

Y Master 1211

Chapter 1211: Boastful and Shameless

“Shen Ximen, your Xuanwu Sect disciples have gone too far!”

Seeing Shen Ximen blocking in front of Ye Fan, Jiang Qingfeng’s face turned dark, but the killing intent on him weakened a bit.

Firstly, although he was also a strong person at the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, he was no match for Shen Ximen.

More importantly, Luo Xiaolin and Ye Fan chose to engage in a life-and-death duel, and life and death are decreed by fate — Ye Fan killed Luo Xiaolin, he absolutely couldn’t attack Ye Fan. Otherwise, not only would Shen Ximen stop him, but Lei Bikuan wouldn’t agree either!

“Too far? I think your Tianyuan Sect disciples brought this upon themselves!” Shen Ximen responded coldly and forcefully.

“Good, good, good, so it’s ‘brought upon oneself’!”

Jiang Qingfeng, extremely angry, laughed instead, “Even if it was our Tianyuan Sect disciples who proposed the life-and-death duel, what does it mean for your Xuanwu Sect disciples to publicly humiliate our Tianyuan Sect? Do you think our Tianyuan Sect is easy to bully?”

“Humiliate your Tianyuan Sect?”

Shen Ximen sneered, “Did you forget how your Tianyuan Sect disciples described our Xuanwu Sect before? Don’t blame others if you did it first!”

“You...”

Jiang Qingfeng was at a loss for words, unable to retort, as Luo Xiaolin had previously described Xuanwu Sect as a turtle.

“Yes, your Tianyuan Sect disciples can humiliate Xuanwu Sect, but Xuanwu Sect disciples can’t humiliate your Tianyuan Sect? What kind of reasoning is that?”

“Since it’s a life-and-death duel, you lose if you gamble, and accept your fate if you die. You, a dignified strong person of the Holy Embryo Realm, what are you doing rushing onto the stage? Trying to bully the small with the big?”

As Jiang Qingfeng was speechless, some people supporting Ye Fan loudly shouted from below the stage.

Shoo!

Jiang Qingfeng's face instantly turned extremely unpleasant, glaring angrily at the person who spoke.

"Hey! Jiang Qingfeng, are you flaunting your Holy Embryo Realm cultivator's prestige, or trying to bully the small with the big?"

Seeing this, Shen Ximen sneered, "I'll tell you, if you want to bully the small, bully my Xuanwu Sect disciples, I'll accompany you to the end — I don't mind having a life-and-death duel with you!"

"Elder Shen, don't be impulsive!"

Hearing Shen Ximen's words again, feeling the intense war intent emanating from Shen Ximen, Lei Bikuan was startled and hurriedly stepped forward to stop him, then looked displeased at Jiang Qingfeng, questioning, "Elder Jiang, why did you get on the stage without permission?"

"To collect the body of our Tianyuan Sect disciple."

Facing Lei Bikuan's questioning, Jiang Qingfeng's anger dissipated mostly and responded.

"If so, take away Luo Xiaolin's body and leave the stage immediately, to avoid unnecessary disaster." Lei Bikuan said coldly, his words filled with a warning tone.

He was not only the City Lord of Tianyuan City in Jueluo Country but was also a strong person of Divine Power Realm. Whether in terms of identity, status, or personal strength, he far surpassed Jiang Qingfeng, and even the Supreme Elder and Sect Leader of Tianyuan Sect couldn't compare to him.

Besides that, he was also the judge and person in charge of this genius tournament, and Jiang Qingfeng's actions were equivalent to challenging the rules, naturally making him very unhappy.

"Fine!"

Feeling Lei Bikuan's anger, Jiang Qingfeng had to forcibly suppress the anger in his heart, waved his hand, wrapped Luo Xiaolin's body, and stored it in the space bag.

"Shen Ximen, the mountains do not turn, but the waters do. Today's matter will not end here, we'll see!"

After doing all this, Jiang Qingfeng left a harsh remark, then swiftly left with the other disciples of Tianyuan Sect.

At this point, being unable to seek revenge, staying here would only result in further humiliation for them.

"Apologies, City Lord Lei, for troubling you."

Seeing Jiang Qingfeng leave with his men, Shen Ximen bowed to Lei Bikuan to apologize.

“The match between Ye Fan of Xuanwu Sect and Luo Xiaolin of Tianyuan Sect is now over!”

Lei Bikuan smiled, indicating it was no problem, and then publicly announced the end of the match. As for the result, there was no need to state it — everyone knew the outcome!

“What is the background of this Ye Fan from Xuanwu Sect? Why have we never heard of him before?”

“This is really unclear, but his strength is indeed formidable; even Luo Xiaolin couldn’t pose a threat to him!”

“I do know some news about this Ye Fan.”

As Lei Bikuan’s voice fell, the originally tense atmosphere dissipated, the crowd surged again, and discussions erupted.

Among them, some loose cultivators who had newly arrived at Tianyuan City to watch the match, not knowing the inside story, couldn’t help but ask.

A loose cultivator, nicknamed Bao Datong, gave a profound smile, deliberately keeping them in suspense, clearly knowing some information but purposefully not saying it, whetting those people’s appetite.

“Quick, tell us, what is his background?”

Their curiosity piqued, the people around him surrounded him, eager to learn about Ye Fan’s background, after all, Ye Fan could be considered the absolute dark horse of this match.

No one expected Ye Fan to last until now, and he appeared very composed when he killed Luo Xiaolin, even giving the impression that he didn’t exert his full strength!

“As far as I know, this Ye Fan joined the Xuanwu Sect less than a year ago, and before joining the Xuanwu Sect, he was just a cultivator at the peak of the True Qi realm...”

The cultivator nicknamed Bao Datong watched as everyone gathered around, wearing a look of enjoyment, and began to unveil the secrets.

“What?”

“This is too unbelievable!”

“To grow to such a terrifying level in just one year, is he a monster?”

Upon hearing that Ye Fan had joined the Xuanwu Sect less than a year ago, the uninformed loose cultivators immediately expressed bursts of amazement.

“Don’t interrupt, don’t interrupt!”

Bao Datong interrupted everyone’s exclamations in dissatisfaction and continued: “It is said that when Ye Fan initially joined the Xuanwu Sect, a major event occurred that shocked the entire Tianyuan State. Sect Leader Helian Chang of the Tianyuan Sect personally brought elders and elites from the sect to the Xuanwu Sect to snatch him, hoping to take Ye Fan away. However, Xuanwu Sect Leader Tong Tianhao had a keen eye for talent, instantly recognizing that Ye Fan would surely become great, so he was willing to fall out with Helian Chang to protect him. Ultimately, Helian Chang did not succeed.”

“The funniest thing is, Helian Chang once threatened Ye Fan back then, asking him to follow him voluntarily, but Ye Fan retorted right to his face, saying that Helian Chang’s brain was flooded. This matter momentarily became a local laughing stock.”

“Alas! This Ye Fan is indeed powerful, but in doing so, he has completely offended the Tianyuan Sect. The Tianyuan Sect will never let this go and will surely retaliate, which could mean life-threatening danger for him!”

After hearing Bao Datong’s story, most of the loose cultivators, while admiring Ye Fan’s formidable strength, were also concerned for him. The Tianyuan Sect is the strongest among the Three Major Sects of Tianyuan State and their power should not be underestimated.

Ye Fan has repeatedly offended the Tianyuan Sect, and this time, he even killed Luo Xiaolin, the personal disciple of Helian Chang and the top core disciple of the Tianyuan Sect. How can the Tianyuan Sect not retaliate?

On the platform, City Lord Lei Bikuan couldn't help but shake his head in admiration. He thought that Ye Fan absolutely surpassed his predecessors, with such strong strength and high comprehension, he stood unrivaled in his generation.

As the City Lord, Lei Bikuan had good relations with the Three Major Sects and Five Great Families and had a considerable understanding of their strengths.

He knew that Ye Fan was a disciple of the Xuanwu Sect's Great Elder Wu Xinhai. Wu Xinhai at Ye Fan's age definitely did not have such strong combat power.

More importantly, Ye Fan, at such a young age, was able to comprehend the Secret Technique of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, a level of enlightenment that could only be described as terrifying.

In his view, if Ye Fan does not fall prematurely, his future achievements would surely be limitless!

Because, as a treasure in existence, the Thunderclap Treasure Skill has attracted countless geniuses throughout history who hoped to fully comprehend it, but those who truly grasped its Secret Technique were as rare as phoenix feathers and qilin horns.

"This Ye Fan, not only is his strength terrifying, but this decisive killing mentality of his is even more admirable."

On the viewing platform, Ya Ling, the representative of the Treasure Pavilion stationed in Tianyuan City, flashed with brilliance in her eyes. She was amazed by Ye Fan's unparalleled strength and also greatly appreciated his decisive actions.

However, at this moment, Ya Ling was also secretly worried. Many bets had been placed on Ye Fan. According to the odds at the time, she feared that this time she wouldn't make much profit, and would even have to compensate Ye Fan and his group.

At this moment, Ya Ling's mood was very conflicted. Emotionally, she hoped Ye Fan could win the championship, but rationally, she did not want him to win because if he did win, the Treasure Pavilion would have to pay out a lot of Spirit Stones, which was somewhat painful even for the Treasure Pavilion's vast financial resources.

"Brother Feng, that Ye kid has already comprehended the Thunderclap Treasure Skill to such a degree, you were not wronged by losing to him!"

While everyone was discussing, the unparalleled genius of the Chu Family, Chu Hong, suddenly spoke to Chu Feng. His face showed no change, no joy, no sorrow, and no fear.

His voice wasn't loud but was just right so that those around could hear, naturally including Ye Fan and others.

Swish!

Upon hearing these words, everyone paused and looked towards the direction of the Chu Family.

“Why is Chu Hong still so calm? Doesn’t he know that after defeating Tong Qianchen, he would immediately face Ye Fan in the finals?”

After the fierce battle just now, Ye Fan’s true strength was almost completely revealed, while Chu Hong had never shown his true strength in front of the people.

So, the crowd was still unable to determine just how strong Chu Hong’s true strength was!

“Could it be... does Chu Hong have confidence in defeating Ye Fan? Or is he just bragging?!”

At this moment, many people were silently questioning themselves.

Chapter 1212: Top-Grade Earth-level Martial Arts

No answer!

Before the two have officially faced off, no one dares to say if Chu Hong is stronger or Ye Fan surpasses him!

Because both of them are simply too strong, it’s hard to see through them!

In the Chu family camp, Chu Feng's face was particularly ugly. Although he knew Chu Hong was stating the truth, he still couldn't let go of the fact that Ye Fan had crippled his cultivation.

All along, he was the pride of the clan and a core disciple of the sect who was given priority in training. He had clearly become the first among the core disciples of the entire Xuanwu Sect after comprehending Thunder Power.

Yet unexpectedly, Ye Fan actually walked out alive from the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, not only bringing the Thunderfire Grass that could cure the Supreme Elder Wang Qingshan's Profound Ice Cold Poison but also comprehending the essence of Thunder Power more deeply than he did, ultimately crippling his cultivation in the competition.

It can be said that there is definitely a deep-seated animosity between him and Ye Fan, as deep as oceans and hate spanning all lands, with only one of them able to survive.

Chu Hong ignored the complicated gazes directed at him, instead turning his gaze to Tong Qianchen not far away.

"Since their competition is moved up, shall we proceed with ours now?"

Chu Hong said indifferently, "Or perhaps, let's avoid the competition altogether. You can slap yourself, apologize to my Brother Feng, admit your mistake, and concede defeat voluntarily?"

"What did you say?!"

“Presumptuous!”

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan and Shen Ximen both stood up almost simultaneously, angrily rebuking Chu Hong.

“Who’s spewing nonsense? It’s unbearable!”

Shen Tu stood up, pretending to pinch his nose, making it obvious to anyone listening that he was referring to Chu Hong.

In terms of strength, even two Shen Tus together would be no match for Chu Hong, but when it comes to verbal sparring, even the entire Chu family camp couldn’t match him. In just one sentence, he made everyone in the Chu family almost jump up.

“Let’s compete then, why should I apologize to him?”

