

Y Master 1101

Chapter 1101: Picking a Fight on Purpose

On the outskirts of the Xuan Beast Forest, there aren't many Xuan Beasts at the True Essence Realm, while many of the elite disciples of the Xuanwu Sect have already reached the True Essence Realm.

So, encountering a Xuan Beast at the True Essence Realm would require some luck, after all, there are too many monks and too little gruel.

Ye Fan's luck wasn't too bad. After hunting down over a dozen Xuan Beasts at the True Qi Realm, he encountered a True Essence Realm Xuan Beast—a Lightning Demon in a small valley.

This type of Xuan Beast is rare in the Xuan Realm, but its strength isn't too great. It's skilled in lightning attacks, reportedly having a Lightning Beast Core in its body.

This Beast Core can't be refined and absorbed, but it can be used in a special way to unleash powerful lightning forces.

It can be said that the Lightning Demon is a rather unconventional Xuan Beast, and once it truly matures, its attack power is extremely formidable.

Ye Fan accidentally stumbled into its territory, and although this Lightning Demon had a strong attack, its danger perception was much worse compared to other Xuan Beasts.

“Aow~”

Seeing that the intruder in its territory was actually a human cultivator at the True Qi Realm, the Lightning Demon got excited; after all, it was rare to encounter a human cultivator at the True Qi Realm here.

This Lightning Demon hadn't grown up yet, and though it was at the True Essence Realm, it had only just stepped into the True Essence Realm as a Xuan Beast.

In its view, as long as it devoured Ye Fan, it could stabilize its realm and even increase its lifespan significantly.

With such benefits, what reason was there not to make a move?

Crack!

The Lightning Demon launched an attack on Ye Fan without hesitation. As it opened its mouth, a lightning bolt as thick as an arm shot straight towards Ye Fan.

Hmm?

Ye Fan's heart skipped a beat; he didn't expect this strange-looking Xuan Beast to actually spit lightning, something he'd never seen before.

The Lightning Demon looked like a tiger, but its body was covered in spots like mold, making it resemble a leopard, though much larger.

Ye Fan had read many ancient texts and had some knowledge about Demons, these legendary mutant beasts, but it was his first time seeing a Demon that could spit lightning.

Whoosh!

No time for Ye Fan to think, the lightning had already reached him. He directly threw a punch, his faint golden fist fiercely smashing into the lightning, instantly shattering it.

In their first exchange, Ye Fan could assess the Lightning Demon's abilities. Although it was at the True Essence Realm, its strength wasn't impressive.

"Beast, meet your end!"

True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts are hard to come by, and naturally, Ye Fan didn't want to miss the opportunity. He launched a punch, seemingly ordinary, but when executed, it held a power that transformed decay into magical strength.

“Roar...”

The Lightning Demon didn't dare slack off, waving its beast claw directly toward Ye Fan's fist, with lightning seemingly surrounding its sharp claws.

Boom!!

Ye Fan's Punch Ray collided with the Lightning Demon's claw light emanated by its beast claw, causing True Qi to burst forth with astonishing power.

“Aow...”

The Lightning Demon cried out miserably, instantly being thrown backward, whereas Ye Fan remained motionless; the outcome was already very clear.

The Lightning Demon was no match for Ye Fan, and even the ability to spit lightning was useless. In the face of absolute power, any form of attack was futile.

Escape!

This was the thought in the Lightning Demon's mind at the moment. The human before it was too powerful, and the strength contained within what appeared to be a slender and weak body induced fear.

Crack!

The Lightning Demon shot another bolt of lightning, then turned to flee, dashing deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest, swearing never to return to the outskirts after escaping this ordeal.

How could Ye Fan allow it to escape? He executed the Wind Shadow Steps and within moments caught up, raising his hand, preparing to deliver the final blow to kill it directly.

“Wicked beast, meet your end!”

At this moment, an angry roar echoed.

“Pfft—”

With the roar, a long spear fell from the sky, piercing the unsuspecting Lightning Demon right through its brain, pinning it to the ground dead, blood spurting wildly.

Hmm?!

This sudden turn of events left Ye Fan stunned; he hadn't expected someone to seize the opportunity to kill the Xuan Beast that rightfully belonged to him?

Whoosh!

While Ye Fan was still in shock, a blue-clothed youth quickly descended using True Qi, landing beside the Lightning Demon's corpse.

The blue-clothed youth grabbed the spear, pulled it out, and retrieved the Beast Core without even glancing at Ye Fan, simply taking it for himself.

"What do you mean? Why did you seize the Xuan Beast I discovered?" Ye Fan frowned and questioned the blue-clothed youth.

The blue-clothed youth snorted coldly, saying, "I seized your Xuan Beast? Are you mistaken? I helped you out of kindness, fearing you'd die at this beast's mouth, and now you question me? Are you trying to repay kindness with ingratitude?"

"You brat, you really don't appreciate kindness!"

"That's right, we should have let you die at that beast's mouth just now!"

After the blue-clothed youth spoke, three more youths arrived, standing with him, looking at Ye Fan coldly, echoing the sentiment, accusing Ye Fan of ingratitude and repaying kindness with ingratitude.

“I could handle it myself, I don’t need your help, please leave!”

Ye Fan could tell these four were definitely not being helpful out of goodwill, harboring bad intentions, and said with some displeasure.

Although he felt quite displeased, Ye Fan also knew that internecine killing among fellow disciples was an absolute taboo in the Xuanwu Sect, a red line that could not be crossed.

Thus, despite his displeasure, he could only endure it, without arguing or conflicting with the four. After he finished speaking, he continued to walk deeper into the forested mountains.

“Hey!”

The four exchanged glances and followed Ye Fan closely behind, keeping a certain distance, yet gradually forming a subtle three-sided encirclement around him.

“The training ground is so vast, if you all want to kill Xuan Beasts for training, please go elsewhere, can you stop following me?”

Ye Fan soon noticed the four behind him, turned around, and restrained the impulse to act as he spoke to them.

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words, the blue-clothed youth spoke with yin and yang sarcasm: "Does this rear mountain belong to you? We can go wherever we want, it's none of your business. You go your way, we go ours, how can you say we're following you?"

"We're following you? Are you joking?"

"Hehe, you should be grateful to be on the same path as us!"

"That's right, with us here, you won't be in any danger at all!"

The other three disciples, in the early-stage True Yuan Realm, also spoke, their expressions cold and mocking.

Ye Fan squinted slightly, stared at them for a few seconds, then quickly headed forward again.

"Roar..."

Quickly, Ye Fan once again discovered a Xuan Beast in the early-stage True Yuan Realm.

It was a huge chameleon, over seven meters long, with scale armor comparable to refined gold.

“A Xuan Beast of the early-stage True Yuan Realm?”

Before Ye Fan could act, the four youths behind him gleamed with excitement and rushed forward, launching an attack on the Xuan Beast.

Under their combined attack, the huge chameleon had no chance to resist and was killed, with its Beast Core taken by the blue-clothed youth.

“Kid, you need to be self-aware; some things you can’t get! Like the Beast Core of this Xuan Beast—it’s precious, but trying to get it could cost you your life!”

Before Ye Fan could speak, the blue-clothed youth came up to him with a contemptuous warning.

Hmm?

Upon hearing these words, Ye Fan faintly understood why these four were competing with him to kill mutant beasts!

In his view, the four were definitely related to Wei Jun, ranked second on the elite disciple rankings, and perhaps to Chu Feng as well, otherwise, the blue-clothed youth wouldn't have said such things.

That was a blatant warning!

"Are you warning me?"

Ye Fan squinted his eyes, his tone chilling.

All along, he disliked being threatened; it was the same on Earth, and it wouldn't change in the Xuan Realm!

"Threats? No, no, no, this is a kindly reminder." The blue-clothed youth said with a smile.

"Kid, your luck isn't bad, keep it up, maybe you'll find more Xuan Beasts in the True Yuan Realm. Rest assured, as long as we're here, no Xuan Beast will harm you!"

Soon after, another disciple in the early-stage True Yuan Realm looked at Ye Fan in ridicule, ruthlessly striking back.

"Haha..."

His words immediately led to mocking laughter from the others, all looking at Ye Fan with a gloating expression.

In a way, Ye Fan's luck was indeed not bad; after entering the rear mountain, he encountered two Xuan Beasts in the True Yuan Realm.

However, luck was useless ultimately, only working for the benefit of the blue-clothed youth and the other three.

At this moment, Ye Fan really wanted to teach the four youths a lesson, but considering the rules of the Xuanwu Sect, he restrained himself once again, continuing to walk forward alone.

"Do you think, having us four escorting a mere entry-level Little Cultivator, will shorten his life?"

The blue-clothed youth continued advancing alongside Ye Fan, speaking to the other three.

"Possibly, very possibly!"

The three laughed loudly, openly disregarding Ye Fan, or perhaps intentionally letting him hear.

Because, in their view, Ye Fan was merely a cultivator at the peak of the True Qi Realm, far from reaching the True Yuan Realm.

Until the day he reaches the True Yuan Realm, he hasn't truly stepped into the cultivation threshold, not even taken seriously by them.

Facing the provocations from the four, Ye Fan frowned but didn't react.

On one hand, the Xuanwu Sect's rules couldn't be violated!

On the other hand, he knew the blue-clothed youth and the other three were dogs of Chu Feng or Wei Jun; for now, he had to endure them, as prematurely breaking with them would make his time in the Xuanwu Sect miserable.

Having made up his mind, Ye Fan continued to advance deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest, hoping to shake off the four; otherwise, however many Xuan Beasts in the True Yuan Realm he found would be killed by them first.

Yet—

Worried about what might come, quickly, Ye Fan encountered another Xuan Beast in the True Yuan Realm, and just like before, before he could act, the blue-clothed youth and the others, like flies smelling blood, rushed in to kill the Xuan Beast ahead of him.

All this confirmed to Ye Fan that the blue-clothed youth and the others were deliberately causing trouble!

Chapter 1102: Killing with Beasts

Although Ye Fan understood that the four blue-clothed youths were here to provoke him, in order to stay at the Xuanwu Sect, he couldn't directly confront them. He could only choose to endure and shake them off.

However—

The four were like sticky sugar, following Ye Fan wherever he went.

Gradually, under their tailing, Ye Fan slowly moved out of the Xuanwu Sect's territory, advancing deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest.

Just like before, the four always followed at a distance. As soon as Ye Fan spotted traces of a Xuan Beast, the four would swarm over like flies, using their numerical advantage to beat Ye Fan to killing the Xuan Beast.

Moreover, after killing a Xuan Beast, they would deliberately tease Ye Fan, claiming they were protecting this junior who had just joined the elite disciples, to prevent him from being eaten alive by powerful Xuan Beasts.

Ye Fan ignored this, but he was also somewhat anxious.

Because, if things continued like this, he would never be able to hunt another Xuan Beast.

Although there were quite a few Xuan Beasts in the Xuan Beast Forest, within the Xuanwu Sect's territory, due to years of hunting, their numbers had drastically decreased.

If many Xuan Beasts hadn't been brought to the outskirts continuously, they might have been wiped out here long ago.

Even so, encountering a True Essence Realm Xuan Beast required some luck, as most Xuan Beasts were only at the True Qi Realm level.

To shake off the four, Ye Fan had no choice but to venture deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest, hoping to kill a few Xuan Beasts before they did, to earn some points.

As Ye Fan gradually left the Xuanwu Sect's territory, moving into the central area of the Xuan Beast Forest, the four's eyes immediately lit up with excitement.

They all knew that Wei Jun wanted them to force Ye Fan out of the Xuanwu Sect's territory, into the depths of the Xuan Beast Forest.

As long as Ye Fan entered the depths of the Xuan Beast Forest, they would have completed the task given by Wei Jun and received unimaginable rewards.

