

Y Master 1471

Chapter 1471: Limitless Cultivation

This incident caused quite a stir, and many geniuses realized a serious problem.

In this ghostly place where divine power is infinitely suppressed, it's crucial not to provoke Ye Fan and the Barbarian group, as their formidable bodies make them even more terrifying than mighty Xuan Beasts.

This time, Ye Fan and his group reaped a substantial harvest, collecting numerous treasures from six individuals, marking a significant bounty.

Especially the Bai Yan wolf, who not only seized treasures from two people but also, while Shi Ye and Hu Fei were not paying attention, snatched several items from them as well, smiling so broadly that its grin almost reached the back of its head, probably able to laugh even in its sleep.

Meanwhile, in a place far from the center of the ancient battlefield, Li Tianfeng, who constantly opposed Ye Fan, was conversing with a blue-clothed youth, his gaze sweeping towards Ye Fan and his companions, revealing a sinister and fierce glint.

"This boy surnamed Ye is indeed peculiar; his physical body is so powerful, it's simply unbelievable..."

"If it weren't so, Young Master Zhou wouldn't have sent six people to test him. It's truly unexpected that Qing Zi, a friend of Young Master Zhou, would die at his hands," the blue-clothed youth said.

“What? Brother Zhao Long and Qing Zi, the so-called number one genius of the Southern Domain, are friends? No wonder Young Master Zhou is so interested in an ant at the late Holy Embryo Realm!”

Li Tianfeng suddenly understood, then smiled cruelly, saying, “But since he’s provoked Brother Zhao Long, he won’t live much longer.”

“Don’t underestimate him. Although Qing Zi’s strength is just average, he’s already considered outstanding among the younger generation in the Southern Domain, but he ultimately died at the hands of this Ye. This shows that his true strength is far beyond what we see. It’s just a pity that the six people were too useless and couldn’t force out Ye’s true combat power!”

The blue-clothed youth glanced at Ye Fan’s group, then said to Li Tianfeng, “The instructor for tomorrow’s assessment will arrive soon. Until then, don’t provoke the one named Ye. I need to report this to Young Master Zhou immediately.”

With that said, the blue-clothed youth quickly walked away, soon disappearing.

Li Tianfeng’s eyes flashed with hostility, taking one last deep look at where Ye Fan was before leaving with a cold snort.

This ancient battlefield is vast. Although Ye Fan and his companions have already ventured into its central area, they are still far from the actual core. However, Ye Fan, Shi Ye, and the Bai Yan wolf do not intend to continue deeper.

The reason is simple: the deeper they go, the stronger the restrictions become. While Ye Fan and Shi Ye feel nothing, Hu Fei can barely endure it, sensing an incredibly strong pressure that nearly pushes him to his limit. One more step forward and his body might explode on the spot.

“This is an excellent place for cultivation. Breaking through in such an environment would be astonishing,” Ye Fan told Hu Fei to cultivate on the spot, using the great forces of heaven and earth to temper himself.

“Alright, seeing your monstrous physiques, I truly feel ashamed!”

Hearing this, Hu Fei agreed with Ye Fan’s reasoning, stopping where he could no longer endure, channeling all his strength to resist the immense pressure of the heavens and the earth, thus refining himself.

Ye Fan and Shi Ye, along with the Bai Yan wolf, continued forward, wanting to test their limits.

The Bai Yan wolf is undoubtedly a freak, with a remarkably robust body, always able to keep up with Ye Fan, and the heaven and earth pressure could not crush it.

After advancing five hundred meters, Shi Ye could no longer endure. Ye Fan also felt immense pressure, as if a Taigu Divine Mountain were pressing down, each step requiring great effort.

“Ye Zi, I can’t go any further.”

Shi Ye said in a muffled voice, his body on the verge of cracking, drenched in sweat as if he had just been pulled from water.

“You should cultivate here. I want to see where my limit is!”

Ye Fan comforted Shi Ye, then continued forward with struggling steps.

The Bai Yan wolf followed closely behind, making Shi Ye’s eyes widen. This wolf’s body is too abnormal, even stronger than his own—it’s simply unbelievable!

One step, two steps, three steps...

Ye Fan advanced a total of seven steps before he could move no further, his Treasure Body bearing enormous pressure, his body nearly shattering, even his Divine Soul feeling immense strain.

The Bai Yan wolf also stopped beside him, its body emitting loud roars.

It too was fully resisting the pressure of these great forces of heaven and earth!

Here, the Holy Power is almost dried up, the Holy Embryo dormant as if hibernating, and the Holy Embryo Illusions in three hundred and sixty acupoints all opened their eyes, roaring in unison.

Within his body, every cell endured enormous pressure, and his body strength incrementally increased under this critical pressure.

Ye Fan did not move or do anything, neither cultivating nor seeking inspiration, only using his body to withstand this world-shattering pressure capable of crushing the Divine Mountain.

The vigorous Qi and blood roared, blood flow accelerating tenfold, and every part of his body became active, even areas unreachably active in normal cultivation, becoming gradually livelier under this comprehensive oppression.

This is a dangerous form of cultivation, with the slightest mistake potentially leading to an inescapable situation, yet Elder Xuan did not intervene, nor did he offer guidance, silently observing everything.

Under the pressure of these great forces of heaven and earth, Ye Fan seemed like a furnace, his body emitting loud roars, resonating with the Dao.

Gradually, Ye Fan began to stop actively resisting this terrifying Heavenly Tribulation and instead let it take its course, allowing his body to naturally emit resistance, while he entered into a state of Sudden Enlightenment.

Martial Arts is endless, and nurturing a Holy Embryo within the mortal body is a miracle in itself, with far too many secrets hidden within the human body.

Based on Ye Fan's current understanding of the Great Realm, the True Qi Realm does not even qualify as a cultivator, not even as an entry-level status.

Only by liquefying True Qi and converting it to True Yuan can one be considered entry-level in Martial Arts, merely starting to glimpse the path.

True Yuan condenses, transforming into a Holy Embryo, and forming in the Dantian, converting into Holy Power; only then is it truly entering the hall of mastery.

The Holy Embryo reaches ultimate sublimation, comprehending elemental power within heaven and earth, comprehending Divine Skills; the Holy Embryo transforms into a Divine Soul, stepping into the Divine Power Realm.

At this stage, it truly counts as entering the Martial Arts Realm, mastering techniques close to the Dao, with Divine Skills connecting to the divine, grasping the mysterious elemental power of heaven and earth.

As for the Lord Realm above the Divine Power Realm, Ye Fan has truly encountered only a handful; reaching the Lord Realm is extremely terrifying, where with a single thought, one holds life and death in their Domain, supremely powerful within one's Domain.

Regarding the Venerable Realm above the Lord Realm, Ye Fan cannot even imagine how terrifying it would be, capable of easily extinguishing a legacy.

Such figures rarely reveal themselves.

Ye Fan even suspects that only ancient clans or Di Clans that have inherited Taigu have such living fossils overseeing their forces, while secondary powers boasting someone like Qing Daoyuan at Half-step Venerable Realm are already very formidable.

In Ye Fan's perseverance, Bai Yan wolf and Shi Ye also keep on; this is a transformation akin to rebirth, promising great rewards.

Many cultivators avoid venturing too deeply, with bodies far less terrifying than Ye Fan and Shi Ye, unable to advance afar, many stopping beyond Hu Fei's reach.

Sudden Enlightenment is a tremendous opportunity; it can allow a cultivator to instantly penetrate many martial arts truths previously incomprehensible, achieving sudden clarity and understanding.

At this moment, Ye Fan is in such a marvelous state in which it seems as though another self appears before his eyes, constantly evolving each move of the Xuandi Fist, with the taste and rhythm of integrating with heaven and earth allowing him to deepen his understanding.

The Xuandi Fist consists of only nine moves, each possessing earth-shattering power, with every punch causing sun, moon, and stars to tremble, as if pushing a grand world.

Ye Fan is amazed because this is the fist technique created by the Great Emperor, wielding power that astounds gods and mourns immortals.

With the strength of the Great Emperor, a punch could shatter a world!

Aside from the Xuandi Fist, Ye Fan is also inspired by the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

This was created by the Thunder Venerable master who had the greatest hope of proving Dao and becoming an emperor; Xuandi once drew upon aspects of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill while creating the Xuandi Fist, indicating a connection.

Ye Fan, in his inspiration from the Xuandi Fist, simultaneously comprehends this heaven-defying Treasure Skill, his heart transparent, immaculate, with a clear soul, akin to Liuli.

The Thunderclap Treasure Skill focuses on attack and slaughter, sharp and decisive, supremely dominant, and when cultivated to the utmost, a mere thought can call upon heavenly punishment, executing it as a proxy, unstoppable.

If the Xuandi Fist embodies a world-dominating fist technique, then the Thunderclap Treasure Skill is a peerlessly domineering secret technique.

“Just look at Ye and that wolf, it’s insane how deeply they’ve progressed within the battlefield. Are they refining their bodies into unparalleled Spiritual Treasures?”

Some external geniuses looked on, dumbfounded, all hailing from various powers, even if some came from small families, their talent not inferior to the Saint Heirs of various Holy Lands.

Nonetheless—

Even they dared not venture so far!

After all, their bodies weren't as sturdy, and with Divine Skills sealed and Divine Power suppressed, they could not withstand such pressure, unable to approach Ye Fan before being crushed by the world.

At that moment, about ten miles from Ye Fan, a young genius bravely moved forward, step by step, toward the center of the battlefield under enormous pressure.

"Isn't that Zhou Zhaolong? Truly terrifying, as expected from a demon as renowned as Qi Tianlin, his body is equally formidable!"

"It's said Zhou Zhaolong had a miraculous encounter in childhood, consuming a True Dragon Egg, gaining immense strength, his body likened to the Serpent Dragon..."

"Look at him, then look at us; truly, comparing oneself to another is to court death, comparing goods leads to discarding!"

Witnessing Zhou Zhaolong entering the central region of the Ancient Battlefield for Body Refinement as well, many cultivators nearby couldn't help but exclaim, profoundly impressed.

Soon, Zhou Zhaolong advanced to nearly Ye Fan's position, bones cracking with every step, eyes radiating resolute beams, persistently moving three arduous steps forward before halting.

Chapter 1472: Assessment Rules

Arriving at the center of the Ancient Battlefield, every step forward required paying a high price, as though a Venerable Realm strong person's hand was pressing down, subjecting one to unimaginable pressure.

Zhou Zhaolong's performance was shocking, astonishing many people!

Although those who could be admitted to the Immortal Academy were all geniuses comparable to Saint Heirs, there were still differences, and Zhou Zhaolong was a demon among geniuses!

This year, although there were only thirty new students, each was extraordinary, all emerging victorious from countless life-and-death struggles.

Everyone was competing in secret, unwilling to fall behind, all hoping to stand out in the assessment and become the most dazzling star.

