

Y Master 1161

Chapter 1161: Ye Fan Reveals Himself

“That... Is that Ye Fan?!”

“How... How can it be? Didn't he die in the secret realm??”

In the square, everyone looked at Ye Fan. At that moment, Ye Fan became the center of everyone's attention.

People were shocked. Both inner and outer sect disciples knew about Ye Fan's predicament in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm.

According to everyone's speculation, Ye Fan should have died in the secret realm long ago because the thunder power in the secret realm suddenly intensified, and no one could survive under such conditions and return alive.

However—

Just when everyone thought Ye Fan was destined to perish, he appeared alive in front of them!

This kind of impact was unparalleled!

In that brief moment, everyone was dumbfounded, and many people rubbed their eyes hard, unable to believe that what they saw was real.

After a brief shock, the Xuanwu Sect leadership, led by Tong Tianhao, quickly flew towards Ye Fan.

They were eager to know what Ye Fan encountered in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm and how he survived such rampant thunder power!

Even the Seventh Elder, who always had prejudice against Ye Fan, didn't stay behind.

He too wanted to know why Ye Fan didn't die in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm!

This was beyond comprehension!

In his perspective, let alone Ye Fan, who was just an early-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator, even he couldn't last that long under such violent thunder power.

"He... Is he still alive?"

On the platform, Chu Feng also saw Ye Fan, and his expression changed dramatically, his joy and sense of superiority vanished.

Although he regretted not being able to kill Ye Fan personally after gaining insight into a sliver of thunder power.

But upon seeing Ye Fan's appearance, he was more worried that Ye Fan would tell Sect Leader Tong Tianhao about the incident that day.

After all, he was the one who framed Ye Fan first. If Ye Fan revealed the truth, his carefully cultivated image would collapse completely.

Additionally, when he saw Tong Qianchen rushing towards Ye Fan with excitement and joy, he felt a raging fire burning in his heart!

At that moment, he felt an impulse to tear Ye Fan apart on the spot!

Ultimately, he suppressed this impulse!

At the same time, although he was worried Ye Fan would reveal the truth, he had no choice but to wait quietly.

Because, judging from Ye Fan's appearance causing a sensation among all the high-ranking members of the Xuanwu Sect, Ye Fan now had more significance to the entire sect than he did!

Ye Fan stood at the edge of the square, calmly watching Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and a group of elders flying towards him. In his mind, he quickly reviewed the prepared speech to avoid any omissions at the moment.

Hmm?

As they approached Ye Fan, Tong Tianhao and the others sensed a change in Ye Fan's aura, as if it had become stronger, but exactly how much stronger, they couldn't guess.

Tong Tianhao was very surprised but didn't dwell on this issue. After such a long time in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, as long as Ye Fan wasn't dead, it was understandable for his aura to change and his strength to increase.

"Ye Fan, how did you survive in the secret realm? What happened?"

Tong Tianhao grasped Ye Fan's shoulders with both hands and asked excitedly and curiously.

This was also the most concerned issue for all the elders. Once the sect leader had already asked, these elders instantly quieted down, waiting for Ye Fan to recount his experiences in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm.

“Sect Leader, it’s like this...”

Ye Fan narrated the experience he had long prepared in his mind to everyone word for word.

However, he didn’t mention being schemed by Chu Feng while gaining insight into the secret technique of thunder power, getting interrupted in enlightenment, and being attacked by a Xuan Beast.

In his account, Chu Feng did not appear at all. He only said that he wanted to find a place with a denser thunder power to comprehend the Thunderclap Treasure Skill but was unfortunately attacked by a powerful Xuan Beast and eventually fell off a cliff.

However—

Unexpectedly, beneath the cliff was a place like a paradise, with a defensive formation, where thunder power could not penetrate, allowing him to narrowly escape death.

At that time, he was already unconscious, and when he woke up again, he found everyone gone, and the surroundings unfamiliar, having to grope around to find the exit.

Since he didn’t know the exact direction to the exit, it took a long time before he found the right place and used the remaining method to leave the secret realm.

This account was one he had prepared beforehand, and it was watertight, but it still left Tong Tianhao and the others extremely shocked, astonished at how he could survive under such powerful thunder power.

Because, according to what Elder Shen Ximen and the others said, the thunder power in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm became rampant, its power doubled, making it impossible for anyone to survive that long inside.

During Ye Fan's recount, Tong Qianchen kept watching him mesmerized, as if she couldn't get enough, and as for what Ye Fan said, it didn't seem important to her.

As long as Ye Fan could come back alive, it was better than anything else. As for what he experienced in there, if not for her father's inquiry, Tong Qianchen would never have asked on her own.

There was also one person who was closely paying attention to Ye Fan's every word, afraid to miss anything.

That person was Chu Feng!

He was very worried that the matter of framing Ye Fan would be exposed——Ye Fan lodging a complaint to Tong Tianhao!

But to his surprise, Ye Fan didn't mention a word about it!

This brought down the heart that had been hanging in suspense.

At the same time, he vaguely felt that Ye Fan might be hiding something, but he didn't dare to question him.

Not only him, others also vaguely felt that Ye Fan might be hiding something.

"By the way, Elder Wang, I discovered a type of grass at the bottom of the cliff, it looks quite strange, I don't know if it's Thunderfire Grass, so I brought it back, could you take a look to see if it is?"

Ye Fan naturally noticed this too, so he quickly changed the subject. A lie is, after all, a lie, and it's better not to say it if possible.

As he finished speaking, Ye Fan was about to take out a Thunderfire Grass he had prepared in advance from his Space Bag.

The Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown must not be exposed, and to hide the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, Ye Fan took out a medium-sized Thunderfire Grass from the Virtual Space before coming out and placed it in the Space Bag.

"Found a type of grass?"

As Ye Fan finished speaking, Chu Feng couldn't help but twitch his eyelids.

His intuition told him that Ye Fan being able to survive in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm for two months most likely found Thunderfire Grass.

It's not that he doesn't want Wang Qingshan to completely recover, it's just that whoever found the Thunderfire Grass, it cannot be Ye Fan.

He was well aware that Ye Fan had already gained Wang Qingshan's favor by delaying his injury's onset earlier, if he finds the Thunderfire Grass this time and achieves an unprecedented miracle, his own shine would definitely be overshadowed!

This was not the result he wished to see!

At the very moment Ye Fan was about to take out the Thunderfire Grass, from afar came an excited voice: "Is that Xiao Fan back?"

Accompanied by the voice, the disheveled Great Elder Wu Xinhai dashed over like a shooting star falling to the ground.

Earlier, after witnessing Chu Feng display great might and comprehend the secrets of Thunder Power, Wu Xinhai had gone back to his Xuanwu Summit.

Without Ye Fan there, the contest held no meaning for him to stay.

However——

Just moments ago, when Ye Fan emerged from the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, Wu Xinhai distinctly felt an abnormal fluctuation in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Though he had resolved to not concern himself with worldly matters, after a bout of struggle, he decided to visit the small valley because that was the source of the abnormal Qi fluctuation.

With a shake of his arms, Wu Xinhai flew directly towards the place. Since Xuanwu Summit was far from the small valley and Wu Xinhai was disheartened, his flying speed was not fast, and he managed to hit a timing gap with Ye Fan, thus not encountering him.

Upon arriving at the small valley, Great Elder Wu Xinhai immediately sensed some Thunderbolt Aura in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, instantly feeling ecstatic.

He suddenly understood clearly what the appearance of Thunderbolt Aura meant.

The Thunder Primordial Secret Realm is an independent space, and without being triggered, there's no way for Thunderbolt Aura to leak out. Otherwise, wouldn't all Thunder Primordial Secret Realms in the world have been discovered long ago?

The only possible situation for Thunderbolt Aura to spill out without triggering the Thunder Realm is if someone emerged from the secret realm.

When someone inside steps out from the Transmission Array, a slight amount of Thunderbolt Aura will spill out, disturbing the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

At this thought, Wu Xinhai's previously lifeless heart suddenly became lively again.

Ye Fan was the only one in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm who hadn't managed to come out with everyone else. If his judgment wasn't wrong, then the Thunderbolt Aura here was definitely brought out when Ye Fan emerged.

Upon the thought that Ye Fan was still alive, Wu Xinhai was immediately filled with excitement, his mind also becoming more agile.

Standing in the valley and contemplating briefly, he then flew towards the nearby square.

He was well aware that the first thing Ye Fan should do after coming out would be to find him, but he didn't, which meant he certainly knew the Core Disciple Competition was happening today and headed to the arena.

Sure enough, from afar, Wu Xinhai heard Ye Fan's voice. In excitement, Wu Xinhai pushed his speed to the limit, traversing a great distance almost in a step, reaching Ye Fan's side.

"Master, this disciple made you worry!"

Seeing Wu Xinhai flying rapidly, Ye Fan quickly took out the Thunderfire Grass and bowed deeply to Wu Xinhai.

“As long as you’re back, as long as you’re back!”

Wu Xinhai was too excited to know what to say.

“Thunder... Thunderfire Grass?!”

Everyone was stunned when they got a clear look at the Spirit Grass in Ye Fan’s hand.

“Elder Wang, this is the Thunderfire Grass you wanted.” Ye Fan handed the Thunderfire Grass to Wang Qingshan with a calm expression.

“Truly... truly it’s Thunderfire Grass!!”

Wang Qingshan held the Thunderfire Grass with trembling hands, his voice also trembling, as if holding his own life.

Chapter 1162: A Fair Duel

“It’s undoubtedly the Thunderfire Grass!”

“Such dense Thunderfire Spiritual Energy...”

“Truly worthy of being Supreme Yang Spirit Medicine, now Elder Wang is saved!”

Everyone present was an elder of the Xuanwu Sect and naturally knew the goods. The dense Thunderfire Spiritual Energy emanating from the Thunderfire Grass revealed that this strange half-foot-tall plant was indeed the Supreme Yang Spirit Medicine.

At this moment, everyone was filled with joy; with the Thunderfire Grass, Elder Wang Qingshan’s injury could be completely healed.

For the entire Xuanwu Sect, the survival of Wang Qingshan was of inestimable significance — Ye Fan not only saved Wang Qingshan’s life but also preserved the status of the Xuanwu Sect!

Wang Qingshan was even more excited, trembling as he held Ye Fan’s hands and said, “Child, you gave me hope to live back then. If it weren’t for you saving me, I would have died from the injury long ago. And now, you’ve found the life-saving Thunderfire Grass for me. I really don’t know how to thank you...”

“This is what a junior should do. Being able to do something for Elder Wang is an honor for me!”

Ye Fan showed no sign of pride or arrogance, and these words won the unanimous favor of the elders, who silently raised their evaluation of Ye Fan.

This young disciple is good, with decent strength and incredible potential. The most commendable thing is that he is not arrogant and remains very humble.

This is something that many young disciples today do not possess.

“Child, rest assured, this kindness is etched in my heart. Once my injury recovers, I will certainly find a way to repay this favor.”

The kindness of saving a life is hard to repay.

Wang Qingshan also knew that if he said any more words of thanks, they would seem superficial. Repayment involves actual action, not just words.

Swish!