Tong Qianchen, furious beyond measure, immediately declared her intention to fight, unwilling to back down even if it meant facing death!

“Xiao Qian...”

Ye Fan called out to Tong Qianchen, initially intending to stop the competition between Tong Qianchen and Chu Hong—Tong Qianchen was indeed strong, but there was still a significant gap when compared to Chu Hong.

But after reconsidering, Ye Fan realized that Chu Hong had already pushed the matter to this point, leaving Tong Qianchen with no choice but to face him. If she retreated and avoided the fight now, it would inevitably leave a mental block in her heart, affecting her future cultivation.

So, even knowing certain defeat, Tong Qianchen absolutely could not back down; this battle must happen!

He could not interfere either!

“Brother Ye, don’t worry! I know my limits!”

Just as Ye Fan predicted, Tong Qianchen chose to compete.

Whether for personal honor or for the sect’s reputation, she had to take part in the battle. Losing wasn’t shameful, but to collapse before fighting, that would indeed be shameful, and she couldn’t bear that humiliation.

Especially in front of Ye Fan, she couldn’t afford such a humiliation!

“Xiao Qian, don’t focus on winning or losing, honor or disgrace. Approach it with a calm mind, just show your strength. If truly outmatched, do not force it!”

Elder Shen Ximen advised Tong Qianchen. He was very clear-minded, fully understanding Chu Hong’s intentions, knowing that while Chu Hong wouldn’t be lethal with Tong Qianchen, he would certainly humiliate her, hence reminding her not to force herself if outmatched!

“Yes, Xiao Qian, Elder Shen is right, Chu Hong is hailed as the number one genius in Tianyuan State, he’s stronger than you, and losing the match is no big deal. Just approach it with a calm mind!”

Ye Fan also reminded her, knowing that with Tong Qianchen’s strength, she absolutely wasn’t a match for Chu Hong. Although he wouldn’t have any thoughts on Tong Qianchen, he was aware of Tong Qianchen’s feelings for him.

He didn’t want anything to happen to Tong Qianchen!

After Elder Shen Ximen and Ye Fan’s comfort, Tong Qianchen’s anger lessened slightly, yet she still wore a frosty expression, her phoenix eyes filled with hatred.

Many people noticed this scene and began criticizing Chu Hong for lacking tolerance, stooping down to the level of arguing with a girl, truly lacking the magnanimity and bearing of a strong figure of a generation.

Sympathizing with the weak and admiring the strong are not contradictory. The people of Tianyuan City also have sympathy, and since Tong Qianchen was the only female cultivator still persisting in this competition, naturally they felt a bit of instinctive sympathy for her.

For a time, the Chu family became the target of public criticism, making everyone in the Chu family camp extremely embarrassed, except for Clan Leader Chu Yuankong and Chu Hong, who remained indifferent, neither defending nor saying a word.

Amidst the fervent discussions, the City Lord Lei Bikuan approached, asking Tong Qianchen, “Do you agree to hold the match today? If you don’t agree, according to the normal schedule, the match would be held three days later.”

As a referee, Lei Bikuan had to ask, but he also subtly hinted to Tong Qianchen that she could refuse to hold the match today and postpone it to three days later, which complied with the rules.

“I agree! It’s just holding the match immediately, postponing to three days later is meaningless, it’s better to have a quick resolution!”

Tong Qianchen also had her pride. Since the other party provoked first, she certainly wouldn’t delay even knowing she was outmatched.

Because delaying time served no purpose, three days wouldn’t change the outcome. Instead of waiting for these three days, it would be better to conclude it today.

“Very well! See you on the stage then!”

Chu Hong let out a sinister laugh, his figure moved, directly leaping onto the stage with a speed that left people speechless!

“Since you’ve chosen not to slap yourself and admit your mistake to my cousin, let me help you accomplish it!”

Chu Hong stepped onto the arena, looking coldly at Tong Qianchen below the stage.

Swish!

Without a response, Tong Qianchen proudly walked onto the arena under everyone’s gaze, without a trace of fear—even if she couldn’t defeat her opponent, she would face the competition with composure!

Soon, the two stood on the arena. Without waiting for Lei Bikuan to announce the start of the match, Tong Qianchen completely unleashed her strength, a terrifying aura spreading from her center to the surroundings.

The entire square was silent, everyone focusing on the match. Although everyone knew Tong Qianchen couldn’t be Chu Hong’s opponent, they were all curious about how long she could last against Chu Hong.

Ye Fan and Elder Shen Ximen stood up, ready for rescue. Should Tong Qianchen encounter danger, they would definitely not let Chu Hong harm Tong Qianchen in the slightest, even if it meant breaking the rules.

“Make your move, let me see how capable you are.”

Standing on the stage, Chu Hong looked at Tong Qianchen indifferently, speaking in a contemptuous tone.

Tong Qianchen’s eyes flashed with fire, but she was aware of the gap between her and Hong’s strength. Therefore, she was not angered by Chu Hong’s disdain, but tried to maintain clear-headed rationality, knowing this was the best moment to make her move and regardless of the outcome, she would give it her all!

Swoosh!

Tong Qianchen flipped her hands, revealing a pair of arm protectors, and unleashed her strongest combat power. The small shields were like meteors, viciously striking toward Chu Hong’s temples.

Chu Hong remained unperturbed, spread his legs slightly, and stood motionlessly on the spot, not even defending, allowing Tong Qianchen’s attacks to land on him.

Bang!

Bang!

The duo of small shields hit Chu Hong's temples but did not harm him in the slightest, leaving Tong Qianchen astonished!

Whoosh!

After an ineffective strike, Tong Qianchen swiftly retreated, took a deep breath, and her body filled with True Yuan. She performed the thirty-six styles of the Xuanwu Shield technique, attacking Chu Hong with wave after wave of formidable assaults.

Bang bang bang...

Suddenly, muffled sounds kept emanating.

Chu Hong stood proudly in place, hands crossed behind his back, appearing calm and relaxed, with no intention of defending or retaliating, allowing Tong Qianchen to attack him at will.

However—

After a round of frenzied attacks, Tong Qianchen's True Yuan was greatly depleted, yet she couldn't break through Chu Hong's protective True Essence. Every attack she made was blocked by the layer of True Essence Armor that covered him.

"Uh..."

This scene stunned everyone below, as they hadn't imagined Chu Hong would use such a method to compete with Tong Qianchen.

How to fight now?

Chu Hong stood there immobile, and Tong Qianchen couldn't breach his defense. Once he counterattacked, Tong Qianchen would have almost no ability to defend.

"Oh my, unbelievable! How strong is this Chu Hong? Using only protective True Essence to withstand attacks from a Late-stage True Yuan Realm expert—how is that possible?"

"Something's amiss! It's not just a True Essence Realm Peak; even an early-stage Holy Embryo Realm expert shouldn't have such terrifying protective True Essence!"

The audience was puzzled, as they were all cultivators intimately aware of the limitations of protective True Essence. While it might be useful against opponents several realms lower, the gap between the two wasn't that large, so how did he manage it?

Just as everyone was bewildered, Lei Bikuan noticed something, and said gravely: "The genius of the Chu Family indeed is powerful; using the Golden Bell Shield, no wonder the defense is so formidable."

Upon hearing Lei Bikuan say this, everyone suddenly understood. They realized that Chu Hong dared to stand still and allow attacks because he possessed such a strong defensive martial arts technique.

The Golden Bell Shield is an Earth-level top-grade martial arts, specifically used for defense, looking similar to protective True Essence, which outsiders can hardly tell apart.

This immensely powerful martial arts can withstand attacks from strong people a small realm above oneself, and is an excellent technique for survival.

In Tianyuan State, Earth-level martial arts are extremely rare. Defensive Earth-level martial arts are even rarer, especially since the Golden Bell Shield is an Earth-level top-grade martial arts—it can be described as exceptionally rare.

“Hmph! Such an ignorant woman, despite my cousin’s deep affection for you, you chose to fall for a wild boy from the mountains. You’re simply asking for a beating!”

At this moment, Chu Hong moved. With a cold snort, his figure flashed and he instantly appeared in front of Tong Qianchen, swinging a slap in one swift motion!

Chapter 1213: Battle of Contradictions

Slap!

The next moment.

A crisp sound spread to every corner of the entire square, and Tong Qianchen was directly slapped flying by Chu Hong, heavily landing outside the arena.

Silence!

Deathly silence!

The sudden scene shocked the entire audience, and the large square quieted down again.

“Chu Hong truly is extraordinary, his moves are remarkable!”

“Indeed, allowing the opponent to attack and then casually sending the opponent flying with a slap, the two are completely not on the same level!”

In the waiting area, those elders and Family Heads leading the teams all sighed, Chu Hong’s performance was truly shocking to them, slapping the opponent away without any pity or mercy, if nothing unexpected happens, he will surely become a great hero in the future.

They had no stance because, with their strength, it was impossible to contend with any force within the Chu Family, or the other Five Great Families, or the Three Great Sects.

They were self-aware, knowing it’s best not to meddle in such matters, to protect oneself wisely, and to watch from the sidelines was the best choice.

“Defeating the opponent with a casual move, as easy as child’s play, Chu Hong deservedly is the number one genius of Tianyuan State, so strong!”

The ordinary loose cultivators below the arena immediately regarded Chu Hong as a dangerous person in their hearts, his heart as hard as stone, not disturbed by external forces. Whoever becomes his enemy will be defeated or even killed!

Such a person is not someone they can afford to provoke, unless they are those powerful yet eccentric loose cultivators. Generally, loose cultivators are unwilling to become enemies with the Sects or the Gu Families, they can’t afford to gamble on it.

However, there are always exceptions. There are some powerful loose cultivators who don’t take the Major Sects or the Gu Families seriously at all.

They are generally powerful and elusive. Once they pick a fight with a Gu Family or a Sect, it becomes a headache for that Family or Sect.

The reason is simple, they usually employ a hit-and-run strategy without confronting head-on, targeting isolated individuals for revenge. Their strength is such that even the elders of the Sects might not be able to retreat unscathed.

It is said in the Northern Domain of Tianxuan Continent there is a group of bandits who come and go like the wind, their strength unparalleled, daring even to plunder the strongholds of great powers, without any fear of retaliation.

This group of bandits is not large, only about eight or nine people, but each one has formidable strength, the average person simply cannot do anything to them.

The resources they plunder are typically Spirit Veins from major powers, or mined raw stones, spirit stone mines, and so on, reputed to be the strongest group of bandits.

“It seems that Chu Hong is determined to win the championship in this tournament! Until now, he still hasn’t completely revealed his strength, surely the finals will be even more exciting!”

Zuo Fengshan nodded slightly, the overall quality of this genius tournament has significantly improved over the past few times, after years of silence, Tianyuan State is likely to be lively in the next few years.

“No wonder he is the most hopeful contender for the championship, his strength is formidable, but I don’t quite like his personality, lacking any compassion!”

Yaling slightly furrowed her brow, she truly admired Chu Hong’s strength, but she felt very resentful towards some of his methods.

Being a woman herself, Yaling sympathized with Tong Qianchen, deeply understanding how difficult it is for a woman, especially in the harshly competitive Cultivation World, to achieve anything significant.

Thus, her perception of Chu Hong wasn’t favorable, though she couldn’t change the fact of Chu Hong’s strong abilities.

Whoosh!

Just as everyone was discussing, Shen Ximen suddenly sprang forward as if he had springs under his feet, pushing himself to swiftly lift Tong Qianchen up from the ground.

Although Tong Qianchen was not severely injured, half of her face was swollen, showing clear five fingerprints.

The originally demure and lovely Tong Qianchen, like a fairy descended to the mortal world, now had disheveled clothing, a red and swollen half-face, and a cut at the corner of her mouth, staining her chest with a frightening red.

Standing firm, Tong Qianchen didn't bother to wipe the blood from her mouth, her eyes blazing red, the flames of anger nearly consuming her.

However—

She knew she wasn't a match for Chu Hong. Even burning her True Yuan couldn't change the fact she would lose.

Unwillingness, humiliation, anger...

Almost all emotions reflected in her eyes.

She knew she had lost, lost completely!

Falling out of the arena means she has lost the match and no longer has the right to continue competing with her opponent unless signing a life-and-death match agreement.