Stimulated by Ye Fan and his peers, many cultivators began to move towards the center region of the Ancient Battlefield, stopping only when they could sustain no longer, honing themselves through the imposing force of the heavens and earth.

Among these people, Ye Fan discovered two demons with physical strength not inferior to his own, one of whom was Zhou Zhaolong, while the other was tall with long black hair draped over his shoulders and eyes shining with wisdom, smiling warmly like sunlight.

Through others' discussions, Ye Fan learned that this person's name was Qi Tianlin, the undisputed number one among this year's new students, with unfathomable strength.

He had moved half a step further than Zhou Zhaolong. Under such circumstances, an ordinary cultivator would have been crushed by the imposing force of the heavens and earth, yet he held on, stunning everyone.

"Hmph, being physically strong is nothing, unless you never leave this Ancient Battlefield in your lifetime, you are still an ant before absolute strength!" Li Tianfeng said resentfully.

His physical body was far less powerful than Ye Fan's, not even comparable to Shi Ye, only a step ahead of Hu Fei, and seeing Ye Fan pulling so far ahead made him resentful.

At the limit of their endurance, each day felt like years; countless geniuses had to mobilize all their strength to resist the imposing force of the heavens and earth that could crush them, suffering every second.

At this time, searching for treasures was no longer important. After discovering such a place to train the body, everyone wanted to engage in some training.

If one considers the body as a container, then Divine Power and Holy Power are the water within, and the Cultivation Technique is the means of acquiring this water, while martial arts are the methods for using this water effectively.

The achievements one can attain depend on their container, which is how much water the body can hold. The more it can hold, the stronger the power.

The stronger the physical body, the more Divine Power or Holy Power it can contain. This is why at each realm, cultivators refine their bodies with Divine Power or Holy Power; only with a stronger body can they tread further along the Martial Arts path.

Ye Fan was still immersed in Sudden Enlightenment, many seemingly false Martial Arts problems suddenly connected, deepening his understanding of the Xuandi Fist.

Along with this, his comprehension of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill also advanced by leaps and bounds, feeling that the gains from this brief moment were greater than months of meditation and inspiration.

In fact, all of this was just a natural progression. Previously, he never relaxed his requirements, constantly gaining inspiration from Xuandi Fist and Thunderclap Treasure Skill, having long had very deep insights into these two martial arts; it was just that he was connecting his past insights at this moment.

After fully understanding the Secret Technique of the Xuandi Fist, Ye Fan couldn't help but be impressed. This martial art indeed had traces of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill; if used together, its power would be extraordinary.

Though it has only nine forms, each one possesses world-shattering power, the unstoppable momentum that could shatter a world, which astonished Ye Fan.

In terms of his current strength, being able to execute three punches would already be quite good; the power of the middle three punches is too great, impossible to perform before reaching the Lord Realm Peak.

As for the final three punches, they embody the essence of the Xuandi Fist, their power surpassing the combined force of the first six punches, requiring at least the Venerable Realm to fully comprehend!

Exiting the state of Sudden Enlightenment, Ye Fan found that his body had undergone a qualitative transformation. This Ancient Battlefield saw the fall of too many strong people of the Human Race and Great Demons of the Demon Clan, the imposing force of the heavens and earth exceptionally terrifying.

Moreover, Ye Fan felt that this place had many similarities with the Forbidden Land of the Divine Race, except the Forbidden Land of the Divine Race contained some Spiritual Medicine and Treasure Medicine, unlike here where the Qi Rushes to the Sky, a barren wasteland.

The Ancient Battlefield was a stretch of endless yellow sand, Gobi deserts everywhere, with broken stones and weathered bones scattered all around, especially at night when yin energy pervaded, full of ghostly chill.

Lately, Ye Fan had gotten used to it; this yin energy couldn't harm them, being purely yin without forming Yin Soldiers and Generals.

Millions of Heroic Souls had perished fighting here; if Yin Soldiers and Generals truly emerged, scarcely anyone could leave this Ancient Battlefield alive.

A day quickly passed; no one moved, all using this rare place to temper their bodies.

The next morning, as the morning glow rose, it coated the Ancient Battlefield in a layer of Golden Light; the yin energy dissipated, yet it still felt eerie.

After all, this was an Ancient Battlefield, the site of a massive final battle between the Human Race and the Demon Clan; it would be strange if such a place didn't feel this way.

As the sun gradually rose, a black shadow flew from afar, descending upon the Ancient Battlefield.

"Everyone gather, prepare for the assessment!"

A voice echoed like thunder through the battlefield, entering the ears of everyone present.

The teacher responsible for assessing the crowd from the Immortal Academy had arrived; cultivators from the periphery scattered to rest and prepare, at least recovering their strength before participating in the assessment, or else there was no guarantee of passing it otherwise.

"Let's go, get ready for the assessment, let's hope it won't be too difficult."

Hu Fei called out to Ye Fan and the others, struggling to move his steps, retreating step by step.

“Got it!”

Shi Ye responded in a muffled voice, and as he moved his body, a series of cracking sounds from his bones resounded.

Although he had only been training for less than a day, Shi Ye felt he had made significant progress, more exhilarating than discovering a treasure.

Shi Ye hailed from the Barbarian clan in the Southern East Domain, located at the heart of the Great Wilderness, possessing mighty bloodlines and an exceptionally robust body, with innate divine strength, rough skin, and strong resistance to blows. The entire tribe thrived by hunting Xuan Beasts.

He believed that there was nothing left to temper his body until this bizarre Ancient Battlefield granted him another opportunity to strengthen his physique further.

Ye Fan could still proceed two more steps, but he refrained. For one, his previous performance was already astonishing enough, and he didn’t want to shock people further.

Secondly, his formidable physical strength was his trump card. Achieving this without any Holy Power was already a remarkable feat, and he preferred not to expose his abilities excessively.

Conduct everything discreetly!

Ye Fan was well aware that he had already offended the Qing Family of Qing Province and the Emperor Clan Ling Family, and couldn't afford to make more enemies carelessly. Otherwise, there would surely be people targeting him even at the Immortal Academy.

As he walked out of the center of the Ancient Battlefield, Ye Fan felt his strength slowly returning. It was almost overwhelming, the powerful energy once again enveloping his entire body, and his Holy Power began reviving.

"Buzz!"

Ye Fan swung his fist, causing the void to shudder, and this was without using any Holy Power. If he had, it would undoubtedly have been even mightier.

The pure physical strength he achieved could be considered unprecedented at the Holy Embryo Realm, if not certifiably unmatched.

Soon, Ye Fan reached the outskirts of the Ancient Battlefield, but the Holy Power continued to be heavily suppressed; he couldn't fly and had to proceed on foot.

"Brother Ye Fan, how is your physical strength so formidable? Did you have some fortuitous encounter in your childhood like Zhou Zhaolong?" Shi Ye asked Ye Fan in perplexity.

Ye Fan's physical strength astonished him!

Consider his own powerful bloodline and natural talent, possessing such a robust body, yet Ye Fan, who seemed ordinary and at a lower realm, had a physique stronger than his!

“It’s one thing for Ye Zi to have a strong body, as he is human and lacks any Demon Clan bloodline, but even a wolf surpasses us. I feel like jumping off a cliff!” Hu Fei angrily bemoaned, frustrated that even a wolf had journeyed further than them, defying all reason.

“This king possesses extraordinary talent. How could a mere fierce bandit like you compare?” Bai Yan wolf boasted arrogantly, infuriating Hu Fei, who gritted his teeth.

The three of them shared their insights and feelings on tempering the body as they walked towards the gathering point.

Everyone had different experiences, yet the commonality was significant gains. Prolonged cultivation in such an environment made it difficult not to grow stronger.

When the trio arrived at the gathering place, others had already gathered. A teacher from the Immortal Academy brought a massive Array Platform, etched with complex Array Patterns, gleaming with a brilliance that marked it as anything but ordinary.

“These are the Forbidden Heaven Array Patterns, a battle stage meant for strong people of the Lord Realm to engage in large-scale combat.”

Bai Yan wolf, having extensive knowledge of Array Patterns, instantly recognized the purpose of the patterns on the platform and conveyed this information to Ye Fan using divine consciousness.

“Could it be another competition?”

Ye Fan was nearly averse to competitions, having participated in countless ones, growing weary of the monotonous format.

“I don’t think so. How can a competition determine whether someone is qualified? There are too many variables,” Hu Fei shook his head, skeptical of it being a competition.

“Let’s hope that’s the case!”

Ye Fan fell silent, standing on the periphery of the crowd, waiting for the old teacher to announce the examination rules.

This Immortal Academy teacher appeared to be around forty, unrelated to the word “old,” but Ye Fan knew that for some powerful cultivators, rejuvenation and eternal youth were not too difficult to achieve.

Although the teacher seemed to be only forty, who knew their actual age.

At that moment, the teacher ascended the battle stage, surveyed the crowd, and said calmly, "I am your examiner this time. Whether you can smoothly enter the Immortal Academy depends on whether you can quickly get past me."

Hmm?

Upon hearing the teacher's words, the people below began to discuss among themselves. One person asked aloud, "Excuse me, senior, what does it take to pass your challenge? What are the specific contents of the examination?"

"It's simple. Defeat me at the same realm, and you've passed! If you pass the examination, you can leave here for the Immortal Academy registration!"

The teacher on the platform responded.

Chapter 1473: Not a Single Person Passed the Test!

"So that's how it is!"

Upon hearing this, everyone was eager to give it a try. Which one who came here isn't a genius among geniuses? Under the same realm, they all believe they won't lose.

"I'll go first!"

As the voice spoke, a burly young genius jumped onto the battle arena, turned around and said to everyone below the stage: “Apologies everyone, I’ve taken the lead!”

Many geniuses felt regret, thinking they didn’t act immediately and let someone else seize the opportunity. Otherwise, could they have been the first to leave here?

Being the first to pass the examination is a supreme honor in itself, who wouldn’t want to strive for it?

However, there were also some geniuses who frowned!

Ye Fan was one of them!

He had a vague feeling that something was off—if this teacher were easy to defeat, then the examination would nearly be meaningless, it could be ignored.

However—

The vice principal said before leaving that only by passing the teacher’s examination could one leave here and officially become a member of the Immortal Academy, so this exam will definitely not be easy to pass.

“Senior, my name is Zhao Youdao, please teach me!”

At that moment, Zhao Youdao on stage had already started preparing for the challenge, his whole body was making explosive sounds, exuding a strong aura.

“Hmm! Not bad, Early-stage Divine Power Realm, having such strength around the age of twenty is already very rare!”

The teacher on the platform said while using a secret technique to suppress his realm to Early-stage Divine Power Realm, ensuring it's a fight of the same realm.

“Senior, forgive me!”

