpose.

However, since this is the territory of the Xuanwu Sect, many elders from the Xuanwu Sect have not taken action, but cooperated to set up a defensive formation below to prevent the strong fighters above from accidentally harming the people below during the battle.

In the Xuanwu Sect, whether it be inner sect disciples or outer disciples, their gazes towards Ye Fan were extremely complex, it's hard to say if it's envy or dislike.

For a sect leader to fight fiercely for a common outer disciple is unprecedented on the entire Tianxuan Continent; this is the first time.

Undoubtedly, regardless of the result, from today onwards, Ye Fan will surely become a legend – being able to cause two major sect leaders to fight fiercely over him, even getting the strong people of the entire sect to join the battle. Such an achievement, though not without future occurrences, is decidedly unheard of before!

Under such circumstances, those young people who came to participate in the test wish they were Ye Fan, able to have two major sects fight fiercely over them, what an honor!

However—

To Ye Fan, this honor holds no meaning!

He only wants to survive.

Only by living can he continue to cultivate, become stronger, and thus revive Su Liuli, guard the Earth pathway.

At the moment when those young people were envious and jealous, the battle above had reached a boiling point, both sides showcasing absolute techniques, killing moves emerging one after another.

Sword Qi cut through the firmament, gun light pierced the void, and even oppressive magic artifacts like bells, cauldrons, towers, and furnaces were showcased, turning the sky into chaos.

Fortunately, the strength of both sides was evenly matched, although the battle was lively, there were no casualties. Despite this, such spectacle still amazed Ye Fan and the young ones below, widening their horizons.

The young cultivators who were shockingly injured had the sect elders administering them a small elixir pill for immediate recovery and then healing on the spot.

With the healing holy medicine, these individuals were only shock-injured, not gravely harmed, merely appearing frightening.

Soon, these people recovered fully, watching the battle in the sky enthusiastically.

At this time, Helian Chang summoned a golden man, emanating dazzling golden light, charging towards Tong Tianhao fiercely.

Tong Tianhao, refusing to be outdone, activated a bronze incense burner, crashing into the golden man fiercely, both simultaneously showcasing absolute techniques, fighting indistinguishably in the air.

Bang...

A thunderous sound, the golden man and incense burner collided, making a shocking noise. The intense light made even the sun in the sky look dim.

Yet, neither of the magic artifacts were damaged, returning to their respective owners' heads, casting a shroud of hazy glow, enveloping the owner.

Both can be considered well-matched opponents, generals meeting their talents, unable to harm each other; even if fought to the end, it would result in mutual destruction.

As for the elders on each side, although the battle was lively, it was impossible to determine the victor quickly, the Xuanwu Sect, though slightly inferior in overall strength compared to the Tianyuan Sect, had the advantage of fighting on home ground. After such a lengthy battle, both sides could only end in a draw.

Both sides understood well that continuing would result in mutual destruction, simultaneously ceasing.

Though the battle stopped, neither came down, glaring at each other cautiously to prevent a surprise attack.

Helian Chang lamented bitterly, although he brought almost all elite elders from the sect, he had to leave some strong people behind to avoid being attacked by another equally strong sect in his

absence—if that happened, he would be calling to heaven with no answer, calling to the earth with no response.

Precisely because of this, under Tong Tianhao's decision to protect Ye Fan at any cost, they gained no advantage.

Continuing the battle, once both sides truly suffer mutual destruction, the other sect eyeing them covetously would surely seize the opportunity to take down both the Xuanwu Sect and Tong Tianhao.

At that point, it would be akin to drawing water with a basket; even the sect couldn't be defended, not the outcome he desired.

Standing in the high sky, Helian Chang glared angrily at Ye Fan, all events stemmed from him, wishing he could immediately strike him down.

Helplessly, it was simply impossible right now, glaring at Ye Fan angrily, threatening, "Kid, you'd better think carefully, there's still time to admit your mistake, otherwise, I guarantee you won't live long!"

"You want to kill me, yet want me to go with you? Are you out of your mind??"

Ye Fan fearlessly met Helian Chang's gaze, coldly mocked.

Chapter 1082: Appreciation

Clatter!

With Ye Fan's words echoing, the entire square was in an uproar. No one expected Ye Fan to dare to speak such words to a Sect Leader in the Holy Embryo Realm.

It must be known that on the Tianxuan Continent, strength is revered, and formidable power can disregard all rules, sweeping through everything.

In their memory, there has never been any precedent of a cultivator in the True Qi Realm daring to provoke a strong person in the Holy Embryo Realm like this.

"Crazy, truly crazy..."

"What did I just hear? A little cultivator in the True Essence Realm actually dared to offend a Sect Leader in the Holy Embryo Realm?"

"This world is too insane, my little heart can't stand such a shock..."

Everyone was dumbfounded, and for a moment, no one could respond, staring blankly at Ye Fan and others like Helian Chang.

Soon after, a whispering discussion arose in the crowd, with everyone thinking either they had gone mad, or Ye Fan had gone mad.

Even with Tong Tianhao backing him, one cannot be so rude to a strong person in the Holy Embryo Realm, let alone one who holds the life and death authority of thousands of disciples as a Sect Leader.

However, deep down, those young cultivators admired Ye Fan greatly because he dared to do what they wished to do but didn't dare to.

Defying authority!

So what if he's a Sect Leader? If I'm not pleased, I won't care about you. But such thoughts only flashed briefly in their minds, and no one was foolish enough to speak them aloud.

"Heh..."

The elders of the Xuanwu Sect were stunned for a moment, then burst into wild laughter; Ye Fan's words were indeed immensely satisfying.

For years, Xuanwu Sect never had the upper hand over the Tianyuan Sect. Today, a disciple who just entered the Outer Sect dared to oppose the Tianyuan Sect's Sect Leader, suddenly making them feel tremendously proud.

The elders of the Tianyuan Sect, however, were ashen-faced, fuming with rage, angered to the extreme that a Sect Leader of a grand and powerful Sect was insulted by a minor cultivator, which was simply intolerable.

However—

Despite their anger, they did nothing.

Because they knew, with the protection of Xuanwu Sect, including Helian Chang, no one could harm Ye Fan.

“Well said, boy, you’ve got guts!”

A middle-aged elder slapped Ye Fan heavily on the shoulder, his eyes squinting with laughter; it was utterly satisfying.

“This kid actually dared to openly insult the Tianyuan Sect’s Sect Leader; it’s simply courting death!”

Chu Feng sneered inwardly. He knew very well the huge gap between strong people in the Holy Embryo Realm and those in the True Essence Realm; even killing Ye Fan could be done effortlessly.

A strong person in the Holy Embryo Realm slaughtering a cultivator in the True Essence Realm is equally effortless, and encountering the Holy Embryo Realm with True Qi Realm is as different as ants and dragons, an unimaginable gap.

“This...”

Tong Qianchen, in addition to excitement, also felt worried for Ye Fan—she didn’t expect Ye Fan to dare to mock Helian Chang face-to-face, knowing that Helian Chang is a ruthless person who avenges every grudge.

This puts Ye Fan in a precarious situation, and even if the Tianyuan Sect ultimately fears a major sect conflict, they might seek to secretly harm him.

“Hm...”

Tong Tianhao was stunned for a while, not expecting Ye Fan to still perform like this under Helian Chang’s powerful pressure.

Such talent is exceedingly rare, and Ye Fan’s words were simply the work of a genius, utterly satisfying, instantly relieving the frustration he had bottled up, making him feel more accomplished than if he had defeated Helian Chang himself.

Helian Chang, in his anger, turned blue, and even a slight ripple of True Yuan appeared within him.

Soon after, Helian Chang steadied his consciousness, coldly staring at Ye Fan and said, “Good, good, good, Xuanwu Sect, we will see who’s laughing last!”

“Let’s go!”

With a long howl, Helian Chang called for his sect’s elders, soared into the sky, and quickly left Xuanwu Mountain.

Watching Helian Chang and his followers rapidly shrink into the distance, Ye Fan couldn’t help but worry, afraid that he would go to the Xuanshou Mountain Range to find the space-time passage.

If he were to find the space-time passage and break the seal, Earth’s doom would arrive.

As if sensing Ye Fan’s worry, Elder Xuan said in his sea of consciousness, “Rest assured, with that person’s level of strength, discovering the sealed space-time passage is nothing more than a fool’s dream; he absolutely cannot find it, so the space-time passage is temporarily safe.”

After a pause, Elder Xuan continued, “However, the seal isn’t very strong, so you must swiftly enhance your strength; only when your strength reaches a certain level can you use the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to completely seal the space-time passage.”

Yes, become stronger, I want to become stronger!

Ye Fan secretly clenched his fists.

...

After Helian Chang and the others left, the entire square fell into a brief silence, and everyone's eyes were focused on a calm-faced Ye Fan.

They couldn't see any tension or fear in Ye Fan's expression, only tranquility and calmness, as if he wasn't the one who just spoke those words.

"This guy is done for; he's offended the Sect Leader of Tianyuan Sect. Unless he hides in Xuanwu Sect forever, Tianyuan Sect will never let him go!"

"That's right. No matter what, Helian Chang is a generation of Sect Leader and one of the top elites in the Southern Domain Tianyuan State. How could he allow himself to be humiliated?"

"He's definitely doomed; it's just a matter of time. Once he leaves the influence of Xuanwu Sect, Tianyuan Sect will definitely send assassins."

Almost everyone thought Ye Fan didn't know his limits, daring to publicly challenge the Sect Leader of a major sect—it was like an old man shaving his neck with a razor—seeking death!

"Kid, you're finished. You better run quickly so you don't drag Xuanwu Sect down with you. We are giving you a chance to escape," Hao Jian stepped forward, sneering.

“That’s right, one must know their own limits. You’ve already caused a monumental disaster, you can’t always hide within Xuanwu Sect!”

“I think you should leave Xuanwu Sect as soon as possible. Perhaps a hoe suits you better than a sword or spear. With your current strength, being a small landowner in some remote, impoverished region is no problem. Hide quickly! Otherwise, you’re definitely not long for this world!”

Hearing Hao Jian’s words, two other Inner Sect disciples also stepped forward to persuade Ye Fan. They were Chu Feng’s loyal lackeys, naturally speaking on behalf of their master.

“Insolent, do you have the right to speak here? Get back!”

The middle-aged elder’s face darkened. Ye Fan suited his tastes, and he was powerful. If disciples like him were to be driven out, then Tong Tianhao wouldn’t have risked going against Tianyuan Sect despite the danger, just to protect Ye Fan.

Now that Hao Jian and the others were persuading Ye Fan to leave, it enraged him.

Hao Jian and the other two hit a wall and had to leave sheepishly.

However, as he left, Hao Jian gave Ye Fan a venomous glare.

Ye Fan immediately felt the strong hostility from Hao Jian and then looked back at him, raising an eyebrow slightly. His sharp gaze made Hao Jian freeze, feeling somewhat alarmed.

“How can his gaze be so sharp?”