As soon as he finished speaking, Wang Qingshan dared not delay any longer and left with the Thunderfire Grass to prepare to enter seclusion for healing.

The Profound Ice Cold Poison was already on the verge of erupting. Originally, he was in despair, but now with a sudden hope of survival, he was naturally eager to refine the Thunderfire Grass to expel the Profound Ice Cold Poison from his body.

The elders also knew that time was of the essence for Elder Wang Qingshan, and no one dared to stop him.

“By the way, Sect Leader, has the Core Disciple Tournament started?” After Wang Qingshan left, Ye Fan asked.

He was anxious to leave the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, not just to avoid delaying Wang Qingshan’s treatment, but also to catch the Core Disciple Tournament in time.

“It has started but not truly ended yet.”

Tong Tianhao replied, knowing that although no one dared to challenge anymore, the tournament couldn’t be considered officially over until it was formally announced.

“Sect Leader, can I still participate in a supplementary match?”

Ye Fan asked hopefully; he definitely didn’t want to miss this tournament.

Because this competition was not just an opportunity to prove himself, but also a chance to explore a broader world.

Although the Xuanwu Sect was considered a giant here, it was not the strongest sect relative to the whole Tianyuan State.

Moreover, obviously, the Tianyuan City genius tournament was but a new starting point. Through this competition, one might gain insights into the affairs of the Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent.

“Of course, you can, as long as you defeat any of the top five core disciples, you can represent the sect in the Tianyuan City genius tournament!”

Tong Tianhao was also keen to know how strong Ye Fan had become.

Although from Ye Fan’s own aura, he was only at the early-stage True Yuan Realm, Tong Tianhao, having seen so much, knew that Ye Fan’s strength couldn’t be measured by realm, and he was looking forward to his performance.

“That’s good!”

Ye Fan breathed a sigh of relief. His fears did not come to pass; he could still enter a supplementary match. He was confident that with his current strength, defeating the top five would not be a problem.

“I remember Senior Brother Chu Feng is ranked fifth among the core disciples, right? Should I challenge him first?” Ye Fan inquired.

“Uh... this...”

Tong Tianhao, like others, didn’t expect Ye Fan to think Chu Feng was the easiest to challenge. He was about to inform Ye Fan that Chu Feng was now the top core disciple when Zhang Taiyi suddenly spoke first.

“Brother Ye Fan, Chu Feng has already grasped some of the mysteries of Thunder Power and just defeated me. He is now the top core disciple!”

Zhang Taiyi said this entirely out of respect for Ye Fan, the lifesaver of his mentor, not wanting Ye Fan to hit a snag.

“Hmm?”

Upon hearing Zhang Taiyi’s words, Ye Fan was slightly taken aback.

Immediately, without waiting for Ye Fan to speak, he heard Chu Feng’s teasing voice: “Since Junior Brother Ye Fan specifically wants to learn from me, I naturally cannot spoil his interest.”

As he spoke, Chu Feng walked over, looking at Ye Fan with a playful expression, and continued, “How about this, I won’t use Thunder Power. If Junior Brother Ye Fan can last ten moves against me, I’ll consider it my loss, okay?”

Arrogant!

This was everyone’s first reaction upon hearing Chu Feng’s words.

But no one spoke.

Because although Chu Feng was arrogant, he indeed had the capital for arrogance. He had even defeated the former top core disciple, Zhang Taiyi. Ye Fan, merely at the early-stage True Yuan Realm, would indeed struggle to withstand ten moves against him.

“What’s the matter, Junior Brother Ye Fan? You don’t even have the confidence to withstand ten moves from me?”

Chu Feng looked at Ye Fan with a half-smile, feeling incredibly excited inside.

Originally, he was worried that Ye Fan would bring up the events of that day. Now, not only did Ye Fan not report him, but he also challenged him without knowing the situation.

This... how could it not excite him?!

His hatred for Ye Fan was not recent; it had been there for a long time. Ever since he encountered Ye Fan in the Xuan Beast Forest, he had looked down on him.

Since then, Tong Qianchen often stuck by Ye Fan's side, making him grind his teeth in hatred.

Especially just now, when he was basking in glory, Tong Qianchen didn't even glance at him. But when Ye Fan appeared, Tong Qianchen's joyous expression made him wish he could tear Ye Fan to pieces immediately.

Moreover, Ye Fan's soul impact on him in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm nearly caused him to perish at the hands of the Xuan Beast. This personal hatred made him even more eager to eliminate Ye Fan.

Lastly, he had been the center of attention, basking in unparalleled glory. However, with Ye Fan's appearance, he instantly replaced him as the focal point of everyone, creating a huge gap in the superiority he felt in his heart.

Combining all these factors, Chu Feng's hatred for Ye Fan had reached the bones, wishing he could slay Ye Fan right away.

In such a scenario, learning that Ye Fan wanted a rematch, Chu Feng was afraid Ye Fan wouldn't dare challenge him, thus losing the chance to teach or even kill Ye Fan. So he took the initiative to propose not using Thunder Power, and even limiting it to just ten moves!

“This Chu Feng, he’s just too arrogant. Does he really think he’s invincible?”

Seeing Chu Feng’s arrogant demeanor, some disciples felt indignant, believing Chu Feng was getting ahead of himself. After all, Ye Fan had defeated the core disciple ranked tenth before entering the Thunder Realm, a testament to his formidable strength.

Even other elders couldn’t help but shake their heads at Chu Feng’s last words. While Chu Feng’s strength was undeniable and his talent commendable, his conduct was far inferior to Ye Fan’s.

Even Chu Feng’s master, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao of the Xuanwu Sect, frowned. Ye Fan had significantly contributed to the sect without being arrogant, while Chu Feng, on the other hand, was so complacent and aggressive.

Chu Feng was unaware that at this moment, his image had plummeted significantly in Tong Tianhao’s eyes.

“As for Chu Feng, though strong, his character is too malicious, unsuitable to be groomed as a future pillar of the outside world unless he can smooth out his edges and become truly useful.”

At that moment, all the elders and Tong Tianhao made such an assessment of Chu Feng in their hearts.

Just then...

Ye Fan raised an eyebrow, speaking casually: "It's not a lack of confidence, but I think it's too unfair to you like this. Since it's a competition, fairness and justice must be ensured to convince people. Senior Brother Chu Feng, you don't need to hold back your strength. I also don't want anyone to say I won unfairly."

"Uh..."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, everyone was dumbfounded.

Because Ye Fan's words had a greater impact on everyone than Chu Feng's previous statements!

Chu Feng not only comprehended the mysteries of Thunder Power but also defeated Zhang Taiyi to become the number one core disciple!

After learning all this, Ye Fan still wanted a fair duel. How could this not shock everyone?!

"Brother Ye, don't be impulsive. If you really want to participate in the Tianyuan City genius competition, I can give up the spot."

Tong Qianchen's heart tightened when she heard Ye Fan ask Chu Feng to go all out.

Although she had great faith in Ye Fan, Chu Feng, after all, had comprehended Thunder Power, and his attack power was terrifying.

She didn't want to see Ye Fan defeated!

"Rest assured, I know what I'm doing."

Ye Fan looked complexly at Tong Qianchen, though he didn't want to get emotionally entangled with her, her repeated concern still moved him somewhat.

"Since Xiao Fan requested a fair fight even after knowing that Chu Feng had comprehended Thunder Spirit Power and defeated Zhang Taiyi, he's probably confident. Trust him."

This time, before Tong Qianchen could respond, Wu Xinhai spoke up. He understood Ye Fan well and knew he seldom engaged in things he wasn't confident about. Since he dared to say so, it indicated confidence; even if he couldn't win, self-preservation should be no issue.

Hmm?

Hearing Wu Xinhai's words, Tong Qianchen was first stunned, then looked at Ye Fan and said nothing more.

However, Tong Tianhao and the other elders looked at Ye Fan with mixed belief.

Though Ye Fan's past performances impressed them, Chu Feng was not what he used to be, and defeating him seemed almost impossible for Ye Fan.

"Since Junior Brother Ye Fan is full of confidence, then I'll compete with all my might, to show respect to my junior brother and to the competition!"

Chu Feng appeared righteously compliant with Ye Fan's request on the surface, but inside, he laughed coldly.

"Truly, the path to heaven is there, but you don't take it; no gate to hell, yet you come!!"

Chapter 1163: Battle with Chu Feng! Part 1

The square was boiling with excitement.

As soon as Ye Fan returned, he challenged the highly popular Chu Feng, clearly stating that Chu Feng should not hold back and should go all out in the competition, shocking everyone.

At this moment, Ye Fan once again became the center of attention. Regardless of whether he won or lost this challenge, he earned everyone's admiration. Even the Seventh Elder secretly admired him.

In his heart, Ye Fan was indeed extraordinary. His courage and broad-mindedness were unmatched by his disciples—it wasn't an injustice for his disciple to lose to Ye Fan.

However—

Admiration aside, almost all disciples of the Xuanwu Sect, whether inner sect or outer sect, including elite disciples and core disciples, almost no one believed Ye Fan could be a match for Chu Feng.

“Undeniably, Ye Fan is indeed a rare genius, but geniuses have levels. Ye Fan’s systematic cultivation time is too short. No matter how talented he may be, he cannot be a match for Chu Feng, who has comprehended Thunder Power.”

“If Chu Feng really refrains from using Thunder Power, perhaps Ye Fan could survive a few moves. As of now...it’s undoubtedly like a moth to the flame, overestimating himself!”

As the two walked towards the arena, the prevailing belief was overwhelmingly that Ye Fan was bound to lose, and could not be Chu Feng’s match.

The difference in realms was too great, and Chu Feng had comprehended the secrets of Thunder Power. Even among those in the same realm, few could defeat him, let alone Ye Fan was challenging a higher realm.

If Chu Feng hadn’t grasped the secrets of Thunder Power, perhaps Ye Fan might rely on his formidable combat power to fight on equal terms. As of now, there was almost no hope.

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and the elders were very surprised, surprised at why Ye Fan was so persistent?

Chu Feng even defeated the former number one core disciple Zhang Taiyi—on what basis does he challenge Chu Feng?

Or rather, what gives Ye Fan such self-confidence to dare to challenge Chu Feng?

Where does his confidence lie?

Although puzzled in their hearts, since Ye Fan and Chu Feng had already reached this point, they had to proceed and reveal their true strength. It wasn't proper to prevent the match from happening.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai, although reassuring Tong Qianchen, saying that he believed Ye Fan wouldn't fight without assurance, was secretly worried.

As everyone headed to the stands next to the arena, Wu Xinhai was the first to arrive at the edge of the stands, secretly deciding to observe the situation first, and if Ye Fan was overwhelmed and in danger, despite the risk of being criticized by everyone, he would rescue Ye Fan.

Tong Qianchen followed the crowd to a place not far from the arena, watching Ye Fan heading to the arena with a worried expression.

Core disciples, after all, are core disciples, and in terms of position, they are better than other disciples, able to clearly see the competition happening in the arena.

Other disciples surrounded three sides of the arena, heads bobbing in the crowd.

Although everyone wasn't optimistic about Ye Fan, it didn't affect their excitement to watch the match—after all, Ye Fan was adept at creating miracles.