Zhao Youdao knew that the opponent would definitely not strike first, and he dared not let the old teacher strike first. Although it's a fight of the same realm, after all, the old teacher's combat experience is much richer.

Screech!

With a movement of his hands, Zhao Youdao formed a long spear of flames in his hand, the scorching high temperature distorted the air, directly thrusting at the old teacher's throat.

Attack when vulnerable!

Zhao Youdao didn't think this spear could kill the teacher, that was impossible; he wanted to force the teacher into a defensive stance so he could fully display his strength.

Swish!

Indeed, the old teacher tilted backward without moving his feet, avoiding Zhao Youdao's flame spear, then slapped on the spear shaft, swinging the flame spear away.

"Kill!"

Seizing the chance, Zhao Youdao unleashed a series of killing moves, with each spear being more fierce, every move aimed at the teacher's vital spots, the blazing Divine Radiance made the sunlight pale.

"Strength is decent but not enough to pass my challenge!"

Amidst the heavy spear shadows, the teacher complimented, conjured thousands of hands to slap or block, dissolving Zhao Youdao's killing moves one by one.

"Step down!"

Within the spear shadows, the teacher lightly reprimanded, Zhao Youdao was slapped on the shoulder, directly knocked off the battle arena.

“I lost, and convincingly so!”

After Zhao Youdao was knocked off the stage, he retreated three steps before stabilizing, respectfully saluted the teacher, then retreated aside to quietly cultivate and reflect.

After Zhao Youdao’s defeat, everyone realized that it was too difficult to defeat this teacher in the same realm; his mastery over his strength had reached an astonishing level.

“Let me try!”

While everyone hesitated, another person stepped up, also a powerful genius, also at Early-stage Divine Power Realm, very composed.

After Zhao Youdao’s defeat, he dared to go up, indicating he had exceptional talent, must have something extraordinary, otherwise wouldn’t choose to go on stage at this moment.

“Make your move!”

The teacher immediately discerned the genius’s realm and didn’t need to adjust his realm, directly telling him to attack.

“Forgive me!”

The young man shouted, behind him appeared a strange bird, wings stretching seven or eight meters wide, with three heads: one resembling an eagle, one a wolf, and one a lion.

Hmm?

Ye Fan was puzzled, what kind of Xuan Beast was this? Never seen before; if it were a Nine-headed Bird, it didn't look like one.

While Ye Fan was daydreaming, the fight had already commenced on stage, the young strong individual showed remarkable skills, comprehended Water Element Divine Power, the Holy Embryo behind flapping its wings, suddenly causing the battle arena to surge with waves, condensing into treasure swords attacking the teacher.

Divine Skills transformed endlessly, almost surrounding the teacher. These treasure swords formed from the water element could absolutely kill an ordinary Early-stage Divine Power Realm strong person, seemed indeed extraordinary, at least could fight across realms.

Ye Fan closely observed every movement of the teacher, watching how he broke through these Divine Skills offensives, secretly simulating some of his actions.

At this moment, Ye Fan realized astonishedly that although the teacher used Early-stage Divine Power Realm strength, his grasp of his strength was subtly perfect, unwilling to waste any Divine Power, every strike contained profound logic.

This teacher was truly exceptional. Ye Fan compared silently, finding it almost impossible to defeat this teacher; his combat experience was too rich, virtually able to counter any attack.

Boom!

With a light sound, the young genius was unsurprisingly knocked down the stage by the teacher, easily defeated.

Next, people swarmed forward to challenge, all hoping they could defeat the teacher and become the first to pass the examination.

However—

As expected, no one was able to defeat the old teacher; they all failed and some even suffered severe injuries, heading off to heal after their defeat.

With each genius being defeated, the number of remaining challengers dwindled, and so did their confidence.

This old teacher, who looked like he was in his forties, was utterly terrifying. Yet, the defeated geniuses all felt that the old teacher did not suppress them with his realm; he used the same level of strength as theirs.

This was quite a blow to them. They previously thought of themselves as geniuses among geniuses, invincible at the same realm, only to realize when facing the old teacher that there is always someone stronger.

Hu Fei went up and couldn't last even half a minute before the old teacher struck him down with a palm, forcing him to admit defeat obediently.

Shi Ye lasted a little longer, but ultimately he too was defeated, being injured by the old teacher's skillful technique, though the injury wasn't serious.

"Be careful!"

As Ye Fan was about to step onto the battle arena, Shi Ye approached him and whispered.

"I will!"

Ye Fan wasn't entirely sure of himself either. Although he had watched many battles, he made a startling discovery that the old teacher didn't seem to have any fixed moves or martial arts. Instead, he acted on instinct, employing various ingenious techniques seamlessly and effortlessly.

“Senior, please guide me!”

Ye Fan walked onto the stage, took a deep breath, adjusted himself to his best state, but did not reveal his Holy Embryo in advance.

“Late-stage Divine Realm?”

The old teacher gave Ye Fan a deep look and then suppressed his realm to match Ye Fan’s.

“Divine Power against Holy Power gives you a disadvantage. Should I suppress myself further to the mid-stage Holy Embryo Realm?”

The old teacher knew that compared to Divine Power, Holy Power was somewhat inferior. He didn’t want to take advantage of Ye Fan, so he prepared to suppress his realm further.

“No need! Let’s fight at the same realm. I don’t want anyone to think I’m making special requests.” Ye Fan replied.

“Good, you have spirit, go ahead!”

The old teacher nodded approvingly. Though Ye Fan was only at the late-stage Divine Realm, he didn’t underestimate him at all. Being able to stand there with late-stage Divine Realm cultivation was already remarkable, surely he had qualities that set him apart.

“Please guide me, senior!”

Ye Fan solemnly flashed a light in his hands, producing the Thunder Emperor Spear. The purplish spear shimmered with electric light, with streaks of Thunder Power flowing over it.

“The Thunder Emperor Spear of Thunder Venerable?”

The old teacher immediately became serious. Although he knew this was merely a replica, it was crafted by Thunder Venerable and of excellent quality.

“Exactly!”

Ye Fan shouted loudly, unleashing the Heavenly Slaying Seven Divine Spears. The gun light flickered, weighing more than ten thousand pounds, as it attacked the old teacher on the battle stage.

“Good!”

The old teacher praised, his hands encircled by Divine Radiance, striking sideways at Ye Fan’s spear with clanging sounds, like iron being forged.

If it weren't for the mysterious array patterns engraved on this stage, it would have been destroyed long ago. Not only Ye Fan, the other challengers were also incredibly strong. Without these protective patterns, this would have been devastated despite being an Ancient Battlefield.

This ancient battlefield could not be destroyed because it was a relic and testament to the great war between humans and the Demon Clan, which is why the old teacher brought such a stage.

Soon, Ye Fan finished executing the Heavenly Slaying Seven Spears, the violent Thunder Power causing the stage to tremble continuously, its light flashing incessantly.

"Overpowering Nine Heavens!"

Ye Fan shouted, his Thunder Emperor Spear transforming into countless gun lights, each capable of piercing through a great mountain, attacking the old teacher like a violent storm.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...

The old teacher's hands continuously blocked Ye Fan's offensive, but counterattacking in such a short time seemed nearly impossible.

"My God, is this Ye actually so strong? Could he become the first to defeat the old teacher at the same realm?"

Whether defeated or not yet tested, those below the stage were all stunned. They hadn't anticipated Ye Fan's attack to be so fierce, rendering the old teacher unable to counteract for the moment.

"This Ye guy is too powerful; no one in the Divine Embryo realm might be his match," some geniuses couldn't help but say.

Putting themselves in that position, they felt that they might not be able to withstand Ye Fan's sharp assault. Even if they fought with all their might, the outcome would still be unpredictable.

This discovery shocked them secretly, although Ye Fan was only at the late-stage Divine Realm, not many dared to underestimate him.

"How on earth is this kid's combat power so strong?"

Li Tianfeng's eyes shot out a cold light. Although a bit surprised, he didn't pay it much mind.

A battle at the same realm?

Only a fool would do something like that!

To him, Ye Fan was merely an ant that could be stomped to death with a single step, no need at all to fight him on equal footing.

Slap!

After three minutes of fighting, Ye Fan's Thunder Emperor Spear was seized, and then the old teacher struck his back with a spear, knocking him directly off the stage, failing the evaluation.

Subsequently, others continued to challenge, but none passed the assessment; all were defeated.

Even Zhou Zhaolong and Qi Tianlin were no exception!

Chapter 1474: Holding Out for an Hour

The old teacher sent by the Immortal Academy is too strong. Under the same realm, he almost crushed these so-called geniuses and demons. Not a single one could last more than three minutes against him.

This was a tremendous blow!

Which of them wasn't the pride of the heavens, invincible among their generation? It wasn't just about being at the same realm; they could have defeated immortals even across a small realm gap.

However—

Today, they finally understood the principle that beyond people there are always more people. The old teacher defeated them one by one at the same realm, and it was a wheel battle, which required an extremely high level of strength from the cultivator.

“I’ve never seen anyone this monstrous!”

“How strong must he have been when he was young?”

“Could he possibly have been the strongest heir of the Di Clan?”

Those who were defeated all engaged in discussion, believing that the old teacher was absurdly strong. It seemed extremely difficult to defeat the old teacher and ultimately pass the assessment.

“We’ll stop here for today. Whoever wishes to continue challenging, I’m here to accompany you. Otherwise, go rest and deeply reflect on your cultivation. I look forward to your giving me a surprise.”

The old teacher glanced over everyone and then said, “Don’t be discouraged. Since the academy decided to conduct the assessment in this manner, there’s naturally a reason. In nearly a thousand years, no cohort has ever passed the assessment on the first try, so there’s still a chance for you.”

“Senior, you mentioned that no cohort in nearly a thousand years has passed the assessment on the first try. We want to know, what is the fastest number of challenges needed to pass the assessment?” a genius asked from below the stage.

“As far as I know, the fastest record in nearly a thousand years is six times. At that time, there was a demon-level genius who only passed the assessment after six challenges, defeating the examiner of the same realm,” the old teacher replied.

“Hiss...”

Everyone couldn't help but gasp. The fastest required running the gauntlet six times to pass? That's simply too unbelievable, right?

Can this cohort break that record?

No one knew, but everyone had personally experienced the old teacher's formidable power, understanding deeply how difficult it was to defeat him.

That night, Ye Fan returned once again to the central region of the ancient battlefield, stopping at the point close to the critical juncture, resisting the immense pressure of the world's great force while pondering, seeking enlightenment, and martial enlightenment!

He had the speed of the world, capable of quickly reaching any place even if flying was prohibited.

The Bai Yan wolf always followed beside him. While Ye Fan trained his body, the Bai Yan wolf also bore tremendous pressure, persevering arduously.

This perseverance was greatly beneficial to it. Ye Fan now understood. The Bai Yan wolf was not incapable of transformation, nor was it unable to withstand the tribulation of transformation; it was simply following the path of its original beast cultivation.