At the thought of receiving a reward from Chu Feng, anticipation appeared on the faces of the four.

They all knew that Wei Jun was Chu Feng's true confidant, with a special status, and indeed had some good things.

Since they completed the task perfectly, the rewards certainly wouldn't be meager.

The four fantasized about what kind of rewards they might receive; it could be Cultivation Techniques, secret techniques, or Spiritual Artifacts, Elixir Pills.

"The kid named Ye is about to leave our Xuanwu Sect's territory, and our task is almost complete." The blue-clothed youth looked at Ye Fan not far ahead and said with a smile to the other three.

"That's right. As long as that kid leaves the sect's area of influence, even if he doesn't die under the fangs and claws of powerful Xuan Beasts, he's very likely to encounter people from the Tianyuan Sect—they dream of capturing him!"

"I don't think he has the fate of being captured by the Tianyuan Sect. Once he enters the depths of the Xuan Beast Forest, those mid-to-late True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts will swallow him alive!"

"I agree. The guy named Ye is overestimating himself. In the Xuanwu Sect, who dares to compete with Brother Chu over a woman? This kid is courting death by getting so close to Junior Sister Tong!"

“If it weren’t for his respect for his identity, Brother Chu would have personally sent this kid to Hell long ago. Letting him die at the hands of Xuan Beasts is already a blessing from his ancestors.”

The four chatted recklessly behind Ye Fan, their voices loud, not caring at all if Ye Fan heard them.

In their view, Ye Fan was already a dead man. As long as they guarded the edge of the Xuanwu Sect’s area of influence, Ye Fan was doomed.

“Hehe, some people just don’t cry until they see the coffin. They don’t even take a look in the mirror and see what they’re like? What strength do they have? Competing with Brother Chu for Junior Sister Tong is like going into a toilet with a lantern, seeking death!” The blue-clothed youth looked at Ye Fan’s back with contempt, not worried at all about being overheard.

Crunch!

Ye Fan clenched his fists, anger flashing in his eyes. He heard the four’s conversation loud and clear. Even if they intended to let him hear, he couldn’t have missed it with his keen ears.

Hmm?

Just as Ye Fan was fuming, he suddenly sensed a mid-True Essence Realm Xuan Beast lurking in the dense forest to his right front.

Moreover, that mid-True Essence Realm Xuan Beast had also detected him and the four blue-clothed youths and was quietly approaching.

“Since you all want me dead, don’t blame me!”

This discovery first startled Ye Fan, then made his heart race, his eyes showing a murderous intent.

Killing with beast!

Returning others’ methods unto them!

Although Ye Fan couldn’t kill the four blue-clothed youths himself, he could use the Xuan Beast to finish them off.

After making the decision, Ye Fan pretended not to know a mid-True Essence Realm Xuan Beast was approaching and walked right towards it.

The four’s spiritual sense was far less keen than Ye Fan’s, completely unaware that danger was stealthily approaching, and they continued joking happily behind Ye Fan.

In their view, to perfectly complete the task, they should give Ye Fan a push deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest, so he wouldn't linger nearby and avoid powerful Xuan Beasts.

Very soon, Ye Fan saw that Xuan Beast of the Mid True Essence Realm.

It was an Iron Armor Bear!

Generally speaking, black bears and brown bears have thick layers of fur and fat, but the Iron Armor Bear is different. Its entire body is covered with black scales, like it was forged with molten iron, full of an awe-inspiring sense of power.

"Roar..."

The Iron Armor Bear roared fiercely, with one slap breaking a giant tree standing in its way, rushing towards Ye Fan with a speed that wasn't compatible with its body, like the wind.

"Save me, Brothers!"

Ye Fan screamed in shock, turned, and fled towards the direction of the four people, shouting for help while escaping.

"Why are you screaming? Seriously, such a coward, just encountering a Xuan Beast makes you scream like this?"

“Right, with just that bit of strength, you want to eat swan meat like a toad? That’s simply a joke.”

“I really don’t know how he luckily defeated Hao Jian and the others. Having such a person among elite disciples is simply a disgrace.”

Ye Fan’s voice instantly alarmed the four blue-clothed youths, who all mocked Ye Fan for being timid like a mouse. Such courage to come out hunting Xuan Beasts is simply a disgrace to the elite disciples.

Ye Fan paid no heed to their ridicule, darting and leaping towards the direction of the four, his speed so fast that they were flabbergasted. This speed... was too fast?

Whoosh! Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye, Ye Fan had already surpassed them, sprinting back along the path.

“Uh...”

The mocking smiles on their faces froze instantly, because they saw that behind Ye Fan, an Iron Armor Bear of Mid True Essence Realm was chasing!

Swish!

Their faces changed dramatically simultaneously!

Because, they knew well the fearsome reputation of the Iron Armor Bear, it was a very troublesome Xuan Beast, its defensive power was terrifying, with black scale armor harder than Super Battle Armor.

At the same time, the Iron Armor Bear's attack power was also horrifying, not only possessing immense strength but also an Innate Beast Skill, the Furious Divine Roar. Weaker individuals could be stunned by just its roar, eventually becoming its food.

Finding that Ye Fan had provoked such a terrifying Xuan Beast, the four even had the urge to slaughter Ye Fan on the spot!

Of course, they knew the most important thing wasn't settling scores with Ye Fan now, but fleeing for their lives—the strongest among them, the blue-clothed youth, was only at Mid True Essence Realm, the other three were merely at Early-stage.

Facing such a strong defense and terrifying attack power of a Xuan Beast, they could only escape, as at the same realm level, a Xuan Beast's strength far exceeds that of human cultivators.

"Ye, you bastard..."

“Did you do this on purpose? Stand still!”

The four blue-clothed youths fled while yelling at Ye Fan’s back, fully aware that even if they joined forces, they would definitely not fare well against the Iron Armor Bear, fleeing slowly might cost them their lives.

At this moment, they hated Ye Fan deep down!

Very soon, they couldn’t even curse anymore!

Because they found out Ye Fan’s speed was even faster than theirs, and the Iron Armor Bear had caught up!

“Don’t you guys love to snatch the Xuan Beasts I discover? Didn’t you want to protect me? As you wish!”

Ye Fan responded.

“Damn it, you’re trying to kill us?!” A disciple at Early-stage True Yuan Realm shouted angrily.

“You go ahead and play with this Iron Armor Bear, I’m not accompanying you!”

Ye Fan sneered, using Wind Shadow Steps, leaving only a shadow behind, seeming to traverse space, appearing far away, his speed stunned the four.

At this moment, the four could no longer bother to rebuke Ye Fan, they all unleashed their fastest speed, escaping in the dense forest.

They didn't dare to fly in the air here, as that would make them a perfect target. There were too many Xuan Beasts in the Xuan Beast Forest, once human cultivators flying in the sky were spotted, they would definitely be attacked from all sides, making escape even more difficult.

"Damn it, until I escape back, I will definitely kill that Ye kid with my own hands!"

The blue-clothed youth fled desperately while secretly fuming, ultimately ignoring the taboo of killing among fellow disciples.

Chapter 1103: Futile Struggle

The four of them were desperately running for their lives, cursing Ye Fan in their hearts, wishing they could grind him to dust.

However—

Despite pushing their speed to the limit, they still couldn't shake off the Iron Armor Bear, which was instead closing in on them.

Seeing this, there was not a hint of mercy on Ye Fan's face.

These four had repeatedly robbed him of his Xuan Beasts along the way and attempted to push him deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest, leaving him to die. They were truly malicious.

How could Ye Fan be merciful in such a situation?

On the contrary, his intention was to use the Iron Armor Bear to take out the four of them!

Soon, the blue-clothed youth and his companions were in despair, initially believing that the massive body of the Iron Armor Bear would surely be its shortcoming in speed.

But with a casual glance back, the blue-clothed youth was almost so frightened he stumbled and fell to the ground.

The Iron Armor Bear was rapidly closing in like a black lightning bolt on all fours, its black scales tightly clinging to its body, maximizing the reduction of air contact and friction.

The other three were scared out of their wits, cursing Ye Fan to a miserable death in their minds, puzzled by the presence of such a powerful Xuan Beast, even though they were nearing the central area of the Xuanshou Mountain Range.

This wasn't the first time the four of them had come here to hunt Xuan Beasts, and they believed they were familiar with the distribution of Xuan Beasts here. They couldn't fathom how such a powerful Mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast appeared.

What frustrated them even more was the ludicrous speed of the Iron Armor Bear, closing to within a hundred meters in just seconds.

There was no escape!

A hundred-meter distance was more than enough for the Iron Armor Bear to launch a fierce attack. They knew that unless they repelled this Iron Armor Bear, none of them would escape.

Thinking of this, the four simultaneously stopped, turning around with despair to face the approaching Iron Armor Bear.

Since escape was impossible, they could only fight with their backs to the wall, leaving their fate to destiny.

Behind them, Ye Fan also stopped. With the four as a rear guard, he wasn't worried in the slightest.

The four naturally knew Ye Fan saw them as cannon fodder, biting their teeth in anger, but there was nothing they could do as they faced the strong attack of the Iron Armor Bear.

“Roar...”

The Iron Armor Bear roared, its voice echoing through the valley, causing the blood and qi in the four to churn, resulting in a moment of dizziness.

Whoosh!

After roaring, the Iron Armor Bear attacked, its thick bear paws pounding towards the four, quickly condensing True Yuan into two real bear paws above them.

The black bear paws, carrying a terrifying aura, were like a mountain, smashing down on their heads.

“No...”

The four screamed in terror, burning their True Yuan in resistance, their blazing light illuminating the sky, wielding swords with sword radiance thick as a barrel, ready to tear through the void.

Clang!!

The sword radiance clashed against the black bear paws, producing a sound of metals clanging.

The Iron Armor Bear's True Yuan-formed Beast Claw was nearly indestructible, completely enveloping the four beneath.

"Boom——"

A loud noise reverberated, the ground trembled, and the black bear paws vanished, leaving a deep pit several meters deep and about three zhang long.

"Cough cough..."

The four, disheveled and grimy, crawled out of the pit, pale-faced with bloodstained lips, clearly injured from the previous confrontation.

So strong!

Ye Fan was also taken aback!

He never expected a Mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast to be so powerful, its Beast Techniques even more formidable.

As Ye Fan was in shock, the blue-clothed youth and the others were seething with hatred, knowing their predicament was entirely because Ye Fan led the wretched Iron Armor Bear their way.

They now loathed Ye Fan to the core, vowing in secret that if they survived, they would report this matter to the Xuanwu Sect's leaders.

Ye Fan's treachery against his fellow disciples was unforgivable and must be punished to set an example.

But before that, their greatest challenge was to survive, for if this Xuan Beast killed them, all other matters were meaningless.

The four struggled to crawl out of the pit, coughing blood as they moved, their burning True Yuan interrupted. If not for their formidable strength and bodies much more powerful than ordinary cultivators, this blow would have cost them their lives.

"Humans, you are too much, wantonly slaughtering my kin, do you really think you are the Great Emperor?"

The Iron Armor Bear did not give chase but instead stood not far away, its divine sense locking onto the four, making them too afraid to make any rash moves.

The blue-clothed youth swallowed with difficulty, trying hard to appear harmless, and respectfully said, "Esteemed strong one, we did not intend to disturb your peace but were framed by others. If you have any grievances, seek revenge on them, it has nothing to do with us!"

As he spoke, the blue-clothed youth pointed deliberately in the direction where Ye Fan was, clearly intending to deflect the trouble and lead the invincible Iron Armor Bear towards Ye Fan, hoping it would attack and kill Ye Fan.

Meanwhile, they planned to seize this opportunity to escape, confident that if given a moment, they could flee, but now the Iron Armor Bear had them locked and they dared not act recklessly.