Hao Jian couldn't figure it out. In his view, Ye Fan was just a cultivator from a small place who hadn't even undergone systematic cultivation and had his current strength purely by accident.

Yet, the murderous intent in Ye Fan's eyes just now gave him a feeling of falling into an ice cave. Such murderous intent could only be formed through countless life-and-death experiences, something ordinary people couldn't possess.

What exactly has Ye Fan been through? How could he have developed such a fierce murderous intent?

Immediately, Hao Jian dismissed it, thinking what use is murderous intent? Strength is what truly matters!

If Ye Fan were to fight him now, he would definitely not be his match!

Of course, Hao Jian also knew that with Ye Fan's performance today, he would surely receive significant attention within Xuanwu Sect in the future. His personal vendetta might not be so easily executed.

Many shared the same thoughts as Hao Jian and the others. After all, publicly challenging a Holy Embryo Realm strong person's dignity is something most people would never do or dare to do.

Ye Fan was too arrogant, and often arrogant people don't live long, especially since he has offended not just any Holy Embryo Realm strong person, but Helian Chang, who was renowned throughout the Southern Domain Tianyuan State!

Those people looked at Ye Fan as if he were a dead man. In their eyes, Ye Fan was undoubtedly doomed. Even Xuanwu Sect couldn't protect him, since the whole Xuanwu Sect couldn't possibly protect just one person, and he couldn't stay within Xuanwu Sect forever.

"Hahaha... such a water-filled head, kid, I like your character and audacity. Come find me at Xuanwu Summit tomorrow morning!"

Just as everyone thought Ye Fan had a death wish, a hearty laugh suddenly rang out from the sky.

Hmm?!

At the sound, everyone from Xuanwu Sect, from disciples to elders, and even Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, looked stunned!

Because...

The speaker was the Great Elder of Xuanwu Sect, whose strength was unfathomable and surpassed even Sect Leader Tong Tianhao!

And through what the Great Elder just said, they all understood a fact: Ye Fan had gained the Great Elder's favor!

Chapter 1083: The Only One

Ye Fan received recognition from the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect...

This completely shocked the young participants who came to sign up for the Xuanwu Sect's entry test.

Their original thoughts were just like Chu Feng and the others—they believed that Ye Fan had offended the Tianyuan Sect, one of the Three Major Sects of the Southern Domain Tianyuan State, and feared he wouldn't live long.

After all, Helian Chang is the Sect Leader of a Major Sect; how could a small Late-stage True Qi Realm cultivator easily provoke him?

Moreover, Ye Fan's words weren't just provoking; they carried an insulting tone. Helian Chang would definitely not let him off no matter what.

However—

Just when they thought Ye Fan was doomed, the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect surprisingly stepped forward and expressed appreciation for Ye Fan.

This was completely beyond their expectations!

But they understood the meaning behind the Great Elder's words; since he asked Ye Fan to find him at Xuanwu Summit, it indicated that the Great Elder intended to nurture Ye Fan and might even take him as his disciple.

This made those young cultivators full of envy, jealousy, and hatred.

It wasn't just them; even Chu Feng and the others were greatly shocked, staring blankly in the direction where the Great Elder disappeared, unable to believe that all this was real.

"This must be a dream, I must be dreaming. What virtue or ability does he have to win the favor of the Great Elder? This is impossible!"

In shock, Chu Feng muttered to himself. He really couldn't accept how, as soon as Ye Fan arrived at the Xuanwu Sect, he instantly gained the favor of the Great Elder.

One must know that the Great Elder's status is extraordinary, even surpassing that of the Sect Leader within the entire Xuanwu Sect.

And more importantly, the Great Elder never takes disciples, which is a widely acknowledged fact. Even the most talented genius of the Xuanwu Sect has not caught his eye, yet now he shows such favor to Ye Fan, making it unbearable for him.

“Brother Feng, what does the Great Elder mean? I know that the Great Elder never takes disciples, not even you, Brother Feng. Could it be that the Great Elder is going to break this rule and officially take him as a disciple?”

Hao Jian unwittingly mentioned the matter; back then, Chu Feng also wanted to be apprenticed to the Great Elder, but he couldn’t fulfill his wish as the Great Elder didn’t pay him any attention.

The entire Xuanwu Sect knows about this; it’s not just him, Chu Feng, not even the strongest core disciple of the Sect has the qualifications to catch the Great Elder’s eye.

And now, the Great Elder’s words just made it clear that he wants to accept Ye Fan as a disciple. How could this not shock and displease him?

“Why? Why exactly?”

“Even I don’t have the qualifications to apprentice under the Great Elder, and he’s just a small Late-stage True Qi Realm cultivator, plus already a bit old, why can he gain the Great Elder’s favor?”

Chu Feng, filled with resentment, had his facial muscles slightly twisted.

“Brother Ye, congratulations on winning the favor of the Great Elder. Your future prospects at our Xuanwu Sect are unlimited!”

Tong Qianchen was also quite shocked, but quickly recovered and stepped forward to congratulate Ye Fan, feeling fortunate for her original decision to insist on bringing Ye Fan back to the Xuanwu Sect.

“Thank you!”

Ye Fan cupped his fists and expressed his gratitude to Tong Qianchen.

After speaking, Ye Fan turned around, bowed with cupped fists towards Tong Tianhao and the elders of the Xuanwu Sect, and said, “Ye Fan thanks the Sect Leader and all the seniors for saving my life just now. If not for your timely intervention, I might have been slain on the spot.”

Tong Tianhao looked at Ye Fan with a smile, feeling more and more that his daughter had picked up a treasure of a genius—not only powerful and with infinite potential, but importantly, someone who understands courtesy, not like those arrogant young cultivators with no sense of education.

Those young cultivators, due to their astonishing power at a young age, generally showed some arrogance and disrespect towards the elders.

But reaching Late-stage True Qi Realm at fifteen or sixteen isn’t considered a genius. Many possess such power, but their character tends to be extraordinarily arrogant and discourteous.

To find someone like Ye Fan, with powerful skills, potential, and understanding of propriety, is rare indeed.

Waving his hand, Tong Tianhao said, “No need for excessive formalities. Since you have passed the test, you’re now a disciple of our Xuanwu Sect. Protecting the disciples of our sect is my duty as the Sect Leader, unshirkable.”

After saying so, Tong Tianhao looked Ye Fan up and down, then continued, “The Great Elder’s power is unfathomable, and he never takes disciples. Judging by his attitude just now, perhaps you might have the fortune to become his first disciple. If you indeed have this fortune, you must cultivate diligently and not disappoint his expectations!”

“Even without the Great Elder’s expectations, I will still cultivate diligently. Without strength, one cannot gain a foothold on the Tianxuan Continent, or even survive.”

Ye Fan nodded, responding neither arrogantly nor humbly. His words were straightforward but devoid of any pretentiousness, speaking earnestly from the heart.

Tong Tianhao nodded secretly. Ye Fan was right—in this world where strength is revered, rules, laws, and ethics do not bind an individual. Only strength is the hard truth.

Every cultivator must strive to increase their strength; only by enhancing their strength can they ensure survival.

And living is where the hope of standing out begins!

“Alright, since you have passed the test, go register first. As for your cultivation place, we’ll inform you if it’s arranged within the outer sect.”

Though Tong Tianhao holds the esteemed position of Sect Leader, he cannot single-handedly control everything, nor make all the decisions alone. Therefore, he left some room in his words to avoid future complications should Ye Fan need to start from the outer sect.

Being quite literate in matters, Tong Tianhao understood the linguistic traps, knowing very well about political maneuvering.

As long as he can stay in the Xuanwu Sect with a place to cultivate and reside, Ye Fan doesn’t mind being in the inner or outer sect, nor does he have any particular thoughts on it.

However, Ye Fan also knew that the treatment of inner sect disciples must naturally be better than that of outer sect disciples. Otherwise, there wouldn’t be a need for distinction between the two.

Ye Fan thanked Tong Tianhao with cupped fists, then proceeded to the scholar’s desk and recited the statement he had prepared, which the scholar jotted down quickly. Then the scholar handed Ye Fan something akin to an armband.

“Wear this on your left arm. From this moment on, you are one of the Xuanwu Sect.”

The scholar didn’t even raise his head while recording Ye Fan’s details, then told Ye Fan to wait aside.

Testing continued as the remaining young cultivators came forward one by one to engage with the testing stele, measuring their strength through attacks.

Except for the fist seal left by Ye Fan on the stele, no other young testers left a mark, not even achieving purple light!

Out of all the participants, only Ye Fan produced purple light and left a fist seal on the testing stele!

That is to say, out of so many people, only Ye Fan managed to produce any results, leaving the other youth unconvinced. They considered that Ye Fan had an advantage due to his greater age—having a few more years of cultivation granted him such combat power!

Out of more than a thousand young cultivators who attempted the tests, fewer than a hundred passed, with ninety percent failing to meet even the blue light requirements.

This was truly a case of some rejoicing and others left desolate, leading to a clear split on the field.

Those disciples from the outer sect viewed Ye Fan with both envy and awe. While he might not have been the strongest by realm in the entire outer sect, his actual combat prowess was undeniable.

The Outer Elder was immersed in administrative chores: assigning accommodations, arranging cultivation spots, and managing other affairs for those who had passed the test.

Ye Fan was given a humble room, only about ten feet in area, with even two windows missing, making it somewhat dark inside.

But the room was exceptionally clean, except for a dust-covered mat in the center, there was nothing else inside.

“So, this is intended to make us focus on cultivation.”

Ye Fan smiled slightly, understanding the purpose behind the Xuanwu Sect’s arrangement, which suited his plans very well.

He knew that now he was part of the Xuanwu Realm; he couldn’t afford to waste a moment and had to work swiftly to enhance his strength.

Even if there was a comfortable mattress in the room, he wouldn’t sleep on it. He needed to seize every moment to boost his power.

Fearing the immense strength of the Great Elder, Ye Fan refrained from meditating immediately, worrying that meeting him might reveal his secrets.

“What if he discovers the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown inside me?”

Ye Fan murmured, looking worried.

Chapter 1084: Partners in Crime

No answer.

For Ye Fan, the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown is not only his greatest secret but also his reliance for survival and rise in the Xuan Realm. There can be no margin for error.

“Elder Xuan, I’m going to see the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect tomorrow. His strength is even greater than that of the Sect Leader of Xuanwu Sect. What if he discovers the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown?” Ye Fan thought for a moment, then summoned Elder Xuan through his mind to express his concern.

“Rest assured, although the Great Elder has some strength, it’s all relative. Compared to truly strong people, he’s like an ant. It’s simply impossible for him to discover the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown. As for other aspects, such as your background, you’ll need to handle those yourself.” Elder Xuan replied.

“That’s good.”

Receiving Elder Xuan’s response, Ye Fan felt relieved at once. As long as the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown wouldn’t be noticed by the other party, he was already well-versed in other areas.

