

Y Master 1291

Chapter 1291: Devastating Blow!

Hmm?

The appearance of Lou Manyue's servant instantly quieted the whole scene, the geniuses of Chi Yang City did not expect Lou Manyue to let her servant take action, leaving them a bit stunned.

After the shock, their hearts were clear as a mirror—Lou Manyue dispatched her servant to challenge Ye Fan, obviously to vent Qin Han's anger, while also wanting to suppress the momentum of the Ye Brothers, letting him understand who the real master here is.

"Now the Ye Brothers' servant is going to be unlucky."

"That's right, the strength of Lou Manyue's servant is far beyond what Qin Hu can compare, it's almost impossible for the Ye Brothers' servant to defeat him."

"I remember Lady Lou's servant previously had the strength of True Essence Realm Peak, always on the brink of successfully condensing the Holy Embryo and stepping into the forest of Holy Embryo Realm cultivators."

"It is said that Lady Lou's servant has an extraordinary talent, grew up drinking the milk of a Xuan Beast, and his physical strength is stronger than a normal cultivator, but not sure if this is true."

“I have the most say in this legend, previously I also had some disbelief, but later I found out some things through unusual channels.”

One of the cultivators deliberately acted mysterious to whet everyone’s appetite, paused intentionally here, causing everyone to inquire about the authenticity of this matter.

“Let me say it, I know this matter quite clearly.”

At this moment, Qin Han, who has been angry and aggrieved for a long time, felt a movement in his heart, thinking he found a good opportunity to regain his honor, quickly said: “Strictly speaking, there is some truth to the legend, Lady Lou’s servant is called Lou Yi, an orphan picked up from where Xuan Beasts congregate.”

“It is said that when the Lou family’s elders found Lou Yi back then, he was not drinking Xuan Beast milk but eating Xuan Beast meat raw, his physique was indeed different from ordinary people.”

“After the Lou family rescued him, they used tamed Xuan Beasts to provide food, allowing him to live with them, eventually causing his body to be as strong as a Xuan Beast.”

“So that’s it!”

After hearing Qin Han’s introduction, everyone suddenly realized and looked forward even more to this match, as Ye Fan’s strength would emerge like water from a sponge when squeezed, they eagerly anticipated how wonderful this competition would be.

Meanwhile, the Ye Brothers' faces turned somewhat unsightly, they wanted to act but saw Ye Fan did not express anything, so they did not speak.

"I don't dare call it guidance, since you want to compete with me, as you wish, please!"

Ye Fan squinted his eyes, expressionless.

Lou Mangong, for cultivating Evil Techniques, inhumanely slaughtered tens of thousands of ordinary people, while the Lou Family did not stop him, instead implicitly permitted this, even dispatched strong people to ensure his safety.

This made Ye Fan's impression of the Lou Family extremely bad!

He decided not to show mercy, even though in such a setting he couldn't act as an assassin, but he could severely damage the opponent.

As soon as he finished speaking, Ye Fan stomped his foot, instantly flying outside the Bao Tian Lanyue Pavilion.

Under the bright moonlight, clear as day, Ye Fan stood in the air, the night wind blowing, his clothes fluttered like a Banished Immortal.

Whoosh!

Lou Manyue's servant Lou Yi also immediately flew out of the pavilion, arriving in the air outside, for those cultivators whose strength had reached the True Essence Realm Peak, the sky was their battlefield.

Lou Manyue and others also flew out of the pavilion to watch the battle, surrounding the two five hundred meters away to observe the match between them.

"Please enlighten me!"

Lou Yi had an air of grandeur, although merely Lou Manyue's servant, a sense of pride from a powerful clan still made him decide not to take the initiative to strike.

Because, as he saw it, striking first is the right of the weaker, the strong never take the initiative to attack, countering the first move is the style the strong should have.

Ye Fan smiled slightly, saying: "Since you are the one who actively sought to spar with me, if I strike first, wouldn't that be stealing the host's thunder, it's better you take the first move!"

Ye Fan also wanted to see how strong Lou Manyue's servant truly was.

“In that case, I won’t hold back!”

Lou Yi shouted fiercely, his eyes suddenly turned red, a powerful aura emanated from him, making everyone feel as if they were facing not a human cultivator, but a humanoid Xuan Beast.

Even people far away had this feeling; naturally, Ye Fan felt it even more deeply, but he wasn’t worried at all, even if Lou Yi was indeed a Xuan Beast, he was confident he could kill it.

“Fight!”

Lou Yi let out a long roar, his figure moved, leaving behind shadows in place, as he punched towards Ye Fan’s chest, the fierce Punch Ray contained but not released.

Ye Fan had used this fighting style before too, gathering True Yuan on the fist but not releasing it until the moment of contact with the opponent, causing powerful damage from within; he didn’t expect Lou Yi also understood this.

Whoosh!

Facing Lou Yi’s attack, Ye Fan stood unmoved, until Lou Yi approached closely, then threw a punch!

Domineering Fist, invincible with me!

Boom!

The two punches collided in mid-air, Ye Fan stood motionless, even his punching fists showed no signs of tremor at all.

Yet Lou Yi, shaken backward by Ye Fan's punch, flew several meters away; that's even when Ye Fan held back his strength, otherwise one punch would be enough to injure Lou Yi.

The first attack ended surprisingly this way, Lou Yi instantly dropped all contempt and felt Ye Fan's physical strength didn't seem any weaker than his.

This made him somewhat difficult to accept, after all, he went through the pain to train his body, otherwise, he couldn't receive the title of humanoid Xuan Beast.

This strike also made the onlookers jump in shock, secretly marveling at Ye Fan's strong physical body, able to repel Lou Yi with a single punch, which was simply incredible.

Lou Manyue frowned.

She was very well aware of Lou Yi's strength, within the same realm, Lou Yi's power could definitely secure victory, for not only was his cultivation strong, but his body even more robust.

However—

After this punch with Ye Fan, she had an ominous premonition, perhaps Lou Yi would lose this time to Ye Fan.

This thought flashed through Lou Manyue's mind briefly, but soon she denied it, as Ye Fan was merely late-stage True Yuan Realm, one realm behind Lou Yi.

In this world, perhaps some people can challenge across realms, but it shouldn't be Ye Fan, besides, cross-realm challenges are situational.

Lou Yi himself excelled in close combat, his skills and body strength far exceeded cultivators of the same realm.

Lou Yi could also challenge early-stage Holy Embryo Realm cultivators across realms, although not necessarily defeating them, the ability to challenge illustrates his strong capability.

Those geniuses who came to attend the tea party also had similar thoughts to Lou Manyue, they were all families and sects under the Lou family's influence, comparatively, they preferred Lou Manyue's servant to win.

Most importantly, though they knew Lou Manyue's heart already had someone, the chance to draw closer ties with the Lou family would certainly benefit their family and sect's future development immensely.

Just because of this point, they would stand on Lou Manyue's side, naturally hoping Ye Fan doesn't win.

On the contrary, the Ye Brothers five were relatively calm, although Lou Yi's strength was indeed great, they believed Lou Yi could last at most five moves unless Ye Fan deliberately held back.

"Again!"

Lou Yi shouted wildly, once more pouncing forward, using his best close-quarters combat to fight Ye Fan, hoping to suppress Ye Fan in pure physical strength.

The combat began again, after prior probing, Lou Yi could basically confirm Ye Fan's strength was very powerful, no less than his.

Yet in front of Lou Manyue, even if aware of defeat, he must fight to the end, instantly raising his strength to the peak, condensing almost all True Yuan into the right fist.

He wanted to decide victory in one move!

"Good!"

Ye Fan snorted coldly, activating True Yuan, simultaneously exerting physical strength to its utmost, launching a move of Blood Gang.

Boom!

With a loud noise, a brilliant flash burst out where the fists contacted, even the geniuses among the crowd couldn't momentarily grasp what transpired.

"Ah...!"

Following was a miserable cry, Ye Fan's True Yuan instantaneously invaded Lou Yi's body, destroying several crucial meridians in succession, nearly attacking the heart meridian.

If not for Lou Yi's body constitution and strength being stronger than average cultivators, this would have been enough to take his life.

Two moves later, Ye Fan severely injured Lou Yi with a strong physical body!

Chapter 1292: The Master Follows the Servant's Path

"Even Lou Yi was defeated?"

"In just two moves, how can this servant of the Ye Brothers be so powerful?"

The geniuses of Chi Yang City were once again shocked, exclaiming incessantly.

“Puff—”

Meanwhile, Lou Yi was blasted three hundred meters away before he could stabilize himself. His face was extremely pale, and he spat out a mouthful of blood, barely able to keep his footing.

This was Lou Yi’s cleverness. Ye Fan’s punch was incredibly powerful. If he had forced himself to swallow the blood due to pride, he would be left with no cultivation even if he survived by chance, becoming a complete waste.

However, after spitting out that mouthful of blood, if he recuperated well, he might regain his current strength in two years.

Listening to the crowd’s discussions, Lou Manyue’s face was extremely ugly. She never imagined that even her servant would be defeated by Ye Fan, and in just two moves!

While shocked, her doubts grew more intense: Why was Ye Fan, who was only at the late-stage True Essence Realm, so powerful?

Not only Lou Manyue, but everyone except the Ye Brothers was in doubt.

Among them, the genius from Spirit Manor, Lin Zihao, stepped forward a few steps and asked Ye Yi, "Brother Ye Yi, although this servant of yours is low in realm, his actual combat power is astonishingly remarkable. It's extremely bizarre. Where did you find such a top-grade odd servant?"

"Brother Lin misunderstood, he is not our servant, but an honored guest of our Treasure Pavilion and also a friend of us brothers."

Ye Yi smiled and explained to Lin Zihao. Both he and Lin Zihao were heirs of massive forces. Although there was some rivalry between them, there was no need to hide the truth in this matter.

Moreover, he also wanted to clarify for Ye Fan so that no one would misunderstand him as a servant of them five brothers anymore.

"Oh? So it's Brother Ye Yi's friend. It was really a misunderstanding earlier. May I know which great sect you come from?"

Upon hearing Ye Yi's explanation, Qin Han stepped forward two steps and stared into Ye Fan's eyes and asked.

For Qin Han, if Ye Fan truly was a powerful figure from a great sect, or even a Holy Land, then having his servant defeated by Ye Fan would not be embarrassing at all.

"Just from a small sect, not worth mentioning, no need to talk about it!"

Ye Fan spoke truthfully; compared to some sects and families in Qing Province, the Xuanwu Sect in Tianyuan State was indeed a small sect, and a very small one at that.

“Young Master Qin has asked such a question, yet he still dodges and refuses to reveal his origins. Isn’t that a bit too arrogant?”

“Exactly, even though he is an honored guest of the Treasure Pavilion, he doesn’t give Young Master Qin a bit of face. It seems like there’s another good show coming up.”

Listening to Ye Fan’s response, the vast majority of geniuses from Chi Yang City thought Ye Fan was brushing off Qin Han, which was a bit presumptuous.

Even if he was a disciple from a great sect, so what?

Though the Qin family couldn’t handle a great sect, from Ye Fan’s age and realm, even if he was a disciple of a great sect, he definitely wasn’t a core disciple!

Even others believed Ye Fan was deliberately brushing off, and Qin Han thought so even more.

Linking it to his servant’s death, an unexplainable anger arose in his heart, and he sneered coldly: “The spar between the servants ends here. Next, I’d like to have a spar with Brother Ye. Would Brother Ye be willing to give me some guidance?”

It must be said, Qin Han was very clever — since Ye Fan was not a servant of the Ye Brothers, challenging Ye Fan was justified. Otherwise, challenging a mere servant as a genius was a mismatch of identity and status.

But even though it was justified, he was still a Holy Embryo Realm cultivator, having been at the early-stage for years, always on the verge of breaking into the mid-stage True Essence Realm. To challenge Ye Fan, a late-stage True Essence Realm cultivator, there was still a suspicion of bullying the weak.

“This guy is too shameless, isn’t it obvious he’s taking advantage?”