Ye Fan, having heard their voices, did not hesitate, choosing without delay to quickly flee, leaving this place for them as a battleground.

Ye Fan understood well that the Xuan Beasts of the Xuanshou Mountain Range and the mutant beasts in Earth's Holy Land shared the same instinctual hostility towards humans.

After all, the mutant beasts on Earth had not actually been slaughtered by humans but bore an ingrained resentment.

Here, however, the Xuan Beasts were different. For countless years, human cultivators came to improve their strength, gather medicine, or hunt Xuan Beasts.

Therefore, from their very bones, the Xuan Beasts in this place nurtured a deep hatred against human cultivators, a hatred not easily reconciled with a few words.

Ye Fan suspected that the Iron Armor Bear hadn't immediately started killing, not out of mercy, but because it was already assured of victory, merely toying with the four like a cat playing with mice.

In his view, once he retreated, the four would inevitably be slain by this Iron Armor Bear!

“Humans, don’t think you can fool me. I’ve already smelled the blood of my kind on you, which means not long ago, you killed more than one of their fellow Xuan Beasts.”

The massive head of the Iron Armor Bear stared fiercely at the four, the ferocity in its eyes chilling their spines, raising the hair on their bodies.

However, they were unwilling to just sit and wait for death. Realizing escape was impossible, the four chose to fight to the death.

They knew that the Iron Armor Bear would not spare them no matter what, so the only option was to delay as much as possible.

After all, the Xuanwu Sect was not far, and the recent battle must have alerted nearby fellow disciples also hunting Xuan Beasts. By now someone was likely fetching reinforcements. If they could withstand the Iron Armor Bear’s attacks until the reinforcements arrived, their lives could be saved.

With this thought, the four simultaneously took out a mutton fat jade bottle from their chest, pouring out two Elixir Pills each, and swallowed them down.

These Elixir Pills were called Returning Essence Pill, capable of rapidly restoring the user’s strength to peak condition in a short time, the best choice in a desperate fight.

However, these pills were too overpowering, the aftermath severe. If unable to defeat an opponent after consuming the Returning Essence Pill, the only outcome would be death!

Because once the Returning Essence Pill's effects wore off, for three days, no matter how strong, the cultivator would be left powerless.

At this moment, having taken the Returning Essence Pill, if they still could not escape, what awaited them was a bloody massacre.

After taking the Returning Essence Pill, the aura of the four blue-clothed youth surged, quickly returning to peak condition.

However, they were also aware that even at peak condition, they were certainly no match for such an Iron Armor Bear. Their intention in taking the Returning Essence Pill was not to defeat and kill the Iron Armor Bear, but to use it to escape.

After all, once their power returned to its peak, their combat ability, resistance, and speed would all peak as well.

"Scatter and escape!"

The blue-clothed youth shouted, first bolting in the direction they had come from, reaching the ultimate speed.

The other three knew that if they fled together, none might escape, but if they scattered, perhaps one or two could break away.

With the blue-clothed youth's command, the four split, fleeing in different directions.

"Trying to run? Not that easy!"

The Iron Armor Bear hadn't anticipated the four fleeing without a fight. Slightly stunned, its eyes then gleamed fiercely, letting out a roar as it chased after one Early-stage True Yuan Realm disciple.

With the Iron Armor Bear's speed, that Early-stage True Yuan Realm disciple couldn't escape; in the blink of an eye, he was overtaken.

Bam!

The Iron Armor Bear smacked the Early-stage True Yuan disciple, sending him flying seven or eight zhang away, his bones shattered and barely alive.

Immediately thereafter, it caught up with the other three, similarly leaving them severely injured, close to death.

“Hiss...”

Just then, the blue-clothed youth and the others suddenly noticed another mid-True Essence Realm Xuan Beast appearing not far away.

It was a giant python as thick as a water barrel, swiftly pursuing Ye Fan!

Chapter 1104: You Reap What You Sow

Not only were Qidian and the Blue-clothed Youth group surprised, but even the Iron Armor Bear detected another mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast and looked bewildered.

Since True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts have very strong territorial instincts, two beasts of similar power will never coexist in the same area.

The Xuan Beast pursuing Ye Fan was a giant python, as thick as a water jar. Its body was a vibrant green, with scales the size of bowls, and a jade horn on its head reflecting brilliant sunlight.

“Hiss...”

The old snake had obviously gained wisdom and moved with the wind, with grass and plants automatically parting to make way for its path.

The reason the old snake was pursuing Ye Fan was because he had picked its Spiritual Medicine!

Previously, Ye Fan had moved away but soon caught the scent of a captivating fragrance, leading him to suspect that a Spiritual Medicine must be nearby.

From the fragrance alone, he could judge that the Spiritual Medicine was likely a mature thousand-year-old agave.

This rare ingredient was recorded in the elixir recipe that Elder Xuan had given him to cure Su Liuli.

Such a thousand-year-old agave was an incredibly rare Treasure Medicine. Ye Fan didn't want to miss his chance, and even knowing that such Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures would be guarded by powerful Xuan Beasts, he had to take the risk for Su Liuli.

Ye Fan's luck was good, and he found the agave near a snake hole, directly pulling it up and storing it in a Jade Bottle etched with a spatial Formation.

No sooner had he picked the agave than he startled the old snake, who had been cultivating in the cave. Seeing its agave, which it had guarded for ages, taken away, the snake refused to give up and chased after him with a roar.

An ordinary agave had nothing special, but this thousand-year-old Treasure Medicine had undergone transformation through Sun Essence and Moonlight.

Just as wild beasts mutate through Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the agave underwent a thousand years of Sun Essence and Moonlight, nurtured by the Jade Horned Snake's Life-bound Essence, slowly transforming into a treasure akin to Xiao Long.

This Treasure Medicine could neutralize the Jade Horned Snake's poison, and was crucial for the snake's transformation into a dragon, its guardian for countless ages. Seeing it nearly mature only to be intercepted infuriated the snake.

The Jade Horned Snake could emit potent poison mist, capable of killing man and beast alike with just a hint of intake.

Ye Fan had initially been caught in the poison mist, immediately feeling his head heavy, vision blurred, and True Qi circulation disrupted.

Logically, Ye Fan's Pure Yang Body should have strong toxin resistance, but the old snake's poison was simply too strong for him to bear.

Hiss...

The persistent old snake pursued fiercely, continuously spraying poison liquid behind Ye Fan which sizzled as it corroded stones, releasing black fumes.

As for the vegetation on the ground, even the slightest touch turned it into black water, extraordinarily toxic.

Under Elder Xuan's guidance, Ye Fan plucked a leaf from the agave to hold in his mouth, using it to escape the snake poison thereby avoiding collapse.

Wherever poisonous creatures live, within seven steps will be detoxifying Holy Medicine. The agave, condensed with Sun Essence and Moonlight, along with the snake's Life-bound Jingyu, is the perfect antidote to Jade Horned Snake poison.

Ye Fan soon escaped to a spot not far from Qidian's group, where the Iron Armor Bear lurked with predatory gaze.

Seeing this, Ye Fan decided to strike back!

He had chosen to flee before to leverage the Iron Armor Bear against the Blue-clothed Youth group, but now, if he didn't counterattack, the joint force of the Iron Armor Bear and Jade Horned Snake posed a personal threat.

With the agave leaf in his possession, the deadly poison mist from the Jade Horned Snake no longer menaced Ye Fan.

However, the Jade Horned Snake cultivating to mid True Essence Realm was still incredibly powerful, albeit with limited attack methods.

While its attacks were limited, their power was no less than those of the Iron Armor Bear!

“You wretch, do you really think I’m afraid of you? Today I’ll slaughter you and make snake stew!” Ye Fan halted, turned, and stood firm against the Jade Horned Snake, loudly declaring.

“Uh...”

Hearing Ye Fan’s words and seeing his fearless stance against the Jade Horned Snake, the Blue-clothed Youth group was all shocked and left speechless, forgetting to escape.

Swish!

Simultaneously, the Jade Horned Snake dashed forward, its massive head raised high, ejecting a dense black poison mist, then opening its mouth wide to bite Ye Fan’s waist with sharp fangs.

“Humph!”

Ye Fan coldly snorted, releasing a sudden surge of aura. His golden bones radiated golden light, appearing in the poison mist like a miniature Golden Arhat.

“Azure Sky Overlord Blood!”

Ye Fan shouted, punching the snakehead, stirring up Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi into fury, blending it with his Blood Qi and True Qi, swiftly forming a golden fist that struck the snakehead forcefully.

Boom!!

With a loud boom, Ye Fan remained motionless, while the Jade Horned Snake's head was lifted upward and lost two sharp poison fangs.

Swish!

Wounded, the Jade Horned Snake swung its tail back, trying to coil around Ye Fan.

Having lived for countless years and possessing mid True Essence Realm cultivation, the Jade Horned Snake had immensely powerful Physical Strength, especially its coiling, which was its forte, capable of limitless strength. If Ye Fan were ensnared, his bones and tendons would surely break. Even his Nine Heavens Profound Body couldn't withstand such forceful coiling.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan knew this and wouldn't wait passively; he quickly moved his feet and ferociously punched the snake's body with his golden fist.

Thump!

With a muffled sound, Ye Fan's Iron Fist broke through the Jade Horned Snake's Protective True Essence, giving its tough snake skin a bloody hole.

The Jade Horned Snake was wounded!

Instantly, as the snake coiled closer, Ye Fan employed his movement technique, dodging skillfully unscathed.

"Uh..."

Seeing this scene, the four blue-clothed youth were completely stunned!

They stared wide-eyed, motionless, at the unharmed Ye Fan, as if asking: How... how is this possible?!

Both were Mid True Essence Realm, even if the Jade Horned Snake's strength was not equal to the Iron Armor Bear, it was not far off, yet Ye Fan could suppress it in battle. This... simply made them unable to believe it!

Can't believe it?

“Hiss hiss...”

The Jade Horned Snake hissed in pain, its eyes had turned crimson red, flashing with hatred.

Ye Fan roared fiercely, appearing ghostly like at the tail of the Jade Horned Snake, and with both hands clasped, he grabbed the tail, his fingers digging into the flesh.

“Die for me!”

Ye Fan urged the True Qi within his body, which instantly boiled, transforming his arms into a crimson gold hue, Divine Power surged, shaking it vigorously, causing the Jingyu Horned Snake to tremble all over.

Next, Ye Fan seemed to be possessed by a Heavenly God, stomped powerfully into the ground, exerting strength in his arms, forcibly swung the Jade Horned Snake into the air, circled it three times, and then smashed it onto the stone wall beside.

Bang!

With a loud crash, the entire valley seemed to quake, startling nearby birds and beasts into fleeing.

The Jade Horned Snake was hit so hard by Ye Fan that its joints almost came apart, one of its eyes burst out, and half of its head was smashed in.

This blow completely stunned the Jade Horned Snake, unable to recover for a long time, but Ye Fan wouldn't give it the chance to recover, arriving directly at the snake's head, a short knife appearing in his hand with a flick.

Swoosh!

Under Ye Fan's True Qi urging, the short knife sliced into the Jade Horned Snake's head like a hot knife into butter, forcefully tearing off its jade horn from the root.

This jade horn stored a large amount of Sun Essence and Moonlight—the core essence of its future dragon transformation—and was very precious, even more so than the beast core.

With its head pierced, even with the tenacious life force of the Jade Horned Snake, it was undoubtedly dead, and Ye Fan directly extracted its beast core.

During the extraction of the beast core, Ye Fan unexpectedly discovered a blue pearl beside its gall, very round and smooth, with what seemed like blue liquid circulating inside.

"Boy, your luck is truly exceptional. Keep this pearl well. It is an antidote pill, with it, you could say you're impervious to all poisons in the future, common poisons won't be able to harm you!" Elder Xuan suddenly transmitted through mind.

