

Y Master 1411

Chapter 1411 - The Qing Family Ancestor Arrives!

For some reason, after leaving the Qing Family Ancestral Land, the Qing Family Ancestor vaguely felt that the deaths of Qing Yu and others were somehow related to Ye Fan.

"Impossible, absolutely impossible!"

The Qing Family Ancestor shook his head, denying his own feeling.

In his view, Ye Fan absolutely doesn't have the strength to kill Qing Yu who is in the Lord Realm. If it really was him, that would be simply defying heaven!

The Qing Family Ancestor pierced through clouds, moving at extreme speed as if traveling through the void, heading towards the place where Ye Fan was located from the Qing Family Ancestral Land.

Night gradually fell, but for those cultivators hiding their true faces from afar, there wasn't much difference between night and day; they could just as easily see the scenes within the Killing Array.

Under the erosion of Curse Power, Qing Yu was the first to fail to hold on; his cultivation wasn't as strong as Lou Canghai's, and his life force wasn't as robust.

After withstanding for three hours, Qing Yu was exhausted, crying out as his entire body emitted a fierce light, with his Divine Soul transforming into a long sword, striking fiercely at Ye Fan!

Even if he were to die, he wanted to drag Ye Fan down to be buried alongside him!

Swoosh!

Ye Fan hurriedly dodged but was still cut by the long sword on the shoulder, leaving a bloody gash.

"Die!"

Ye Fan snorted coldly, stomped his foot. A gigantic dragon suddenly rose from the ground, opening its mouth to swallow the long sword formed by Qing Yu's Divine Soul, refining it on the spot.

A generation of hero from the Qing Family, who had a future promising enough to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Saints of All Holy Lands, fell in the Killing Array, completely reduced to ashes!

This scene made the onlookers' hearts pound with fear!

Qing Yu was the Clan Leader of the Qing Family, with a unique status, and was also the father of the siblings Qing Zi and Qing Lian, the father-in-law of the strongest heir of Emperor Clan Ling Family, yet Ye Fan slaughtered him without batting an eye.

This incident is bound to cause a huge uproar, might even lead the strongest heir of Emperor Clan Ling Family to emerge early.

Meanwhile, Lou Canghai also knew that with his own power, it's absolutely impossible to break through the Killing Array and escape. All he could do was try to prolong his life as much as possible, waiting for the Qing Family Ancestor to rescue him.

From the moment Qing Yu died, he knew Qing Family Ancestor would come at the fastest speed; he only needed to hold on until the Qing Family Ancestor arrived to have a chance to survive.

Although Lou Canghai was already close to running out of oils, Ye Fan still did not dare to go near; he only controlled the endless Slaughter Light within the Killing Array to slash towards him, preparing to exhaust him to death!

Qing Yu's Killing Sword formed by his Divine Soul nearly took his life, he remembered the lesson clearly, and definitely would not take another chance!

The night was as cool as water, the sky full of dark clouds dispersed, the bright moonlight sprinkled across the universe as the Bai Yan Wolf ran to a mountain peak, howling towards the Bright Moon.

This is the nature of the Wolf Clan; when the moon is full, it's the time for them to unleash their wild nature, and also the time for them to cultivate, a stream of moonlight like water was attracted, directly swallowed into its belly.

The onlookers still weren't willing to leave, but the news of Qing Yu's death had already passed through secret channels, destined to cause a huge uproar throughout the cultivation world.

The wind rose, in this desolate place, it seemed like countless wronged souls were howling, the bloody odor pierced the nose, the intense Death Aura pervaded the air, as if the Nine Netherworld had set up camp here.

This was a chillingly horrific scene, an endless mix of blood and bones, pale bone shards and flesh mixed together, of those who witnessed it firsthand, none could help but be terrified—this was simply a living purgatory!

Lou Canghai was already a spent arrow, merely supporting himself strenuously, insufficient to pose any threat to Ye Fan, the Curse Power had almost devoured his Life Essence Energy, he was just struggling to hold on, unwilling to breathe his last.

"Everyone, you've seen today's events. Who's right and who's wrong, I believe everyone has their own judgment; I won't say more. If anyone wants to stand up for them, I, Ye Fan, will take it on, please witness for me, it's not that I, Ye Fan, am ruthless, but because I'm forced to!"

Ye Fan knew these people could definitely hear his voice; he said it, then once again activated the Killing Array to strike Lou Canghai, as strands of Earth Vein Dragon Qi formed a giant green dragon, clawing fiercely toward Lou Canghai.

Pummeling sounds...

Each large dragon transformed into murderous aura upon crashing against Lou Canghai's domain, unable to attack his body, only able to consume his Divine Power.

A strong person in the Lord realm is indeed formidable; even in this state, he still possesses such momentum, even the dragon-shaped murderous aura in the Killing Array can't do anything to him.

In truth, Lou Canghai felt bitter inside, his Divine Power although vast, will inevitably be exhausted at some point, the power of domain is strong, but the consumption of Divine Power is even greater. Now Lou Canghai can only keep the domain's power forming a layer of protection around him, impossible to kill the enemy anymore.

And each time Ye Fan manipulated the dragon breath and Slaughter Light in the Killing Array to attack, it massively consumed his priceless Divine Power, how could it not stir his anger?

However—

Lou Canghai knew very well, he must not take the initiative to attack, because it's pointless, it will only speed up his demise.

Lou Family doesn't have many strong people left, if he dies too, then Lou Family will truly be erased from the cultivation world, it's not the outcome he wants to see!

Swish!

The Qing Family Ancestor moved several miles in a step, like traversing through space, flashed and disappeared in the sky, fully powered to rush toward the direction where Qing Yu fell in the Killing Array!

Within tens of thousands of miles, the Qing Family Ancestor quickly came over, seeing from afar Ye Fan directing the Killing Array attacking Lou Canghai.

At this time, Lou Canghai was covered in blood, aging terribly.

The Qing Family Ancestor almost didn't recognize this old friend upon first glance.

If not for the familiar aura emitting from Lou Canghai's body, the Qing Family Ancestor even would have thought this was someone else and passed by!

"How dare you, brat!"

Before the Qing Family Ancestor reached, he slapped over, Primordial Qi from Heaven and Earth condensed into a huge hand covering the sky, fiercely striking towards the Killing Array.

Boom!

The massive palm slapped down on the killing array fiercely, paralyzing it instantly. Not even the supreme sky Killing Array could withstand a strike as powerful as that of a Saint!

"The Qing Family Ancestor has arrived..."

The distant onlookers were suddenly shocked, with many quickly departing to avoid being caught in the crossfire and incurring the Qing Family Ancestor's wrath.

After all, someone so important in the Qing Family had perished, and they stood by without offering any help.

However, some people remained, wanting to see the final outcome. These were individuals from the Wu Shang Sect or the Holy Lands, who were not afraid of the Qing Family Ancestor at all.

"Be careful, Senior Dao Yuan, this kid has powerful cursed soil on him, do not let it touch you!"

Seeing the Qing Family Ancestor's arrival, Lou Canghai's spirit was stirred, and he desperately unleashed his strongest combat power, preparing to break free from the cursed soil's encirclement.

"Thinking of leaving? Even if the killing array is broken, you won't get away!"

The Bai Yan wolf quickly filled several critical array eyes with Spirit Stones, then slammed its massive paw down.

"Argh..."

Sounds of dragon roars echoed, and a hundred-zhang-long giant dragon was summoned from the ground by the killing array, resembling a true Divine Dragon. It used its Divine Dragon Tail move and with a loud bang, shattered Lou Canghai's body to pieces!

"Ah..."

Lou Canghai let out a miserable scream, his Divine Soul instantly detaching from his body, transforming into a misty white light speeding away!

"Without my permission, no one can save you!"

The Bai Yan wolf howled, and the hundred-zhang Divine Dragon opened its mouth, spewing out a scorching flame—Earth Spirit True Fire, the bane of Divine Souls.

"No...!"

Lou Canghai's Divine Soul let out an agonized cry before being utterly incinerated into nothingness; an elder of the previous generation ultimately perished in the killing array.

"Brat..."

The Qing Family Ancestor failed to arrive in time to save him, watching helplessly as Lou Canghai met his fate, immediately seething with rage as he reached out towards the Bai Yan wolf.

He intended to crush the Bai Yan wolf to avenge Lou Canghai!

How cunning was the Bai Yan wolf?

When danger struck, it directed the hundred-zhang Divine Dragon to meet the Qing Family Ancestor's giant hand while it swiftly fled.

Boom!

The hundred-zhang Divine Dragon was seized by the Qing Family Ancestor, crushed into pieces with a mournful dragon howl, dissipating into lethal energy in the air.

This was a dormant Dragon Vein beneath the earth, awakened by the Bai Yan wolf through the killing array, but still no match for the Qing Family Ancestor.

The Qing Family Ancestor, with strength comparable to a Saint, wielded terrifying cultivation. His massive hand radiated a cyan light, unstoppable by all magic, smashing through everything in the killing array while also gathering up Qing Yu's scattered flesh!

"I never thought Yu'er would fall at the hands of such an ant like you. Now, all of you will accompany him in death!" The Qing Family Ancestor's face was grim as he scanned the crowd, his voice cold.

"Hmph! Arrogant!"

In the crowd, someone snorted disdainfully, not believing the Qing Family Ancestor would dare defy the entire world.

They were all strong people from the Wu Shang Sect and Holy Lands; while their cultivation might not match the Qing Family Ancestor Qing Daoyuan, their backgrounds were in no way inferior, perhaps even superior.

Moreover, they were not enveloped by the killing array, so Qing Daoyuan could not easily kill them!

Since they dared to stay, they all had means to protect themselves; otherwise, they would have left with the earlier crowd!

"Boy, surrender your life to me!"

The Qing Family Ancestor Qing Daoyuan ignored the other spectators, waving his massive hand directly at Ye Fan!

The cyan giant hand covered ten directions, leaving Ye Fan nowhere to escape, sealing this space completely!

Desperate!

Ye Fan's eyes flashed with a crazy gleam as he prepared to summon the Emperor Weapon for a fierce struggle.

At this moment, he was cornered with no way out. Even if it meant exposing the Emperor Weapon, he didn't care!

This was a choice without an option, between revealing the Emperor Weapon and death; nobody would choose death. Without deploying the Emperor Weapon, Ye Fan had no chance at all.

Not only him, but even the Bai Yan wolf would suffer misfortune; Qing Daoyuan would not let anyone involved in Qing Yu's death leave alive.

However—

Just as Ye Fan was about to unleash the Emperor Weapon for a desperate fight, a mysterious force suddenly pulled him and the Bai Yan wolf out of Qing Daoyuan's grasp!

"Who dares snatch people from the Ancestor's hands?!"

Qing Daoyuan was startled, then furious, his gaze like lightning, as if it could pierce the Void!

Chapter 1412 The Sloppy Elder

"Hehe, why are you so angry?"

With a calm voice, an ordinary old man appeared slowly from the void, looking extremely unremarkable.

Dressed in a patched robe and wearing straw sandals, with a sloppy appearance, he didn't look at all like someone who could snatch a person from Qing Daoyuan's hands.

"Who is this person? How can he be so powerful?"

"To snatch a person from the hands of the Qing Family Ancestor, who is comparable to a Saint Lord, he must at least be a Saint Lord level powerhouse!"

"He looks quite unfamiliar, he must have concealed his true identity, could he be some Saint Lord?"

"It's said that this Ye Fan is just a disciple of the Xuanwu Sect, he should have nothing to do with the Holy Land, so why would someone comparable to a Saint Lord come to save him?"

After the Sloppy Elder appeared, the cultivators watching from afar were bewildered, with no one knowing who he actually was.

At this moment, those who dared to remain here were all from Wu Shang Sect or clans not inferior to the Qing Family, or people from the Holy Land, but in their memories, they could not find any information about this elder before them, as if he appeared from thin air.

In their memories, which of the strong people comparable to a Saint Lord didn't have an extraordinary demeanor? How could they be so unkempt?

However, they couldn't be absolutely sure either, because the Southern Domain was vast, there were many reclusive strong people whose power wasn't much less than that of a Saint Lord. Perhaps Ye Fan really did have some relation to such a strong individual!

If the two were to fight, it would surely be a spectacular battle; however, would this elder make a move against a strong figure like Qing Daoyuan for the sake of Ye Fan?