Any Xuan Beast, upon reaching a certain stage in cultivation, faces a choice: to follow the original beast cultivation path or to undergo transformation and tribulation, shedding their bestial form.

Because the human body is a miracle in this world, offering an advantage over the bodies of Xuan Beasts in terms of cultivation speed, many powerful Xuan Beasts choose to transform into humans, even at the risk of tribulation.

Yet, some Xuan Beasts believe their original body's lifespan is longer, and they hesitate to lose their painstakingly cultivated Demon Core, fearing they might have to start over. They have no choice but to follow the beast cultivation route.

The reason the Bai Yan wolf follows the beast cultivation route is mainly that it was once the mount of the Thunder Venerable master in his later years—it couldn't choose to transform. If it transformed, wouldn't the Thunder Venerable master end up riding a human?

After the first failure, everyone realized that it was almost impossible to defeat the old teacher at the same realm if they didn't enhance their strength, so no one tried again for the next two days.

Ye Fan didn't return for two consecutive days. He knew clearly that no one could achieve a leap in two days and defeat the old teacher, passing that level.

Under such pressure, Ye Fan's strength steadily increased, his body became more robust, and his power enhanced. Even without using Holy Power, his combat power was formidable.

Shi Ye and Hu Fei did not come either. They understood that no matter how strong they trained their bodies, it was impossible to defeat the old teacher in a short time and pass the test.

The only way to pass was to fight, continually battle, and break through in combat.

But to avoid exhausting their ten chances, they didn't rashly challenge but sparred in the ancient battlefield where Divine Power was suppressed.

The others were also engrossed in madly cultivating, comprehending their martial arts. In comparison, Ye Fan seemed very different.

But Ye Fan knew that the environment here hugely benefited his cultivation of the Nine Heavens Profound Body. He vaguely felt that it was about to break through, but it couldn't under the suppression of the world's great force.

Once he left here, it would be almost impossible to return here to temper his body unless the academy gave special permission, which was unlikely.

To make rational use of this time, Ye Fan didn't hesitate at all, heading straight to the limit he could withstand. A single step forward might result in shattered bones, leading to eternal damnation.

This tempering was evidently effective. Ye Fan continuously tempered his body while incessantly replaying each detail of his battle with the old teacher in his mind.

By recalling every move of the old teacher, Ye Fan gradually gained some insights, but he was still unsure about defeating him.

After two days of body tempering, Ye Fan returned to the battle stage. He wanted to verify his achievements over these two days and face the test once more!

Using speed to match speed, Ye Fan performed the Chasing Star Step, leaving a trail of afterimages on the stage. His mighty Holy Power surged like an ocean, destroying everything.

Boom!

Ye Fan threw a punch, the Punch Ray penetrated his body, and the Holy Embryo Illusion in the three hundred and sixty acupoints roared together, making a sound like Heavenly Thunder.

The old teacher had a solemn expression, prepared for battle, sensing the uniqueness of Ye Fan. Each punch he threw was like an antelope hanging its horns or a mysterious bird gliding over sand, leaving no trace, completely elusive.

The old teacher exerted himself to the fullest, using the strength of a Late-stage Divine Realm to battle Ye Fan for a full hour, attracting many bystanders.

Everyone was stunned to see that the person fighting the old teacher was actually Ye Fan. Being able to withstand the old teacher's attacks for an hour in the same realm was simply a miracle!

"Buzz!"

Ye Fan unleashed the Xuandi Fist, a punch that shook the void, fully locking his spiritual energy onto the old teacher, leaving the old teacher no choice but to confront it head-on.

Bang!

With a loud bang, Ye Fan was unstoppable, his body moving with his fist, prepared to use the back of the mountain to knock the old teacher flying.

At that moment...

Swish!

The old teacher's foot moved, skillfully using a technique to neutralize strength, redirecting Ye Fan's violent fist force to the side. Then his left hand, like a knife, was suspended over Ye Fan's neck.

If he were to strike down, Ye Fan would either die or be seriously injured. It was clear the old teacher held back, but Ye Fan knew he had lost again.

“Thank you, Senior, for your mercy!”

Ye Fan stepped down from the battle stage. The defeat this time gave him great inspiration. The old teacher’s grasp of the battlefield conditions was superb, able to utilize everything available, which is why he was defeated.

Ye Fan was unsurprisingly defeated once again. For him personally, it was insignificant, but it deeply stimulated others.

Everyone was a genius. In just two days, Ye Fan could fight the old teacher for an hour before inadvertently losing. They couldn’t hold back anymore.

Right after Ye Fan stepped down from the battle stage, several geniuses came to challenge one after another. They didn’t intend to defeat the old teacher but hoped to pass the test, because that was unrealistic. But at least they aimed to last longer than Ye Fan.

After all, Ye Fan was only Late-stage Divine Realm, whereas most of them had already stepped into the Divine Power Realm. If they were surpassed by a Little Cultivator of the Holy Embryo Realm, how could they feel at ease?

However—

Reality was harsh. The old teacher also noticed their intentions and directly struck them heavily, injuring several. This immediately made those restless geniuses fearful and hesitant to try recklessly again.

Ye Fan's second challenge lasted an hour, a feat that astonished everyone, causing dissatisfaction. Some suspected either Ye Fan cheated or the old teacher went easy.

But such thoughts they didn't dare express directly, keeping them to themselves, because no one dared to question the authority of an old teacher.

That day, Wu Jingtian, Yue Chuan, Qi Tianlin, and Zhou Zhaolong also underwent their second assessment. After two days of cultivation and enlightenment, the four had made significant progress, as they were inherently Demon Level, capable of cross-realm combat. Such progress was unsurprising.

Shi Ye and Hu Fei did not take the assessment again but honestly practiced and sparred with each other.

During this process, Hu Fei encountered bad luck; his body was far inferior to Shi Ye's, and even though Shi Ye was careful each time, he still got hurt.

However, the benefits were evident. Hu Fei's combat ability soared rapidly, constantly improving, progressing even faster than Ye Fan, terrifyingly so.

After the second defeat, Ye Fan did not rush to leave but found a quiet place to sit and contemplate the gains and losses of this battle.

Ye Fan was accustomed to finding his weaknesses through summary; only by growing through constant summarization could each step be solid.

“I lost because I was too fast!”

After carefully recalling all the details of the battle, Ye Fan eventually found the crux of the issue.

Speed was his forte; the Chasing Star Step was unrivaled in the world. No movement technique was faster, even the extreme Heavenly Eagle Body Technique of the Demon Clan was slightly inferior.

However—

This extremely fast speed became the key to his loss in the previous battle. Truly, speed was both his success and his failure.

Finding the crux, Ye Fan’s brows relaxed.

He decided to cultivate for a while longer, digesting the insights from this battle, truly making them his own, carefully seeking Martial Enlightenment, and waiting until he had some confidence before undergoing an assessment again.

Chapter 1475: Third Attempt!

The old teacher from the Immortal Academy is named Gui Moyuan, who was a demon-level genius when he was young. It was extremely difficult to defeat him in the same realm, even for geniuses from various domains.

For the first time, Ye Fan lasted only three minutes before failing, not much different from others.

However, the second time he persisted for an hour, this achievement shocked everyone, causing a massive sensation!

“Who exactly is this Ye kid? How could he progress so quickly, it’s only been two days!”

“Who knows! This kid’s physique is extraordinary, he managed to reach the center of this ancient battlefield, just three steps behind Zhou Zhaolong and Qi Tianlin, definitely a demon-level talent.”

Some geniuses unaware of Ye Fan’s background were discussing, stunned by his performance this time, especially knowing none of them could last an hour against the old teacher Gui Moyuan, yet Ye Fan did.

“Brother Zhao Long, I have an ominous feeling. This Ye kid might pass the test before us and enter the academy. Should we still target him?”

In the deserted ancient battlefield, Li Tianfeng spoke to Zhou Zhaolong beside him with a worried expression.

“What to fear? He is merely an ant at the Holy Embryo Realm, and being older, likely has little potential left. Even if he enters the academy before us, I’ll make sure he pays.”

Zhou Zhaolong said gloomily, crushing a skull in his hand, “How can I let the death of my brother Qing Zi go unavenged! I’ll definitely avenge him!”

“What’s your plan, what do you need me to do?”

Li Tianfeng nodded, his eyes also flashing a vicious light.

“For now, do nothing; last time, probing him cost us a little. Now with the academy elders present, if he finds out, we might not even get into the Immortal Academy. Act cautiously.” Zhou Zhaolong said with calculated foresight.

“That’s all we can do now, really unsatisfied, having to let him live a few more days.” Li Tianfeng clenched his fist tightly, as if he had already captured Ye Fan in his hand.

“For now, set aside this Ye kid, fully prepare to pass the test; only by passing can we enter the Immortal Academy smoothly and deal with him, there will be plenty of chances in the future.”

“Brother Zhao Long, do you think he can pass this test?” Li Tianfeng asked.

“Certainly, from today’s performance, even if he can’t break the six-time record, entering the academy poses no problem; we must strive hard.” Zhou Zhaolong nodded.

Ye Fan naturally did not know, not yet entering the Immortal Academy, he was already targeted, his future academy life destined not to be calm.

At this moment, he was sitting cross-legged at the center of the ancient battlefield, surrounded by golden sands, dotted with some eerie white bones.

The momentum of heaven and earth only affects cultivators, having no pressure on these dead objects; Ye Fan’s clothes were soaked with sweat, sticking uncomfortably to his body.

Since successfully cultivating, Ye Fan hadn’t felt sweat for a long time; his body was immune to cold and heat unless encountering Beihai profound ice or Nine Yang Separation Fire, such extreme cold or heat, otherwise it wouldn’t affect him.

However—

Today, he was drenched in sweat!

This all was caused by the pressing power of heaven and earth, Ye Fan had to mobilize all his strength to resist this pressure.

In this environment, even without cultivation, Ye Fan's bodily functions operated madly, his physique slowly transforming.

While honing his body, Ye Fan also digested the gains and losses from the previous battle, the scenes replaying slowly in his mind, clearly discerning each of Gui Moyuan's moves, even his traces of exertion.

In such a scenario, Ye Fan gradually grasped where he lost in this battle.

Indeed it was speed; not that he wasn't fast enough, but too fast, as ancient sayings go, in martial arts, strength is unbreakable, speed is invincible.

This saying led Ye Fan astray, believing that sufficient speed would defeat opponents.

However, reality proved otherwise; he lost due to his excessive speed, so fast that he couldn't stop in time, leading to this test failure.

"Why did speed instead lead to defeat?"

Ye Fan pondered deeply, his eyes nearly void, with no perception of surroundings, wholly devoted to breaking the flaw.

If there exists a method, there must be a countermethod, Gui Moyuan precisely defeated him using his speed, but abandoning speed would be more passive, wouldn't it?