But she knew, even engaging in a life-and-death match was just courting death, utterly pointless!

“That slap was for Brother Feng. Next, I’ll make you regret your choice for a lifetime—I’ll kill that wild boy you fancy before your eyes, making you taste the pain of losing a loved one right before you!”

On the arena, Chu Hong smiled coldly, unbearably arrogant, as if Ye Fan was already a dead man in his eyes.

Whoosh!

As his words fell, Chu Hong turned his gaze to Ye Fan not far away, his voice icy, “That wild brat with the surname Ye, aren’t you going to get up here and die?”

“The one who will die is you!”

Ye Fan roared, his voice shaking the sky, as his figure flickered, instantly leaping onto the arena.

Slap!

Ye Fan landed steadily on the arena, his entire body suddenly exuding a murderous aura, like a peerless killing weapon drawn from its sheath.

Since arriving in the Xuan Realm, Ye Fan had never shown such intense killing intent towards anyone as he did at this moment—Qianchen's injury and Chu Hong's bullying had enraged him!

"Heh..."

Chu Hong sneered and also released his aura completely. His entire body surged with True Yuan, stirring the air around him into a tornado that swept towards Ye Fan.

At the same time, Ye Fan's True Yuan surged within him, his Blood Qi was unparalleled, and he too whipped up a stream of air.

Boom!

The two streams of air collided and exploded violently.

The two hadn't even begun to fight, yet they engaged in a confrontation of auras, creating an astonishing momentum.

This confrontation of auras was the most dangerous; once at a disadvantage, it was hard to turn the situation around, and if one's aura was seized first, it would result in a passive beating unless a mutually destructive move was used, which would also be difficult to recover from.

In just a brief moment, Ye Fan and Chu Hong had both raised their auras to the maximum. With neither able to gain the upper hand in aura, it was now down to their actual skills.

Just as the two were about to make their move, Lei Bikuan suddenly asked, "Wait a minute, are you competing normally or is this a life-or-death duel?"

"Naturally, it's a life-or-death duel. If you're scared, then get off the arena right now!" Chu Hong didn't even glance at Lei Bikuan, his eyes fixed arrogantly on Ye Fan.

"Today, it's a fight to the death!"

Ye Fan's gaze was cold, and he spoke slowly, indirectly giving his answer.

"Since it's a life-or-death duel, you should sign the life-and-death contract."

Lei Bikuan had already guessed it would be a fight to the death between the two. Regardless, since it was a life-or-death duel, they had to sign the life-and-death contract first, or the match couldn't begin.

Soon, Lei Bikuan brought up the prepared life-and-death contract, and the two signed their names on it.

At the moment their names were signed, the outcome was set to be life and death, ensuring that only one of them could walk off the arena alive.

Lei Bikuan took the life-and-death contract and walked off the arena—there was no need for a referee in a life-or-death duel.

Wow!

Simultaneously, the entire plaza erupted!

Firstly, no one expected that the final showdown between Ye Fan and Chu Hong would unfold so soon.

More importantly, they started with a life-or-death duel!

“I think this contest is essentially a clash between spear and shield. Chu Hong's defense is unparalleled at the same level, and virtually no one can break his defense, comparable to a peerless shield, while Ye

Fan, who has comprehended the Thunder Power, has mighty attack power, akin to a sharp spear—this is destined to be a confrontation between offense and defense!”

Someone in the crowd spoke, and this opinion received widespread agreement. From the previous performances of Chu Hong and Ye Fan, this was not hard to see.

“Who do you think will ultimately succeed, and win the championship in this battle?”

This question immediately sparked enormous interest among the crowd, leading them to speculate based on their own understanding.

“I believe that Ye Fan from the Xuanwu Sect will prevail, because the Thunderclap Treasure Skill is the supreme treasure technique left by the Thunder Venerable master, comparable to a secret technique passed down by a Great Emperor, with unimaginable power. Moreover, the Thunder Venerable master excelled in offense, so the Thunder Power must have unparalleled attack power in the world.”

This opinion quickly garnered some agreement, as they believed that with Ye Fan having the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, he had an advantage in attack power, and breaking through Chu Hong’s defense shouldn’t be difficult.

However, some quickly presented an opposing view, thinking that Chu Hong had a greater chance of winning.

The reason was simple: Chu Hong was two Xiao realms higher than Ye Fan, and as cultivation progressed, it became increasingly difficult, with power growing correspondingly; each Xiao realm difference was significant.

Furthermore, Chu Hong had deeply comprehended that Top-Grade Earth-stage Defensive Martial Technique, making it impossible for Ye Fan to defeat Chu Hong with a two Xiao realm gap.

Soon, the plaza formed two distinct camps, one supporting Ye Fan and the other Chu Hong, almost erupting into an argument.

At that moment, the two on the stage had just signed the life-and-death contract and quickly resumed their confrontation.

“You first ruined Brother Feng’s cultivation, and then killed my brother Chu Yue in the competition. Today, I will first cripple your cultivation, and then kill you!”

Chu Hong’s aura climbed to the extreme, his eyes filled with murderous intent as he spoke to Ye Fan.

Whoosh!

No response!

Ye Fan responded to Chu Hong with action!

For the first time, he put on the Thunder Gloves and punched at Chu Hong!

Chapter 1214: Ye Fan Battles Chu Hong! Part 1

With a punch thrown, the winds and clouds changed color!

The entire arena seemed to whip up a tempest; the fist hadn't yet arrived, but the fierce fist wind had already made Chu Hong's clothes flap noisily.

Facing such a powerful opponent as Chu Hong, Ye Fan didn't dare hold back any private skills, taking out the Thunder Gloves which greatly enhanced his combat power.

Unfortunately, Ye Fan's punch was too focused on appearances and fell short. Despite the intense purple light emanating from his fist, like several serpent dragons coiling simultaneously, it lacked the attachment of Tao Power.

Tao Power is an ethereal and mighty force of the Heavenly Dao, traceless and elusive, only triggered in a moment when the heart ascends to a union with heaven and earth.

Ye Fan once had the fortune to manifest Tao Power, but now his mind was clouded by hatred, naturally unable to unleash a punch that swims through gaps like fish and soars freely like a heavenly horse.

Even so, the power of this punch was not to be underestimated; the top core disciple of Tianyuan Sect, Luo Xiaolin had been severely injured by such a punch from Ye Fan before, ultimately meeting a tragic fate.

Although Chu Hong might be stronger in terms of power than Luo Xiaolin, whether he could withstand Ye Fan's fury-driven punch remained an unknown.

"Here it comes!"

Chu Hong shouted fiercely, instantly raising his power to the limit.

Clearly, facing an opponent like Ye Fan, Chu Hong also dared not be careless, directly displaying his strongest combat power.

Whoosh!

Chu Hong also threw a punch, using the Chu family's strongest martial arts "Netherworld Cold Fist".

With this punch thrown, it seemed to draw out the cold aura of Hell itself.

The Netherworld Cold Fist is a celebrated powerful martial technique of the Chu family, considered earth-level top-grade, second only to his Golden Bell Shield martial technique in terms of quality.

As the Chu family's unprecedented genius, Chu Hong naturally cultivated this martial arts to its pinnacle, eliciting gasps with his move.

“Ghostly Guide? It’s actually Ghostly Guide? Looks like Chu Hong is going all out!”

“The Evil Yin Qi is extremely dense. Who would have thought Chu Hong has cultivated his family’s secret skill, Netherworld Cold Fist to such a degree? It’s unbelievable!”

“We are in for a good show now. Ye Fan’s Thunder Power naturally counters any Evil Yin elements, yin and yang oppose each other; let’s see whose strength prevails!”

There were those wise and well-informed in the crowd on the square, who could immediately tell Chu Hong had cultivated the Chu family’s secret Netherworld Cold Fist to a deep realm, and knew Ye Fan would certainly use Thunder Power. This was a contest of overpowering strength!

Ye Fan was undeterred, being a Pure Yang Body, no Evil Yin Power could harm him. Coupled with body refining using Thunder Liquid in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, his body naturally carried the most rigid and pure Thunder Power, not fearing the damage of Evil Yin Power.

Wooooooooo!

Rumble~

With evil winds sweeping by and thunder rolling, the entire arena seemed to transform into another world, swirls of eerie mist surrounded Chu Hong, within which countless vengeful spirits seemed to screech, directly attacking one’s consciousness.

That sound penetrated even through the arena's defensive array patterns, causing average people standing nearby to feel their hearts shake, nearly having their souls snatched away, revealing just how powerful Chu Hong's fist was.

Not only did it exert physical attack, but it also contained attacks, disturbances, and erosion on the level of Divine Sense, should any opponent neglect their consciousness for a moment, they would be slain with a single punch.

Ye Fan faced this head-on and naturally felt it more acutely than others. He noticed that Chu Hong's martial technique had a subtle resemblance to Xuansha Fist, though Chu Hong's technique was apparently more venomous and tyrannical, much more masterful.

"Petty tricks, how could they harm me? See how I break through your Evil Yin Qi!"

Ye Fan shouted fiercely and accelerated forward. Having once cultivated Xuansha Fist, he thoroughly understood Evil Yin Qi's weak points, instantly blending his Pure Yang Qi into his fist.

Boom!!

In a flash of lightning and fire, their fists collided directly, the arena's array patterns flashed continuously, striving to dissolve their aggressive forces.

Thump thump thump!

Ye Fan was shaken back three steps by the powerful recoil, his fist trembling, with a thought, he instantly dissipated the Evil Yin Qi invading his sea of consciousness into nothingness.

Chu Hong retreated three steps as well, his fist hidden in the sleeve trembled continuously, with greater killing intent flashing in his eyes.

In the first strike, the two were evenly matched, neither able to do anything to the other, although both internally reassessed their opponent!

“No wonder you can defeat that useless Luo Xiaolin, you indeed have some skills, but that’s not enough. I’ll make you understand what a true genius is!”

Chu Hong took a deep breath, suppressing his anger somewhat. He knew that against an adversary like Ye Fan, the biggest mistake was a restless heart; any exposed weakness could be fatal.

Ye Fan was equally unwilling to show weakness, snorting coldly: “Geniuses are meant to be trampled, I’ve crushed many underfoot, you won’t be the first, nor definitely the last!”

“Talk is cheap, let our hands reveal the true essence!”

Chu Hong knew very well that in verbal sparring, he was perhaps not Ye Fan’s match, only by defeating him with absolute strength could he save face.

To him, his dignity was far more crucial than avenging Chu Feng and others. Ye Fan had dented his pride, which he absolutely could not tolerate.

“Just as I intended, kill!”

After the recent blow, Ye Fan clearly understood Chu Hong’s strength, which was absolutely on par with his own. In this situation, Ye Fan instantly suppressed his anger, his eyes regaining clarity.

“Domineering Fist of the World!”

Ye Fan used the mental method of the Domineering Fist to harness the Thunder Power, fully unleashing the powerful advantage of his body, aiming for close combat.

“Buzz~”

Ye Fan punched, sounding like a dragon’s roar, his whole person seemingly transforming into a giant dragon ready to soar. His fist was the dragon’s head, the strongest point of attack power.

“Walking with Ghosts!”

Relying on the Golden Bell Shield defensive martial technique to protect himself, Chu Hong chose to riposte with a kamikaze strategy against Ye Fan.

At their level, any moves were superfluous, and only a direct clash of strength was the best way to resolve the battle.

Bang!

Once more, their fists collided. Ye Fan's eyes shone brilliantly, unaffected by the Evil Yin Power. His Martial Arts Will was as resilient as Divine Iron, and with his inherently strong Divine Sense, the Evil Yin Power could do nothing to him.

Chu Hong's blood churned, but he did not retreat a step. His attack failed, yet he quickly launched another, attempting to suppress Ye Fan with absolute power and swift strikes until he could kill him.

Ye Fan did not retreat either. While Chu Hong had the protection of the Golden Bell Shield martial technique, Ye Fan had a Treasure Body refined through Thunder Liquid, making his body exceptionally strong.

Bang bang bang bang...

Sounds like clashing metal echoed between them, both employing fast strikes. Their strength was equally astonishing, their defense equally formidable, with neither gaining any advantage.