“Exactly, Qin Han is a Holy Embryo Realm early-stage cultivator, having profound cultivation in the early-stage, just a step away from entering the mid-stage. Yet he proposes a spar with a late-stage True Essence Realm cultivator. How disgraceful.”

Some geniuses from families that disliked the Qin family voiced out. In their eyes, what Qin Han was doing was rather demeaning, a case of— the old woman squeezing the soft persimmon!

“A bunch of idiots!”

Only the five Ye Brothers wore mocking smiles without speaking. They were well aware of how powerful Ye Fan was.

Qin Han thought he was gaining an advantage, not knowing he would only bring disgrace to himself.

Especially Ye Wu, he too was a Holy Embryo Realm early-stage cultivator, and could break through to the mid-stage at any time.

In terms of combat ability, Ye Wu's actual combat power was superior to Qin Han, this genius from a small family.

However—

In the day's competition, he too could not defeat Ye Fan, and that was without suppressing his power. Qin Han was even less of a match for Ye Fan.

“Being courteous is worse than being obedient!”

Ye Fan, of course, also saw that Qin Han wanted to take this opportunity to teach him a lesson, and conveniently avenge Qin Hu and regain face for Lou Manyue.

Besides, Qin Han once promised with great certainty to break the killer of Lou Man Gong into pieces in order to lick Lou Manyue's boots, and Ye Fan remembered it all clearly.

In such a situation, he doesn't mind teaching Qin Han a lesson!

Wow!

Ye Fan's strong response immediately caused an uproar among the numerous young geniuses present—they never thought Ye Fan would accept the challenge!

After all, in their view, the gap in strength between the two was too great, and a sparring match between Ye Fan and Qin Han could only spell humiliation for Ye Fan.

Besides, Ye Fan had already fought Qin Hu and Lou Yi consecutively. Although the battles ended quickly, they had consumed quite a bit of True Yuan. Even if he wanted to fight again, he should rest for a moment.

"This Ye Fan is truly reckless. Qin Han is not someone Qin Hu can compare to."

"That's right, Qin Han is the most outstanding young disciple of the Qin family in recent years and the hope for the Qin family's future. His strength cannot be underestimated."

"Merely a little cultivator at the late-stage True Essence Realm dares to spar with a strong person at the Holy Embryo Realm. Isn't this asking for trouble?"

As Ye Fan accepted Qin Han's challenge, the crowd buzzed with discussions centered around Qin Han, and apart from the five Ye brothers, almost no one thought Ye Fan could be Qin Han's opponent.

“You can’t say that for sure, maybe this Ye Fan has an absolute technique that could unexpectedly defeat Qin Han?”

One of the talented individuals said sarcastically.

On the surface, he appeared to be supporting Ye Fan, but everyone knew he was speaking ironically, believing Ye Fan could not possibly be Qin Han’s match.

“Haha...”

Listening to the discussions around him, Qin Han not only felt no shame but laughed arrogantly and said to Ye Fan, “How about this, although I am in the Holy Embryo Realm, to be fair and to prevent others from thinking I rely on a higher realm to bully you, I will suppress my power to the True Essence Realm and spar with you!”

“No need, use your full strength!”

Ye Fan responded sternly, first flying out of the pavilion and stopping above the Chi River, waiting for Qin Han to arrive, without even using the Xuanwu Armor Technique.

“Heh... such ignorance, you’ll suffer soon!”

Qin Han was furious, but he didn't lose his mind. He clearly knew that if he truly faced Ye Fan with his early-stage Holy Embryo Realm cultivation, even if he won, people would criticize him for bullying the weak and for being unfair.

To avoid such a situation, no matter how angry he was, he had to first suppress his power to the True Essence Realm.

Soon, Qin Han used a secret technique to suppress his power to the Peak of the True Yuan Realm, but the essence of Holy Power couldn't be changed, so he still had Holy Power.

In his view, this was already enough; using Holy Power against True Yuan, he already had the upper hand.

If it weren't for Ye Fan's previous dazzling performance, he even thought of suppressing his power to equal Ye Fan's realm.

Swoosh!

With his realm suppressed, Qin Han, without saying a word, instantly darted in front of Ye Fan and attacked first, throwing a punch at Ye Fan's face, the light of Holy Power making his fist appear like a blazing sun.

If he hadn't suppressed his power, this punch would undoubtedly carry the characteristics and might of the Holy Embryo, but now he wanted to defeat Ye Fan solely with strength, without using the power of the Holy Embryo.

Facing Qin Han's fierce attack, Ye Fan remained motionless as if petrified with fear.

It's over!

Seeing this scene, except for the five Ye brothers, almost everyone thought the match was over.

At this moment...

Ye Fan moved!

Swoosh!

Ye Fan's left hand flicked out like lightning, using the skill of redirecting force with minimal effort to redirect Qin Han's fist, then followed through with a slap towards Qin Han.

"Slap—"

The sound of the slap was loud.

Like his servant before him, Qin Han was also slapped away by Ye Fan!

Chapter 1293: Defeated!

The crisp sound of a slap echoed in everyone's ears.

The aggressive Qin Han, with one face-off, was slapped away like his aides by Ye Fan, and his Protective Holy Power was nearly shattered.

Although Qin Han wasn't injured, he couldn't accept this and was instantly filled with rage, his suppressed strength immediately restored to its peak.

"I never thought, never thought, a late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator could possess such powerful attack power!"

This result also caught others by surprise. These geniuses often sparred together, so they had a rough understanding of each other's strengths.

Regarding Qin Han's strength, the young geniuses present might not have sparred with him personally but had at least heard about it.

This was precisely why Ye Fan slapping him away was so surprising and shocking to them.

In their view, it was almost impossible, but it happened, leaving them awestruck.

The five Ye Brothers remained calm and collected, looking as if they were just watching a show, finding nothing strange. They would be surprised if Ye Fan couldn't do this.

"You've angered me!"

In his fury, Qin Han no longer cared about bullying the weak or using his strength against the young. As long as he could defeat Ye Fan, reputation meant nothing.

In that moment he was slapped away, Qin Han felt as if he were hit by a massive Xuan Beast. If not for his Holy Power protection, he might have been injured then.

In this situation, he knew that continuing to suppress his strength wouldn't allow him to defeat Ye Fan. He could only recover his strength to its peak and use absolute power to suppress Ye Fan.

"Come again!"

With a long roar, Qin Han used all his power, producing a strange silhouette behind him, clearly the shape of his Holy Embryo.

“Hoo~”

After Qin Han used all his strength, Ye Fan also became cautious, taking a deep breath, his eyes turning profound and distant. The True Yuan within him spun faster, and his skin exposed to the air gradually turned a purplish-gold hue, looking incredibly eerie.

“Let’s end this!”

With a shout, Qin Han attacked Ye Fan with both hands, fully displaying the powerful attack of a Holy Embryo realm expert.

Ye Fan felt immense pressure. Although Qin Han was a Holy Embryo realm cultivator, as a genius among the Qin family’s younger generation, his power was naturally formidable.

However, Ye Fan always became stronger when facing strong opponents, rebounding under pressure!

At this moment, Ye Fan no longer held back, preparing to unleash his strongest combat power!

He knew clearly that he was facing a Holy Embryo realm cultivator, not someone like Chu Hong who had just succeeded in Condensing the Holy Embryo and was still unfamiliar with using Holy Power, but a genius who had lingered in the early-stage Holy Embryo realm for a long time and was on the brink of breaking through to the mid-stage.

Under these circumstances, any negligence could be fatal.

Moreover, Qin Han was already seeing red, definitely unable to stop himself during the battle.

Crackle!

Ye Fan clenched his fists tightly, producing the sound of crackling lightning. Wisps of Thunder Power danced around his fists, flashing dazzling purple light.

At this moment, Ye Fan finally unleashed the Thunderclap Treasure Skill. Though he could only attach Thunder Power to his fists to increase destructiveness, Thunder Power was undoubtedly one of the most powerful forces in this world, and its might was not to be underestimated.

“Fight!”

Ye Fan also charged with both fists, aiming to confront Qin Han’s Hand Blade.

Bang...

Ye Fan's fists collided with Qin Han's palms, exploding into a blinding glow. True Yuan met Holy Power, and though disadvantaged, Ye Fan's robust Physical Strength and ceaseless True Yuan, like a flowing river, withstood Qin Han's attack head-on.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Both men flew back ten-plus zhang before stabilizing in mid-air.

Ye Fan's expression remained unchanged as Thunder Power quickly pooled again on his fists, constantly coursing like a Serpent Dragon.

This clash also indirectly proved the strength of the Nine Heavens Profound Body—had it been an ordinary cultivator, resisting Qin Han's attack would surely result in injury!

Yet Ye Fan combined his physical strength with True Yuan, clashing with Qin Han without falling behind!

This scene shocked the entire audience once more!

The geniuses who attended the gathering never expected that even after Qin Han returned to peak state, Ye Fan could still stand toe-to-toe with him.

“This kind of Purple Light...”

“This aura...”

“It should be the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, otherwise there wouldn’t be this Thunder aura.”

“My god, this Ye Fan actually comprehended the legendary Thunderclap Treasure Skill, it’s simply unbelievable.”

These geniuses were discerning, especially Lin Zihao of the Spirit Manor, who immediately recognized Ye Fan’s use of Thunder Power.

Apart from the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, there was almost no other secret technique capable of harnessing the power of thunder.

Lou Manyue said nothing, narrowing her eyes as she watched Ye Fan, her face cold, a glimmer occasionally flashing in her eyes, her thoughts unknown.

“Die for me!”

Qin Han, humiliated and enraged, couldn't believe that even after regaining his peak combat power, he still couldn't defeat Ye Fan, driving him to the brink of madness.

With a loud shout, Qin Han advanced towards Ye Fan once more, wielding the Qin family's ancestral "Mountain-breaking Fist", capable of shattering even a mountain in front of him with a single punch.

"You're nothing!"

Ye Fan remained fearless, uttering lightly as he spontaneously combined the Thunderclap Treasure Skill and the most ferocious Domineering Fist, suddenly feeling a touch within his heart, instinctively throwing out a punch.

This punch, inexplicably executed by Ye Fan, felt incredibly natural as though he had become one with heaven and earth, sensing the natural rhythm between heaven and earth in that moment.

To outsiders, Ye Fan's punch resembled a heavenly horse galloping freely, a fish swimming swiftly, leaving no trace, truly a stroke of genius.

Within Ye Fan's punch, besides containing the terrifying thunder power, his fist inexplicably bore two Tao Patterns, resembling a True Dragon.

Tao Power!

Unknowingly, Ye Fan had once again integrated Tao Power into his attack.

Compared to it, thunder power was like a loach in a foul ditch, insignificant.

In Qin Han's eyes, however, Ye Fan's punch sealed off all possible angles of attack, forcing him into a direct confrontation with Ye Fan once more.

"Boom..."

A tremendous noise rocked the entirety of Chi Yang City like a thunderclap, alarming in its scale.

The sound echoed out, with a terrifying energy storm sweeping across the area. Had it not been for Lou Manyue's timely intervention, the surrounding buildings would have been flattened.

At the same time, Qin Han was sent flying backwards, not only looking quite disheveled but also sustaining minor injuries.

"No... impossible, I won't lose, I absolutely cannot lose!"

Injured, Qin Han fell into a frenzy, biting his tongue sharply and spitting out three mouthfuls of Essence Blood in succession, shouting, "Unification!"

With his voice trailing off, the bizarre shadow behind Qin Han suddenly merged into his body, instantly becoming formidable and his momentum continuously surged upwards, enveloped as though burning with a strange flame.

Unable to accept being injured by Ye Fan, Qin Han became frenzied, not only merging with his Holy Embryo but also burning Holy Power, causing a drastic increase in strength within a short period.

At this moment, in terms of combat power, Qin Han was not inferior to a Mid-stage Saint Embryo Realm cultivator.

He resolved to fight to the death!

“My heavens, he’s... he’s actually burning Holy Power?”

“To handle a mid True Essence Realm little cultivator, Qin Han resorted to burning Holy Power. It seems he’s really desperate.”

At this moment, even those like Ye Yi, who were initially confident in Ye Fan, began to worry, for when an early-stage Saint Embryo Realm cultivator burns Holy Power, the boost in power can be terrifying.