Is there a compromise, maintaining Chasing Star Step's speed while not giving opponents opportunities?

This was the question Ye Fan considered.

He methodically reviewed all martial arts he learned, trying to find a way to solve the current predicament.

Regarding bodily strength and power, Ye Fan felt no inferior to late-stage Divine Realm Gui Moyuan; in speed, he held an edge; in actual combat power, he possessed Domineering Fist and Emperor's Fist, including Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

Domineering Fist crafted by Tyrant in Earth's ancient times, though incomparable to Thunderclap Treasure Skill and Emperor's Fist, was still a straightforward domineering martial arts technique, paired with Thunderclap Treasure Skill, also exerting tremendous power.

Reasonably speaking, Ye Fan believed he lacked nothing compared to same-realm Gui Moyuan, yet inexplicably lost in actual battle.

Especially the first time, he showed no strength before losing, heightening his reverence for the Immortal Academy.

This indeed was a Holy Land in cultivators' eyes, if able to further study in this academy, substantial transformation would be sure.

This ancient battlefield wasn't eternally calm; occasionally winds would pass through.

Just as Ye Fan was troubled by his inability to find a way to break the technique, a sudden gust of wind blew, with the sound of pine waves outside.

The wind was blocked by the distant mountains and swirled back, forming a huge whirlwind, sweeping everything on the ground into the air, like a giant dragon of yellow sand, unstoppable by anything in its path.

Huh?

At this moment, Ye Fan suddenly had a moment of enlightenment, his eyes fixated on the whirlwind, forming a Tai Chi diagram in his mind!

From Wuji comes Tai Chi, Tai Chi gives birth to the two principles, yin and yang embrace each other, becoming one.

At the beginning of heaven and earth, there was chaos, and the splitting of chaos was termed yin and yang, with yin containing yang and yang containing yin, complementing each other, which is Tai Chi!

The essential principle of Tai Chi is to use slow to overcome fast, softness to overcome hardness, combining softness and hardness, balancing fast and slow.

Ye Fan had previously learned the essence of Tai Chi Boxing, so he was naturally familiar with it. At this moment, observing the whirlwind and gaining enlightenment, he finally understood how to defeat the enemy.

Too fast won't work, too slow won't work either, so only the secret technique of Tai Chi can break Gui Moyuan's realm, this is the true method to break through.

Of course, Ye Fan did not plan to use Tai Chi Boxing to confront the enemy, but instead understood the true intent of Tai Chi, and with this understanding, any martial arts technique could embody Tai Chi.

Having this insight, Ye Fan immediately became excited, but did not act recklessly to take the assessment. Instead, he practiced repeatedly in his sea of consciousness.

At his level, he no longer needed to practice moves physically. As long as he perfected them in his sea of consciousness, he could naturally execute them in battle.

Balancing fast and slow, Ye Fan meticulously deduced his moves, finally confirming them. After practicing hundreds or thousands of times in his sea of consciousness, it almost became an instinct.

When Ye Fan opened his eyes again, seven days had already passed. Many people had taken the assessment four or five times; some had even taken it seven times, still suffering miserable defeats at the hands of Gui Moyuan, unable to pass.

Even Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong had taken the assessment four times, yet each time ended in failure, which was quite a blow to them.

Fortunately, Gui Moyuan had mentioned earlier that in nearly a thousand years, even the most demon-level geniuses had taken the assessment six times before passing, so their failure was normal.

After understanding this, Ye Fan decided to give it a try. Whether he could pass or not, he wanted to verify the results of his realizations over the past few days.

“That guy named Ye is going to take the assessment again. Let’s see this time how long he can last!”

Hearing that Ye Fan decided to take the assessment again, many young geniuses didn’t even care about their cultivation and rushed to watch the battle.

Firstly, they wanted to see with their own eyes if Ye Fan could truly last for an hour based on his own strength. Secondly, they hoped to find some patterns or flaws in Gui Moyuan’s techniques to use in future assessments.

Soon, almost everyone knew about this. Before Ye Fan himself arrived at the battle platform, a crowd had already gathered.

Shi Ye and Hu Fei also got the news and came to cheer for Ye Fan.

Although they didn't believe at all that Ye Fan could pass the assessment this time, as friends, they still wanted to come by and show some support.

Bai Yan wolf was practically inseparable from Ye Fan during this time. In such a place, it didn't dare to act alone for fear of trouble if targeted.

"Brother Ye Fan, after this assessment, whether you pass or not, we have to drink a cup either way. If you pass, it's a celebratory drink; if not, it's a consoling drink!" Hu Fei said, holding a wine gourd that even with the plug in could emit a faint aroma of wine.

"How about you guys? Have you gained any insights?"

Having not been with them for a while, Ye Fan naturally inquired upon meeting them.

"Cough... don't mention it. I've been tortured terribly!" Hu Fei complained, filled with grievances.

"Even though that old fellow's realm is the same as mine and doesn't use more strength, I lose inexplicably every time. I've already lost six times; looks like breaking the record is out of the question for me. Only looking at you now."

"I'm about the same, lost five times, feeling the same as Hu Fei mentioned before, thinking I could win but ending up losing inexplicably." Shi Ye scratched his head, looking puzzled.

“He’s here, let’s see how he manages to last an hour!”

As soon as the three of them arrived near the battle platform, someone immediately noticed Ye Fan, causing a commotion.

Swish!

The next moment, everyone’s gaze unanimously fell on him.

Clap!

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Ye Fan stepped onto the battle platform, standing face to face with the elder teacher Gui Moyuan!

Chapter 1476: Breaking the Record

The ancient battle stage flickered with array patterns, exuding a mysterious and distant aura.

No one knows how many Heavenly Pride have fought to the death on this stage before finally passing the assessment and officially becoming a member of the Immortal Academy.

From this rigorous trial, it’s easy to see how strict the Academy’s requirements are for students. Even the Saint Heirs from various Holy Lands can’t enter the Immortal Academy without the corresponding strength.

When Ye Fan stood on the battle stage, all eyes were focused on him, waiting for his next performance.

“Brother Ye Fan, good luck!”

Hu Fei clenched his fists, looking expectantly at the two on the stage, silently cheering for Ye Fan in his heart.

“Do you think he’ll succeed in the challenge this time?” a genius asked.

“You should be asking how long he can hold out this time!”

Another genius sneered, “I doubt his previous record. Today, I want to see with my own eyes just how much of a demon he really is!”

“That’s right. Even we can’t hold out for an hour. Can he, a late-stage Divine Realm ant, hold out for an hour? Absolutely impossible!”

“Just watch, none of us were there last time. Maybe Senior Gui went easy on him!” A local genius hostile to Ye Fan deliberately said under Li Tianfeng’s instruction.

“That’s impossible, right? If Senior Gui wanted to go easy on him, he could have just let him pass the assessment last time, no need for such theatrics, right?” someone expressed disbelief.

“You don’t get it, do you? Senior Gui did say before that the most demonic ones took six assessments to finally pass in nearly a thousand years. If he let him pass on the second try, wouldn’t it be too obvious? The Immortal Academy wouldn’t agree to it.”

“Makes sense! I guess, even if Senior Gui deliberately went easy, it would still take him five or six tries to pass the assessment. Just watch!”

The people were paying great attention to Ye Fan’s assessment this time, firstly to verify their own speculations, and secondly to find flaws in Senior Gui Moyuan’s moves to prepare for their future assessments.

“Accumulate Yang to transform the spirit, form within the spirit, shadow arises within the form, accumulate Yin to form the spirit, form within the spirit, shadow arises within Yang, Yin and Yang combine, the Essence of Tao is achieved...”

Ye Fan silently recited the Tai Chi True Intent he realized, merging with the Tao. Though he stood there simply, it felt like he was blending into the world, without a single flaw.

“This kid is odd...”

Gui Moyuan’s heart trembled. Ye Fan’s current state gave him immense pressure, as if resonating with heaven and earth.

During previous assessments, he'd experienced great trouble with Ye Fan's speed, which made him wary.

However—

Only seven days had passed, and Ye Fan was able to make another breakthrough. Was this kid the heaven's favorite?

Gui Moyuan didn't dare be careless, fully alert. Although he wished someone could break the record, losing like this wouldn't look good for him.

"Come on, show me how much progress you've made!"

Gui Moyuan's expression was solemn, knowing this might be his toughest battle at the same realm, Ye Fan gave him an indefinable feeling.

This feeling was particularly odd; he could clearly sense Ye Fan was still at the late-stage Divine Realm, not even at the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, yet he couldn't see through his true combat power.

"Senior, my apologies!"

Ye Fan stepped on the Chasing Star Step, quick as Flowing Light, leaving behind an illusion in place, attacking Gui Moyuan's shoulder as his voice reached him!

"This kid's nature is not bad!"

Gui Moyuan inwardly praised him. Others tended to target his vital spots when attacking to pass the assessment quickly, but not Ye Fan.

However, he dared not be careless. In the same realm, he already regarded Ye Fan as a formidable opponent, and no longer cared about gaining an advantage with Divine Power over Holy Power.

Whoosh!

Gui Moyuan struck swiftly, aimed at Ye Fan's wrist, while sidestepping, preparing to use the Unloading Technique to deflect Ye Fan's fierce Holy Power Fist Force.

Having fought before, he understood that Ye Fan's body was extremely terrifying, undoubtedly gifted!

Bang!

Ye Fan's punch landed on Gui Moyuan's shoulder. In a flash of Purple Light, the violent Holy Power forcibly pushed Gui Moyuan back a step!

"How is this possible?"

Gui Moyuan was shocked; he clearly thought he could grab Ye Fan's wrist, but instead caught his fist, and was immediately shaken off. The Unloading Technique was used to its utmost, no further change was possible, yet Ye Fan's fist reached him.

A tidal wave surged in Gui Moyuan's heart as he looked at Ye Fan with a strange gaze. He knew clearly that the main reason Ye Fan could hit him earlier was his incorrect judgment, grabbing his fist instead of his artery.

"Uh..."

The audience was silent, all mouths agape, looking incredulously as Ye Fan pushed Gui Moyuan, the elder, back a step in one encounter. How... was this possible?!

Though it was a battle at the same realm, they knew well how terrifying Gui Moyuan's combat power was; without special means, defeating him wasn't possible. But Ye Fan did it.

"Not bad, again!"

Gui Moyuan instantly figured out where his mistake was—Ye Fan had paused for a moment midway through the punch, causing his misjudgment.

Hoo!

Ye Fan's heart was calm as still water, moving and still as he pleased, like a gentle breeze. He charged at Gui Moyuan again, raising his hand to unleash the Xuandi Fist!

No Divine Radiance, no punch wind; fully sublimated, Returning to nature, Ye Fan's punch truly unleashed the true intent of Xuandi Fist, harmonizing with heaven and earth, wielding its mighty power.