Ye Fan was stunned at first, then hurriedly kept the antidote pill.

“He... he actually killed that old Mid True Essence Realm snake with his bare hands?”

The blue-clothed youth widened his eyes, filled with astonishment, unable to believe everything happening before him.

Because, if it were him, he wouldn't be able to achieve any of this, and would likely die at the hands of the Jade Horned Snake.

Moreover, in his view, even other Mid True Essence Realm disciples from the Xuanwu Sect couldn't accomplish this—it's a consensus that Xuan Beast's strength in the same realm surpasses cultivators, except for those true genius cultivators!

Yet Ye Fan hasn't even broken through to the True Essence Realm...

If he was like this, what about the other three True Essence Realm?

“Junior Brother Ye Fan, help!”

After the shock, the blue-clothed youth suddenly had a thought, calling out while moving towards Ye Fan, hoping to get help from him.

“Junior Brother Ye Fan, please save us!”

“Junior Brother Ye, no no no, Senior Brother Ye, please save us!”

With his call, the other three promptly came to their senses, knowing only Ye Fan could save them, or else they would surely die, and they shouted out for help as well.

At this moment, they completely forgot what kind of faces they showed to Ye Fan before, only desiring to survive.

Hearing their cries for help, Ye Fan coldly glanced at them, expressionless, and said, “You still need me to protect you? If I remember correctly, you kept saying you would protect me!”

“Junior Brother Ye Fan, we were wrong, please be merciful and save us...”

Hearing Ye Fan’s words, the four blue-clothed youths understood Ye Fan likely knew their scheme, their faces turned ashen, and one Early-stage True Yuan Realm disciple stiffened his head and continued to plead.

“Roar~”

At this moment, the Iron Armor Bear approached, roaring, its heavy paw covering the sky as it slapped towards the four.

Thud!

With a muffled sound, blood splattered.

The four blue-clothed youths were directly crushed into a pile of flesh by the Iron Armor Bear, dying on the spot!

“Heaven’s sins may be forgiven, one’s own cannot...”

Ye Fan murmured to himself, without a trace of emotional fluctuation on his face.

Chapter 1105: Unable to Let Go

“Human, you too shall die!”

After slapping the four blue-clothed youths to death, the Iron Armor Bear set its sights on Ye Fan, revealing its menacing fangs, its blood-red tongue dripping with drool as it approached Ye Fan.

It also knew Ye Fan was the most powerful of the five, having witnessed Ye Fan kill the Jade Horned Snake not long ago.

However, having reached the mid True Essence Realm, the Iron Armor Bear's intelligence was not to be underestimated.

It firmly believed that Ye Fan was surely at the end of his strength; after all, he was only at the Peak of True Qi Realm, and slaying a mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast must have been his limit.

Moreover, the strength of the Jade Horned Snake should not be underestimated. Although Ye Fan managed to kill it, he must have exhausted himself greatly.

The human Cultivator capable of defeating others beyond their level must possess vast Life Essence Energy in his body, which the Iron Armor Bear didn't want to pass up.

"If you want to kill me, then come on, but I'm afraid you'll end up like that old snake!"

Ye Fan's eyes shone with a compelling light; slaying the Jade Horned Snake in one fight gave him a clear understanding of his own power.

Although the Iron Armor Bear was formidable, its innate ability to create Soul Shock through its Furious Divine Roar was completely ineffective against Ye Fan. His Soul's solidity far surpassed other Cultivators of the same realm.

Especially with the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown protecting him, Ye Fan was not at all worried about attacks like Soul Impact, as they had no effect on him whatsoever.

“I don’t believe you have the strength for another fight; your flesh must be incredibly delicious. Once I kill you, that crystal from the old snake will be mine too!”

The Iron Armor Bear let out a sky-shaking roar, echoing for hundreds of miles. The entire valley seemed to be swept by a hurricane, with twigs and leaves swirling in all directions.

Bam!

Immediately afterwards, the Iron Armor Bear stomped fiercely, splitting the ground open, and shot towards Ye Fan like a cannonball.

Ye Fan let out a mighty shout, True Qi instantly igniting. Facing the Iron Armor Bear, a Xuan Beast with formidable defense, he dared not hold back at all.

“Domineering Fist!”

Ye Fan stomped his feet hard, rushing towards the Iron Armor Bear at high speed, his right fist swinging up fiercely.

Hmm?!

A trace of surprise flashed in the Iron Armor Bear's eyes, not knowing where this insignificant human found the courage to charge directly at it.

Whoosh——

At that moment...

The surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi suddenly surged, as if attracted by a massive force, converging towards Ye Fan's fist like a funnel.

In an instant, Ye Fan's Punch Ray solidified and, with supreme pressure, collided fiercely with the Iron Armor Bear's bear palms.

Boom!!!

A thunderous crash exploded between Ye Fan's fist and the Iron Armor Bear's bear palms. Ye Fan flew back in mid-air for dozens of meters before managing to stabilize himself, a pair of Golden Feather Wings spreading instantly to slow his descent.

"Ow~"

The Iron Armor Bear let out an earth-shattering wail, with its bear palms exploding instantly, blood mist spreading and flesh flying everywhere.

Following that, the Iron Armor Bear's arms also exploded, and finally, its entire body was torn to pieces in mid-air, dying a miserable death.

A fist-sized Beast Core floated in the air, filled with strong unwillingness as it slowly fell toward the ground.

With a thought, Ye Fan turned into a stream of Golden Light, rushing beneath the Beast Core, opening his large hand. His palm dripped with pale golden blood, clearly suffering significant backlash.

After all, the Iron Armor Bear was a powerful mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast, and its final counterattack was terrifying indeed.

"Hoo~"

Receiving the Beast Core in his hand, Ye Fan let out a long breath, then found a hidden place and entered the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to operate and heal his injuries.

Half an hour later, Ye Fan emerged from the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown and, after a brief contemplation, walked straight toward the deeper parts!

He knew that, although the four blue-clothed youths were killed by the Iron Armor Bear, Chu Feng might have found others to obstruct him.

Only by going deeper into the Xuan Beast Forest could he ensure that those trying to stop him would not follow, and he also had plans of his own!

In just one day, Ye Fan's contribution value, or points, skyrocketed, surpassing the elite disciples one by one, leaving them far behind.

While slaying Xuan Beasts, Ye Fan quickly advanced into the depths of the Xuan Beast Forest, and he hardly encountered a mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beast.

After all, Xuan Beasts in the mid True Essence Realm are already quite powerful and are not something one comes across frequently. Encountering the Jade Horned Snake and Iron Armor Bear before was purely luck, and such luck couldn't always be by Ye Fan's side.

Furthermore, after slaying two mid True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts, Ye Fan was stained with the blood of these powerful Xuan Beasts, emitting an aura that made other Xuan Beasts avoid him from afar.

On the third day at noon, Ye Fan easily slew an early-stage True Yuan Realm Xuan Beast in a valley and then started a fire to roast Xuan Beast meat to satisfy his hunger.

After eating the roast meat, Ye Fan entered the Virtual Space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, where Elder Xuan was standing right at the entrance waiting for him.

“Elder Xuan, I want to go to the vicinity of the space passage to see if there’s anything unusual!” Ye Fan shared his thoughts and plans with Elder Xuan.

Upon hearing this, Elder Xuan was silent for a moment, then said, “I understand your thoughts, but I do not agree with your decision.”

“There are two reasons: first, on the way to the space passage, you’re bound to encounter numerous Xuan Beasts, among which there are many extremely powerful ones, far exceeding the Iron Armor Bear, and with your current strength, you won’t be able to protect yourself and might not survive to get there!”

“Second, you are not the only one who knows the exact location of the space passage—so does the Tianyuan Sect. I am worried that the Tianyuan Sect will not give up on the space passage and will definitely post strong people in that area. If you recklessly go there and are discovered by the strong people of the Tianyuan Sect, the consequences would be unimaginable!”

Ye Fan fell silent. He knew that everything Elder Xuan said was true, and the space passage was indeed too important to the Tianyuan Sect, making it impossible for them to leave it.

Yet he couldn’t rest easy; the space passage meant too much to him, and if discovered, Earth would be doomed.

The longer he stayed in the Xuan Realm, the deeper his understanding of this world, and the more he realized how weak Earth was!

When on Earth, Ye Fan thought Yan and his master Chu Xuanji were the top strong people in the world.

However—

Yan's cultivation in the Xuan Realm was not even as good as a teenager's, and this gap was so vast that it filled Ye Fan with worry!

If the secret of the space passage were to be exposed, Earth would be like a delicious big cake; how could the Sects of the Xuan Realm resist taking a bite?

Weighing the pros and cons repeatedly, Ye Fan still decided to go and take a look, but he hadn't completely ignored Elder Xuan's advice, as Elder Xuan would not harm him.

Ye Fan decided to be as concealed as possible, to sneak over and take a look, and if there was nothing unusual about the space passage, to return quickly.

The space passage sealed by the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was indeed not very secure, and currently, there was no power on Earth that could suppress the cultivators of the Xuan Realm, not even the strongest, Chu Xuanji.

There were too many things Ye Fan couldn't let go of on Earth—family, friendship, love...

Ye Fan is not a heartless person; for the safety of Earth, for his family and brothers, for his beloved woman, he had to go and take a look.

When Elder Xuan learned of Ye Fan's decision, he sighed softly, a complex expression appearing on his face. Ye Fan's talent, comprehension, and aptitude were one in ten thousand.

But he also had a fatal weakness, which perhaps couldn't be called a weakness, because it was precisely his strength—his deep feelings and loyalty, his inability to let go of certain things.

Ye Fan's attachment to his relatives and friends became a strong driving force for his advancement in Supreme Martial Arts but also posed a fatal weakness.

If an opponent learned of his weakness, they could exploit it and put him to death.

After deciding, Ye Fan hesitated no longer and quickly headed towards the small valley where the space passage was located.

He didn't dare to fly boldly overhead directly, instead choosing to move forward while searching on the ground.

If he flew in the air, it would be like pointing out a target for the powerful Xuan Beasts to strike, essentially making himself a living target.

The blue-clothed youth and his group of four understood this principle, and so did Ye Fan. Although his speed was frightening, the Xuan Realm was not Earth, and the speed of powerful flying Xuan Beasts was also very fast.

Once entangled, other powerful Xuan Beasts would inevitably come rushing over. If surrounded, not even the Sect Leader of the Xuanwu Sect might be able to escape safely.

On the ground, it was different; in the Xuan Beast Forest, the ancient trees formed a wolf forest, with dense shade covering the sky and sun. As long as he concealed his aura, the flying Xuan Beasts in the sky couldn't possibly discover the human cultivators on the ground.

Besides, even if discovered, they wouldn't dare come down recklessly; their advantage lay in the air, and there existed strong Xuan Beasts on the ground as well.

Xuan Beasts do not peacefully coexist with each other. In the Xuan Beast Forest, the law of the jungle is the only law of survival – the weak are prey to the strong!

Just as Ye Fan was in the Xuan Beast Forest, the Xuanwu Sect was in turmoil...

Chapter 1106: Internal Strife and External Threats

The reason for the shock among the Xuanwu Sect's upper echelons is very simple—the soul lamps of the four blue-clothed youths have gone out!

Every disciple of the Xuanwu Sect, whether an inner or outer sect disciple, leaves a soul lamp in the Lamp Hall when they go out to complete tasks or train.

This soul lamp is mystically connected to the cultivator. If the person dies, the lamp goes out; as long as the soul lamp remains lit, it means the disciple out on training or assignments is safe.

Once the soul lamp goes out, it means the disciple no longer exists. The person guarding the soul lamps is a veteran elder of the Xuanwu Sect.