The crowd eagerly anticipated the clash between the two, knowing that Qing Daoyuan's true cultivation was also very close to the Venerable Realm, and if they were to clash, it would certainly be an astonishing battle!

"Who are you? Do you dare to meddle in the Qing Family's matters?"

With the Qing Family's hundreds of elites killed and Qing Yu dead, Qing Daoyuan was seething with rage, wanting nothing more than to tear Ye Fan to pieces immediately.

Yet he could see that the Sloppy Elder was not to be trifled with, so he did not act rashly, coldly questioning him.

"Who I am is not important, what's important is, is it appropriate for you, a master at the Half-step Venerable Realm, to attack a Little Cultivator at the Holy Embryo Realm?"

The Sloppy Elder shouted in a low voice, taking a step that was seemingly slow yet fast, crossing mountains and lands in a flash to stand in front of Ye Fan, vaguely shielding him behind.

"Hmph!"

Qing Daoyuan snorted coldly and said, "It's not up to others to decide how I, the Ancestor, handle things. This kid has an irreconcilable hatred with my Qing Family, and today no one can stop me from wanting to kill him, not even you!"

"Oh? Then go ahead and try, and see whether I can or cannot prevent you."

The cloudy eyes of the Sloppy Elder gradually became bright, shining brilliantly, eventually turning as deep as the sea, fixed on Qing Daoyuan.

"Haha, there is no one in the Southern Domain that I'm afraid of!"

Qing Daoyuan shouted loudly, his right hand swinging fiercely, as a cyan hand covered the skies and struck towards Ye Fan with a tremendously imposing momentum.

"Bullying the weak is already against the rules, yet you act so arrogantly; let's see how you plan to kill him in front of me. I'm determined to protect him!"

The Sloppy Elder's whole body erupted with a terrifying aura, as if an ancient God Demon had resurrected. His greasy, dirty hand covered the sky, meeting Qing Daoyuan's cyan hand head-on.

"Boom..."

The collision of hand power produced a thunderous sound, as the violent energy swept around like a hurricane, almost piercing through the void!

"Ah..."

Several cultivators watching from afar were affected by the energy, spitting blood from their seven orifices, screaming as they fell to the ground.

Those with slightly stronger strength felt their ears ringing and their blood churning, retreating hastily.

A strike from a strong person at the Half-step Venerable Realm could destroy heaven and earth, something they couldn't possibly withstand.

Even the chaotic energy flowing around wasn't something they could endure.

From this strike by Qing Daoyuan, it wasn't hard to imagine how powerful the Saint Lords of Holy Lands and Wu Shang Sects were, no wonder they could stand firm for tens of thousands of years as huge Holy Lands and Sects.

"Are you really going to stop me from killing him?"

Defeated in one move, Qing Daoyuan, filled with murderous intent, glared at the Sloppy Elder and asked.

"I am here for the clear purpose of protecting this one, but if you're unwise, I might change my mind."

The Sloppy Elder spoke coldly, as if he were a Heavenly God, formidable and domineering!

At this moment, he was the heaven, he was the earth, there was only him between heaven and earth, even Ye Fan standing beside him felt as if he were standing next to a towering Divine Mountain, an indescribable oppressive force making his blood churn!

If the Sloppy Elder hadn't blocked the chaotic energy flow, Ye Fan would have long been obliterated to the point of not leaving even scraps behind, even his Nine Heavens Profound Body couldn't withstand such an attack!

"The Half-step Supreme is indeed powerful, wiping away the heavens with a wave and splitting the earth with a step, when can I achieve such Cultivation?" Ye Fan mused longingly.

"Kid, don't aim too high. The Thunderclap Treasure Skill you're cultivating is absolutely not inferior to any Divine Skill Manual. With diligent practice, one day you'll surely surpass these people," Bai Yan wolf glanced disdainfully at Ye Fan.

The Thunderclap Treasure Skill was created by Thunder Venerable Master, the one with the greatest hope of proving Dao and becoming Emperor; it wasn't inferior to the Mystical Skill left behind by any Great Emperor.

In Bai Yan wolf's view, the Thunderclap Treasure Skill was even stronger than the Divine Skill Manual created by most Great Emperors since it harnessed the power of the Heavenly Dao.

Thunder Venerable Master regretted all his life for not proving Dao in his prime, but he firmly believed that his Book of Profound Techniques was not inferior in the least. As long as it was handed down, someone would eventually prove Dao using this Divine Skill Manual, fulfilling his unaccomplished wish.

"Alright, alright, in that case, let me see just how profound your Dao is! Let's fight in the sky!"

Qing Daoyuan knew that with the Sloppy Elder's protection, he couldn't do anything to Ye Fan for the time being. However, he wasn't worried about Ye Fan escaping. As long as he defeated the Sloppy Elder in front of him, he'd have plenty of time to slowly deal with Ye Fan.

"As you wish!"

The Sloppy Elder smiled faintly.

A battle between Saint Lord Level powerhouses who weren't life-or-death enemies generally remained restrained without exploding into a full-scale war. Therefore, at their realm, finding a suitable opponent was rare. The Sloppy Elder also wanted to take this opportunity to stretch his muscles!

The sky was the ideal battlefield for a fight at the Saint Lord Level. Otherwise, the surroundings for hundreds of miles would be utterly devastated, with no grass growing for hundreds of years!

Whoosh!

Qing Daoyuan was the first to fly deep into the sky, standing in the void while awaiting the Sloppy Elder's arrival!

"Senior..."

Ye Fan wanted to say something, but was stopped by a look from the Sloppy Elder.

"Don't worry, he won't be able to harm me. Stay here, don't leave. I'll send you home later!" The Sloppy Elder advised Ye Fan and then transformed into a flash of lightning, shooting up into the high sky!

Boom!

A moment later, dull thunderous crashes echoed from the sky, like thunder, as beams of light lit up the night sky!

The glaring light was almost blinding, and Ye Fan, using all his eye power, could only make out two figures flickering back and forth in the night sky.

In just ten breaths, the two had exchanged over a thousand moves. The Sloppy Elder moved effortlessly, showing no signs of strain.

In contrast, Qing Daoyuan roared repeatedly, each strike earth-shattering, yet he couldn't do anything to the Sloppy Elder in the void.

At this moment, the Sloppy Elder's entire body was enveloped in a faint glow, unaffected by ten thousand techniques, as any attack was dissolved by that protective light covering him.

"Qing Daoyuan is not a match for the Sloppy Elder; they aren't even in the same league. The Sloppy Elder is making a fool of him!"

Ye Fan couldn't see the battle clearly in the sky, but the other powerful cultivators could. When they saw the Sloppy Elder easily repelling Qing Daoyuan with a light strike, they knew Qing Daoyuan had lost.

"I've already shown mercy several times, and if you remain obstinate, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

After battling Qing Daoyuan for thousands of rounds, the Sloppy Elder gave a low shout, raised his right hand, and divine power condensed into an enormous palm, striking toward Qing Daoyuan!

"Bring it on! Do you think I'm afraid of you?"

Qing Daoyuan roared, directly burning divine power, his combat power skyrocketing, and an aura of terror emanated from him!

Whoosh!

Waving his hand to meet the challenge, Qing Daoyuan unleashed his strongest attack, nearly collapsing the heavens, ripping open horrific rifts in the void.

"In the cultivation world, there's an unwritten rule: the grievances of the younger generation shouldn't involve the older generation. Have you forgotten that? You intend to commit such an extermination act, but how can I let you succeed!"

The Sloppy Elder's voice thundered through the heavens, righteously, allowing those watching from afar to hear clearly.

These onlookers, the group of cultivators, nodded in agreement. The Sloppy Elder was absolutely right. The Qing and Lou families were wrong in the first place; they weren't in the right. If they had let Qing Zi and Ye Fan compete, there'd be no objection, and no one would intervene.

But the Qing and Lou families not only sent many young strong people to hunt Ye Fan but also dispatched many older generation strong people. Even figures like Qing Yu and Lou Canghai took action personally, which was a violation of the rules!

"Ah..."

Qing Daoyuan's palm clashed with the Sloppy Elder's gigantic hand, instantly producing an earth-shattering scream, shattering his right hand to pieces, bones and meridians completely shattered.

"Scram!"

The Sloppy Elder swung backhanded, sending Qing Daoyuan flying several hundred miles away.

"Venerable Level?!"

Qing Daoyuan, barely steadying himself, was utterly shocked, deeply gazing at the elder, and then fled without looking back!

Qing Daoyuan arrived in a fit of rage, swearing to kill Ye Fan, but ended up in such a situation, slapped away like a stray dog!

"Let today's events serve as a testimony for everyone, and if there's nothing else, you all should return!"

The Sloppy Elder watched Qing Daoyuan disappear into the horizon before turning back to address the distant onlookers.

"Certainly, certainly, we will definitely relay tonight's events truthfully to others."

The onlookers from afar knew that the Sloppy Elder had effectively issued an order to leave, and they clasped their fists and departed.

In the next moment.

Under the starry sky, only Ye Fan and Bai Yan wolf remained!

Chapter 1413 Four Kings and One Sovereign

The campfire blazed brightly, with a three-hundred-pound Xuan Beast cut into small pieces, grilling over the flames.

The flames playfully licked the golden meat chunks, releasing a stream of fat that sizzled as it dripped into the fire.

Under Ye Fan's exquisite craftsmanship, the Xuan Beast meat was grilled to a crispy outside and tender inside, glistening golden and smelling heavenly, making one's mouth water just at the sight of it.

"It's done, it's done, hurry and give me a piece!"

The Bai Yan wolf was always impatient, not waiting for the meat to be fully cooked, it extended a large paw, attempting to snatch a piece to feast on.

"Paws off, mind the hygiene!"

Ye Fan slapped the Bai Yan wolf's big paw aside, simultaneously grilling the meat and chatting with the Sloppy Elder sitting next to him.

"What's this 'hygiene' nonsense? Does it mean dirty?"

The Bai Yan wolf was quite dissatisfied, casting a sidelong glance at the Sloppy Elder, secretly thinking to itself, "This old man is 'cleaner' than me, why don't you say anything to him?"

Indeed, the Sloppy Elder's hands were greasy, and his clothes were slick with oil, making the Bai Yan wolf seem much cleaner by comparison!

The Sloppy Elder smiled slightly, retrieving a fifty-pound piece of meat through the air, tossing it to the Bai Yan wolf, effectively shutting its mouth.

"Ow..."

The Bai Yan wolf leaped as high as its waist, catching the meat thrown by the elder, and found a clean spot to feast upon, eating with loud smacking sounds and saliva flying everywhere!

Ye Fan removed the grilled meat and took out a clean stone platform from his Space Spiritual Artifact, placing the meat on top. He also took out a jar of fine wine he'd stolen from the Qing Family's kitchen cellar, opening the clay seal.

In an instant, the fragrance of the wine spread far and wide, luring the Bai Yan wolf closer.

Ye Fan knew this creature was also fond of wine. Back in the Qing Family's Mausoleum, it used to steal their wine to drink quite often. So, he simply gave it a jar to enjoy slowly.

The golden grilled Xuan Beast meat, paired with aged fine wine, provided Ye Fan and the Sloppy Elder a truly satisfying feast.

The only thing that puzzled Ye Fan was that no matter how much he inquired, the elder refused to reveal his identity or name. Till this day, Ye Fan did not know what to call him other than "old man."

"Ye Fan, you don't need to ask my name or identity. The future is long, we will meet again someday, and by then you will naturally know who I am."

The Sloppy Elder devoured ten pounds of roasted meat and drank a jar of fine wine without his stomach showing any sign of fullness.

After wiping his mouth, the Sloppy Elder continued, "The Southern Domain Genius Tournament is about to begin. You should stop wandering outside and go back to prepare. Whether the Xuanwu Sect can shine brightly depends on you!"

"Elder, what exactly is this Southern Domain Genius Tournament all about? Could you tell me more?"

Even though the tournament was approaching, Ye Fan knew little about it. Seeing that the elder surely knew more, he humbly sought guidance.

"Haha!"

The Sloppy Elder chuckled softly, grabbed the wine jar, and drank heartily before saying, "The so-called Southern Domain Genius Tournament is actually a talent selection competition organized by the two academies..."

As the elder explained, Ye Fan gradually gained a systematic understanding of the tournament.

The Tianxuan Continent consists of five great domains, each having a similar tournament to select the strongest individuals from each domain to enter the Immortal or Imperial Academy!

The Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy are the two high-level academies standing in this world, their status surpassing Holy Lands and Di Clans.