Amidst the cheers of Chu Feng's admirers, Chu Feng seemed to regain that feeling of being under the spotlight, smiling and nodding frequently to the crowd as he stepped onto the arena.

At this time, to pursue the visual and shock effect, Chu Feng did not take the conventional path. After all, the arena was only a few meters high for everyone present—even a light jump could land them onto it.

But to create a sensational effect, Chu Feng began stepping into the void from a distance, as if walking on an invisible staircase, slowly ascending.

With every step, it felt as though the void trembled slightly, showcasing his astounding power.

When he was still five meters from the arena, Chu Feng's steps were already three meters above it, then descended slowly like an emperor, landing right in the center of the arena with his last step.

“Brother Chu Feng is mighty!”

“Brother Chu Feng, you’re so handsome!”

“Brother Chu Feng must win!!”

For a moment, many Xuanwu Sect disciples were stunned by Chu Feng’s unique way of stepping onto the stage, and the purple robe he wore further emphasized his grandeur, imposing aura.

A burst of applause and cheers arose from below, whether from Chu Feng’s followers or other disciples, watching Chu Feng’s striking entrance couldn’t help but praise him.

“What a show-off, just cheap tricks, I can do it too! And do it better than him!”

Jin Zhanfei couldn’t stand Chu Feng’s attention-seeking method, so he pursed his lips and muttered softly.

In fact, he was also very shocked, but not by Chu Feng’s entrance, rather by Chu Feng’s strength.

If it weren’t known that he wasn’t a match for Chu Feng, going up would be a self-seeking embarrassment, Jin Zhanfei would’ve jumped up to teach Chu Feng a lesson.

After all, in Jin Zhanfei's eyes, among all core disciples, whether it be the former number one Zhang Taiyi or the second Shen Tu, even himself, none were so ostentatious, all were very low-key.

But as soon as Chu Feng appeared, he was very high-profile, afraid that outsiders wouldn't know he was the number one core disciple, this kind of superficial display is a taboo for every cultivator.

Although dissatisfied with Chu Feng's behavior, Jin Zhanfei could only mumble quietly, as he currently didn't have the strength to challenge Chu Feng.

"Junior Brother Ye Fan, please come to the stage!"

Standing on the arena, Chu Feng called out to Ye Fan and voluntarily stepped aside to give up the center position.

At this moment, many thoughts ran through his mind. Initially, he really wanted to strike hard and kill Ye Fan during the competition, or at least cripple Ye Fan's cultivation, reducing him to a useless person.

However, when he saw Wu Xinhai standing at the edge of the viewing platform not far from the arena, he was suddenly shocked.

On second thought, this was a public competition, with Second Elder Qiu Xuanyuan as the referee. Moreover, his master, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, along with many elders, were all watching. If he tried any dirty tricks during the match, not only would it be difficult to succeed, but he wouldn't be able to hide it at all.

If Tong Tianhao and others were to think he intentionally killed a genius in the sect, even with his talents, he would face extremely severe punishment—the Xuanwu Sect has strict punishments for infighting among its disciples. Once someone is found deliberately killing fellow disciples, the most severe punishment is to cripple their cultivation and expel them from the sect.

Chu Feng naturally knew the importance of Ye Fan to the entire Xuanwu Sect, especially since he brought back the Thunderfire Grass from the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, giving Elder Wang Qingshan hope for survival.

In his view, though Elder Wang Qingshan is still in seclusion, he will come out eventually. If Wang Qingshan finds out that he crippled or killed Ye Fan, he definitely wouldn't let Chu Feng off!

At that time, even his master Tong Tianhao might not be able to protect him!

Furthermore, Great Elder Wu Xinhai was watching not far away, and with Wu Xinhai's protective nature, if Chu Feng crippled Ye Fan, there would be no need to wait for Elder Wang Qingshan to emerge; Wu Xinhai would deal with him first.

Thinking of his own safety, Chu Feng had no choice but to change his strategy and decide to severely humiliate Ye Fan during the competition.

In his view, since he couldn't cripple Ye Fan's cultivation nor put him to death, he could only humiliate Ye Fan as much as possible in the competition, letting everyone see that he was the true genius of the Xuanwu Sect, and Ye Fan's rise was just to highlight his own greater strength.

“Alright!”

Ye Fan walked neither too fast nor too slow, not even flying, but slowly ascended step by step via the constructed stairs.

“Brother Ye, be careful!”

Seeing Ye Fan step onto the arena, Tong Qianchen’s little heart raced, and she couldn’t help but loudly remind Ye Fan to be careful.

“Xiao Fan, just do your best. Even if you don’t succeed, it’s okay. There’s always a next time, plenty of opportunities!”

Great Elder Wu Xinhai also reminded Ye Fan not to force himself. As long as one tries their best, even if one doesn’t succeed, there won’t be any regrets.

Moreover, Ye Fan’s growth was so rapid it was astonishing. Wu Xinhai was worried that Ye Fan might hastily seek to advance his realm, leading to an unstable foundation.

No matter how much of a genius or a prodigy one is, the foundation is the most crucial. How far one can go on the path of cultivation firstly depends on their talent and potential, but most importantly, it depends on whether the foundation is solid and stable.

If the foundation isn't well established, one might be impressive at the start, but as cultivation progresses, various problems will arise due to an unstable foundation.

Ye Fan has a once-in-a-century talent, comprehension, and potential, and he will inevitably go far on the path of cultivation. He mustn't rush while laying his foundation.

"Brother Ye Fan, give it your all! I have faith in you!"

Jin Zhanfei, carefree and straightforward, although fully aware that Ye Fan might not be a match for Chu Feng, since Ye Fan decided to challenge Chu Feng, the only thing Jin Zhanfei could do was encourage him.

"Brother Ye Fan, be sure to pay attention to safety, especially his attacks—after mastering the secret technique of Thunder Power, his assaults are very fierce and overbearing, not to be underestimated!"

For the first time, Zhang Taiyi spoke during someone else's match. Not long ago, he lost to Chu Feng, so he had the most say on Chu Feng's combat power.

At this moment, witnessing Ye Fan about to face Chu Feng, he shared his experiences with Ye Fan, reminding him to be prepared and not get flustered.

"Master, rest assured, I won't disgrace you."

“Xiao Qian, Brother Jin, Brother Zhang, I’ll be careful, don’t worry.”

Feeling warm inside, Ye Fan responded one by one to his Master Wu Xinhai, and Tong Qianchen, Jin Zhanfei, Zhang Taiyi, then stood on the arena, facing Chu Feng from afar.

“Haha, that boy surnamed Chu hasn’t even grasped the basics of Thunder Power, yet he brags about mastering the ‘Thunderclap Treasure Skill.’ What a joke!”

At this moment, Elder Xuan’s voice suddenly echoed in Ye Fan’s sea of consciousness, “Boy, let him see what true Thunder Power is all about!!”

Chapter 1164: Battle with Chu Feng! Part 2

Under the gaze of the crowd, Chu Feng and Ye Fan stepped onto the platform one after another to engage in a fair battle.

At this moment, everyone’s eyes were fixed on the two of them, with almost no one believing that Ye Fan could win.

Unlike the crowd, Elder Xuan was inciting Ye Fan to teach Chu Feng a lesson with the “Thunderclap Treasure Skill”...

“Both parties step back, the competition begins!”

Without waiting for Ye Fan to respond to Elder Xuan, Second Elder Qiu Xuanyuan spoke.

He knew very well that this competition was different from the previous ones, so he didn't waste any words. After Ye Fan and Chu Feng each stepped back, he announced the official start of the competition, even skipping the process of exchanging names.

Ye Fan's name had long echoed throughout the Xuanwu Sect, and almost no one didn't recognize him, while Chu Feng was also a standout, having just defeated the number one core disciple, Zhang Taiyi, earlier, and was in the limelight.

Therefore, there was no need for introductions between them, as everyone knew who they were—better to announce the start directly and see which of them was stronger.

After announcing the start of the competition, Second Elder Qiu Xuanyuan stood quietly at the edge of the ring, waiting for the two to make their moves.

Meanwhile, the entire square fell silent, as everyone held their breath, waiting for the exciting showdown between the two.

Because they all knew that although Ye Fan seemed to be overestimating himself, daring to challenge openly and allowing Chu Feng to not hold back his strength indicated that he had absolute confidence in his own abilities.

On the ring, Chu Feng was at ease. He did not rush to attack after Qiu Xuanyuan Elder announced the start of the competition, nor did Ye Fan move. The two stood tens of meters apart, facing each other.

Chu Feng smiled slightly and said, "Ye Fan junior brother, I must admire you. In just a few months, you have progressed from an outer disciple to a core disciple, creating a precedent in the Xuanwu Sect and breaking records."

"Now, you are challenging the top five core disciples to compete for the qualification to participate in the Tianyuan City genius competition. Such courage is truly admirable."

Speaking to this point, Chu Feng changed his tone, continuing, "But as a senior brother, I must remind you, the path of cultivation requires steady progress, one step at a time, not to act impulsively and hastily, or else you may achieve the opposite effect."

Ye Fan smiled faintly and said, "No need to worry about me; I know what I'm doing. I'd suggest you take care of yourself first."

"What nerve! Chu Feng senior brother kindly reminded you, what is your attitude?"

"Ye Fan, you're too reckless. Is this how a junior brother should act?"

"Arrogant and ignorant, Chu Feng senior brother kindly reminded you, yet you not only didn't appreciate it, but also spoke disrespectfully. What reasoning is this?"

Ye Fan's words immediately made Chu Feng's diehard fans particularly dissatisfied, and they all angrily rebuked Ye Fan for being disrespectful and ungrateful.

For a moment, it was like a pot was boiling under the stage, with shouts and rebukes echoing all around.

Even those who supported Ye Fan felt he was too arrogant. What Chu Feng said was not wrong; Ye Fan could choose not to listen, but to rebut so disrespectfully seemed somewhat impolite.

Only Jin Zhanfei's eyes lit up with excitement as he shouted, "Ye Fan brother, well said! That's how you deal with such a hypocrite!"

Jin Zhanfei ranked third among the core disciples. Although now, due to Chu Feng's successful challenge against Zhang Taiyi, he automatically dropped to fourth, he was still not someone easily challenged.

His words, although harsh to Chu Feng's diehard fans, made them dare not say anything for fear that Jin Zhanfei might spare time to deal with them.

Jin Zhanfei, although straightforward and generous, never fussing over trifles, could make them nightmares if he really set out against them.

Not only did most disciples consider Ye Fan arrogant and disrespectful, but even some elders felt Ye Fan's words were too much, as Chu Feng hadn't said anything wrong.

As a senior brother, expressing concern over a junior brother's cultivation path was perfectly fine and showcased his magnanimity.

On the contrary, Ye Fan's confrontational stance made him seem petty.

Moreover, the elders felt Ye Fan's arrogance was detrimental, with nothing beneficial for his future dealings with others.

"Ye Fan, quickly apologize to Chu Feng senior brother. Maybe Chu Feng senior brother, considering it an unintentional mistake, won't hold it against you!"

A diehard fan of Chu Feng shouted below, demanding Ye Fan apologize immediately with a very loud voice.

His words were met with approval from many, temporarily inciting the audience to loudly demand an apology from Ye Fan.

