

Y Master 1311

Chapter 1311: Heaven Slaying Seven Spears

Ye Fan first used the Blood Demon Bomb to blast and kill everyone except Lou Manyue, then seized the excellent opportunity while Lou Manyue was severely injured to press on and blast her to death, temporarily eliminating all hidden dangers.

This all happened within just an hour.

Because the Thunder Venerable's tomb was indeed too vast, Ye Fan's slaughter of Lou Manyue and the others did not attract the attention of other forces, but outside the tomb, chaos had erupted.

After all the geniuses and elder Holy Embryo Realm cultivators entered the Thunder Venerable's tomb, the sect leaders, clan leaders, and strong people from various forces waited outside the entrance.

Because the inside and outside of the Thunder Venerable's tomb were completely isolated, the sect leaders and clan leaders of various forces could not predict what would happen inside, to be safe, they all brought along the soul lamps of the geniuses who entered the tomb with them, so they would immediately know if an accident happened.

Time moved forward an hour...

In their expectant yet tense wait, the soul lamp of Qin Han from the Qin family went out.

Qin Han is dead!

This caused a wave of chaos among the Qin family!

Because Qin Han was the hope for the Qin family's future rise, they didn't expect that he would fall not long after entering.

As time slowly passed, suddenly, three more soul lamps went out, all belonging to young talents from Qing Province.

Apart from the sects and clans who lost their genius disciples, no one else paid much attention.

Since they were contending for fortune, fighting each other was a normal occurrence, and if one was not as skilled as others, they couldn't blame anyone else if they died.

However—

This was merely the beginning!

What happened next left everyone dumbfounded—more than a dozen soul lamps simultaneously went out!

At the same time, abruptly over a dozen soul lamps extinguished, causing a series of exclamations.

Particularly shocking to the Lou Family was that the soul lamp of the elder woman responsible for protecting Lou Manyue was also among the extinguished lamps, which was somewhat mysterious.

“What happened? Why did so many soul lamps go out at the same time?”

“Could it be they encountered some great danger?”

The strong people outside the Thunder Gate began to discuss among themselves, events like such a large-scale extinguishing of soul lamps were extremely rare, though it had happened a few times before.

But generally, such large-scale deaths resulted from combat between forces or accidentally triggering an extremely powerful killing array.

“Perhaps they encountered unknown dangers, the Thunder Venerable was hailed as the foremost person below the Great Emperor, it’s normal that there are powerful forbidden restrictions in his tomb.”

One older man shared his analysis, he had once participated in exploring a Quasi-Emperor’s tomb, knowing that in such strong people’s tombs, any kind of accident could happen.

His analysis was accepted by most people, and even though the Lou Family might not believe it, they could only accept this hypothesis, for they were convinced that no one could possibly kill so many geniuses at once.

After all, among the dead was a Peak Holy Embryo Realm expert from the elder generation, even if the Holy Land's Saint Heir took action, it would be difficult to achieve this.

What's more, the Holy Land's Saint Heir wouldn't commit massacres for no reason!

In their view, such an event would have to be attributed to the restrictions within the Thunder Venerable's tomb, perhaps someone among them inadvertently triggered a ban, causing so many to fall.

However, what comforted the Lou Family was that despite the protector of Lou Manyue having fallen, Lou Manyue's soul lamp had not gone out, indicating she was still alright for the time being.

As long as Lou Manyue was safe, the Ancestor of the Lou Family could still remain calm, since contending for fortunes involves casualties, they had already prepared for this eventuality.

The Qing Family Ancestor also waited calmly, although they couldn't enter the Thunder Gate or the Thunder Venerable's tomb, they could wait here for the results.

Just as the Lou Family breathed a sigh of relief and before they could react, the soul lamp of Lou Manyue, whom they were most concerned about, also went out.

This time, the Ancestor of the Lou Family could no longer sit still; he abruptly stood up, his eyes shooting out two beams of terrifying light, murderous intent surging as he said, “What on earth happened? Why has Yue’er’s soul lamp gone out too?”

What kind of person was Lou Manyue?

Not only did everyone from the major clans and sects of Qing Province know, but even the powerful sects and families from other provinces were aware, knowing she was the fiancée of the Qing Family’s number one genius Qing Zi!

Now Lou Manyue had actually died within the Thunder Venerable’s tomb, causing a massive uproar!

While others’ deaths shocked only their own families and sects, it wouldn’t cause too much of a stir otherwise.

But Lou Manyue was different, her special status made her widely watched, and now her soul lamp had indeed gone out.

Undoubtedly, she must have met with misfortune, but who could have had such audacity? Who would dare assassinate her? Everyone was baffled.

For a time, there was much speculation, some said that Lou Manyue must have been injured before, but at the time didn’t die, only to succumb after her wounds relapsed some time later.

Others claimed she was ambushed and killed by a genius from another province, in short, there were many theories, but they were mere conjectures, no one knew what exactly happened inside.

Saying that Lou Manyue was killed by a genius from another province also made sense, not all forces feared the Qing Family; some forces didn't fear the Qing Family or the Lou Family at all.

Moreover, some of the forces from other provinces had always been dissatisfied with the Qing Family, seizing this opportunity to give them a harsh lesson was also possible.

As for the Lou Family, aside from some forces in Qing Province, forces from other provinces didn't take them seriously at all.

If he could have entered the Thunder Gate, the Ancestor of the Lou Family would have wanted to storm in to see what exactly happened.

Lou Manyue's death was a huge blow to the Lou Family.

Similarly, the losses for Qing Province this time were enormous, nearly all of the young talents who died were from Qing Province, leading to a loss of nearly seventy to eighty percent of the young generation's elites in the entire Qing Province.

For a province, this was an unbearable loss!

“Could it be his doing?”

Amidst everyone’s speculations, Yaling thought of this strange idea.

Because she had keenly noticed that all the cultivators whose soul lamps went out were from Qing Province, and they were all young talents with good relations to the Lou Family.

The thought surprised even Yaling herself.

Because she found it hard to believe Ye Fan had the ability to simultaneously kill so many Holy Embryo Realm geniuses, along with a Peak Holy Embryo Realm expert from the elder generation.

What exactly happened inside, the people outside didn’t know.

Similarly, even if the outside world was in an uproar, those inside didn’t know.

At this moment, Ye Fan was collecting Lou Manyue’s space bag, searching for a relatively spacious place to examine all his gains from earlier.

After dumping out everything from the space bag, Ye Fan found the harvest this time was indeed substantial, it could be called a major haul.

Apart from various Spiritual Artifacts, just the mountains of Spirit Stones interspersed with Forbidden Artifacts were enough to make Ye Fan wake up laughing from his dreams.

Among these spoils, Ye Fan immediately spotted the Thunder Emperor Spear, shimmering with purple light and surrounded by the power of thunder.

He had always lacked a handy Spiritual Artifact, and ordinary Spiritual Artifacts didn't catch his eye.

The Thunder Gloves were good, but they had been damaged in this battle, unsuitable for future battles of life and death.

This Thunder Emperor Spear appeared at just the right time; Ye Fan didn't like using swords or sabers, considering these Spiritual Artifacts too common, and they didn't exude a majestic grandeur when used.

Most importantly, he didn't know how to use swords or sabers; Chu Xuanji had tried to teach him previously, but he hadn't dedicated himself to learning.

Later, seeing Ye Fan's disinterest in swords and sabers, Chu Xuanji taught him boxing and leg techniques instead.

As for spear techniques...

Ye Fan had never learned any, but there happened to be a set of spear techniques in Lou Manyue's space bag, grandly named Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear.

Ye Fan quickly browsed through it, finding that the entire spear technique consisted of only seven moves, yet it was endlessly variable.

The creator of this martial art skill distilled seven of the most powerful killing moves from complicated spear techniques, each move possessing earth-shattering might!

It was just right to use the Thunder Emperor Spear to execute the Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear!

Ye Fan's mind moved, and he immediately found a secluded place to comprehend the Heavenly Slaying Seven Spears martial art skill, aiming to quickly enhance his combat power.

Compared to the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, Xuandi Fist, and Thunderclap Treasure Skill, the Heavenly Slaying Seven Spears martial art skill was much simpler, and with Ye Fan's comprehension, it took only a moment to grasp the essentials.

Hmm?

Then, just as Ye Fan was about to test out the power of the Heavenly Slaying Seven Spears, he suddenly sensed a familiar aura quickly approaching him!

Chapter 1312: Qing Zi Arrives to Kill

Ye Fan looked up and saw Ye Wu hurrying over. He smiled slightly, knowing that Ye Wu was worried about his safety, so he rushed over to help.

“Ye Zi, how are you? Are you alright...”

As he spoke, Ye Wu came to Ye Fan’s side, but the last word was never spoken, for he was directly stunned by the pile of Spirit Stones and various spoils of war on the ground.

Earlier, after Ye Fan saw the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears, he had been so preoccupied with comprehending it that he forgot to collect the spoils.

“This... this... are all these your spoils? You killed Lou Manyue!?”

Ye Wu could hardly believe his eyes, rubbing them vigorously as he stammered his question to Ye Fan.

“Yes!”

Ye Fan didn’t even lift his head and succinctly replied with just one word, then categorically sorted the Spirit Stones and Forbidden Artifacts, Spiritual Artifacts, and the like.

“These are yours!”

Ye Fan, not being stingy with his friend, directly handed Ye Wu a Space Bag, which contained quite a few Spiritual Artifacts and Spirit Stones!

“I don’t need them; you keep them! Don’t forget I’m with the Treasure Pavilion; I’m never short of these things. But as for you, without other support, you need these things the most!”

Upon hearing this, Ye Wu was very touched but politely refused Ye Fan’s kindness.

He believed that Ye Fan needed these things more than he did, as he, being from the Treasure Pavilion, lacked no cultivation resources and Spiritual Artifacts.

“Alright then!”

Ye Fan wasn’t pretentious either and directly put the Space Bag away.

“Ye Zi, there’s something I’d like to advise you on.”

After Ye Fan had put everything away, Ye Wu looked at him sincerely and said, “Your strength is still too lacking right now. If you encounter Qing Zi or the Saint Heir of the Ancient Sacred Land or Tianxuan Holy Land, you won’t stand a chance. So, I suggest you first find a safe place to hide, improve your strength, and then compete for the great opportunities. What do you think?”

Ye Fan thought it over and felt that Ye Wu made a valid point.

Indeed, his current strength is still too weak, especially after killing Lou Manyue. If any of the Qing Family's geniuses encounters him, it would be almost certain death.

However, if he goes into seclusion, he might be able to fully comprehend the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears and possibly break through to the Peak of True Yuan Realm!

In that case, his combat power would soar!

"You're right. Let's go find a safe place to go into seclusion and cultivate for a while before competing with them."

Ye Fan agreed to Ye Wu's suggestion and suggested that Ye Wu join him in going into seclusion to enhance their strength.

Hmm?

The next moment.

Before Ye Fan and Ye Wu could leave, they suddenly felt a terrifying presence rapidly approaching.

Gulp!

Ye Wu felt a chill in his heart; he was very familiar with this presence. It was the unmatched genius of the Qing Family, Qing Zi's presence—after Ye Fan had just slain Lou Manyue, Qing Zi rushed over urgently, likely having received the news.

“Run!”

At the same time, Ye Fan also recognized the terrifying presence as Qing Zi's. He and Ye Wu exchanged a glance and made a decisive escape.

“Where do you think you're going?!”

Just as Ye Fan and Ye Wu were fleeing deeper into the tomb, Qing Zi spotted them, let out a thunderous shout, and chased after them with full force.

“Split up and run!”

Ye Fan knew that Qing Zi's target was himself. As long as he and Ye Wu separated, Ye Wu would be safe, as Qing Zi would definitely not chase him.