The fabricated lies were watertight. Even if the Great Elder had suspicions, he absolutely couldn’t find anything, and would ultimately have to choose to believe Ye Fan’s words.

Since the Heaven and Earth rules of the Xuan Realm are vastly different from those on Earth, and because the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi is far denser than on Earth, Elder Xuan, although greatly exhausted, no longer needed to fall back into sleep.

This is a blessing to Ye Fan in the Xuan Realm; without Elder Xuan's guidance, many things would be unfamiliar to him, significantly increasing the chances of exposure.

After resolving this urgent matter, Ye Fan was about to cultivate when he suddenly sensed someone approaching quickly towards his room.

Upon carefully sensing the aura, Ye Fan judged that the person coming should be Tong Qianchen, the daughter of the Xuanwu Sect Leader.

Ye Fan still harbored gratitude towards her. If it weren't for her insistence on protecting him, he would have been captured by the Tianyuan Sect in the Xuan Beast Forest.

"Brother Ye, may I come in?"

Reaching the doorway, Tong Qianchen stopped, lightly knocked on the door twice, and asked softly.

"Come in, Miss Tong."

Ye Fan raised his hand, a force of attraction emanated from his palm, pulling the door open and allowing Tong Qianchen into the room.

“Brother Ye, please don’t call me Miss anymore; it sounds awkward. You can call me Xiao Chen or Xiao Qian.”

Tong Qianchen glanced around the room and gestured to Ye Fan, indicating they should talk outside to avoid gossip.

Seeing this, Ye Fan was initially stunned, then with a bittersweet smile, followed Tong Qianchen out of the room.

Outside, Tong Qianchen handed him a small pouch and said, “Brother Ye, these are ten Spirit Stones. Please take them for your cultivation.”

Spirit Stones are what Earth people called Essence Stones, something Ye Fan had heard from Elder Xuan, so he wasn’t unfamiliar. However, he didn’t understand why Tong Qianchen would give him ten Spirit Stones.

As if seeing Ye Fan’s confusion, Tong Qianchen explained, “It’s a sect rule. Every month, Outer Disciples receive ten Spirit Stones as cultivation resources.”

Only then did Ye Fan realize, putting away the Spirit Stones, he said to Tong Qianchen, “Xiao Qian, I’m new here and don’t understand many rules. Can you tell me to avoid unnecessary trouble?”

Tong Qianchen smiled sweetly and said, "Of course, that's why I came to bring you the cultivation Spirit Stones and to explain some sect rules and taboos to you."

As they walked and talked, they unknowingly wandered far from the area where the Outer Disciples resided, reaching an open space.

Through Tong Qianchen's explanations, Ye Fan gradually gained some understanding of the Xuanwu Sect.

Like other sects on the Tianxuan Continent, the Xuanwu Sect is divided into Outer and Inner Sects. Outer Disciples are relatively weaker, but handling chores is no problem, but all disciples in the Outer Sect must perform tasks.

Though the Outer Sect is far less powerful than the Inner Sect, it is still crucial because the Outer Sect runs many profitable businesses, providing economic support for the development and operation of the entire sect.

Due to limited talent, Outer Disciples receive a paltry amount of cultivation resources each month, only ten Spirit Stones.

Inner Sects, on the other hand, have no significant matters, focusing on cultivation, gathering herbs, or hunting Xuan Beasts daily.

Inner Sect Disciples receive one hundred Spirit Stones distributed by the Sect each month, ten times that of Outer Disciples.

This is why Outer Disciples desperately strive to enter the Inner Sect, as cultivation resources are pivotal in determining a cultivator's strength.

Besides Inner and Outer Disciples, there are elite disciples.

All elite disciples receive one thousand Spirit Stones each month from the Sect.

Above elite disciples are Core Disciples, those who have access to management at higher levels and are regarded as future leaders of the entire sect, with resource allocation being significantly more favorable.

Each Core Disciple receives ten thousand Spirit Stones of cultivation resources each month to ensure their cultivation needs.

Furthermore, all disciples can earn certain rewards by completing tasks allocated by the Sect!

These rewards include Spirit Stones, Cultivation Techniques, martial arts, Elixir Pills, Magic Artifacts, and more.

"Thank you, Sister Xiao Qian!"

Ye Fan sincerely expressed his gratitude to Tong Qianchen, as these things were like timely rain for a newly inducted disciple like him.

“You’re welcome, Brother Ye. Tomorrow you’ll go to the Xuanwu Summit, and since you’re new to the sect and unfamiliar with many places, I’ll take you to see the Great Elder.”

Tong Qianchen mischievously blinked. She knew that Ye Fan was unfamiliar with the Xuanwu Sect’s overall environment. Without a guide, who knows when he would find the Xuanwu Summit by himself?

“Alright, thank you.”

Ye Fan clasped his hands in thanks.

Tong Qianchen covered her mouth and laughed. She felt that not only was Ye Fan exceptionally skilled, but he also understood etiquette well. More importantly, there was a calm aura emanating from him.

...

What Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen did not know was that their walking and chatting were observed by Hao Jian, who was also an Inner Sect disciple.

This discovery shocked Hao Jian greatly. After the shock, he headed straight to Chu Feng's residence!

Among all the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect, there were countless who admired Tong Qianchen, but few dared to pursue her. Chu Feng was one of them.

This was not a secret within the Xuanwu Sect.

In such a situation, Hao Jian, as Chu Feng's lackey, naturally had to report it immediately upon seeing Tong Qianchen chatting and laughing with Ye Fan.

"Brother Feng, it's not good. Xiao Qian has gone to find that brat Ye Fan..."

Hao Jian rushed into Chu Feng's room, anxious to relay in detail what he had seen to Chu Feng.

"Uh..."

Upon hearing Hao Jian's words, Chu Feng was initially stunned, then fell silent, his expression gradually turning icy cold.

"Brother Feng, do you think Junior Sister might have feelings for that brat? Otherwise, why would she go to him at such a late hour?"

Hao Jian, not noticing Chu Feng's twisted face, continued to stoke the flames, as if fearing the world would not descend into chaos.

Pa!

Chu Feng slammed a table in the room, breaking it into fragments: "Does he have a death wish?"

"Brother Feng, in my opinion, that brat is like a toad lusting after a swan's flesh. He should look in a mirror with some water and see what he is, to dare get so close to Senior Sister Tong!" Hao Jian quickly echoed.

"Originally, I didn't want to lower myself to his level, but since he's looking for trouble, he can't blame me!"

With a gloomy face, Chu Feng said to Hao Jian, "Hao Jian, I'll leave teaching that brat a lesson to you!"

"Brother Feng, although that brat is still in the Late-stage True Qi Realm, his combat power is already approaching the True Essence Realm. I may not be able to handle him."

Hao Jian said in terror, "Besides, he's currently valued by the Great Elder, and he might even become the Great Elder's disciple as an exception. You know the Great Elder is protective. If he finds out I made a move on his disciple, won't he skin me alive?"

“Useless thing...”

Chu Feng cursed Hao Jian but fell into thought himself. He knew that Hao Jian’s reasoning was sound; in a one-on-one fight, Hao Jian might not be a match for Ye Fan.

Even if he could defeat and teach Ye Fan a lesson, dealing with the aftermath would be challenging, as the Great Elder wasn’t easy to fool.

“Hey...”

After thinking for a while, Chu Feng’s eyes shifted, and a sinister smile appeared, making Hao Jian shiver. “Junior Brother Hao, you obviously can’t confront him directly. That would not only implicate you but also cast suspicion on me. But that doesn’t mean we can’t take action in secret!”

“Brother Feng, what do you mean?”

Upon hearing this, Hao Jian immediately perked up, his small eyes wide like a puppy’s as he looked at Chu Feng and asked.

Chu Feng sneered and said, “With his strength and today’s performance, it’s likely he will soon enter the Inner Sect and become an Inner Sect disciple.

Then he'll participate in the competition for the three elite disciple slots, and you'll surely face him. You can use heavy tactics during the match. You don't need to kill him; just ruin his Dantian."

"Brother Feng, I..."

"Since I'm asking you to do this, I'll naturally ensure you have the strength to defeat him. I will teach you a powerful martial art technique, ensuring you can defeat him smoothly. Even if the Great Elder suspects, it won't matter. Since it's a competition, mistakes can happen. Just insist that you accidentally crippled him, and the Great Elder can't do anything against you! Do you dare do it?"

Hao Jian was moved. Although the treatment of Inner Sect disciples was much better than outer disciples, it still couldn't compare with elite disciples. In terms of cultivation resources, cultivation techniques, and martial arts, elite disciples were ten times that of Inner Sect disciples!

Becoming an elite disciple was the dream of every Inner Sect disciple!

Hao Jian naturally wanted to compete for one of the three limited slots.

Furthermore, he was extremely jealous of Ye Fan, a little cultivator picked up halfway, who hadn't even formally joined a sect, and yet he dazzled upon entering the Xuanwu Sect, overshadowing everyone else and garnering the Great Elder's favor.

More importantly, he was very displeased with Ye Fan and already had a conflict with him—his words in the square this morning had thoroughly offended Ye Fan!

All this made him feel it was necessary to cripple Ye Fan!

Otherwise, given time, if Ye Fan grew, he would face many troubles!

“Fine, let me cripple him in the Inner Sect disciple competition using the martial arts Brother Feng will teach, and make him leave the Xuanwu Sect!”

Hao Jian steeled his heart and agreed to Chu Feng’s proposal, yet subtly hinted for Chu Feng to teach him the martial art first.

“Hmm.”

Chu Feng smiled sinisterly, as if he could already see Ye Fan becoming a cripple and leaving the Xuanwu Sect!

Chapter 1085: Divine Level Cultivation Technique

Hao Jian had his own thoughts; his current strength wasn’t the strongest in the Inner Sect.

Many inner sect disciples were harboring a determination to seize the only three elite disciple slots, and he wasn’t very confident.

If Chu Feng taught him a powerful martial art, his strength could undergo a qualitative leap—a good martial art is extremely valuable!

In a situation where their strengths were similar, the quality of martial arts would be the key to deciding victory or defeat, which was why he readily agreed.

He believed that with Chu Feng teaching him a powerful martial art, let alone defeating Ye Fan, even vying for the top inner sect disciple wasn't impossible.

In doing so, not only could he cripple the eyesore Ye Fan, he could also shine in front of all the inner sect disciples and take the opportunity to squeeze into the ranks of elite disciples. Why not?

Naturally, his little scheme couldn't escape Chu Feng's notice, but Chu Feng didn't mind. Since he was using him, he had to offer some benefit. Otherwise, if you only let the donkey grind and not eat grass, it would inevitably rebel.

In his eyes, Hao Jian was a compliant fool of a donkey. Even a foolish donkey needed a sweetener to make it pull faster and work harder.

Hao Jian naturally didn't know he was a fool of a donkey in Chu Feng's mind. After getting Chu Feng's promise, he left happily.