These two academies remain detached from worldly affairs, not participating in any conflicts, yet no power dares to underestimate them.

The Immortal Academy teaches Immortal Martial Arts, and the Imperial Academy imparts the Heavenly Technique Treasure Book—each excels in their own right. Each academy has produced numerous powerful figures who have stirred endless waves across the Tianxuan Continent.

Because of the academies' exalted status and their detached attitude, they are seen as the hidden leaders of the Xuan Realm, and even the Di Clans do not dare to underestimate them.

After the genius tournaments in each of the Tianxuan Continent's five domains, some geniuses are inevitably selected to pursue deep study in these academies.

It is said that all young cultivators take pride in entering these two academies. Even the descendants of Di Clans and Holy Lands will look for ways to enroll there!

Under such circumstances, the genius tournaments in each domain are extremely intense. To win a place and opportunity in these academies, every participant gives their utmost effort.

The Southern Domain is no exception!

Most importantly, the tournament also determines the titles of Four Kings and One Sovereign, the five geniuses most qualified to embark on the road to becoming Great Emperors.

For this honor, participating members fight tooth and nail.

The term Four Kings and One Sovereign refers to the top five in the genius tournament; the first place is titled Emperor, a title that represents that individual's strength surpasses the other four.

The other four are given various kingly titles, hence the term Four Kings and One Sovereign!

"I also want to join, not seeking to be the Emperor, but aiming to be one of the Four Kings. How about the title 'White Wolf King,' doesn't it sound domineering?"

Upon hearing this, the Bai Yan wolf, with drunken eyes, staggered over, clamoring to join the Southern Domain Genius Tournament and become one of the Four Kings, leaving Ye Fan and the Sloppy Elder stunned!

Unfortunately, before Ye Fan and the Sloppy Elder could respond, the Bai Yan wolf was already so drunk that it was unconscious, and with a thud, it fell to the ground, snoring away!

"This Little Wolf is also a freak!"

The Sloppy Elder made his own evaluation of the Bai Yan wolf.

Ye Fan found it very apt. The Bai Yan wolf was indeed eccentric, and extremely so. How many normal Xuan Beasts were like it?

"Ye Fan, I hope you can make a stunning impact in the Southern Domain's genius competition. This way, you might catch the attention of the two major academies and gain the qualifications to enter them. Once you join any academy, you will have a powerful backing, and no one or clan will dare to bully you, preventing situations like today."

The Sloppy Elder glanced at Ye Fan, reminding him intentionally or unintentionally.

"I will!"

Ye Fan responded calmly, but in his heart, he vowed that no matter the cost, he would enter the two academies and not let the Sect bear any more pressure.

However, what troubled him was that the Southern Domain's genius competition encompassed the entire Southern Domain, and who knows how many powerful opponents would emerge?

Most importantly, Qing Zi, the Ancient Saint, and the Tianxuan Saint would definitely participate to compete for the Emperor title among the four kings and one sovereign.

Though it was merely nominal, for Qing Zi and the two great Saints at their realm, material benefits were no longer important; they cared about the title!

Be it the Heavenly Technique Treasure Book or secret techniques, the two Saints and Qing Zi seemed to lack none; they were vying for the Emperor title within the Southern Domain.

It should be noted, this title signifies dominance among the younger generation in the Southern Domain, allowing one to tread further on the Emperor Road and even hold hope for Proving Dao.

This is an incomparable allure, and it is believed that neither Qing Zi nor the Ancient Saint or the Tianxuan Saint would hold back. This battle will be Ye Fan's most arduous clash.

The bonfire gradually extinguished, the Sloppy Elder lay in the grass sleeping soundly, his snores thunderous.

The heavy dews of late autumn couldn't disturb his sleep even under such conditions; truly, he was at ease with the situation, unfettered by trivialities.

Ye Fan sat on the ground cross-legged, continuously practicing Breathing, circulating his Mystical Skill. A Spiritual Energy Storm seemed to gather around him as he domineeringly drew surrounding spiritual energy into his body through every pore, replenishing the Holy Power consumed from the fierce battle.

Following this battle, Ye Fan was surprised to discover more foundational acupoints solidifying as shadows within him. Though the strength gain wasn't apparent, there was nevertheless progress.

The next morning, the supreme sky Killing Array vanished, with all its materials consumed, leaving no trace behind.

Ye Fan set a Fire, burning the Blood Mud and broken bones to ashes. The scent of char filled the air as the flesh and bones crackled in the flames, eventually turning to ash and blowing away in the wind until nothing remained.

The Sloppy Elder did not leave, having witnessed all of Ye Fan's actions, and then moved his hands to carve a Transmission Array Platform in the void, using unparalleled Great Magical Power to stabilize it, preventing it from disappearing.

After finishing all this, the Sloppy Elder said, "Get on, I'll send you home!"

"This is a short-distance Transmission Array Rune!"

As a master of Array Patterns, the Bai Yan wolf could tell at a glance the extent of the array's reach and followed Ye Fan onto the platform.

Whoosh!

With a flash of light, Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf disappeared in an instant, traversing the void.

...

At the same time, the news that Ye Fan had used the Killing Array to eradicate Lou Canghai and Qing Yu, both Lord Realm powerhouses, quickly spread throughout the entire Southern Domain, causing a massive uproar!

This time, the Qing Family and the Lou Family suffered enormously, and no one knew how many young strong people lost their lives in this battle, as bodies fell one after another.

The most unbelievable part was that the Ancestor of the Lou Family, Lou Canghai, and Qing Zi's father, Qing Yu, both fell in this battle. They were Lord Realm powerhouses, on the verge of becoming Supreme Strongmen comparable to the Holy Land Masters of various holy sites, yet they perished within the Killing Array.

"What? Even Lou Canghai of the Lord Realm died? That's impossible! I remember that Ye Fan was only in the early-stage of the Divine realm. Even if he advanced to the mid-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm after raiding the Qing Family's Spirit Stone Shop, he couldn't possibly kill Lord Realm powerhouses, right? What powerful means does he possess?"

"Is it true? Qing Yu was a Lord Realm powerhouse with profound strength; how could he have fallen?!"

"Of course it's true. I witnessed it with my own eyes yesterday. It was like a demonic feast, a one-sided slaughter. Within the Killing Array, Ye Fan was like a bloodthirsty Asura, with each strike claiming a life..."

"Divine Power Realm strong people in the Killing Array were as fragile as scarecrows and were harvested like wild grass, life after life, indescribably tragic!"

"What terrifying methods, eradicating all enemies in one battle. This boy is truly fearsome!"

This battle.

The Southern Domain was shaken, and tales were told across the other four domains.

Ye Fan made a legendary name for himself!

Chapter 1414 Sect Pride

Shua!

A flash of light appeared before their eyes, and Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf materialized outside the gate of the Xuanwu Sect, startling the two disciples guarding the gate.

With their cultivation, they were not qualified to traverse the void, and had never seen someone who had crossed the void appear before their eyes. And now, all of a sudden, there was a person and a snow-white wolf outside the gate. How could they not be shocked?

"Awoo... The King has arrived, quickly get your Sect Leader to come out and greet me. Just tell him that the King has taken a liking to this place and wants to establish a sect here, so he should make some room for me!"

The Bai Yan wolf howled, shaking its big head as it approached the two gate-keeping disciples of the Xuanwu Sect, grinning mischievously as it spoke.

"Oh my goodness..."

"Wolf demon..."

The two disciples guarding the gate were only at the Peak of the True Qi Realm, not yet at the True Essence Realm, and were immediately frightened by the Bai Yan wolf's words. They screamed and ran towards the gate.

"Old Bai, stop fooling around!"

Ye Fan, both amused and helpless, slapped the Bai Yan wolf's big head, caught up, and said, "You two... Junior Brothers, don't be afraid. This wolf has a habit of speaking without thinking, just ignore it!"

"Are you Senior Brother Ye Fan?"

The two disciples of the Xuanwu Sect, having recovered from their initial shock, glanced at the Bai Yan wolf, thinking it indeed resembled the legendary wolf that followed Senior Brother Ye Fan, finally calming down.

"It's me..."

Ye Fan nodded with a smile.

"Senior Brother Ye Fan has returned..."

Before Ye Fan could finish his words, one of them shouted and ran inside the sect, calling out loudly, filled with excitement and joy in their voice.

"Senior Brother Ye, please follow me. The Sect Leader and the elders will probably come to greet you soon!"

The remaining gatekeeping disciple respectfully led the way ahead, guiding Ye Fan towards the main hall.

"I say, kid, your sect is quite pathetic, isn't it? The guards at the gate are mere trash at the True Qi Realm, it's too ridiculous!" The Bai Yan wolf critiqued the disciple without any politeness as it walked.

However, the disciple could only pretend not to hear — his cultivation was indeed lacking. It was said that the Bai Yan wolf could fight Ye Fan to a draw. If he showed any dissatisfaction, it wouldn't be surprising if the wolf tore him apart as a snack.

"The sect's strength may be lacking, but the environment here is quite nice, like a land of fortune."

Seeing that the disciple didn't dare to argue, the Bai Yan wolf was quite satisfied, and continued to appreciate and comment on the scenery on both sides.

"Has Xiao Fan returned? Where is he?"

With a booming voice, Great Elder Wu Xinhai's tall figure instantly flew over from the Xuanwu Summit.

"Senior Brother Ye has returned, that's wonderful!"

The disciples of both the Inner and Outer Sect of the Xuanwu Sect, upon receiving the news, gathered around in droves, including the Core Disciples. All came, save for a few who were in closed-door cultivation.

The entire Xuanwu Sect was stirred, all because of Ye Fan. Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, along with Supreme Elder Fatty Shen and Wang Qingshan, also came out to greet him.

In the entire history of the Xuanwu Sect, such a welcome was unprecedented, especially for a disciple to receive such unanimous respect and welcome from the entire sect. Ye Fan was the first!

"This kid, he sure makes a grand entrance..."

Seeing such a spectacle, the Bai Yan wolf muttered to itself.

The experiences Ye Fan had over the past half year were known throughout the Xuanwu Sect via the Treasure Pavilion, and they felt deeply proud of Ye Fan!

Especially the Outer and Inner Sect disciples, their eyes were filled only with the light of admiration as Ye Fan had progressed step by step from their level.

Unwittingly, Ye Fan had already become a monument, a spiritual support within the Xuanwu Sect, and the disciples were proud of him and proud to be able to follow in his footsteps!

"Master..."

Among the crowd, Ye Fan immediately saw his beloved master Wu Xinhai and hurried over.

"Good child, good child, it's good that you're back, it's so good..." Wu Xinhai held Ye Fan, speaking with a trembling voice.

"I said it before, I'm tough. Nothing will happen to me." Ye Fan forced a smile, his heart filled with warmth.

He could feel the concern from Wu Xinhai and the people of the Xuanwu Sect.

"Ye Fan, well done!" Wang Qingshan praised.

"Ye kid, you've made our Xuanwu Sect famous in the Southern Domain this time, haha..." Shen Ximen laughed heartily.

"Ye Fan, keeping you in the sect back then was the best decision I've made in my life!"

Tong Tianhao said, recalling the time he resolutely protected Ye Fan and feeling immense relief. He then glanced at the excited Wu Xinhai and said, "Ye Fan, you've just returned, and you surely have many things to talk about with your master, so we won't disturb you. When you have time, come to the main hall, we have some things to discuss with you."

"You've looked, now get back to cultivation, so you can follow Ye Fan's path!"

With those words, Tong Tianhao glanced at the faces brimming with excitement and admiration, waved his hand, and dispersed the many onlookers.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

...

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao spoke, and the disciples from the inner and outer sects scattered.

Ye Fan, accompanied by Bai Yan wolf, followed Wu Xinhai to Xuanwu Summit.

The pair of master and disciple talked deep into the night under candlelight. Ye Fan explained some details of this trip to Wu Xinhai, but held back in certain necessary parts since there are things that must remain hidden; the fewer people know, the safer it is.

He stayed at Xuanwu Summit for three days.

On the fourth day, Ye Fan found Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, and the three Supreme Elders were also present. They sought more details from Ye Fan about this journey, and he recounted again the contents he shared with Wu Xinhai.

"Who would have thought, who could have guessed, your training this time was so thrilling and dangerous. If there were any more lapses, you might not have returned alive!"

Wang Qingshan shook his head in resignation. As the only Divine Skills Realm expert in the Xuanwu Sect, he deeply understood just how perilous Ye Fan's journey was.