“What’s the point of saying that? Can’t you see there’s only one path? I want to split up and run, but where do you suggest I run to?”

Ye Wu, feeling exasperated, refuted Ye Fan as he fled desperately, rendering Ye Fan speechless.

He had only thought that if Ye Wu separated from him, Qing Zi wouldn’t chase him, but he didn’t expect that this passage was unusually devoid of any forks, twisting and turning without a way for them to split up.

Despite Ye Fan and Ye Wu’s best efforts to flee for their lives, Qing Zi’s speed was faster, continuously closing the distance.

“What was that sound?”

While running at full speed, Ye Wu’s ears suddenly twitched, and he asked Ye Fan.

Ye Fan heard it too; there seemed to be a rumbling thunder sound ahead. Though not very clear, Ye Fan was almost certain that ahead was one of the areas with the most potent Thunder Power.

Because the thunderbolt aura in the air had thickened considerably, and there seemed to be blue arcs of electricity wandering in the air.

Suddenly, Ye Fan stopped in his tracks, looked at the spectacular scene before him, and couldn't help but smile bitterly!

"It's over! There's no escaping; we'll have to fight him!"

Ye Wu also stopped; he had no choice but to stop, for they had already run out of the cave, facing a Thunder River that was a hundred miles wide.

In this so-called Thunder River, there was no water. Where there should have been water, there was a concentration of Thunder Power to the extreme.

Such a massive amount of violent Thunder Power made even Ye Fan's scalp tingle, let alone Ye Wu.

The whole Thunder River roared with thunder and lightning, filled with destructive force, frightening enough just by looking at it, let alone getting close.

"Still running?"

Qing Zi's face turned ashen, eyes coldly fixed on Ye Fan and Ye Wu, his pupils filled with murderous intent.

Though he hadn't seen Lou Manyue's body himself, not finding her along his route and observing Ye Fan and Ye Wu fleeing as if with a guilty conscience allowed him to understand that Lou Manyue was likely in dire straits.

As a man, regarded as the number one genius in the Southern Domain, unable to protect his fiancée, allowing someone to kill her...

To him, it was humiliation!

That was something he absolutely could not tolerate!

He knew very well that if he couldn't kill Ye Fan and Ye Wu, he might as well not face anyone anymore; he would be ridiculed for his ineptitude, unable to even protect his woman.

The reason he was determined to kill both Ye Fan and Ye Wu was that he believed they had teamed up to kill Lou Manyue.

In other words, he didn't believe that Ye Fan, merely a late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator, could kill Lou Manyue on his own!

"Qing Zi, what are you planning to do?"

Since escape was impossible, Ye Wu stood in front of Ye Fan and coldly asked.

“Hahaha...” Qing Zi sneered and said, “What am I planning to do? A blood debt must be repaid with blood. I’ll send you on your way!”

Whoosh!

As soon as the words fell, Qing Zi decisively made his move. In his hand, the Celestial Measuring Scale emitted a myriad of rays of light, fiercely striking down towards the top of Ye Wu’s head!

Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh...

Ye Wu was shocked and shouted angrily, summoning seven or eight defensive Spiritual Artifacts in succession, almost turning himself into a moving fortress.

Bang bang bang bang bang bang...

However, in the face of absolute strength, any defense is futile. The seven or eight defensive Spiritual Artifacts were shattered one by one by Qing Zi’s Celestial Measuring Scale.

Subsequently, the remaining force unabatedly landed heavily on the top of Ye Wu’s skull!

Poof!

With a soft sound, Ye Wu's head was like a smashed watermelon, blood and brain matter splattering everywhere, even his divine consciousness was wiped out.

One move!

With just one move, Qing Zi killed Ye Wu, who was at the early-stage of the Divine realm!

It is known that every cultivator who successfully condenses a Holy Embryo is a genius, yet in front of him, they are so vulnerable.

This also indirectly confirmed his strength!

As the number one genius of Qing Province, his strength is undoubted, entirely capable of contending with the Saint Heir of the Holy Land!

"Now it's your turn. Tell me, how do you want to die?"

After killing Ye Wu, Qing Zi slowly turned his gaze to Ye Fan, not far away.

“Elder Xuan, can you activate the Emperor Weapon to kill this brute without exposing it?” Ye Fan communicated with Elder Xuan using divine consciousness.

Facing the terrifyingly powerful Qing Zi, Ye Fan had no chance of winning, so he secretly pleaded with Elder Xuan to take action and activate the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to kill Qing Zi.

“It’s not difficult to kill him, but once the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown is used, not only will its aura be exposed, but in the future, it will be impossible to achieve a one-hit kill when facing cultivators above the Divine Power Realm.” Elder Xuan replied.

“Then what should I do now?” Ye Fan asked anxiously.

He knew very well that Ye Wu was already dead, and he was next. If he couldn’t use the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, he was as good as dead.

“Well, you can jump into the Thunder River to avoid him temporarily. No matter how strong this brat is, he absolutely wouldn’t dare to follow you in. As long as you jump into the Thunder River, you’ll be safe.” Elder Xuan suggested.

“The Thunder Power in the Thunder River you’ve seen, jumping in is suicide. Who can survive in the Thunder River?” Ye Fan was somewhat terrified.

“Don’t rush to refute. What I mean is for you to put on a show; once you jump into the Thunder River, immediately enter the Virtual Space—the Thunder Power in the Thunder River is indeed strong, but it can’t harm the Emperor Weapon in the slightest.”

Elder Xuan explained, “This way, not only is the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown not exposed, but you also save your life, achieving two goals at once.”

Ye Fan suddenly understood, cursing himself for being foolish.

If he enters the Virtual Space immediately after plunging into the Thunder River, the chances of dying are very small—with his defense capabilities, plus having started comprehending Thunder Power, resisting for a moment in the Thunder River shouldn’t be a problem.

Time was running out; Qing Zi, after killing Ye Wu, would certainly not give him much time. He had to make a decisive move.

Luckily, he was now right on the edge of the Thunder River, and a blink of an eye is all it would take to dive in. Qing Zi absolutely wouldn’t dare to follow.

Thinking of this, Ye Fan no longer hesitated, gave Qing Zi a strange smile, and said, “Are you sure you can kill me?”

Hmm?

Qing Zi was slightly taken aback, never dreaming that Ye Fan, in front of him, would dare to act so fearless.

“What trump card does he have?”

Almost instinctively, such a thought arose in Qing Zi’s mind.

To him, Ye Fan must have some unknown trump card, otherwise, he couldn’t have helped kill Lou Manyue and the others with Ye Wu, nor could he act so fearless in front of him.

No answer.

Whoosh!

Just as Qing Zi was in a daze, Ye Fan resolutely leapt into the Thunder River.

Boom!

Ye Fan’s body plunged into the Thunder River, the sound of thunder deafening, the terrifying Thunder Power tearing at his body, wanting to completely destroy him!

Ye Fan’s Protective True Essence instantly vanished, his body suffering an unprecedented onslaught, and his Divine Soul taking heavy damage as well.

At the critical moment, Ye Fan's consciousness shifted, and his broken and battered body instantly entered the Virtual Space.

It all seemed complicated, but in truth it happened in a flash. Qing Zi only saw Ye Fan jump into the Thunder River, then annihilated by the raging river, vanishing completely.

"Hmph, clever enough to commit suicide to avoid pain!"

Seeing the thunder-packed Thunder River, the murderous glint in Qing Zi's eyes gradually faded.

Because...

In his eyes, Ye Fan was undoubtedly dead!

He didn't believe anyone could survive in a Thunder River filled with terrifying Thunder Power.

Chapter 1313: Stirring Up Shockwaves

Despite being convinced that Ye Fan was doomed, Qing Zi was a cautious individual. He attempted to probe the Thunder River with his Divine Sense to ensure whether Ye Fan was truly dead.

However—

His Divine Sense was shattered the moment it touched the Thunder River by the violent Thunder Power.

If he hadn't reacted swiftly and decisively severed the connection with that wisp of Divine Sense, braving the damage to his Divine Sense to retreat, it would have been difficult for him to escape unscathed.

This outcome left Qing Zi frustrated, yet even more convinced of his judgment!

In his view, even his Divine Sense couldn't linger in the Thunder River for a moment. Ye Fan was likely annihilated by the violent Thunder Power the instant he entered the river.

"Lucky you! If you had fallen into my hands, I would have made your life worse than death!"

Thinking of Lou Manyue's death, Qing Zi was still extremely angry. He glanced deeply at the spot where Ye Fan had disappeared, then turned and continued deeper into the tomb.

On the way, Qing Zi detailed everything happening in the tomb, including the deaths of Lou Manyue, Ye Fan, and Ye Wu, and conveyed it to the Qing Family Ancestor via a secret artifact.

The Qing Family Ancestor, infinitely close to the Venerable Realm, had been the first to explore the Thunder Venerable's tomb. Although he didn't dare to enter in person, he had prepared—creating an artifact capable of transmitting messages from the tomb!

Given the involvement of Saint Heirs from the two great sacred places, Tianxuan Holy Land and Taigu Holy Land, in this venture, he had specially entrusted Qing Zi with this artifact to ensure his safety.

After sending out the message, Qing Zi utilized his movement technique to advance along the Thunder River. He soon found a stone bridge spanning the river in a broad area, shrouded in a white mist, clearly protected by some Forbidden magic preventing the bridge from being destroyed by the river's violent forces.

Upon reaching the bridgehead, Qing Zi's gaze hardened, and his brow furrowed, for he sensed a faint scent of blood.

According to the Thunder Venerable's habits, how could there be no Xuan Beast guarding such a crucial place? Yet, there weren't any Xuan Beasts in sight, only a post-battle atmosphere.

Qing Zi slowly ascended the bridgehead, his keen eyes scanning the surroundings like lightning, and suddenly he noticed what seemed to be a fresh bloodstain on the ground not far ahead, emitting an intense red glow.

Although it was merely a pool of blood, it gave the impression of a Blood Pool, shocking and eye-catching.

"It seems they've already passed. If they want to seize the great fortune before me, they better ask for my permission first!"

With that, Qing Zi launched his movement technique, racing swiftly along the stone bridge inward.

He needed to hurry. Although the Thunder Venerable's tomb was indeed vast, they had not yet truly entered the tomb's interior. This Thunder River was the true barrier guarding the Thunder Venerable's tomb.

Just as Qing Zi's figure vanished into the boundless white mist, the Qing Family Ancestor received the message he had transmitted, his face turning livid in an instant.

"What's going on?"

The Qing Family Ancestor's unusual reaction quickly caught the Lou Family Ancestor's attention.

The Lou Family Ancestor knew very well that the Qing Family Ancestor, a strong individual infinitely close to the Venerable Realm, must possess some secret artifact to communicate with Qing Zi.

Moreover, he knew that before entering the Thunder Venerable's tomb, Qing Zi had handed Lou Manyue a Spirit Worm for transmitting messages.

In such circumstances, if Lou Manyue encountered danger, she would inevitably contact Qing Zi.

“Has that kid transmitted some message?”

The Qing Family Ancestor hadn’t even spoken before the Lou Family Ancestor hastily inquired.

Swoosh!

With the Lou Family Ancestor’s inquiry, everyone’s attention was drawn.

Present were all cultivators above the Holy Embryo Realm, their keen hearing able to detect even the sound of falling leaves. They could eavesdrop even if the two conversed through ventriloquism.

Upon hearing that Qing Zi had seemingly sent a message from inside, the Sect Leaders and Family Heads of various Qing Province powers pricked up their ears, fearing they might miss any crucial information.

Especially families like the Qin family, whose descendants had perished inside, were even more attentive.

“Indeed, the boy did transmit a message, and it was bad news!”