This elder is accustomed to seeing soul lamps extinguish, given the manifold crises in the Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent. Even core disciples cannot always avoid unforeseen dangers leading to their demise, let alone some of the outer sect disciples with less strength.

However, there's still a difference between the inner and outer sects. The outer sect has its own Lamp Hall, though it is not as significant as that of the inner sect.

On this day, the elder in charge of the inner sect's Lamp Hall was shocked to find four soul lamps extinguished simultaneously. Checking their positions, they turned out to be elite disciples.

This was a major event, and the elder did not dare delay, quickly reporting to Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, who immediately sought out the four's masters to inquire about their whereabouts.

The masters of the four, upon hearing that their prized disciples' soul lamps had been extinguished, were stunned for a while before they explained to Tong Tianhao that the four had gone to hunt Xuan Beasts at the border of the rear mountains and the Xuan Beast Forest to earn sect contribution value.

They were both surprised and puzzled by the deaths of the four.

Because, although there are often Xuan Beasts at the border of the Xuan Beast Forest and the rear mountains of the Xuanwu Sect, there aren't any powerful enough to simultaneously kill the four, unless they ventured deep into the Xuan Beast Forest and encountered powerful Xuan Beasts.

This incident left Tong Tianhao deeply worried. He immediately consulted with several elders and decided to convey orders to all disciples currently training and hunting Xuan Beasts.

The meeting resolved to strictly forbid all disciples training or hunting Xuan Beasts in the rear mountains from venturing into the Xuan Beast Forest, even if they are only allowed to hunt some weaker Xuan Beasts at the peak of the True Qi Realm.

Since Ye Fan also went to the rear mountains, Great Elder Wu Xinhai participated in this decision, which he would not usually attend.

The meeting was not yet over when Wu Xinhai suddenly left and rushed to the Lamp Hall to check on Ye Fan's soul lamp.

"Uncle Wu, wait for me!"

Just as Wu Xinhai was heading towards the Lamp Hall, Tong Qianchen's voice came from behind. She had also heard the news about the extinguished soul lamps of the four blue-clothed youths and was rushing to the Lamp Hall, deeply concerned about Ye Fan's safety.

“Little girl, why aren’t you cultivating properly? Why are you running around?”

Wu Xinhai was also aware that Tong Qianchen liked Ye Fan. Having lived for endless years, his eyes had seen countless people. Tong Qianchen, after all, is still a young girl without much scheming; whatever she thinks is displayed right on her face.

This kind of person is driven by emotions, meaning that anyone with a bit of experience can tell what she’s thinking just by looking at her expression.

“Uncle Wu, I’m worried about Brother Ye’s safety and want to see how his soul lamp is doing. Aren’t you worried too?”

Tong Qianchen had no time to argue with Wu Xinhai as the two hurriedly arrived at the Lamp Hall, only relaxing slightly when they saw Ye Fan’s soul lamp was fine.

“Uncle Wu, do you think Brother Ye might venture deep into the Xuan Beast Forest to hunt Xuan Beasts?” Tong Qianchen asked Wu Xinhai with a worried look.

Wu Xinhai smiled wryly. He barely needed to guess to know that Ye Fan would definitely venture deep into the Xuan Beast Forest to hunt stronger Xuan Beasts.

The reason is simple: there’s less than two months left until the Elite Disciple Competition, and for Ye Fan to qualify to participate, he must rank within the top thirty-six in contribution value.

However—

The contribution values of those top thirty-six elite disciples have accumulated over many years, so how could Ye Fan easily catch up?

The only way for Ye Fan to quickly qualify for the Elite Disciple Competition in a short time is by attempting to kill strong Xuan Beasts to quickly gain contribution value.

And there are no strong Xuan Beasts in the rear mountains. This decision is also made to ensure the safety of the sect's disciples. To hunt stronger Xuan Beasts, one must venture deep into the Xuan Beast Forest.

"I just hope this boy doesn't go crazy..."

Great Elder Wu Xinhai sighed and murmured, knowing well that this was almost impossible.

"Great Emperor bless, Brother Ye Fan will definitely be alright!" Tong Qianchen also silently prayed for Ye Fan in her heart.

...

The Xuanwu Sect covers a vast area; just the inner sect alone spans several hundred square kilometers, with disciples scattered throughout, like stars.

In a secluded area of the Xuanwu Sect, two young men stood with their hands behind their backs, their clothes fluttering in the mountaintop breeze, looking as if they were surveying the land below.

These two were Wei Jun, ranked second on the elite disciple leaderboard, and core disciple Chu Feng.

“Brother Chu, I have already inquired with other disciples who are training. According to them, there was no trace of that boy in the rear mountains.”

Wei Jun spoke respectfully to Chu Feng, “I estimate, even if that boy didn’t die, and managed to escape into the depths of the Xuan Beast Forest, he will ultimately be hard-pressed to avoid death!”

“Oh? Share your reasoning!”

Chu Feng’s eyes glinted with hatred, his mind clouded by jealousy, as he turned to Wei Jun.

“It’s simple. His cultivation level is only the Peak of True Qi Realm, while deep within the Xuan Beast Forest, there are plenty of Xuan Beasts at the True Essence Realm, and even those surpassing the True Essence Realm.”

“Moreover, the Tianyuan Sect is determined to get that kid — last time Helian Chang suffered a huge setback at our place, losing face completely; how could they let it go?”

“I estimate that he’s already dispatched strong people to monitor the kid’s every move nearby. I believe that as soon as he steps out of the sect’s influence, whether he encounters a powerful Xuan Beast or runs into a disciple of the Tianyuan Sect, the final result will be certain death!”

“What you said makes sense, you’ve done well with this matter!”

Chu Feng nodded with a smile. Although Ye Fan hasn’t died yet, he agreed with what Wei Jun said, as if he could already see the tragic death of Ye Fan, smiling quite happily.

“Brother Chu, you won’t just express gratitude verbally, will you?” Wei Jun also smiled along.

“You brat...”

Chu Feng laughed and scolded, saying, “Don’t worry, if you work for me, the benefits will definitely not be lacking for you. When have you seen me treat those who worked for me unfairly?”

Saying this, Chu Feng magically produced a booklet, the paper already yellowed, looking quite aged.

“Here, this is your reward. Work hard for me, I won’t shortchange you.”

Wei Jun quickly took the booklet and carefully opened the cover page, glanced at it, and instantly said with a face full of excitement, “Mid Earth-level martial arts technique? It’s actually a Mid Earth-level martial arts technique?”

No wonder Wei Jun was so excited. After all, martial arts techniques at the Earth-level are already very rare, and Mid Earth-level martial arts techniques are even harder to come by.

In the Xuan Realm, martial arts techniques and cultivation techniques are divided into four levels: The heavens and the earth are mysterious and yellow. Especially in martial arts techniques, the division is even more detailed.

For martial arts techniques rated in the heavens-the earth are mysterious and yellow four levels, each level is further divided into Low Grade, Mid-Grade, Upper Grade, Top-grade, four tiers.

Among the Xuanwu Sect disciples, those with Xuan-level martial arts techniques are a rarity, let alone those with Earth-level martial arts techniques?

In this situation, how could Wei Jun not be excited?

Relying on this Mid Earth-level martial arts technique, he can definitely overpower the elite disciple first, thereby gaining the qualification to challenge the core disciples.

“Satisfied, I am very satisfied. With this Mid Earth-level martial arts technique, Brother Chu, whatever you need in the future, just say the word, I won’t hesitate to help.” Wei Jun patted his chest dramatically, showing his loyalty.

...

Meanwhile, deep in the Xuan Beast Forest, in an unremarkable canyon, four figures were moving about constantly.

Among them, the leader was none other than Gu Yun, who once accidentally entered the geographical passageway and survived for a period on Earth. The identities of the other three were naturally obvious, being disciples of the Tianyuan Sect.

Gu Yun was ordered to lead three mid True Essence Realm senior brothers to a canyon, a necessary route for connecting Earth and the Xuan Realm, from the Xuanwu Sect.

This canyon is the throat of the inevitable path; as long as they guard the canyon, any movement from the Xuanwu Sect could not escape their surveillance.

This was an order from Helian Chang, the sect leader of Tianyuan Sect, instructing the four to guard it again, firstly to steal intelligence, to monitor Xuanwu Sect’s movements. Secondly, it was to capture Ye Fan alive.

Because according to Helian Chang’s reasoning, if Ye Fan were to inform Tong Tianhao about the geographical passageway, Tong Tianhao would absolutely not remain indifferent; he would definitely send people to inspect the small valley containing the passageway.

Even if Ye Fan does not tell Tong Tianhao this secret, nor tell the Xuanwu Sect, he might still occasionally check the geographical passageway.

As long as Ye Fan can be captured alive, they can extract the current status and specific location of the geographical passageway from Ye Fan.

And once the accurate information of the geographical passageway is obtained, Earth for Helian Chang would be just a thing in the bag!

In addition, Gu Yun and the four also carried another mission, which was to hunt Xuanwu Sect disciples — Xuanwu Sect's rear mountains connect with the Xuan Beast Forest, and Xuanwu Sect disciples come out for training, they will inevitably go to the rear mountains to hunt Xuan Beasts.

Once these disciples leave the sphere of influence of Xuanwu Sect, Gu Yun and the four can hunt them, weakening Xuanwu Sect's strength.

"Senior Brother Gu, we've been here for half a month, yet haven't seen anyone come, not even a single Xuanwu Sect disciple; do you think that guy named Ye Fan will come?"

A young cultivator clad in a grey cloth long shirt complained to Gu Yun; all these days, besides occasionally hunting a couple of Xuan Beasts, they were patrolling here, and he was getting sick of it.

"Someone's coming!"

At this moment, Gu Yun suddenly sensed an aura rapidly approaching this place!

Chapter 1107: Encirclement and Pursuit

The Xuan Beast Forest was shrouded in spiritual energy, nourishing the dense growth of trees, with some old vines twisting around trunks like ancient dragons.

Amidst the mountain forest, various spirit grasses rare on Earth grew at will, emitting bursts of fragrance.

However, most of these spirit grasses were less than ten years old. It wasn't due to a lack of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, but because these grasses couldn't withstand too much spiritual energy and would naturally wither after seven or eight years, causing the accumulated Primordial Qi to dissipate back into the air.

Of course, some herbivorous or omnivorous Xuan Beasts would also eat these spirit grasses. Although the grasses contained little Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and plant Essence Qi, even a small mosquito is still meat, isn't it?

If these spirit grasses were on Earth, they would likely have been completely taken away.

However, in Ye Fan's eyes, these spirit grasses were almost no different from ordinary weeds because the Heaven and Earth Essence Qi they contained was extremely limited, like a drop in the ocean for him.

Perhaps a treasure medicine with a century-old medicinal age might be worth considering, yet he had no interest in picking these spirit grasses that weren't even ten years old.

While traveling, Ye Fan cast his spiritual sense outward, ensuring that nothing within a hundred meters escaped his spiritual awareness.

Even with closed eyes, he could see clearly, showcasing the benefits of a powerful spiritual sense. With such strong spiritual sense, Ye Fan could always preemptively discover lurking Xuan Beasts and catch them off guard.

He had already counter-ambushed more than a dozen Xuan Beasts that tried to plot against him, increasingly valuing the strengths of his spiritual sense.

While speeding forward, Elder Xuan's voice suddenly echoed in his mind: "Boy, stop. Two kilometers ahead, there are four cultivators. One is at the Late-stage True Yuan Realm, and the other three are likely at the Mid True Essence Realm. You are no match for them. Avoid them quickly."

Startled, Ye Fan halted abruptly, gazing forward suspiciously but saw nothing.

However, if Elder Xuan said there were four cultivators, then there must be!

Since entering the Xuan Realm, Ye Fan increasingly felt Elder Xuan's unfathomable power, even though he hadn't fully recovered. His spiritual sense was certainly much stronger than his own.