The blinding light continuously erupted from their clashing fists and palms. The collision of yin and yang forces was powerful and boundless. The entire Ancient Arena's array patterns lit up, seemingly unable to bear their attacks.

The audience could only see the dazzling light and deafening sound of fists and palms, unable even to discern the two fighters' figures, only glimpsing two shadows rapidly moving on the arena.

"It's incredible, truly incredible!"

In the stands, Zuo Fengshan and Yaling, with their keen eyesight, could see each of the fighters' actions despite their speed, and couldn't help applauding in admiration.

Unfortunately, most ordinary people could not make out anything at all, the intense light making them fear looking directly at the fight, lest they damage their eyes.

In the waiting area, Elder Shen Ximen's eyes flashed with strange light. He hadn't expected Ye Fan to have such formidable combat power. At this level, even some early-stage elders of the Holy Embryo Realm from the sect wouldn't be his match.

Shen Tu was utterly dumbfounded, his hands forming a strange gesture, mouthing bizarre syllables that even Elder Shen Ximen nearby couldn't understand.

Jin Zhanfei, meanwhile, watched Ye Fan and Chu Hong's battle intensely, yet found a moment to ask Shen Tu, "Old Shen, what are you muttering about over there, like you're chanting a spell!"

“You’re right, I am chanting a spell,” Shen Tu said after a moment of muttering. “It’s a unique prayer spell from my place. I’m praying for Ye Zi’s victory, for him to kill that bastard Chu Hong!”

Over time, his friendship with Jin Zhanfei had grown rapidly, almost to the point of sharing everything.

In the Chu Family camp, Chu Yuankong was extremely tense. He originally believed that if Chu Hong displayed his full combat power, he could defeat or even kill Ye Fan within ten moves.

But now, after over a hundred moves, Ye Fan was still able to fight Chu Hong evenly, which greatly exceeded his expectations.

Although the Chu Family’s three contestants were all elite young members, it’s a pity that the second-ranked genius, Chu Yue, was already dead.

If Chu Hong couldn’t kill Ye Fan, even if the Chu Family won the championship, the cost would be extremely high. Therefore, Chu Hong had to kill Ye Fan.

Chu Hong understood this well, but killing Ye Fan was truly difficult. Despite Ye Fan not having a top-grade Earth-level defensive martial technique like the Golden Bell Shield, his physical strength was beyond expectations.

Moreover, Ye Fan’s True Yuan seemed inexhaustible, and after hundreds of attacks, his fist force remained sharp and his True Yuan flowed endlessly like the Yangtze River, leaving Chu Hong extremely surprised.

In terms of the True Yuan storage capacity of a mid-stage True Essence Realm cultivator, at this point, it would typically be depleted, but Ye Fan showed no signs of fatigue, defying logic!

In the moment Chu Hong was distracted, Ye Fan seized the opportunity, feigned a move, and quickly closed in. Before Chu Hong could react, Ye Fan backhanded a fierce slap onto Chu Hong's face.

"Slap!"

A crisp sound brought the audience out of their trance. Chu Hong was sent flying two meters away by Ye Fan's slap, a clear handprint appearing on his face.

If not for his activation of the Vajra Cover top-grade Earth-level defensive martial technique and the Protective True Essence, Ye Fan might have crushed his skull with that slap, killing him on the spot.

"This slap is for Xiao Qian!"

Having succeeded in his strike, Ye Fan stood proudly and spoke coldly.

Chapter 1215: Ye Fan Battles Chu Hong! Part 2

"Chu... Chu Hong was actually slapped away by Ye Fan... It's simply unbelievable!"

“The saying ‘A man will go to great lengths for his beloved,’ is precisely what happened, but Chu Hong shouldn’t have slapped Tong Qianchen in front of Ye Fan. It seems Tong Qianchen is Ye Fan’s reverse scale, touching it brings his wrath!”

After a brief silence, the audience below erupted in excitement. None of them had expected such a scene to unfold. The two were well-matched adversaries, and it seemed it would be difficult to determine a winner in a short time.

However——

To their surprise, after a hundred moves, Ye Fan had the upper hand, slapping Chu Hong away!

“Could it be that Ye Fan’s true combat power is stronger than Chu Hong’s?”

For a moment, the audience supporting Ye Fan were ecstatic, their eyes gleaming, feeling a sense of vindication. Ye Fan had defeated strength with weakness, facing a stronger foe, yet he managed to give Chu Hong a resounding slap.

However, they also deeply worried for Ye Fan. After all, Chu Hong was regarded as the number one genius of Tianyuan State. Although Ye Fan luckily slapped him, who would win in the end was still hard to say.

Ye Fan’s slap not only exceeded the expectations of the ordinary audience but also the expectations of all strong people.

With their keen eyes, they had already noticed that Chu Hong's strength seemed a bit superior. Though it was hard to discern in a short time, once the match dragged on, the disparity in realm would be exponentially magnified.

In their eyes, even if Ye Fan mastered the secret technique in the Thunderclap Treasure Skill and possessed Thunder Power, he was still just a Mid-stage True Essence Realm cultivator.

In cultivation, even the slightest difference in Xiao realm is significant, especially in the purity and total amount of True Yuan.

A Mid True Essence Realm cultivator surely has less True Yuan in total than someone at the Peak of True Yuan Realm. Once Ye Fan's True Yuan was depleted, it was almost certain he would lose, even if his attack power was previously on par with Chu Hong. Once his True Yuan was exhausted, the outcome was obvious.

They couldn't be blamed for this, as no one would have thought that Ye Fan's Nine Heavens Profound Skill allowed any acupoint in his body to store True Yuan, forming an independent system, which was inconceivable.

"Good, good, well done!"

Shen Tu and Jin Zhanfei were so delighted they danced and looked mockingly in the direction of the Chu Family camp, seeing that everyone in the Chu Family camp had a face of disbelief.

They couldn't accept this fact!

In their eyes, Chu Hong was the strongest, an invincible existence among the young geniuses of Tianyuan State!

Among them, Chu Feng was the most shocked!

He had come to Tianyuan City this time to witness Chu Hong killing Ye Fan with his own eyes.

He had been waiting and waiting, and finally, the day came, only for Chu Hong to be slapped away by Ye Fan...

The stark contrast of this brought him unimaginable shock?

At this moment, his eyes were wide open, his mouth agape, staring at the arena unmoving, as if he could not believe what had just happened was real!

At the same time, Tong Qianchen was on the brink of tears. She knew that everything Ye Fan did was to stand up for her.

If not for this, Ye Fan's slap would have turned into a more ferocious killing move, and he wouldn't have said those words after slapping Chu Hong.

At this moment, Ye Fan's image in her heart was infinitely magnified, becoming as grand as a mountain, like a towering peak that could shield her from any cold winds.

"When facing strong opponents, Ye Fan exhibits the demeanor of a master; in the future, he will surely become a presence that causes the entire Tianyuan State to tremble..."

Shen Ximen saw more clearly; it wasn't because his strength was at the Peak of the Holy Embryo Realm but because he understood Ye Fan well enough.

Just by seeing Ye Fan not pressing his advantage, one could tell, Ye Fan possessed immense confidence, confident that Chu Hong was definitely not his match.

Even though Chu Hong was slapped away by Ye Fan, he wasn't injured. His Vajra Cover defensive martial technique was too strong; even Ye Fan couldn't easily break through it.

However, as a result, Chu Hong could no longer maintain his dominant master presence, with one side of his face ridiculously swollen, looking particularly embarrassed.

"Ah...!"

Chu Hong let out a long howl towards the sky, slapped himself twice on his body, and his originally overpowering aura rose another notch.

He was desperate, using a domineering Puncturing Acupoint Technique, stimulating several major acupoints with True Yuan to force out potential.

“Give me your life!”

In an instant, Chu Hong’s strength surged again from the original foundation, his eyes bloodshot, hair disheveled, he looked utterly crazed as he charged towards Ye Fan with his hands conjuring countless palm shadows, all aimed at Ye Fan.

“Kill!!”

Ye Fan did not back down, advancing once more, unleashing his Iron Fist.

Still, it was Domineering Fist!

Boom!!

With a huge explosion, Ye Fan’s punch burst forth, Thunder Power surged, transforming into a flickering white punch ray, blasting away the myriad palm shadows.

Chu Hong's figure flashed, quickly dodging the remaining punch rays.

Whizz!

Ye Fan's speed was even faster, moving like a specter, swiftly darting to stand in front of Chu Hong.

Close combat!

Previously, Ye Fan managed to slap Chu Hong away by engaging in close combat, leveraging his powerful physical strength to suppress Chu Hong, and then seizing upon Chu Hong's flaws to strike successfully.

At this moment, taking the opportunity during the broken move, Ye Fan employed the same tactics, successfully closing in once more.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

After closing in, Ye Fan gave no chance for Chu Hong to catch his breath. Combining physical strength and True Yuan perfectly, he wielded the Thunder Power with the mental method of “Domineering Fist,” ferocious as ever, forcing Chu Hong to retreat step by step. Sounds like popping beans echoed throughout the arena.

Boom!

After another collision of killing moves, Chu Hong was blasted back, his internal energy and True Yuan slightly disordered, whereas Ye Fan’s momentum soared like a War God reborn.

“Die!!”

Chu Hong quickly stabilized the disordered energy and True Yuan inside him, shouted loudly, and charged again with the same fast attack method as before. He simultaneously unleashed the Netherworld Cold Fist, each punch seeming to freeze the air, with ghostly wails echoing around him.

Swish!

In the blink of an eye, Chu Hong had already attacked Ye Fan, his right hand shaped like a claw, sharp rays shooting from his fingers, viciously grabbing towards Ye Fan’s throat.

Ye Fan used his Consciousness in place of sight, accurately capturing Chu Hong's attack trajectory, and with his right hand formed a fist and punched out.

Still, it was force against force!

Bang!!

Fist and claw collided, robust and mighty True Yuan erupted, the terrifying force once again forcing Chu Hong to retreat.

Pa!

Pa!

Pa!

Thudding sounds continued to emanate, and with each step Chu Hong retreated, he left a vague footprint on the arena.

This indirectly confirmed just how terrifying the power he bore was!

Whoosh!

Ye Fan quickly followed up, sweeping his right hand, holding a fist seal, pressing forward step by step.

Chu Hong's expression changed, turning his hand into a blade, a hand blade, containing True Yuan, exuding powerful energy fluctuations, slicing towards Ye Fan's arm.

Pa!

Ye Fan swiftly retracted his fist to avoid Chu Hong's hand blade, then released the fist seal, transforming fist into palm, backhand slapping Chu Hong's cheek, nearly breaking Chu Hong's Protective True Yuan.

Chu Hong's body shook violently, spinning away, blood seeping from the corner of his mouth.

Even with his strong abilities and deep understanding of the Vajra Cover, with strong defense, under Ye Fan's physical strength combined with Thunder Power, his True Yuan defense was nearly broken, his mouth corner was shocked open and bleeding.

Gulp!

The whole place fell silent, with everyone's eyes focused on the arena in the center of the square, only occasionally hearing someone swallowing.

Obviously, no one expected that Chu Hong would be slapped away by Ye Fan for the second time!

"Could it be that Ye Fan's true strength is stronger than Chu Hong's? Is there some secret treasure on him hiding his aura?"

For a moment, the crowd was filled with doubts, their thoughts wandering.

Besides the doubts, they were more shocked!

Although Ye Fan's previous performance was also remarkable, most people still favored Chu Hong to win.

They even thought that this time's genius tournament champion was undoubtedly prepared for Chu Hong, but now they couldn't be sure, maybe Ye Fan could actually defeat Chu Hong.

"Ye, you forced me to this point! I will grind your bones and scatter your ashes, pull out your life soul, and imprison you in purgatory forever!"

As everyone was shocked and confused, Chu Hong stabilized his posture, completely furious, his eyes turning blood red!

At this moment, he seemed to ignite, his whole body engulfed in green flames, yet these flames didn't scorch him, not even his clothes were harmed.

Burning True Yuan, rapidly enhancing combat power, to achieve success in one fell swoop, achieve victory in one battle.

Chu Hong decided to go all out!

"You think only you can burn True Yuan?!"