The Qing Family Ancestor glanced around at the crowd attentively listening and didn’t hide the information, instead openly revealing the message Qing Zi had sent, “All of Qing Province’s fallen geniuses were slain by one person, that is, Ye Fan!”

“Wha... What?!”

His words stirred a thousand ripples, even the two Saints were shocked, as were the various forces’ leaders waiting outside the Thunder Gate.

Since the Lou Family’s Old Woman had previously attacked Ye Fan and Yaling had protected him, additionally, Ye Fan was the only cultivator at the Late-stage True Yuan Realm to enter the Thunder Venerable’s tomb, he was not unfamiliar to the crowd.

Now, hearing that Ye Fan, merely a Late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator, had annihilated all of Qing Province’s geniuses, including Lou Manyue...

The shock this brought them was beyond words!

“This... This is simply unbelievable!”

“How did he manage it? He’s only a Late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator...”

For a moment, discussions erupted everywhere, with almost everyone curious about how Ye Fan accomplished all this.

No answers.

But everyone knows that Ye Fan's move has offended all the major forces in Qing Province. If he doesn't die, he will surely be torn to pieces by these angry strong people after he comes out.

Especially the Lou Family, they're almost driven mad with rage!

However, the Ancestor of the Lou Family remained very calm, having discerned something amiss.

"Brother Qing, a member of our Lou Family at the peak of the Holy Embryo Realm died too. Could it be that it was killed by that brat?"

"Hmm, this is what I wanted to address. That boy surnamed Ye couldn't have done it alone, but he detonated the Blood Demon Bomb, blowing all these people to pieces!"

The Qing Family Ancestor continued based on the news brought back by Qing Zi, "According to the boy, your Lou Family member's death was likely in an attempt to save Xiaoyue, but both were ultimately caught in the blast, and later Xiaoyue was killed by the boy. This is why Xiaoyue's soul lamp extinguished later than the others'.

"Damn it!"

The Ancestor of the Lou Family slammed his palm down, turning a nearby stone stalactite into dust, furious beyond compare, itching to personally hunt down Ye Fan and flay him alive to quell the hatred in his heart.

“Brother Lou, there’s no need for such anger, for Ye Fan is already dead!”

Once again, the Qing Family Ancestor spoke up, leaving those who were poised to seek revenge against Ye Fan feeling as though their full-force punch had landed on air, with nowhere for their fury to go.

“What happened? Did the boy kill him?”

The Ancestor of the Lou Family asked eagerly, assuming that Qing Zi, upon receiving news, must have rushed over to kill Ye Fan.

“The boy indeed pursued him, but Ye Fan, realizing the dire nature of his situation, jumped into the Thunder River, preferring death over torture. According to the boy, the Thunder River is exceptionally terrifying, filled with Thunder Power, and even he dared not risk it. Ye Fan, being merely a late-stage True Yuan Realm ant, is undoubtedly dead after jumping in!”

The Qing Family Ancestor deliberately concealed the fact that Ye Wu was killed.

Because he did not want to openly clash with the Treasure Pavilion!

Although the Qing Family reigns supreme in Qing Province and his power is one of the strongest in the Southern Domain, they still cannot be compared to the Treasure Pavilion.

Be it in the number of experts or their quality, the Treasure Pavilion can crush the Qing Family!

“It really spared him!” The Ancestor of the Lou Family said with chilling hatred.

“This Ye Fan is merely a disciple of the small sect Xuanwu Sect in Tianyuan State, yet he has caused such great losses to our Qing Province. How can we let him go easily?”

“Indeed, even if Ye Fan is dead, his affairs cannot be forgiven!”

“Once this matter is settled, we shall march into Tianyuan State, to bloodily purge Xuanwu Sect, avenging the geniuses of our Qing Province!”

Upon hearing Ye Fan had perished in the Thunder River, many power-holders in Qing Province’s forces voiced their agitation.

After all, fostering a young genius at the Holy Embryo Realm is incredibly challenging, and these prodigies are the future hope for their families and sects.

Ye Fan’s actions essentially dashed the hopes of many families and sects, igniting their immense wrath.

Since they couldn't vent their anger on Ye Fan, they aimed it at his sect!

At once, bloodlust surged outside the Thunder Gate, with most power holders in Qing Province clamoring for vengeance. After this ordeal, they planned to rally forces, march north, and cleanse Xuanwu Sect in blood.

"Alas..."

Hearing the words of the power holders of Qing Province's forces and knowing Ye Fan's leap into the Thunder River ensured his death, Yaling couldn't help but sigh.

Although Ye Fan had often amazed her, to the point of appearing miraculous, this time, Yaling believed he truly faced an insurmountable fate.

Following her sigh, Yaling secretly felt a profound regret at Ye Fan's likely death.

Because she had high hopes for Ye Fan.

In her eyes, whether in terms of intellect or talent and comprehension, Ye Fan was an exceptional gem.

“Daring to defy the world is a grand dauntlessness; conquering an opponent across a Great Realm is a demonic prowess. Should that lad survive against all odds, I must see him in person!” The Saint of the Ancient Sacred Land suddenly spoke.

This was his first utterance, shaking everyone to their core!

Defy death?

Absolutely impossible!

The next moment, everyone arrived at this conclusion!

Chapter 1314: Peak of True Essence Realm

As the outside world was shaken by Ye Fan’s actions, and people concluded that Ye Fan was undoubtedly doomed, the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown drifted along the Thunder River, and the terrifying Thunder Power couldn’t harm it in the slightest.

In the virtual space, Ye Fan sat silently cross-legged in an empty area, his entire body cracked, like a porcelain that had been hammered heavily, ready to shatter at any moment.

The Thunder Power in the Thunder River was truly terrifying. Even though Ye Fan had undergone countless Thunder Power refining and achieved some success with the Nine Heavens Profound Body, he still couldn’t resist it.

If he hadn't been fast enough to hide in the virtual space the moment he jumped into the Thunder River, he would likely have perished.

Even so, the terrifying destructive force almost took his life, causing extremely serious injuries.

After entering the virtual space, Ye Fan immediately operated his techniques to heal, using Pure Yang energy to repair his physical injuries.

As for the injuries to his divine soul, Pure Yang energy couldn't repair them, so Ye Fan reluctantly took a Treasure Medicine to restore his divine soul.

Fortunately, his divine soul injuries were not severe, and after taking the Treasure Medicine, they were almost healed.

"I'm sorry, Ye Wu, it's my fault you got caught up!"

After healing, Ye Fan thought about Ye Wu's death and felt very guilty—Ye Wu went looking for him because he was worried about his safety and was killed by Qing Zi as a result.

At that moment, he really wanted to use the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown to kill Qing Zi, but Elder Xuan's reminder made him realize he couldn't do that.

As Elder Xuan said, once he used the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown, although he could easily kill Qing Zi, the aura of the Emperor Weapon would be exposed, and more critically, because the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown's energy was insufficient, it would be very difficult to kill strong people above the Divine Power Realm with subsequent uses.

And outside the Thunder Gate, there were a group of strong people above the Divine Power Realm, among them, the Qing Family Ancestor was infinitely close to the Venerable Realm.

In such a situation, if the news of him possessing an Emperor Weapon and killing Qing Zi were exposed, he would surely have no chance of survival.

"Ye Wu, in the near future, I will definitely kill Qing Zi to avenge you!"

After his sorrow and guilt, Ye Fan clenched his fists and made a vow to the deceased Ye Wu.

"Hoo~"

Then, Ye Fan stood up and walked towards Elder Xuan, who was standing with his hands behind his back not far away.

"Elder Xuan, what is the situation outside now? Can we go out?"

Arriving in front of Elder Xuan, Ye Fan got straight to the point. He didn't know how long it took to heal himself, and with so many people vying for opportunities, he definitely couldn't fall behind.

"That kid just left, you can't go out now; otherwise, it will alert everyone. The fact that you have an Emperor Weapon will also be completely exposed."

Elder Xuan said to Ye Fan with a serious face: "If you don't activate the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown, I can't send you out, but once it is activated, the aura of the Nine Heavens Mystic Crown will be exposed. At that time, everyone in the entire tomb will know that you have an Emperor Weapon!"

"Hiss..."

Upon hearing Elder Xuan's words, Ye Fan couldn't help but take a deep breath.

The exposure of the Emperor Weapon is tantamount to seeking death!

Helplessly, Ye Fan had to dismiss the idea of going out. At the same time, he felt that with his current strength, even if he really went out, it would be impossible to compete for the opportunity with people like Qing Zi. Only by working hard to improve his strength could he possibly compete with them.

"Since that's the case, I won't leave the Thunder River for now; here is the safest!" By now, Ye Fan could only comfort himself in this way.

“You can use this time to fully charge to the Peak of True Essence Realm. As long as you reach the Peak of True Essence Realm, I am confident I can send you out without exposing the aura of the Emperor Weapon!”

Seeing Ye Fan’s disappointment, Elder Xuan consoled him: “Don’t forget, the flow of time in the virtual space is not the same as the outside world. You spend ten days here, and only a day passes outside. You have plenty of time.”

At this point, Elder Xuan paused, then continued with a mysterious look: “I guarantee that by the time you break through to the Peak of True Essence Realm, those people haven’t even touched the gate of the underground palace. As the first person below the Great Emperor, Thunder Venerable’s tomb isn’t something just anyone can enter.”

“That’s right!”

Ye Fan agreed deeply.

For Thunder Venerable, the most promising person to prove the Dao, the first below the Great Emperor, if his tomb were so easily invaded by a group of Holy Embryo Realm strong people, it would be too unreasonable.

Thinking of this, Ye Fan hesitated no longer and decisively decided to rush to the Peak of True Essence Realm with all his strength, seizing every moment to get out of the Thunder River as soon as possible.

Thinking about it and doing it, Ye Fan took out all the Spirit Stones he had plundered from others, piling them up like a mountain.

In an instant, the virtual space was filled with brilliant lights, with colors constantly shifting, extremely magnificent.

Arranging these spirit stones into a small Gathering Essence Array to prevent the primordial qi from leaking, Ye Fan sat cross-legged at the position of the Array Eye. All the spiritual energy surged towards him, engulfing him in a sea of spiritual energy in a very short time.

Ye Fan operated the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, and all three hundred and sixty acupoints in his body began to rotate, frantically absorbing the surrounding spiritual energy.

From the outside, Ye Fan seemed like a black hole that could never be filled.

The continuous spiritual energy was drawn from the spirit stones, then entered his body through the pores and breathing, stored in various acupoints.

Under inner vision, Ye Fan found his meridians were much broader and more flexible than before, and each acupoint contained a small True Essence Sea.

Ye Fan had forgotten when he last used inner vision, and upon doing so again, he discovered his blood seemed to have turned a purple-gold color, with Thunder Power slowly flowing within.

Originally his bones and blood aimed for a golden color, but since refining his body with Thunder Liquid in the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, the power within the liquid seemed to have fused with his own blood.

While Ye Fan was cultivating in seclusion, Elder Xuan silently watched over him.

Seeing Ye Fan gradually grow, Elder Xuan felt quite comforted.

Thinking back, when Ling Yun cast him into Ye Fan's sea of consciousness, he was reluctant because Ye Fan was an Earth person, and in terms of talent, he was far inferior to the geniuses of the Xuan Realm.

However, as Ye Fan continued to grow, he finally understood that he had found a treasure. After the transformation, Ye Fan's talent was not inferior to any genius in the Xuan Realm, not even the heirs of the Di Clan surpassed him much in talent.

More importantly, Ye Fan possessed a pure heart and an unyielding character; no matter how difficult the circumstances, he never backed down.

This was something Elder Xuan greatly appreciated, and Ye Fan's comprehension was not lacking.

The Thunderclap Treasure Skill was considered one of the most profound treasure skills in the Xuan Realm, not much inferior to the cultivation techniques passed down by the Great Emperors.