...

During the days Ye Fan was back at the Xuanwu Sect, the turmoil outside not only didn't subside, but actually intensified. Too many died in this conflict; although they were from the Qing Family and Lou Family, it still became the talk of the town.

"Even an old-timer as powerful as the Ancestor of the Lou Family has fallen; the entirety of Qing Province is likely to change!"

"There's no doubt about it, the Lou Family's experts are almost completely obliterated. If the Qing Family weren't still holding the scene, the Lou Family's assets would likely have been divided long ago."

"Hmph, isn't the Qing Family just trying to take over the Lou Family's forces? The two families originally had marital ties, which means that even though, with the death of Lou Manyue and Lou Canghai, this so-called marriage now holds no significance, it could serve as a logical excuse for the Qing Family to take over the Lou Family."

Many perceptive cultivators have already caught the scent of conspiracy. The Qing Family absolutely won't tolerate anyone coveting the Lou Family's assets.

Clearly, they also cannot swallow this bitter pill, but to date have made no moves, which is rather intriguing.

On the fourth day, Ye Fan learned that Shen Tu and the others still hadn't come out of retreat, so he headed to what's now Xuanwu City, formerly Tianyuan City, to seek information from Yaling.

From Yaling, Ye Fan got important news.

The Pavilion Master of Treasure Pavilion issued a warning to the Qing Family—pressuring with power, older generation experts making moves against young expert Ye Fan has already broken the rules; if there are any further actions against him before the Southern Domain Talent Tournament, Treasure Pavilion would not hesitate to declare war on the Qing Family, using full strength to flatten them!

This news spread like a whirlwind through the entire Southern Domain and reached all six continents. Cities were abuzz with talk about it, expressing appreciation and approval for Treasure Pavilion's stance.

"The Qing Family broke the rules first, repeatedly sending older generation experts to assassinate Ye Fan. No wonder Treasure Pavilion stepped in."

"Did you know? As early as a few months ago, Xuanwu Sect was recruited by Treasure Pavilion, becoming its subordinate sect. Since they're one of Treasure Pavilion's own, it's only natural they would work hard!"

"I see, seems like the Qing Family was destined to swallow this dumb loss; even though they can cover the skies with one hand in Qing Province, compared to an overarching force like Treasure Pavilion, there is a considerable gap, how dare they recklessly act?"

"No wonder Ye Fan was so fearless, daring to annihilate even the Ancestor of the Lou Family; turns out he has such a powerful backing."

"You have it wrong; Ye Fan is unaware that Xuanwu Sect was recruited by Treasure Pavilion. He entirely relied on his own abilities to escape alive!"

The news of Treasure Pavilion declaring support for Ye Fan shocked the entire Southern Domain, and even rippled through the other four domains, as Treasure Pavilion is an overarching force with business spanning the Five Great Domains!

"Damn it! Intolerable!"

Upon receiving the warning from Treasure Pavilion, Qing Family Ancestor Qing Daoyuan turned green, and smashed the exclusive Purple Jade Cold Spruce Wood tea table into powder with a slap.

No matter his anger, he dared not act recklessly now!

Because he clearly understands, Treasure Pavilion would not utter such words lightly; if the Qing Family continues targeting Ye Fan, Treasure Pavilion will definitely make a move!

With Treasure Pavilion's power, if it were to exert itself, flattening the Qing Family would be no problem at all!

"Treasure... Pavilion..." Qing Daoyuan gritted his molars, speaking each word slowly, his corner eye muscles twitching continuously, unable to swallow this grievance.

For this, Qing Daoyuan contacted Qing Lian, asking Qing Lian to have the Ling Family intimidate Treasure Pavilion!

His father was killed, so Qing Lian was naturally very concerned and immediately found the Ling Family genius, his fiancé, to convey the Qing Family Ancestor's intention.

"This time, our Qing Family suffered too badly. My father and the others all died at the hands of that person surnamed Ye; this enmity must be avenged!" Qing Lian added.

"I will immediately go find the Ancestor!"

The Ling Family genius's expression was gloomy; his father-in-law died, if he didn't show some reaction, it wouldn't make sense.

The Ling Family's ancestral land is a vast space, a world unto itself, like an Immortal Realm, where Lingzhi Immortal Grass grows in rock crevices, exuding rich fragrance.

Deer leap, cranes dance, White Ape offers peach—it's an atmosphere of an immortal blessed land.

"Ancestor, my father was killed, yet Treasure Pavilion is pressuring us, not allowing our Qing Family to avenge. You must stand up for us!"

Led by the Ling Family genius, Qing Lian immediately knelt upon meeting the Ling Family Ancestor in a simple stone hut, weeping and beseeching.

"Indeed, Ancestor, Treasure Pavilion knows well that Qing Family and we are in-laws, yet they utter such harsh words—it's intolerable! Does Treasure Pavilion think we Ling Family fear them?!" The Ling Family genius shouted furiously.

"This matter is tricky!"

The Ling Family Ancestor shook his head slightly: "Though I haven't left this space, I am fully aware of the outside world. The Qing Family broke the rules first; our Ling Family should not intervene!"

"Ancestor, can you bear seeing Lian'er fatherless, unable to act, letting the enemy roam free and happy?"

Though Qing Lian knew in this matter the Qing Family indeed lacked justification, he entreated the Ling Family Ancestor again, hoping he would favor emotion over reason.

Chapter 1415 The Qing Family's Decision

After leaving the ancestral grounds of the Ling Family, Qing Lian looked desolate. No matter how she pleaded, the Ling Family Ancestor refused to exert pressure to intimidate the Treasure Pavilion.

"Lian'er, I'm sorry..."

The Ling Family genius, standing by Qing Lian, comforted her softly.

"It's alright, you've done your best. Besides, the Ancestor wasn't wrong. It was indeed our Qing Family that broke the rules first, so his refusal to intervene was expected." Qing Lian forced a smile, secretly clenching her teeth.

"I'm relieved to hear you say that. Let me accompany you back to the Qing Family. I'll explain things if you're unwilling to speak!" The Ling Family genius was exceptionally kind to Qing Lian and decided to return to the Qing Family with her to explain the situation to Qing Daoyuan.

When the Ling Family genius arrived at the Qing Family, even though Qing Daoyuan was the family's Ancestor, he still came out to greet him.

He thought the Ling Family had sent him to assist the Qing Family...

"Senior, my Ancestor said that this matter is due to our mistake. The Ling Family isn't in a position to intervene, so we should endure temporarily!"

After a brief exchange of pleasantries, the Ling Family genius straightforwardly relayed his Ancestor's words as they were.

"This..."

Qing Daoyuan's expression stiffened briefly, then darkened.

Even though he had anticipated this outcome, hearing it from the Ling Family's most powerful successor made it difficult to accept.

"Alright then..."

After a long silence, the Qing Family Ancestor took a deep breath and decided to endure for the time being—without the Ling Family's intervention, the Qing Family was no match for the Treasure Pavilion.

"I'm glad you understand. Don't worry, that Ye won't be jumping around for long!" The Ling Family genius said gloomily.

"With your strength, killing him should be easy, but since we've decided to endure, my family should be the ones to finish him off! It wouldn't be worthy of your involvement!"

Qing Daoyuan was adept at navigating relationships and, facing the Ling Family's peerless genius, lowered his stance significantly, showing no airs of seniority.

"I've already instructed for a guest room to be prepared. Since you're here, why not stay for a few days..."

After sending the two away with a forced smile, Qing Daoyuan's face immediately turned gloomy. He coldly instructed a servant, "Call Qing Zi for me; I have something to discuss with him!"

At this moment, Qing Daoyuan was furious. The Qing family servants were trembling, fearing that a single wrong word might lead to disaster. The servant quietly withdrew, immediately summoning Qing Zi.

Over the past few days, Qing Zi was almost driven mad; his internal injuries had not healed, and his father had died unexpectedly, which was a massive blow to him!

When he first heard the news, Qing Zi couldn't believe it until he saw his father's mutilated body and the extinguished soul lamp.

If Qing Daoyuan hadn't suppressed him, he would have already gone to fight Ye Fan!

Qing Daoyuan had a long-term perspective. Qing Zi was seriously injured, and Ye Fan was full of fighting spirit, making it unwise for Qing Zi to act rashly.

If Qing Zi were to perish as well, it would be a fatal blow to the Qing Family.

Even though Qing Lian was also formidable, she was ultimately from the Ling Family and couldn't revive the Qing Family.

For this reason, Qing Daoyuan forcibly restrained Qing Zi from heading to Xuanwu State.

Qing Daoyuan wanted Qing Zi to defeat Ye Fan with overwhelming strength, not through reckless action.

Realizing that revenge was hopeless, Qing Zi became utterly desperate, focusing intensely on cultivation to break through to the Divine Power Realm as soon as possible and then seek out Ye Fan for revenge!

"Ancestor, you called for me?"

Qing Zi arrived at Qing Daoyuan's residence, his voice low.

"Sigh..."

Seeing Qing Zi's grim expression and low voice, Qing Daoyuan sighed inwardly.

He knew what Qing Zi was thinking—Qing Zi must have blamed him for not allowing him to seek revenge!

However, he didn't mind and didn't ask Qing Zi to sit, speaking bluntly: "Young man, you are the future hope of our Qing Family. You have to pull yourself together! From today, our family will devote all its resources to support your cultivation! Additionally, I have here a cultivation journal left by our Ancestor that will help you break through to the Divine Power Realm and cultivate divine abilities. Take it!"

Swish!

With that, Qing Daoyuan produced an ancient beast skin scroll from his hand and tossed it to Qing Zi!

Hmm?

Qing Zi was slightly startled, reaching out to catch the cultivation journal, knowing Qing Daoyuan had more to say.

As expected, Qing Daoyuan continued, "I have no other requirements for you. Try to cultivate diligently. At the Southern Domain's genius competition a month from now, no matter what, you must kill that Ye bastard for me; can you do it?"

"Rest assured, I will break his limbs, cripple his cultivation, and make him suffer before killing him in front of everyone!"

Qing Zi's eyes burned with intense hatred, speaking each word deliberately, his voice filled with endless killing intent!

"Very good, whether or not we can avenge this great hatred is all on you now. The Ling Family refuses to intervene, so we must bide our time and strike at the genius competition." Qing Daoyuan's eyes also flashed with vicious light, as if piercing through the void.

"Ye bastard, just you wait, you better stay alive..."

After returning from the Ancestor, Qing Zi gazed silently in the direction of Xuanwu State.

...

While the Qing Family reluctantly chose to endure, deciding to let Qing Zi kill Ye Fan at the Southern Domain's genius competition, Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf remained at the Xuanwu Sect.

After a few days of interaction, the entire Xuanwu Sect gradually accepted the mischievous Bai Yan wolf.

The only thing that annoyed the disciples was that the Bai Yan wolf disparaged the Xuanwu Sect completely, claiming that such a large sect didn't even have a proper Xuan Beast.

Being adjacent to the Xuanshou Mountain Range, those who wanted to hunt Xuan Beasts could simply go to the outskirts of the Xuan Beast Forest; there was no need to keep them.

Even those who did keep a few Xuan Beasts found them weak and non-threatening, naturally of unimpressive quality, and they failed to meet the Bai Yan wolf's standards.

However, the Bai Yan wolf did find solace in its own way. Using its extraordinary sense of smell, it discovered the sect's secret wine stash, stealing some to drink every day. To avoid detection, after finishing a jar, it would fill it with water and seal it again.

Initially, this behavior was noticed, but Tong Tianhao ordered that no one should mention it, even turning a blind eye when they saw it, allowing the wolf's mischief.

The reason was simple; Tong Tianhao valued the Bai Yan wolf's strength and wanted to gradually tame it to serve as the Xuanwu Sect's guardian Divine Beast, defending the mountain gate.

Because of this, although the Bai Yan wolf was everywhere and annoying, the entire Xuanwu Sect tolerated its antics!

A few days later, Ye Fan had settled in completely, entering the virtual space at night to train, spending the day wandering with the Bai Yan wolf, cultivating his mental realm within the Xuanwu Sect's boundaries!

Ye Fan understood that the path of martial cultivation required a balance of tension and relaxation; being too tense wasn't good. At times, one should also relax the mind and blend with nature, feeling its rhythms!

This was the essence of mental cultivation and martial enlightenment!