Moreover, they had some understanding of Qin Han’s strength, knowing he had been cultivating in the early-stage Saint realm for quite some time, and could step into the mid-stage at any moment.

An opportunity for such a genius to burn Holy Power meant his combat power could rival that of a mid-stage Saint realm cultivator!

Under such circumstances, Ye Fan's victory became exceedingly difficult, with potential life-threatening danger.

"So, it's all or nothing?" Ye Fan coldly stared at the imposing Qin Han.

"You have no chance left!"

Qin Han shouted furiously, his arm snapping like a whip towards Ye Fan's waist.

This was the distinctive trait of his Holy Embryo, incredible flexibility, allowing any part to engage in attack and defense.

"It ends here!"

Ye Fan uttered softly, actively confronting and, upon facing Qin Han, a silver light shot forth from his brow, a small sword piercing into Qin Han's sea of consciousness fiercely.

Divine Soul Sword!

To swiftly end Qin Han, Ye Fan activated the Divine Soul Sword Technique!

The Divine Soul Sword, without form or shadow, breached Qin Han's divine soul defenses almost instantly.

In an instant, Qin Han's divine soul suffered severe trauma, his body shuddering, and his internal Holy Power almost spiraled out of control.

Seize the moment and strike decisively!

Ye Fan did not let go of this exceptional opportunity, opting to strike while the iron was hot, propelling Thunderclap Treasure Skill once again, and unleashing a punch!

Bam!

A muffled sound echoed as Qin Han was sent flying.

His divine soul under attack rendered him almost motionless, being struck by Ye Fan's punch, while the frightful thunder power dissipated his Protective Holy Power.

“Pft—”

Qin Han, flying backward, spat out a mouthful of blood mist, his aura utterly collapsed, complexion pale as paper.

He was defeated!

Chapter 1294: Domineering and Unruly!

After Qin Han, with his suppressed power, was slapped away by Ye Fan, he decisively brought out his peak combat power for a battle with Ye Fan, yet was still defeated.

Subsequently, Qin Han, driven mad with anger, not only fused with the Holy Embryo but also burned his Holy Power...

Just when everyone thought Ye Fan was destined to lose and might even be killed, Qin Han was defeated!

Defeated without any suspense!

This result left everyone dumbfounded!

Even the Ye Brothers did not expect that Qin Han, after fusing with the Holy Embryo and burning his Holy Power, would still be defeated by Ye Fan with a mere flick of the wrist!

Even those who had witnessed Ye Fan's strength were so shocked, let alone others?!

"Hiss~"

A chorus of gasps filled the air.

Ye Fan's terrifying combat power made many geniuses feel chills down their spines; if they were to battle Ye Fan, the outcome would likely not be much better than Qin Han's.

In their eyes, Ye Fan, at the late-stage True Yuan Realm, being able to seriously injure Qin Han in the early-stage and even mid-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm, was simply unbelievable!

So strong!

The genius of Spirit Manor, Lin Zihao, was also deeply shocked.

This result was equally beyond his expectations.

In his memory, those who could wield such power at the late-stage True Yuan Realm were strong people hailing from the Di Clan or the Saint Heir from a Holy Land or Wu Shang Sect.

According to his judgment, Ye Fan absolutely couldn't be a Saint Heir from a Holy Land!

Because Ye Fan's age was a bit too old—at Ye Fan's age, the Saint Heirs from Holy Lands and disciples of the Emperor would have already broken through the Holy Embryo Realm!

Yet the other geniuses from Chi Yang City did not have Lin Zihao's insights; in their shock, they all voiced their judgments.

"This Ye Fan must be from some enormous force, otherwise he couldn't have obtained such heaven-defying treasures like the Thunderclap Treasure Skill and Divine Soul Sword Technique."

"That's right, while the Divine Soul Sword Technique is not uncommon—as we have a senior in the Southern Domain, Zuo Fengshan, who is proficient in it—the Thunderclap Treasure Skill is a treasure passed down by the Thunder Supreme. Apart from certain fragments in the possession of Wu Shang Sect, Holy Lands, and the Di Clan, only the two academies might have it."

"No wonder he possessed such powerful combat power in the True Yuan Realm; he truly hails from a force as vast as a Holy Land."

At that moment, many geniuses from Chi Yang City subjectively assumed Ye Fan was a disciple from some huge force, otherwise he couldn't possess such an extreme martial arts technique like the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

Moreover, the fact that the Thunderclap Treasure Skill is extremely difficult to comprehend and cultivate further supported their assumptions; without the backing of a massive force like a Holy Land, individual comprehension and cultivation were almost impossible.

Among these people, only Lou Manyue maintained an unchanged expression, not showing any surprise at Ye Fan's surpassing victory over Qin Han, as if it was completely expected.

This expression quickly caught the attention of the other young geniuses present, leading them to speculate why Lou Manyue was so calm.

After all, the fact that the Qin family was a vassal family of the Lou family was well known in Chi Yang City, and with one's servant embarrassed by a defeat, it would naturally be a blow to the master's pride; how could she remain so composed?

Swish!

While everyone was speculating, Lou Manyue suddenly rushed towards Ye Fan.

"What is Lou Manyue trying to do?"

Seeing this, everyone was filled with this question.

“I heard the champion of the recent Tianyuan City genius competition was taken by a disciple from a small sect, Xuanwu Sect, who used the Thunderclap Treasure Skill during the contest—that person must be you, right?” Lou Manyue spoke, unwrapping the mystery for everyone and staring at Ye Fan with eyes as sharp as knives.

Tianyuan City genius competition?

Xuanwu Sect disciple?!

Upon hearing Lou Manyue mention this, some quickly recalled the matter, even though they hadn’t witnessed the competition themselves, they had heard about it.

Furthermore, the champion’s reward was Zuo Fengshan’s Divine Soul Sword Technique, and in the battle just now, Ye Fan had used both the Divine Soul Sword Technique and the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

Combining these details, the answer became clear—Ye Fan was undeniably that Xuanwu Sect disciple who won the championship at the Tianyuan City competition!

“It’s him!”

This revelation left everyone in shock!

Earlier, they suspected Ye Fan was from some massive force, comparable to a Holy Land.

However, the truth emerged, and Ye Fan was actually a minor Xuanwu Sect disciple from Tianyuan City...

The contrast was staggering!

At this moment, aside from the Ye Brothers who knew about Ye Fan's background, all the young geniuses focused their eyes on Ye Fan, waiting for his response.

"Yes, that's me!"

Ye Fan openly admitted it, knowing that denying it was futile, as Lou Manyue could easily uncover these facts through the Lou family's intelligence network.

"If I'm not mistaken, from Tianyuan State to Chi Yang City, you must pass through Bai Xie Valley. Tell me, did you kill my brother?"

Lou Manyue suddenly squinted her eyes, exuding an overwhelming aura, emanating a sharp killing intent, as if ready to strike Ye Fan at the slightest hint of weakness!

"Lady Lou, you must be joking; I don't even know what your brother looks like."

Ye Fan was secretly amazed by Lou Manyue's deductive ability, but he showed no signs of it on the surface.

His emotions remained unreadable.

Even if Lou Manyue's ancestor came in person, they would find no flaw in Ye Fan's expression or tone.

"Are you sure?"

Lou Manyue had no proof, merely her imagination, yet her demeanor was oppressive.

"I have neither past grudges nor recent enmities with your brother, why would I kill him for no reason?"
Ye Fan replied calmly, without a single slip.

"One can never say, in these times, killing for treasure happens frequently, my brother carried many treasures, so you can't be completely ruled out from being the killer."

Lou Manyue coldly stared into Ye Fan's eyes, continuing, "Since you claim you didn't kill my brother, then prove it."

“How do I prove it?” Ye Fan furrowed his brows.

“It’s simple, since you didn’t kill my brother, then the treasures on him won’t be with you, open your space bag for me to check, if there’s truly nothing from my brother or his people, it will prove your innocence; if there is, hmph!”

Lou Manyue’s stance was extremely strong, seemingly convinced Ye Fan was her brother’s killer, her demeanor particularly hostile.

“Lady Lou, isn’t that a bit too overpowering?”

Ye Fan squinted his eyes.

Lou Manyue’s overbearing attitude and domineering actions were very displeasing to him!

Moreover, he couldn’t allow Lou Manyue to inspect his space bag, as it contained many spoils from Bai Xie Valley; if Lou Manyue checked, his slaying of Lou Mangong would be completely exposed.

“Lady Lou, don’t you think your request is too much? As everyone knows, a cultivator’s space bag is private, how can it be casually inspected by others?”

The Ye Brothers from the Treasure Pavilion were also feeling the pressure, believing Lou Manyue’s suspicious and aggressive behavior was excessive.

“My brother was murdered, and he is a major suspect. To uncover the truth, I must insist,” Lou Manyue stated firmly, with an overbearing and strong demeanor, showing no fear even against the Ye Brothers of the Treasure Pavilion.

“Brother Ye is a valued guest of the Treasure Pavilion and a friend to us! For you to forcefully inspect Brother Ye’s space bag in front of us is to disregard us completely!”

“This is something we cannot tolerate!”

If Lou Manyue insisted on doing so, she was blatantly disregarding them and the Treasure Pavilion!

Chapter 1295: Offending the Lou Family

Thunk!

The icy words of Ye Yi echoed in her ears, accompanied by Ye Yi’s overwhelming war intent, making Lou Manyue’s heart involuntarily shiver.

Although she was the pearl of the Lou Family and became the fiancée of the Qing Family genius, she was well aware of the disparity between the Lou Family and the Treasure Pavilion.

The Qing Family was merely presentable in Qing Province, but insignificant on the entire mainland, unable to compare with the likes of the Treasure Pavilion, which spanned the entire continent.

Even the Qing Family couldn't be compared with the Treasure Pavilion.

After all, even Holy Lands and Di Clans had to show the Treasure Pavilion some respect!

This realization left her especially conflicted.

On one hand, her intuition told her that Lou Mangong's death was most likely connected to Ye Fan.

On the other hand, without evidence, she couldn't afford to offend the Treasure Pavilion, or else, if the Treasure Pavilion got serious, the Lou Family would surely suffer greatly.

According to the information she had obtained, after the Tianyuan City Talent Competition, the Treasure Pavilion and Spirit Manor, including the Jueluo Empire, all intended to recruit and woo Ye Fan.

Now that Ye Fan was getting so close to the people of the Treasure Pavilion, it was hard to ensure that there wasn't some secret agreement or deal between them.

Therefore, no matter how much she suspected, she couldn't act against Ye Fan now, or as Ye Yi said, she'd end up in a feud with the Treasure Pavilion.

Given the current strength of the Lou Family, it was inadvisable to do so.

After struggling for a while, Lou Manyue glared at Ye Fan before finally deciding to give the Ye Brothers some face and not inspecting Ye Fan's space bag on the spot.

However, Lou Manyue also knew that backing down like this would be quite a blow to both her and the entire Lou Family's reputation.

For this reason, she gave up on inspecting Ye Fan's space bag, but determined not to lose in momentum, she coldly replied, "Today, I'll give the Ye Brothers some face and not inspect your space bag, but you'd better not let me find out that you killed my brother, or I won't just kill you, I'll also massacre your sect until not a chicken or dog is left!"

There was no response, as Ye Fan squinted his eyes.

He had never liked being threatened.

Not on Earth, and not here in the Xuan Realm!

At this moment, a trace of killing intent surged in his heart, but he forcibly suppressed it.

He couldn't act, at least not here!

Ye Fan could endure, but the Ye Brothers couldn't endure.

"Lou Manyue, remember, the Tianxuan Continent is vast, and Qing Province is small. Your Lou Family may count as something in Qing Province, but in the entire Southern Domain, in the entire Tianxuan Continent, you're not even a leaf. Don't be so conceited!"

Ye Yi looked at Lou Manyue with disdain, then turned to Ye Fan and said, "Brother Ye, don't worry, with us and the Treasure Pavilion here, I guarantee the Lou Family won't get away with throwing their weight around in Qing Province!"