Yet, relying on his comprehension, Ye Fan managed to initially grasp the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

It's worth knowing that even some senior strong people of the Di Clan would shake their heads when mentioning the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, admitting their inability to comprehend it.

Ye Fan, however, was unaware of what Elder Xuan was thinking at the moment; he was completely immersed in inner vision and the breakthrough to the Peak of the True Essence Realm.

Under inner vision, Ye Fan could clearly monitor every strand of growth in his True Yuan, controlling his condition with more precision.

Continuous spiritual energy roamed through his body for a grand circulation, then settled into the dantian or stored in various acupoints throughout the body.

After an unknown amount of time, Ye Fan finally felt that his dantian could no longer store any more True Yuan, thus the spiritual energy, after being transformed, was stored in the not yet full True Essence Seas of other acupoints.

As the True Essence Seas in the acupoints ceased rotation one by one, Ye Fan gradually felt that he had touched the threshold of the Peak of True Yuan Realm.

A particularly significant feature of reaching the Peak of the True Essence Realm is that the True Essence Sea in the dantian can no longer absorb another trace of True Yuan.

However, for Ye Fan, truly reaching the peak was much harder than for others because he not only had to fill the True Essence in the dantian but also all three hundred sixty-four acupoints in his body to be considered a breakthrough to the peak.

Fortunately, Ye Fan had long been accustomed to this, so breaking through wasn't too difficult, only taking some time.

This "not too hard" was only Ye Fan's own feeling; if others witnessed Ye Fan's cultivation scene, they might be scared out of their wits — the amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi he required for each breakthrough stage was overwhelmingly large, far beyond what an ordinary cultivator could bear!

This was also one of Ye Fan's greatest challenges; if not for collecting so many space bags from geniuses and obtaining numerous spirit stones, it would have been impossible to break through to the peak with just his own accumulation.

As time passed bit by bit, the number of spirit stones beside Ye Fan drastically decreased, each turned into refined energy by him.

When the spirit stones around him were almost gone, Ye Fan finally filled all the True Essence Seas in his body's acupoints.

In that instant, Ye Fan suddenly felt as if he had broken free from a shackle, and all three hundred sixty-four acupoints and the dantian instantly connected in a line and started rotating once more.

The moment all acupoints connected in a line, Ye Fan felt the True Yuan inside his body became more solid, filled with a sense of power.

Breakthrough success!

Ye Fan successfully stepped into the Peak of the True Essence Realm!

Chapter 1315: Fortune Favors the Bold

Ye Fan successfully broke through the Peak of True Essence Realm. After condensing his True Yuan to its utmost, if he wants to further enhance his strength, he must seek transformation, which means converting True Yuan to Holy Power and condensing a Holy Embryo!

After a moment of ecstasy following the breakthrough, Ye Fan quickly calmed down.

He understood clearly that although he had just broken through to the Peak of True Yuan Realm, his realm had not yet completely stabilized. He must quickly consolidate the newly achieved realm.

Upon awakening, Ye Fan once again gathered his Consciousness, observing with his eyes, focusing with his nose, constantly absorbing the Spiritual Energy contained within the Spirit Stone, transforming the Spiritual Energy into the purest of True Yuan and integrating it into himself, then continuously compressing and solidifying the True Yuan.

No one knew how long it took, until Ye Fan felt that the True Yuan inside him could no longer solidify. He knew that his realm had completely stabilized, so he stopped cultivating. The Spirit Stones piled like mountains before him had all turned into a heap of Waste Stones.

This level of Spirit Stone consumption made even Elder Xuan secretly click his tongue.

In Elder Xuan's view, at Ye Fan's rate of consumption, without great opportunities, the Divine Power Realm might be his ultimate limit. Further breakthroughs would be extremely difficult.

Evidently, Ye Fan also realized this problem and began to plan ahead for his future cultivation prospects, otherwise, he would inevitably face stagnation in his cultivation due to issues with Spirit Stones.

Boom!

A powerful aura, almost tangible, emanated from Ye Fan, blowing the sand and stones around him continuously outward in all directions.

The powerful aura was released and retracted in an instant. Ye Fan's control over his own aura was fairly decent; it was only because it was his first breakthrough that he was unfamiliar with his own aura, leading to such a scenario.

Gradually, Ye Fan's entire aura retracted, and his sharp, intimidating gaze also slowly softened, becoming no different from an ordinary person.

Elder Xuan nodded in approval. Achieving this is quite difficult, as many cultivators, after a breakthrough, are eager to display their powerful strength without restraint.

Although it may be satisfying momentarily, one's strength will also be fully exposed in the eyes of others.

Once an opponent wants to deal with you, they will undoubtedly devise various strategies targeting your true strength, as your trump card has been fully revealed, leaving you without any means of self-preservation.

Swish!

Ye Fan flipped his hand, and with a flash of Purple Light, the Thunder Emperor Spear replica appeared in his hand, surrounded by Thunder Power.

Holding the spear single-handedly, Ye Fan looked like a War God with divine might, his clothes fluttering without wind, black hair flying!

Having arrived in this world a year ago, his originally short hair had grown to resemble that of other people in this world, turning into long, jet-black hair.

Although the Virtual Space within the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown is virtual, it is not lacking in mountains and rivers; the only difference from the outside world is that there are no sun, moon, or stars in this space. The sky is always gray, and there is no vegetation within the space.

With spear in hand, Ye Fan's gaze surveyed the surroundings, and with a pause underfoot, his entire being flew toward a mountain peak like a long rainbow!

“Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear, First Strike, Leveling Sun and Moon!”

Ye Fan shouted loudly, and the replica Thunder Emperor Spear in his hand shot out beams of gun light, silently piercing a mountain peak thirty meters thick, leaving a transparent hole with a diameter of a meter.

Ye Fan’s figure passed through the hole struck by the Thunder Emperor Spear, disappearing into the horizon!

Elder Xuan stroked his beard and smiled. From this strike of Ye Fan, he could already deduce Ye Fan’s current true Combat Power level.

Although the number of Spirit Stones consumed was staggering, the effect was terrifyingly tremendous. Although it was only one small realm breakthrough, Ye Fan’s strength had almost qualitatively changed, becoming nearly twice as powerful as before.

For any cultivator, achieving such an enhancement in Combat Power from a breakthrough in one small realm is extremely rare.

Of course, Elder Xuan had to also acknowledge Ye Fan’s good fortune in acquiring the Thunder Emperor Spear replica along with the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears, a set of lethal Spear Techniques. Moreover, with his high comprehension, he grasped its essence in a very short time.

In the Virtual Space, Elder Xuan could be considered the absolute sovereign, as the Virtual Space was created by the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown itself.

He, as the Artifact Spirit of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, is the Soul of the Emperor Weapon, naturally controlling all of the Emperor Weapon.

With a mere thought, Elder Xuan appeared near Ye Fan.

At this moment, Ye Fan was practicing every move of the Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear, extraordinarily diligent in his training.

After all, he had only just comprehended this set of Spear Techniques, and he wasn't yet proficient. To use it effectively in battle, he must practice until proficiency to better demonstrate the power of the Seven Divine Spears.

From the first strike, Leveling Sun and Moon, to the last strike, Overpowering Nine Heavens, Ye Fan practiced with great earnestness.

The ultimate Secret Technique of the Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear is to forget life and death, placing oneself in a deadly situation, and only then can the full power of the Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear be unleashed.

Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spear, daring even to slay the heavens, what could possibly halt one's steps?

Breaking through the surface with a single point.

While practicing the seven spear techniques, Ye Fan suddenly realized a principle. This principle wasn't profound, but many people overlooked it.

Ye Fan was the same; the power of a fist is stronger than a palm because a fist concentrates power on a single point and releases it instantly, creating immense destructive force.

Now, by using the spear tip instead of a fist, the power is even more concentrated, allowing him to unleash his full strength.

"Not bad, not bad. With your current combat power, combined with this counterfeit Thunder Emperor Spear, killing cultivators at the early-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm is like cutting grass. You might even be able to contend with late-stage Holy Embryo Realm cultivators."

When Ye Fan stopped, Elder Xuan clapped his hands and praised as he walked over. He was more and more satisfied with Ye Fan.

This boy, born of Ling Yun and Ye Hao from Earth, had given him many surprises.

"Whew~"

Ye Fan also let out a sigh of relief.

“However, don’t get complacent. Although your current strength is formidable, if you encounter a cultivator at the True Essence Realm Peak, you have no chance of winning, and self-preservation would be difficult.”

Perhaps worried that Ye Fan might become arrogant, or maybe he wanted Ye Fan to stay vigilant, Elder Xuan, after praising him, immediately offered a reminder.

Hearing Elder Xuan’s words, Ye Fan was silent. He clearly understood the meaning behind Elder Xuan’s words.

Encountering those at the Peak of the Holy Embryo Realm meant having no chance of victory, even lacking the ability to protect himself. In other words, should he meet Qing Zi and the Saint Heirs of the two great sacred places, his life would still be at risk!

Qing Zi and the Saint Heirs of the Ancient Sacred Land and the Tianxuan Holy Land all reached the Peak of the Holy Embryo Realm. Although he had successfully broken through to the Peak of the True Yuan Realm, he was still not their match.

Furthermore, besides the two Saint Heirs and Qing Zi, this time, other Peak Holy Embryo Realm powerhouses from various great forces had also entered.

These individuals were not to be trifled with. Trying to seize opportunity from them was akin to pulling a tooth from a tiger’s mouth; it was not easily done and was fraught with danger.

Seeing Ye Fan silent, Elder Xuan felt a bit unwilling. He didn't want to dampen Ye Fan's enthusiasm, but he also knew that if Ye Fan insisted on going out, in the face of great danger, he would have to use the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown.

However, if the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown were used, even killing all who witnessed it might not preserve the secret—the strong people outside of the Thunder Gate might sense it!

Once sensed, Ye Fan would be doomed!

"Boy, I believe you understand my meaning. Although you can protect yourself well against ordinary cultivators now, competing for opportunity against that little brat from the Qing family and those rascals from the two sacred places is still beyond your reach. Whether to leave the Thunder River now and head to the underground palace of Thunder Venerable, you decide for yourself!"

Elder Xuan left this dilemma to Ye Fan, letting Ye Fan make his own choice.

"I'll remind you, if you do encounter a life-and-death moment, you can use the Emperor Weapon to annihilate everyone, but doing so risks exposure, and it will deplete the Emperor Weapon's energy, making it incapable of killing those above the Divine Power Realm when activated again." Elder Xuan added, making the pros and cons crystal clear.

This was a difficult choice to make. Staying within the Thunder River was certainly safe, but his preparations were insufficient, and attempting to condense a Holy Embryo here was nearly impossible.

The Holy Embryo Realm is a significant watershed, a cultivator's second life. The strength of the condensed Holy Embryo directly affects how powerful the combat power is.

According to Elder Xuan, the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor's Holy Embryo was a bright moon, considered an extreme anomaly even among Holy Embryos.

Yet, in the end, the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor relied on this Holy Embryo to cultivate a Great Divine Power, eventually battling his way to the peak and enduring tribulation to become Emperor!

Ye Fan naturally would not follow the old path of the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor; he would not merely mimic others. What kind of Holy Embryo he would ultimately condense, he had not yet considered and would look into it when the time came.

"A cultivator's life is one of battle. If faced with danger, you are timorous, looking before and after; even if you live, it's but a life of deceit and compromise!"

"If you face challenges head-on, advancing with courage, even if you die in battle, it'll be like brilliant fireworks; yet if by chance you survive, ultimately you can flatten your enemies and ascend the Emperor's throne over their bones!"

"As the saying goes, great wealth is sought in peril, and Thunder Venerable's inheritance is too significant for me to ignore. I must compete for it!"