Only in such a state could one possibly experience sudden enlightenment; forcing it would yield worse results!

In the eyes of other disciples, Ye Fan appeared to be playing around daily and never training, yet his strength grew rapidly, making them envious.

"Sigh... comparing oneself to others can be frustrating! Look at Brother Ye Fan? He wanders about daily, yet his strength skyrockets; look at us, focused on bitter training with no respite, yet progressing slowly. I feel like buying a block of tofu and ending it!"

Seeing Ye Fan wander the mountains and waters, the other sect disciples were filled with envy, but unfortunately, Ye Fan's success couldn't be replicated, and no one could copy his path.

Throughout the Xuanshou Mountain Range, Ye Fan left his footprint. Sometimes, he could stare at a gurgling stream for hours on end.

Initially, the Bai Yan wolf enthusiastically followed, but after three days, it grew bored and sneaked out of the mountain gate, who knew what mischief it was up to.

In a flash, ten days passed!

This evening at dusk, from within the closed-off cave, Shentu's deep roar echoed like thunder.

Boom!

With a loud bang, the boulder sealing the cave entrance exploded, and Shentu strode out like a Demon God from the cave.

"Awoo... Old Shen is out!"

Shentu let out a long howl, his eyes shooting dual beams of light, punching as the black Holy Power formed a terrifying Beast Claw, threatening to tear the sky apart!

"Damn it, which little bastard is imitating the king?"

Upon hearing Shentu's howl, the Bai Yan wolf shot up to Spirit Turtle Island like a white flash, looking ready to bite someone.

Chapter 1416 Guardian Xuan Beast

Spirit Turtle Island is a crucial domain of the Xuanwu Sect. Except for some elders with exceedingly high status, ordinary disciples aren't even qualified to cultivate there.

Because of this, Spirit Turtle Island has been very quiet and harmonious for hundreds of years. Even if some core disciples cultivate there, it doesn't cause much commotion!

However, today this atmosphere of tranquility has been completely shattered!

Shen Tu isn't one to easily keep peace. After a challenging retreat, he finally formed his Holy Embryo and felt that he just had to let off some steam after such a long time!

As a result, his wolf howl was heard by the Bai Yan wolf that had just returned from outside...

The Bai Yan wolf detested anyone imitating it throughout its life and immediately stared with its brass bell-like old wolf eyes, baring its teeth and rushing over.

"Uh... where did this White Dog come from?"

Shen Tu didn't recognize the Bai Yan wolf as the leader and thought it was a dog. Then he happily exclaimed, "What a fortune, just came out and I can enjoy a pot of dog meat to nourish myself, it's been a long time since I've tasted meat..."

"Damn it, still thinking of stewing me! This is simply Uncle can tolerate, Aunt cannot!" The Bai Yan wolf roared angrily upon hearing this, flashed its body, leaped up, and bit Shen Tu's wrist directly.

"I am the unique, peerless, majestic White Wolf King in heaven and earth, and you said I'm a dog? I'll bite you to death!" The Bai Yan wolf was quite arrogant, even though it was injured, it remained extremely fierce.

"Ah... let go!"

Shen Tu never expected the Bai Yan wolf to be so fast. Before he could react, the Bai Yan wolf had already bitten his wrist, causing him to scream miserably like a pig being slaughtered.

The Bai Yan wolf's skin is thick, and its flesh is firm. Its strength is unparalleled, and few cultivators can withstand its bite in the Holy Embryo realm.

Although Shen Tu formed the Holy Embryo and stepped into the Holy Embryo realm, he was still no match for the Bai Yan wolf, and his wrist was nearly bitten off.

"Old Bai, let go, he's one of us!"

Ye Fan happened to arrive, hearing Shen Tu's screams, he hurriedly came over to persuade.

"No way, this kid has to apologize to me and also give me some compensation to heal my wounded pride!"

The Bai Yan wolf squinted its eyes, looking like it wouldn't let go unless compensated.

"Help, Ye Fan!"

At this point, Shen Tu realized he provoked something he shouldn't have and quickly begged Ye Fan for help.

"I can't do anything, you'd better give in! This Bai Yan wolf doesn't recognize relatives, only spirit stones and treasures!" Ye Fan said to Shen Tu, holding back his laughter.

"Let go, Wolf Elder, no, Wolf Master, I was wrong, I know my mistake, please have mercy!"

Shen Tu, not one to suffer a loss, immediately admitted defeat upon knowing Ye Fan couldn't save him, begging repeatedly.

"Just talking isn't enough, where's the treasure?"

The Bai Yan wolf is typical of not releasing without benefit, without spirit stones or treasures. No matter how Shen Tu pleaded, it remained unmoved.

Left with no choice, Shen Tu painfully took out a top-grade spirit stone he had treasured for years to redeem himself.

Unexpectedly, the Bai Yan wolf was unimpressed by top-grade spirit stones and grumbled as Shen Tu took out only a fist-sized piece of top-grade spirit stone, "Are you trying to fool a beggar? What other treasures do you have, bring them all out!"

"That's all I have, it's my best spirit stone. If you don't believe me, I brought everything out; you can pick yourself!"

Shen Tu was close to tears. He thought forming the Holy Embryo and breaking into the Holy Embryo realm would finally let him proudly raise his head. Unexpectedly, as soon as he came out of retreat, he was robbed by a greedy wolf demon, and he wasn't a match at all, ensuring he suffered in silence.

"Really poor!"

The Bai Yan wolf rummaged through the materials and spirit stones Shen Tu had taken out, eventually choosing the two best materials. Naturally, it didn't leave the top-grade spirit stone it initially disdained.

"Damn it, this dead wolf..."

Shen Tu rubbed his wrist and silently resented. Although the Bai Yan wolf hadn't transformed yet, it made him, an early-stage expert of the Holy Embryo realm, almost powerless, extremely frustrated.

"Kid, you're definitely cursing me in your heart now, right?"

The Bai Yan wolf glanced at Shen Tu, seeing right through his thoughts.

"No! How could I? I'm far from done admiring you!"

Shen Tu hurriedly denied, joking aside, this vicious wolf is exceedingly fast, its body is tough as divine iron, and it's incredibly strong. He really doesn't want to tempt fate again.

"Forget it, considering you've offered up two pieces of material to me, I won't hold it against you!" The Bai Yan wolf displayed a generous demeanor, making Shen Tu gnash his teeth in hatred.

If not for the severe bite earlier that left him wary, Shen Tu really wanted to inflict a couple of punches on its wounded back.

"Hey, Old Bai, aren't you supposed to have copper skin and iron bones? How did you end up like this?"

Ye Fan looked at the shocking wound on the back of the Bai Yan wolf and couldn't help but ask.

He knew Shen Tu couldn't possibly hurt it, so he was really curious about what kind of opponent it had encountered to end up in such a sorry state.

"Don't even mention it. If it weren't for you all, would I have to misuse myself like this?"

The Bai Yan wolf looked bitter and resentful, picked up the little creature that was messing around nearby, and said angrily, "It's because of this little thing!"

Seeing the small creature struggling in the Bai Yan wolf's mouth, both Ye Fan and Shen Tu were stunned!

They were quite knowledgeable but had never seen such a small beast, all furry like a fluff ball, with little eyes darting around, getting cuter the more you looked.

"What is this thing?"

Shen Tu couldn't help but ask, the Xuanwu Sect located close to the Xuanshou Mountain Range, he had seen all kinds of strange Xuan Beasts, but he had never seen such a small beast.

"Hehe, speaking of this little guy, it's got quite the background!"

The Bai Yan wolf looked smug as it recounted the origins of the little beast and why it got injured.

It turns out the Bai Yan wolf, during its days at the Xuanwu Sect, noticed that the large mountain gate didn't have a single notable Xuan Beast, feeling that the sect was too poor.

Moreover, over these past days, it had often raided the Xuanwu Sect's wine cellar and kitchen, but the Xuanwu Sect, to repay evil with virtue, not only turned a blind eye to its bad behavior but also sent their best chef to make delicious food for it, making the Bai Yan wolf feel a bit embarrassed.

Thus, to repay the kindness of the Xuanwu Sect, the Bai Yan wolf decided to get them a powerful Xuan Beast to guard the mountain gate.

Of course, the Bai Yan wolf didn't care for any ordinary Xuan Beasts and found nothing too powerful during its days wandering around the outskirts of the Xuanshou Mountain Range.

To get a more powerful Xuan Beast, the Bai Yan wolf decided to venture into the central area of the Xuanshou Mountain Range, as only the center of the mountain range housed the best Xuan Beasts since it was the main camp of the Demon Clan.

As a Xuan Beast with royal bloodline, the Bai Yan wolf understood this very well.

Using its unparalleled sense of smell, the Bai Yan wolf stealthily crept into the central area of the Xuanshou Mountain Range without alerting anyone.

Approaching the central area of the Xuanshou Mountain Range, the Bai Yan wolf discovered a recently birthed "Mastiff Bear" with overwhelming combat power, still physically weak.

The Mastiff Bear is a powerful Xuan Beast that resembles both a mastiff dog and a violent bear, ranking among the top ten in combat power among all Xuan Beasts, only surpassed by some supremely cultivated Great Demons.

As a fellow Xuan Beast with royal blood, the Bai Yan wolf would be considered miraculous to hold its ground for three incense against it!

The Mastiff Bear had a notorious reputation, and even knowing it had just given birth, no Xuan Beast would dare target its baby, as it would be akin to courting death.

Only the bold Bai Yan wolf dared to do such a thing.

After the Mastiff Bear left, the Bai Yan wolf swiftly leapt over, its large claws drawing mysterious and incomprehensible beams of light, breaking the simple protective array set by the Mastiff Bear. It grabbed a Mastiff Bear cub and fled using the Chasing Star Step, but still ended up injured.

In the end, the Bai Yan wolf used all its strength to escape from the center of the Xuanshou Mountain Range.

"You've really got talent!"

After hearing the Bai Yan wolf's story, Ye Fan and Shen Tu were utterly shocked and could only express such a sentiment after a long pause.

From the Bai Yan wolf's account, it was undeniable that the Xuan Beast known as Mastiff Bear was indeed incredibly ferocious and powerful, probably not inferior to already transformed Demon Clan members.

The Bai Yan wolf, with its reckless courage, had stolen a newborn cub, wasn't it bringing disaster upon the Xuanwu Sect?

"You brought someone's child here, what if that Mastiff Bear comes looking for it?" Shen Tu asked the Bai Yan wolf, not pleased.

"Don't worry, that Mastiff Bear will never step out of the central Xuanshou Mountain Range even half a step, or else you think I'd have the nerve to think about its offspring?"

The Bai Yan wolf confidently reassured, giving Shen Tu a sidelong glance as if it had everything under control.

Shen Tu was half-convinced.

But Ye Fan believed it completely.

Because...

The Bai Yan wolf, which had once followed the Thunder Venerable master, harbored too many untold secrets!

Chapter 1417 None of Us Are Heartless

"Hmph!"

Shen Tu snorted heavily, "Hope you're telling the truth, otherwise if something really happens, I'll sell you out first!"

In the end, this matter alarmed Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and the three Supreme Elders. The four of them discussed for a long time and decided to raise it well.

If the old Mastiff Bear doesn't come looking for it, then when the young Mastiff Bear grows up, it will definitely become a great combat power.

Because, they've realized, relying on the Bai Yan wolf as their Guardian Mountain Beast is basically hopeless.

And the young Mastiff Bear, once raised from a young age, will slowly develop a sense of dependence and belonging to this place. By then, this will be its home, and it will definitely exert its strength when needed.

If the old Mastiff Bear does come looking, then they'll politely return it. Believing that as long as they take good care of it, the old Mastiff Bear won't make things difficult for them.

"Junior Brother Ye, I've already condensed my Holy Embryo and become a cultivator of the Holy Embryo Realm. Shall we spar?"

After reaching the Holy Embryo Realm, Shen Tu's confidence was a bit inflated. Having just emerged, no one had told him about Ye Fan's feats in Qing Province, and since the others hadn't come out of seclusion yet, he naturally wanted to test his actual combat ability against Ye Fan.

"Alright, let me see what your Holy Embryo is like." Ye Fan nodded with a smile, agreeing to Shen Tu's request.

The two of them arrived at an arena marked with defensive array patterns. Ye Fan stood casually in the center of the arena, beckoning Shen Tu and said, "Come on, attack me with all your might!"

"Be careful!"