"Well said, Brother Ye Yi. If the Lou Family dares to act rashly, our Spirit Manor won't stand by either!"

Spirit Manor's genius Lin Zihao also stood up. He was already displeased with how the Lou Family dominated Chi Yang City, and now that the Treasure Pavilion was taking the lead, he certainly couldn't fall behind.

Moreover, he knew that Spirit Manor intended to recruit Ye Fan as well, and even if they couldn't, they wanted to establish a good relationship with him.

This way, if he reported back accurately, he might even be rewarded.

"Uh..."

Seeing that both the Treasure Pavilion and Spirit Manor were about to protect Ye Fan, the other geniuses attending the tea party couldn't help but show complex expressions.

They never expected that in such a short moment, Ye Fan would become a hot commodity, with the Treasure Pavilion and Spirit Manor, both massive forces second only to the Di Clans and Holy Lands, vying to extend a helping hand to him.

"Hiss~"

The strong words from Ye Yi and Lin Zihao made Lou Manyue tremble with anger.

However—

Despite her fury, she also knew that neither the Treasure Pavilion nor Spirit Manor were forces the Lou Family could afford to antagonize.

At this moment, Lou Manyue could only seethe in anger without voicing it, wishing to flay and dismember Ye Fan in her heart, but she couldn't openly clash with Ye Yi and the others, only glaring at Ye Fan with killing intent.

"Brother Ye, let's go."

Seeing this, Ye Yi gave Lou Manyue a fierce glare, then restrained his killing intent and spoke to Ye Fan.

Ye Fan nodded and left with the five Ye Brothers, with Spirit Manor's genius Lin Zihao joining them.

After this disturbance, the so-called moon-gazing tea party had completely lost its former flavor. There was no need to continue, and some astute young geniuses also found excuses to leave.

Although it was already evening, many places in Chi Yang City were still bustling—Chi Yang City had no night curfew, and places like flower shops and taverns, especially casinos, mostly did better business at night.

The streets were lined with brothels, with doormen and prostitutes vigorously soliciting customers, creating a bustling and prosperous scene.

“Brother Ye, today you really stole the show, but you’ve also thoroughly offended that proud and capricious Lou Manyue. Frankly, even if you didn’t kill Lou Mangong, just by today’s events, the Lou Family definitely won’t let you off!”

Walking on the road, under Ye Yi’s hint, Ye Er analyzed the pros and cons of the situation for Ye Fan, aiming to lay the groundwork for Ye Yi’s following words.

As expected, as soon as Ye Er finished speaking, Ye Yi nodded and said, “What Second Brother said is correct. At present, Brother Ye has only two paths to take. One is to leave here as soon as possible, leave

Qing Province, and find a place with no people to hide. The other is to join our Treasure Pavilion. As long as you join our Treasure Pavilion, you don't have to fear the Lou Family! How about it? Think it over?"

"I'm sorry, Brother Ye Yi, I can't join you for now, because I have already promised my master and fellow apprentices that I won't leave Xuanwu Sect before the Southern Domain Genius Competition ends."

Ye Fan smiled bitterly; he naturally understood their intentions but chose to reject them tactfully — because he had made a promise and couldn't break it.

Of course, he didn't make an absolute statement, as no one has hindsight and doesn't know what might happen in the future. Perhaps one day in the future, he might really join the Treasure Pavilion.

Moreover, since the Ye Brothers stood up for him before, it wouldn't be right if he were to speak too definitively.

"Alright..."

Ye Yi smiled wryly.

He also knew Ye Fan's character, a man of his word. Since he said he wouldn't leave Xuanwu Sect before the Southern Domain Genius Competition ends, he certainly wouldn't leave.

However, he wasn't discouraged, as Ye Fan didn't outright refuse, indicating that there's still some hope. He's eager to report this matter to Yaling.

"Uncle, could you buy me a bun? I haven't eaten for days."

At this moment, Ye Fan suddenly heard a timid voice coming from not far away.

Looking in the direction of the voice, he saw a little girl in rags gently tugging at the sleeve of a well-dressed young master, cautiously pleading.

The little girl looked only about three or four years old, similar to Little Doudou, but her face was dirty with mud, her hair was yellow and messy, obviously suffering from long-term malnutrition.

Looking at the girl's body, she was as thin as a stick, as if a gust of wind could blow her away.

Although the temperature in Chi Yang City of the Southern Domain wasn't considered cold, it was still difficult for a little girl without any cultivation to resist the chill at night, and there was a high possibility she might freeze to death on the street.

The cultivator seemed to not expect a little beggar to dare pull his clothes, and expressed disgust as he fiercely shook off the edge of his garment, "Get lost! Little beggar, if you dirty my clothes, I'll skin you!"

Maybe his movement was too large, or maybe it was too sudden, but the little girl didn't have time to react and fell to the ground with a thump, scraping her knees and elbows.

But the little girl didn't cry. Instead, tears welled in her eyes as she struggled to her feet and said, "I'm sorry... I'm sorry... I didn't mean to..."

Ye Fan watched with a frown.

Although the Xuan Realm was a world where strength was revered, with cultivators looking down from above, he couldn't tolerate cultivators bullying ordinary people, especially when seeing this little girl. He thought of Little Doudou.

Both of them were equally well-behaved and sensible, equally disaster-ridden.

"Get lost immediately, or I'll kick you to death!"

The well-dressed cultivator said impatiently, raising his foot. Given his cultivation, if he kicked the little girl, she couldn't survive even nine lives.

At this critical moment, two voices shouted almost simultaneously:

"Stop!"

“Bastard!”

With these two loud shouts, Ye Fan and Ye Wu both stepped forward to part the crowd.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan flicked his fingers, and a gust of wind instantly struck the Yongquan acupoint behind the well-dressed cultivator’s knee.

At the same time, Ye Wu took action, spitting a thick glob of saliva at the man’s forehead

The well-dressed cultivator had never expected that his actions would anger Ye Fan and Ye Wu, and was momentarily stunned. In that instant of distraction, Ye Fan’s finger wind directly hit the Yongquan acupoint of his supporting left leg, making his leg give out, and he knelt on the ground.

Simultaneously, Ye Wu’s thick glob of saliva also hit the man’s forehead hard.

Although it was just a glob of saliva, it was no different from a hidden weapon, directly raising an egg-sized bump on his forehead.

This was already Ye Wu showing mercy with his mouth; otherwise, this glob of saliva was enough to pierce the cultivator's forehead.

How could the power of a cultivator at the Holy Embryo Realm be underestimated?

"Scram!"

Immediately, Ye Fan gave a low shout, scaring the cultivator so much that he fled with his tail between his legs.

Chapter 1296: The Secret of the Mist Sea

Generally speaking, the more powerful cultivators tend to act with restraint.

Because their horizons have widened, they have seen more things and understand their own insignificance better.

In contrast, those weak cultivators who have not achieved much in cultivation but are stronger than ordinary people tend to be arrogant and view everything from a narrow perspective, thinking their cultivation is already very powerful.

After driving away the richly dressed cultivator, Ye Fan walked up to the little girl. Seeing her pale malnourished face, he couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

“Big brother, I don’t want food anymore, please let me go, I won’t dare again.”

The little girl, not knowing what had happened, crouched in a corner of a deli, arms wrapped around her head, trembling all over.

Ye Fan gently said, “Little sister, don’t be afraid, that bad person has already been chased away by us.”

Upon hearing this, the little girl cautiously raised her head and glanced around, realizing that the richly dressed cultivator was indeed gone, and finally felt at ease.

“Big... big brother, thank you,” the little girl weakly thanked Ye Fan.

“You’re welcome. How about this, I will take you to a place where you can have good food,” Ye Fan said with a smile.

Hearing this, the little girl stared at Ye Fan for a while, then gently nodded, deciding to leave with Ye Fan.

Afterwards, Ye Fan bought a lot of food for the little girl, a whole big bag, and Ye Wu acted as a porter, helping to carry it.

Ye Fan didn't mind the dirt, directly holding the little girl in his arms, using True Yuan to form a protective layer isolating her from external temperatures, preventing her from being invaded by the chill at night.

In this way, Ye Fan directly returned to the Treasure Pavilion's branch in Chi Yang City with the little girl in his arms.

On the way back, Ye Fan communicated with Ye Yi, feeling sorry for the little girl and hoping the Treasure Pavilion could adopt her, so she wouldn't wander outside and be bullied.

Ye Yi gladly agreed; with Treasure Pavilion's strength, adopting even thousands wouldn't be a problem. Since Ye Fan felt compassion, he naturally wouldn't refuse.

Through conversations along the way, Ye Fan also learned the little girl's name—since she could remember, she wandered alone, not knowing where her home was or who her parents were. She only remembered her name was Niuniu.

Originally, Ye Fan planned to send her home, but upon hearing her situation, he had no choice but to leave her with the Treasure Pavilion.

However, to Ye Fan's surprise, little Niuniu was especially attached to him and wouldn't leave his side.

Eventually, it was Yaling's maternal instincts that managed to coax her away, entrusting her to a subordinate skilled in caregiving, instructing them to take good care of her.

Returning to the living room, Ye Yi carefully reported to Ya Ling about the events that transpired at the tea gathering.

After listening to Ye Yi's recount, Yaling frowned slightly, thinking that Lou Mangong might indeed have been killed by Ye Fan.

The reason was simple; in Qing Province and around Chi Yang City, there were hardly any cultivators who dared to provoke the Lou Family, let alone risk killing a direct descendant of the Lou Family.

However, since Ye Fan didn't admit it, she didn't ask further because she knew his character well; if he doesn't want to talk about it, asking is pointless.

"In that case!"

Yaling looked at Ye Fan and said, "Whether or not Lou Mangong was killed by you is actually irrelevant. Just from tonight's events, you have thoroughly offended the Lou Family. In such a situation, if you insist on going to the Mist Sea, it will be very dangerous. The Lou Family will not let you go. Even if you join our Treasure Pavilion, it will still be dangerous."

"Lou Manyue is someone who holds grudges; regardless of whether you killed her brother, you've embarrassed her at the tea party. How can she let it go?"

"Moreover, according to the customary rules of the Tianxuan Continent, the younger generation contends and the older strong people cannot take part. Your realm, compared to Lou Manyue, is vastly

different. She is already at the Mid-stage Saint Embryo Realm, not to mention she has many supporters. Even if Lou Manyue lets you go, her supporters won't."

Here, Yaling paused momentarily and then continued to Ye Fan, "But these aren't the real issues. The most important thing is that Lou Manyue's fiancé is the Qing Family's Supreme Genius, Qing Zi, whose talent is astonishing. At only twenty-four years old, he is already at the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, an absolute leader in all of Qing Province. You've offended Lou Manyue, which means you have indirectly offended Qing Zi!"

After hearing Yaling's words, Ye Fan fell into silence.

Ye Yi and the others wanted to help Ye Fan but didn't know how to assist, as Yaling's words were clear—even if Ye Fan joined the Treasure Pavilion, he may not emerge from the Mist Sea safely, let alone them?

As Ye Fan remained silent, Yaling lightly sighed and said, "Honestly, I really don't want you to take a risk, but if you don't go, it would be a great pity as you might miss the greatest opportunity of your lifetime."

"Why?"

Ye Fan was a bit puzzled; he could understand the reluctance of him going into danger, but missing the greatest opportunity, what could that be?

"It's like this..."

Yaling smiled faintly, gave Ye Fan a deep look, and revealed the secret.

According to Yaling, the Supreme Strongmen from the Southern Domain and other domains had teamed up to go to the Mist Sea once, to investigate what exactly was hidden in the Mist Sea and whether there was any great danger concealed within.

If there truly was a danger that even those at the Holy Embryo Realm could not handle, entering the Mist Sea despite the barrier's disappearance would mean certain death.

After enduring dangers akin to Nine Deaths and One Life, the Supreme Strongmen finally confirmed that there was a Mist Island deep within the Mist Sea, and on the island was the tomb of Thunder Venerable.

This discovery left all the Supreme Strongmen stunned!

In terms of strength, Thunder Venerable was reputed to be the number one under the Great Emperor!