Moments later, Ye Fan made a decision.

He would leave the Thunder River to compete for the great opportunity!

Chapter 1316: Treasure Armor Fragment

After making the decision, Ye Fan took out all his recent gains and laid a pile on the ground.

Among these spoils were offensive spiritual artifacts like swords, spears, and halberds, as well as defensive ones resembling armor, but Ye Fan couldn't use them. He could only sell them at the Treasure Pavilion or exchange them for Spirit Stones.

But Ye Fan didn't decide to do that; instead, he used them to restore the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown—these spiritual artifacts contained some weak energy. This energy couldn't be absorbed by humans, but the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown could absorb it to repair its own wounds.

For Ye Fan's sacrifice, Elder Xuan was particularly moved. Although the energy in these items was negligible, every little bit helps, and he believed that one day, the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown would be restored to its peak state.

By then, the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown would be one of the strongest Emperor Weapons in the entire Xuan Realm.

Although the road is long and winding, there is finally hope!

Most of these spoils were spiritual artifacts from the Holy Embryo Realm, with not even a single artifact from the Divine Power Realm.

Elder Xuan controlled the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to absorb the energy from each item one by one.

With each item absorbed, the originally radiant spiritual artifact completely dimmed and turned into an ordinary Mortal Weapon, which Ye Fan could smash completely with one finger.

The absorption capacity of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was extremely terrifying; in just a few breaths, almost all of the spoils Ye Fan had laid on the ground were gone.

“Huh?”

At this moment, Elder Xuan suddenly picked up an inconspicuous stone piece, turning it over and over for a closer inspection.

“This thing came from the Old Witch’s space bag who guarded Lou Manyue. I originally thought it was a treasure, but after inspection, it’s just a broken stone!” Ye Fan explained.

At first glance of this stone piece, Ye Fan hadn’t paid much attention to it, only thinking that something collected by a Peak Holy Embryo Realm strong person must be good, but he found nothing unusual about it.

Elder Xuan ignored him, instead furrowing his brows as though pondering something.

Seeing Elder Xuan like this, Ye Fan's curiosity was piqued too, and he walked over to take a closer look at the stone piece in Elder Xuan's hand.

It looked like a very ordinary piece of stone, about the size of a plate, but irregularly shaped, as if broken off from a larger piece.

The only extraordinary aspect was its seemingly extremely smooth surface, yet it was covered in intersecting cracks and appeared as if it could shatter with a gentle tap.

After pondering for a moment, Elder Xuan's furrowed brows gradually loosened, and he smiled profoundly at Ye Fan, saying, "What did you say earlier? This is just an ordinary piece of stone?"

"Isn't it? I can crush it with one finger!"

Ye Fan looked suspiciously at the stone piece, even using his Divine Sense to explore but still couldn't detect anything unusual.

Even under the inspection of Divine Sense, it remained an incredibly ordinary stone piece.

"Hehe!"

Elder Xuan smiled slightly and said, "Don't boast just yet; you can try. If you can crush this stone piece, you're a Great Emperor."

Saying this, Elder Xuan handed the stone piece to him. Ye Fan took it and casually tapped it with his finger, emitting a sound of clashing metal, yet the cracked stone piece didn't break!

"Huh? Could I have been mistaken?"

Gradually increasing his strength, Ye Fan used both hands to pry it apart; despite his increasing force, the stone piece showed no change, not even producing an extra crack, let alone breaking.

"This..."

Even after exerting all his strength, Ye Fan still couldn't deal with this stone piece, finally understanding that it must have an extraordinary origin for it to be so hard.

"You can also use the most powerful Overpowering Nine Heavens from the Seven Divine Spears you just comprehended to attack it and see if you can leave any traces!"

Elder Xuan said with a smile, watching Ye Fan.

“I refuse to believe this!”

Ye Fan tossed the stone piece into the air and immediately drew the Thunder Emperor Spear, shouting, “Overpowering Nine Heavens!”

The spear tip emitted dazzling rays of light, fiercely stabbing at the stone piece.

Bang!

With a loud crash, the stone piece was instantly blasted away.

Elder Xuan’s figure flickered, catching the flying stone piece with one hand and smilingly presented it to Ye Fan.

When Ye Fan saw not even a white spot on the stone, he was incredibly shocked. What exactly was this? His full-power attack couldn’t even leave a tiny white spot?

“Elder Xuan, what exactly is this? You must know, right?”

In Ye Fan’s eyes, Elder Xuan was the all-knowing encyclopedia of the Xuan Realm; there was nothing he didn’t know. He knew a bit of every secret, even many buried in the sands of history.

“If I’m not mistaken, the origin of this stone piece is truly astonishing...”

According to Elder Xuan, this stone piece should be a fragment of the treasure armor from tens of thousands of years ago, belonging to the first Great Emperor of humanity.

This first Human Race Great Emperor was named Heavenly Emperor. He had two supreme treasures: one was an Emperor Weapon, rumored to be the Nine Dragon Vase, and the other was his treasure armor, second only to the Divine Armor Xuanwu Armor.

Unfortunately, after the Great Emperor’s death, the Nine Dragon Vase went missing, and the treasure armor was destroyed. No one knows exactly how it was destroyed.

Some say it was shattered during a fight with an Immortal, others say he broke it himself, unwilling to let the armor be passed down. There are all kinds of theories.

Though the armor wasn’t left behind, a few fragments of the armor remain, and this piece is very likely one of them.

“The Great Emperor’s armor can’t be called the number one armor? What kind of supreme treasure is the Xuanwu Armor then?”

Ye Fan was lost in reverie, not only longing for the armor but also wanting to know what kind of treasure the so-called Xuanwu Armor was, that it’s even more precious than the Great Emperor’s armor?

“Don’t even think about the Xuanwu Armor; it’s been lost for countless years, and no one has ever found it.”

Elder Xuan poured cold water on him and then said to Ye Fan, “Keep this stone piece; don’t absorb it. I’ll help you use it to refine a vest when there’s a chance, ensuring even strong people of Venerable Level can’t destroy it!”

Upon hearing Elder Xuan’s words, Ye Fan’s heart instantly burned with excitement. This stone piece was a fragment of the Great Emperor’s treasure armor? If he could really sacrificially refine it into a vest again, its absolute defense would be astonishing.

After speaking, Elder Xuan controlled the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, absorbing all the remaining Spiritual Artifacts, leaving only a counterfeit Thunder Emperor Spear and the stone piece!

Even though many Spiritual Artifacts were absorbed, the recovery effect of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown was still minimal. After all, the materials of Holy Embryo Realm Spiritual Artifacts and Emperor Weapons are vastly different.

It’s an unavoidable situation, unless Ye Fan can find Immortal Materials to sacrificially refine an Emperor Weapon, but Immortal Materials are called so because they are naturally hard to find.

“Kid, don’t be discouraged. I’ll tell you some good news. Although the recovery effect this time isn’t great, it still counts as some recovery. If it can recover a bit more, in the future when you use the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown to enter a Virtual Space, the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown will not appear

visibly but completely enter true Dimension Space. At that time, unless a strong person of Lord Level or above, no one will be able to find you.”

Elder Xuan smiled slightly, revealing explosive news, instantly shocking Ye Fan to his core.

“Is this true?”

Ye Fan could hardly believe his ears. If it was indeed as Elder Xuan said, in the future, as long as he didn’t encounter a strong person above Lord Realm, he wouldn’t have to worry about being detected when using the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown.

Moreover, the Lord Realm is higher than the Divine Power Realm, and even across the entire mainland, those of Lord Realm are considered experts.

“Of course, it’s true. When have I ever lied to you?”

Elder Xuan looked at him discontentedly, and after pondering, he continued, “According to my senses, the Thunder Venerable master’s tomb is underground on a very large island. We are now beneath the island.”

“There’s a considerable space underground, and the Thunder Venerable master’s underground palace is located right at the center of this space, where the Thunder River surrounds.”

“This Thunder River was created by the Thunder Venerable master, specifically to protect his underground palace. The entrance to the underground palace is located about fifty miles from here.”

According to Elder Xuan, all this time, Ye Fan had actually not entered the underground palace at all, nor had he even seen its outskirts, only operating on the periphery, reaching the Thunder River as he approached the edge of the underground palace.

To enter the underground palace and compete with others for opportunities, Ye Fan's first task is to exit the Thunder River and then find the entrance to the underground palace to enter from there.

The Thunder Venerable master's tomb must have all kinds of Array Patterns and confinements, and it's impossible to dig a straight theft tunnel directly to the main tomb room like on Earth.

And according to Elder Xuan's senses, the entrance to the underground palace doesn't have Forbidden spells, or rather, the spells have disappeared, so others might enter the underground palace from the entrance.

Ye Fan must follow this path to compete for great opportunities.

Ye Fan believed that the Thunder Venerable master's tomb wasn't so easy to enter. While on Earth, he only succeeded after going through countless hardships in the realm of the Tyrant's legacy.

The Thunder Venerable master's means are certainly stronger than those of the Tyrant, so the two Saint Heirs and Qing Zi definitely couldn't easily enter the main tomb room, let alone quickly obtain the Thunder Venerable master's legacy.

Under Elder Xuan's control, the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown swiftly swam forward in the Thunder River, like a fish in a small creek.

Swoosh!

As they neared the entrance of the underground palace, Ye Fan stepped out of the Virtual Space and then rushed out of the Thunder River at extreme speed.

"Crack—"

Even though he was fast enough, he was still severely injured by the terrifying Thunder Power within the Thunder River, with several bones broken and his flesh badly damaged.

Helpless, Ye Fan had to choose a safe place on the edge of the Thunder River to heal first, before heading towards the entrance of the underground palace after being fully recovered.

Chapter 1317: Entering the Underground Palace

Walking along the edge of the Thunder River, Ye Fan quickly reached the other side of the stone bridge and continued moving forward.

Beneath his feet were vermillion stones, as if soaked with blood and then dried, looking quite shocking.

In the distance, towering majestically on the horizon appeared an underground palace, almost as large as the city outside.

Ye Fan was deeply astonished!

He found it hard to imagine how the Thunder Venerable master constructed such a grand underground palace in the subterranean space.

Huh?

As he strode along the path, Ye Fan sharply sensed a faint Death Qi, causing his heart to tense.

It's not uncommon for there to be Death Qi in a tomb, but its presence in the tomb of the Thunder Venerable is somewhat illogical.

The reason is simple: the Thunder Venerable was a master of Thunder Power, existing just below a Great Emperor, and even in death, there shouldn't be any Death Qi emanating.

Thunder Power is the antithesis of Death Qi, and no Death Creatures can exist under the power of thunder, unless the Thunder Venerable intended it so; otherwise, Death Qi should absolutely not be present.

Soon, Ye Fan approached the entrance of the underground palace.

At the entrance of the underground palace, Ye Fan suddenly noticed a large number of cultivators gathered, but they were all disciples from small sects and clans, with not a single disciple from a major clan or sect.

“Someone else is coming...”

Seeing someone approaching from afar, the cultivators at the entrance of the underground palace remarked with schadenfreude.

However—

Before the words were finished, the expression of schadenfreude in their eyes turned to shock!

“This is...”

“Ye Fan? How is this possible?”

“Wasn’t he dead?”

“Even the five Ye Brothers from the Treasure Pavilion were all slain by Qing Zi, how could he still be alive?”

“I must be seeing things, a hallucination!”

No one present dared to believe their eyes, and it was only after Ye Fan came closer that they dared to confirm it was indeed Ye Fan approaching, not their imaginations.

Once this fact was confirmed, they were even more stunned, for nobody expected Ye Fan to survive Qing Zi’s pursuit.

They already knew about Ye Fan killing Lou Manyue.