Shen Tu shouted in a low voice, instantly gathering his Holy Power, becoming overwhelmingly imposing, like a crouching cheetah ready to spring, his eyes shooting out two beams of light.

Swish!

With a flash of light, a shadowy black cheetah appeared behind Shen Tu. Although it wasn't solid, it carried an air of solitary ferocity.

"Netherworld Cheetah?"

Ye Fan secretly nodded, thinking that Shen Tu chose a good Holy Embryo. It was swift and had decent attack power; if it were an ambush, it could be fatal in a single strike.

Faced with Shen Tu revealing his Holy Embryo, Ye Fan dared not be complacent. With a thought, his own Holy Embryo also manifested behind him, though much more solid than Shen Tu's.

"Human-shaped... Holy Embryo?"

Seeing that Ye Fan's Holy Embryo was actually himself, Shen Tu almost bit his tongue, stumbling over his words.

There are countless kinds of Holy Embryos in the world, all sorts of forms, but he'd never seen anyone condense a Holy Embryo in their own image before.

The human-shaped Holy Embryo grows slowly, lacking attack power for many years, which is why no one chooses to condense a Holy Embryo in human form, let alone in their own likeness.

Even though Shen Tu was mentally prepared for Ye Fan having condensed a Holy Embryo before him, seeing Ye Fan's manifestation still shocked him.

However, Shen Tu's mental resilience was quite commendable. After a brief moment of surprise, he quickly regained his composure, and Holy Power instantly formed a long sharp claw on his arm.

"Slash!"

With a loud roar, Shen Tu's right hand claw surged, viciously grabbing at Ye Fan's shoulder, accompanied by a piercing sound of air being torn apart!

Whoosh!

With a thought, Ye Fan executed the Xuanwu Armor Technique, instantly covering himself in a layer of armor adorned with mysterious patterns.

Screech!

The sharp claw fiercely struck the armor, sparking a trail of sparks, leaving Ye Fan unharmed, not even budging his shoulder, with not even a white mark left on the armor.

"Not fighting anymore, it's pointless!"

After just one move, Shen Tu realized the vast gulf between him and Ye Fan, finding it unnecessary to continue the fight.

The opponent stood still, letting him attack without any effect, what was the point of continuing?

"Don't be discouraged, your ability is already quite impressive. In the early-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm, few could evade your attack." Ye Fan retracted the Xuanwu Armor Technique, smiling as he comforted him.

"Don't tell me you're already at the mid-stage of the Holy Embryo Realm?" Shen Tu asked incredulously.

"Hmm." Ye Fan nodded lightly.

"My god, is there any justice in the world? I secluded myself for nearly a year, arduously cultivating in a lightless cave, thinking I had achieved something by condensing my Holy Embryo, breaking into the Holy Embryo Realm. Unexpectedly, you, this monster, are already mid-stage, how can one even live?"

Receiving confirmation from Ye Fan, Shen Tu exclaimed exaggeratedly, finally angrily saying, "No way, you can't defend, let me punch you a couple of times to vent, otherwise I won't be at peace!"

"Uh..."

Ye Fan was dumbfounded, was there really such a way?

In the end, with no other option, Ye Fan had to relax his body entirely, forego any defensive cultivation techniques, and stand there while Shen Tu landed two punches on his chest, concluding the matter.

These two punches brought Ye Fan deep insight; even without intentionally defending, Shen Tu's two fully charged punches did not harm him at all, showcasing the power of the Nine Heavens Profound Body!

Stimulated by Ye Fan, Shen Tu immediately began to fiercely cultivate once more upon leaving seclusion.

Meanwhile, Zhang Taiyi and Tong Qianchen remained in seclusion, yet Ye Fan believed both had surely condensed their own Holy Embryos and were either solidifying their realms or gaining insights into the profound mysteries of the Holy Embryo.

With less than a month remaining until the Southern Domain Talent Competition, Ye Fan spent every night cultivating in the virtual space, seeking enlightenment and martial understanding.

His own Dao, must be forged through trials and adversity, for he cannot progress along the paths laid by predecessors; otherwise, he will never surpass them.

In the world, all methods, all divine skill manuals are ways; one must honor these methods while transcending them to truly rise above.

Currently, Ye Fan is still very far from this realm, unable to transcend the methods, and can only respect them, using various cultivation techniques, secret techniques, and martial arts to fight.

When he truly reaches the point of transcending and breaking the methods, he will have truly forged his own path.

Preparing for the future, though he is still far from that realm, Ye Fan has already begun preparations. From this moment on, Elder Xuan knows that there is less and less he can teach Ye Fan, only offering occasional guidance.

Every Great Emperor is unique, and so Ye Fan's desire to forge his own path is something Elder Xuan is happy to see; only with the heart of a Great Emperor can one truly walk the path of a Great Emperor!

In the daytime, Ye Fan left his Dong Mansion, using his feet to measure every inch of Xuanwu Mountain's land, lingering amidst nature and feeling the rhythm of the natural world.

Is this not a form of cultivation?

The path of martial arts has countless ways, each leading to the ultimate goal, so cultivation of the mental realm is exceedingly important.

Many cultivators upon reaching a certain bottleneck form a high plateau, their cultivation stagnation, clearly able to break through yet unable to do so, due to the unfulfilled mental realm.

At this time, foresighted cultivators choose to let go of everything, merge themselves into heaven and earth, and cultivate the mental realm.

When the mental realm and cultivation become harmonious, the bottleneck naturally disappears.

With less than ten days remaining until the Southern Domain Talent Competition, Zhang Taiyi and Tong Qianchen successively emerged from seclusion, just as Ye Fan predicted, both having condensed Holy Embryos, reaching the early-stage of the Holy Embryo realm, and fully stabilizing their realms.

Among them, Tong Qianchen not only condensed her Holy Embryo, but also vigorously cultivated her realm to the peak state of the early-stage of the Holy Embryo realm, only a step away from breaking through to the mid-stage Holy Embryo realm, her strength slightly superior to Zhang Taiyi's.

The two successively left seclusion and similarly encountered the Bai Yan wolf but faced distinctly different experiences.

The Bai Yan wolf had no issues with Tong Qianchen as she showed it no hostility whatsoever.

While Zhang Taiyi, upon first seeing the Bai Yan wolf, reacted almost identically to Shen Tu, keen on stewing the Bai Yan wolf.

Unsurprisingly, would the Bai Yan wolf easily suffer losses?

Immediately, a fierce human-wolf battle erupted!

Just emerged from seclusion, Zhang Taiyi brimming with confidence, believed the Bai Yan wolf to be merely a robust wild wolf, thinking nothing of it.

Yet once the battle commenced, he suffered a major setback, left with bite marks all over his body and his clothes torn to shreds, a miserable sight.

Bitten excessively, Zhang Taiyi, like Shen Tu, had no choice but to present some treasures to call for peace.

After exiting seclusion, Tong Qianchen learned from her father, Sect Leader Tong Tianhao, the entire incident of Ye Fan's journey to Qing Province, feeling exceptionally complex, deemed herself useless for not being able to offer any assistance.

Facing Ye Fan once more, Tong Qianchen appeared calm, as if nothing had occurred previously, continuing to be kind to him, never mentioning the rejected marriage proposal.

"Xiao Qian, I..."

Confronting Tong Qianchen, Ye Fan wished to say something, yet upon opening his mouth, found himself at a loss for words.

"Brother Ye, you needn't say anything, Xiao Qian understands!"

Tong Qianchen interrupted Ye Fan, sighed gently, and said, "Your future path is difficult, I might not be able to accompany you on it!"

Listening to Tong Qianchen's caring words, Ye Fan couldn't help but secretly sigh, feeling increasingly that he owed her far too much.

This relationship shouldn't have started, yet people aren't unfeeling plants; who can be devoid of emotion?

Chapter 1418 Departure

Even though Tong Qianchen appeared unaffected on the surface, Ye Fan knew that he had once hurt this girl.

Every time he thought of Tong Qianchen's deep and lonely gaze, Ye Fan's heart couldn't be at peace.

For two consecutive days, Ye Fan was crazily cultivating in the virtual space, focusing on martial arts, and martial enlightenment, deliberately avoiding Tong Qianchen!

"Sigh..."

Seeing Ye Fan like this, Elder Xuan deeply sighed.

On matters of emotion, he had no say, so he decided to remain silent and let Ye Fan handle it himself.

"Even the Great Emperor has regrets, so why wouldn't I? Just release myself, hold my true heart, and all grievances and enmities are none of my concern?"

On the third day, Ye Fan finally figured it out; everything that needed to be faced still had to be faced. Avoidance couldn't solve problems and would only worsen them.

At that moment, Ye Fan's mental realm was greatly elevated. He broke free from the shackles of emotional bondage, forever unburdened by emotional ties!

At the moment of his enlightenment, dozens of acupoints in his body erupted with a glow, as if splitting heaven and earth. The shadows in these acupoints simultaneously solidified, and he was enveloped in a purplish-gold light.

His cultivation made another breakthrough, and it was without consuming spirit stones, bringing him a step closer to the late-stage Holy Embryo Realm!

"The mental realm is the true essence of martial arts; only when the heart arrives, can the realm smoothly elevate!"

At this moment, Ye Fan had a moment of understanding about the true meaning of martial arts.

This realization would bring endless benefits to his future cultivation, although he hadn't noticed it yet.

When he walked out of the Dong Mansion, Ye Fan seemed to blend with heaven and earth. With a wave of his hand, he could mobilize everything around him. Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi were no longer separate from him, and his profound techniques flowing through the body reached the realm of Great Perfection, everything being so natural and smooth without deliberate effort.

During the few days Ye Fan was closed for cultivation, the Xuanwu Sect welcomed a group of guests, all elites selected from the powerful forces of Xuanwu State, representing Xuanwu State in the Southern Domain Genius Competition.

Tong Tianhao personally oversaw their settlement, waiting for the moment of departure!

At this moment, Xuanwu Sect had evidently become the number one major sect in Xuanwu State. Other than the Qing Xuan Sect, geniuses from other sects or families came here, led by Xuanwu Sect's Supreme Elder Wang Qingshan, to participate in this competition!

The Southern Domain Genius Competition is held in a city called Fire Spirit City in the Southern Domain, which is the center of the Southern Domain and a very ancient city!

It is the Holy City in the hearts of all cultivators in the Southern Domain!

Soon after Ye Fan walked out of the Dong Mansion, he received news from Sect Leader Tong Tianhao that there were ten days left until the competition started, and all participants were to gather outside the mountain gate for departure!

As the former first place in the Tianyuan State Selection, Ye Fan was no exception. Descending from Spirit Turtle Island, Ye Fan slowly walked toward the mountain gate!

Thanks to the efforts of the Bai Yan wolf during this time, Xuanwu Sect had become a cultivation holy land, with various spiritual Xuan Beasts roaming the mountains, unafraid when encountering people!

The mountain path was shaded with thick foliage, streams trickled on both sides, vines and creepers twined, butterflies danced, birds sang melodiously, the air filled with a faint floral fragrance, resembling an earthly paradise.

Ye Fan knew that all of this was largely due to the Bai Yan wolf, which captured many spiritual Xuan Beasts from the Xuanshou Mountain Range and drew countless array patterns for Xuanwu Sect.

Although no one said anything, everyone in Xuanwu Sect treated the sly and devious Bai Yan wolf as a guardian mountain beast to be revered.

Naturally, they turned a blind eye to the Bai Yan wolf's mischief and pretended not to notice.

In fact, even if they saw it, they couldn't do anything about the Bai Yan wolf.

In terms of combat strength, the Bai Yan wolf could make them cry for their parents.

In terms of speed, the Bai Yan wolf was miles ahead of them.

In terms of the ability to slander and insult, the Bai Yan wolf could make them spew blood.

Unable to fight, outrun, or win in a verbal spat, they had no choice but to accept their misfortune.

Ye Fan's speed seemed slow, but he could shrink the ground to an inch, with each step causing a gleam of light underfoot, giving the appearance of a leisurely stroll yet actually being extremely fast.

Very quickly, Ye Fan arrived outside the mountain gate, where many people were already waiting, including Tong Qianchen and Zhang Taiyi, as well as some other contestants.

"Ye Fan is here!"

Seeing Ye Fan approaching, those present felt particularly complex emotions, a mix of admiration and more of envy and jealousy!

Though they all bore the title of genius, none had ventured beyond Xuanwu State, while Ye Fan was already famous across the entire Southern Domain, having vanquished the Qing Family Patriarch and the Lou Family's Ancestor in a single battle...