If he hadn't been so strong, he might have truly been able to challenge the imperial position successfully and become the strongest Great Emperor.

Unfortunately, he died during Emperor Cheng's Heavenly Tribulation, rumored to be shattered into ashes, leaving nothing behind, but here there was a tomb, which was bewildering.

Initially, these Supreme Strongmen couldn't believe any of it was true, as the information they received since childhood was that Thunder Venerable was struck to ash by the Heavenly Tribulation; discovering his tomb here seemed impossible.

But everything before their eyes left them no choice but to believe, as they detected the aura of the Thunder Spirit Fruit, an Immortal Elixir believed to grant eternal youth.

Of course, even if eternal youth is impossible, every Great Emperor is accompanied by a Ten Thousand Years old elixir that can potentially allow an Emperor to live another life.

The Thunder Spirit Fruit is said to exist in the Thunder Marsh of the Upper Nine Heavens, perpetually watered by the Spiritual Power of thunder. For this reason, it must have been more suitable for Thunder Venerable than any other Immortal Elixir.

One of the Supreme Strongmen among them even took a risk during the exploration to investigate closely, feeling an intense Thunderbolt Aura, undoubtedly confirming this was indeed Thunder Venerable's tomb. They just didn't know what monumental secret or treasure it contained.

However, in their memories, Thunder Venerable had been struck to death by the Heavenly Tribulation, yet somehow a grave remained, which was baffling to them.

The Mist Sea's mist had disappeared, and according to these cultivators, it was probably because of this: Thunder Venerable's tomb is about to open, which is why the eternal mist shrouding the Mist Sea vanished.

For whoever can enter the tomb, they may very well obtain the treasures and legacy left by Thunder Venerable.

What surprised Ye Fan was that his affinity with the Thunderbolt Aura made him much more likely to receive the treasures and legacy of Thunder Venerable.

Chapter 1297: The Fateful Decision

Mist Sea is the burial ground of the Thunder Venerable...

The news revealed by Yaling shocked Ye Fan and the Ye Brothers!

They never expected that the opening of the Mist Sea would be connected to the Thunder Venerable.

"I must say, your luck is good. If you can obtain the Thunder Venerable's inheritance and treasure this time, it will greatly aid your future path."

At this point, Yaling's tone changed, and she continued, "But the prerequisite is that you have to stay alive until the end. This journey to the Mist Sea includes not only the young geniuses led by Qing Zi from the Qing Province but also the Holy Embryo Realm geniuses from other major Southern Domain forces, even including the Saint Heir from two great sacred places—they pose a great threat to you!"

Ye Fan remained silent.

He knew very well that his victory over the Ye Brothers was mainly because they had suppressed their strength to the True Essence Realm.

In other words, if the five Ye Brothers hadn't suppressed their power and attacked with full force, Ye Fan would have had no chance.

And in the Mist Sea, the various geniuses will certainly not suppress their strength to the True Essence Realm; on the contrary, they will use their strongest abilities to contend for great opportunity.

But these factors are not what worry Ye Fan the most. No matter how powerful Qing Zi is, or how arrogant the Lou Family is, Ye Fan has his own means to save himself. If truly pushed to the extreme, those people will definitely not have a good time.

However, Yaling's words sent a chill through Ye Fan's heart.

"In addition to this, the entire Southern Domain's older generation of Holy Embryo Realm cultivators will also be going, led personally by the Sect Leaders of the major sects and the Clan Leaders of the major families!"

"These Sect Leaders and Clan Leaders cannot enter the Mist Sea, but they can support from outside, allowing the younger generation of geniuses and the older Holy Embryo Realm cultivators to enter for treasure hunting and opportunity grabbing."

"This means, even if you somehow manage to obtain the Thunder Venerable's inheritance and treasure, as you leave, you will face interception and killing from the Sect Leaders and Clan Leaders of the various sects and clans!" Yaling finished, gazing intently at Ye Fan.

In her view, it is nearly impossible for Ye Fan to obtain the Thunder Venerable's inheritance and treasure and escape unharmed.

Because not only must he survive the pursuit from geniuses like Qing Zi and others, but he must also survive the competition from other Six States' geniuses and older Holy Embryo Realm cultivators.

Even if, by some miracle, Ye Fan manages to do all this and survives the pursuits and competitions from so many people and gains the Thunder Venerable's treasure and inheritance, he must also guard against interception by the Sect Leaders or Clan Leaders of the major sects or clans upon leaving.

For Ye Fan, this is almost a certain death situation—it's hard to survive under the siege of so many strong people!

Because of all this, Yaling did not arbitrarily decide to take Ye Fan, but instead left the decision to him, allowing him to choose whether to go or not go.

This choice is extremely difficult to make!

If Ye Fan does not go, he might lose the best opportunity, but if he does go, it is undoubtedly a nine deaths and one life situation.

Or even a ten deaths no life scenario.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the entire living room was extremely oppressive, Yaling and the five Ye Brothers remained silent, the air was deathly still, and no one knew what Ye Fan would ultimately decide.

The Ye Brothers anxiously watched Ye Fan. To be honest, although they had suffered a massive defeat at Ye Fan's hands, they did not hate him at all. On the contrary, Ye Fan's strength and style made them admire and appreciate him immensely.

After a tense silence, Yaling spoke again, "Little brother, let me give you some advice. If you really want to enter the Mist Sea, it's best to join our Treasure Pavilion now. I'll immediately announce that you are one of us, and even if it can't stop the younger generation from pursuing you, at least it can ensure that if you really get the Thunder Venerable's inheritance, other sects and clan leaders will not dare act rashly!"

Ye Fan understood at once that Yaling was not just speaking casually nor was she exaggerating.

The Spirit Manor and Treasure Pavilion, being gigantic forces spanning the entire Tianxuan Continent, although without a supreme master leading, no force would dare intercept the heir of these super forces after obtaining the treasure and inheritance!

If any force did dare to do so, it would be tantamount to declaring war on the Treasure Pavilion!

"I've said what needed to be said, now, you decide." Yaling stopped speaking, waiting for Ye Fan's response.

In the anticipation of Yaling and the five Ye Brothers, Ye Fan finally spoke, but without an immediate answer, instead he asked back, "Since the Mist Sea has Thunder Venerable's tomb, why have no forces from other domains stepped in?"

This was something that puzzled Ye Fan greatly. Logically, such a tomb of a top figure second only to a Great Emperor must contain lots of good things, so it's impossible for those major forces not to be tempted.

Even the Di Clan and Holy Land couldn't remain indifferent when faced with the tomb of a figure second only to a Great Emperor.

But apart from the various states of the Southern Domain, it seemed other domains appeared unaware, which really confused him.

"Here's the thing,"

Yaling explained to Ye Fan, "If it were ten thousand years ago, such an event would definitely have seen people from other domains, the Holy Lands, or the Di Clan, Wu Shang Sect appearing, but not now."

"Because, once a Great Emperor's inheritance site appeared, all major Holy Lands and Di Clans mobilized, and a war involving Emperor Weapons broke out over seizing the Great Emperor inheritance, almost destroying the world!"

“Since then, all major Holy Lands and Di Clans realized that continuing down this path would eventually lead to Tianxuan Continent being destroyed by war, or at the very least, the exhaustion of the Di Clan’s heritage. Last time’s war was the best testament: the Emperor Clan Ling Family lost its Emperor Weapon, and the Emperor Weapons of other Di Clans were also damaged, almost to the point of being unusable.”

“Even the Di Clan cannot withstand such a war’s consumption again, so the major domains established a rule that except for Forbidden Zones and the Great Emperor’s arenas, relics, and tombs, other Secret Realms and Venerable’s relics and graves can only be contended for by the forces within that domain, others, regardless of being Di Clan, Holy Land, or Wu Shang Sect, should not participate, but can witness.”

“Though the Thunder Venerable is hailed as the foremost below Great Emperor throughout history, with unmatched attack power, yet he didn’t achieve emperorship, thus other domains’ forces naturally wouldn’t risk breaking the rules to get involved, otherwise, once discovered by the Southern Domain’s forces, it certainly would trigger immense conflict, likely inciting another war.”

Yaling elaborated eloquently, enlightening Ye Fan, then went on to say, “Even our Treasure Pavilion and Spirit Manor, though sprawling across Tianxuan Continent, can merely dispatch talented individuals from Southern Domain branches, unable to engage the Saint Heir.”

Yaling’s explanation gave Ye Fan deeper insight into the world’s rules. It’s not that the Di Clan and Holy Lands don’t want to come, but rather they simply can’t.

However, Ye Fan also wondered if these Di Clans and Holy Lands truly respect these agreements?

On the surface, they may not come, but who’s to say they won’t engage in some underhanded actions behind the scenes?

After all, the great Emperor's inheritance that may exist within the Mist Sea is not significantly inferior—if the Thunder Venerable had succeeded in becoming Emperor himself.

"Think about what I've said tonight carefully, and I'll await your decision tomorrow morning," concluded Yaling.

"No need to wait until tomorrow morning. I have made my decision to go to the Misty Sea, but I will also keep my prior promise that—I won't go to the Xuanwu Sect before the journey to the Southern Domain Genius Competition concludes!"

Ye Fan's tone was firm, his face betraying no emotion.

"Brother Ye, please think it over again! To know, within the Mist Sea, people won't hold back like we brothers did when we sparred with you."

"Why is he so confident?"

They genuinely admired and respected Ye Fan for his strength and his way of doing things, even though they had suffered a major defeat at his hands.

After another heavy silence, Yaling spoke again: "Little brother, take my advice; if you really want to enter the Mist Sea, it's best to join our Treasure Pavilion now. I will immediately announce to the world that you are one of us. Even if we can't prevent the younger generation from pursuing you, at least if

you truly obtain the Thunder Venerable's inheritance, the Sect Leaders and Clan Leaders of the major sects and families will not dare to act rashly!"

Ye Fan understood from Yaling's words that it was not mere flattery, nor was there any exaggeration.

The Spirit Manor and the Treasure Pavilion, vast forces throughout the entire Tianxuan Continent, although they didn't have peerless experts leading them this time, there was no force that dared to intercept these great superpowers' heirs after obtaining the treasure and inheritance!

If any force dared to do so, it would be tantamount to declaring war on the Treasure Pavilion!

"I've said everything that needs to be said. Well, go ahead and make your decision now." Yaling said no more, awaiting Ye Fan's response.

As Yaling and the five Ye Brothers waited, Ye Fan spoke up, not giving a direct answer but instead asked, "If there truly is Thunder Venerable's tomb in the Misty Sea, then why haven't the forces from other domains come to have a hand in it?"

This was a point that puzzled Ye Fan greatly. Logically speaking, a tomb of such a mighty being just second to the Great Emperor ought to have abundant treasures, and it was unbelievable that those major forces weren't tempted.

Even the Di Clan and the Holy Land couldn't remain indifferent when faced with the tomb of a strong being second only to the Great Emperor.

Yet, aside from the various states in the Southern Domain, other domains seemed completely unaware, which perplexed him greatly.

“Well, it’s like this,”

Yaling explained to Ye Fan: “Long ago, if such an event had occurred, people from other domains, Holy Lands, or the Di Clan, even people from the Wu Shang Sect would have appeared, but not now.”

“Because once, a Great Emperor’s lair was found, and people from all major Holy Lands and Di Clans mobilized, resulting in an Emperor Weapon battle over the Great Emperor’s inheritance. It nearly led to the destruction of this world.”

“Since then, those from the major Holy Lands and Di Clans realized that such wars could no longer be sustained, that even Di Clans couldn’t withstand the heavy costs associated with them. After the last one, nearly all Di Clans had their Emperor Weapons damaged to varying degrees, and some, like the Emperor Clan Ling Family, lost theirs entirely.”

“Now, even the Di Clan can’t afford to bear such war attrition again. Thus, the major Holy Lands and Di Clans agreed on a rule. Aside from the Forbidden Zone and the arenas, relics, and tombs of the Great Emperor, the other Secret Realms, Venerable’s sanctuaries should only involve forces from the respective domains, and others, whether Di Clan, Holy Land, or Wu Shang Sect, should not participate, albeit they can observe.”