Facing all this, Ye Fan remained unbothered, hardly paying attention to what these people were saying.

He knew clearly that these noisy individuals were Chu Feng's direct lineage and diehard fans.

They were merely trying to make him lose to Chu Feng invisibly, creating the effect of being inferior.

If he really apologized, there would be no need for this competition; he might as well admit defeat directly.

“Ye Fan, did you hear? If you apologize to me right now, I won’t hold your earlier offense against you; otherwise...”

“No need for unnecessary talk; since it’s a competition, let’s see the real skill in action. I did nothing wrong, so why apologize?”

Before Chu Feng could finish, Ye Fan interrupted with a stern voice.

All along, Chu Feng had targeted and plotted against him, almost costing him his life in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm!

Ye Fan felt it was time to settle the score!

As Ye Fan finished his words, the audience erupted with boos, even Great Elder Wu Xinhai didn’t expect Ye Fan to be so resolute, showing no intention of apologizing.

Tong Qianchen was even more worried. Though she didn’t know exactly how strong Chu Feng had become, she knew Zhang Taiyi was extremely powerful, enough to be called the strongest below the Holy Embryo Realm.

If even Zhang Taiyi couldn't match Chu Feng, one can imagine Chu Feng's strength. Can Ye Fan really defeat him?

"Too arrogant, simply too arrogant."

"Chu Feng senior brother, don't be polite with him, just beat him until he apologizes!"

Below the stage, Chu Feng's die-hard supporters almost choked on Ye Fan's words, each waving their fists, urging Chu Feng to teach Ye Fan a lesson.

The other elders also frowned, feeling that Ye Fan was too arrogant and needed to be taught a lesson, otherwise he would suffer greatly in the future.

Tong Tianhao frowned tightly, unsure of what he was thinking, but knowing that Ye Fan indeed needed a lesson, to understand there are always people stronger and heavens beyond.

For a cultivator, it is not terrible to face setbacks when young, but what is terrifying is a smooth life without major setbacks.

Strong people who grow up in smooth circumstances often cannot withstand big setbacks and will become dispirited and give up once struck.

Ye Fan's talent and wit are undoubtedly top-notch, but his journey has been smooth without any setback, which is not beneficial for his future cultivation.

They didn't know that Ye Fan's mental realm had long matured—what trials hasn't he experienced?

His experiences far surpass all the disciples of Xuanwu Sect, perhaps even richer than some elders.

He just didn't want to feign politeness with Chu Feng, but rather wanted to tear off Chu Feng's hypocritical, venomous mask!

Sure enough, Chu Feng's face turned ashen; Ye Fan interrupting him was undoubtedly a slap in the face, in front of so many people, he could not lose this face.

"Good! Good! Good!"

Chu Feng's eyes flashed with a hint of viciousness, saying 'good' three times, he took the lead to strike.

Swoosh!

A flicker beneath his feet, Chu Feng instantly appeared next to Ye Fan, his speed so fast that it left a series of afterimages behind.

Swoosh!

Following closely, Chu Feng's right hand lifted, with cyan True Yuan covering his palm, carrying the sound of wind and thunder, he swung towards Ye Fan's face.

He did not use full force because he felt it unnecessary—Ye Fan was far below his realm, even if he had encounters in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, he could never be his match.

The slap aimed at Ye Fan's cheek was meant to publicly humiliate Ye Fan, letting him taste the humiliation of being slapped in front of everyone.

Whoosh!

Facing Chu Feng's humiliating slap, Ye Fan seemingly froze from fear, without any evasive measures, instead he met it with a slap of his own.

It's over!

At that moment, almost everyone thought Ye Fan was undoubtedly doomed, clashing hands with Chu Feng—wasn't this looking to be abused?

Below the stage, Chu Feng's die-hard supporters burst into laughter, thinking Ye Fan's action was a naturally terrified reaction, getting slapped away by Chu Feng was a certainty.

Tong Qianchen's pupils suddenly dilated, then covered her eyes, unwilling to watch Ye Fan being slapped, secretly praying he wouldn't be heavily injured.

Jin Zhanfei and Zhang Taiyi couldn't help but clench their fists and kept their eyes fixed on the two on stage.

Tong Tianhao shook his head helplessly, unwilling to see Ye Fan being humiliated publicly.

Only Supreme Elder Shen Ximen and Great Elder Wu Xinhai's eyes emitted a strange light, revealing incredulous looks.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai completely relaxed, others lacked vision and couldn't see the subtle difference, but he had already discerned it.

Ye Fan was not responding instinctively out of fear but had ample confidence, hence not being swayed by others.

Arrogant!

Chu Feng saw Ye Fan dare to clash hands, and coldly sneered, while not using Thunder Power, he increased the force in his hand, intending to slap Ye Fan away.

Yet Ye Fan's face showed no change, like a deep ancient well.

Bam!

In the next moment, the two arms collided, Ye Fan's True Yuan and Blood Qi erupted simultaneously, the fearsome power filled the entire arm, shaking Chu Feng's arm away.

Soon after, Ye Fan's offensive did not diminish, the slap moved like a bolt of lightning, fiercely striking Chu Feng's handsome face.

"Slap!"

In an instant, the crisp sound of the slap echoed across the square.

Chu Feng was hit by Ye Fan's slap, spinning like a top, flying sideways out!

Chapter 1165: Battle with Chu Feng! Part 2

When the sound of the slap echoed throughout the entire square, everyone was stunned.

“Uh...”

Chu Feng’s followers all had their mouths wide open, able to fit a fist inside, producing a series of clucking sounds from their throats, like chickens being strangled.

The situation before their eyes was vastly different from what they had anticipated, making them unable to believe their own eyes.

“Impossible, this is impossible...”

Aside from Chu Feng’s followers, the other disciples were also completely stunned, each rubbing their eyes vigorously, unable to believe it, thinking they were hallucinating.

The disparity was just too great, those disciples who usually had a good relationship with Chu Feng kept shaking their heads in disbelief that Ye Fan could actually slap Chu Feng away with one blow.

If the situation were reversed and Chu Feng had slapped Ye Fan away, they would have considered it a matter of course, because Ye Fan’s realm was far inferior to Chu Feng’s.

But now, they were forced to believe that the Chu Feng they had always idolized was not Ye Fan’s match, the shock this brought them was unimaginable.

This result was not only incredible to the other ordinary disciples, but even Zhang Taiyi, Jin Zhanfei, and Tong Qianchen were surprised and completely stunned.

The reason was simple; with their keen eyes, they could naturally see that Chu Feng's slap just now, aside from not using Thunder Power, was almost full strength.

Yet—

The result was that Ye Fan slapped him away effortlessly. What had Ye Fan experienced in these two months?

How could his strength have increased so terrifyingly?

Shen Tu, originally ranked second among the core disciples and now third, had his eyelids twitching violently. He knew what he had said to Ye Fan a few months ago.

At this moment, his face was burning, as Ye Fan's slap not only sent Chu Feng flying but invisibly slapped him in the face too!

Even disciples like Tong Qianchen and Jin Zhanfei could see that Chu Feng had used his full strength, so the elders naturally saw it too.

Therefore, their shock was even greater than these disciples, because they knew how strong an attack Chu Feng could unleash with full strength.

Yet—

Such a powerful attack was easily neutralized by Ye Fan, who sent him flying back. How strong must one be to achieve that?

At this moment, those elders who originally thought Ye Fan was too arrogant unconsciously shut up, for Ye Fan wasn't being arrogant but indeed had the capital.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai completely relieved himself, though he had previously seen that Ye Fan had the ability to protect himself, he wasn't entirely confident before witnessing it.

At this moment, he was entirely at ease. With the strength Ye Fan exhibited and his ability to handle things with ease, even if Chu Feng used Thunder Power, he might not have the upper hand.

At this moment, he was full of confidence in Ye Fan.

In his view, Ye Fan might really create a miracle, and he even thought that Ye Fan, having stayed in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm for nearly two months, might have gained inspiration into the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

“This child is truly extraordinary, his physical strength is unbelievably strong. Just now, he perfectly merged True Yuan with blood and energy, which is how he burst forth with such astounding power, it’s simply unbelievable!”

As the only Supreme Elder present, Shen Ximen’s insight surpassed everyone else’s.

“Xiao Wu! I really must congratulate you, you’ve taken on an excellent disciple. In the future, he will definitely make a name for himself, and even in the entire Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent, he is sure to be a noteworthy strong person.”

Shen Ximen sincerely expressed his envy to Wu Xinhai, causing Wu Xinhai to beam with joy.

After hearing Shen Ximen’s analysis, the other elders finally realized the reason why Ye Fan was able to slap Chu Feng away.

They were also full of emotion, as even Elder Shen Ximen held such a high opinion of Ye Fan, his future achievements would certainly not be low!

Chu Feng, who was slapped away, wasn’t seriously hurt, just sent flying, but the damage to his pride was indescribable—he was slapped away by Ye Fan in front of his followers, his mentor, and everyone in the Xuanwu Sect!

This made him intensely furious and insanely resentful!

“Good, very good!”

Chu Feng slowly regained his footing, smiling in extreme anger, his whole aura continuously rising, not even bothering to wipe away the blood at the corner of his mouth.

At this moment, he pushed his True Yuan to the limit, his clothes fluttering without wind, his hair standing on end, and his eyes nearly spitting fire.

Wham!

Without any words, Chu Feng instantly integrated Thunder Power into his attack, punching towards Ye Fan, with scorching True Yuan carrying threads of purple Thunder Power, its destructive force exponentially increasing.

Swish!

A newly entered Holy Embryo Realm elder was shocked, such intensity in Attack Power could completely match his full-strength strike, making him look at Chu Feng in a new light.

Chu Feng’s strike had no reservations, this was the strongest Combat Power he could currently unleash, carrying an unstoppable momentum, locking onto Ye Fan.

This punch was unavoidable, it had to be taken head-on. Unable to withstand it, defeat meant death, with no second possibility.

“Thunderous Strike, it’s the Thunderous Strike, Ye Fan is finished, he definitely cannot withstand Senior Brother Chu Feng’s punch, he is doomed!”

Below the stage, Chu Feng’s followers finally let out a sigh of relief. With this intensity of attack, they did not believe Ye Fan could withstand it.

Chapter 1166: Battle with Chu Feng! Part 2

Can’t block, it’s death, there’s no second possibility, at this moment, even Chu Feng couldn’t hold back his hand.

Unless a miracle happens, otherwise the situation seems completely irreversible.

“Thunderous Strike?”

Even the elders in the stands couldn’t help but stand up, exchanging horrified looks, the power of this strike was truly overwhelming, can Ye Fan withstand it?

“Die!”

Chu Feng roared furiously, concentrating all his True Yuan in his fist, and a faint thread of purple Thunder Power appeared on the cyan True Yuan.

“You call that Thunder Power?!”

However—

Just when everyone thought Ye Fan couldn’t block Chu Feng’s punch, Ye Fan spoke.

As his words fell, Iron Fist swung!

Ye Fan also launched a punch!

Huh?

As Ye Fan’s punch was launched, the sharp-eyed Supreme Elder Shen Ximen and the Great Elder Wu Xinhai and others noticed something unusual.