After leaving the Inner Sect, Hao Jian was driven by his sleazy mindset to take a look near the small room where Ye Fan was temporarily staying, to see if Tong Qianchen was still there.

By this time, most people were already in dreamland or busy cultivating, so no one noticed him. Hao Jian smoothly arrived near Ye Fan's small room.

By this time, Tong Qianchen had long gone back, and Ye Fan was sitting cross-legged on the meditation mat in the small room, preparing to enter the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to cultivate.

Even before Hao Jian approached, Ye Fan sensed Hao Jian's presence. From the Xuan Beast Forest to the Xuanwu Sect, Ye Fan had already become familiar with Hao Jian's aura.

However, Ye Fan did not pay attention but waited for Hao Jian to pause for a moment and then leave before stepping directly into the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, ready to cultivate with full focus.

The space channel was always at risk of being exposed. Although Elder Xuan said that strong people in the Holy Embryo realm could not yet sense the channel sealed by the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, he remained uneasy.

What if a cultivator above the Holy Embryo realm accidentally discovered it?

In that case, Earth would be exposed, and even if not destroyed, humans on Earth would become slaves to some sect or power.

This was something he absolutely did not want to see!

Therefore, he could only immerse himself in frantic cultivation, striving to become stronger as soon as possible.

“Haste won’t get you hot tofu; the cultivation journey requires steady progress. The most urgent task is to break through the peak of True Qi realm and successfully become an Inner Sect disciple!”

Ye Fan silently admonished himself in his heart, then cleared his distractions, calmed his consciousness, focusing his mind to enter a state of cultivation.

...

Time often flies during cultivation. Unknowingly, dawn had arrived, and the chirping of birds woke Ye Fan from his cultivation.

Although the Xuanwu Mountain where the Xuanwu Sect was situated wasn’t exactly a wilderness of primordial forest, the vegetation still covered ninety percent of the area.

However, these woods didn’t contain Xuan Beasts; there were only small animals and birds.

At the break of dawn, various birds in the forest were singing, melodious and pleasant.

“Phew...”

Ye Fan put away the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, stood up, opened the door, and took a deep breath in the morning sun, exhaling the stale air accumulated overnight, refreshing his spirit.

To Ye Fan’s annoyance, although the Xuan Realm’s Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi was far denser than Earth’s, its living facilities were primitively simple.

There was nothing he could do about it but adapt to local customs.

Out the door, Ye Fan walked to a nearby creek in the residential area, rolled up his sleeves, washed his face, and scooped up a handful of clear water to rinse his mouth before shaking the water droplets off his face, preparing to head to Xuanwu Summit to find the Great Elder.

Before he could set off, he saw Tong Qianchen approaching with a smile on her face.

Today, Tong Qianchen was in a dark green water dress, with the hem trailing on the ground. Her black hair was tied up in a high bun at the back of her head, still pinned with the wooden hairpin from yesterday.

Her delicate features were flawless, and her exposed arms emitted a sacred and healthy glow, making her look like an elf emerging from the forest.

“Brother Ye, I was going to your place to find you, but I saw you washing your face here. Let’s go; I’ll take you to see the Great Elder.” Tong Qianchen came close and said with a smile.

“Alright.”

Ye Fan smiled in response, then walked side by side with Tong Qianchen towards Xuanwu Summit.

“That... why is that guy with Senior Sister Tong again?!”

At this time, many of the outer disciples who had passed the test were already up. Seeing Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen walking away together, each of them was filled with envy and jealousy, their eyes turning red.

The journey from the outer sect to Xuanwu Summit was quite a distance. Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen walked along a shady mountain path shrouded in light morning mist, resembling an immortal realm.

“Brother Ye, when you took the test yesterday, that punch you threw must have used martial arts, right? Otherwise, based on your realm alone, you shouldn’t have been able to deliver such a powerful punch.”

As they walked, Tong Qianchen turned her head to ask Ye Fan. She was truly shocked yesterday. Even she, in the same realm as Ye Fan, could not deliver such a earth-shattering punch.

“Yes, it’s a martial art passed down from my family, called the Domineering Fist!”

Ye Fan’s words were partly true, partly false. The Domineering Fist was indeed real, but the claim of it being ancestral was a made-up story. However, Tong Qianchen had no way to verify it, so she had to believe him.

“No wonder. The move you used yesterday must be a Profound Level martial art, right? An Emperor Level martial art couldn’t possibly have such terrifying attack power!”

Tong Qianchen confidently stated, being the daughter of a major sect leader, she had enough discernment for this.

Ye Fan nodded in acknowledgment. Elder Xuan had once input information into his brain about the cultivation technique and martial arts level classification in the Xuan Realm.

This classification puzzled Ye Fan for a long time, and he even suspected that there might be some connection between the Xuan Realm and Earth in ancient times.

Because the martial arts in the Xuan Realm were divided into four categories based on their power: Heaven, Earth, Profound, and Emperor.

These were the opening lines of one of Earth’s earliest enlightenment books, the Thousand Character Classic— “The heavens and the earth are mysterious and yellow, the universe is vast and boundless!”

“Hmm.”

Ye Fan himself wasn't sure if the “Domineering Fist” counted as a Profound Level martial art or another level. Since Tong Qianchen thought it was a Profound Level martial art, he wasn't about to contradict her.

“Even for a regular Profound Level martial art, it's hard to have such powerful attack power.” Tong Qianchen blinked, still curious.

“I grew up in a small village near the Xuanshou Mountain Range. Generations lived off hunting, and before cultivation, we had to undergo body refinement. The ancestral ‘Domineering Fist’ perfectly combined physical strength and True Qi, which is why it's so powerful...” Ye Fan explained to Tong Qianchen.

“I see.”

Tong Qianchen suddenly understood, looking at Ye Fan with admiration, she said, “No wonder you could leave a fist seal on the test stele with a Late-stage True Qi Realm strength. It turns out your body is strong, and the ancestral martial art can perfectly combine physical strength and True Qi.”

Ye Fan smiled and said no more on the topic.

As they continued walking and chatting, Tong Qianchen greatly enjoyed the pleasure of conversing with Ye Fan, while Ye Fan was keen to learn more from her about the Xuanwu Sect and common knowledge of the Tianxuan Continent's cultivation world. As a result, they walked very slowly.

Elder Xuan listened to their conversation with interest, occasionally explaining to Ye Fan in his sea of consciousness the points that Tong Qianchen mentioned which he didn't understand.

"Elder Xuan, according to the cultivation technique and martial arts level classification in the Xuan Realm, what level is the 'Nine Heavens Profound Skill' I'm practicing?"

Ye Fan multitasked, chatting with Tong Qianchen while inquiring about Elder Xuan.

He wanted to know what level the 'Nine Heavens Profound Skill' he had practiced since childhood was.

"The Nine Heavens Profound Skill is not within any of the four levels: Heaven, Earth, Profound, Emperor." Elder Xuan responded through their mind, with a tone that exuded mystique.

"The 'Nine Heavens Profound Skill' doesn't belong to any of the levels in Heaven, Earth, Profound, Emperor?" Ye Fan was taken aback.

"Brother Ye, what are you thinking about?"

Since Elder Xuan's words were so shocking, Ye Fan was momentarily distracted. Tong Qianchen, talking with him, found his lack of response curious as if he had thought of something else and asked inquisitively.

"I was thinking about what the Great Elder will say when I meet him later, I'm a bit scared." Ye Fan came back to his senses, jokingly said with a smile.

Pffft!

Tong Qianchen burst out laughing, her face blooming like a flower, "Don't worry, don't be afraid. Didn't the Great Elder say yesterday that he appreciates you? How could he make things difficult for you?"

Ye Fan smiled wryly, thinking to himself that his skill at changing topics was getting worse, then looked forward and realized they weren't far from Xuanwu Summit. He then asked Elder Xuan again via his mind, "Elder Xuan, stop teasing me, what level is the Nine Heavens Profound Skill really?"

"Divine level!"

Elder Xuan slowly uttered two words, his tone filled with incomparable pride!

Chapter 1086: Accepting a Disciple

Divine level?!

Ye Fan was utterly shocked and dumbfounded!

“Aren’t the cultivation techniques and martial arts in the Xuan Realm only divided into four levels: Tian, Di, Xuan, and Huang? The Heavenly level is the strongest, so how did a Divine level suddenly appear?” After the initial shock, Ye Fan asked.

“Divine level cultivation methods refer to techniques personally created by the Great Emperor, and any method created by a Great Emperor is considered a Divine level, much stronger than Heavenly level cultivation methods...” Elder Xuan explained.

Through Elder Xuan’s explanation, Ye Fan gradually understood that the Great Emperor represents the ultimate power of this world, a pinnacle, and the methods they create are far superior to Heavenly level techniques.

In the eyes of ordinary cultivators, Heavenly level techniques are already something they dream of, but compared to Divine level methods, they’re not even worthy.

The Great Emperor is almost omnipotent, akin to a godlike existence, so naturally, the methods they create are referred to as Divine level cultivation methods.

In the entire Xuan Realm, aside from a few limited clans that once had a Great Emperor, such as the Di Clan, possibly possessing Divine level cultivation methods, small sects like the Xuanwu Sect are simply not possible to have them; having Heavenly level techniques is already exceedingly rare.

Ye Fan felt a surge of excitement; if the methods created by the Great Emperor are Divine, then what about the martial arts they created? Shouldn’t those also be considered Divine level martial arts?

“Elder Xuan, do you have Divine level martial arts? Since the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown is an Emperor Weapon, and you understand the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, you should also have Divine level martial arts, right?” Ye Fan excitedly asked Elder Xuan.

“Of course, there are Divine level martial arts. The Xuandi Fist, created by Emperor Xuan, is a Divine level martial art!”

Elder Xuan said, “However, young man, don’t aim too high. You need to take steady steps—one step at a time—because the Xuandi Fist is extremely powerful, and the requirements for cultivators are very harsh. You can’t train in the Xuandi Fist in a short time. Perhaps when you cultivate the Nine Heavens Profound Body to the Second Level, you’ll barely qualify to train in the first move of the Xuandi Fist.”

“Uh...”

After listening to Elder Xuan’s explanation, Ye Fan first felt a bit disappointed, but then he became very excited.

“I must quickly improve my strength and strive to train in the Xuandi Fist as soon as possible!”

Ye Fan clenched his fist and secretly vowed that power was the most important thing; without strength, everything else was empty talk. Whether reinforcing the sealing or training in the Xuandi Fist, the prerequisite was to become stronger quickly.

“Do well, I’m rooting for you!”

Elder Xuan chuckled and said, “If nothing goes wrong, when you stand before that so-called Great Elder, he will assess you. Don’t hesitate; show all your talents, and that young man will definitely take you as a disciple! Moreover, you’ll be specially trained by the Xuanwu Sect, and at that time, all cultivation resources from the Xuanwu Sect will be directed towards you!”

Hmm?

Ye Fan’s heart was stirred. He was about to speak but noticed that Tong Qianchen was looking at him strangely, so he stopped communicating with Elder Xuan and silently absorbed what Elder Xuan had said before.