Such achievements were probably unattainable for them in a lifetime.

"Ye Fan, you need to properly manage your dog!"

Zhang Taiyi walked over with a look of deep resentment, speaking to Ye Fan.

"Senior Brother Zhang, speak softly, if it hears you, you might be in trouble again!" Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh.

He had already heard that Zhang Taiyi, as soon as he emerged from seclusion, was bitten terribly by the Bai Yan wolf, and it was only after offering up his treasured possessions that he managed to escape.

Later, Zhang Taiyi was unsatisfied and repeatedly sought trouble with the Bai Yan wolf, but he never gained any advantage, being bitten almost every time, unable to escape regardless of where he went.

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Zhang Taiyi couldn't help but shrink his neck and glanced around, afraid that the evil wolf would suddenly sneak up on him from somewhere.

"Haha..."

Seeing Zhang Taiyi behaving like a nervous wreck, as if once bitten twice shy, everyone couldn't help but laugh.

Usually, Zhang Taiyi was very serious and mysterious, never smiling, so since he was showing such an expression, everyone could guess he must have suffered quite a bit.

"You're all laughing?"

Zhang Taiyi glared at everyone, angrily rolled up his sleeves at Ye Fan and said, "Look at this, it's all its doing!"

Ye Fan glanced over and immediately burst into laughter. There were several rows of bite marks on Zhang Taiyi's arm, some even drew blood.

"Boss, nice tattoos!" Shen Tu gleefully added on the side.

After suffering once, he had learned his lesson, refusing to have any conflict with the Bai Yan wolf, and sometimes even colluded with it to make mischief for others.

So, in just a few days, Shen Tu and the Bai Yan wolf had become comrades in the same trench.

"Get lost!"

Hearing Shen Tu's words, Zhang Taiyi got furious and kicked towards him.

Shen Tu easily dodged and laughed wildly, feeling especially joyous about Zhang Taiyi's troubles with the Bai Yan wolf, which greatly frustrated Zhang Taiyi.

The disciples from other sects or families didn't dare to be too unrestrained, enduring with great difficulty!

"Laugh, laugh, I know what you're all thinking." Seeing those strange expressions, Zhang Taiyi said gloomily.

"Hahaha..."

Upon hearing this, those people couldn't hold it in anymore and burst into wild laughter, leaving several Xuanwu Sect outer disciples nearby dumbfounded, not knowing what was so funny to make them laugh like that.

"What's so funny? Tell me and let the King have a good laugh too."

As their laughter had yet to subside, a white shadow darted out from the mountain gate, with a broad face, snowy white all over, and a pair of big ears standing upright, asking everyone.

Pfft!

Ye Fan couldn't help laughing again, while Zhang Taiyi's face turned livid and he turned aside without saying a word.

Shen Tu laughed unabashedly. He was currently on very good terms with Bai Yan wolf, so he wasn't worried about being caught in the crossfire.

Seeing Zhang Taiyi this embarrassed, even the usually gloomy Tong Qianchen couldn't help but laugh.

The disciples from other sects didn't dare to laugh anymore. Seeing how even someone as powerful as Zhang Taiyi was bitten by this wolf, they didn't want to get on its bad side.

"Kid? What are you laughing about? Your mouth's crooked from smiling." Bai Yan wolf curiously turned its head to ask Shen Tu.

"Nothing, nothing," Shen Tu quickly stopped laughing and changed the topic: "Why are you here?"

"Hmph, you're going to that silly talent competition, how could I not join in on the fun? I'm going too, to grab a spot among the Four Kings and One Sovereign!"

Bai Yan wolf had long been informed about the Southern Domain Talent Competition, and it boasted about winning one of the Four Kings and One Sovereign positions, which made those geniuses from other sects and families roll their eyes.

They never even thought about winning any of the Four Kings and One Sovereign positions, at most participating was what counted!

The reason was simple. Xuanwu State had been weak for a long time and couldn't compare to the other five great states. Especially, Qing Province had a genius called Qing Zi, claimed as the number one talent of Southern Domain. Fengyi State's Ancient Sacred Land had a Saint named Gu Hao, and Thunder State's Tianxuan Holy Land had also produced a Tianxuan Saint.

With these people around, plus the Feng Family from Xuanzhou and the Tianhe Sect from Bazhou, there was simply no place for them among the Four Kings and One Sovereign.

The Bai Yan wolf even blustered about claiming the Four Kings and One Sovereign spot, wasn't this nonsense?

Moreover, the Southern Domain Talent Competition was a competition for the Human Race, while Bai Yan wolf, as a Xuan Beast was part of the Demon Clan, even if it participated, it could only attend the competition organized by the Demon Clan, right?

Upon hearing Bai Yan wolf's intention to go together, Zhang Taiyi's face turned green. He really didn't want to be with Bai Yan wolf, seeing it only reminded him of the miserable state of being bitten.

"Kid, you seem unwilling to go with the King, don't you? Then maybe you shouldn't go. After all, you aren't a match for the King," Bai Yan wolf squinted as it spoke, seeing Zhang Taiyi's discontent.

"Couldn't care less about you!"

Zhang Taiyi angrily swung his sleeve, as his impression of Bai Yan wolf was extremely bad.

"Alright, stop messing around, Elder Wang is here!" Tong Qianchen swept a glance at everyone and said.

With her words, the Supreme Elder of the Xuanwu Sect, Wang Qingshan, and Shen Ximen, along with Sect Leader Tong Tianhao appeared in everyone's view along the mountain path.

Seeing this, everyone first felt a chill, then understood it was time to set off.

For a moment, the hall quieted down, and apart from Ye Fan, everyone was both excited and anxious about the competition!

Chapter 1419 Fire Spirit City

Without a doubt, the Southern Domain Genius Tournament will be a fierce competition, with powerful heirs from two great sacred places, other Wu Shang Sects, and ancient families all participating.

In comparison, the participants from Xuanwu State seem somewhat weaker and can't even compare to the participants from the other five great states.

The only consolation for them is that the Prince of the Jueluo Empire will also participate in this tournament, so at least they won't be too embarrassed.

After Tong Tianhao delivered an impassioned and stirring mobilization, Supreme Elders Wang Qingshan and Shen Ximen brought out an ancient war chariot, which expanded in the wind, capable of accommodating everyone on it.

"Little fellows, let's go!"

Shen Ximen waved his large sleeve and soared into the sky like a fat Old Ying, landing steadily on the war chariot!

Because this tournament is quite important, the Xuanwu Sect dispatched two Supreme Elders to lead, who took turns looking after the participating members.

Even if there were previous disagreements, in the face of such major events, the two Supreme Elders set aside their prejudices and took good care of each participant.

Ye Fan, Bai Yan Wolf, and the other participants also boarded the war chariot, waved farewell to Tong Tianhao, and then Shen Ximen urged the war chariot forward, rushing towards Fire Spirit City like the wind and lightning.

The war chariot pierced through clouds and fog at incredible speed, with mountains and rivers rapidly retreating beneath their feet, leaving everyone dazzled!

"Awwoo... Fire Spirit City, the King is here!"

Bai Yan Wolf stood at the front of the war chariot, howling with his head raised, striking an imposing and arrogant pose that made everyone roll their eyes collectively.

"This guy is not only bad but also extremely vain and narcissistic!"

This was the conclusion everyone had in their hearts about Bai Yan Wolf.

Aboard the chariot, bored to death, Shen Ximen handed over the task of driving the chariot to Elder Wang Qingshan, then took out a succulent goose leg and a wine gourd, eating and drinking while recounting the rules and legends of Fire Spirit City to Ye Fan and others.

Fire Spirit City was built in Ancient Times, at least hundreds of thousands of years ago. However, since the entire ancient city is inscribed with mysterious array patterns, it has withstood the ravages of time and remains standing, almost a symbol of the Southern Domain.

In Fire Spirit City, private duels are strictly prohibited. Once discovered, severe punishment ensues, and not even the Saints of the major sacred places dare to act rashly.

Legend has it that in the Ancient Era, a Saint from a sacred place once battled a Great Demon of the demon clan here. The next day, both their heads were displayed on the four gates of Fire Spirit City, causing a sensation throughout the Xuan Realm at the time.

Since then, no one dares to engage in private duels in Fire Spirit City, regardless of grievances. All matters are settled outside the city.

Of course, competitions are an exception. Competitions are battles permitted by the City Lord, held in designated arenas, and even real casualties are acceptable.

Therefore, strictly speaking, the competition is extremely brutal, with no rules to speak of and no one sympathizing with you. If you feel overwhelmed, surrender immediately to ensure survival; if you persist stubbornly, dying in battle is a wasted death.

The competition is fair and just. On the field, deaths and injuries are irrelevant, and revenge is strictly prohibited afterward. Unless it's a strong family or sect, most will have to swallow their anger.

As a Holy City of the Southern Domain, Fire Spirit City's origins are very mysterious. It is said that in Ancient Times, the Southern Domain's Chi Yan Mountain produced a powerful Fire Spirit, a Great Demon cultivated from Li Huo Crystal Jade, with strength approaching that of a Quasi-Emperor, causing a catastrophe in the Southern Domain.

It was a dark era; the prosperous lands of the Southern Domain were once populous, but after that era, the population dwindled sharply, and many ordinary people died tragically.

This led directly to the fact that now, although the Southern Domain has fertile land and a pleasant climate, it remains sparsely populated, with many areas becoming wildernesses and xuan beasts running rampant.

Later, a Human Emperor emerged, with great divine powers, suppressed the Fire Spirit, stripped it of its cultivation, and finally sealed it underground in Fire Spirit City.

Afterward, a city was built at the site where the Fire Spirit was sealed, where the Emperor stood guard for a hundred years before quietly leaving.

Since then, to commemorate the Emperor's great achievements for the Human Race and remember the dark age of the Fire Spirit's dominion, the city was renamed Fire Spirit City.

Also known as Emperor City, this city has become a Holy City in the hearts of all Southern Domain Cultivators, with incomparable prestige!

Although named Fire Spirit City, it is not hot but rather cool and pleasant, like spring all year round!

This phenomenon is also the work of that Human Emperor. To suppress the Fire Spirit and prevent it from rising again, the Emperor retrieved a large piece of North Pole Profound Ice, which takes a million years to form, from the seabed of the polar ice sea in the extreme northern region, crafting a coffin to seal it.

The balance of ice and fire, with the North Pole Profound Ice perfectly counteracting the Li Huo Crystal Jade, neutralizing its heat poison, created the current state of Fire Spirit City.

It can be said that Fire Spirit City is the most suitable environment for human habitation.

All of this is due to the merit of the Emperor of that time.

As Ye Fan and others set off, Qingxuan from the Qing Xuan Sect also flew to Fire Spirit City under the leadership of their Supreme Elder.

Qing Xuan Sect is now completely suppressed by the Xuanwu Sect, and without the Qing Family as a strong backer, there's a question of whether Qing Xuan Sect would still exist.

Due to previous enmities, Qingxuan couldn't travel together with Ye Fan and the others, and had to set off desolately, accompanied only by geniuses sent by weaker sects or families.

This time, the competition is organized by the Imperial Academy and the Immortal Academy, intending to recruit geniuses from all over, with vice presidents of the two academies personally overseeing it.

Compared to the past, there have been some changes to the competition rules. The number of participants from each state has changed, but the strength requirement was raised to above the Holy Embryo Realm. Without cultivation in the Holy Embryo Realm, even if you arrive, you can only watch, not compete.

At that time, powerful people of the Lord Realm will personally assess strength and cultivation. Those who are unqualified will be eliminated without exception, unless you demonstrate abilities that astonish them.

Traveling through clouds and mist, three days later, everyone landed thirty miles outside Fire Spirit City. Shen Ximen put away the war chariot, and everyone proceeded on foot towards this Holy City in every cultivator of the Southern Domain's heart.

From afar, Ye Fan could feel the majesty and grandeur of this Holy City. Previously, he thought Xuanwu City was an enormous city, but compared to Fire Spirit City before him, it was like a small witch before a great wizard.

This vast ancient city is incredibly large, with city walls stretching for thousands of miles, making it impossible to see the end. The various buildings within the city are arrayed in an orderly and exquisite manner.

Before even entering the city, Ye Fan and the others saw a palace suspended in mid-air, bathed in vibrant glow, with auspicious colors radiating thousands of rays. It was clearly a sacred place for cultivation.