Although Chu Feng did grasp Thunder Power, and it was indeed strong, his Thunder Power was just a faint shadow of purple, barely present on his fist.

But looking at Ye Fan, his fist was surrounded by eight very distinct purple Thunder Powers, resembling eight small dragons swimming back and forth on Ye Fan's fist.

Judging from the Thunder Power alone, Ye Fan could already throw Chu Feng out eight blocks away, they were simply not on the same level.

"No good..."

At this moment, Tong Tianhao also noticed something wrong, shouted, and reached out towards Chu Feng to grab him from the ring.

Because he had already seen that the power of Ye Fan's punch was far superior to Chu Feng's, Chu Feng absolutely couldn't withstand it.

In such a situation, neither side could hold back, once Ye Fan's fist hit Chu Feng, Chu Feng would be crippled if not dead, which he did not want to see.

But—

It was too late!

By the time he realized it, it was already late, Ye Fan's punch had already collided with Chu Feng's punch.

Driven by Thunder Power to unleash “Domineering Fist”, Ye Fan delivered his strongest strike!

Point against edge!

“Boom~”

Their fists collided, like two mountain peaks crashing violently, emitting a deafening roar, causing the slightly lower cultivation disciples to experience ear ringing and heart palpitations, their consciousnesses unstable.

Bang!

Immediately, a crisp sound, Chu Feng’s fist shattered, Ye Fan’s punch momentum did not diminish, smashing onto Chu Feng’s Dantian, its terrifying power instantly pierced through Chu Feng’s Protective True Essence.

“No!!!”

Excruciating pain attacked, Chu Feng wailed, his body was lifted into the air backward, blood spurting from his mouth, then he was caught mid-air by the True Essence Palm waved by Tong Tianhao, pulled out of the ring.

Swoosh!

With a quick inspection, Tong Tianhao's expression changed dramatically, Chu Feng not only passed out but his Dantian was shattered, his entire True Yuan depleted, from now on, he would be completely reduced to a cripple!

At the same time, Ye Fan stood straight on the ring, becoming the only focus of the entire arena!

At this moment, no one in the entire square made any noise, falling into a deathly silence, so quiet that even the sound of a heartbeat seemed like noise.

The onlooking Outer and Inner Sect disciples, as well as elite disciples, core disciples, all eyes wide open, staring motionlessly at Ye Fan, feeling as if they were asking: How... is this possible?

Is it possible?

Originally, they thought it would be a big battle, or Ye Fan would be killed by Chu Feng with one strike.

But reality played a big joke on them, the Ye Fan, whom everyone didn't expect, overpowered Chu Feng in combat power, successfully challenged across levels in the Early-stage True Yuan Realm, with one punch sending Chu Feng flying!

This... the shock it brought them was simply indescribable!

“Ye Fan cannot be judged by common sense, he is simply a monster among monsters!”

This was the heartfelt voice of all the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect.

“This...”

In the stands, the vast majority of the elders couldn’t see the hidden tension just now.

They were still contemplating giving Ye Fan a profound lesson this time, to let Ye Fan understand that there are skies beyond skies, people beyond people.

But they never expected that in just the blink of an eye, Ye Fan would send Chu Feng flying, and judging by the situation, Chu Feng’s condition was not optimistic.

This scene completely shocked them, each shaking their heads like rattles, unable to believe that this result was real.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai was pleasantly surprised, Ye Fan’s performance was completely beyond his expectations, he didn’t expect Ye Fan to have already grasped the mystery of Thunder Power, but didn’t expect Ye Fan could deliver such an astonishing punch.

With such combat power, if representing the Xuanwu Sect to participate in the genius competition in Tianyuan City, he could sweep away all the participating geniuses!

“Did Brother Ye win?”

“And sent Chu Feng flying with one punch?!”

Tong Qianchen couldn’t believe everything happening in front of her, so she secretly pinched her arm, the sharp pain made her realize that none of this was an illusion, but truly happened.

“Brother Ye is amazing!”

Tong Qianchen was full of joy, even so excited that her eyes faintly reddened.

She had always worried that Ye Fan would be bullied, but now, no one among the younger generation could threaten Ye Fan anymore.

That’s how she thought, but her father...

Tong Tianhao's lips kept trembling, originally thinking Chu Feng was already a very genius, managing to comprehend the mystery of Thunder Power in less than a day in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm.

Such achievement could be said to be very proud, but they didn't expect that under Ye Fan's hand, his Dantian would be shattered in just one move!

Tong Tianhao knew very well what it meant for the Dantian to be penetrated, it meant all one's cultivation was wasted, from now on becoming a cripple, never having the possibility to tread the path of cultivation again.

All this made his emotions particularly complex.

He was naturally very happy about the rise of Ye Fan, but he lost his most proud disciple—Chu Feng, whom he personally nurtured, placing great hopes on him.

One could say that without Ye Fan, he even considered marrying Tong Qianchen to Chu Feng, letting Chu Feng succeed him as the Sect Leader.

But now...

Chu Feng had already become a cripple!

And he couldn't blame Ye Fan for anything—the match just now was a fair fight, where everyone would go all out.

In such a situation, mistakes were hard to avoid!

“This...”

While Tong Tianhao was feeling complicated, Chu Feng's followers were already dumbfounded, simultaneously feeling a chill, if Ye Fan could defeat Chu Feng, if Ye Fan was vengeful, what would they do?

At this moment, they deeply regretted choosing the wrong side, but now it's too late to say anything, they could only pray Ye Fan would spare them.

“To think he became this strong...”

Zhang Taiyi's mind kept flashing with Ye Fan's punch just now, overwhelmed with shock.

After all, it was only three months ago that Ye Fan had just passed the elite disciple competition and entered the core disciple ranks.

Three months, for a cultivator, was too short a time, with great difficulty to improve strength.

But Ye Fan broke this spell, forcibly improving his strength to an unbelievable level!

If even he felt this way, what more of the originally second-ranked Shen Tu?!

He obviously saw that Chu Feng was finished, being punched by Ye Fan in the Dantian, with a great possibility that all his cultivation was gone.

“This is someone you shouldn’t make an enemy of!”

Shen Tu thought in his heart, deciding that even if he couldn’t be friends with Ye Fan, he should definitely not become enemies with Ye Fan!

Chapter 1167: Sincere Admiration and a Grand Reward

Ye Fan threw a punch and sent Chu Feng flying, turning him into a complete cripple, which left everyone utterly shocked.

Although Tong Tianhao felt heartache for his genius disciple’s demise, there was nothing he could do now. The competition was this brutal, with fast-changing moments on the battlefield; no one could guarantee the absence of accidents.

Even the Second Elder on-site, who served as the referee, couldn't stop the tragedy from happening, let alone himself.

Waving his hand, Tong Tianhao commanded the attendant beside him to carry Chu Feng away to receive treatment. Although he couldn't preserve his cultivation, at least they had to save his life; otherwise, the trouble would be immense.

For a full cup of tea's time, there was silence on the entire square. Everyone was left in an overwhelming shock by Ye Fan's earth-shattering punch, leaving their minds blank.

It wasn't until Chu Feng was carried away that the disciples of the Xuanwu Sect snapped out of their shock, and their gazes towards Ye Fan were filled with complex emotions.

There was awe, admiration, envy, and jealousy.

After this battle, without a doubt, Ye Fan would firmly occupy the top position of the core disciples, and no one could shake his status anymore.

Those core disciples who originally harbored the desire to compete with Ye Fan were completely at a loss for words.

Ye Fan could easily defeat a freak like Chu Feng who had comprehended the Thunder Power. On what grounds could they challenge Ye Fan?

Despite the complex emotions, Tong Tianhao still managed to control his emotions well. He ascended the stage and scanned the many disciples below.

Finally, he rested his gaze in the direction of the core disciples and said in a deep voice, "This time's challenge match, Ye Fan is the victor. Does anyone else want to challenge Ye Fan?"

All the core disciples were silent, with not a single person willing to step onto the stage and challenge Ye Fan.

What a joke, Ye Fan had even crippled Chu Feng. They wanted to go further on the path of cultivation, and challenging Ye Fan would be tantamount to ending their own cultivation path; they weren't that blind.

Seeing that no one dared to challenge Ye Fan anymore, this core disciple competition was basically ready to conclude.

"Since no one is challenging the top five disciples, I hereby announce that Ye Fan has successfully challenged and become the first among the core disciples. He, along with the other four core disciples, will represent our sect to participate in the Tianyuan State Southern Domain competition in Tianyuan City held a month from now."

With Tong Tianhao's words, Ye Fan becoming the first among the core disciples was set in stone. Even if anyone was unwilling, it was useless now.

Of course, no one would be unwilling. When Tong Tianhao previously asked if anyone would challenge Ye Fan, not a single person stood up, and now they certainly wouldn't.

“Ye Fan will definitely outshine everyone and win the championship of the Tianyuan State talent competition!”

Among the elite disciples below the stage, someone unknown was the first to shout this, immediately gaining everyone’s agreement.

For a moment, the entire square was filled with voices praising Ye Fan, even more lively than when they praised Chu Feng before.

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and all the elders did not stop these disciples from speaking because most of them were genuinely admiring Ye Fan, hence their actions.

Among the crowd, those followers of Chu Feng who had originally jeered for Chu Feng to teach Ye Fan a lesson were now tightly closing their mouths.

Looking at Ye Fan on the stage, who was in the spotlight, their eyes were filled with awe and fear, along with deep worry.

They knew that strong people often had peculiar tempers. If Ye Fan were as vindictive as Chu Feng, they would be in for a hard time in the future.

Even if Ye Fan was magnanimous and didn’t bother with them, what would other disciples think of them?

They would surely be despised by others in the sect.

This was the consequence of choosing the wrong side, and they had to bear the bitter fruit themselves, as it was what they had sown, and no one would sympathize with them.

“Congratulations, Brother Ye Fan!”

After Sect Leader Tong Tianhao returned to the stage, and Ye Fan also returned to the ranks of the core disciples, Zhang Taiyi was the first to offer his congratulations to Ye Fan.

“Just lucky!”

Ye Fan gave a faint smile, showing no airs of being the first core disciple, remaining as approachable as before.

This aspect moved Zhang Taiyi deeply. He had once been the top core disciple but seldom interacted with other disciples, let alone mingling with them.

In this regard, Ye Fan surpassed him by far, making Zhang Taiyi full of admiration.

“Junior Brother Ye Fan, I was too arrogant before. I apologize and hope you don’t take it to heart.”

Originally ranked second among the core disciples, Shen Tu, after intense internal struggle, decided to set aside his pride and take this opportunity to make peace with Ye Fan and ease their relationship.

“Senior Brother Shen, I really don’t like hearing you say that.”

Ye Fan deliberately put on a stern face first, then suddenly softened his tone and looked sincerely into Shen Tu’s eyes, saying, “As cultivators, we walk a thorn-filled path, defying the heavens. Is it possible to have no pride at all? Don’t worry, I didn’t take it to heart, because you’re not the only one with pride—I have it too!”

Shen Tu was taken aback, slowly extending his hands toward Ye Fan, “Ye Fan, although your strength is formidable, I didn’t acknowledge you before. But now, I, Shen Tu, acknowledge you!”