Unknowingly, the two arrived below the Xuanwu Summit.

Just then...

Ye Fan’s mind suddenly echoed with Elder Xuan’s voice: “Do not reveal your Magic Cultivation, especially the Flying Sword Skill! The Flying Sword Skill is quite famous in the Xuan Realm, and once exposed, it will be hard to cover up, putting you in a difficult position.”

Gulp!

Ye Fan felt a chill in his heart.

Originally, after listening to Elder Xuan's previous words, Ye Fan intended to show both his magic and martial arts skills if the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect tested his strength. However, upon this reminder from Elder Xuan, he agreed and decided not to use the Flying Sword Skill.

"Brother Ye, this is the Xuanwu Summit. The Great Elder is at the top. Let's go up!" At the same time, Tong Qianchen pointed at the mountain peak ahead and said.

"Alright!"

Ye Fan nodded, and the two climbed the ancient mountain path step by step, making their way to the summit.

Given their cultivation, flying up would naturally be easier. However, Ye Fan was a newcomer, so naturally, he followed the lead of the host. It wouldn't take too long to walk up anyway.

The two were unaware that just as they arrived at the foot of the mountain, an old man stood at the edge of the summit, looking down at them amidst the roaring mountain winds.

This old man was the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect. Seeing Tong Qianchen leading Ye Fan, both climbing the steps instead of using their cultivation to fly, a small smile appeared on his face.

Soon, Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen reached the summit.

The summit had a small stone house, looking particularly simple, standing proudly amidst the howling mountain winds. In front of the house, there was a reclining chair, and the Great Elder was lying there, smiling as he looked at the two.

“Great Elder, I’m here!”

Ye Fan stopped a yard before the Great Elder, bowed slightly, which was an ancient courtesy. Ye Fan knew that ancient Huaxia etiquette was popular in the Xuan Realm, so this wasn’t difficult for him.

“Tong Qianchen greets the Great Elder! I’ve brought Brother Ye to you. What reward will you give me?”

Clearly, Tong Qianchen had a good relationship with the Great Elder, as she went directly to his side and playfully shook his shoulder.

The Great Elder, who was originally keeping a straight face, couldn’t maintain it after her antics, and with a wry smile, he said, “You little girl, go ask your father for a reward. I’m so poor I can’t even afford a thing, what reward could I give you?”

As he spoke, the Great Elder smiled cunningly and said, “Besides, I didn’t ask you to bring him here, did I?”

“Uh...”

After hearing the Great Elder’s words, Ye Fan showed a strange expression; he didn’t expect the Great Elder of the Xuanwu Sect to be so approachable.

“You... hmph! If you don’t take him, I don’t care!”

Tong Qianchen was irritated, deliberately turned around, ignoring the Great Elder.

The Great Elder chuckled, then turned his gaze to Ye Fan and said, “Young man, very nice. You’ve got guts, courage, and manners. Such young people are hard to find nowadays.”

“You’re too kind, Great Elder. I dare not assume such praise!” Ye Fan responded with poise.

“Excellent, yesterday during the entry test you emitted a purple glow, and it was a dark purple. You even left a mark on the testing stele; that’s quite rare, your talent is impressive!”

The Great Elder smiled at Ye Fan, recounting his performance from yesterday, then asked about his background.

Faced with such inquiries, Ye Fan was prepared and recounted what he said to the old scholar yesterday, leaving nothing exposed.

The Great Elder nodded with satisfaction. Although he had doubts about Ye Fan's story regarding his village being attacked by competitors and everyone perishing except him, who survived only because he wasn't in the village, there was no evidence to dispute it.

Despite the suspicions, the Great Elder didn't dwell on them.

In his view, as long as Ye Fan genuinely joins the Xuanwu Sect, it wasn't necessary to probe his origins too deeply.

"I am Wu Xinhai; you can call me Elder Wu from now on. I'm quite interested in the martial arts technique you used yesterday. Can you demonstrate it for me again?"

The Great Elder Wu Xinhai became increasingly pleased with Ye Fan, sensing he was a rare talent. He just wondered if Ye Fan could deliver the earth-shattering punch from yesterday.

"Of course, here?"

Guided by Elder Xuan, Ye Fan knew he needed to reveal his potential to gain the Great Elder's favor, so he naturally didn't refuse.

"Hit me! Use the same martial arts technique from yesterday, at full strength. Don't worry, I won't get hurt."

The Great Elder wanted to personally test Ye Fan's attack power and chose to let Ye Fan attack him without restraint.

His strength was superior to the Sect Leader, and even if Ye Fan used all his might, he wouldn't be harmed in the slightest, but he could estimate Ye Fan's attack strength from the strike.

Tong Qianchen looked at the Great Elder and then at Ye Fan, her big eyes blinking, knowing there was an exciting scene to watch. She eagerly stood aside, ready to enjoy the show, curious to see how strong Ye Fan's full-power attack could be.

Ye Fan hesitated for a moment, then understood the Great Elder's intention, nodded, spread his legs, took an indifferent Cold Crow Step, and instantly unleashed his momentum, which continued to rise.

"Domineering Fist!"

Ye Fan shouted inwardly and punched towards Wu Xinhai's chest. The intense punch ray emitted a dragon roar, and the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi instantly went berserk, gathering around his fist, clinging to it.

Boom!

With a loud noise, Ye Fan's punch struck Wu Xinhai's chest, and he was knocked back three steps by the powerful repulsion force before stabilizing himself, feeling as if he had hit a Divine Mountain.

“Not bad!”

The Great Elder remained unscathed and laughed heartily.

Through Ye Fan’s attack, he clearly observed Ye Fan’s strength, his body impressively strong, far surpassing cultivators of the same realm.

Moreover, he checked Ye Fan’s soul through Spiritual Sense and found that his soul was also far stronger than cultivators of the same realm, such talent is very rare.

“Ye Fan, in my life, I have never taken a disciple because I haven’t met anyone satisfactory. Now I want to take you in as my disciple; are you willing to acknowledge me as your mentor?”

Wu Xinhai smiled at Ye Fan, feeling increasingly satisfied. Although he was older, it wasn’t an issue; as long as Ye Fan committed to cultivation, he would surely shine brightly in the future.

“I am willing!”

Ye Fan promptly bowed and agreed, rejoicing inwardly.

Becoming Wu Xinhai's disciple, not only could he acquire abundant cultivation resources, but he would also receive protection for a long period.

For him now, it's like receiving coal in the snowy weather!

Chapter 1087: Xuanwu Heavenly Technique

"Alright, starting today, you are my sole disciple, Ye Fan. In our lineage, we do not adhere to unnecessary formalities, all ceremony of apprenticeship is waived."

Wu Xinhai beamed with smiles, becoming increasingly satisfied. Ye Fan's talent is impeccable—self-taught, with unquestionably good comprehension. Such a disciple is hard to find even with a lantern.

"Xiao Chen, make the announcement: from today on, Ye Fan is my disciple. Anyone who attempts to trouble him shouldn't blame this old man for being ruthless and unforgiving!"

Wu Xinhai turned to Tong Qianchen, who was already stunned at the side.

Tong Qianchen was truly shocked. Although she witnessed Ye Fan leave a mark on the test stele with his punch yesterday, it was seen from a distance, whereas just now, she absolutely felt the power of Ye Fan's punch up close.

She thought that if it had been her, it wouldn't have been easy to withstand Ye Fan's fierce punch.

Although Ye Fan hasn't reached the True Essence Realm yet, his attack power has already approached a full-force strike from a True Essence Realm expert.

After hearing Wu Xinhai's words, Tong Qianchen regained her composure, chuckling gleefully, "No need for me to say it; who in Xuanwu Sect doesn't know of your protective nature, Elder? Anyone who knows Brother Ye has become your pupil wouldn't dare to offend him!"

While speaking, Tong Qianchen walked to Ye Fan's side and sincerely said, "Congratulations, Brother Ye!"

Ye Fan smiled, feeling faintly excited inside, as it was a rare exception for the Great Elder to take on a disciple.

Sensing Ye Fan's excitement, Elder Xuan in his sea of consciousness sneered, "Kid, this little fellow is pathetically weak, utterly vulnerable. It should be embarrassing for you to be his disciple; what's there to be excited about?"

After a pause, Elder Xuan continued, "You must realize you are the descendant of the Great Emperor; revealing this would surely terrify him!"

Listening to Elder Xuan's relentless criticism of Great Elder Wu Xinhai's lackluster strength, Ye Fan was speechless, thinking, only you would dare say such things, as Wu Elder's strength is still unfathomable to me.

Elder Xuan seemed to realize that Ye Fan was even weaker than the pitifully weak little fellow he spoke of. After a while, he ceased speaking and fell silent.

At this moment, Ye Fan just heard the Great Elder Wu Xinhai say to Tong Qianchen, "Don't burden me with titles, quickly go and announce to all disciples of Xuanwu Sect, Ye Fan is my disciple. Whoever unjustifiably provokes my disciple is disrespecting me!"

Ye Fan's heart warmed. Though Elder Wu might have an eccentric temper, his protective nature is adored by all disciples.

Any disciple would hope for a master extremely protective of them, because such a master would never let their disciple suffer any loss.

All who are protective by nature share a common trait: their people can only gain advantages, not suffer losses.

If their disciple is bullied, regardless of right or wrong, they will seek retribution immediately. If necessary, they may act personally to ensure their disciple's satisfaction.

"Xiao Fan, follow me!"

After Tong Qianchen left, Elder Wu Xinhai led Ye Fan to a stone wall with a cave carved out in the center.

Ye Fan knew that in Xuanwu Sect, some disciples cultivated in their own Dong Mansions.

Ye Fan didn't have any objections to cultivating in a cave. On Earth, he frequently secluded himself in caves, becoming accustomed to it.

"Xiao Fan, here is your Dong Mansion from now on. You'll cultivate here; my disciple cannot be like other Outer Disciples, cultivating in places lacking Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. That would be humiliating for me."

Elder Wu Xinhai was proud, his status in Xuanwu Sect standing above all, even the Sect Leader had to treat him with respect. Arranging a cultivation spot for someone is a small privilege he could afford.

Since Ye Fan is his disciple, he had to utilize his authority to secure some benefits for his disciple; such actions are common courtesy.

Wu Xinhai arranged a Dong Mansion for Ye Fan with abundant Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, superior not only to the Inner Sect disciples, but comparable to elite disciples' Dong Mansions.

"Come in and see if the environment is satisfactory; if not, I will find a better place for you. However, if I change it again, I'd have to notify the Sect Leader, as I shouldn't disrupt the rules excessively."

Wu Xinhai entered the Dong Mansion first, with Ye Fan following closely. Though the Dong Mansion was simple, it had complete facilities—tables, chairs, and beds. There was a bed covered with unknown mutant beast skin, looking primitive yet interesting.

"Thank you, master; cultivating here is excellent. Please don't trouble yourself for me further."