And they also knew that Lou Manyue’s fiancé, the Qing family’s peerless genius, Qing Zi, specifically returned to kill Ye Fan, and subsequently killed Ye Yi, Ye Er, Ye San, and Ye Si on the return journey.

Under such circumstances, everyone thought Ye Fan was dead!

Yet at this moment, Ye Fan appeared alive and well...

The shock it brought them is unimaginable?!

Moreover, looking at Ye Fan's current state, not only was he unharmed, his cultivation had also advanced considerably, deepening their astonishment.

"What on earth happened?"

At this moment, almost everyone was filled with such confusion.

While they were bewildered, Ye Fan had already arrived at their front, and these cultivators from small clans or sects hurriedly avoided him as if avoiding a plague, their eyes filled with fear and confusion towards Ye Fan.

"What's going on? You've already reached the entrance to the underground palace, why aren't you going in?"

Ye Fan found it odd. Although these people were from small sects or clans, their strength was in the early-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm, not lacking the ability to seize opportunities.

Even if they couldn't compete for great opportunities with the Saint Heirs of the two great sacred places and Qing Zi, it's possible for them to get some soup when others eat meat, so why were they all gathered here without going in?

The people looked at Ye Fan strangely but no one answered his question; instead, they all seemed to be avoiding him like the plague.

Although they didn't know how Ye Fan survived Qing Zi's pursuit, they knew very well that Ye Fan had killed Lou Manyue and many geniuses of Qing Province, creating deep-seated enmity with several major clans and sects in Qing Province.

In such circumstances, if they got too close to Ye Fan, they might inevitably get implicated.

Needless to say, if Qing Zi discovered them getting too close to Ye Fan, he would show no mercy.

As the heir of Qing Province's first clan, Qing Zi had already emerged in the entire Southern Domain years ago. Although these sects or family cultivators hadn't seen him, they'd heard of his ways.

Qing Zi was someone who returned an eye for an eye, never questioning right or wrong, and if he misunderstood, they would die an unwarranted death—just like the Ye Brothers!

Ye Fan asked several people in succession, and those questioned all retreated backwards, not daring to answer at all.

Seeing these reactions, Ye Fan's heart stirred, and he immediately understood that these people were worried that talking to him would trigger Qing Zi's misunderstanding.

At the same time, he also gained a new understanding of Qing Zi's domineering nature. Although he is merely the heir of the largest family in Qing Province, his influence in the entire Southern Domain is quite significant.

Qing Zi must be assassinated!

At this moment, Ye Fan's determination to assassinate Qing Zi became even more resolute. However, he also understood that with his current abilities, it wasn't realistic to take down a genius who had cultivated the Holy Embryo Realm to its pinnacle. He could only endure for now and wait for the right opportunity.

Since he couldn't glean any information about the situation inside from these people, Ye Fan decided to stop asking, knowing they wouldn't reveal anything regardless.

With this in mind, Ye Fan decisively headed toward the deeper parts of the underground palace from the entrance.

The passage was dark and dry, without the slightest hint of moisture, which Ye Fan had anticipated.

If it were on Earth, such a deep underground space would be damp even without water. However, it was, after all, the resting place of the Thunder Venerable Master, so the dryness seemed only natural.

Gathering True Yuan in his eyes, Ye Fan's gaze shone brightly. The dark passage did not seem to affect him at all, allowing him to clearly discern every minute detail within.

Death Qi filled the passageway of the underground palace, starting as a faint presence and gradually becoming denser.

Ye Fan was on high alert; such dense Death Qi was definitely abnormal and might lead to unexpected occurrences.

Whoosh!

Amidst Ye Fan's concentration on sensing the surrounding life signals, a shadow descended from above, striking toward the top of his skull with a palm, the wind from the attack howling powerfully.

Despite the sudden ambush, Ye Fan did not panic. Instead, he swiftly kicked toward the space between his attacker's legs.

For any human, this was undoubtedly the most vulnerable spot and the most lethal attack point.

The best way to defuse one's own crisis was to attack their unguarded points.

Bang!

Ye Fan's kick hit solidly, but it felt as though he had kicked an iron plate. He only succeeded in sending the person flying without causing any substantial harm.

What's more, the attacker didn't even let out a scream, simply being kicked over ten feet away, landing on the ground with a "thud".

"Hiss~"

Gracefully landing on the ground, Ye Fan finally saw what the attacker looked like and involuntarily took a sharp breath.

The figure was not a living person but an ancient corpse, its body shrouded in glittering armor, revealing only the face and hands.

The attacker's complexion was ashen, with eyes like black holes devoid of any life signs, yet it could move and attack.

Corpse Soldier!

In an instant, Ye Fan realized what had attacked him: an ancient corpse from countless years ago.

Over time, the Death Qi within the ancient corpse had autonomously formed a cycle, reawakening its Spiritual Wisdom, though it was no longer a living being.

Despite their lack of life, these corpse soldiers had extraordinarily hard bodies protected by armor, making them extremely defensively strong, beyond the capabilities of ordinary cultivators.

Even without True Yuan or Holy Power, the Death Qi within them became their most formidable energy.

Any living being couldn't withstand the corrosion of Death Qi; those slightly lacking in cultivation and resolve would have their Divine Soul eroded, turning into killing machines knowing only slaughter.

These corpse soldiers felt no pain; even decapitating them would not stop their combat, unless they were utterly smashed to pieces.

Ye Fan now fully understood why the cultivators from small sects preferred staying near the entrance, never venturing inside; they had likely encountered corpse soldiers and been frightened out of their wits.

Soon, the corpse soldier once more lunged at Ye Fan. This time, Ye Fan didn't dodge but stood his ground firmly, shouting loudly before punching at the corpse soldier.

Ye Fan's True Yuan contained Thunder Power, specifically restraining such sinister entities. As he punched, Purple Light flickered, and the purple Thunder Power fiercely struck the corpse soldier's chest.

Crack!

With a clear sound, Ye Fan's punch pierced through the armor on the corpse soldier's chest, the violent Thunder Power purifying the corpses' Death Qi.

. Roar...”

The corpse soldier, which had never made a sound, let out a miserable cry as a terrible black Death Qi emerged from its body, turning into a pool of black water.

Feeling the tremendous Physical Strength of the corpse soldier, Ye Fan couldn't help but contemplate that, given the strength of those cultivators at the entrance, encountering a corpse soldier would almost spell certain doom.

Shaking his head, Ye Fan gathered his thoughts and continued moving forward!

Chapter 1318: Reunion with Qing Zi (Makeup Chapter)

Although Ye Fan had never raided a tomb before, he learned various knowledge from Chu Xuanji from a young age, including feng shui and tomb structures, and heard quite a bit about the various mechanisms and traps within ancient tombs.

At that time, Ye Fan was still young, but he was incredibly interested in these mysterious things, even more so than in cultivation, so he remembered a lot.

Originally, Ye Fan thought these extremely obscure pieces of knowledge wouldn't be useful in his lifetime, but he didn't anticipate that today they would come in handy.

Though Ye Fan didn't know if tombs in the Xuan Realm were similar to those on Earth, he imagined they are probably not too different.

According to conventional knowledge, the location where Ye Fan currently stands is the true entrance to the tomb, where the Spirit Gate is located.

Through the Spirit Gate into the passageway, the passageway should be densely packed with traps to prevent tomb raiders.

However, Ye Fan felt that there shouldn't be any mechanisms here, because the Thunder Venerable master didn't need them; the Mist Sea outside served as the best natural barrier. Except for the Great Emperor, even strong people at the Venerable Realm wouldn't dare to rush in, let alone enter his underground palace.

And the Great Emperor naturally wouldn't care about his legacy, never bothering to enter his underground palace.

So naturally, there wouldn't be any mechanisms in the Thunder Venerable master's tomb passageway.

However, although there were no traps, there were quite a few Corpse Soldiers, which were extremely powerful. According to Elder Xuan's estimates, these Corpse Soldiers would have been at least strong people of the Lord Realm when they were alive.

After tens of thousands of years, these Corpse Soldiers, although forming a cycle of Corpse Qi within themselves, had seen their power drastically reduced, nowhere near their original strength. Otherwise, these Corpse Soldiers alone could kill everyone who enters the tomb.

Along the way, Ye Fan encountered several waves of Corpse Soldier attacks, but these Corpse Soldiers clearly showed signs of injury — some even had missing limbs.

Ye Fan knew very clearly that whoever made this happen must be those powerful cultivators who had entered the passage ahead of him.

However, these Corpse Soldiers posed no real threat to Ye Fan. They couldn't even hold him up for a moment. His own Thunder Power combined with Pure Yang Qi was the best nemesis for these Corpse Soldiers.

Hmm?

Just as Ye Fan slaughtered over a dozen Corpse Soldiers, he suddenly saw shadows ahead — these people were locked in fierce combat with a large group of Corpse Soldiers.

Judging by the intensity of their attacks, these cultivators were either at Mid-stage Saint Embryo Realm or Late-stage Divine Realm. Although the Corpse Soldiers were powerful, they were being beaten back step by step under their assaults.

"Someone's here?"

These people, although fiercely battling Corpse Soldiers, were highly attentive to their surroundings, afraid more Corpse Soldiers would join the fray.

These powerful Corpse Soldiers already had them stretched thin, and if more joined, they'd be in real danger.

"It's Ye Fan? Could it really be him?"

Soon, someone noticed Ye Fan, momentarily stunned and speechless with shock!

In their minds, Ye Fan was already dead.

A "dead man" suddenly appeared before them; no one could remain calm.

"Ah—"

With a lapse, a mid-stage Saint Embryo Realm cultivator's Divine Soul was eroded by Corpse Qi, instantly letting out a tragic cry and turning into a killing machine, suddenly attacking his companions.

This unexpected change made these cultivators panic, prompting them to quickly reorganize their manpower to kill the companion who turned into a killing machine, his Divine Soul eroded by Corpse Qi.

At this time, Ye Fan was already not far away from them, while some neutral faction cultivators looked at Ye Fan with extremely complicated expressions.

They had no dealings with the Qing Family, so naturally, there was no animosity either. Ye Fan's appearance merely shocked and seemed unbelievable to them. They didn't harbor any other thoughts.

Having fought Corpse Soldiers multiple times, they could differentiate between Corpse Soldiers and normal people. With the vibrant life force emanating from Ye Fan, they could easily tell he was completely unharmed, without a scratch.

Managing to escape from Young Master Qing's pursuit and remain unharmed, Ye Fan indeed created a miracle. Let's not forget, he's merely a late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator.

Of course, he's now at the True Essence Realm Peak, just a step away from the Saint Embryo Realm.

However—

This single step was a monumental gap. The power of the Saint Embryo Realm was beyond the imagination of True Yuan Realm cultivators, even those at the True Essence Realm Peak couldn't fathom the might of the Saint Embryo Realm.

"Kill!"

Ye Fan knew these people wouldn't answer his questions or cooperate with him, and he had no time to waste on them either; he shouted fiercely, charging directly at the Corpse Soldier group.

Bang!

With a punch, Ye Fan directly exploded a Corpse Soldier, spraying black fluids everywhere.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan swiftly moved, continuing to strike, effortlessly clearing a path of blood through the Corpse Soldier group, abruptly rushing forward.

"Hiss~"

Those cultivators who had been battling Corpse Soldiers for a long time gasped.

"This is too fierce, isn't it?"

These cultivators had already faced several waves of Corpse Soldiers and knew how sturdy their bodies were. Not mentioning that layer of armor, even just the Corpse Soldiers' bodies could withstand their Spiritual Artifact attacks.

They were well aware that some people's Spiritual Energy had been shattered by these Corpse Soldiers. Yet, under Ye Fan's punches, these Corpse Soldiers were like paper, exploding with a single hit.

At this moment, their eyes were filled with shock as they looked at Ye Fan.