Ye Fan snorted coldly, decisively burning his own True Yuan, his whole body instantly engulfed in golden flames, as if transforming into a Golden Body, with a faint purple flow amidst the gold, looking indescribably noble, far more dazzling than Chu Hong's green flames.

Chapter 1216: Ye Fan Battles Chu Hong! Part 3

Ye Fan combined physical strength with true essence, engaging in close-quarters combat, overpowering Chu Hong, forcing Chu Hong to burn his true essence.

For this reason, Ye Fan also dared not be careless and likewise burned his true essence.

At this moment, it was as if there were two burning human torches standing on the platform, both sides' auras soared, rapidly increasing their combat power in a short time.

In comparison, Ye Fan's combat power increased more than Chu Hong's — Chu Hong had already used a secret technique to unleash his potential earlier, so even burning his true essence now had limited effects.

Whoosh!

After burning true essence, Chu Hong was the first to attack, punching out with true essence surging, wrapped by the surrounding Evil Yin Qi, condensing into a pitch-black punch ray, with ghostly faces appearing, like the roar of myriad ghosts, an awe-inspiring momentum.

"Useless!"

Ye Fan shouted, eyes flashing with golden light, standing in place, he struck out a punch, his inner true essence surged toward his fist, pouring out the violent Thunder Power, unleashing a ray of thunder light.

Bang!

With a loud noise, the thunder light carrying yang energy instantly scattered Chu Hong's pitch-black punch ray, the Evil Yin Qi evaporating like steam under the blazing sun, disappearing completely.

Swish!

Chu Hong didn't expect that after burning his true essence, he still couldn't gain an upper hand against Ye Fan. His face changed immediately, quickly darting away to avoid the residual roaring thunder light.

Meanwhile, the platform trembled violently, and a spider web-like crack silently appeared at the feet of the two.

"Uh..."

The entire audience was shocked to witness this!

Because the combat power of Ye Fan and Chu Hong after burning their true essence was truly astonishing, completely surpassing what was expected from the True Essence Realm!

While the ordinary spectators below couldn't see this, they too were engrossed, as since the start of the genius competition, the match between Ye Fan and Chu Hong was the most spectacular.

As the saying goes, the layman watches the excitement, the expert watches the skill.

Unlike these ordinary spectators, the cultivators were all discussing who was stronger on the platform.

“I believe although neither of them has sustained fatal injuries, nor shown signs of defeat, the Xuanwu Sect’s Ye Fan is still stronger. What’s even more astonishing is that he’s only at the Mid True Essence Realm cultivation! If he and Chu Hong were at the same realm, Chu Hong probably wouldn’t be able to take even a single attack!”

“That may be true, but don’t forget there’s an objective fact — the age gap between Chu Hong and Ye Fan, with Chu Hong being much younger, yet able to match Ye Fan in battle, is already very impressive.”

“Indeed, Ye Fan is two entire Xiao realms lower than Chu Hong, while Chu Hong has the age advantage. Both have their strengths, and are extraordinary geniuses, but unfortunately, only one of them is destined to survive, which is truly a pity!”

From the viewing platform, representatives from various forces expressed their opinions, all believing Ye Fan to have the upper hand, though Chu Hong was also undeniably a genius among geniuses.

“Again!!”

Amidst the discussions, Ye Fan shouted once more, swiftly approaching, engaging in close combat, combining the Thunderclap Treasure Skill and his formidable physical strength, unleashing the most ferocious “Domineering Fist” in the Domineering Fist technique.

“Ang~

With a dragon-like roar, Ye Fan’s body was wrapped in purplish golden light, true essence surging and thunder flashing on his right fist, creating an impressive spectacle.

“Who fears who?!”

Throughout the competition, Chu Hong was continuously suppressed by Ye Fan, unable to gain an edge even after burning his true essence, fueling his complete anger. To salvage his dignity, he chose not to dodge but to meet force with force!

Bang!

With a loud explosion, the two clashed fists again!

Bang bang bang bang bang bang...

After the clash, Ye Fan did not pause, striking while the iron was hot, punch after punch, pressing Chu Hong to the limit.

Chu Hong used all his strength but was forced to retreat step by step by Ye Fan, as each of Ye Fan's punches was more powerful than the last, forcing him to give his all to dissolve them.

“Hit!”

Ye Fan's shout was like a spring thunder, using sound wave attacks to interfere with Chu Hong while his iron fist, like the wind, successfully struck Chu Hong's body. Though it still didn't break through Chu Hong's defense, it once again sent Chu Hong flying!

Whoosh!

Ye Fan didn't let up, moving with his feet, relentlessly following up, continuing his assault on Chu Hong. Through the combination of extremely powerful physical strength and true essence, enhanced by the Thunder Gloves, he completely dominated, striking blow after blow, leaving Chu Hong utterly embarrassed.

"Ah..."

Chu Hong was desperate to madness, but faced with Ye Fan's fierce attacks, he had no way out. Just being undefeated was already very difficult; trying to kill Ye Fan was almost an impossible task.

Ye Fan was also quite frustrated, as even with absolute dominance, he couldn't break through Chu Hong's extremely abnormal defensive martial skill, unable to seriously injure Chu Hong without doing so.

"It seems the only way is to attack the same point and keep the interval short, not giving his True Essence Armor time to recover!"

After a wild storm of assaults, Ye Fan understood there were two ways to break Chu Hong's defense: one was to exhaust Chu Hong's true essence completely, and the other was to continue attacking the same place, not allowing Chu Hong the time and opportunity to repair his True Essence Armor.

Whoosh!

Thinking of it, Ye Fan clenched his fist seal, quickly attacking Chu Hong again.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Once in close quarters, Ye Fan unleashed four consecutive punches.

Even though these punches were less powerful due to the pursuit of speed, the first punch broke through Chu Hong's attack, and the remaining three consecutively struck Chu Hong's chest!

Crack!

The sound of breaking glass resounded, and Chu Hong's defensive martial technique, the Golden Bell Shield, was finally shattered by Ye Fan's three consecutive punches at one point!

"Pfft—"

The violent force sent Chu Hong flying backwards, blood streaming from the corner of his mouth, incredibly embarrassed.

"Ah...!"

Chu Hong roared, looking incredulously at his wounded chest. If not for his strong cultivation and body, and the fact that Ye Fan's three punches were greatly weakened after breaking the Golden Bell Shield, it could have cost him his life.

"You forced me to this! Even if I give up the chance to enter the Tianyuan Secret Realm today, I must kill you!"

This outcome drove Chu Hong into a frenzy, making a mad decision to break through in the midst of battle!

He wanted to break into the Saint realm during the battle!

The Saint realm requires cultivators to condense a Holy Embryo within the True Essence Sea, which is incredibly difficult.

As the top genius in Tianyuan State, Chu Hong had already cultivated the True Essence Realm to its peak, always ready to break into the Saint realm.

He had not chosen to break through before because of the restrictions of the genius competition — only young cultivators in the True Essence Realm were allowed to enter the mysterious Tianyuan Secret Realm!

But now, in order to kill Ye Fan, he decided to give up the opportunity to enter the Tianyuan Secret Realm!

In his view, even if he couldn't successfully break through in battle, he could at least reach half-step Saint realm!

Once he reached the half-step Saint realm, his strength would increase dramatically, making it easy to kill Ye Fan!

"Uh..."

Chu Hong's words left everyone stunned. It's well known that the breakthrough from True Essence Realm to Saint realm is a crossing of a Great Realm, not just a simple small realm.

Throughout history, no one had been heard of successfully condensing a Holy Embryo during battle, as it is not something that can be disrupted, nor is it something one can successfully condense at will; the risks are too great.

“So what if you are forced? Go ahead and break into the Saint realm if you’re capable!”

Seeing the frenzied Chu Hong trying to breakthrough into the Saint realm during battle, Ye Fan was fearless, ready to strike with power when Chu Hong began his breakthrough, to kill Chu Hong.

Hmm?

As Ye Fan’s words fell, before Chu Hong could start his Saint realm breakthrough, a daunting astonishing aura suddenly surged in Tianyuan City, flooding the world.

The ancient platform began trembling uncontrollably, the formation runes continually shattering.

“What... What happened??”

The sudden turn of events left everyone astonished.

Swish!

The next moment, everyone simultaneously looked in a certain direction!

Chapter 1217: Sudden Upheaval!

This sudden and overwhelming aura was sensed by everyone present, prompting them all to look up towards the sky above the Ancient Arena, uncertain about what kind of change had occurred.

Many of them were not participating in Tianyuan City's talent competition for the first time and were very familiar with this aura, understanding that it only appears when the Tianyuan Secret Realm is about to open.

However, what surprised them was that the opening of the Tianyuan Secret Realm usually required several Divine Power Realm powerhouses to jointly activate the array patterns on the Ancient Arena, and this was the first time it showed signs of self-activation.

"Is the Tianyuan Secret Realm about to self-activate? What on earth is happening?"

Not only Lei Bikuan was surprised, but even the representatives of various major powers were also astonished.

They were just as familiar with this aura, recognizing it instantly as the aura of the Tianyuan Secret Realm from the moment it appeared.

And the self-activation of the Tianyuan Secret Realm...

This was unprecedented!

“There must be some change within the Secret Realm.”

At that moment, everyone was convinced of this judgment and dared not act rashly but watched the changes unfold.

“Stop the competition!”

At the same time, Lei Bikuan shouted loudly, fearing that Ye Fan and Chu Hong would continue to fight, then solemnly said, “The Tianyuan Secret Realm is about to open; quickly leave the Ancient Arena, or that powerful force will leave you without a place to be buried.”

Chu Hong was extremely unwilling, but he also knew that it was impossible to defeat Ye Fan before breaking through to the Holy Embryo Realm. At this moment, backing down was the best choice, or continuing to fight would only embarrass himself.

“Humph!”

Chu Hong snorted coldly and was the first to jump off the arena.

Ye Fan jumped off as well.

Because he sensed the arena was about to emanate a terrifying force that he couldn't resist.

"Boom~~~"

As Ye Fan and Chu Hong jumped off the arena, the array patterns on the Ancient Arena instantly brightened significantly. Each array pattern was like a serpent dragon, emitting a series of booming sounds, shaking the entire Tianyuan City, and even the people around Tianyuan City felt as if the earth and mountains were shaking.

In the stands, representatives from various major forces stood up, nervously watching the skies above the arena, anticipating the opening of the Secret Realm.

At this moment, they were almost certain that some anomaly had occurred in the Tianyuan Secret Realm; otherwise, it would not self-activate.

Some even believed that the Ancient Arena was somehow stimulated, triggering the opening of the Secret Realm, but what conditions were needed for self-activation remained unknown.

Amidst everyone's anxious anticipation, the array patterns on the Ancient Arena grew brighter and brighter, seemingly wanting to break free from the constraints of the Ancient Arena.

“Ngao~”

A loud dragon roar emanated from the Ancient Arena, breaking free all the array patterns, which took flight and continuously rearranged in mid-air, eventually forming a light gate that looked like it led to another unknown world, though still somewhat unstable and shrouded in mist.

The process of activation was flawless, except there was no activation action; the Secret Realm opened by itself, causing everyone’s hearts to pound with unease, unsure whether this was a good or bad omen.

“I’ll go take a look!”

As Tianyuan City’s City Lord, Lei Bikuan felt a strong sense of duty. Despite knowing there might be danger, he resolutely flew towards the vicinity of the light gate.

Approaching the light gate, Lei Bikuan did not enter it; he was very aware that the Tianyuan Secret Realm had its own rules; rashly breaking in could get one killed by the array patterns before even entering.

Nearing the light gate, Lei Bikuan slowly closed his eyes, feeling the changes within the Secret Realm intently; fortunately, he had previous experience and knew which areas were untouchable forbidden zones.

At this moment, all eyes rested on him, tensely awaiting the outcome; if this opening proved impenetrable, the joke would be colossal.

As time ticked away, Lei Bikuan's expression grew increasingly grave, not revealing what he perceived.

Swoosh!

A quarter-hour later, Lei Bikuan opened his eyes, slowly walked away from the light gate to the platform opposite the Ancient Arena, scanned the crowd in the square, and then said, "Indeed, some anomaly has occurred within the Tianyuan Secret Realm, but what specific change it is, I cannot perceive; only by entering can we know."