Being newly arrived, although he had the Great Elder's support, Ye Fan felt it was best to remain low-key. Since this arrangement was already special, he shouldn't overburden Elder Wu Xinhai to do more for him.

"The conditions here are somewhat lacking, but as cultivators, we are here to cultivate, not to indulge. Bear with it for a while; after you've cultivated and achieved results, become an elite disciple, I'll arrange a better Dong Mansion for you."

Seeing Ye Fan's thoughtful nature greatly satisfied Elder Wu Xinhai. After making some remarks, he took out a yellowed silk book from his bosom and tossed it to Ye Fan.

"This is the basic cultivation technique of our Xuanwu Sect, and it's a very precious Earth-level technique called 'Xuanwu Heavenly Technique.' Although I don't know what cultivation technique you originally practiced, it's definitely not an Earth-level technique. From now on, you should cultivate the 'Xuanwu Heavenly Technique'!"

"Okay."

Ye Fan nodded in agreement.

Elder Wu Xinhai wasn't aware that Ye Fan was cultivating a Divine Level Cultivation Method that surpasses Earth-level techniques by far, and thought he was just a country bumpkin who couldn't possibly have any good techniques.

After speaking, Elder Wu Xinhai thought for a moment and pulled out a fist-sized Spirit Stone from his sleeve, handing it to Ye Fan, saying, "This is a meeting gift from your master; take it."

How could Ye Fan not recognize its worth?

Seeing the Spirit Stone, crystal clear and emitting nine-colored light, he immediately knew it was a top-grade spirit stone, far superior to the ten spirit stones Tong Qianchen gave him.

"Thank you, Master!"

Ye Fan eagerly put it away.

Satisfied, Elder Wu Xinhai looked at him and seriously said, "Kid, I've never taken a disciple in my life. You're the first and also the last. You better not disgrace me—let's not talk about the distant future, but in six months, become the number one disciple in the Xuanwu Sect, then represent our Xuanwu Sect at next year's Tianyuan City genius selection competition, bring honor to your master, and bring honor to Xuanwu Sect, understand?"

"I understand, Master!"

Ye Fan nodded earnestly, confident with the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown.

“Don’t boast. I don’t like people who only talk. Besides verbal skills, they are utterly useless.”

Strictly, Elder Wu Xinhai said, “You should cultivate on your own. If there’s something you don’t understand, come ask me, and I will guide you in detail.”

“Understood, Master, I will work hard.”

“Alright, have a look first. I’ll be at Xuanwu Summit. If there’s anything you don’t understand, you can come find me there anytime.”

After speaking, Elder Wu Xinhai left Ye Fan alone in the cave, flying towards Xuanwu Summit and disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Ye Fan studied the cave mansion for a bit and found something resembling a handle on the stone wall inside, along with marks at the door where something heavy had slid. He realized this was the mechanism for opening the cave mansion’s entrance.

To prevent disturbance, Ye Fan pulled the handle, and he heard a creaking sound as a heavy stone gate slid from the side and sealed the entrance tightly.

Although the entrance was sealed, the cave wasn’t dark because there was a pearl inside, seemingly a Luminous Pearl, emitting a gentle glow.

Ye Fan smiled slightly; even without the Luminous Pearl, his eyesight had long reached the realm of seeing clearly in darkness, unaffected by the lack of light.

Flipping open the Xuanwu Heavenly Technique, Ye Fan found the technique had its unique aspects. Every Earth-level technique has its distinctive features; otherwise, it wouldn't be passed down or become a cultivation method for the Xuanwu Sect.

However, Ye Fan could see that compared to his Nine Heavens Profound Skill, the 'Xuanwu Heavenly Technique' is lacking, to say the least.

Acquainting himself with the environment, Ye Fan stepped into the Virtual Space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to refine his spirit stone.

"Kid, today I will explain some key points in cultivating the Nine Heavens Profound Skill to you..." At that moment, Elder Xuan also appeared to guide Ye Fan's cultivation.

With Elder Xuan's guidance, Ye Fan gained a deeper, more thorough understanding of the Nine Heavens Profound Skill.

As for the Xuanwu Heavenly Technique, Ye Fan didn't plan to cultivate it.

Cultivation techniques don't require displaying martial arts skills, so he wasn't afraid of anyone discovering he was cultivating the Nine Heavens Profound Skill.

Additionally, Xuanwu Sect had an array carved in every cave mansion to prevent disturbances during cultivation. It not only isolated sound but could also block any aura from within.

This was why Ye Fan dared to boldly enter the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown for cultivation.

The time flow inside the Virtual Space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was entirely different from the outside world, being only one-tenth, so Ye Fan had plenty of time to cultivate.

Swoosh!

As each spirit stone was refined, the immense Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi entered his body through Ye Fan's breathing and his body's pores, repeatedly tempering his physique.

He immersed himself completely in cultivation, ignoring everything outside.

Chapter 1088: The Gathering Storm

As the news of Ye Fan being taken in as the sole disciple by the Great Elder spread like wildfire throughout the Xuanwu Sect, thanks to Tong Qianchen, the daughter of the Sect Leader, it caused an uproar akin to a tsunami!

For a time, everyone was talking about this matter.

“I really didn’t expect that person to actually gain the Great Elder’s favor. It’s really a case of comparing people to death, comparing goods to be thrown away!”

“The Great Elder’s unprecedented tradition of not taking disciples has been broken. What capability does this Ye Fan have to make the Great Elder break this precedent?”

“From now on, everyone should be courteous when they meet Ye Fan, and absolutely avoid offending him. Who doesn’t know about the Great Elder’s temper?”

“That’s right, the Great Elder has already stated that anyone who dares to bully Ye Fan is his enemy. Who would risk touching this mold!”

“It’s a pity! We don’t have such a protective and powerful master to shield us; we can only choose to endure silently.”

During this time, there was also a small episode: Great Elder Wu Xinhai found the Sect Leader and emphatically demanded that Ye Fan must directly enter the Inner Sect without starting as an Outer Disciple and gradually advancing.

The Sect Leader couldn’t resist him and had to agree. Although the other elders had their complaints, thinking about the uncompromising nature of the Great Elder, they chose to remain silent.

Thus, Ye Fan didn’t even spend a day in the Outer Sect and was directly specially admitted into the Inner Sect.

Naturally, Ye Fan's Dong Mansion was also changed to one with a stronger concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and he began his closed-door cultivation.

Meanwhile, Tong Qianchen, the Sect Leader's daughter, frequently sought Ye Fan recently, but it wasn't easy to see him — once Ye Fan began his closed-door training, he wouldn't come out unless for something special.

Whether in the Inner or Outer Sect, the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect were especially envious and jealous of Ye Fan's special admission into the Inner Sect, but none dared to question the reasons from the leadership of the Xuanwu Sect and could only continue to envy, be jealous, hate, and remain frustrated.

This news first reached Chu Feng's ears.

"Hmph! The more you jump, the harder your fall. I'm looking forward to seeing your amazing expression during the Inner Sect Disciple Grand Competition!"

Hearing the news, Chu Feng was quite displeased at first, but on second thought, since Ye Fan would end up a cripple in the Inner Sect Disciple Contest anyway, he couldn't help but sneer.

...

The news of Ye Fan being taken as a disciple by the Great Elder and specially admitted into the Inner Sect spread not only swiftly within the Xuanwu Sect but also reached the Tianyuan Sect, thousands of miles away.

“Wu Xinhai actually broke his precedent to take him as a disciple?”

Upon learning that Ye Fan had been accepted as a disciple by the Great Elder Wu Xinhai of the Xuanwu Sect, Helian Chang, the Sect Leader of Tianyuan Sect, was first very surprised, then deeply puzzled.

Because, according to the information he received, there were no abnormal movements in the Xuanwu Sect, and they hadn't mobilized any strong people from the Sect to head to the Xuanshou Mountain Range.

“What's going on here?”

“Could it be that the little brat hasn't informed the high-ranking officials of the Xuanwu Sect about the spatial passage?”

“Hmm! That's definitely it!”

Helian Chang concluded that Ye Fan would definitely not inform the Xuanwu Sect about the spatial passage.

No matter the situation, Helian Chang felt it was necessary to capture Ye Fan as soon as possible; he must find an opportunity to either capture him alive or kill him if that wasn't possible — he couldn't leave such a hidden threat.

Even without Ye Fan, as long as he searched diligently, he would definitely find the spatial passage. It was only a matter of time, but the information about the spatial passage was only known to the Tianyuan Sect, so they had ample time to search slowly.

“Come, notify Gu Yun to see me!”

After pondering for a moment, Helian Chang decided to have Gu Yun search for the passage, as Gu Yun was the only one who had been to Earth and was most familiar with the passage.

“You immediately take people to the Xuanshou Mountain Range to search for the spatial passage. Return when you find it. Don’t come back if you can’t find it!”

Helian Chang was determined. He had to find the spatial passage as soon as possible because Ye Fan was like a ticking bomb, and he didn’t know when the matter of the spatial passage would be exposed.

“Yes, Sect Leader!”

Gu Yun agreed reluctantly, as he had no choice. He had proposed this matter, and only he was most familiar with the spatial passage. If not him, then who?

“Call Elder Tu. I have something to discuss with him.”

After sending Gu Yun off, Helian Chang pondered for a moment and decided to dispatch Tu Jiufeng, the most powerful elder in the Sect, to ambush outside the Xuanwu Sect. As soon as Ye Fan stepped out of the Xuanwu Sect's sphere of influence, he would capture him.

Tu Jiufeng was one of the strongest elders in the Tianyuan Sect, ruthless, extremely skilled at concealing himself, and exceptionally patient, making him the most suitable for this task.

...

Ye Fan had no idea that he had become a fish on the chopping board, with more than one person eyeing him.

During this period, he has been in closed-door training.

While Ye Fan was in closed-door training, Tong Qianchen noticeably didn't spend as much time practicing and sparring with Chu Feng and instead frequently visited the cave where Ye Fan was secluded.

However, Ye Fan was busy with cultivation and could not frequently come out of seclusion. The two had hardly met, and Tong Qianchen faced countless shut doors. By rights, she should be discouraged.

But Tong Qianchen showed a spirit of perseverance against setbacks. Although she never got to meet Ye Fan each time she came, she remained persistent and kept visiting every few days.

Chu Feng felt this most keenly. Originally, Tong Qianchen was indifferent to him, but at least they could often meet, cultivate together, spar in martial arts, and exchange cultivation insights.

However, since Ye Fan's arrival, Tong Qianchen was noticeably colder towards him. Even when he sought her out, she seemed distant and sometimes displayed impatience.

All this was because of Ye Fan's entry into the Xuanwu Sect, causing Chu Feng's anger to flare like ghost fire, wishing he could rush to Ye Fan's cultivation cave and tear him apart.

But it was just a thought!

Not to mention that Ye Fan is now a disciple of Great Elder Wu Xinhai, and the Xuanwu Sect's rules strictly forbid disciples from fighting and killing each other!