“Though Thunder Venerable is hailed as the strongest below Great Emperor, with unmatched attack power, he failed to achieve the throne of the Emperor. So, forces from other domains naturally wouldn’t risk violating the rule for involvement, or else, if discovered by major forces in the Southern Domain, a huge conflict would inevitably arise.”

“Even those mighty powers covering the whole Tianxuan Continent like the Spirit Manor and the Treasure Pavilion can only send talents from Southern Domain branches to participate and cannot let the Saint Heir appear.”

Ye Fan learned more about the world’s rules through Yaling’s explanation. It wasn’t that other major forces didn’t want to come; they simply weren’t allowed.

Still, Ye Fan questioned if such agreements would matter to those Di Clans and Holy Lands at all.

“Consider carefully what I’ve just said. Have a good think tonight, and tomorrow morning I’ll be waiting for your decision,” Yaling concluded.

“No need to wait until tomorrow morning. I’ve made up my mind to go to the Mist Sea, but I’ll adhere to the previous promise—not to leave the Xuanwu Sect until the Southern Domain Genius Competition ends,” Ye Fan declared with a firm tone and an expression as calm as water.

“Brother Ye, please think it over again! You should know, in the Mist Sea, others won’t suppress their power like they did when we sparred with you before.”

“Why is he so confident?”

The tone of the Ye Brothers is tense as they regard Ye Fan. They are worried, as though they stumbled badly against Ye Fan's hand, they don't hate him; on the contrary, they admire and appreciate his impressive strength and style.

Following a period of stifling silence, Yaling spoke once more: "Little brother, please listen to my advice. If you truly wish to enter the Misty Sea, it would be best to join our Treasure Pavilion immediately. I will announce right away that you are one of us, and thus, even though it cannot prevent the younger generation from hunting you down, it certainly guarantees that if you do obtain the Thunder Venerable's inheritance, the Sect Leaders and Clan Leaders from the major sects and families would absolutely not dare to act rashly against you!"

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan understood that Yaling's words were not mere idle talk and were not exaggerated in the least.

The Spirit Manor and Treasure Pavilion, as mighty forces spanning the entire Tianxuan Continent, though not having supreme experts leading this time, no other faction would dare intercept the heirs of these superpowers after acquiring the treasure and inheritance!

If any force really did so, it would be tantamount to declaring war on the Treasure Pavilion!

"I have said what needed to be said, now, make your decision." Yaling said no more, waiting for Ye Fan's response.

As Yaling and the Ye Brothers waited, Ye Fan spoke up, but instead of directly answering, he posed a question, "Since there's a tomb of the Thunder Venerable in the Misty Sea, why haven't forces from other domains come to partake?"

This was the part that Ye Fan couldn't understand. Logically, such a tomb of a singular figure second only to a Great Emperor must hold many treasures; it would be impossible for those major forces not to be tempted.

Even the Di Clan and Holy Land could not remain calm when faced with a burial ground of a power just shy of a Great Emperor.

Yet, besides the various Southern Domain states, it seemed that forces from other domains were completely unaware, which left him puzzled.

"That's it,"

Yaling explained to Ye Fan, "If this had happened ten thousand years ago, the Holy Lands or the Di Clans and people from the Wu Shang Sect of other domains would surely have appeared, but they won't now."

"Because once upon a time, when a Great Emperor's inheritance was found, all the major Holy Lands and Di Clans were mobilized, and a battle of Emperor Weapons erupted to vie for the inheritance, leaving the world on the brink of destruction!"

"Since then, the major Holy Lands and Di Clans recognized that such attrition due to war could no longer be sustained, and even the Di Clan couldn't afford it. In the last war, the Emperor Clan Ling Family lost their Emperor Weapon, while others suffered various degrees of damage to their Emperor Weapons, greatly reducing their usability."

“Even the Di Clan can’t withstand such a war’s attrition again, so a rule was established among the major Holy Lands and Di Clans stating that only Forbidden Zones, Great Emperor halls, relics, and tombs are exceptions, but other Secret Realms and Venerable tombs shouldn’t involve forces from other domains to prevent any massive conflicts in the Southern Domain.”

“While the Thunder Venerable is hailed as the greatest powerhouse beneath the Great Emperor, with unmatched attack power, other domains are wary of the intense conflict that would arise from breaking the rule, risking a renewed great war.’

Yaling spoke eloquently, dispelling Ye Fan’s doubts, then continued, “Even mighty forces like our Treasure Pavilion and Spirit Manor, which span the entire Tianxuan Continent, can only send talents from the Southern Domain branches to participate, without letting Saint Heirs intervene.”

Yaling’s explanation gave Ye Fan more understanding of the world’s rules. It’s not that those from the Di Clans and Holy Lands don’t want to come, but they simply can’t.

However, Ye Fan was still concerned, after all, those Di Clans and Holy Lands have Great Emperor inheritances, and so do the Wu Shang Sect.

Would such mighty forces really care about these agreements?

In public, they surely wouldn’t intervene, but who’s to say they wouldn’t do something behind the scenes!

After all, the Thunder Venerable's inheritance in the Mist Sea, compared to a Great Emperor's inheritance, isn't that much less—if Thunder Venerable had managed to ascend to the emperor's throne, he would undoubtedly have been the strongest of all Great Emperors!

Seeing Ye Fan remain silent, Yaling sighed softly: "You don't have to decide now, think about it tonight. I'll wait for your decision in the morning."

"There's no need to wait until tomorrow morning. I've decided to go to the Misty Sea, but I will also uphold my previous commitment—not to leave the Xuanwu Sect until the Southern Domain's Genius Competition ends."

Ye Fan's tone was firm, his face unperturbed, as if everything Yaling had said before hadn't influenced him at all.

"Are you sure?" Yaling looked at Ye Fan in surprise.

Though she had some understanding of Ye Fan, she hadn't expected him to make a decision so quickly.

After all, this decision would determine his fate!

"Brother Ye, please consider it again! You know, in the Misty Sea, others won't hold back like we brothers did when we were sparring with you before."

“Why is he so confident?”

Ye Fan’s firm tone left Yaling and the five Ye Brothers puzzled.

Chapter 1298: Eye-Catching

Why?

Earlier, when Yaling said all that, Ye Fan secretly used his mind to communicate with Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan told him that if he could truly obtain the Thunder Venerable’s inheritance and treasure, when leaving Mist Sea, unless a Venerable personally intercepted, he could fully activate the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to kill any interceptors and ensure his safety.

It was precisely because of Elder Xuan’s words that Ye Fan made up his mind that he would go to Mist Sea no matter what, even if he couldn’t get the inheritance in the end, as long as he could find the materials to refine the Soul Gathering Pill, this trip wouldn’t be in vain.

Although somewhat surprised, Yaling and the Ye brothers didn’t ask. They knew that once Ye Fan decided on something, he would never change his mind.

Early the next morning, Ye Fan followed Yaling and the Ye brothers to Mist Sea.

There was still a considerable distance from Chi Yang City to Mist Sea—Mist Sea was located before Qing Province and Infinite Sea, belonging to the southernmost part of Qing Province.

Generally speaking, unless crossing an entire domain, one would not use a transmission array, which is an expensive formation, and would have to fly instead.

Of course, a powerful entity like Treasure Pavilion naturally has powerful flying artifacts, and cultivators only need to sit within the artifact without expending their True Yuan to fly.

This time, Yaling used an ancient flying war chariot. The chariot body was mottled, covered with knife and axe marks, indicating it had gone through very fierce battles yet ultimately survived.

Two flying profound beasts pulled the chariot, both having reached the peak of True Essence Realm.

In terms of realm, these two laborers pulling the chariot were higher than Ye Fan's realm, showing how wealthy and powerful Treasure Pavilion is.

Under the full flight of the flying profound beasts, the ancient war chariot flew southward like a meteor streaking across the sky.

Along the way, Ye Fan saw many cultivators either flying alone or riding on flying artifacts, passing by them, indicating that Mist Sea had drawn the attention of many cultivators this time.

Three days later, Ye Fan and others finally reached the edge of Mist Sea, where many cultivators were already present. However, these cultivators were from weaker backgrounds, and the major clans and sects hadn't yet arrived.

Seeing the arrival of Treasure Pavilion's people, these weaker leaders stepped forward to greet Yaling, while Yaling responded with a smile to each one.

Though powerful, Treasure Pavilion did not look down on any force because these smaller forces could sometimes become their patrons.

Many treasures are obtained by disciples of small forces and handed over to Treasure Pavilion for auction when they can't keep them, in exchange for urgently needed cultivation resources and elixirs.

The entrance to Mist Sea is very wide, so these people are spread out, all waiting for Mist Sea to open, hoping to enter at the first moment.

Yaling, with Ye Fan and the Ye brothers, stopped at a very advantageous position, quietly waiting for the opening of Mist Sea.

Taking this opportunity, Ye Fan observed the legendary Mist Sea.

Currently, there's not much mist in Mist Sea, but it still has a hazy look, making it difficult to see clearly.

Logically, those daring to come here are powerful cultivators who've long attained cloud-piercing vision and can see through thin clouds, but the mist here is mysterious, able to block cultivators' sight.

Ye Fan could see only about four to five hundred meters from the entrance, beyond which he couldn't see clearly.

Within this four to five hundred meters, Ye Fan noticed many skeletons, both human and beast.

Considering what he saw, Ye Fan judged that Mist Sea must be a very dangerous place—these creatures perished after just venturing four to five hundred meters, indicating the peril contained in this mist.

At this time, chiefs and clan leaders from major forces of the other three of the Six States converged here, bringing their sects' or clans' geniuses with them.

Some older-generation Holy Embryo Realm experts arrived as well. The imminent opening of Mist Sea was well known, and these people were also eager not to lag behind.

"Tianhe Sect of Bazhou has arrived, all irrelevant individuals clear the way!"

With a thunderous shout, an ancient warship crushed the void, pulled by six green flood dragons, each seven or eight feet long, their green scales reflecting a chilling glow in the sunlight.

"Aoo..."

As if to amplify its master's prestige, the six green flood dragons let out deep roars in unison, their voices shaking a thousand miles.

Ye Fan was greatly shocked; he knew that Jiao was a profound beast without vocal cords, generally unable to make any sound. A Jiao making sound showed signs of evolving towards becoming a dragon.

Using six green flood dragons to pull the ship showcased the strength of Tianhe Sect, comparable to the supreme sects.

Ye Fan squinted at the sky, seeing an elder in blue robes standing proudly at the bow of the ship, wearing a king's crown, his face austere, clearly a person of high stature and power.

Behind the elder stood several young cultivators, all at the Holy Embryo Realm, clearly sent by Tianhe Sect to enter Mist Sea and seize opportunities.

Following the arrival of Tianhe Sect, other powerful families and sects from different states arrived, the entire sky resonating with continuous sound, like a grand bell and drum.

"Tianqi Sect has arrived, idle people make way!"

"Lingyun Sect has arrived, everyone move aside!"

“The Patriarch of the Feng Family from Xuanzhou leads the direct lineage disciples here...”

“ ... ”

Before long, several other prominent families and sects from different states also arrived, and the Jueluo Empire of Tianyuan State sent representatives as well.

Although the Jueluo Empire is nominally a nation, its nature is much like a sect, only its territory is broader.

The arrival of each powerful family and sect would trigger an uproar, prompting people from smaller factions to step aside, giving the best positions to them.

However, everyone understood the might of the Treasure Pavilion. Despite this being a matter for the Southern Domain, the Treasure Pavilion only sent talented disciples from the Southern Domain, and thus these families dared not ignore the Pavilion. Upon landing, they immediately went forward to greet Yaling.

“Who is this young brother? Why does he seem so unfamiliar? And with only a Late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivation, is he fit to enter the Mist Sea?”

After greeting Yaling, many from the major factions found it incredible that Yaling was accompanied by a cultivator of the True Yuan Realm.

Even smaller forces had carefully selected only Holy Embryo Realm cultivators for this journey.

Among everyone present, Ye Fan was the only True Yuan Realm cultivator, which naturally piqued everyone's curiosity.