In their view, Ye Fan is simply the freak among freaks.

"Kill!"

These cultivators are not fools. Taking advantage of the bloody path Ye Fan carved out, they all pushed their strength to the limit, holy power everywhere!

Under their full-force attack, the corpse soldiers in front couldn't hold their ground, and a path was forcibly opened as they charged through.

However, by the time they broke through the encirclement of corpse soldiers, Ye Fan had long disappeared like a bird in flight, gone without a trace!

At this moment, Ye Fan continued advancing through the passage, soon encountering another group of cultivators engaged in fierce battle with a group of corpse soldiers.

“Ye Fan!”

As soon as Ye Fan saw them, they also noticed him and were astonished, never expecting him to make it here!

These cultivators had good relations with the Qing Family and naturally knew about the incident where Qing Zi’s fiancée Lou Manyue was killed by Ye Fan.

At the same time, they also knew about Qing Zi’s pursuit of Ye Fan. They originally thought that with Qing Zi taking action, Ye Fan was certainly doomed, but unexpectedly, here he was alive and well in front of them.

“Ye Fan, although I don’t know how you escaped Young Master Qing’s pursuit, I advise you not to proceed further, or you will surely die!”

These cultivators are outstanding figures from various clans or sects, including some older generation strong people.

Seeing Ye Fan appear before them, they were very hesitant. They wanted to act immediately and kill Ye Fan here to strengthen ties with the Qing Family, but they also felt a bit apprehensive.

Because they were very clear about Qing Zi’s strength, which was at the level of the Saint Heirs of the two great sacred places.

In other words, apart from the two Saint Heirs, if Qing Zi decided to kill someone in this tomb, they surely couldn't escape.

However——

Ye Fan survived under Qing Zi's pursuit, and judging from his aura, his strength had increased again.

This all made them believe that Ye Fan must have some unknown trump card.

Thus, if they acted now and failed to kill Ye Fan, they would inevitably make a mortal enemy out of him, making future reconciliation difficult.

After weighing the pros and cons, these people not only refrained from taking rash actions but instead advised Ye Fan not to proceed further, or once he encountered Qing Zi, it would surely be a certain death.

Ye Fan ignored their advice.

To Ye Fan, the moment he decided to come here, he was determined to vie for the Thunder Venerable's legacy and treasure, and would not change his mind because of a few words from them.

Bang, bang, bang...

Just like before, Ye Fan used the Thunder Power to perform Domineering Fist, carving a path through the corpse soldiers, continuing to move forward.

The passageway became increasingly spacious and finally reached the First Level of the underground palace!

This was a grand hall, littered everywhere with the dismembered limbs of corpse soldiers, and a stench lingered in the hall for a long time!

Ye Fan's whole body glowed, completely isolating the poisonous gases outside his body, and he passed through the back door of the hall to a broad area.

"There is a killing array ahead!"

Just as Ye Fan was rushing forward with all his strength, a voice from Elder Xuan suddenly echoed in his mind, and he immediately stopped to ask Elder Xuan, "What kind of killing array is it?"

"The Star Chess Array!"

Elder Xuan sensed again for a moment and told Ye Fan, "This killing array spans the entrance to the second level of the underground palace. Unless it can be broken, there is no way to enter the second level, but only to be blocked here."

While Ye Fan and Elder Xuan were communicating, at a distance not far from the entrance to the second floor of the underground palace, Qing Zi, the Saint Heir of Taigu Sacred Land, the Saint Heir of Tianxuan Holy Land, and some descendants of major sects or families, as well as older Peak of Holy Embryo Realm strong people, were gathered together studying how to break the formation to enter.

Nearby, a killing array was precisely blocking the entrance to the second level of the underground palace. The killing array looked nothing special, but once triggered, it would immediately unleash a massive amount of corpse qi.

Once tainted by this corpse qi, one's consciousness would be corroded. If one's strength or will was insufficient, they would be turned into a bloodthirsty demon, killing indiscriminately.

Previously, not knowing about the killing array here, they triggered it, and the corpse qi instantly swallowed up seven or eight cultivators.

These cultivators, who were originally their companions, instantly turned into killing demons. If they hadn't reacted quickly and retreated in time, their losses would have been much worse.

While they were studying how to break the formation and enter, Qing Zi suddenly sensed a familiar aura quickly approaching.

"Hmm?"

Qing Zi abruptly stood up, his eyes shooting out two beams of light, his killing intent instantly surging, and he saw it was Ye Fan.

“I really didn’t expect your life to be so tough, surviving even jumping into the Thunder River. But no matter, this time, you won’t escape!”

With a cold snort, Qing Zi’s figure flashed as he rapidly charged at Ye Fan!

Chapter 1319: Triggering the Killing Array

“I suggest you get the hell back!”

Seeing Qing Zi lunging towards him, Ye Fan shouted fiercely, “Otherwise, I’ll trigger the forbidden array, and we’ll all perish together.”

“What did you say?”

Qing Zi, stunned by Ye Fan’s words, turned livid but actually stopped. If Ye Fan really triggered the forbidden array, no one present would be able to leave alive.

“I said get back, didn’t you hear me?”

Ye Fan showed no fear of Qing Zi's murderous intent, moving directly to the edge of the killing array. As long as Qing Zi dared to make the slightest move, he would trigger the array. After all, he had the virtual space to hide, so he wasn't afraid of the formation.

"This kid is simply too arrogant!"

"Heh, interesting. This kid is destined to become famous, assuming he survives, of course."

Seeing a little cultivator in the True Essence Realm like Ye Fan dare to directly tell Qing Zi to get back, all the cultivators present were shocked.

Despite being shocked, everyone understood that Qing Zi might not dare to act recklessly. Some senior cultivators even started discussing it.

The two Saint Heirs of the Ancient Sacred Land and Tianxuan Holy Land watched Ye Fan and Qing Zi with great interest, waiting to see how things would unfold.

"Young Master Qing, don't be deceived by him. What does he know about killing arrays? It's just empty intimidation!"

A young genius associated with the Qing Family subjectively believed that Ye Fan couldn't discern the killing array, thinking it was just bluffing.

Upon hearing the words of that cultivator, Qing Zi stared at Ye Fan intensely, his eyes flashing with insight, pondering the young genius's words.

Soon, Qing Zi made a judgment, agreeing with the young genius, believing that Ye Fan had no idea what the killing array ahead was, just merely overhearing their group's discussion on how to break the array.

After all, both he and the two Saint Heirs, as well as the senior cultivators, were clueless about the killing array ahead.

And Ye Fan was merely a disciple of a small sect; it was impossible for him to come into contact with such a mysterious array.

"Do you think you can scare me? To take a step back, even if you do trigger the array, you'll be the first to die!"

After making the decision, Qing Zi shouted harshly.

Whoosh!

Upon finishing his words, Qing Zi immediately struck out, using the power of the Holy Embryo. One palm chopped out like a heavenly blade, and his hand instantly transformed into a sharp wing.

Before the palm could reach, the sharp punch ray fiercely slashed toward Ye Fan's head, its power astonishing!

"Qing Zi truly deserves to be the foremost genius in the Southern Domain, besides the two Saint Heirs, having cultivated the power of the Holy Embryo to such an extent; it's simply terrifying!"

"Compared to him, we old folks simply feel ashamed!"

"It's not easy to condense the Golden-Winged Great Roc Sacred Embryo. Qing Zi and his sister Qing Lian are simply demons, one condensed the Phoenix Holy Embryo, and the other the Golden-Winged Great Roc Sacred Embryo."

"That boy Ye Fan is in trouble."

"Let's hope what he said earlier was false; otherwise, if he did trigger the forbidden array, we'd all accompany him in death."

As Qing Zi angrily struck, the cultivators studying the array-breaking technique also stopped, amazed by the astonishing combat power exhibited by Qing Zi and worried that Ye Fan might truly trigger the killing array.

Whoosh!

Amidst the buzz of discussion, Ye Fan moved, his feet shaking phantasmally, narrowly dodging Qing Zi's hand blade, and punched towards the forbidden point of the killing array!

Bang!

With a loud bang, the killing array glowed, unleashing immense power, and a massive surge of corpse qi gushed out from the array.

"Not good!"

Qing Zi's face changed drastically, hastily stopping his attack, and fully circulating Holy Power to resist the invasion of corpse qi.

He knew very well that if the corpse qi invaded his body, it would erode his divine soul, and he might die before even being able to kill Ye Fan.

"This kid actually triggered the killing array!"

"Run!"

"Save me!!"

The corpse qi erupted swiftly, and the nearby cultivators barely had time to evade and had nowhere to hide, only able to immediately circulate Holy Power or use powerful defensive spiritual artifacts to resist the invasion of the corpse qi.

Some cultivators, having some ability, desperately resisted the corpse qi invasion while hurling curses at Ye Fan.

Amidst the cursing, Ye Fan remained unmoved, striving to resist the corpse qi's invasion.

Unlike others, Ye Fan had a Pure Yang Body, with intense yang energy, and his bloodline contained Thunder Power. Both of these forces were nemeses of evil, and the corpse qi couldn't affect him either.

At this moment, Qing Zi was both angry and anxious, his eyes almost spitting fire. Seeing his enemy right before him, yet he was powerless.

The cultivator who previously thought Ye Fan was just bluffing now regretted it deeply.

Although his power wasn't the weakest among these people, it wasn't very strong either. Along the way, if it weren't for Qing Zi looking after him, he wouldn't have made it here at all.

Now, Qing Zi couldn't even take care of himself, and naturally, he couldn't look after him anymore. He could only rely on his own strength to resist the invasion of corpse qi.

“Qing Zi, you’re too impulsive! You’re going to get all of us killed!”

The older generation of cultivators couldn’t help but speak up. They all knew that this couldn’t be blamed on Ye Fan, only Qing Zi for recklessly attacking. If it weren’t for him striking Ye Fan, Ye Fan wouldn’t have triggered the forbidden of the killing array, activating it.

If not, they wouldn’t have to be troubled by the invasion of corpse qi. Everything was caused by Qing Zi’s actions without understanding the situation.

Listening to the curses of the older strong people, Qing Zi wished he could tear Ye Fan apart, but at the moment, he didn’t even have the strength to retort.

Among all these people, he and Ye Fan were the closest to the killing array and were the most severely eroded by the corpse qi. He could only focus all his strength on resisting the corpse qi and could not speak at all.

Meanwhile, he subjectively believed that if even he found it difficult to resist the corpse qi, Ye Fan, who was merely a late-stage True Yuan Realm cultivator, would surely have his divine soul eroded by the corpse qi and turn into a demon only known for slaughtering.

Thinking this, Qing Zi looked in the direction of Ye Fan.

The next moment, his eyes widened!

Because not only was Ye Fan not invaded by the corpse qi, but he seemed much more at ease, with no danger to his life.

“How is this possible?”

Qing Zi was extremely puzzled, but he had no time to think. He poured all his strength into urging his holy power to resist the corpse qi.

Resisting the invasion of corpse qi consumed a significant amount of holy power, and in just a moment, someone could no longer hold on.

“Aargh...”

A heart-wrenching scream erupted from the crowd. The cultivator with the lowest cultivation, with one careless moment, was completely consumed by the corpse qi, his face quickly turning black, eyes vacant, yet his strength surged as he viciously attacked a nearby cultivator.

Boom!

That person hurriedly countered, their punch ray collided with a thunderous sound, temporarily dispelling quite a bit of the corpse qi.

However—

The cultivator who responded, after using holy power, found that their defense decreased significantly and also had corpse qi invade their body.

Immediately after, continuous screams rang out, one cultivator after another was eroded by corpse qi, turning into demons focused only on attack, aggressively assaulting those around them.

Indiscriminate attacks quickly made the scene chaotic, and many cultivators were forced to strike back against their companions whose bodies were invaded by corpse qi.