"An eternally floating palace? Such grand craftsmanship!" The Bai Yan wolf exclaimed in surprise as it looked at the palace, muttering to itself.

"Haha, that's a Bao Shi Pavilion, just an auction house specializing in various strange stones. It's also part of our own industry," Shen Ximen explained with a smile.

"Wha... what? Our own industry? When did our sect become so powerful?" Shen Tu looked at Shen Ximen, confused.

"Strictly speaking, it's part of the Treasure Pavilion's industry. We are now an affiliate sect of the Treasure Pavilion, so it's naturally one of our own industries," Shen Ximen said confidently.

"I see!"

Ye Fan was amused and perplexed; Elder Shen sure did not distance himself as an outsider, seeing himself as part of the Treasure Pavilion.

Upon entering the city, Elder Wang Qingshan briefly showed his identity, and the guard at the gate eyed Ye Fan and the others sideways, chuckling, "So many geniuses from Xuanwu State, truly worthy of celebration!"

"Old Ma, so much chatter, courting death? Quickly let them through," another guard immediately interrupted him, respectfully guiding Ye Fan and the others into the city.

Just as they entered the city, Ye Fan heard the guard referred to as Old Ma muttering behind them, "What's the fear? Besides a prince from Jueluo Empire, Xuanwu State has no significant talents. This time, chances are few even qualify to compete..."

Ye Fan felt quite uncomfortable!

Because, for Xuanwu State to decline to such a point, even being looked down upon by a gatekeeper in the Holy City was unarguably its sadness!

Shen Tu, Zhang Taiyi, and Tong Qianchen all stopped simultaneously, evidently having heard the guard's words. Their faces turned stern and iron-blue.

"Small impatience leads to chaos in big scheming!"

Shen Ximen glanced softly at everyone and continued, "Come on, with a few days to spare, let's relax a bit and enjoy the bustling beauty of the Holy City!"

Fire Spirit City has existed for endless ages, with the stone pavement worn down by countless passersby over time, making it exceptionally smooth.

The sounds of buying and selling on both sides of the streets were incessant, filled with a human touch of earthly vitality.

Most of the businesses were run by ordinary humans, but some cultivators also set up stalls selling not-so-rare artifact refining materials or spiritual medicines.

"Sugar-coated hawthorn, both sour and sweet!"

"Roasted chestnuts, freshly roasted and sold!"

"Fresh dragon fruit, great for cooling down and quenching thirst!"

As everyone ventured further into the bustling and lively area, the calls of vendors became increasingly chaotic, with various smells permeating the air.

The Bai Yan wolf squeezed and darted through the crowd, lifting its bushy tail to disguise as a dog to avoid revealing its identity.

Demon Clan members could enter the Holy City, but Xuan Beasts without transformation entering the Holy City was asking for death!

Human strong people eyed Xuan Beast cores with great desire.

"Whose dog is that, give back my dragon meat buns!"

Just as Ye Fan and others were mesmerized by the dazzling surroundings, a loud voice suddenly shouted.

The first thought Ye Fan had was of the Bai Yan wolf, and following the sound, he saw the Bai Yan wolf clenching two steaming meat buns as it darted towards him. Behind it, a sturdy man with a face full of horizontal meat chased desperately while holding a sharp bone saber.

"Damn dog, don't run, I'll chop you into minced meat!"

The man was so angry that the veins on his forehead bulged as he gritted his teeth aggressively.

Seeing this scene, Ye Fan felt a headache, believing bringing the Bai Yan wolf to Fire Spirit City was an enormous mistake.

Because...

His intuition told him that the Bai Yan wolf was very likely to cause major trouble in Fire Spirit City!

Chapter 1420: Saint Heir of the Treasure Pavilion

Anyone who can do business in Fire Spirit City, a holy city in the minds of cultivators, even if they are ordinary people, must have a deep background, otherwise it's impossible to survive here.

Even a seemingly insignificant beggar on the street might have a surprising origin, so everyone in the holy city must act cautiously.

But Bai Yan Wolf doesn't care about these things. He directly stole two meat buns and ate them while running. In the blink of an eye, both buns were gone.

Thankfully, Bai Yan Wolf didn't sell out Ye Fan. He darted east and west among the crowd, quickly leaving the knife-wielding man far behind.

Ye Fan and the others walked closer and saw a big sign outside a small storefront with five flamboyant characters: "World's Best Dragon Meat Bun."

"Whoa! That's quite the claim! Looks like none of us have eaten yet; let's go taste what these world's best dragon meat buns are all about," Shen Ximen said with great interest, stepping into the bun shop.

"In all my years, I've never had dragon meat. Time to try something exotic!" Shen Tu said, shaking his head and following inside.

The other three contestants from other sects or clans also went inside. The group, eight in total, picked two tables and sat down.

"Shopkeeper, how much are these world's best dragon meat buns?" Shen Ximen waved to call the shopkeeper over and asked with a smile.

"Five copper coins each! How many would you like?"

The burly-faced shopkeeper, who hadn't caught Bai Yan Wolf, returned disappointed but put on a respectful smile upon seeing big business come in.

“What? Did I hear wrong? Dragon meat is an extremely rare thing; how can it be just five copper coins? It’s so cheap!” Shen Ximen rubbed his ears in disbelief.

“Hehehe...”

The shopkeeper chuckled and explained, “You might not know, but this isn’t real dragon meat. Besides, not just my small shop, even the Emperor Clan can’t produce real dragon meat. It’s good enough to have serpent meat!”

“Then what is this...”

Zhang Taiyi pointed at the big sign outside and asked.

“It’s just puffing up one’s importance!”

The shopkeeper explained, “Although my small shop doesn’t have real dragon meat, it does have real donkey meat. Isn’t there a saying, ‘Dragon meat in the sky, donkey meat on the ground’? My shop actually sells donkey meat buns, but donkey doesn’t sound appealing, so I changed it to dragon meat!”

So that’s how it is!

Everyone felt relieved and admired the shopkeeper’s ingenuity for coming up with such an idea, no wonder business was booming!

“Alright then, let’s taste your so-called world’s best dragon meat buns. If they’re truly delicious, we’ll spread your name. Serve them up, and stop only when we say we’re done.”

Shen Ximen motioned generously for the shopkeeper to serve the buns, indicating that if Bai Yan Wolf found them worth his interest, they must have a unique charm.

Although they hadn’t been with Bai Yan Wolf for long, Shen Ximen highly trusted Bai Yan Wolf’s taste; this fellow had picky taste, and ordinary good stuff couldn’t catch his eye.

“Damn it, you went in to eat buns without inviting me!”

From among the crowd outside, Bai Yan Wolf ground his teeth silently, very annoyed that Shen Ximen and the others seemed to have forgotten him.

Soon, a smart kid about twelve or thirteen years old came over carrying two big trays. Each tray held a heap of buns piled high like a small hill, glistening with oil and golden, looking spectacularly appetizing.

“Let me try one first!”

Shen Ximen, looking like a gourmet seeing fine food, grabbed one, took a big bite, chewed twice, then his eyes lit up and he praised repeatedly, “Not bad, not bad, fatty but not greasy, the flavor is great!”

Hearing him say that, the others couldn't resist anymore. They all grabbed chopsticks and joined the bun-eating frenzy.

Perhaps it was because everyone was truly hungry, or maybe because the buns from this shop genuinely tasted exquisite, but soon the group devoured an entire tray like a whirlwind.

In the end, after finishing three trays, they were finally full, and the shop assistant appropriately brought over a big teapot, pouring everyone a cup of clear tea.

After eating such greasy food, a cup of clear tea to reduce heat, fire, and moisten the lungs was wonderful!

When leaving the bun shop, Ye Fan specially packed forty or fifty buns to give to Bai Yan Wolf, knowing he must be furious watching them go into the bun shop while he could only drool outside.

Crossing several streets, the group arrived at the palace floating in the air, and immediately someone came out to greet them and took them inside the palace.

This was an incredibly grand aerial palace, with carved beams and painted pillars, dazzling and splendid, exuding a mystical aura. Only a grand entity with enormous power and financial resources like the Treasure Pavilion could own such an aerial palace.

"You've finally arrived!"

As soon as they stepped into the palace, a familiar voice reached Ye Fan's ears, and upon closer look, it was indeed Yaling, the head of the Xuanwu City branch of the Treasure Pavilion.

At this moment, Yaling was wearing an elegant long dress, her waterfall-like black hair styled into a bun with a wooden hairpin inserted across it, giving her an ethereal, immortal-like appearance.

"Oh! Isn't this Miss Yaling? Long time no see, Miss Yaling is becoming more and more like an immortal!"

Shen Ximen greeted her with a smile. He and Yaling were old friends, so he spoke very casually.

"Fatty Shen, you've gotten fatter!"

Yaling subtly used a movement technique to avoid Shen Ximen and said with a smile, "There are six days left until the competition starts. If you don't mind, please stay here! The Treasure Pavilion may not be wealthy, but we can certainly host you for a few days."

"That's great! If I couldn't eat and drink for free here, I wouldn't bother making this trip!" Shen Ximen immediately agreed.

The three people from other Sects and clans were more than happy to stay here. It saved money and allowed them to establish connections with a powerful force like the Treasure Pavilion; they certainly wouldn't refuse.

“And who might these gentlemen be...?”

At that moment, a tall young man walked in from outside the main hall. He had sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, exceptionally handsome, enveloped in a faint glow of Holy Light, like a divine figure walking amongst mortals!

Seeing Ye Fan and the others, the young man asked Miss Yaling with a puzzled expression.

“Changgeng, you’re here. Let me introduce you!”

Seeing the newcomer, a gleam flashed in Yaling’s eyes, and she then smiled and said to Ye Fan and the others, “This is Jin Changgeng, the Saint Heir of our Treasure Pavilion. He will also participate in this competition.”

Upon hearing that this person was the Saint Heir of the Treasure Pavilion, everyone couldn’t help but be moved, Ye Fan included. Jin Changgeng gave him a very special, indescribable feeling.

In any case, this Saint Heir was extraordinary and must have exceptional abilities; otherwise, he couldn’t have stood out among the many disciples of a vast force like the Treasure Pavilion and become a Saint Heir.

Every Saint Heir is one of the most outstanding disciples of the younger generation in powerful forces like the Holy Land and the Wu Shang Sect. They must not only be strong in power but also possess extraordinary luck and comprehension.

“These two are the Supreme Elder of the Xuanwu Sect, Elder Wang Qingshan, and Fatty Shen, whom you’ve met before, so there’s no need for further introduction!”

Before Yaling’s voice faded, Shen Ximen cut in discontentedly, “Yaling, you little girl, this is discrimination, severe discrimination! Why is he, Wang Qingshan, called ‘Elder’, and I am just ‘Fatty’?”

“Because you’re indeed a fatty!”

Yaling smiled mischievously, completely ignoring the hopping-mad Shen Ximen, and then proceeded to introduce Ye Fan and the others to Jin Changgeng.

“So you are Ye Fan?”

Upon hearing the name Ye Fan, Jin Changgeng’s eyes immediately lit up and he stared at Ye Fan intently, questioning him.

“That’s right!”

Ye Fan calmly met his gaze, his eyes clear as water and deep as a well.

“Are you the Ye Fan who stirred up endless waves in Qing Province?” Jin Changgeng continued to ask.

“Not really. I just had to do what was necessary to survive!”

Ye Fan still didn’t know that his actions in Qing Province had already made him famous throughout the Southern Domain.

“So it is you!”

Jin Changgeng laughed heartily, “Well done, the Qing Family flaunted their connection with the Emperor Clan Ling Family as if they were invincible. I’ve long wanted to teach them a lesson, but I didn’t expect you to step in for me.”

“They wanted to kill me, so for self-preservation, I had to let those who wanted me dead meet their end first!” Ye Fan said.

“Domineering, truly domineering, I like it!”

Jin Changgeng nodded and said to Ye Fan, “It’s too late today, so have a good rest first. Tomorrow I’ll host you and introduce you to a few people.”

“Then I’ll be in your debt!”

Ye Fan's heart was stirred; those valued by a Saint Heir like Jin Changgeng must have at least comparable status, likely other Saint Heirs.

In the Thunder Venerable master's tomb, Ye Fan had a brief encounter with the Ancient Saint and the Tianxuan Saint, but they were meeting for the first time. At that time, Ye Fan's strength, aside from being attributed to good luck, was far from being recognized by them!