"Sigh~"

Upon hearing this news, the cultivators' hearts were relieved significantly; some felt envy, others jealousy, and some disappointment, for fewer people could enter even if the opening allowed it, while most could only watch.

However, what City Lord Lei Bikuan said next brightened the eyes of other contestants, making them uncontrollably excited.

"This time, not only has the Tianyuan Secret Realm self-activated, but it no longer limits the number of entrants—meaning any cultivators whose bone age is under twenty-five and cultivation realm below the Holy Embryo Realm can enter for a month. All cultivators with bone age under twenty-five and realm below the Holy Embryo Realm can try their luck!"

“What... what?”

“Everyone can enter? That’s awesome!!”

This was great news for those True Essence Realm competitors who had been eliminated in the preliminary rounds.

Originally, they had no hope of entering the Tianyuan Secret Realm, but unexpectedly, hope revived with such an change.

At this moment, several cultivators quietly retreated from the crowd and raced towards outside the city.

These were disciples left by Tianyuan Sect to observe the developments; with this change in the Tianyuan Secret Realm, they would naturally hurry back to report, so more Tianyuan Sect disciples could seize the chance to enter the Secret Realm and find their fortunes.

As for causing trouble for Ye Fan, they had no hopes of that; given Ye Fan’s strength, no Holy Embryo Realm cultivator could rival him.

They could only watch the battle between Ye Fan and Chu Hong; given the current situation, Chu Hong would surely choose to break through in the Secret Realm.

In their view, if Chu Hong broke through to the Holy Embryo Realm in the Secret Realm, the first person he would seek to kill would surely be Ye Fan.

However, many disciples of the Xuanwu Sect can enter, and in this situation, joining forces with the Chu Family to deal with the Xuanwu Sect is definitely the best choice.

After this period of time, the Light Gate above the Ancient Arena gradually stabilized, fixed in mid-air, forming an arch-shaped door.

In theory, one should be able to see the sky beyond the Light Gate, but at this moment, the Light Gate is shrouded in mist, obscuring everything from view, leaving everyone unsure whether it leads to Hell or Heaven.

Yet, most people have absolute confidence in the Tianyuan Secret Realm, because many geniuses have entered the realm before and emerged alive.

The Tianyuan Secret Realm has existed for so long that its origins are beyond anyone's recall, and even the identity of its first discoverer is lost to history.

The surprising thing is that each time the Secret Realm opens, the stories from those who go in are different, as if each entrance leads to a completely different world.

Lei Bikuan's words immediately ignited the scene, with many True Essence realm cultivators eager to try.

If not for the recent changes in the Tianyuan Secret Realm, they might never have had the chance in their lifetimes to enter and see it for themselves.

Seeing this, Lei Bikuan pressed his hands down slightly to calm the crowd, then said, "Before everyone enters the Secret Realm, I have an announcement: the champion of this Genius Championship!"

Upon hearing City Lord Lei Bikuan say this, everyone fell silent. Obviously, the fight to the death between Ye Fan and Chu Hong hadn't ended yet, so was it too early to announce the champion?

However, they were also eager to know whom City Lord Lei Bikuan would choose as this competition's champion, since the Genius Championship occurs only once every ten years, making it a highly significant event, where the rewards for the champion are extremely generous.

Under the expectant gaze of the crowd, Lei Bikuan glanced at Ye Fan and Chu Hong standing nearby, and declared with steady and firm words, "The ultimate champion of this Genius Championship is—Xuanwu Sect's Ye Fan!"

Wow!!

The announcement sent shockwaves through the entire crowd!

Those with discerning eyes had already seen that although Chu Hong was trying to break through to the Holy Embryo realm during battle, the chances of success were slim, while Ye Fan's overall strength clearly overshadowed Chu Hong.

In this situation, Lei Bikuan's announcement of Ye Fan as the champion, although somewhat forced, was well-deserved.

Upon hearing City Lord Lei Bikuan's announcement, the Xuanwu Sect members immediately cheered, as Ye Fan did not disappoint and truly outshined the competition, ultimately winning the champion's laurel for the Xuanwu Sect in this Genius Championship.

"Well done, Ye Zi!"

"Ye Zi is unbeatable and domineering, no explanation needed!"

"Junior Brother Ye Fan, thank you for everything you've done for our sect!"

Jin Zhanfei, Shen Tu, and Zhang Taiyi all spoke up.

In this battle, Ye Fan, single-handedly, earned glory for the Xuanwu Sect, elevating it from being the weakest of the Three Great Sects.

"Good job!"

Shen Ximen only had one thing to say, but his face was beaming with joy like the warmth of March, completely uncontainable.

“Brother Ye, thank you...”

Tong Qianchen was the most emotional among all. She should have said more, but her voice choked as soon as she spoke, leaving her with a myriad of things to say but unable to utter them.

“I don’t accept this. The battle isn’t over yet. Why do you assume his victory over me?”

Upon hearing Lei Bikuan announce the result, Chu Hong immediately voiced his dissatisfaction, believing that once he breaks through to the Holy Embryo realm, killing Ye Fan would be as easy as crushing an ant, and that he should be the champion.

“Dissatisfied? Never mind whether you can successfully condense the Holy Embryo during battle; even if you manage, you will then be in the Holy Embryo realm and forever lose your chance to enter the Secret Realm. Are you sure you want to do this?”

Lei Bikuan coldly said to Chu Hong.

“Uh...”

Lei Bikuan's words were reasoned and compelling, leaving Chu Hong speechless, as he truly wasn't confident about successfully condensing the Holy Embryo during the fight.

"The entrance has stabilized. I now invite champion Ye Fan and the top eight contestants to be the first to enter the Secret Realm."

After admonishing Chu Hong, sensing the Secret Realm's entrance had stabilized, Lei Bikuan immediately informed everyone.

In his eyes, with only a month until the Secret Realm closes, there was not a minute to waste!

Swish!

Ye Fan, without any delay, moved his body swiftly, leading the way to the Light Gate. With a flash of his figure, he vanished from everyone's sight.

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish...

Right after Ye Fan passed through the Light Gate, the other top eight contestants also entered one after another, disappearing from sight.

"Ye scum, wait until I break through to the Holy Embryo realm in the Tianyuan Secret Realm. That will be the day I kill you—just wait, you won't be able to dance for much longer!!"

Watching Ye Fan's figure vanish into the Light Gate, Chu Hong sneered, and with a flash, he entered the Light Gate as well.

Chapter 1218: Ancient Battlefield

Just as Ye Fan disappeared into the Light Gate, the other top eight contestants, including Chu Hong, also entered the Light Gate one after another, vanishing from everyone's sight.

No one from the Tianyuan Sect entered, as they had already left earlier, and even if they rushed back with all their strength, they couldn't make it in time.

Moreover, Luo Xiaolin, the number one of the Tianyuan Sect, had been directly obliterated by Ye Fan, leaving only one spot in the top eight.

Woosh woosh woosh woosh woosh woosh woosh...

Seeing the top eight contestants led by Ye Fan entering the Light Gate, other contestants in the True Essence Realm were very excited and eagerly rushed to the Light Gate, scrambling to get inside.

Clearly, for them, this was a perfect opportunity!

Because, if the Tianyuan Secret Realm hadn't undergone changes, they would never have had the chance to enter the Secret Realm to experience it.

One must know, the Secret Realm is full of opportunities, not won by strength but luck, and perhaps among them, someone with extraordinary luck could obtain the greatest benefits.

Soon, aside from the Tianyuan Sect, contestants from the two major sects, the Five Great Families, and other small sects or families all entered the Secret Realm, reducing the number of people on the square by over seventy.

For the crowded square, losing seventy or eighty people was a mere drop in the ocean, hardly making a difference.

Once all cultivators eligible to enter the Secret Realm had entered it, the scene suddenly quieted down, with only the Light Gate above the Ancient Arena emitting a faint white light.

Woosh!

At this moment, an elder at the True Essence Realm Peak from a small sect, who was over twenty-five years old, recklessly flew up without Lei Bikuan's permission, rushing towards the Light Gate, attempting to break through and enter the Secret Realm to seek an opportunity.

"Heh!"

Lei Bikuan immediately noticed the elder's intention but did not stop him, instead smiling coldly, watching him rush into the Light Gate.

Just as the elder had half his body into the Light Gate, the entire Light Gate suddenly shook violently, with countless array patterns abruptly contracting towards the center.

“Boom—”

With a loud explosion, the elder at the Peak of the True Essence Realm was crushed by the squeezing of the Light Gate, without any ability to resist, and was directly crushed to pieces.

Body parts and flesh mixed with blood sprinkled from the air, as if it were raining flesh and blood, creating an extremely terrifying and bloody scene.

The reckless elder did not even let out a scream before dying tragically, unable to leave behind a complete corpse, his soul utterly shattered, vanishing completely from the world!

Gulp!

This scene made other True Essence Realm Peak cultivators, who did not meet the requirements but were eager to move, shudder and feel a chill to the core, then promptly calm down, not daring to act rashly.

“Hmph!”

Lei Bikuan snorted coldly, saying: "The Tianyuan Secret Realm is an extremely mysterious realm, with its own rules and limitations. Do you really think I'm playing tricks on you? Truly reckless and ignorant of life and death!"

His words were powerful, completely extinguishing the hopes of those old cultivators who still harbored a slight fantasy!

Because the cost of experimentation was too great, involving life and death, they couldn't afford it, wanting to live a few more years, there was no need to throw their old lives away here.

...

It felt as if a long time had passed, or perhaps it was just an instant, as there was no concept of time in the Light Gate. Suddenly, Ye Fan's vision brightened, and he fell from the sky, landing heavily.

Ye Fan bounced up, quickly standing up, checking the surroundings, discovering he was in a vast desert, yellow sand everywhere, with no end in sight.

When he fell just now, he created a pit and coincidentally sat on a broken piece of bone, landing firmly on it.

Looking up again, the Light Gate had disappeared, making it seem as if he had fallen from the void.

After a brief thought, Ye Fan understood that entering the Light Gate would result in a random selection of appearance location, and he had directly fallen in this barren desert.

The desert was extensive, and Ye Fan did not know where he was in the Secret Realm; he could only choose a direction at random and start walking, hoping to quickly get out of this desert.

Hmm?!

After walking for a while, Ye Fan discovered that in this desert, ominous Death Qi and fierce, chilling killing intent were permeating it, and he had not gone far before finding many bones, from times long past.

This discovery shocked him greatly, as he didn't know what had happened here to result in such terrifying Death Qi surrounding, and the intense killing intent soaring into the skies, as if many people had fought and shouted here.

"If I guessed correctly, this once must have been an ancient battlefield, drenched in blood, littered with corpses, rivers of blood."

As Ye Fan was puzzled, Elder Xuan's voice suddenly rang in his sea of consciousness.

In fact, when Ye Fan felt something was wrong, Elder Xuan also sensed it, but this time, he didn't speak immediately. Instead, he carefully sensed, discerned, and deliberated before speaking to Ye Fan.

“Ancient battlefield?”

Hearing this, Ye Fan was shocked, but he understood that Elder Xuan’s guess was most likely correct. Only an ancient battlefield could have bones scattered everywhere, forming such terrifying Death Qi and killing intent.

Initially, when Ye Fan was on Earth, he led the Human Race strong people and mutant beasts in a life-and-death struggle. He was still very familiar with the atmosphere of such large-scale battles.

“That’s right, it’s an ancient battlefield.”

Elder Xuan said very confidently: “Only an ancient battlefield can form such terrifying Death Qi and fierce, intense killing intent. Although many years have passed, the Death Qi and killing intent remain very intense, as if it just happened.”

Hmm?!

Just as Elder Xuan’s voice fell, Ye Fan’s surroundings suddenly changed, and suddenly, a powerful Xuan Beast appeared before him, engaged in a fierce battle with human cultivators!

Illusion Realm!

It was definitely an Illusion Realm!

When Ye Fan was on Earth, he once had a great battle with a magician like Fa'er who was skilled in illusion techniques, deeply aware of the strength and cunning of such illusions.