Ye Fan had no doubt about Elder Xuan's words, and within that moment, he had basically identified the identity of the four ahead.

The Xuanwu Sect wouldn't place guards here; it must be the Tianyuan Sect doing so, their intention to ambush him in a certain small valley quite clear.

Weighing the pros and cons, Ye Fan decided not to confront these four head-on but instead sought other ways to pass through the gorge.

Because, after several intense battles, Ye Fan was very clear about his own strength. He knew that his actual combat power differed from his realm, but no matter how strong, he couldn't take on four opponents at once.

If there were only one Mid True Essence Realm opponent, it wouldn't be frightening. He believed that with his power, he could easily defeat an ordinary strong person in the Mid True Essence Realm.

But if he encountered someone at the Late-stage True Yuan Realm, it would be a desperate fight, with victory uncertain.

If the opponent possessed powerful martial arts, he would undoubtedly be in life-threatening danger, a risk he wasn't willing to take.

Moreover, if he got entangled with the Late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator, the other three joining in would leave him no chance at all, likely resulting in his capture or brutal extermination.

Just as Ye Fan resolved to avoid a direct clash with the group, Gu Yun and the other three hurried toward him at high speed.

Having discovered the secret of the spatial passage, Gu Yun's importance in the Tianyuan Sect rose dramatically, surpassing that of regular elders.

In such circumstances, Helian Chang spared no expense on Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, asking the sect's top elixir master to craft a batch of Elixir Pills for Gu Yun, forcibly advancing him from Mid True Essence Realm to Late-stage True Yuan Realm in three months, crossing into a new Xiao realm.

The realm upgrade, sudden strength surge, and elevated identity rapidly inflated Gu Yun's confidence to a point of haughty arrogance.

The other three were a bit envious but understood the mission's importance, so they followed Gu Yun's lead.

The four quickly passed through the dense forest before the gorge. As they emerged from the forest, Gu Yun's eyes lit up, spotting Ye Fan turning to escape towards the direction of the Xuanwu Sect. He immediately pursued with exhilaration, like blood coursing through him.

"That person is Ye Fan, chase quickly!"

Gu Yun bellowed, taking the lead and chasing after Ye Fan with lightning speed.

The other three, upon hearing the target was the young man from Earth, also got excited and chased fervently.

Ye Fan had guessed his pursuers might be experts from the Tianyuan Sect but hadn't expected them to include Gu Yun!

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, Ye Fan's feet shifted, and he fled swiftly—there were four people, each exceeding his realm by two levels, especially Gu Yun, who had reached a terrifying Late-stage True Yuan Realm, surpassing him by three Xiao realms.

The so-called reverse fight against immortals, crossing one Xiao realm is already very rare; fighting across three Xiao realms is seldom achieved throughout history, even in the Xuan Realm.

Of course, it wasn't that no one could achieve it; those Great Emperors, even before becoming Emperor Cheng, were often demon-level geniuses capable of such feats.

Ye Fan unleashed Wind Shadow Steps, like a gust of wind, his speed soaring to the extreme. Even though he was running on the ground without flying, his speed was faster than flying.

"How is this kid so fast?"

As soon as Ye Fan picked up his speed, he left the other three stunned. Although their cultivation was stronger and their realm higher, their speed in the jungle was far inferior, and even if they exerted all their strength, the gap quickly widened.

“Ye kid, you can’t escape, just surrender peacefully. I won’t harm you!”

Gu Yun’s speed was much faster than the other three. From the beginning, he took the lead, always following Ye Fan’s silhouette closely.

The other three were quite provoked. Clearly, Ye Fan’s realm was not as high as theirs, yet why was his speed faster than the three of them?

It’s clear that Ye Fan must have cultivated some martial arts or step technique specifically to enhance speed, otherwise he couldn’t be this fast.

Being left behind by a little cultivator whose realm was far inferior, and the distance between them gradually widening, made the three extremely displeased, almost pushing themselves to their limits, barely keeping up.

The terrain of Xuan Beast Forest was exceptionally complex, bringing great inconvenience to Gu Yun and the other three’s pursuit, several times almost losing him.

“You can’t escape!”

Gu Yun was burning with anger, fearing that losing the chase would mean all efforts gone to waste, unable to explain when returning!

No reply, Ye Fan almost pushed his speed to the limit, seemingly surpassing the spatial constraints, his figure flashed several yards away.

Countless trees and the old vines sprawling everywhere in Xuan Beast Forest posed a considerable hassle for Ye Fan, but these vines could similarly delay Gu Yun and the other three's chasing speed.

Swish swish...

The trees swiftly retreated behind, Ye Fan's speed reached an unprecedented level, yet still couldn't shake off the pursuing four.

"Kid, if you have the guts, stop running, I'll tear you apart!" A disciple from Tianyuan Sect shouted angrily.

"If it were just you, I could kill you with one hand! Bullying with numbers, Tianyuan Sect's face is absolutely tarnished by you."

Ye Fan refused to yield, running and striking back, causing the other three to grind their teeth furiously.

But Gu Yun was very composed, silently pursuing with all his might, determined to catch Ye Fan.

Because he knew, missing this once-in-a-lifetime chance would make capturing Ye Fan as hard as reaching the blue sky.

“With your speed, it’s impossible to catch me!” Ye Fan deliberately used words to provoke Gu Yun and the other three, trying to disturb their minds.

“Brat! When I catch you, I’ll rip your tendons and skin off, make you wish for death!”

Wearing a gray cloth long robe, the youth roared with eyes wide and teeth clenched, chasing even harder. Had it not been for the concern about being deep within Xuan Beast Forest, where powerful flying Xuan Beasts lurked, he’d have flown up to catch Ye Fan.

“Tricks are useless, you can’t escape!”

Gu Yun said coldly, then gritting his teeth, he directly burned his True Yuan, his speed suddenly surging, quickly closing the gap with Ye Fan.

Huh?

Noticing this, Ye Fan’s heart was startled, a strong killing intent in his eyes.

In a certain sense, Ye Fan's hatred for Gu Yun was deeper than anyone else's—Gu Yun had instigated the invasion of Earth by Fiery Fire Eagles and numerous contestants from Xuan Beast Forest, nearly leading to Earth's destruction.

At this moment, he very much wanted to strike Gu Yun but knew he couldn't.

On one hand, Gu Yun's current power was too strong, surpassing him by three Xiao realms.

More importantly, once fighting began, the other three would inevitably catch up, making escape difficult.

"I'll see where you go!"

Seeing the distance between himself and Ye Fan decrease, Gu Yun knew catching Ye Fan was only a matter of time, so he sneered coldly.

Chapter 1108: Bloody Battle on a Dead End

One pursues, one flees!

Ye Fan and Gu Yun pushed their speed to the limit, quickly leaving the other three Tianyuan Sect members far behind.

“Where are they?”

The three Tianyuan Sect disciples exchanged a disheartened glance, grinding their teeth in frustration, but stopped chasing.

Because they were self-aware, knowing that no matter how much they chased, it would be useless. One Gu Yun was enough.

In their view, with Gu Yun’s strength, whether to kill or capture Ye Fan alive, it would be effortless.

Moreover, the three thought long-term, fearing Ye Fan was bait to lure them away from the strategic point, allowing other Xuanwu Sect strong people to slip in and take control of the space passage first.

So, they unanimously chose to return and guard the fortress.

There’s no denying that Gu Yun’s strength is indeed not to be underestimated. By burning his True Yuan, he caught up with Ye Fan within just a quarter of an hour, blocking Ye Fan’s path!

After stopping, Gu Yun grinned sinisterly with a gloomy face: “Kid, running? Keep running, won’t you?”

Ye Fan stood a hundred meters away, not saying a word, quickly calming his surging blood and Qi from the running, remaining on high alert.

“Tsk tsk...”

Gu Yun shook his head: “I must say, you’re a genius. Your speed of growth can only be described as godly. In such a short time, you’ve reached the extreme peak of the True Qi Realm. It seems you’re living quite comfortably in the Xuanwu Sect!”

Ye Fan still said nothing. After calming his blood and Qi, he decided to take a desperate gamble. Regardless of the outcome, he would give it his all.

War intent emerged, an invisible murderous aura spread between the two.

“Heh, looks like you still want to struggle, huh?” Gu Yun, sensing Ye Fan’s war intent, didn’t care and laughed disdainfully.

No answer.

Quick battle, quick resolution!

Ye Fan made such a decision!

Because he didn't know the other three hadn't pursued, fearing if it dragged on too long and they caught up, he'd have no chance at all.

"Huff... huff..."

Thinking of this, Ye Fan activated his True Yuan, his aura suddenly surged, as if a gale started centered on him, dry grass and leaves blowing chaotically.

Ye Fan's momentum kept rising, his terrifying war intent seemingly causing the surrounding air to decrease.

"It's useless!"

Gu Yun shook his head: "The gap in strength between us is too big, not something war intent can make up for. Whatever you do now is futile. Unless a miracle happens, today you definitely won't escape my grasp!"

Swoosh!

As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Yun's expression turned serious, his right hand swung out, sending a palm strike towards Ye Fan's chest, seemingly gentle and without any power.

“Ang~”

Mid-strike, a dragon’s roar resounded, Gu Yun’s hand turned a sparkling white jade color, with startling hand power, pressing towards Ye Fan’s chest like lightning.

It’s not that he didn’t dare to give Ye Fan more time to gather war intent, but he thought it unnecessary. No matter how strong Ye Fan became, he was just an ant in front of him.

Swoosh!

Seeing Gu Yun’s palm strike coming, Ye Fan stopped accumulating war intent, shouted fiercely, and punched out!

Domineering Fist of the World!

Ye Fan had no fear, using his strongest attack, choosing to confront force with force!

“Courting death!

Seeing Ye Fan choose a direct confrontation, Gu Yun shouted lowly, fearing that his palm would kill Ye Fan, forcibly pulling back forty percent of his power.

Because, the task given to him by Tianyuan Sect Leader Helian Chang was to capture Ye Fan alive, to extract the secret of the space passage from him.

Slap!

Before it was too late, Gu Yun's palm print struck Ye Fan's chest.

Crackle!

Ye Fan's clothes shattered instantly, revealing the blue Heavenly Demon Armor within.

"Bang!"

At the same time, Ye Fan's iron fist also struck Gu Yun's chest, True Qi and physical strength burst forth instantly!

Spla! Spl! Spl!

The air exploded, an energy wave swept through, Ye Fan and Gu Yun were both sent flying backward.

Slap!

After landing, Ye Fan took three steps back before stabilizing, a blush rising on his face, but he wasn't injured, only shaken.

As for Gu Yun, he flew back more than ten feet, landing with a "slap," cracking a millstone-sized stone.

"How... how is this possible?"

Gu Yun was utterly shocked; he never expected that due to a moment of carelessness, he would actually be injured by Ye Fan. Ye Fan had left a clear fist imprint on the spiritual artifact Tianxuan Armor at his chest.

Gu Yun was secretly astonished by the frighteningly abnormal attack power of Ye Fan. Without the protection of Tianxuan Armor, he would have been severely injured!

After the exchange, the way Gu Yun looked at Ye Fan had completely changed; gone was the condescending gaze. Ye Fan had demonstrated with his strength that despite the vast difference in their realms, once determined to fight desperately, Ye Fan could still cause him immense harm!

In such a situation, if Gu Yun were to let his guard down again, he might even face defeat!

This was something Gu Yun could not accept!

After all, he was a cultivator at the late-stage True Essence Realm, while Ye Fan was merely at the peak of the True Qi Realm, a gap as vast as a chasm between them.

“Who would have thought that an ant could wound a dragon, it’s simply a joke, yet it happens.”