Ye Fan smiled slightly, reaching out his hands to grasp Shen Tu’s. At the moment their four palms met, Ye Fan felt the sincerity behind Shen Tu’s pride.

“Old Shen, I remember you never used to acknowledge anyone. Hearing you express admiration for someone is truly rare.” Jin Zhanfei also came up and placed his large hand over theirs, teasing Shen Tu with a grin.

“Jin Zhanfei, are you itching for a fight? Even though I may not be Ye Fan’s match, teaching you a lesson is easy enough.”

For once, Shen Tu didn't lose his temper or pull his hand back, but instead intentionally threatened Jin Zhanfei.

Jin Zhanfei was unfazed, "Don't brag. Even though I can't beat you, defeating me wouldn't be so simple either. Don't forget, now you're not only challenged by Ye Fan, brother."

Speaking while nudging at Zhang Taiyi, who joyfully came up and placed his right hand on theirs, saying, "From now on we're brothers, let's work together and bring glory to our Xuanwu Sect!"

"How could this affair leave me out? Even though I'm the slowpoke, you shouldn't leave me behind, right?"

Tong Qianchen, who was originally standing by watching Ye Fan and Zhang Taiyi, looked at them with eyes filled with deep affection but didn't approach, knowing this moment was about the exchange between men. It wasn't her place to intervene.

However, now it's about more than the bond between brothers; it concerns the glory of the sect. As a participating disciple, even if she is the last one, she had to come forward.

Tong Qianchen placed her petite hand on Zhang Taiyi's, "For the honor of our sect, let's join forces, overcome difficulties, and bring glory to our sect."

Zhang Taiyi exchanged peculiar glances with Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu, and then, in unison, they withdrew their hands.

Without any preparation, Tong Qianchen's hand fell naturally, landing on Ye Fan's hands.

Jin Zhanfei let out a quirky laugh, quickly grabbing Ye Fan's left wrist, flipping his hand to cover Tong Qianchen's small hand with Ye Fan's.

Then, the hands of Zhang Taiyi, Shen Tu, and others pressed down, stacking the five hands together.

Tong Qianchen let out a soft hum, her face blushing red. She stomped her foot, "I'm not playing anymore, you guys are bullying me!"

Saying that, she withdrew her small hand and fled behind the Great Elder, her heart pounding as if a deer leapt within, her large eyes almost brimming with tears.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai also smirked mischievously, "Little girl, why aren't you hiding with your father, but come here to old me? Do you think I'd help you?"

Amid the laughter and chatter here, the elders in the stands were also discussing animatedly.

"Unexpectedly, truly unexpected, Ye Fan has also comprehended the secret technique of Thunder Power, which is the most difficult to grasp. Moreover, it's evident he's grasped it far more profoundly than Chu Feng."

“Indeed, on the surface, Ye Fan seems to be only at the early stage of the True Essence Realm, but his attack power is likely comparable to that of an early-stage Holy Embryo Realm cultivator.”

“I bet no other sect has such a monstrous disciple. Ye Fan can definitely achieve remarkable results in the talent competition in Tianyuan City this time.”

“I agree too. Although Qingxuan Sect and Tianyuan Sect have concealed disciples, according to the competition rules, only disciples below the Holy Embryo Realm can participate. Their disciples can’t be stronger than Ye Fan.”

The battle earlier didn’t last long, but you can tell much from observing a part of it. With a single punch from Ye Fan defeating Chu Feng, it’s clear Ye Fan’s real combat power has reached an extremely fearsome level.

Listening to the elders’ discussions, Tong Tianhao’s mood improved a bit. Although he lost a talented disciple, he gained a more monstrous one in Ye Fan.

For the long-term development of the sect, Tong Tianhao felt the loss of a Chu Feng was acceptable. Once Ye Fan rises, it’ll signify the rise of Xuanwu Sect, a price worth paying.

“Sect Leader, my disciple won first place in the Core Disciple Competition. What prize will you give? It shouldn’t be too stingy, should it?”

Hearing everyone discussing his disciple, Wu Xinhai was quite proud, striding up to Tong Tianhao, his huge palm extended.

Tong Tianhao felt amused yet helpless, knowing the Great Elder wasn't easily fooled. Without satisfying him with a worthy reward, Wu Xinhai certainly wouldn't let it go.

After thinking a long while, Tong Tianhao finally spoke, "Here's what we'll do. Given Ye Fan's treatment of Elder Wang and his great contributions to our sect, plus winning first in the Core Disciple Competition preparing to represent our Xuanwu Sect in the talent competition, I have decided that for the next month, Ye Fan may freely use the Spirit Stones within the sect."

"Wh-What?!"

The words caused an uproar throughout the audience.

Chapter 1168: The Victor Becomes King, the Loser Is Outcast

"Sect Leader, isn't this reward too generous? Please reconsider!"

The Seventh Elder frowned, feeling that opening the entire sect's Spirit Stones to Ye Fan was indeed too much of a reward.

"Seventh Elder, do you disagree with my decision? Explain your reasoning."

Although Sect Leader Tong Tianhao had made the decision for the heavy reward, he felt a bit of pain in his heart. After all, it was the first time to open a sect's Spirit Stones to a single disciple.

"Sect Leader, please reconsider. As we all know, Spirit Stones are the foundation for a sect's survival. The storage amount of Spirit Stones determines a sect's development."

The Seventh Elder spoke eloquently, presenting his prepared reasons one by one: "Our sect's Spirit Stone reserves are already limited and need to be supplied to many disciples for cultivation. If Ye Fan consumes too many Spirit Stones, it would be counterproductive and cause dissatisfaction among the other disciples, so please withdraw your previous promise."

His words gained the agreement of the other disciples, as giving Ye Fan access to all the sect's Spirit Stones would effectively reduce their monthly supply, which naturally affected their interests, and they were unwilling.

"Seventh Elder, you are mistaken."

The Second Elder Qiu Xuanyuan countered: "It's true, everything you said is factual, but there's one thing you didn't consider. Why are our sect's Spirit Stone reserves low? The primary reason is that our Xuanwu Sect's status among the Three Great Sects is not what it used to be. If Ye Fan can achieve a good result in the genius competition for our Xuanwu Sect, our sect's status will improve immediately, and if Ye Fan becomes a strong figure in the future, the sect's status will naturally rise as well. This is a long-term investment. I support the Sect Leader's decision."

"That's right, the Second Elder is correct. Without long-term considerations, there will be immediate worries. We should be looking far ahead rather than focusing on short-term gains; otherwise, we could risk losing more than we gain on such matters!"

“Exactly, with Ye Fan’s achievements and strength, he fully deserves this reward.”

Seeing that nearly all the elders took an opposite stance to him, the Seventh Elder could only close his mouth sullenly, knowing that he couldn’t argue against so many people. Keeping quiet was the wisest choice.

“Letting Ye Fan use the Spirit Stones as he pleases, huh...”

“This is the first time since the founding of our Xuanwu Sect!!”

The disciples below all had a fit of envy, jealousy, and hatred for the heavy reward Ye Fan received.

However, they also knew that such a reward had nothing to do with them, and they could only silently indulge in envy and jealousy.

Upon hearing the Sect Leader and many elders’ discussions, Ye Fan felt exceptionally excited, understanding that with so much support from the elders, this heavy reward was essentially a done deal.

After announcing Ye Fan’s reward, following a period of heated discussion, the dust finally settled, and the Xuanwu Sect’s Core Disciple competition concluded successfully.

Wu Xinhai took Ye Fan to the Spirit Turtle Island, to the exceptionally dense Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the Dong Mansion.

Meanwhile, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao also sent people with a large quantity of Spirit Stones for Ye Fan to use for cultivation in the coming month.

Those sent to deliver the Spirit Stones were people close to Tong Tianhao, who, after laying down the Spirit Stones, said to Ye Fan: “These were sent by the Sect Leader, and he said that if it’s not enough, feel free to ask, and we’ll send more as quickly as possible.”

The promise was fulfilled, with a massive amount of Spirit Stones divided into over a dozen Space Bags delivered to Ye Fan, and additionally, around Ye Fan’s Dong Mansion, Tong Tianhao had positioned elders from the sect to ensure Ye Fan’s safety.

One could say, at this moment, within the Xuanwu Sect, the Spirit Turtle Island where Ye Fan was located was the safest place, not even a fly could sneak in.

Having arranged everything, Tong Tianhao finally let out a sigh of relief, having now considered Ye Fan as a secret talent for special cultivation.

Although the Tianyuan Sect knew Ye Fan was at the Xuanwu Sect, they couldn’t possibly anticipate that in less than a year, Ye Fan had undergone a rebirth-like transformation.

Every ancient Emperor Clan, Holy Land, and Wu Shang Sect has their own secretively cultivated genius, and before truly coming of age, they will certainly not be allowed to reveal themselves to the world.

The significance of Ye Fan to the Xuanwu Sect was no different from the heirs being secretly cultivated by these super forces, the only difference being that the Xuanwu Sect was far too weak, and even with the collective efforts of the entire sect, what extent Ye Fan could be cultivated to was unknown.

Those super forces have extremely deep foundations, and their Cultivation Techniques, martial arts, or cultivation resources are all significantly superior to those of a small sect like Xuanwu.

Regardless, Tong Tianhao felt he had done his best, providing Ye Fan with the greatest support achievable within the sect's capabilities.

"Father, I'd like to seek Brother Ye's guidance on the mysteries of Thunder Power. I hope you allow it, father."

Just as Tong Tianhao sighed with relief, barely warm the bench, Tong Qianchen walked in from outside, leaning by his side, holding one of his arms and shaking it coquettishly.

"Isn't your intent like that of the tipsy man who wishes not for wine? You are my daughter; how could I not see through your little scheming?" Tong Tianhao said, petting his daughter's head with a doting smile.

"What! I'm currently the last in the top five Core Disciples, and wouldn't want to drag you down in the month-long competition. I sincerely wish to learn a bit about the mysteries of Thunder Power from Brother Ye. If I can even grasp a little, it would be great!"

Tong Qianchen's face turned red as she shook her father's arm, firmly denying that she had any other intentions in seeking Ye Fan.

Tong Tianhao smiled slightly, knowing his daughter was quite shy; even between father and daughter, he shouldn't speak too harshly.

After pondering, he said: "Well, you might as well, although my consent alone isn't enough, you still need to pass the Great Elder's approval, and that depends on your luck."

"Yay, I knew it, father, you're the best. I'll go over right now."

With that, Tong Qianchen jumped up like an excited bird, hopping out of the room towards Spirit Turtle Island.

Great Elder Wu Xinhai was just explaining something to Ye Fan, when he suddenly sensed someone rapidly approaching, and a slight concentration allowed him to identify that it's Tong Qianchen coming, so he threw a meaningful smile towards Ye Fan.

"Little girl, what brings you here? Aren't you supposed to be in your own Dong Mansion cultivating?" The Great Elder asked teasingly with a smile towards Tong Qianchen.

Tong Qianchen's cultivation mansion is also on Spirit Turtle Island, and its location is even better than Ye Fan's current mansion.

“Uncle Wu, I have some cultivation questions to ask Brother Ye, can you let us be alone together?”