Ye Fan stood out like a crane among chickens, a little cultivator amidst numerous Holy Embryo Realm strong people.

Ye Fan himself was not bothered at all; his cultivation was indeed in the Late-stage True Yuan Realm, and he could not hide it. What others said wasn't something he could prevent.

Though many didn't know Ye Fan, the Spirit Manor leader of this expedition recognized him.

The leader from Spirit Manor was none other than Elder Xie Panshi, who had participated in the Genius Tournament in Tianyuan City.

Seeing Ye Fan with Yaling from the Treasure Pavilion, Elder Xie sighed slightly. Such a promising talent had ultimately fallen into the hands of the Treasure Pavilion.

After exchanging pleasantries with Yaling, Elder Xie led Lin Zihao and a few other talented individuals away and chose a prime position to rest, ready to enter the Mist Sea at the earliest opportunity.

Just as Elder Xie left, another acquaintance of Ye Fan approached—Zuo Fengshan, a renowned Divine Power Realm strong person of the Southern Domain!

Beside Zuo Fengshan was a dignified middle-aged man, with a majestic bearing and imposing stride.

Ye Fan could deduce from the dragon robe he wore and the crown on his head that this must be the Emperor of Jueluo Empire.

Though the Emperor of Jueluo Empire had never met Ye Fan, he immediately noticed him, as Ye Fan stood out among all the people present—the only True Yuan Realm cultivator.

Despite predictions that only cultivators below the Holy Embryo Realm could enter the Mist Sea, major forces still sent their sect's strongest Holy Embryo Realm cultivators; none sent a True Yuan Realm cultivator.

The reason was simple, True Yuan Realm cultivators were too weak, almost unable to defend themselves against stronger Holy Embryo Realm cultivators, let alone seize opportunities.

Even if they happen upon treasures and opportunities, their lack of strength would likely result in them being taken by others.

Thus, Ye Fan's presence as a True Yuan Realm cultivator was particularly striking.

Upon arriving, Zuo Fengshan had noticed Ye Fan within Yaling's group, feeling a sense of regret.

Ye Fan was the most promising young person Zuo Fengshan had seen in years, though his current cultivation was lacking, his potential was boundless, and his intelligence and character were impeccable.

Such a promising talent falling into the hands of the Treasure Pavilion was something Zuo Fengshan could only lament.

However, unlike Elder Xie from Spirit Manor, Zuo Fengshan was not willing to give up without Ye Fan's explicit confirmation.

Taking advantage of this moment, Zuo Fengshan, accompanied by the Emperor of Jueluo Empire, personally approached—not only to greet Yaling but also to inquire if Ye Fan had truly joined the Treasure Pavilion.

After exchanging pleasantries with Yaling, Zuo Fengshan directly steered the conversation towards Ye Fan, smiling faintly, he said, "Congratulations Brother Ye, on finally joining the Treasure Pavilion, you can now rise swiftly."

"Elder Zuo, you misunderstand, I haven't joined the Treasure Pavilion, I'm merely accompanying Sister Yaling and the Ye Brothers to explore for opportunities in the Mist Sea." Ye Fan explained with a bitter smile.

"What? You haven't joined the Treasure Pavilion? Is that true?"

Zuo Fengshan was quite surprised, having assumed Ye Fan had joined the Treasure Pavilion. Unexpectedly, hearing this made him particularly delighted, prompting him to confirm with Yaling.

“That’s correct, Brother Ye Fan has not joined our Treasure Pavilion,” Yaling replied honestly.

“Since that’s the case, with my identity as the Emperor of Jueluo Empire, I extend a sincere invitation once more, hoping you will join our Jueluo Empire!”

With Yaling’s words just ended, the Emperor of Jueluo Empire suddenly spoke, extending an olive branch to Ye Fan.

Chapter 1299: Gathering of Heroes

All factions were flocking to the entrance of Mist Sea, and as a cultivator in the True Essence Realm, Ye Fan drew a lot of attention. Upon learning that Ye Fan had not joined the Treasure Pavilion, the Emperor of Jueluo Country personally extended an invitation to him.

This was somewhat unexpected for Ye Fan!

However—

Before Ye Fan could speak, Yaling smiled and said, “Senior Lei, isn’t it inappropriate to poach people right under my nose? Even if you are the Emperor of the Jueluo Empire, this isn’t right!”

“Uh...”

The Emperor of the Jueluo Empire, Lei Xiaotian, instantly blushed, feeling utterly embarrassed.

Yaling was absolutely right. The Jueluo Empire favored Ye Fan, and so did the Treasure Pavilion, which had already invested a lot in him. How could the Jueluo Empire expect to poach him at this point?

Seeing his master in a predicament, Zuo Fengshan tried to smooth things over and said, “Miss Yaling, although Ye Fan is now standing with you, hasn’t he yet to join your Treasure Pavilion? It would be better to let him decide for himself, don’t you think?”

Yaling nodded, confident that if Ye Fan didn’t even join the Treasure Pavilion, he certainly wouldn’t join the Jueluo Empire. They were bound to be disappointed.

So she didn’t mind letting Ye Fan decide for himself, as she was very confident in her judgment.

At this moment, the eyes of Lei Xiaotian, Zuo Fengshan, Yaling, and the Ye Brothers were all on Ye Fan, waiting for his response.

“Rumble~”

Before Ye Fan could respond, the sound of rolling thunder suddenly echoed from the sky, shaking the entire edge of Mist Sea.

Accompanied by the sound, people from two factions approached from different directions, with ancient war chariots grand in scale, flags fluttering and flapping loudly atop them.

On one of the chariots, a black flag emblazoned with the two large characters “Tianxuan” commanded an unparalleled momentum, and it was pulled by eight Dragon Qilin Horses.

Dragon Qilin Horses are extremely rare Xuan Beasts; they resemble horses but are carnivorous, covered in scales, and about two zhang long, appearing exceedingly majestic.

“The people from Tianxuan Holy Land have actually arrived? This is going to be quite a spectacle.”

As the chariot approached, a powerful aura preemptively overwhelmed others on the ground, causing other faction members to quickly open up adequate space for them.

These people were keenly aware that sacred places were beyond their strength, and they could only avoid the sharp edges.

The initially arrogant strong families and sects also quickly became subdued after the appearance of the Tianxuan Holy Land.

Although they were strong, they were still far inferior to the sacred places. If they provoked the sacred places, even sending out any strong person could wipe them out completely.

Besides Tianxuan Holy Land, the other equally domineering party that arrived was also a sacred place, with a flag emblazoned with the words “Taigu” fluttering.

“The people from Taigu Holy Land have also come. This time, it seems like the treasures and opportunities in Mist Sea have nothing to do with us. With the two great sacred places, plus the yet to arrive Qing Family and the Treasure Pavilion, and Spirit Manor, it’s already a very powerful lineup.”

“But not necessarily, although the two great sacred places and the Qing Family are very powerful, Mist Sea has its own rules, and strength alone does not guarantee blessings. We still have hope.”

Some smaller forces encouraged themselves, while feeling very frustrated joining the fray against the two great sacred places, because they were too strong. In Mist Sea, who dared to compete with them for blessings?

Through others’ discussion, Ye Fan gradually gained some understanding of the two great sacred places.

Tianxuan Holy Land is located in Thunder State, a colossal power with a long history, having not produced a Great Emperor but a Quasi-Emperor strong one, with a profound foundation.

Quasi-Emperor Weapon is also an extremely powerful weapon. With the legacy of a Quasi-Emperor weapon and a Quasi-Emperor, despite being inferior to the Di Clan, Tianxuan Holy Land is still a very powerful legacy, considered a gigantic force in the Southern Domain, whose mere stomp would make the entire Southern Domain tremble thrice.

Taigu Holy Land is similar. It never produced a Great Emperor or a Quasi-Emperor, but it has produced more than one Venerable and has been passed down since ancient times, representing a significant historical legacy that persisted through several Great Emperors' eras without decline.

Many Great Emperors have shown courtesy to Taigu Holy Land, indirectly enhancing its mystique in public lore.

With the involvement of these two sacred places, Mist Sea is bound to become lively. Those small sects and families are probably just extras, lucky to collect some herbs. As for the Thunder Venerable master's legacy and treasures, they wouldn't even dare to think about it.

The two sacred places, though powerful, didn't overbear or oppress these small sects with their advantage, but rather chose an appropriate position to stop.

After exchanging distant greetings, the two saints of Taigu Holy Land and Tianxuan Holy Land stopped speaking, quietly waiting for the best time to open Mist Sea.

To them, the spiritual treasures in Mist Sea are insignificant; what's important are the Thunder Venerable master's treasures and legacy.

Each Venerable's legacy could potentially lead to the birth of a sacred place, and they would absolutely not allow the legacy of Thunder Venerable to fall into other factions' hands.

The reason is simple: this is an affair of the Southern Domain, unrelated to other domains. However, should another power acquire the legacy, other domains might send people to seize it, and once out of Mist Sea, it wouldn't belong to the Southern Domain alone.

The arrival of the two great sacred places immediately made the atmosphere on the scene become delicate, even making the Jueluo Emperor, Lei Xiaotian, unconsciously restrain his own aura, not even letting Ye Fan answer him, fearing to provoke the displeasure of the two great sacred places at this moment.

Huh?

The two great sacred places had just settled down when, in the distant sky, a shadow appeared once again, quickly moving towards this side.

Soon, people discovered that it was a group of cultivators riding flying profound beasts, with one person in the center holding a large flag with only one word "Qing" on it!

Although these people were together, from the clothing, it was possible to tell the difference between two different clans.

Just when everyone thought it was only the Qing family members coming, people in another kind of clothing also raised their banner with the insignia "Lou"!

It was precisely the strongest Qing Family of Qing Province and the Lou Family, which was allied with them through marriage.

As the number one family in Qing Province, the Qing Family made quite a grand entrance, and by association, even the Lou Family benefited from the occasion.

Powerful flying profound beasts are the best means of transportation for cultivators, but only within one domain; if it were to span between the Southern Domain and the Eastern Domain, it would exhaust these flying profound beasts without achieving the goal.

However, in terms of display, these flying profound beasts are undoubtedly symbols of strength. Both the Qing Family and the Lou Family are very willing to use such a spectacle to demonstrate their family's power and extraordinariness.

Due to the Qing Family being backed by the great tree that is the Di Clan Ling Family, even the two great sacred places had to give them face, or else it would be indirectly disrespecting the Emperor Clan Ling Family.

It was precisely because of this that the Qing Family became even more arrogant; even before they arrived, their powerful aura directly forced some of the people from the clans ahead to dodge to the side.

In terms of aura and spectacle, although the Qing Family was only the number one family in Qing Province, they were even more ostentatious than the two great sacred places, which immediately caused the Saint Masters of the two great sacred places to frown slightly, showing their dissatisfaction.

Even though the Qing Family had never produced a Venerable, the current Ancestor of the Qing Family was a strong person infinitely close to that realm, with rumors saying that the Ancestor of the Qing Family could very well break through to the realm of Venerable.

Should the Ancestor of the Qing Family actually break through to the realm of Venerable, it would undoubtedly be a major event shocking the entire Southern Domain, and the Qing Family could hope to become the third holy place.

Those cultivators dared to be angry but did not dare to speak out because they were keenly aware of the gap between themselves and the Qing Family, not to mention whether the Ancestor of the Qing Family could ultimately break through that critical step to become a Venerable.

Judging by the mere fact that the Qing Family has already allied with the Emperor Clan Ling Family through marriage, the current status of the Qing Family is not below that of a holy place, which even the two great sacred places were apprehensive about.

Swish!

Before descending to the ground, Lou Manyue suddenly spotted a sharp glint in Ye Fan's eyes from within the crowd.

After a glance, Lou Manyue approached the Ancestor of the Lou Family, reporting his suspicion that it was Ye Fan who killed Lou Mangong.

"Are you sure?"

Upon hearing this, the Ancestor of the Lou Family's eyes instantly flashed a hint of murderous intent as he asked Lou Manyue.