Gu Yun stood up slowly, wiped his mouth with the back of his hand, revealing a smear of crimson. Then he licked the blood at the corner of his mouth and said coldly, “However, your luck ends here; I will not give you any more chances. Next, I will show you just how vast the gap is between the True Essence Realm and the True Qi Realm!”

“Ha, if you are only at the mid-stage True Essence Realm, killing you would be as easy as slaughtering a dog!” Ye Fan replied coldly.

“I admit, you are indeed strong, beyond my expectations, but so what? You’ll still be defeated, as I won’t give you any more chances!”

Gu Yun let out a cold laugh, activating his mystical skills to heal his wounds, which recovered instantly, though the fist imprint on the chest of his Tianxuan Armor was exceptionally glaring.

This Tianxuan Armor was a heavy treasure of the sect, and if he were not of significant importance, Helian Chang wouldn’t have bestowed it upon him.

If it were an ordinary Spiritual Treasure Battle Armor, it would have been shattered by Ye Fan's punch. This is a top-grade spiritual artifact of the True Essence Realm with astounding defense.

Yet even so, Ye Fan still left a deep fist imprint with a punch!

"From now on, I will not hold back; you have no chance!"

Due to Ye Fan's demonstrated astounding combat power, to be safe, Gu Yun decided not to hold back any longer, instead going all out to make Ye Fan lose his combat power.

Without answering, Ye Fan, clad in Heavenly Demon Armor and wearing Black Iron Fist set on his right hand, recovered instantly from the minor shock under the circulation of mystical skill, looking coldly at Gu Yun, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

Had it not been for Gu Yun, the mutant beasts of the Xuan Realm would not have invaded Earth on a large scale, nearly causing its destruction by Xuan Beasts!

Moreover, had Gu Yun not assisted Chen Daozang in breaking through to the True Essence Realm, Su Liuli would not have become a living dead, separated from him by two worlds!

Su Liuli's plight is a forever scar in Ye Fan's heart. Although Elder Xuan mentioned that Su Liuli could be revived using specially concocted Elixir Pills in the Xuan Realm, Ye Fan still felt he owed Su Liuli too much... too much!

However, Ye Fan also understood that with Gu Yun equipped with the defensive spiritual artifact Tianxuan Armor, it was extremely difficult, almost impossible, to defeat or even kill the opponent.

“Do you really want to kill me?”

Feeling Ye Fan’s hatred and murderous intent, Gu Yun, though intending to capture Ye Fan alive, was nonetheless filled with murderous rage!

Evidently, as a late-stage True Essence Realm cultivator, being wounded by Ye Fan, a peak True Qi Realm cultivator, was a humiliation he was desperate to expunge, eager to grind Ye Fan to dust!

“Surrender your life!”

With a furious shout, Gu Yun struck again, this time without any reservations, determined to deal a heavy blow to Ye Fan.

Swoosh!

Facing Gu Yun’s assault once more, Ye Fan gritted his teeth and ultimately abandoned the plan for a deadly struggle, turning to flee again.

Not only was Gu Yun extremely powerful, but he also had the protection of the top-grade spiritual artifact Tianxuan Armor of the True Essence Realm. The hopes of a bloody confrontation to kill him were too slim, not worth the risk.

“Think you can run? Can you escape?”

With a cold snort, Gu Yun gave chase once more, his speed terrifyingly swift with his True Essence burning.

After thirty minutes, Gu Yun caught up with Ye Fan again!

“Today, it’s you and me, a fight to the death!!”

Seeing no hope of escape, Ye Fan steeled his heart, quickly burning the True Qi within him.

True Qi burns, Iron Fist strikes!

With the augmentation of the Black Iron Fist set, after burning True Qi, Ye Fan’s combat power nearly doubled. He unleashed a Domineering Fist, causing the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to become chaotic, rushing rapidly toward his fist.

“Would even rice grain pearls shine?”

With a cold snort, Gu Yun utilized the killing move martial arts of the Tianyuan Sect, striking out with a punch.

This punch, he used his full strength, moreover under the condition of burning True Essence, an all-out punch!

“Boom...”

A loud explosion occurred as the punch rays of both collided fiercely, instantly turning the ground into a massive deep pit, rubble flying, dust filling the sky.

Gu Yun remained unmoved, only his fist slightly trembled.

“Puff...”

Ye Fan was sent flying through the air, scattering a trail of blood flowers; just one strike left him severely injured.

Though his combat power was astonishing, his realm was vastly inferior to Gu Yun's, and Gu Yun also had a top-grade spiritual artifact for protection and mastered the excellent martial arts of the Tianyuan Sect, making him an unmatched opponent.

“Is he dead?”

Raising an eyebrow, Gu Yun took a step over the deep pit created by the exchange of their punch rays and rushed toward Ye Fan.

Chapter 1109: Killing Gu Yun

Stepping through layers of smoke and dust, Gu Yun arrived not far from Ye Fan, only to find that Ye Fan was not dead, just heavily injured.

“Tsk tsk, your strength is truly unbelievable! Such powerful life force for a mere True Qi Realm cultivator, it’s practically a miracle!”

Gu Yun was genuinely astonished, thinking that his powerful strike after burning his True Yuan should have been fatal, even for a Mid True Essence Realm cultivator, let alone for someone like Ye Fan in the True Qi Realm.

But... Ye Fan wasn’t dead!

“It’s just as well you’re not dead.”

After his astonishment, Gu Yun couldn’t help but laugh. If he had killed Ye Fan in his rage, he wouldn’t be able to report back to Tianyuan Sect Leader Helian Chang—Helian Chang had demanded Ye Fan be captured alive to learn about the space passage from him!

Both he and his master Helian Chang believed that since Ye Fan had come to the Xuan Realm through the space passage, he must know why it disappeared, its location, and other crucial information, which was of utmost importance to the Tianyuan Sect!

Standing not far from Ye Fan, Gu Yun shook his head and sighed, "I never expected your strength to be so great. Although you're only in the True Qi Realm, you can still fight against me while burning your True Qi. If given time, even I may not be your match."

At this point, Gu Yun seemed to have thought of something, and his face changed. Ye Fan's performance reminded him of those secretly nurtured masters by the Di Clan.

Every Di Clan is a huge family with a long legacy, all hoping to continue their ancestors' glory or even recreate it, achieving the myth of two Emperors in one family.

Therefore, each generation, these Di Clans select direct lineage prodigies for focused cultivation, hoping they will tread the Emperor Road and achieve new glory.

And Ye Fan's performance was undoubtedly very similar to those secretly trained disciples of the Di Clan.

Especially his combat power!

It's said that the prodigies of the Di Clan are all demons who can battle across levels, even suppressing stronger opponents than themselves.

Thinking of this, Gu Yun's eyes flickered, and he then put on a gentle smile, "Ye Fan, I know what you're thinking, but just think, how can a place as lacking in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi as Earth compare to our Xuan Realm?"

He thought well, that Ye Fan was such a demon. If persuaded to join the Tianyuan Sect, not only would the sect gain Earth as a massive strategic resource but also acquire a genius capable of contending with Di Clan disciples.

This way, if Ye Fan sincerely joined the Tianyuan Sect and rose to prominence later, he could lead the entire sect's rise in the Southern Domain and possibly compete with the Di Clan in the future, becoming one of the important forces on the Tianxuan Continent.

"If you submit to us and join our Tianyuan Sect, not only could you save your life, but you might also receive great cultivation from the sect and become famous across the Tianxuan Continent. Why persist in stubbornness?"

Seeing Ye Fan saying nothing, Gu Yun continued his eloquent persuasion, painting a beautiful picture and using benefits to entice him considering the current situation.

"Are you dreaming?"

Ye Fan struggled to stand, suppressing his injuries, and with a roar, swung his right fist fiercely at Gu Yun's face.

However, this time the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi he could draw upon was minimal—firstly, because the recent clash had almost depleted the Qi in the area; and secondly, Ye Fan, severely injured, could no longer fully unleash the power of his Domineering Fist.

“Hmph! Ignorant of death!”

Gu Yun stood motionless, waiting for Ye Fan’s fist ray to approach him, then struck out, aiming to smash Ye Fan’s fist with his own punch!

He believed firmly that Ye Fan was at the end of his strength, and after this hard confrontation, he would completely lose his combat power, leaving himself the freedom to manipulate Ye Fan as he wished.

However—

At this moment, a sudden change arose!

Ye Fan’s figure abruptly disappeared, and a golden crown suddenly appeared in the air, emitting a golden glow.

Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown!

At this critical moment, Ye Fan entered the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown!

Clang!!

Gu Yun's fully charged punch suddenly lost its target, smashing into the suddenly appearing Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, producing a sound of metal clashing.

Gu Yun's fist was numbed from the shock, dumbfoundedly observing the scene. How did a perfectly good person suddenly turn into a golden crown?

Where did Ye Fan go?

Gu Yun was extremely puzzled, for he hadn't used all his strength, yet he couldn't do anything to this golden crown, which greatly surprised him.

"Could this be a Spiritual Artifact? That kid hid inside a Spiritual Artifact?!" Gu Yun asked himself, feeling a bit bewildered.

Because he had heard that artifacts capable of allowing a person inside were extremely powerful, owned only by the Di Clan and some major factions.

Swish!

After his doubts, Gu Yun suddenly waved both hands, grabbing the crown. He used his True Yuan, but the crown remained motionless, without any change, not even in color.

“How can this crown be so hard?”

Gu Yun frowned as he placed the crown on the ground, then launched a full-strength punch, to see how much impact the crown could withstand.

Boom!

With a muffled sound, the crown was sent flying, yet it bore not a single mark.

“Could it really be a Venerable-level Spiritual Artifact from the legends?!”

Gu Yun was even more perplexed, utterly unable to understand what was happening, but more than anything, he was shocked. Even his Tianxuan Armor could not withstand such a powerful blow, yet this Golden Crown did it. What does that imply?

At that moment, Gu Yun suddenly remembered an incident that occurred on Earth.

Back then, Ye Fan had taken a risk to eliminate the Fiery Fire Eagle by luring it into the Sahara Desert in Africa, after which the Earth people dropped that so-called Super Nuclear Bomb.

With the power of the Super Nuclear Bomb, even the Fiery Fire Eagle was blown to pieces, yet Ye Fan shouldn't have survived such an explosion.

However—

In the end, Ye Fan miraculously survived. No one knew how he did it, but at this moment, after witnessing the terrifying defensive power of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, Gu Yun finally understood. At that time, Ye Fan must have hidden inside this Golden Crown to escape a death by explosion.

Huff!

While Gu Yun was lost in thought, Ye Fan suddenly appeared, punching towards Gu Yun.

“So you really did come out!”

Although it was sudden, Gu Yun's adaptability was first-rate, quickly delivering a punch to counter Ye Fan's attack.

The Tianyuan Sect also had its own martial arts, and as the disciple of Sect Leader Helian Chang, Gu Yun, having made outstanding contributions to the Tianyuan Sect, was naturally highly valued and trained in the Sect's Earth-level High-level Martial Arts, the Wave-Pushing Palm Technique!

The so-called Wave-Pushing Palm Technique is an exceedingly domineering palm technique, following a path completely different from Ye Fan's Domineering Fist, yet equally formidable.

The Wave-Pushing Palm Technique features stacking attack power, the power of the first palm may not be significant, but the second palm can build upon the power of the first.

In this manner, it becomes hard for ordinary people to resist, typically taking only six palms to kill an opponent.

After delivering the first palm of the Wave-Pushing Palm Technique, Gu Yun quickly followed with the second, palm after palm, like endless ocean waves, growing more and more powerful.

This was his trump card ultimate technique, rarely used, but today, completely shocked by Ye Fan, he unleashed this hidden ultimate move.

Ye Fan let out a wild shout, once again using the Domineering Fist's Punch the World, disrupting the rhythm of Gu Yun's Wave-Pushing Palm Technique with just one punch.