Gui Moyuan's eyes narrowed, facing Ye Fan's seemingly ordinary punch, he felt as if he couldn't avoid it, only meeting it head-on!

"Hah!"

Gui Moyuan roared, his momentum soaring, like a giant, manifesting a Vajra Ape behind him, a Dharma Form towering ten zhang high, filling the sky.

Gui Moyuan pushed his strength to the limit, delivering a fierce punch, the blinding Punch Ray like a golden sun, dazzling everyone's eyes below, tears streaming down their faces.

At this moment, their eyes might as well have been blind; they couldn't see anything.

Boom!!

With a loud crash, Ye Fan was thrown flying, landing on the edge of the battle platform, nearly falling off. His right hand was bloody and mangled, exposing purple-gold bones to the air, his face as pale as paper, and blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

Gui Moyuan similarly flew backward, his right hand exploding, followed by his wrist and forearm, all shattering, his face deathly pale.

Pa-pa-pa-pa-pa...

After landing, Gui Moyuan staggered back seven or eight steps before finally losing footing and falling off the battle platform.

Silence!

The scene was dead silent; even the sound of a heartbeat became noise!

Crackling!

Ye Fan sat cross-legged on the battle platform, Pure Yang Qi circulating, making crackling sounds all over his body. His injured right hand was enveloped by Pure Yang Qi, rapidly healing.

Within three breaths, Ye Fan's injuries completely healed. His internal organs were crystal clear, and the Holy Embryo Illusions in his three hundred and sixty acupoints roared in unison, like large bells and drums, with sound reaching the outside of his body.

At this moment, Ye Fan's vitality was as vigorous as a dragon. His black hair flew wildly, and he was like a resurrecting primordial beast. A dragon-shaped essence burst from the top of his skull, shooting straight to the heavens.

Boom!

An immense aura erupted from below the platform. Gui Moyuan had unlocked the seal on his body, circulating Divine Power. The shattered limbs regenerated, though his sleeves were gone.

Pa!

With one step, Gui Moyuan returned to the battle platform, looking at Ye Fan with a complicated gaze filled with relief, shock, and disbelief!

"Gulp..."

There was the sound of swallowing in the crowd below; everyone was tense, watching the platform. Those who earlier said Ye Fan surely couldn't pass the assessment now felt hot-faced.

They had just wondered how long he could last, and in the blink of an eye, Ye Fan knocked Gui Moyuan off the platform during the assessment. This sudden change was hard for them to accept!.

"Senior, have I passed the assessment?"

Ye Fan was on high alert, fearing Gui Moyuan might strike again, as he had shattered Gui's arm in the same realm. Who knew if Gui would hold a grudge?

Gui Moyuan was momentarily speechless, gesturing to Ye Fan, saying, "You've already done this to me; can I say you haven't passed? Come on, I won't strike you again."

Ye Fan finally let out a sigh of relief, walking quickly to Gui Moyuan's side, standing below him.

Seeing Ye Fan's humble demeanor, Gui Moyuan chuckled wryly, shaking his head, "You don't need to be so guarded against me. I'm not petty. I'm glad to see such strength in you; why would I think otherwise?"

"Ye Fan..."

With these words, Gui Moyuan publicly announced that Ye Fan had defeated him in the same realm and successfully passed the assessment, becoming the first to enter the Immortal Academy this term, and the first in nearly a thousand years to break the academy's record.

"It's truly unbelievable; he managed to pass the challenge and even broke the academy's record!!"

This was the thought of most people. Ye Fan's lead in passing the assessment gave them a massive shock.

"This Ye Fan is quite interesting!"

In the crowd, Emperor Wu's disciple, Wu Jingtian, nodded thoughtfully.

"Ye Zi, mighty!"

"Ye Fan, domineering!"

Shi Ye and Hu Fei were thrilled, celebrating Ye Fan's record-breaking achievement.

"This Ye has certainly set a high bar for everyone!" someone said.

Indeed, Ye Fan passed the assessment on the third try, successfully defeating Senior Gui Moyuan, which put immense pressure on others. If they couldn't pass quickly, it would be quite embarrassing.

"Too old, potential exhausted. Even if he is stunning now, he is destined to fade into the crowd in the future. He isn't qualified to be my rival," Qi Tianlin thought upon learning that Ye Fan passed the assessment.

"Hmph!"

In the crowd, Li Tianfeng's eyes flashed with a trace of disdain, snorted coldly, turned around, and walked away, disappearing into the distance.

Afterward, the crowd dispersed. After they left, Ye Fan, together with Hu Fei and Shi Ye, took the Bai Yan wolf through the narrow area. They arrived in the forest outside the battlefield to barbecue, drink, and chat leisurely.

"Brother Ye Fan, congratulations on passing the assessment and being able to study at the Immortal Academy. After we pass too, you must look out for us!" Hu Fei said mischievously while turning the meat on the campfire.

"Get lost!"

Ye Fan laughed, kicking Hu Fei, "If anyone should look out for someone, it's you guys looking out for me. In combat in the same realm, I fear no one. But if someone several Xiao realms higher comes after me, what then? At that time, I'll have to rely on your backer's influence to sort it out for me!"

“No doubt, it’s as you say; we’re brothers. If anyone dares bully you, they’re crossing us. When you arrive at the academy, seek out Han Sandong, my Third Brother. He’s ranked third among the Nine Fierce Bandits; he’ll look after you!” Hu Fei said.

“Great!”

Ye Fan nodded with a smile, but knew in his heart that if the younger generation of the Ling Family really targeted him, Hu Fei’s Third Brother might not dare to help—he must rely on himself for the future!

Chapter 1477: Snobbish Eyes

Sure, here is the translation:

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Immortal Academy, officially called the Immortal Martial Academy, is located in the Southern East Domain, nestled amidst a range of mountains, with Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi abundant, resembling mist and smoke, as if it were an Immortal Mansion in the human world.

Gazing from high above, Ye Fan was taken aback to discover that the location of this Immortal Martial Academy was meticulously chosen. Although surrounded by mountains, there were surprisingly six dragon mountains stretching tens of thousands of miles in six directions, with the dragon’s heads pointing directly at the Immortal Martial Academy.

This kind of terrain is extremely rare; even the ancestral lands of the Di Clan cannot possess such grandeur and magnificence. The six great dragons spewing Essence Qi, nurturing the Immortal Martial Academy, no wonder it is a sacred place for cultivation.

After parting ways with Hu Fei and Shi Ye, Ye Fan headed to the Immortal Academy under the guidance of Teacher Gui Moyuan and realized its extraordinary nature as he flew overhead.

The Immortal Martial Academy is densely covered with Array Patterns and carries the aura of an Ancient Emperor. Ye Fan descended from a great distance away and walked towards the academy's entrance.

The Immortal Martial Academy covers an extensive area, comparable to a massive city, with low hills everywhere, waterfalls flowing, and mist swirling like an Immortal Realm.

"It truly is an Immortal Mansion!"

Ye Fan couldn't help but marvel, no wonder even the Saint Heirs from various Holy Lands and the strongest heirs of the Di Clan want to enter both academies for study and cultivation; it is indeed exceptional.

From the Immortal Martial Academy, it's not hard to guess the scale and environment of the Emperor Martial Academy; they are definitely not much different, which attracts many geniuses to come and learn.

The entrance of the Immortal Martial Academy is magnificent, with the aura of the great Dao, and the ancient city walls are condensed like mountains, telling a rich history.

“Halt!”

Just as Ye Fan was about to step into the entrance of the Immortal Martial Academy, an old man sitting lazily beside the gate stood up, put a ragged felt hat on his head, and approached Ye Fan.

Hmm?

Ye Fan stopped his steps, took a look at the old man, and didn’t speak; he could tell the old man was extraordinary, with unfathomable cultivation.

Someone like this is only a gatekeeper at the Immortal Martial Academy, showing how deeply rooted the academy is; no wonder even the Di Clan dare not provoke it lightly.

“What is your purpose, and why have you come here?”

While Ye Fan was assessing the old man, the old man was also evaluating him. Seeing Ye Fan didn’t speak, he then asked.

“I am a new student of the academy, having passed the entrance examination, specially here to report!”
Ye Fan calmly replied.

“Hahaha...”

The gatekeeper laughed skyward, then coldly said, “Little brat, if you lie, at least find a more reasonable excuse, will you? The new students are all currently undergoing the examination in the secret place; no one could pass so quickly. If you don’t reveal your true intent, I’ll capture you and hand you over to the academy for handling.”

“Uh...”

Ye Fan was rendered speechless, was it wrong to have passed the examination first?

Had I known, I wouldn’t have passed the examination so early; I could still temper my body with the great momentum of Heaven and Earth in that Ancient Battlefield!

“I truly passed the examination, and Teacher Gui Moyuan instructed me to report here.”

Ye Fan patiently explained that he defeated Gui Moyuan of the same realm before being approved to report to the Immortal Academy.

“Although I am aged, my eyes are not dim, and my ears are not deaf; even the fastest in nearly a thousand years needed to take the examination six times to pass. Do you think you are the reincarnation of a Great Emperor? Passing in three tries, clearly you are an impostor.”

The gatekeeper totally disbelieved Ye Fan's words, thinking it impossible to pass the examination so swiftly; Ye Fan must be impersonating someone for other purposes, albeit poorly.

"Leave quickly; I won't make things difficult for you, or don't blame me for being unkind!"

The gatekeeper waved to drive Ye Fan away, telling him not to appear at the academy entrance again.

At that moment, a tall young man with long black hair and a chiseled face walked out from the academy gate, his eyes profoundly deep.

Seeing Ye Fan at the entrance, the man was momentarily stunned, exclaiming, "Ye Fan, brother?"

Ye Fan looked closely, and it was Sikong Po; he didn't expect him to be in this academy too, truly a reunion with an old friend in a foreign land.

"Brother Sikong? I didn't expect to see you here!"

Ye Fan walked towards Sikong Po under the puzzled gaze of the gatekeeper, their hands tightly clasping each other's.

“Now you have to call me senior brother because I entered a bit earlier than you.” Sikong Po smiled and inquired about Ye Fan’s experience coming here, and Ye Fan recounted truthfully.

“Unbelievable, I had to take the examination seven times to pass, and you passed in your third try, that’s truly abnormal!” After hearing Ye Fan’s story, Sikong Po exclaimed with jaws dropped wide and then punched Ye Fan’s shoulder jealously.

“You guys...”

The gatekeeper also realized Ye Fan may really be a new student, but he still couldn’t quite believe Ye Fan beat Gui Moyuan in the third examination, which seemed almost impossible.

“Uncle Mo, this Ye Fan is my brother and also the champion of the Southern Domain Genius Competition, one of the Emperor’s Four Kings and One Supreme, he is indeed a student of this cohort.” Sikong Po introduced Ye Fan’s background to the gatekeeper.