"Ancestor, although I'm not entirely sure it's him, I'm about seventy to eighty percent confident. For one thing, recently there haven't been many newcomers to Chi Yang City, and the only one capable of killing Man Gong is him. Also, when we were at Chi Yang City before, I wanted to check his space bag, but he didn't dare to let me, and in the end, out of respect for the Treasure Pavilion, I didn't forcibly check it."

"Heh, if it really is him, I want to extract his seven souls and six spirits!" The Ancestor of the Lou Family said coldly, signaling an elderly woman beside him with a look.

Swish!

The elderly woman understood, nodding slightly, and suddenly made her move.

With a wave of the elderly woman's right hand, her withered hand quickly transformed into a strange claw and directly swung towards Ye Fan, capturing him before he could react at all.

No one anticipated such a development!

Even Yaling, not far from Ye Fan, did not expect that the Lou Family would dare to make a sudden move in front of so many people; momentarily, she couldn't stop it in time.

Ye Fan was even more caught off guard by the Lou Family's audacity, given that there were so many cultivators present, including the Saint Masters of the two great sacred places. Before he knew it, he was directly caught in the air by the Lou Family's old woman.

Of course, even if Ye Fan had been cautious and prepared, it would have been useless unless he hid in a virtual space, as there was no way to dodge the attack.

Because...

The cultivation of that elderly woman was too formidable; it could almost be described as unfathomable!

Chapter 1300: Oppressing Others with Power

The Lou Family and the Qing Family finally arrived at the Mist Sea entrance, without greeting any forces.

Then, under everyone's watchful gaze, the Lou Family's old woman suddenly reached out and grabbed Ye Fan.

This sudden scene immediately shocked the crowd!

No one expected the Lou Family to suddenly make a move against a little cultivator who was a complete stranger!

Among them, the vast majority didn't know the grudge between Ye Fan and the Lou Family.

In this situation, the Lou Family member grabbed Ye Fan into the air without a word, blatantly not putting all those present in their eyes.

The two great sacred places' Saints' faces instantly turned dark.

If it had been the Qing Family, it would be understandable, but the Lou Family is just a clan that rules over Chi Yang City alone, insignificant compared to their sacred places, and yet they dare to ignore them.

However, the two Saints also knew that there must be a reason; the Lou Family, no matter how arrogant, wouldn't target a little cultivator of the True Essence Realm without cause, there must be some unknown details involved.

So, even though the two Saints were very displeased, they remained silent, just watching quietly.

"Who is this kid? To actually make the Lou Family's crazy old woman personally take action?"

"The Lou Family is too arrogant; daring to grab someone right under the noses of people from the Treasure Pavilion, aren't they afraid of angering the Treasure Pavilion?"

“Now the Lou Family, relying on nepotism, has latched onto the Qing Family, and they are together in one boat. Without the Qing Family, would the Lou Family dare to be so wanton?”

Seeing the Qing Family and Lou Family, before even landing, taking a vicious hand and snatching someone from beside the Treasure Pavilion, the present cultivators started to discuss one after another.

At this moment, Zuo Fengshan couldn't help but loudly ask the Lou Family's old woman: “Crazy old woman, what do you want to do? Let go of him!”

“Hmph!”

The old woman from the Lou Family looked at Zuo Fengshan disdainfully and said coldly: “Our Lou Family's affairs, does your Jueluo Empire dare to interfere? Aren't you afraid of meddling too much?”

The Lou Family's mad woman's notorious reputation was well-known throughout the Southern Domain, and these words were extremely arrogant, simply ignoring the Jueluo Empire.

Swish!

Zuo Fengshan, being pointed out like that, suddenly felt somewhat humiliated, his face became very unsightly.

But he also knew that in such a situation, with Emperor Lei Xiaotian present, it wasn't his place to take matters into his own hands, so he looked toward Lei Xiaotian.

Lei Xiaotian also found the Lou Family's crazy old woman excessively arrogant, having the intention of looking down on the Jueluo Empire, and squinted his eyes. Just as he was about to speak, he suddenly heard someone say softly nearby: "As far as I know, the reason the Lou Family is doing this is because they suspect this cultivator killed their genius, Lou Mangong..."

Hmm?

Hearing this sentence, Lei Xiaotian's heart was moved.

If that was the case, the Jueluo Empire really shouldn't interfere in this matter — although Ye Fan had boundless potential and exceptional talent and foundation, it wasn't worth making an enemy of the Lou Family for Ye Fan!

Moreover, if this matter were true, even if the Jueluo Empire ultimately protected Ye Fan, they would inevitably form an irreconcilable hatred with the Lou Family, which was not something he wanted to see.

After weighing the pros and cons, for the empire's interests, Lei Xiaotian finally decided not to speak up for Ye Fan.

"Fengshan, do not be rude."

In a brief moment, Lei Xiaotian made his decision, and after dismissing Zuo Fengshan, he smiled and said to the Ancestor of the Lou Family, "I am truly sorry, I was unaware of this matter. Since this is your Lou Family's private affair, our Jueluo Country will not interfere, please do as you will, elder."

The Lou Family Ancestor's age indeed qualified him as Lei Xiaotian's elder, so Lei Xiaotian's statement was not meant to depreciate himself.

However, it clearly indicated his stance — the Jueluo Empire would stay out of the dispute between the Lou Family and Ye Fan.

"Boy, now let's see how you refuse me to inspect your Space Bag? If I find Lou Mangong's belongings in your Space Bag, I will draw out your seven souls and six spirits, leaving your soul to suffer forever!"

The Lou Family's old woman spoke with a low tone and hoarse voice, reaching for Ye Fan's Space Bag.

"What to do?"

Ye Yi and his companions became extremely anxious. They secretly felt that there was a strong possibility that Lou Mangong was indeed killed by Ye Fan.

In this case, if the Lou Family's old woman were allowed to inspect Ye Fan's Space Bag, not even the Treasure Pavilion would be able to speak for Ye Fan then.

They were tense, and Ye Fan's heart also tightened.

Though his Space Bag was just for show — all items were stored in the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown's Virtual Space!

But he worried about the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown being exposed.

Once the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown is exposed, leaving aside whether forces would come to seize it, the news would inevitably reach the Ling Family, and then he would have no place to stand in the Xuan Realm!

"Elder Xuan, get ready to act!"

Thinking of this, Ye Fan steeled himself, deciding not to let the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown be revealed no matter what. As long as the Lou Family's old woman moved forward another step, he would have Elder Xuan activate the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to kill her.

At this critical moment...

Yaling suddenly spoke up: "Crazy old woman, you Lou Family are being a bit too bullying, aren't you?!"

Yaling's voice wasn't loud, but it made everyone present pause in surprise!

The Lou Family's crazy old woman was momentarily stunned, then let out a strange laugh: "Little girl, aren't you meddling too much? As far as we know, this boy is not a member of your Treasure Pavilion. I would advise you not to meddle unnecessarily, lest you invite trouble upon yourself."

"Indeed, Ye Fan is not a member of our Treasure Pavilion, but he is a guest of our Treasure Pavilion and also my friend Yaling. You bully my friend like this; how could I stand by idly?"

Yaling was cold and unfazed by the Lou Family's mad woman's aura, confronting her head-on.

Hmm?

The madwoman of the Lou Family was stunned, her outstretched hand frozen in mid-air. Retracting it was impossible, but continuing to seize Ye Fan's space bag was also impossible.

Before she could make another move, Yaling spoke again, her words slow and deliberate: "You forcibly searched my friend's space bag without any evidence. It's simply too bullying! I'm putting it down here today, if you forcefully search his space bag and it turns out he didn't kill the members of your Lou Family, you will have to pay the price for it!"

"What price?"

The Ancestor of the Lou Family spoke, his expression extremely unpleasant, yet he had to ask because he was very cautious and understood that the Treasure Pavilion was not to be trifled with—the Lou Family was no match for the Treasure Pavilion.

“The ones who attacked earlier, and your precious granddaughter, I will kill them!”

Yaling’s delicate face was frosty as she responded forcefully, her voice loud and cold, echoing over the entrance of the Mist Sea.

“You dare!”

Before the Lou Family could say anything, Qing Zi, the unrivaled genius of the Qing Family, couldn’t sit still—Lou Manyue was his fiancée; he naturally couldn’t allow anything to happen to her.

“Heh, why don’t you ask your Ancestor, dare I?”

Yaling sneered, even in the face of the Qing Family Ancestor, whose strength far surpassed hers, she did not back down, remaining strong as ever, “Or, why don’t you try touching a finger of his now?”

“Ancestor...”

Hearing this, Qing Zi felt a tremor in his heart, looked at the Qing Family Ancestor with doubt, as if asking: Who on earth is Yaling that she dares to be so arrogant?

“Shut up!”

The expression on the Qing Family Ancestor’s face was exceedingly unpleasant. He truly wanted to support this outstanding descendant of his family without any regard for consequences, but he couldn’t.

Because...

He knew Yaling’s true identity!

Yaling was the granddaughter of the current Pavilion Master of the Treasure Pavilion, and also the most beloved descendant of the current Pavilion Master.

Under such circumstances, even if Yaling were to kill Lou Manyue or bring people to kill the madwoman of the Lou Family, the Lou Family wouldn’t dare make a peep.

Even the Qing Family wouldn’t dare say anything, only able to swallow their grievances.

For a moment, the Qing Family Ancestor hesitated.

Although Lou Manyue claimed that Ye Fan was the one who killed Lou Mangong, it was, after all, merely a guess without definitive evidence.

If it was found that he had Lou Mangong's belongings, confirming Ye Fan as the murderer, that would be fine, but if not, it would all backfire.

He had no doubt that Yaling would truly kill Lou Manyue and the madwoman, and might even take it out on the Qing Family!

"Let the boy go first..."

After much deliberation, the Qing Family Ancestor secretly transmitted a message to the Lou Family's Ancestor, advising him to be patient for the time being and release Ye Fan, as a gesture of respect to the Treasure Pavilion. Once inside the Mist Sea, Qing Zi could investigate or even directly kill Ye Fan.

Hearing the Qing Family Ancestor's transmission, the Lou Family Ancestor's face turned ashen, as if he had swallowed a living fly, feeling extremely uncomfortable.

But he couldn't ignore the Qing Family Ancestor's words, and furthermore, he couldn't take this risk for the sake of Lou Manyue and the madwoman. If it turned out Ye Fan hadn't killed Lou Mangong, the Lou Family would bring great disaster upon themselves.

"Release him!"

After pondering for a moment, the Lou Family Ancestor could only reluctantly instruct the madwoman to let go of Ye Fan, while casting a resentful glance at Yaling, his eyes full of unwillingness and humiliation.

For so many years, it was the first time he had been defeated in front of a younger generation, yet he had no recourse.

“What’s going on?”

“Why did the Qing Family and the Lou Family choose to release him just because of that woman’s words?”

The Lou Family Ancestor’s decision immediately shocked the entire crowd, prompting exclamations to echo continuously.

“You don’t know, do you? I’ve heard that Yaling is the granddaughter of the current Pavilion Master of the Treasure Pavilion, and the most beloved granddaughter too...”

Soon after, someone revealed Yaling’s true identity, sparking yet another round of gasps throughout the onlookers, many casting looks of deep reverence towards Yaling.

“Hmph!”

Even though the madwoman of the Lou Family was utterly reluctant, she knew the matter had come to this point and she couldn't do anything to Ye Fan. With a cold snort, she released him.

"Thank you, Sister Yaling!"

Ye Fan flashed back to Yaling and the five Ye Brothers' side, surprised by Yaling's mysterious identity while expressing gratitude immediately.

He was well aware that if Yaling hadn't spoken up in time, his only option besides using the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to save himself would have been hopeless.

"No need for thanks, since you're a guest of our Treasure Pavilion and my friend, naturally, I couldn't stand by and do nothing."

Yaling said with a smile, her enchanting eyes lingering on Ye Fan with a profound expression, yet she didn't seize the opportunity to invite Ye Fan to join the Treasure Pavilion.

"This kid's not bad."

Meanwhile, far from Ye Fan and Yaling, an elderly man in rags holding a string of candied hawthorn watched them with a trace of a gratified smile.

Soon after, the old man made a move, leaving an afterimage at his original spot, vanishing without a trace.