Immediately, Ye Fan's entire aura transformed, True Qi burning, and simultaneously, the Mental Seed also ignited.

After the two different energies collided, a change in quality arose from the quantity change, Ye Fan's eyes turned white, appearing without pupils, exuding a terrifying attraction as if they could suck a person's soul in.

At the same time, Ye Fan's black hair instantly turned golden, his body emitting a faint golden light, making him look indescribably eerie.

Hmm?!

Gu Yun was startled, never expecting Ye Fan to transform into such a state. However, he wasn't worried; even though Ye Fan seemed eerie, the gap in their strength was too large to pose any threat to him.

"Die!"

Ye Fan seemed reborn, exuding a high-spirited war intent as if possessed by the War God, repeatedly attacking Gu Yun with Punch the World.

Gu Yun was both shocked and enraged, using all his strength to counter Ye Fan's overwhelmingly fierce boxing with the Wave-Pushing Palm Technique.

Bang bang bang bang...

As fists and palms clashed, the sound of metal striking echoed continuously, as if they were in a blacksmith's workshop, the overflowing energy waves ravaging the surroundings as if they had just experienced a hurricane tsunami.

In the midst of the intense battle, Ye Fan silently urged a Xuanye Flying Blade to fly along the ground, bypassing the scattered debris, coming to Gu Yun's back.

To avoid revealing murderous intent, Ye Fan didn't even let the blade emit a hint of sword light, appearing just like an ordinary flying knife.

"Kid, you really surprise me; you can still possess such combat power, but the outcome won't change, in the end, you'll still be defeated!"

Gu Yun was extremely arrogant, his Wave-Pushing Palm Technique having reached the seventh palm, the accumulated power making even Ye Fan, who burned his True Qi and Mental Seed, struggle to endure.

"Pfft—"

After another clash, Ye Fan groaned, stepping back, his face turning pale as paper, spitting out another mouthful of blood mist!

"Heh heh..."

Gu Yun let out a cold laugh and took a step forward, preparing to deliver another palm to cripple Ye Fan, making him completely lose his combat capability.

Hmm?!

At this moment, Gu Yun suddenly realized something was wrong, but he couldn't pinpoint exactly what.

Ye Fan's eyes lacked despair, lacked fear, containing only hatred and a touch of a malicious, triumphant smile!

Whoosh—

The sharp sound of a blade piercing the air rang out, and a Xuanye Flying Blade with seven-colored sword light pierced directly through Gu Yun's Protective True Essence, stabbing through Gu Yun's head, with blood spraying out!

Chapter 1110: Scared Stiff!

"Huff... huff..."

Scalding blood spurted from the bloody hole in Gu Yun's head, his pupils rapidly dilating as his Life Essence Energy quickly drained away.

Unwillingness, despair, disbelief—all piled onto his severely distorted face.

Thud!

With reluctance, with questions, with eyes wide open in death, Gu Yun toppled to the ground, his eyes bleeding...

He died with his eyes open!

Because, with his strength, Ye Fan was absolutely not supposed to be his opponent, yet the result was that he was slain. How could he possibly be content with that?

However—

No matter how much unwillingness or doubt remains, the result cannot be changed. Ye Fan's strike severed all of Gu Yun's vitality, even shattering his soul.

"That was close!"

Ye Fan let out a long breath, this battle could be described as the toughest fight he had encountered since arriving in the Xuan Realm, beyond the phrase "Nine Deaths and One Life".

“Kid, although to true strong people, the ‘Flying Sword Skill’ is just a minor technique, its utility for you now is immense. Not only can it surprise and assassinate unexpectedly, but cultivating the ‘Flying Sword Skill’ can also strengthen your Divine Soul. Pay careful attention to it in the future,” Elder Xuan advised.

“Mm.”

Ye Fan agreed deeply. If it weren’t for possessing the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, an Emperor Weapon, and the surprise assassinations with the ‘Flying Sword Skill’, it would have been almost impossible to kill Gu Yun.

After a brief adjustment, Ye Fan walked over to Gu Yun’s corpse to start looting the spoils.

The results of the looting left Ye Fan somewhat shocked!

Because besides the Tianxuan Armor Gu Yun wore, there were over a hundred Beast Cores of decent quality on him, as well as several bottles and jars containing Elixir Pills.

Apart from these, he even found the secret manual for the Wave-Pushing Palm Technique. This guy had been carrying such an important martial arts secret manual, which now benefited him greatly.

The virtual space within the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was extremely vast, undoubtedly a great place to store loot, where any spoils could be piled up.

After storing the loot into the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, Ye Fan began to sit cross-legged not far away to operate his energy and heal his wounds.

He had suffered considerable injuries in the battle earlier, with his True Qi being severely depleted. He must recover to his peak state as soon as possible, as unknown dangers lurked everywhere in the Xuan Beast Forest.

Quickly, Ye Fan immersed himself in cultivation, refining each Beast Core one by one. The pure energy within the cores was absorbed by him, slowly nourishing his injured meridians and body, and restoring his depleted True Qi.

In cultivation, time always passes especially quickly. With the help of a large number of Beast Cores, Ye Fan soon recovered his depleted True Qi and Mind Power, and his injuries were healed by Pure Yang Qi.

Meanwhile, the three Tianyuan Sect disciples who followed Gu Yun were hurrying in this direction.

Earlier, after returning to the canyon, they found nothing unusual. After a discussion, they concluded that Ye Fan had not informed the Xuanwu Sect about the space passage, hence the Xuanwu Sect knew nothing about its existence.

Given this situation, it was easy to explain why Ye Fan had come here alone. He was afraid of being noticed, so he ventured deep into the Xuan Beast Forest alone, attempting to reach the space passage.

After reaching this conclusion, the three came to a consensus that they could not let the merit of capturing Ye Fan alive fall solely to Gu Yun. They decided to search along the direction Gu Yun had chased.

If Gu Yun had already captured Ye Fan, the three could conveniently claim some credit under the guise of escorting him.

If Gu Yun hadn't captured Ye Fan alive, even better. The three could join Gu Yun in action and share the merit among them.

For this reason, the three set off once more towards this direction.

The Xuan Beast Forest originally had no paths; all the trails were trampled out by Xuan Beasts, winding and twisting.

Light beams scattered through the forest, but it was hard to see the sky as it was completely shrouded by the dense canopy, the air filled with a mixed scent of Spirit Grass fragrance and the stench of Xuan Beasts.

"Do you think Senior Brother Gu Yun has captured that kid?" the gray-robed youth asked the other two youths.

"Is that even a question? He must have caught him. Though that kid is fast, didn't you see that Senior Brother Gu Yun had burned his True Yuan? In front of Senior Brother Gu Yun, who has burned his True Yuan, no True Qi Realm cultivator in the entire Southern Domain could escape, right?"

One of the tall, skinny youths smiled confidently, relying on his pair of eagle eyes, hooked nose, and thin lips, obviously a shrewd and watchful character.

However, at this moment, he was quite amiable, as the two beside him were his brothers-in-arms.

"I think so too. A little True Qi Realm cultivator wouldn't last a single move against Senior Brother Gu Yun," the other youth nodded in agreement.

"Exactly, I believe Senior Brother Gu Yun could easily capture that kid alive using just fifty percent of his strength."

"We have truly accomplished a great feat now. As soon as we deliver that kid to the Sect Leader, that will be a major merit, and we will surely earn more Cultivation Resources in the future."

The gray-robed youth smiled broadly, his mouth grinning almost to his ears, and the thought of the rewards awaiting them upon returning to the sect made the three of them elated.

The three chatted as they hurried on their way. With their strength, as long as they released their aura, ordinary Xuan Beasts wouldn't dare provoke them, so they didn't encounter any trouble.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan was also immersed in cultivation, deeply inspired by the battle.

At the same time, Ye Fan also discovered a very serious problem!

During the previous test for outer disciples, Ye Fan's punch made the testing stele constantly tremble, leaving a clear fist seal on the stele.

At that time, Ye Fan distinctly felt as if there was a mighty force of heaven and earth on his fist, the power of the Dao entwined around it.

However, today during the battle with Gu Yun, even deploying Domineering Fist, there was no power of the Dao. If he could land a punch with the power of the Dao, perhaps the result would not have been the same.

No matter what, he needs to comprehend it again. If every punch carried the power of the Dao, his combat power would see a qualitative improvement.

In such a mental realm, Ye Fan operated his skills to heal while silently comprehending Domineering Fist once more, replaying all the events of that day he delivered the extraordinary punch in his mind.

Power of the Dao!

What is the Dao?

Laozi's "Tao Te Ching" has detailed descriptions.

There is something formed indistinct, born before heaven and earth, silent and desolate, having no beginning nor end, standing alone without change, operating without peril...

I know not its name, reluctantly I call it Dao...

The Dao is a rule beyond heaven and earth, a kind of Heaven and Earth Law, possessing the power to create the world.

As Ye Fan comprehended these, three others were hastily making their way here, although their speed was no match for Ye Fan when he was fleeing. They were fast but took a full hour to arrive nearby.

"That's really strange, why hasn't Senior Brother Gu Yun returned yet? Could he have directly taken that kid back to the sect?"

"Probably not, Senior Brother Gu Yun may be arrogant, but he's reasonable. Even if he wanted to return to the sect, he would definitely meet us first or at least inform us."

"Senior Brother Gu Yun is really slow; it takes so long to catch a kid in the True Qi Realm!"

"Could something unexpected have happened?" the ordinary-looking cultivator mumbled softly.

“Nonsense, what kind of person is Senior Brother Gu Yun? He’s a strong person in the late-stage True Yuan Realm, how could anything go wrong?”

The gray-clothed youth glared at the person, who felt his guess was a bit far-fetched, smiled awkwardly, and said no more.

“Don’t worry, as long as he doesn’t run into a Holy Embryo realm strong person at the elder level of the Xuanwu Sect, Senior Brother Gu Yun will definitely subdue that kid!”

The eagle-eyed youth smiled faintly, confident in Gu Yun, believing that once Ye Fan was caught up to, Gu Yun would definitely capture him alive without any doubt.

Following Gu Yun and Ye Fan’s route, the three finally came belatedly, and once they exited the dense forest, the voices of their conversation seemed to suddenly stop.

Because...

They saw Ye Fan sitting cross-legged on the ground with eyes closed cultivating, with no one around him.

“He...he’s over there!”

“Why does he seem completely fine?”

“Where’s Senior Brother Gu Yun? Where did he go?”

Looking at the cross-legged sitting Ye Fan, the three were shocked, exclaiming uncontrollably.

Originally, they thought they could meet Gu Yun halfway escorting Ye Fan to regroup with them, but unexpectedly, when they arrived here, they saw Ye Fan, yet Gu Yun was nowhere to be found.

“Kid, why are you here alone? Where’s Senior Brother Gu Yun? Where is he?” the eagle-eyed youth stepped forward, shouting at Ye Fan.

Swoosh!

Ye Fan opened his eyes, glanced at the three slowly, without answering, but stood up directly, standing with hands behind his back.

“Kid...”

The eagle-eyed youth just started speaking when suddenly he felt someone tugging at his sleeve. He looked back and saw the gray-clothed youth staring blankly at something, trembling as he pointed for him to see.

Hmm?!

The eagle-eyed youth followed the direction he was pointing, horrified to see Gu Yun's cold corpse lying in the grass, a large hole on his head, blood mixing with brain matter spread all over.

"Gu Yun is dead?!"

Without an answer, a gust of wind blew past, and the pungent smell of blood invaded the noses of the three disciples of the Tianyuan Sect.

At this moment, they felt as if they were plunged into an ice cellar, completely cold, standing there not daring to move!

Just standing there with shocked faces, like three statues!