“Even if he is a new student of our Immortal Martial Academy, he probably didn’t partake in the examination, right? Otherwise, a Little Cultivator of the Holy Embryo Realm like him being the first to pass among so many people would be nearly impossible.”

At that moment, several students walked out of the academy and overheard their conversation; a young man at the Mid-stage Divine Power Realm exclaimed with a yin-yang tone.

“What did you say? Liu Daoran, say it again?”

Sikong Po turned abruptly, staring at the young man with a cold glare.

“Say it a hundred times, it would be the same; who does he think he is? Passing the examination in such a short time, that’s impossible.” Liu Daoran retorted, undaunted by Sikong Po’s aura.

“Exactly, even we took seven to eight attempts to pass the examination. How dare a mere ant of the Holy Embryo Realm claim to be stronger than us?” Following Liu Daoran, several young men and women cast disdainful glances at Ye Fan, snickering.

“Seeing people with dog eyes low...”

The Bai Yan wolf muttered, not too loudly or softly, just enough for these people to hear clearly.

“What did you say?”

A group of people immediately became angry. They were all geniuses comparable to Saint Heirs, usually very conceited; how could they tolerate being belittled by a wolf?

“What’s wrong with saying that? Just because you’re useless, does that mean others can’t be better than you? He passed the assessment in just three tries; being upset won’t change that!”

The Bai Yan wolf glared with a pair of white eyes, its fur bristling as if ready to pounce and bite at any moment.

“Damn it, slaughter it!”

“Clean up this so-called Ye Fan along with it for daring to cause trouble at the Immortal Martial Academy, tired of living!”

The words of the Bai Yan wolf deeply provoked them, even a few female cultivators were displeased, their presence exuding as they surrounded Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf.

“What are you doing? Trying to bully people? Then count me in too!”

Sikong Po thought again and again and ultimately chose to trust Ye Fan, because he believed Ye Fan had no reason to lie.

“Are these the disciples of the Immortal Martial Academy? Such prestige you have! A group of Divine Power Realm individuals ganging up on a Holy Embryo Realm cultivator, that’s certainly making your teachers proud!”

Ye Fan showed no fear, knowing that fighting was absolutely forbidden at the gates of the Immortal Martial Academy.

“All step back!”

Just as a battle seemed imminent between Ye Fan and Liu Daoran and others, a booming voice echoed through the sky, shaking everyone’s Divine Soul.

Whoosh!

Faces of the crowd changed instantly, and they swiftly identified the speaker as Old Monster Lu, the vice president of the Immortal Martial Academy.

“I have received the news from Teacher Gui Moyuan. Ye Fan defeated him three times while in the same realm, setting a new record for the academy’s entrance exam, officially becoming a part of our Immortal Academy!”

Old Monster Lu’s voice came from deep within the academy, vast as it spread over the entire academy. Everyone heard this shocking news except those in closed-door cultivation.

“Uh...”

Liu Daoran and his companions instantly looked ashen, staring at Ye Fan in disbelief, their minds filled with doubt: How could he break the record and pass the entrance exam in just three attempts?!

Is it possible??

No answer!

At that moment, they felt as if they had swallowed a fly while eating, looking as awkward as possible, unable to stand or dare to attack Ye Fan.

The old gatekeeper's face also turned extremely unsightly, feeling humiliated to the extreme, but he couldn't bring himself to apologize to a freshman who had just entered the academy.

"Mo Kong, in recognition of your dedication and responsibility to the academy this time, as vice president, I will not pursue this matter; take care in the future, and if you make another mistake, you won't be spared!"

The vice president's voice came again, leaving the gatekeeper terribly embarrassed. He pulled his battered felt hat down over his face and squatted by the wall, pretending not to hear.

"Ye Fan, the president wants to see you, come with me!"

With the vice president's voice, a stream of Divine Light extended from deep within the academy, directly wrapping Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf into it, disappearing from the spot in an instant.

"What's this Ye's background, to receive a personal summons from the president?!"

After Ye Fan left, Liu Daoran's face was ashen, filled with astonishment.

Others felt the same, equally shocked; they shook their heads, indicating they didn't know Ye Fan's identity.

Meanwhile, they vaguely felt a grudge had been formed, and there would be conflicts with Ye Fan in the future for sure.

Sikong Po looked in the direction where Ye Fan disappeared, smiling slightly, feeling he had made the right bet. To receive a personal summon from the president immediately upon entering the academy, and setting a new record in the assessment, Ye Fan's future achievements were bound to be limitless!

"Hey!"

Sikong Po gave Liu Daoran and others a deep look, hummed a tune, and walked into the academy, canceling his plan to take a leisurely stroll.

The Immortal Martial Academy occupies a vast area, no smaller than the Southern Domain Sacred City; it's divided into several different regions, including places for student learning and teachers' cultivation, along with several Forbidden Lands that even teachers are unqualified to enter.

Whoosh!

A flash of light, and Ye Fan appeared in a secluded place, where the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi wasn't denser than other areas, even slightly sparser.

In the distance stood several simple bamboo houses, tranquil and natural, seemingly imbued with the charm of Martial Arts, blending perfectly with nature.

Ye Fan knew this was a realm of perfect harmony between an artificial setting and nature, and the creator of these bamboo houses must be a person of deep knowledge.

"Child, you're quite good, come over!"

Just as Ye Fan was observing the surroundings, a calm voice called out.

Chapter 1478: Quasi-Emperor?

Hmm?

Ye Fan looked in the direction of the voice, only to see an old man lying on a bamboo chair beside the bamboo house. He looked very ordinary, without any aura that a strong person should have.

"Dean!"

Ye Fan instantly guessed the identity of the old man. There were only two people who could wait for him here, one was the vice dean, Old Monster Lu, and the other was the dean.

He had met the vice dean, but he had never seen this old man. Without a doubt, it must be the dean who wanted to see him.

Ye Fan had never expected the dean of the Immortal Academy to be such an old man, without any aura, only a pair of eyes that were incredibly deep, the kind of eyes that could only see through everything after experiencing the vicissitudes of life.

The Immortal Martial Academy and the Emperor Martial Academy are the two largest academies in this world, even the Di Clan is very wary of them. Yet a strong person who could shake the Five Great Domains by stomping his foot actually looks like this.

Ye Fan felt uneasy. He feared his secrets would be revealed—the dean of the Immortal Academy must be a Supreme Strongman stronger than all the Saints. What if he discovered that Ye Fan possessed the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown?

Ye Fan dared not imagine!

But he was already here, and there was no way to back out. Ye Fan could only brace himself and silently pray that the dean of the Immortal Academy had transcended worldly concerns and would not be interested in his Emperor Weapon.

Otherwise, even wielding the Emperor Weapon would be useless. His strength was too weak, and the Emperor Weapon could not exert much power right now.

With a firm resolve, Ye Fan decided to take a gamble, step by step walking to the old man near the bamboo house, and respectfully bowed, “Ye Fan pays his respects to the Dean, senior!”

“Hmm... hmm?”

The dean nodded slightly, then suddenly seemed to have discovered something, sat up straight, and his eyes shot out two beams of light, as if they were going to pierce through Ye Fan’s body.

“So that’s how it is...”

The dean smiled faintly, lay back down, and said to Ye Fan with a smile, “I know what you’re worried about. Don’t worry, I’m already old and not interested in that hat inside you!”

Thunk!

Ye Fan’s heart trembled, his body suddenly shuddered, knowing the dean had already seen through the matter of him possessing the incomplete Emperor Weapon, and pointed out that he would not take it for himself.

“Phew~~”

At this thought, Ye Fan secretly breathed a sigh of relief. If the dean was eyeing his Emperor Weapon, he would have no chance to resist at all.

At this moment, even Elder Xuan in his sea of consciousness secretly breathed a sigh of relief, feeling secretly surprised, the dean of the Immortal Academy was too terrifying, most likely at the peak of the Supreme Realm, or even a Quasi-Emperor!

With such combat power, it's almost sweeping this world—not to mention in an era where the Great Emperor is absent, the Quasi-Emperor is definitely invincible!

"This person is terrifying, exceedingly terrifying!"

Elder Xuan said to Ye Fan in his sea of consciousness, "In the present world, I'm afraid there are few who could be his opponent. Truly unexpected that the Immortal Martial Academy has such a near Quasi-Emperor strong figure guarding it, no wonder all the Di Clan are wary of the two major academies."

"Quasi-Emperor..."

A buzzing sounded in Ye Fan's mind, this is truly a fearsome ancestral figure alive, in an era without a great emperor, an absolute powerhouse who could cross the Five Great Domains.

"Tsk ts! You are truly someone with great fortune, unexpectedly able to receive two inheritances at once."

Though the dean lay on the bamboo chair, Ye Fan dared not relax at all, standing respectfully in front and unable to get a word in.

Even when the dean was silent, he didn't know what to say and could only remain silent.

"The Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor is one of the greatest emperors, also the last Great Emperor of the Human Race. The fact that you can gain the recognition of his Emperor Weapon shows that your talent is extraordinary."

The dean's eyes seemed to see through everything, saying, "I did not expect you could also obtain the inheritance of the Thunder Supreme. This great fortune may not even be possessed by the Emperor's son!"

"While you have obtained two of the strongest inheritances, their path is the hardest. Each one is astonishingly talented, rare in ten thousand years. To achieve something in the future, you'll need to work even harder, put in more effort than others."

According to the dean of the Immortal Academy, both the Thunder Venerable Master and the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, each of their inheritances is extraordinary. The fact that Ye Fan could obtain both is truly a reversal of destiny.

However—

Possessing two of the strongest inheritances, the path Ye Fan must take is even more arduous than others', as both of their paths to Proving Dao are the most difficult.

"The academy will provide you with all resources and fully nurture you. As for where you will eventually reach, it depends on your respective talent and comprehension..."

Afterward, the dean also explained some rules of the Immortal Academy.

For fairness, the resources of the Immortal Academy are gained by one's abilities. Here, everything is based on strength. The stronger you are, the more resources you get, and the faster you cultivate.

This is a very cruel elimination system, but for those Heavenly Pride who enter the Immortal Academy, only such a system can stimulate their unyielding war intent, allowing them to constantly feel pressure and not dare to slacken even a bit.

Martial Arts Cultivation is like rowing a boat upstream; if you stop moving forward, you fall back. With everyone around you desperately cultivating, no one dares to slack off, or they will be left behind.

"There's one thing you need to pay attention to!"

The dean stood up, took Ye Fan to a bamboo forest filled with a sharp aroma, and said faintly, "The Emperor Weapon you have has not fully recovered, and its current power is very limited, so until you are truly strong, never expose its existence. Otherwise, it will bring you a deadly disaster! Once the Ling Family finds out and comes to demand the Emperor Weapon, even I have no reason to stop them, do you understand?"

“Yes.”

Ye Fan nodded. He was well aware of this point. Before he had truly grown strong and had enough self-protection ability, the Emperor Weapon must not be exposed, or he would surely become the target of everyone.