“This is not good, they’ve already had their divine souls eroded by the corpse qi, tainted and lost their sanity. Quickly kill them, or none of us will escape, we’ll all die here!”

At this moment, the Saint Heir of the Ancient Sacred Land saw through the situation and decisively took action, slapping a corpse-qi-invaded cultivator into pulp.

Meanwhile, the Saint Heir from Tianxuan Holy Land and other old strong people also struck out, killing those cultivators whose divine souls were eroded by corpse qi.

By now, the corpse qi was gradually fading, posing no threat to these powerful cultivators with strong minds.

However, those cultivators whose divine souls had been eroded by corpse qi became their enemies.

Moments ago, they were comrades fighting side by side, suddenly becoming foes locked in life-and-death struggle, this change was just too fast.

But these cultivators were not ordinary people, used to seeing situations where friends turn to foes at a moment's notice, and they showed no mercy.

Yet those cultivators whose divine souls were eroded by corpse qi had entirely lost pain sensation, and every attack maximized their potential, their strength surged, becoming as difficult as the Corpse Soldiers to handle.

Everyone exerted considerable effort to kill all those whose divine souls were eroded by corpse qi, with several people even sustaining injuries from this battle.

All through their journey, they encountered numerous dangers and challenges, yet they overcame them.

Who could have expected, that here they would suddenly lose so many people, nearly driving them mad with anger, each person glaring at Ye Fan furiously.

Facing the angry glares, Ye Fan showed not the slightest fear, his expression as calm as water—behind him was the killing array, and should anyone dare move recklessly, he wouldn't mind activating it again!

Chapter 1320: Star Chess Array

“Kid, we need an explanation!”

An elder cultivator glared at Ye Fan, coldly saying.

“You should demand an explanation from him!”

Facing the elder cultivator’s questioning, Ye Fan looked indifferently at Qing Zi and said, “I warned him, if he dared act recklessly, he’d trigger the forbidden Killing Array. We all might perish together, but he insisted on taking action. If you want to blame someone, blame him. It has nothing to do with me.”

“You...”

With Ye Fan’s words ringing in his ears, looking at Ye Fan’s unyielding expression, Qing Zi was so furious that smoke almost puffed out of his nostrils, but felt extremely stifled, unable to speak a word.

Earlier, he didn’t believe at all that Ye Fan understood the Killing Array, thinking that Ye Fan was merely bluffing, but unexpectedly, Ye Fan truly knew the array and struck precisely at its forbidden point, triggering the Killing Array, leading to the subsequent series of events.

Swish!

In the next moment, nearly everyone turned their gaze to Qing Zi. Though no one spoke to question him, there was a hint of grievance in their hearts.

“You...you seek death!”

Qing Zi was extremely stifled, his eyes turning blood red, hair standing on end, murderous intent soaring to Nine Heavens, stepping towards Ye Fan.

“It seems you still haven’t learned your lesson. Hmm, I don’t mind repeating the earlier scenario.” Ye Fan looked fearlessly, his cold gaze fixed on the approaching Qing Zi.

“Brother Qing, don’t be impulsive!”

“Brother Qing, lacking patience can ruin great plans, calm down!”

“That’s right, Young Master Qing, keep the bigger picture in mind, don’t let impulsiveness spoil something significant.”

“Qing Zi, with your strength, you can kill him anytime, why rush? It’s not too late to kill him after breaking the array!”

The Saint Heirs from the two great sacred places and other cultivators advised Qing Zi not to let hatred blind him and reminded him that he could still seek revenge on Ye Fan after breaking the Killing Array.

If he stubbornly presses forward now, not only might he fail to get revenge, but he could drag everyone to the brink of death.

“You’re lucky, kid. If not for the fear of triggering the array, I would kill you like slaughtering a dog!”

After being reminded by the crowd, Qing Zi had to suppress his murderous intent, retreating with a semblance of concern, implying it wasn’t out of fear of Ye Fan but worry that activating the array would doom them all.

But before containing his anger, Qing Zi couldn’t resist issuing a threat, planning to completely annihilate Ye Fan the moment the array is broken!

“Humph! In a battle of the same realm, I would slaughter you like slaughtering a chicken.”

Ye Fan snorted coldly, responding forcefully, tit-for-tat, refusing to yield an inch.

In terms of momentum, Ye Fan was in no way inferior to Qing Zi and wasn’t intimidated by Qing Zi’s higher realm at all.

His words astonished everyone!

Ye Fan's forceful stance left everyone shocked. No one expected him to remain so assertive in the face of Qing Zi's retreat.

Many believed that since Ye Fan could cross realms to slay geniuses including Lou Manyue, his strength must be extraordinary. In an equal realm battle, Qing Zi might not be his match.

"Is a great epoch rising? How can there be so many unprecedented geniuses?"

Some elder strong people sighed, noting that the Qing Family and Lou Family siblings were already geniuses, yet now Ye Fan emerged, despite his realm being vastly different from Qing Zi's, he was invincible in his own realm, possibly rivaling heirs from the sacred places and Di Clan even under equal conditions.

"What did you say? Dare you say it again?"

Qing Zi's face changed, staring at Ye Fan like a venomous snake, murderous intent swirling once more.

"Repeat it a hundred times and I'll say the same, you're just higher in realm than me, in the same realm, I'll slay you like a chicken!"

Ye Fan responded strongly again, knowing clearly that before the array is broken, even if Qing Zi wanted to act, the two Saint Heirs and other elder cultivators wouldn't allow it.

“Fine, fine, fine, let’s see how long you can keep being arrogant. The moment the array is broken will be your death!”

Qing Zi was almost driven to madness, no one ever dared speak to him like this, Ye Fan was the first!

“Brother Ye, please don’t be impulsive. Truly activating the array benefits no one. We came seeking fortune, not death, please reconsider!”

The Saint Heir from the Ancient Sacred Land transmitted a message to Ye Fan, stating that Ye Fan was now akin to a tiger’s tail, untouchable!

Meanwhile, the Saint Heir from Tianxuan Holy Land also sent a warning to Qing Zi not to act recklessly, or else if Ye Fan were provoked, he could do anything.

After placating both of them, an elder cultivator proposed: “Currently, the biggest issue outside is the Killing Array blocking the entrance to the second level of the underground palace. We can’t enter the second level, so I suggest everyone abandon hatred and prejudice, and discuss together how to break the array; that’s the primary goal.”

“Elder An’s words are very true! Only by breaking the array can we enter the second level of the underground palace, otherwise it’ll all be for nothing, and we’ll gain nothing.”

“Exactly, we must unite sincerely to possibly break the array; we can’t allow internal strife anymore or we’d be depleting our own strength.”

The elder cultivator's proposal received unanimous agreement from everyone, even Qing Zi, who knew, if the array remained unbroken, he couldn't do anything to Ye Fan.

Therefore, only by breaking the Killing Array first could he possibly have a chance to kill Ye Fan!

"If you agree to help me kill Qing Zi, I can lead you to break the Killing Array!"

Just as everyone was preparing to discuss, Ye Fan suddenly spoke up, dropping a bombshell to the two Saint Heirs of the two great sacred places.

"Wha... what?"

"Did I hear wrong?"

"He can break the array? What a joke!"

One stone stirred up a thousand waves!

Although Ye Fan's words were not loud, they were like dropping a few drops of ice water into a sizzling oil pot, causing everyone present to explode in commotion.

Everyone looked at him as if he was a monster, no one expected he would say such a thing, wasn't this obviously making things difficult for Qing Zi?

Qing Zi was so furious that he almost fainted!

"Kid, be clear, I'm not sparing you now because I'm afraid of you, but because I don't want to drag everyone into this, but I see there's no need anymore, I'll kill you now!"

Qing Zi completely lost it, seeing Ye Fan leverage array-breaking as a condition to make the two Saint Heirs act against him, he immediately decided to eliminate Ye Fan first, to prevent him from causing more trouble.

"Humph!"

Facing the enraged Qing Zi, Ye Fan was not afraid at all, directly stepping forward, raising his fist, and aiming it at a spot within the Killing Array from afar!

"No... don't!"

Everyone was frightened by Ye Fan's action; at this point, they realized that Ye Fan indeed wasn't bluffing. Whether he could break the array was still uncertain, but activating the array seemed well within his capability.

At this moment, Ye Fan was undoubtedly that typical fearless individual, willing to risk everything, daring to pull the emperor down from his stature, and no one could do anything to him.

Qing Zi's face changed dramatically; after much hesitation, he finally had to swallow his anger, not daring to act rashly.

Lessons from the past were still vivid in his memory, if it happened again, even the two Saint Heirs would not allow him to make a move.

"Humph, just a mere ant in the True Essence Realm, what does he know about Killing Arrays? Is he just talking nonsense?"

At this moment, a cultivator stepped forward, glanced at everyone, and then focused his gaze on Ye Fan.

He was also a genius from a clan that had a good relationship with the Qing Family, his strength was already at the late-stage Holy Embryo Realm, definitely a top-tier talent among the younger generation of the Southern Domain.

He locked his gaze on Ye Fan, sneered a few times, and then continued to say, "All the seniors and martial brothers here are the elites from various great powers, knowledgeable and experienced, even they can't decipher this Killing Array, he's just a disciple from a small sect in Tianyuan State, how could he possibly know how to break this Killing Array?"

His words immediately garnered the agreement of the crowd; it was only then that people realized Ye Fan was merely a disciple from the Xuanwu Sect in Tianyuan State,

The Xuanwu Sect itself was just a small sect, although considered a major sect within Tianyuan State, it was merely a small sect in the entire Southern Domain at large.

Both the Qing Family of Qing Province and the two great sacred places were much stronger than the Xuanwu Sect, since even they were clueless about the Killing Array, how could Ye Fan know how to break it?

At this point, even the two Saint Heirs thought Ye Fan just wanted to use them to deal with Qing Zi, but could not actually break the array.

“Heh heh...”

Ye Fan let out a cold laugh, glanced at the chattering crowd, and slowly said, “This array is called the Star Chess Array, with patterns constantly flashing on the ground, changing at every moment, driven by the Earth Vein Dragon Qi. Once the Killing Array is activated, a massive amount of Corpse Qi will gush out...”

“The reason why there’s a Mist Sea outside the underground palace is actually because of the overflowing Corpse Qi from the Killing Array, creating a mist. However, once the Corpse Qi overflows, its toxicity weakens, serving only to obstruct the cultivators’ vision.”

“However, if cultivators linger in the Mist Sea for too long without finding a way out, they will eventually be infiltrated by the Corpse Qi, ultimately dying or becoming Blood Food for the Xuan Beasts...”

At first, there were still people dismissing Ye Fan's words, but as he spoke more thoroughly, those originally disdainful gazes gradually turned into shock and then admiration!

They didn't even know the name of this Killing Array, yet Ye Fan was able to explain it in such detail, even clarifying how the Mist Sea was formed; it was hard not to believe him.

"You've said so much, how do we know whether you can actually break the array? Please explain the Array Breaking Technique, let us see if it is indeed feasible!"

At this time, an experienced and prudent cultivator asked Ye Fan to explain the Array Breaking Technique for everyone to consider.

"The Star Chess Killing Array is arranged according to the Heavenly Gang Number, divided into thirty-six steps, each step with its own Xuanji. It's not something that can be comprehended just by explaining it, and the Killing Array continuously changes, what I say now may not even be applicable."

Ye Fan didn't believe these people would be so kind, ensuring leniency once he revealed the Array Breaking Technique, and he was also right, since the Killing Array changed continuously, breaking it required meticulous calculation, not something achievable just by talking.

In an instant, the entire scene fell silent, including Qing Zi, everyone had stunned expressions!

Because...

No one expected that Ye Fan truly understood the Killing Array ahead!