Time in cultivation always flies by, and three months passed in a blink.

During these three months, Ye Fan was almost entirely immersed in cultivation, and with the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown's virtual space, his strength improved rapidly.

In three days, the Inner Sect Disciples Competition will take place, where all inner sect disciples will compete for the only three elite disciple spots.

That afternoon, Chu Feng called for the chubby Hao Jian to assess his understanding and cultivation of the martial arts technique he had passed on.

They agreed to meet in a secluded valley in the back mountains, a place rarely visited even by the elders of the sect.

The valley, though hidden, had no Xuan Beasts or Spiritual Medicine, considered a wilderness, and no one would go there without reason.

When Chu Feng arrived at the valley, Hao Jian had not yet appeared, so he took a walk around to ensure no one was within the valley's bounds.

Soon, Hao Jian's rotund figure approached from afar.

Despite Hao Jian's spherical build, he was very agile, hopping down the hill like a meatball.

Watching Hao Jian's nimble figure, Chu Feng smiled silently. The martial arts technique he had taught Hao Jian was a top-grade Xuan-stage technique and rather sinister.

"Brother Feng, you called for me?"

Hao Jian approached with a flattering smile, his small eyes narrowed to slits.

“Hmm, in three days, it’s the Inner Sect Disciples Competition. How’s your preparation? How’s your understanding of the technique? Confident?”

Chu Feng’s question about confidence did not refer to winning the elite disciple slots but about crippling Ye Fan’s cultivation.

Hao Jian understood, nodding, “Don’t worry, Brother Feng, I assure you, I will cripple that kid in three days.”

“Hmm, that’s good!”

Chu Feng nodded and continued, “Show me the technique I taught you, let me see. With three days left, I can guide you to improve if needed.”

“Yes, Brother Feng!”

Hao Jian nodded excitedly, eager to display the sinister martial arts technique Chu Feng had taught him.

Chu Feng nodded as he watched.

Though Hao Jian looked unremarkable and was somewhat dense, his comprehension of martial arts was exceptional, with almost no deviations.

With this technique, Hao Jian's combat power shot up!

After finishing the technique, Hao Jian stood steady without a hint of exhaustion, bowing to Chu Feng, "Brother Feng, how was it? I did well, right?"

"Hmm! Not bad. Three days later, use this technique to strike first, leaving him no chance to counter and cripple him in one go!"

Chu Feng planned with a fierce and sinister look. If he weren't already a core disciple, unable to act personally, he would have long wanted to cripple Ye Fan himself.

In sect competitions, injuries or even fatalities could occur, and even Great Elder Wu Xinhai wouldn't intervene.

"Brother Feng, during the Inner Sect Disciples Competition, you just sit back and enjoy the show. I will surely cripple that kid!"

Hao Jian's confidence brimmed, his greasy fat face blossoming with a smile. It wasn't just about helping Chu Feng cripple Ye Fan.

Standing out in the Inner Sect Disciples Competition was a dream for many, not to mention the increased cultivation resources and benefits upon becoming an elite disciple.

“Hehehe...”

Thinking of this, Hao Jian chuckled sleazily, as if he could already see himself crippling Ye Fan in the competition three days later!

Chapter 1089: Emerging from Seclusion, Sudden Enlightenment, and Confidence

There is no concept of days or months in cultivation!

In the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, Ye Fan kept cultivating continuously. Under the guidance of Elder Xuan, his progress was terrifyingly fast.

Moreover, the time flow in the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was only one-tenth of the outside world, meaning ten days in the virtual space equaled just one day in reality.

Three months’ time might not mean much to other disciples of the Xuanwu Sect, but for Ye Fan, it was equivalent to being in seclusion for thirty months, which was more than two years.

Additionally, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the Xuan realm was much denser than that of Earth, and the concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi contained within spirit stones was even more astounding, making the cultivation speed much faster than on Earth.

If it weren't for the fact that Ye Fan's Nine Heavens Profound Body demanded much more Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi than the average cultivator, he would have already reached the peak of the True Qi Realm and stepped into the True Essence Realm.

Of course, during the seclusion, Ye Fan also encountered a bottleneck.

Once the Gang Qi in his body had reached a certain level of density, further compression became nearly impossible. However, Ye Fan was convinced that he had not yet compressed the Gang Qi to the required extent.

Having previously experienced compressing Gang Qi, he had insights into it. In the first month, Ye Fan had already spent ten months in the virtual space.

One top-grade spirit stone and ten ordinary spirit stones were all refined by him, his body now brimming with Gang Qi and reaching a state of saturation. Without compression, no more Gang Qi could be accommodated in his body.

In the following two months, Ye Fan continuously attempted to compress the Gang Qi, striving to reach the peak of the Gang Qi Realm, which is known in the Xuan realm as the peak of the True Qi Realm.

However, this was extremely difficult!

Because after reaching a high-level War God Realm, in order to advance to a higher realm, one must further compress the Gang Qi.

After three rounds of compression, the space for Gang Qi compression was reduced to the minimum, so Ye Fan had to be extremely careful.

Persistent efforts paid off, after numerous failures and countless retries, Ye Fan finally found the critical point, further compressing the nearly liquid Gang Qi, making it closer to a liquid state.

After successfully breaking through, Ye Fan realized why so many high-level War God Realm cultivators on Earth spent their whole lives without making any progress.

Because it was extremely difficult, requiring immense perseverance, great opportunities, and even a bit of luck. Ye Fan succeeded primarily because he had a vast amount of time to spend on constant attempts.

Secondly, his Nine Heavens Profound Skill was a divine-level cultivation method, and the Gang Qi cultivated from it was purer than others' Gang Qi cultivated from Heavenly Techniques.

Thirdly, he had Elder Xuan, an all-knowing teacher, to guide him. Even so, it took Ye Fan over two years to break through this bottleneck.

Of course, this "over two years" refers to the time in the virtual space, not in reality.

Boom!

Ye Fan felt as if the Gang Qi in his body was about to riot; under comprehensive compression, it almost led to his body exploding.

Although Elder Xuan was watching from the side, he had no intention of helping, saying that if Ye Fan couldn't overcome this hurdle on his own, he could forget about Gang Qi liquidation in the future. Therefore, no external force could help him; he had to endure it on his own.

"This bit of pain won't defeat me!"

Ye Fan gritted his teeth, enduring the pain nearly equivalent to his body exploding, and finally succeeded in compressing the Gang Qi further, freeing up a large space in his body to accommodate more Gang Qi.

It's akin to filling air into a container.

The more the gas in the container is compressed, the more gas it can hold. Once the gas is compressed into a liquid, it will certainly hold even more.

After an indeterminate time, the excruciating pain akin to tearing his body apart gradually faded, and Ye Fan was so exhausted he felt like he'd been fished out of water.

With a blink, Ye Fan directly fell into a deep sleep.

Elder Xuan looked affectionately at Ye Fan without waking him. Anyone who had undergone such a painful ordeal would naturally slacken. Some rest would only be beneficial to Ye Fan's body, not harmful.

After waking up, the first thing Ye Fan did was to inspect his physical condition internally. After the compression, the Gang Qi in his meridians was more condensed, and much more space was freed up.

Ye Fan didn't waste any time, roughly estimating that there were only three days left until the Inner Sect Disciple Contest, and he continued with his cultivation.

Having just broken through, some consolidation was necessary, and Ye Fan also wanted to seize this time to cultivate hard, striving to stabilize his position at the peak of the True Qi Realm.

This cultivation lasted until less than two days remained before the Inner Sect Disciple Contest, and Ye Fan had no choice but to leave seclusion, because according to Elder Xuan, cultivation requires a balance of relaxation and tension, otherwise, one might collapse.

Ye Fan also felt it had become less effective to continue cultivation, with progress much slower than before. Rather than continue with diminishing returns, it was better to rest and quietly await the Inner Sect Disciple Contest.

After exiting seclusion, Ye Fan didn't venture far but strolled around the cave where he had been cultivating.

Not far from his closed-door cultivation cave, there was a small waterfall and a small pool beneath it.

Ye Fan wandered to the edge of the pool, inadvertently seeing the mist floating above it. A thought struck him, and he sat on the grass, clasping his knees, gazing at the white spray stirred up by the waterfall's cascading torrents!

Sometimes, the philosophy woven into tranquility is more moving than a fierce battle. As Ye Fan gazed at the waterfall like a shimmering silk, he felt something awaken within him. Rising to his feet, he stretched his muscles and bones, then leaped beneath the waterfall, throwing a punch.

Human strength can sometimes be exhausted, yet the power of heaven and earth remains infinite. The wonders of nature are often the masterpieces of the universe, and man will never be able to oppose them.

Ye Fan delivered a punch. Though it was merely an ordinary punch without using martial arts, the perfect combination of blood and Gang Qi still resulted in the effect of Blood Gang.

Boom...

The waterfall cascading down was sent rolling back by Ye Fan's punch; not a single drop fell, all swept into the high heavens, as if the blue waters were cleansing the skies.

The entire peak seemed to tremble slightly from the force of Ye Fan's punch. His feet landed on the floating moss, as steady as Taishan.

In an instant, the fist force dissipated, and the backward-surging water transformed into raindrops falling all over.

Soon, the interrupted waterfall continued to rush down towards Ye Fan standing in the pool.

Ye Fan did not utilize the Mystical Skill, nor did he make any movements, yet naturally, a Protective Gang Qi formed on the surface of his body, enveloping him like a barrier, so not a single droplet from the waterfall touched him.

“Brother Ye, you’ve emerged from seclusion? That’s great!”

As a thought flashed in Ye Fan’s mind, hinting at an insight, a bell-like voice jolted him from his impending state of enlightenment.

Ye Fan sighed inwardly. Cultivation emphasizes fate and sudden enlightenment; a moment of sudden enlightenment can be as rewarding as ten years of hard practice.

Unfortunately, such enlightenment depends on timing and circumstance. With fate not yet in alignment, he could only give up. With a swift move, he emerged from the waterfall and reached the shore. Examining himself, he found that apart from slightly wet soles, no part of his body had been touched by water.

“Brother Ye, your timing in emerging from seclusion is perfect—three days from now is the Inner Sect disciple contest. Are you confident?”

Tong Qianchen blinked her large eyes at Ye Fan, seeming unable to get enough of looking at him. Ye Fan was naturally familiar with such a gaze, having seen it in the eyes of both Su Yuxin and Su Liuli.

Thinking of Su Liuli, a pang hit Ye Fan's heart, and sadness flickered in his gaze.

Tong Qianchen saw it and her heart trembled slightly, unable to resist saying softly, "Brother Ye, what are you thinking? Your eyes look so sad!"

"It's nothing. The Inner Sect disciple contest should be no problem." Ye Fan forced a lighthearted smile and changed the topic.

"I think so too!"

Feeling Ye Fan's confidence in his words, Tong Qianchen smiled.

After all, she was still a little girl inexperienced in the ways of the world, far less adept at concealing emotions compared to Ye Fan.