Tong Qianchen is very sweet-mouthed. She also knows that Great Elder Wu Xinhai is the hardest elder to speak to, and Ye Fan is his most prized disciple. To disturb Ye Fan’s cultivation, one must first get through him.

“Why don’t you ask me your cultivation questions? I can guide you, no need to trouble Ye Fan, right?”

Wu Xinhai naturally knows that Tong Qianchen wants to be alone with Ye Fan not just to discuss cultivation matters, but he deliberately says this to make things difficult for her.

Tong Qianchen glared angrily at Wu Xinhai, then suddenly smiled slyly, “That’s great, let me ask Uncle Wu how to comprehend Thunder Power? Please guide me.”

Wu Xinhai became tongue-tied and jokingly scolded, “What a mischievous little girl, I’ve lost to you. I don’t know the answer to that, you should still ask your Brother Ye.”

He hasn’t comprehended Thunder Power either, so how could he guide Tong Qianchen? But he also knows Tong Qianchen is doing this on purpose to get permission to pass.

“Master, this...”

Concerning his own cultivation, Ye Fan couldn't remain silent and gave Wu Xinhai a questioning look.

"Xiao Fan! These days, although I don't know how you survived in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, you must have cultivated hard to achieve such accomplishments.

The way of cultivation lies in balance, being overly tense isn't good, too much of anything is harmful. You should relax yourself properly, just for today! Resume closed cultivation tomorrow!"

Wu Xinhai said with a smile, and there was another reason he didn't mention—no matter how strong or arrogant he was, he couldn't disrespect Tong Tianhao's wishes, right?

Since even Tong Tianhao has allowed Tong Qianchen to find Ye Fan, it would be too socially awkward for him to prevent it.

Upon hearing Wu Xinhai's words, Ye Fan felt that he had been too tense, so he accepted the suggestion and strolled around Spirit Turtle Island with Tong Qianchen, chatting as they walked.

...

Meanwhile, Chu Feng finally woke up from unconsciousness.

The first thing he realized was that his True Yuan had completely vanished, his Dantian destroyed, his cultivation turned into nothingness, he had utterly become a cripple, without even a chance to start over!

“Why? Why did this happen??”

“Ah...!!”

Chu Feng went completely berserk; initially, he never even considered Ye Fan as a rival, but unexpectedly, he ended up defeated, and so thoroughly!

“No, I can’t sit idly by, I have to find Master to see if there’s a remedy, to repair the Dantian!”

After his frenzy, Chu Feng forced himself to calm down, endured his injuries, got out of bed, and left his mansion.

Though his cultivation was destroyed, his foundation was much better than a regular person’s, so his movements were unaffected.

“How unexpected, the Sect Leader rewarded Ye Fan so heavily, opening all the sect’s Spirit Stones for his use...”

Just after leaving his mansion, Chu Feng heard two nearby Core Disciples discussing Ye Fan's reward, stopping in shock before nearly fainting — in his plans, Ye Fan was supposed to be his foil, but in the end, he became the foil.

Huh??

Immediately, before Chu Feng could recover from his anger and resentment, he suddenly saw Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen strolling together, laughing and talking like a couple.

“Pfft—”

As the saying goes, misfortunes never come singly. Hit after hit, Chu Feng was utterly broken, his blood boiling, spewing out a mouthful of reverse blood, blinded, almost falling to the ground.

“Huff... Huff...”

Moments later, Chu Feng steadied himself, his eyes red, glaring at the departing backs of Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen, gasping, gritting his teeth and saying, “There's no place for me here, staying will only bring ridicule and humiliation!”

“Ye Fan, just wait, at the Tianyuan City genius tournament I'll make you spill blood with every step!!”

As his voice fell, hatred twisted Chu Feng's originally handsome face into distortion, the flames in his eyes could almost burn everything.

Chapter 1169: Execution Order

The Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent is vast, with expansive lands and sparse populations. Even cultivators flying through the air would require several years of hard work to traverse it.

Tianyuan State is merely a speck of dust within the Southern Domain of the Tianxuan Continent.

However—

Within such a tiny place, the Xuanwu Sect, Qing Xuan Sect, and Tianyuan Sect stand as the Three Great Sects.

Apart from these Three Great Sects, the Five Great Families are also distributed here. These Five Families have a long heritage but fall short compared to the Three Great Sects. After all, no matter how strong a family is, it cannot be compared to a sect.

The Chu Family is one of the Five Great Families and is the strongest among them. Recently, the Chu Family has developed rapidly, with its power and status rising swiftly, giving them a faint chance to rival the Three Great Sects.

What is most sensational is that a few years ago, the Chu Family produced a peerless genius. At the mere age of eighteen, his cultivation reached the peak of the True Essence Realm and could breakthrough to the Holy Embryo Realm at any time, fighting with ease across levels.

The entire Chu Family regards him as the future heir who can contend with the Major Sect, nurturing him with nearly the whole family's resources!

In fact, given this genius's talent and comprehension, he could have formed a Holy Embryo within and broken through to the Holy Embryo Realm long ago. However, for his future development, the family strong people restricted his cultivation speed.

Only by setting an unbreakably solid foundation can one walk further on the cultivation path later on; this planning is for his own good.

However, the Chu Family always kept a low profile. Although the other four families and the Three Great Sects knew the Chu Family produced a peerless genius, they didn't take any excessive actions.

The Five Great Families are quietly competing. With the Chu Family producing a peerless genius, as long as he does not perish prematurely, their position among the Five Great Families will become incredibly stable, possibly sharing powers in Tianyuan State with the Three Great Sects, breaking the original power structure.

The other four families know this situation, but they have no solution because no strong forces within their families can rival the genius of the Chu Family, so they must temporarily endure.

Recently, the Chu Family Ancestor has been in a good mood, having received the message brought by Chu Feng and hearing that Chu Feng has understood the mysteries of Thunder Power, making it easy to take the first place among the Xuanwu Sect's core disciples.

Once Chu Feng becomes the top core disciple of the Xuanwu Sect, his position there will remain unshakable, paving the way for future plans.

With another genius arising from the Chu Family, once the planned matter succeeds, their status will climb fiercely, fully able to rival the Three Great Sects and become the fourth major power in Tianyuan State.

Hmm?

In the Chu Family Territory, the family ancestor suddenly heard a rapid bell ringing resound throughout the family, momentarily freezing.

“Someone, go see who rang the golden bell? Didn’t I say unless there’s a major incident, no one is allowed to ring the golden bell!”

The Chu Family Ancestor frowned. The Chu Family’s golden bell is an alarm, and without a major incident, no one is allowed to ring it without reason, so who on earth is this unruly?

Soon, the person sent to investigate stumbled back, bursting through the door, and stammeringly reported: “Old, old ancestor, no, it’s bad...”

“Rubbish! What’s gotten you so flustered? Speak slowly, the sky won’t fall!”

The ancestor's mustache and hair bristled, his long-established authority suddenly erupted, terrifying the person into immediate compliance.

"Reporting to the ancestor, Master Chu Feng has returned..."

Being startled by the ancestor, the person's stammer disappeared, quickly reporting to him.

"Feng'er has returned? That's good news! No need to ring the golden bell, right? Who's watching the bell? Replace them immediately!"

Upon hearing that Chu Feng had returned, the ancestor felt assured and immediately discontented with the person guarding the bell—this is good news, why ring the bell randomly?

It's known that when the golden bell rings, the entire family must gather, even the strong people in seclusion must exit immediately, which may hinder their cultivation.

"No, ancestor, Master Chu Feng was sent back by someone; he seems to be injured..."

Originally, this servant wanted to say Chu Feng's cultivation had been abolished, but seeing the ancestor's demeanor, he dared not speak, hoping the ancestor would look for himself.

“Injured? How seriously?”

At this moment, the ancestor realized the issue might be grave; otherwise, no one would dare privately ring the golden bell, questioning while hastening toward the main gate.

The Chu Family, as an ancient and vast family, occupies a large territory divided into over ten yards, with the ancestor residing in the rearmost yard, usually undisturbed by external affairs.

Soon, the ancestor arrived at the forefront yard, instantly seeing Chu Feng surrounded by people.

“Feng’er? What exactly happened? Who injured you? How badly are you hurt?” The ancestor spoke as he parted the crowd and approached Chu Feng.

“Ancestor... you must avenge me...”

Upon seeing the ancestor, Chu Feng could not help but succumb to grief, throwing himself at the ancestor’s feet, lamenting his struggles, recounting how he defeated Zhang Taiyi to become the top core disciple of the Xuanwu Sect and how he was then abolished by Ye Fan.

However, he didn’t admit his lack of strength coupled with carelessness allowed Ye Fan to strike him down, crippling his Dantian. Instead, he claimed Ye Fan’s attack was a devious plot, catching him unprepared and resulting in his Dantian’s destruction.

“Yuankong, this matter is yours now—I need a satisfactory outcome; our Chu family people cannot be destroyed like this!”

After hearing Chu Feng’s lament, the ancestor’s expression darkened as he turned to the current family head, Chu Yuankong.

“Rest assured, ancestor, I will handle this matter.”

Chu Yuankong nearly gritted his teeth as he uttered these words. Among all present, he was the most aggrieved, as Chu Feng was his son.

In the past, Chu Feng was also one of the few geniuses in the Chu Family, his talent second only to the unparalleled genius of the Chu Family.

Due to the limited resources of the Chu Family, nurturing an unparalleled genius was already extremely challenging. To nurture two geniuses was beyond their financial capabilities.

For cultivators to cultivate, they need a steady supply of elixir pills and spirit stones, along with cultivation techniques, martial arts, and other resources. The Chu Family simply could not afford to nurture two geniuses.

Ultimately, at the suggestion of the Chu Family Ancestor, Chu Yuankong reluctantly decided to send Chu Feng to the Xuanwu Sect, while the family focused all resources on cultivating Chu Hong.

It was because Chu Feng entered the Xuanwu Sect that Chu Yuankong received the support of the Chu Family Ancestor amidst intense competition, eventually becoming the current Family Head of the Chu Family.

Moreover, they had their own plans by sending Chu Feng to the Xuanwu Sect.

On one hand, they could use the resources of the Xuanwu Sect to quickly enhance Chu Feng's strength, effectively allowing the Xuanwu Sect to help cultivate another genius for the Chu Family.

On the other hand, they hoped Chu Feng could win the affection of the Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao's only daughter, Tong Qianchen, and form an alliance through marriage, strengthening the Chu Family's power.

Thirdly, they aimed to obtain the secret of the Xuanwu Sect's forbidden art—the mystery of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill!

Now, Chu Feng had already comprehended part of the mysteries of Thunder Power, greatly increasing his strength, and he was not far from achieving the third goal.

Just then...

Chu Feng was ruined and lost his cultivation, how could Chu Yuankong bear it?!

“Hong’er, I have no other requirements for the Tianyuan City Talent Competition, I just ask you to kill Ye Fan, who crippled your cousin, in the competition. Is there any problem?” Chu Yuankong turned to ask the Chu Family’s top genius, Chu Hong.

“Blood for blood, killing him is like slaughtering a chicken or a dog!”