However, looking at the current scene, it seems he accidentally entered an illusion realm, recreating the great battle that happened here in the past.

His mind in turmoil, Ye Fan felt as if he had joined the battle himself, the roars of the Xuan Beasts and the shouts of the human cultivators around him shook the heavens.

Countless human cultivators advanced courageously, engaging in a fight to the death with the powerful Xuan Beast groups.

These Xuan Beasts were incredibly strong, with endless innate divine abilities emerging incessantly.

"Die, beast!"

Among the humans, there were also many strong individuals. One cultivator, whose white robe had long been soaked in blood, roared, shattering a powerful Xuan Beast with his shout. With each move, a Xuan Beast would fall.

Until he encountered a Xuan Beast evenly matched with him, only then was his advance halted.

Overall, the human cultivators were at a disadvantage. The Xuan Beasts were simply too numerous, and many possessed extremely abnormal attack and defense capabilities. At the same level, human cultivators were no match for Xuan Beasts.

Often, it took four or five cultivators to besiege a single Xuan Beast to inflict damage, and even then, it came at a great cost.

The illusion realm was too realistic, as if it actually existed!

All of this unavoidably reminded Ye Fan of the scenes on Earth where mutant beasts attacked ordinary people, leaving many defenseless civilians as blood food for these Xuan Beasts.

The despair and longing for life of those about to die clogged Ye Fan's throat with murderous intent, making him want to howl to the sky.

In the next moment.

Ye Fan was completely lost in the illusion realm, joining the battle, slaughtering alongside those human cultivators against the Xuan Beasts.

In the frenzied battle, Ye Fan no longer held back, unleashing his full strength. Divine sense attacks, flying knife assassination, thunderclap treasure skill, domineering fist, and even Xuansha Fist were brought out.

In reality, Ye Fan stood motionless on the spot, as if hit by an immobilization technique. In the illusion realm, his eyes were red just like those human cultivators, his whole body exuding killing intent, murderous intent overflowing.

Around him, many other human cultivators continuously displayed their ultimate moves, fighting the powerful Xuan Beasts to the death.

The Xuan Beasts were of various types, each possessing a unique beast technique, often not inferior to, and sometimes even surpassing human martial arts skills.

The reason was simple, the beast techniques of Xuan Beasts were often innate divine skills, with advantages that were obvious when compared to ones created by humans.

The battlefield changed constantly, and while Ye Fan fought his own battle, he could wholly see the combat between the other humans and Xuan Beasts, which heavily impacted his consciousness.

At this moment, he felt the fragility of life, how a living being could become a cold corpse in the blink of an eye.

On the battlefield, human life was the cheapest commodity, as were the Xuan Beasts; they too suffered heavy casualties during the desperate struggles of the humans.

Xuan Beasts were slain one by one, but human losses were even greater, often costing several lives to take down one Xuan Beast.

With the assistance and coordination of many, Ye Fan finally managed to slaughter a Xuan Beast, a flying knife deeply penetrating its skull, boring a fist-sized transparent hole through its head, splattering blood and brain matter all over him.

The intense scent of blood completely ignited the war intent in Ye Fan's bones, his blood boiling as he continually engaged the Xuan Beasts in hand-to-hand combat, seemingly tireless.

His body was extraordinarily strong, granting him defense and strength on par with the Xuan Beasts. At the same time, he could observe the fighting styles of others and learn from them, committing every technique and the use of every ounce of strength to memory.

This barren land had turned into a battlefield, just as Elder Xuan had said, with corpses piling up like mountains and rivers of blood flowing.

Many strong individuals left their blood and lives permanently in this wasteland.

Hmm?

Just as Ye Fan was getting caught up in the killing, a sudden coolness washed over his mind.

His consciousness returned, the scenery in front of his eyes changed once again, still the original desert, still the original desolation.

The illusion realm vanished, yet Ye Fan remained unable to calm himself for a long time, feeling as if he had truly experienced a war.

A war between humans and Xuan Beasts!

The dying roars and the fierce determination to inflict heavy damage on opponents, even at the cost of their lives, deeply shook his consciousness!

“Boy, opportunities missed will not come again, swiftly calm yourself to comprehend everything you just experienced in the illusion realm, including the slaughter between human cultivators and Xuan Beasts, the duels of martial arts skills, etc. This will greatly benefit your future cultivation!!”

Just as Ye Fan was still shaken by all he had experienced, Elder Xuan suddenly spoke up, his tone unprecedentedly serious.

Because...

As an Emperor Weapon Spirit, he knew such opportunities are fortuitous and unattainable on demand!

Chapter 1219: Narrow Encounter with an Old Foe

Ye Fan also knew that this opportunity for inspiration was rare, so he directly sat cross-legged on the soft sand, calmed his mind, and entered a state of emptiness and clarity.

Soon, Ye Fan entered an indescribable mental realm, starting to comprehend everything he had just experienced in the Illusion Realm.

Humans battling Xuan Beasts, the clash of martial arts, magic, and beast techniques...

Everything that happened in the Illusion Realm seemed right before his eyes, and Ye Fan gradually entered a strange state of comprehension.

The perfect use of power gave him a new understanding of his own strength. Only by using one's power wisely can one achieve the greatest success at the smallest cost.

A long period of sitting in meditation allowed Ye Fan to gradually assimilate everything he saw in the Illusion Realm, which greatly benefited his mental realm and martial arts cultivation.

Whoosh!

No one knew how long it had been when Ye Fan opened his eyes, ending his meditation. He felt that his understanding of cultivation had deepened another level. If he had enough spirit stones, he could directly break through to the late-stage True Essence Realm at any time.

This feeling was so real; there was no bottleneck between the mid True Essence Realm and the late stage. It was as if a mere thought could allow him to break through.

The only obstacle was that the breakthrough required a vast amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. Even in such a rich environment as the Secret Realm, spirit stones were needed to ensure there would be no failure due to the lack of support from Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi during the breakthrough.

Standing on this ancient battlefield, Ye Fan was filled with emotions. It seemed impossible for humans and Xuan Beasts to live peacefully together; this was true on Earth, and it was also true in the Xuan Realm.

In fact, survival as a human in this world was extremely difficult. Humans were constantly taking from the world and giving back at the same time.

Powerful Xuan Beasts still posed a significant threat to humans. If not for their small numbers and being concentrated in a few places, humanity might have been extinct, and this world would belong to the Xuan Beasts.

After a moment of reflection, Ye Fan decided to first familiarize himself with this Secret Realm before considering whether to break through here; it was too early to decide now.

His priority was to get out of this desert. He believed that no one else would appear in this desolate place. The Secret Realm was vast, and just this desert alone seemed endless.

Swoosh!

Picking a direction, Ye Fan soared into the sky. With a thought, a pair of Golden Feather Wings extended from his back. Driven by True Yuan, he flew out of the desert as fast as a streak of flowing light.

He hadn't used these Golden Feather Wings for a long time. Although they were from Earth, they were a family heirloom of the Huang Jin Family. They were of good quality and very fast.

Soon, Ye Fan turned into a golden light and disappeared into the vast sky.

...

"Ouch, where am I? That fall nearly killed Grandpa Shen!"

Like Ye Fan, Shen Tu was randomly transmitted to a piece of grassland after entering the Light Gate, being painfully jabbed by a shrub as he fell, making him curse loudly.

Before his words were finished, another ripple appeared in the Void, and another person fell from the Void, landing squarely on top of him.

"Which fool doesn't watch where they're going..."

Shen Tu was almost knocked out. He angrily pushed the person off him and was about to continue cursing when he realized it was his best bosom friend, Jin Zhanfei, and couldn't continue his tirade.

Jin Zhanfei, tall and strong, would have taken a harder fall than Shen Tu, but with Shen Tu as a cushion, he was perfectly fine.

"Hey, old Shen, why are you blocking my way?" Jin Zhanfei said, taking advantage of the situation.

Shen Tu's teeth itched, and he said with a grin, "If I weren't under you, you'd be dead now!"

Although Jin Zhanfei was straightforward, after spending much time with Shen Tu, the two influenced each other, making him sly and cunning.

"How come you're in the same place as me? Where are Junior Sister Tong and Senior Brother?"

After a few jibes, Shen Tu remembered the serious matter. It was fine for the two of them to be together, as they could handle danger, but it would be risky if Tong Qianchen and Zhang Taiyi were apart.

The danger didn't just come from the Secret Realm but also from other sects and clans.

Although Shen Tu was cunning, he was also thoughtful. He knew that since this Tianyuan Secret Realm allowed all cultivators below the Holy Embryo Realm to enter, the Tianyuan Sect wouldn't pass up this chance.

The Tianyuan Sect would definitely send people in!

In a one-on-one situation, Tong Qianchen or Zhang Taiyi both had enough ability to protect themselves, but even a fierce tiger couldn't fight a pack of wolves. If opponents grouped together, Tong Qianchen and the others would be in danger.

"I don't know. I was right behind you when we entered. As for whether Junior Sister Tong and Senior Brother are together, I have no idea."

Jin Zhanfei shook his head, sharing the same thought. In the Secret Realm, unity was crucial. Although everyone might have different opportunities, this time was different from before. Too many had entered, and with strong opposing forces, if their side couldn't regroup quickly, it would be easy for them to be picked off one by one.

"This won't work. We must find them quickly and reconnect. That way, our combined strength will be much greater. Even if we encounter danger, we can support each other. As long as we don't cross paths with that Chu family freak, we should be able to protect ourselves."

Shen Tu suggested that the two should quickly find Tong Qianchen and Zhang Taiyi, join forces, and then look for Ye Fan. Only with Ye Fan, this small team would be invincible, able to smoothly resolve even the greatest dangers.

After making the decision, the two no longer hesitated. They chose a direction and proceeded forward. In such a large Secret Realm, searching for a specific person was no different from searching for a needle in a haystack, but even a needle in a haystack must be attempted.

There was no road in the Secret Realm, only moving by instinct. Even if there were small paths, they definitely weren't made by people—the Secret Realm was different every time it opened, and this small world where they found themselves might not have been visited by anyone.

The place where they landed was quite nice, with chirping birds and fragrant flowers, lush green grass, ancient trees, and the air was filled with a faint floral fragrance.

Someone's here!

An hour later, the two arrived at a valley. Just as they were about to look around and leave, they suddenly felt someone flying towards them swiftly.

Shua!

Upon taking a closer look, Shen Tu's heart skipped a beat, sensing that something was amiss. They had arrived really fast; how much time had passed? They had also entered the Secret Realm.

"People from Tianyuan Sect?"

Jin Zhanfei's expression also turned serious. Those flying towards them were indeed disciples of the Tianyuan Sect, and there were four of them. None of them were weaker than Shen Tu and his companion, all being geniuses at the Late-stage True Yuan Realm.

"Heh, what a narrow world it is! Running into you here!"

In the blink of an eye, the four disciples of the Tianyuan Sect had arrived in front of Shen Tu and his companion. The leading disciple sneered continuously.

"Right, it indeed is a narrow world, so what do you want to do?"

Losing neither ground nor momentum, Shen Tu clashed his gaze with their opponent, coldly asking.

"Nothing much, are you going to end it yourselves, or should our brothers do it?"

The leading disciple arrogantly said, as if Shen Tu and his companion were unworthy of consideration. Four against two, victory was assured in their favor, and he decided to leave the two here.

"Brother Chen, why waste words with two dead people? Just send them off directly."

"Exactly, Brother Chen, you assist by covering us, let us deal with these two turtles."

“Right, there’s no need to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Brother Chen, if you act, wouldn’t it be overkill?”

The other three from Tianyuan Sect echoed, as if Shen Tu and his companion were already dead, posing no threat to them.

“You are too arrogant, don’t forget how your senior brother Luo Xiaolin died—Ye Fan is also in this Secret Realm, do you want to court death?”

Jin Zhanfei coldly warned the four not to act recklessly, otherwise if Ye Fan found out, they would be doomed.

“What a joke, there’s no one else here to prove it was us who killed you. Besides, don’t expect that Ye fellow to avenge you. He has greatly offended Chu Hong, and once Chu Hong breaks through to the Holy Embryo Realm, he won’t be able to protect himself.”