"Brother Ye, you wouldn't know, but I've often come to see you these days. However, you were always in seclusion, and I dared not call out, fearing to disturb your cultivation..."

The two chatted as they walked, unconsciously making their way to the vicinity of Xuanwu Summit along the paths between the peaks of Xuanwu Mountain.

It was then that Ye Fan suddenly felt someone approaching swiftly. Looking up, he saw Great Elder Wu Xinhai standing before them.

“Greetings, Great Elder!”

Tong Qianchen was very well-behaved and polite, understanding that the Great Elder’s appearance certainly carried words meant for Ye Fan. Though she was reluctant to part from Ye Fan, she wisely said to him, “Brother Ye, I’ll wait for you ahead. You should converse with the Great Elder!”

After speaking, Tong Qianchen bowed to Elder Wu Xinhai and continued onward.

“Sit down!”

Elder Wu Xinhai looked deeply at Ye Fan, as if trying to see through him, then sat on a stone by the path.

Ye Fan knew Wu Xinhai certainly had something to say to him, so he sat down beside him.

“Excellent, it appears you’ve been working hard and have reached the peak state of the True Qi Realm.”

Wu Xinhai's smiling expression gradually became serious. Originally, he expected Ye Fan to show anxiety, but to his surprise, Ye Fan was unmoved, sitting there like a statue.

Nodding silently, Elder Wu Xinhai said, "In two days, the Inner Sect disciple contest will be held, where Inner Sect disciples must compete for those three priority elite disciple spots. My demands are not high; you only need to achieve one goal: if you do not secure first place, do not return!"

"Master, rest assured, the first place among Inner Sect disciples is surely mine!"

Ye Fan smiled with confidence.

Chapter 1090: Aiming for First Place

Two days later, the Inner Sect disciple competition arrived as scheduled. All the Inner Sect disciples, including Ye Fan, received the notification to gather at a small square within the Inner Sect.

This small square gave Ye Fan a feeling akin to an Ancient Roman arena. The square had a diameter of a thousand meters, surrounded by a ring of tiered stands.

The stands were divided into areas of seven colors. According to the common knowledge Tong Qianchen shared with Ye Fan, these colors represented the hierarchy of disciples within the Xuanwu Sect.

The red stands were for Outer Sect disciples, who, while not qualified to participate in the competition, could still attend as spectators.

The orange area was the stands for Inner Sect disciples, also serving as the resting place for the contestants.

The yellow area was for elite disciples, the green for core disciples, the cyan for elders, and the blue was designated for the Sect Leader.

As for the purple area, it remained empty, and even she didn't know for whom it was prepared.

After everyone was seated in order, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao stood up and delivered a speech, which basically expressed hope for the Xuanwu Sect to unite sincerely, thrive, and for the sect's future hopes to rest on the disciples within the sect, etc.

For these official speeches, Ye Fan showed no impatience since he was already used to these long-winded talks back on Earth, having often seen or heard them before.

Once the Sect Leader finished speaking and announced the official start of the Inner Sect disciple competition, Great Elder Wu Xinhai suddenly stood up, glanced at everyone, and his gaze settled on the orange area where Ye Fan and others about to participate were.

"Everyone, I have an announcement. It's well known that Ye Fan is my disciple, the only disciple I have taken on to date..."

Before the Great Elder could finish, murmurs began from below: “What is the Great Elder trying to do? Is he trying to use his influence to secure one of the top three spots for his disciple?”

Ye Fan was also puzzled. According to the Great Elder’s character, he shouldn’t be doing this! And he didn’t need to say it; Ye Fan was already determined to take first place, having stated it before. Could it be he’s reiterating old points?

As everyone was bewildered, they heard the Great Elder continue: “Although Ye Fan is my disciple, he will not be treated specially. I’ll put it out there, in this competition, anyone who can defeat Ye Fan can take his place as my sole disciple...”

Boom...

As these words were spoken, there was an uproar, and no one expected the Great Elder to say such a thing. Everyone looked at Ye Fan with intense war intent, undisguised in their gazes.

The fact that the Great Elder never took on disciples throughout his life was well-known within Xuanwu Sect, and with his protective nature, replacing Ye Fan as his disciple would mean a significant rise in one’s status within the sect.

Though Ye Fan’s performance in the entry test three months ago was dazzling, he hadn’t yet been given much notice by these Inner Sect disciples.

Although his combat power approached the True Yuan Realm, they were no pushovers.

All Inner Sect disciples were at the Peak of the True Qi Realm, on the verge of breaking through to the True Essence Realm, so their combat power could not be underestimated.

Under these hostile gazes, Ye Fan remained calm and unperturbed. He understood that the Great Elder was using this opportunity to block all his escape routes. He needed to take first place and defeat all the Inner Sect disciples.

His aim was set on the first place!

Ye Fan felt no pressure at all, as his true combat power was severely mismatched with his realm, and his extensive combat experience far surpassed that of these Inner Sect disciples.

Just as the Great Elder finished speaking, a sturdy young man sitting fourth from Ye Fan's left side swept his eyes over, letting out a disdainful snort.

This person had a notorious reputation among the Inner Sect disciples, known as Killing God Du Hai. His Magic Artifact was a Mountain Opening Axe, renowned for its tremendous force, especially in attack power, being recognized as unmatched in the Inner Sect.

Du Hai's stature was neither fat nor tall but robust, resembling a marble-carved statue, with an ever-dispassionate gaze indifferent to life and death.

Such an expression could make those inexperienced in large-scale battles tremble in fear. Relying on his formidable attack power and willingness to risk his life, he had emerged among the Inner Sect disciples as the most likely candidate to seize one of the three limited spots in the competition.

Killing God Du Hai's gaze clashed with Ye Fan's, immediately sparking a fiery conflict. Ye Fan's expression remained calm, his eyes as deep as the sea.

"Reckless!"

Killing God Du Hai snorted coldly in his heart, secretly hoping Ye Fan would make it to the finals so he could justifiably defeat him.

Thinking of how he was about to replace Ye Fan and become the envy of all as the Great Elder's disciple, Du Hai felt a surge of excitement.

Sharing the same goal was a lanky young man sitting in front of Ye Fan, who had also been in the Inner Sect for a long time with unfathomable strength.

The tall and slender young man is named Bu Zhuifeng, known for his exceptional speed, using a short knife. When he employs his movement technique, he moves like a specter. No matter how strong an opponent is, if they can't keep up with his speed, they are left helpless.

Once, he set the record for the fastest among the Inner Sect Disciples. His short knife work is exquisite, like the venomous fangs of a snake—when he doesn't strike, it doesn't show, but when he does, it's ruthless and unforgiving, resulting in either death or injury.

Within the entire Inner Sect, the only ones who could compete with him are Du Hai and Hao Jian. Du Hai holds the highest attack power within the Inner Sect, solid and dependable. Though Bu Zhuifeng is fast, his attack power is relatively weaker, unable to overcome Du Hai's strong defense.

However, Du Hai can't do anything to him either, because once Bu Zhuifeng creates distance, Du Hai simply can't catch up, unless in a confined space where he might have a chance to subdue him.

Speaking of attack power alone, Hao Jian is not as good as Du Hai. As for speed, he is no match for Bu Zhuifeng, but his overall strength is on par with the other two. So, before the Inner Sect Disciple Competition even began, everyone was practically certain that the limited spots would inevitably go to these three, though who would take the first place was unknown.

However—

The Great Elder's words introduced a small variable into this competition, and people were extremely curious about how the dark horse, Ye Fan, would perform.

When Du Hai glanced at Ye Fan, Bu Zhuifeng also turned to look at Ye Fan, smiled slightly, and said with a straight face, "I hope you make it to the finals. Don't let me down."

Ye Fan smiled and nodded, "Don't worry, making it to the finals isn't my goal. My goal is to be first."

“What an arrogant brat, full of bluster. But you’re destined to fail. This competition only has three flowers, and you’re just one of the many green leaves.”

A trace of ruthlessness flashed in Bu Zhuifeng’s eyes. He secretly decided that during the competition, he must defeat Ye Fan completely, letting him understand what it means to be a modest and humble Inner Sect Disciple.

At the same time, Hao Jian, known as the “Fatty,” also glanced over at Ye Fan and said coldly, “Aren’t you afraid of biting your tongue with such bold talk? You’re lucky if you make it to the finals. As for first place? Dream on!”

Facing Hao Jian’s provocation, Ye Fan smiled slightly, unfazed.

After all, during his time on Earth, he had encountered many such people.

Not only Hao Jian, but all the participating Inner Sect Disciples were driven by a determination to defeat Ye Fan. Why did he gain the Great Elder’s favor? How did he become the Great Elder’s sole disciple?

This competition provided them the chance to finally prove that they were better than Ye Fan. After all, Ye Fan’s extraordinary entry into the Inner Sect had made them envious to the point of crimson eyes.

This was unprecedented. They all rose from the Outer Sect to be selected into the Inner Sect, except for Ye Fan who skipped the Outer Sect entirely, entering directly into the Inner Sect.

The Great Elder's words not only stirred the minds of the Inner Sect participants but also shocked the Outer Sect Disciples and Elite Disciples.

Even the Core Disciples felt a wave of curiosity toward Ye Fan, puzzled about why the Great Elder spoke this way. Could Ye Fan truly defeat all and leave the Inner Sect Disciples unmatched?

Their gazes at Ye Fan were full of complexity. To join the Sect in his twenties was itself unreasonable, yet his strength was undeniably shocking.

They were the Elite Disciples and Core Disciples but had emerged from the Outer Sect, climbing up bit by bit. Even they were astonished by Ye Fan's performance that day on the testing stele.

However, the elders didn't see it that way. Though their relationship with the Great Elder might not be very harmonious, they knew the Great Elder's temperament.

If the Great Elder spoke like that, it must be because he had immense confidence in Ye Fan. This young man, in the Inner Sect for only three months, might truly have the power to dominate.

In the crowd, Du Hai and Bu Zhuifeng clenched their fists, their eyes burning with fighting spirit, deeply provoked by the Great Elder's words.

Defeating Ye Fan and replacing him as the Great Elder's disciple became their only goal. Entering the ranks of the elite disciples was not a concern.

They knew quite well that becoming an Elite Disciple was a foregone conclusion and no Inner Sect Disciple could compete against them, except Ye Fan, who was the only variable they could not allow.

They intended to use this competition to prove to everyone, especially the Great Elder, that their strength and potential surpassed Ye Fan's, making them more suitable to be the Great Elder's disciple.

Hao Jian squinted his eyes, shooting a fierce glare. Unlike Du Hai and Bu Zhuifeng, his task was to cripple Ye Fan to give some relief to Chu Feng, as well as himself.

The onlooking Outer Sect Disciples, Elite Disciples, and Core Disciples watched Ye Fan with curiosity.

Wondering if this unexpected dark horse, Ye Fan, could surpass them all, defeat the top three recognized Inner Sect experts, and aim for first place!