Chu Hong’s face was icy. Although he didn’t care much for his cousin, whom he rarely met, the blood ties still drove him to rage and murderous intent. He was determined to kill Ye Fan at the Tianyuan City Talent Competition!

...

While Chu Feng was lamenting to the Ancestor about being crippled, the news of Ye Fan’s glorious deeds reached the ears of Helian Chang, the Sect Leader of the Tianyuan Sect, through secret channels.

“He actually grew so quickly...”

Upon learning that Ye Fan had comprehended Thunder Power, successfully defeated Chu Feng, and became the top core disciple of the Xuanwu Sect, Helian Chang felt a deep sense of crisis.

This Ye Fan’s talent is terrifying; no wonder he came from Earth. As long as he has a good cultivation environment, he can quickly rise.

This kid cannot be left alone; his talent is too terrifying. In less than a year, he has grown so rapidly. If this continues, with enough time and space for cultivation, he will eventually bring a nightmare to the Tianyuan Sect.

After pondering for a moment, Helian Chang raised his head again, eyes filled with resolute determination.

“Xiaolin, what do you think?”

Helian Chang asked a young man beside him.

This young man was the top core disciple of the Tianyuan Sect, personally trained by him, and was only a step away from achieving a Holy Embryo within his body, stepping into the Holy Embryo Realm.

“I will follow Master’s orders!”

Luo Xiaolin knew his master’s temperament well and thought it best not to express any opinions at this time, just to obey orders.

“Hmm!”

Helian Chang pondered for a moment and said, “In a month, you will undoubtedly meet him at the Tianyuan City Talent Competition. By then, I don’t care what method you use, kill him for me!”

“I will obey Master’s command!”

Luo Xiaolin showed no change in expression. To him, killing Ye Fan was just a small effort.

“Master, if there’s nothing else, I will take my leave now!”

Luo Xiaolin bowed to Helian Chang, retreated two steps, and upon seeing Helian Chang wave him away, he turned and left the room.

“Kid, no matter how much of a genius you are, you are destined to die young!”

After Luo Xiaolin left, Helian Chang sat down on a Taishi Chair and muttered to himself.

To Helian Chang, whether it was because Ye Fan publicly opposed him in the Xuanwu Sect or to protect the secret of the world passage from the Xuan Realm to Earth, Ye Fan must be killed!

Chapter 1170: Luxurious Cultivation

Spirit Turtle Island, resembling a spirit turtle floating in the air.

The island is filled with strange flowers and herbs, spiritual springs and waterfalls can be seen everywhere, and the primordial qi is particularly rich. There are even some spirit grasses with considerable age, emitting a faint medicinal fragrance.

On this spirit island, there are over a hundred cave mansions scattered across various spots of the island, each with a disciple or elder quietly engrossed in cultivation.

Not far from the central area, inside a cave, a golden crown shines brightly as Ye Fan quietly cultivates within the virtual space of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown.

The cave door is sealed, the entire mansion is filled with clouds and mist, the concentration of primordial qi has almost reached a liquid state.

Ye Fan's mansion, on Spirit Turtle Island, can't be considered the best in location, but it's quite close to it.

The primordial qi on Spirit Turtle Island is most concentrated at the center. Living in such an environment, even ordinary people can become healthier and live longer, free from all diseases.

For cultivators, such an environment undoubtedly accelerates the cultivation process.

Ye Fan's mansion is close to the central area, so one can imagine how much thought Great Elder Wu Xinhai put into arranging a good cultivation site for him.

Of course, this was also earned by Ye Fan's strength. Without an outstanding power and great potential, even Wu Xinhai as a great elder would find it difficult to secure such a fine cultivation place for him for personal reasons.

After all, having a place here is not only a symbol of strength but also of identity.

In the sect, only disciples highly valued by the sect would have their own cave mansions on Spirit Turtle Island, and Ye Fan undoubtedly obtained his mansion there the fastest.

At this moment, inside the closed mansion of Ye Fan, a myriad of lights flicker, and thousands of pounds of spirit stones are piled around him.

These spirit stones were sent by Tong Tianhao, enough to skim a thin layer off the inventory of the Xuanwu Sect.

The qualitative change is triggered by the quantitative change. Although the quality of these spirit stones isn't superb, their quantity is vast, providing an immense amount of primordial qi.

On Earth, spirit stones are called essence stones. Although the name has changed, their essence remains identical.

The formation of spirit stones is due to the liquefaction of overly dense primordial qi, where it condenses and becomes liquid.

The liquid primordial qi, after undergoing high-pressure cooling, forms into spirit stones, or essence stones, containing extremely rich primordial qi.

Of course, as spirit stones form, they encounter various problems, which results in varying qualities among them.

Some spirit stones mixed with too many impurities like sand and rock result in inferior quality, while those devoid of impurities are called pure spirit stones, also known as top-grade spirit stones.

Due to the lengthy time required for the formation of spirit stones, they are extremely precious, especially on Earth.

Upon encountering spirit stones from the Xuan Realm, Ye Fan realized that the so-called colorful spirit stones on Earth are merely the lowest grade.

Spirit stones become mid-grade only when they reach nine colors, with upper grade and top-grade spirit stones being extremely rare even within the entire Xuanwu Sect, so naturally, they wouldn't be given to Ye Fan.

Nonetheless, the collective worth of these spirit stones is still immense.

A cultivation family, outside of this, could hardly afford the spirit stones required for a cultivator's practice.

Ye Fan refines the massive amount of spirit stones little by little, the super-concentrated primordial qi surrounding him, looking like a giant silkworm from the outside.

With the Nine Heavens Profound Skill in operation, Ye Fan resembles a bottomless pit, absorbing as much primordial qi as his body can take.

All 360 acupoints around him contain tiny true essence vortices that absorb primordial qi while automatically filtering out impurities through the vortices.

His meridians are flexible and broad, even many unknown small meridians were opened by him, allowing the true essence to flow unceasingly.

Half a month passed, a substantial amount of spirit stones around Ye Fan has been consumed. If it were an ordinary cultivator, they would have broken through long ago, especially since Ye Fan had already reached the peak of Early-stage True Yuan Realm before secluding himself, just a step away from fully entering Mid True Essence Realm.

For others, there's a bottleneck transitioning between Early-stage and Mid-stage True Essence Realm, but Ye Fan has no such worry.

For him, as long as there's an ample supply of spirit stones, breaking through is quite simple because his true essence has already become liquid, and further compression isn't possible.

The true essence within the body must not be compressed into solid form, otherwise, it will result in an explosion, assuredly fatal with no alternative.

This is a lesson paid for by countless predecessors with their lives, no one would foolishly attempt compressing true essence into a solid state.

Having refined over a hundred pounds of spirit stones, the true essence within Ye Fan's body finally reached a saturated state.

Then, naturally and effortlessly, Ye Fan broke through to Mid True Essence Realm. The true essence in his body neither increased nor decreased, yet its volume became smaller.

Liquid form is also divided into levels. Although it remains liquid, it has cleared quite a bit of space, and the True Yuan is even more condensed.

There was no imagined thunderous sound, nor the sound of shattering glass, just a natural breakthrough.

Ye Fan felt that the True Yuan within his body was more condensed, and its power naturally couldn't be compared to before.

What surprised Ye Fan the most was that in his originally pale golden blood and bones, there seemed to be a strand of purple moving around; although very faint, it was very resilient.

After repeatedly refining his body, Ye Fan had a very clear understanding of his physical strength. He didn't know what the Nine Heavens Profound Body would ultimately become, but one thing was certain: the color of his blood and bones would change.

From a medical perspective, it meant that the density of his bones had increased, so their hardness also increased accordingly, but to what extent, he didn't know.

After the breakthrough, Ye Fan stabilized his Mid True Essence Realm for a while, consuming quite a few spirit stones in the process.

Once the realm was completely stabilized, Ye Fan did not leave seclusion but decided to use True Yuan to refine his body.

Tong Tianhao had said that for this month, he could use the sect's spirit stones as he pleased, so he naturally wouldn't waste them!

Elder Xuan once said that every breakthrough requires using True Yuan to refine the body. The Nine Heavens Profound Body's strength doesn't come easily, and what one must pay is a tremendous price.

In the virtual space, Ye Fan poured out spirit stones around himself and casually set up a small Spirit Gathering Array to prevent the Primordial Qi within the stones from leaking away.

Afterward, Ye Fan circulated his True Yuan, repeatedly impacting his meridians, using it to refine his body. He had to break through his meridians and integrate True Yuan into his flesh before it would work.

This was an extremely painful process. Ye Fan's meridians, after countless times of breaking and reconstructing his body, had become very resilient and were not easily broken through.

Ye Fan gritted his teeth, attacking over and over until he finally broke through his meridians, with True Yuan repeatedly washing over his already very solid flesh, muscles, bones, and internal organs.

This was an extremely painful process.

At first, Ye Fan felt a ripping pain throughout his entire body, violently convulsing, and gradually, cracks appeared on his body, bloodstained.

Then, those wounds grew larger, the speed at which blood flowed increased significantly, and even his bones began to fracture, covering his entire body in blood. It was truly a miserable sight.

Elder Xuan, observing secretly all along, couldn't help but nod silently, recognizing that Ye Fan's character, perseverance, and Martial Arts Will could be said to be one in a million, even amongst the top in the Xuan Realm.

If not for such a determined Martial Arts Will, no one could endure such inhuman pain, practically indistinguishable from being shattered to pieces.

Success is not by chance; fame is not accidental. Every strong person who possesses strength beyond the masses must have gone through arduous cultivation.

To appear distinguished before others, one must endure hardship behind the scenes. This is an ironclad rule—without effort, there is no gain!

Ye Fan, of course, did not know Elder Xuan was monitoring him, but to become stronger, to survive better in the Xuan Realm, and to search for his mother, he had to persist.

There was also another important reason: the channel between Earth and the Xuan Realm, though sealed, was not stable, and he must become strong quickly to completely seal the space portal.

For the safety and future of Earth, he had to do so, even if it meant never returning.

The True Yuan shattered and repaired the body repeatedly until the True Yuan was exhausted. Only then did Ye Fan stop, continuing to refine spirit stones, converting massive amounts of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi into his own True Yuan.

Once the True Yuan was saturated, he re-entered the cycle of using True Yuan to refine his body.

In this manner, Ye Fan continued to cycle between cultivation and body refinement. During this process, his Mid True Essence Realm was thoroughly stabilized, with an unbelievably solid foundation.

After completely refining and consuming thousands of pounds of spirit stones, Ye Fan finally stopped, moving his body slightly, preparing to leave the virtual space to request more spirit stones. After all, there were still ten days remaining, which was sufficient time for those with a virtual space.

“Tsk, tsk!”

Elder Xuan manifested from the virtual space, watching Ye Fan while shaking his head and said, “Boy, you’re remarkable! Although you are currently only at the Mid True Essence Realm in terms of realm, in terms of physical strength, you’ve almost reached the pinnacle of the True Essence Realm, comparable to Emperor Xuan’s True Essence Realm back in the day!”

“I really look forward to seeing how strong your physical strength will become once you cultivate to the pinnacle of the True Essence Realm!”

“I am looking forward to it as well!”

Ye Fan clenched his fists, filled with fighting spirit.