One of the Tianyuan Sect disciples said coldly. He was still somewhat wary of Ye Fan, but thinking that Chu Hong would definitely kill Ye Fan, he felt there was nothing to fear.

Senior Brother Chen sneered, “Even if that fellow Ye knows, what can he do? In a one-on-one situation, we indeed aren’t his match, but can he withstand the four of us combined? Don’t forget, this isn’t a competition arena.”

The four were filled with killing intent, determined not to let the two go, and Shen Tu and Jin Zhanfei realized this. However, at this moment, even if they wanted to escape, they might not be able to; they could only fight with all their might.

“Brother Chen, why say so much to them? Quickly deal with them to avoid long nights and many dreams. You help us suppress them; the three of us are more than enough to kill them!”

As he spoke, the Tianyuan Sect disciple flipped his wrist, revealing a Gui tou Blade, its cold light shimmering as he slashed towards Jin Zhanfei, the wind from the blade was sharp and piercing like the wail of a ghost!

As he made a move, the other three Tianyuan Sect disciples also revealed their Spiritual Artifacts, including swords, guns, and spears.

The three Spiritual Artifacts emitted deadly beams of light, fiercely attacking towards Shen Tu and Jin Zhanfei.

“Damn it, fight! Kill one to break even, kill two to make a profit!”

Jin Zhanfei roared, revealing his own Spiritual Artifact, surprisingly a Fangtian Halberd split into three sections hidden behind him. His straightforward and honest character naturally led him to choose a Spiritual Artifact that could both cleave and stab, and the dynamic and wide-reaching Fangtian Halberd suited him best.

Since Jin Zhanfei chose to take them head-on, Shen Tu couldn’t possibly leave him to flee, and could only fight with all his might. With a flick of his wrist, he revealed his rarely used Spiritual Artifact, a pair

of Protective Arms, and in the blink of an eye, he was engaged in battle with the three disciples from Tianyuan Sect.

Chapter 1220: Death in Battle

Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu were fortunate to meet after entering the Secret Realm.

They were unfortunate to soon encounter four disciples of the Tianyuan Sect.

It is often said that enemies meeting each other brings an extraordinary feeling of animosity, and both sides quickly engaged in fierce combat!

This brawl was completely different from the one-on-one fights in the arena; if it were one-on-one, Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu would not be afraid of them.

But with the addition of one more opponent, the two were immediately in a perilous situation; although the long and short spiritual weapons complemented each other, they suffered from being outnumbered.

Moreover, they not only had to fight the three disciples of the Tianyuan Sect but also had to guard against Brother Chen, who was watching on the sidelines, making them somewhat constrained.

However, despite never having teamed up against enemies before, this was the first time Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu collaborated, and they were unexpectedly very coordinated.

Jin Zhanfei wielded the Fangtian Halberd from a distance, and while he was desperate, he surprisingly managed to force the three opponents to keep their distance, while Shen Tu's Protective Arms were extremely short, only a foot longer than his hands, akin to holding two daggers, very agile and unbeatable in close combat, aiding Jin Zhanfei in dealing with the approaching Tianyuan Sect disciples.

The five of them fought fiercely for a time, but it was difficult to determine a winner. In the perfect collaboration of Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu, the three from the Tianyuan Sect couldn't overcome them for a time.

"Shameful, truly shameful. Three people can't take care of two turtles, do I have to do it myself?"

Seeing that his three junior brothers had fought for a long time without prevailing, Brother Chen finally couldn't help but join the fray. His spiritual weapon turned out to be a Mountain Opening Axe.

Clang!

A loud noise erupted as Brother Chen's Mountain Opening Axe fiercely struck Jin Zhanfei's Fangtian Halberd, causing a shower of sparks, and Jin Zhanfei's hands became numb from the shock, almost unable to hold onto the Big Halberd.

Slash!

Taking advantage of the opportunity, a disciple from the Tianyuan Sect thrust a spear toward Jin Zhanfei's chest, aiming for a fatal blow.

At this time, Jin Zhanfei's hands were still numb, making it impossible to swing the Big Halberd to save himself. Seeing he was about to meet his end, Shen Tu shouted violently and rammed the protective arm into the spear, skewing the trajectory slightly.

Thud!

The spear, unable to take Jin Zhanfei's life, pierced through his True Yuan defense and stabbed deeply into his right shoulder, blood splattering as the fierce True Yuan rushed into his body.

Slash!

At this moment, Jin Zhanfei exhibited a fearless nature, enduring the intense pain, and swung the Big Halberd toward the Tianyuan Sect disciple's neck.

If that disciple didn't let go, Jin Zhanfei would certainly decapitate him with the Big Halberd.

The Tianyuan Sect disciple was horrified, not expecting Jin Zhanfei to be so fierce, hurriedly abandoning the spear and retreating backward.

The two suffered from being outnumbered, and even with an exceptional collaboration, injuries were inevitable. After Brother Chen joined the battle, both Jin Zhanfei and Shen Tu were wounded, facing two against four enemies, whose individual strength was not inferior to theirs, managing to last until now was commendable.

“This won’t work, Old Shen, I’ll hold them off, you leave first, find Ye Zi afterward, and have him avenge me!”

Jin Zhanfei, heavily wounded, directly burned his True Yuan, aiming to buy Shen Tu a brief moment to escape.

Unexpectedly, Shen Tu had the same thought. As Jin Zhanfei burned his True Yuan, preparing to fight to the death, Shen Tu also ignited his own True Yuan.

“You took my lines, so what should I say? Enough chatter, I’m a bit stronger than you, so you leave first, otherwise you won’t last long!”

Shen Tu shouted fiercely, entirely abandoning defense, employing a do-or-die approach with each move.

“Old Shen, I’m already heavily injured, even if I escape, I won’t last long. Stop wasting time!”

Jin Zhanfei also shouted intensely, burning his True Essence Essence, his combat power surging, temporarily suppressing his injuries.

The Tianyuan Sect’s four were unexpectedly forced to retreat under the desperate circumstances, yet they persistently focused on the two, preventing them from finding a chance to escape.

“Do you think only you can burn True Yuan? Today, we swear to kill you, none of you will leave!”

With a roar of anger, the Tianyuan Sect’s four simultaneously chose to burn their True Yuan, instantly leveling the field.

The battle was exceedingly fierce. Despite burning the True Essence Core, Jin Zhanfei was nearly at the end of his rope.

Shen Tu, though slightly stronger, was also covered in injuries but none were fatal.

The entire valley was ravaged by their battle, rubble flying, trees turned to dust, and the earth was cracked all over like a spider’s web.

Boom!

Brother Chen swung his axe, emitting a beam of light from the blade, striking fiercely toward Jin Zhanfei.

Although Jin Zhanfei was desperate, he hadn’t lost his sanity. Recognizing the threat, he quickly dodged.

Boom——

The axe's radiance hit a massive rock behind Jin Zhanfei, splitting it into fragments, showcasing the power of this strike.

The fierce battle lasted long, and even with burned True Yuan, the two were not opponents for the four, barely holding on, with defeat and death only a matter of time.

"Old Shen, for me, Yin Jin, to know you this lifetime is worth it! But you must leave immediately, because if both of us die here, how will Ye Zi avenge us?"

Jin Zhanfei was already on the verge of collapse, relying solely on sheer willpower, blood flowed from his injuries, wounds covered his body, turning him into a blood-soaked figure.

"Old Jin, don't worry, your blood will not flow in vain, I will make sure they accompany you to the grave!"

Shen Tu understood that they couldn't delay any further; otherwise, both would die meaninglessly. One must escape.

And Jin Zhanfei was too gravely injured to flee; only Shen Tu could make the escape first.

After speaking, Shen Tu hesitated no longer, launched a fierce attack to force his opponent back, and instantly soared into the air, flying out of the valley.

As long as he reached the forest and hid, it would be difficult for them to find him again. Although Shen Tu was wicked, his mind was incredibly meticulous.

Unfortunately, he wanted to escape, but others wouldn't let him. Brother Chen of the Tianyuan Sect shouted fiercely, "You deal with him; I'll chase the other one."

Jin Zhanfei let out a loud cry and dismantled his Fangtian Halberd into three pieces. He forcefully threw the halberd head, turning it into a streak of flowing light that stabbed toward Brother Chen's back.

At the same time, he gripped the two-foot-long halberd handle with both hands and was once again engaged in battle with the other three.

Even if it means death, he must win a moment for Shen Tu!

However—

Without Shen Tu's cooperation and having lost his most powerful spiritual artifact, Jin Zhanfei was not a match for the joint attack of the three.

Puff!

The Tianyuan Sect disciple with a spear took advantage of his distraction with the other two's swords and knives, found an opening, and thrust his spear straight through Jin Zhanfei's heart with one piercing shot.

"Ah..."

Jin Zhanfei let out a heart-wrenching scream, and the halberd handle flew out of his hands, shooting toward the foreheads of the other two.

At the same time, Jin Zhanfei showcased his unparalleled bravery, a reckless nature, even with his heart pierced, he didn't die instantly.

He grabbed the spear with both hands, enduring the excruciating pain, and pulled it toward himself.

Whoosh!

Meanwhile, Jin Zhanfei's right hand lifted, blasting a Xuanwu Fist toward the face of the spear-wielding Tianyuan Sect disciple, it was a stunning last strike, its power was terrifying.

The Tianyuan Sect disciple was astonished by Jin Zhanfei's bravery and quickly dropped his big spear to dodge, narrowly escaping the immensely powerful punch.

As the punch went out, Jin Zhanfei slowly pulled the long spear from his chest, every pull distorted his entire face in pain.

Ultimately, Jin Zhanfei amazingly removed the spear from his body, with his blood spurting out wildly, staining him a man of blood.

He stood there propping himself up with the spear, his eyes widely open, already lifeless!

Even in death, Jin Zhanfei stood without falling, his spirit of fearless defiance intimidated the three disciples of the Tianyuan Sect, they had never encountered such a fearsome opponent, had it been one-on-one, none of them would be his match.

“Chase! Absolutely don’t let that Shen get away, otherwise the truth will come out, that brat Ye will likely stop at nothing for revenge!”

Moments of shock gave way to an understanding of the gravity, the spear-wielding disciple retrieved his big spear from Jin Zhanfei’s grasp, and Jin Zhanfei’s body collapsed without support.

The three quickly pursued outside, they knew Shen Tu was already seriously injured and could not flee far, they must eliminate him quickly.

“Shen Tu, can you really escape?”

Brother Chen of the Tianyuan Sect arrogantly chased tirelessly, but even burning True Yuan, both their speeds were similar, and though Shen Tu took a step ahead, catching up shortly wasn't easy.

Moreover, Brother Chen wasn't worried, waiting for the moment when Shen Kun's True Yuan was exhausted, to strike perfectly.

He wasn't concerned about being discovered by Ye Fan, for with four of them, he believed Ye Fan was human, not a god.

He didn't believe Ye Fan could defeat the four of them together, as he stated, this was a secret realm, not an arena for one-on-one duels.

Soon, the other three caught up, and seeing them, Brother Chen grew more confident, pursuing Shen Tu with a cat chasing mouse mentality.

Shen Tu knew if he couldn't survive this ordeal, no one would know how he and Jin Zhanfei died, let alone avenge them.

Therefore, regardless of how Brother Chen taunted him, he pretended not to hear and kept running desperately.

Flying in the sky was unwise as it was unshielded and made him easier to catch.

“Jin Zhanfei, your companion is already waiting for you on the Netherworld road, aren’t you going down to join him? Weren’t you good brothers?”

Brother Chen taunted incessantly as he pursued, hoping Shen Tu would stop for a duel.

Hearing that Jin Zhanfei was dead, Shen Tu felt a stabbing pain in his heart, but he also knew he couldn’t act out of anger or hatred lest he indeed miss the chance for revenge.

“Shen Tu, stop struggling, you can’t escape!”

The four disciples from the Tianyuan Sect continued to mock Shen Tu, their attitude extremely arrogant.

However—

As their taunts fell, a terrifying aura suddenly surged from afar!

“You’re courting death!”

A roar echoed and a figure appeared.

Ye Fan, like a streak of golden light, flew rapidly from afar, overflowing with murderous intent!