“It’s been a long time since I felt young!”

The headmaster of the Immortal Academy stood with his hands behind his back on a protruding stone, sighing.

Ye Fan was silent. In front of this headmaster, he felt very small, like an ant standing before a dragon.

Although he was reluctant to admit it, this was indeed the feeling. The headmaster did not display any strength, just a wisp of his aura gave Ye Fan this feeling.

The breeze blew, making the bamboo forest rustle, everything was so calm and harmonious!

“Look at these bamboo leaves, swaying in the wind. But is it the wind moving? The leaves moving? Or is it the heart that moves?” The headmaster’s wise gaze turned to Ye Fan as he spoke softly.

Wind moves, bamboo moves, or the heart moves!

Ye Fan thought deeply about this question.

He knew that every word the old headmaster said had profound meaning and was never spoken carelessly.

Hmm?!

After a moment, Ye Fan's whole body trembled as he looked at the old headmaster in disbelief, bowing respectfully, "I understand. Thank you, Senior, for showing me the way!"

"The child can be taught!"

The old headmaster nodded slightly with a smile, "Being able to find the path is secondary; finding the path without traces is entering the Dao. No wonder you obtained the recognition of both the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor's and Thunder Venerable's heritages."

"Although I understand the principle, as long as one takes action, there is intention. With intention, there are traces to follow. How can one truly reach the supreme state of Martial Arts without traces?" Ye Fan, feeling enlightened, knew the headmaster was guiding his Martial Arts cultivation, so he asked.

“At the beginning of heaven and earth, all was chaos. Chaos gives birth to the Dao, Dao gives birth to one, one gives birth to two, two gives birth to three, and three gives birth to all things. All things come from one and return to one. As long as you can come from two and return to one, who cares what changes happen in between?”

The headmaster’s wise and profound gaze was like a lighthouse in the sea, and his few words lit a bright light on Ye Fan’s path of Martial Arts.

“Come from one, return to one...”

Ye Fan pondered continuously, with a sense of realization arising in his heart, just about to speak, he was stopped by the headmaster.

“No need to say it out loud. The Dao can only be understood through meaning. Once spoken, it falls into the secondary. Everyone’s gain is different. I was just speaking casually!”

“Speaking casually...”

Ye Fan was speechless. Just speaking casually contained the ultimate truth of Martial Arts, to what extent had the headmaster’s realm reached?

Ye Fan didn’t even dare to guess!

“Alright, you can go!”

The headmaster issued a farewell order, sitting alone on a green stone amidst the mountains, seemingly merging with the heavens and earth in a trance.

The Bai Yan wolf was surprisingly not causing trouble, dutifully following Ye Fan at a distance, not daring to come closer.

Ye Fan cupped his hands in salute, quietly leaving this peaceful and harmonious area with the Bai Yan wolf, heading towards a pavilion in the air.

This aerial pavilion was the iconic building of the Immortal Academy, where the vice headmaster usually worked. Besides the enrollment of new students, usually, only some teachers could enter.

“I’ve never seen this young junior, how did he come out of the old bastard headmaster’s secluded Forbidden Land?”

In the distance, some students saw Ye Fan coming out of the headmaster’s secluded Forbidden Land and looked at Ye Fan in astonishment.

In their memory, the headmaster’s identity was very mysterious, and no one had ever seen his true face. Moreover, the place where he secluded himself was one of the five Forbidden Lands of the academy, even regular teachers didn’t have the qualification to enter. How could they not be shocked when a junior student like Ye Fan walked out of there?!

“Could he be Ye Fan?”

Some people immediately thought of the words the vice headmaster had said before, looking at each other in confusion.

“This is the one who defeated Teacher Gui Moyuan in the Border Assessment after just three attempts, successfully passing the test?” A group of people looked at Ye Fan approaching from afar in disbelief, as if seeing a monster.

“Ye Fan junior brother, it’s really you!”

In the distance, a beauty with the demeanor of Lingbo Fairy greeted him with surprise.

She was dressed in misty attire, radiating an inviolable sacred brilliance, flying towards Ye Fan like a fairy descended to earth.

“Isn’t that Yaling, one of the Four Great Immortals of the Immortal Academy? How does she know a new student?” Some people saw Yaling heading towards Ye Fan, very surprised.

“That you don’t know. As far as I know, Saintess Yaling used to be in charge of the Treasure Pavilion’s branch in Tianyuan City, and this boy named Ye is from Xuanwu State. It’s normal for them to know each other!” Someone who knew the inside story revealed.

“This kid is really lucky to know Saintess Yaling...”

Someone said unwillingly, looking at Ye Fan with eyes full of envy, jealousy, and hatred!

Chapter 1479: Thorny Rose

Although Yaling is not the strongest successor of the Di Clan, nor is she from any Wu Shang Sect or Holy Land, her status is no less than theirs.

The Treasure Pavilion spans every city in the Five Great Domains, and it's an undeniable force, even stronger than the foundations of the Holy Land.

Moreover, Yaling's identity is actually the granddaughter of the previous Old Pavilion Master?!

Apart from that, Yaling's beauty is unmatched!

With her esteemed status and captivating looks, she has earned the title of one of the Four Great Immortals within the Immortal Academy, drawing a multitude of pursuers.

Whether it's a genius emerging from a small faction or the strongest successor of the Di Clan, everyone wants to be her Dao companion and thus latch onto the high branch of the Treasure Pavilion.

However—

Yaling treats everyone indifferently, although she is polite, she gives off an impression of keeping people at arm's length.

Today, she unexpectedly greeted Ye Fan, instantly causing heartbreak among those pursuing her.

Yaling is the goddess in their hearts, so naturally they wouldn't dare to do anything to her; all their envy and anger shifted to Ye Fan, wishing they could tear him apart with their gaze!

Ignoring the envious and jealous stares, Ye Fan approached Yaling, "Sister Yaling, I didn't expect to see you so soon!"

With that, Ye Fan casually took Yaling's small hand, which caused those pursuing Yaling to feel an intense surge of hatred, almost bursting with rage, wishing they could obliterate him.

Ye Fan muttered about the lethal charm of beauties, especially those with influence and background, and strength of their own, their impact is even greater!

"I didn't expect that you could pass the assessment so quickly, breaking a thousand-year record by passing in just three attempts, it's a big deal, there's no way I wouldn't know!"

Yaling blinked her charming eyes, "Moreover, you haven't even entered the academy and you've already had conflicts with old students, causing Elder Mo guarding the gate to suffer a setback, and even earning a personal summons from Dean Old Immortal; such honor is rare in the Immortal Academy.

Though you've just entered, you're already quite famous, almost everyone here knows about you, how could I not know, sister?"

In fact, Yaling hasn't realized that her current attitude towards Ye Fan has elevated his notoriety to a terrifying height, making him known throughout the academy.

"Sister Yaling, I need to report to the Vice Dean, but I don't know where the Vice Dean is right now, can you take me there?" Ye Fan said.

"Of course!"

Yaling laughed, "It's only natural for a sister to look after her brother, why be so polite with me?"

With that, Yaling pointed to a pavilion floating in the distance, "See that floating pavilion? That's the Vice Dean's office, he usually works there."

The two ascended to the floating pavilion, led by Yaling who knew the place well, Ye Fan followed her through twists and turns until they came to a corridor where from a distance a big sign stood, with four big characters: "Vice Dean's Office!"

Upon entering the Vice Dean's office, Old Monster Lu could be seen squinting and sipping tea, the desk was spotless and bare, except for a nearly dried-up Spirit Grass.

“Ye Fan is here, please sit, please sit!”

Seeing Ye Fan arrive, the Vice Dean’s eyes brightened instantly, glancing at Yaling with a smile, inviting them to sit down.

“Vice Dean, I’m here to report!” Ye Fan said directly.

From the sly glint that flashed in Old Fox’s eyes, Ye Fan sensed something might be amiss. He knew this Old Fox too well; when in the Southern Domain Sacred City he often had disputes with him; he’s someone who acts only when there’s a benefit, being overly solicitous without any ulterior motive would be unusual.

“Ye Fan, I know everything about you, truly a hero emerges young, breaking the record six times, you’ve set a high bar for others!”

After some pointless chitchat, the Vice Dean finally got to the point, smiling as he said, “Our Immortal Academy doesn’t admit students for free, it requires paying a certain tuition to maintain the academy’s normal operation, otherwise it would likely close down long ago, so let’s discuss this tuition issue...”

Hmm?!

Ye Fan was stunned for a moment; when pulling him in earlier there was no mention of tuition fees, so why are fees needed now?

However, Ye Fan, having come from Earth, understood these rules: no institution can be purely welfare-based, otherwise it couldn't operate sustainably, it needs stable income channels.

"How many spirit stones?" Ye Fan instinctively asked.

"I won't make it difficult for you, considering you're the champion of the Southern Domain Genius Tournament, one thousand jins of top-grade spirit stones." The Vice Dean displayed a pained expression.

"What? Why don't you just go and rob?"

Ye Fan immediately jumped up; one thousand jins of top-grade spirit stones was not merely a lion's demand but practically sky-high pricing.

"Calm down, young man, if I explain the academy's benefits, you'll understand why the fee is so high, and we're treating you specially, not asking for too much!" The Vice Dean, pleased with himself, meticulously detailed the academy's benefits to Ye Fan.

In the Immortal Academy, students can freely use spirit stones from the academy's Spirit Stone Storage for cultivation, and there are the cultivation insights from ancient sages, so the fee is completely fair and reasonable.

“

“This...”

Ye Fan glanced at Yaling, using his eyes to ask if she also paid such a hefty amount of spirit stones for tuition.

Seeing his questioning gaze, Yaling slyly smiled and said to the vice dean, “Vice Dean, you can’t exploit new students like this, can you? Although we can freely receive spirit stones for cultivation, we’ve contributed to the academy and we obtain them using contribution value, so we don’t need to pay tuition at all!”

“This old fox...”

Hearing Yaling’s words, Ye Fan felt a surge of anger; this old rascal was clearly taking advantage of his ignorance of academy rules to deliberately cheat him.

“Uh...”

The vice dean’s old face flushed red, shaking his head repeatedly and said, “Sigh... what a situation, just afraid of internal saboteurs, alright, no payment then!”

Then, the vice dean stopped trying to con Ye Fan and with a flash of light in his hand, a Qingyu Talisman appeared, engraved with Ye Fan’s name and likeness, dressed in blue, looking ethereal and quite lifelike.

“Inject a strand of divine consciousness, and it will serve as your identity tag in the future!” The vice dean handed the talisman to Ye Fan.

Ye Fan nodded, as a flash of light appeared at the center of his brow, and a strand of divine consciousness silently entered the Qingyu Talisman, which suddenly emitted a bright glow, a beam of green light shooting out and disappearing into the air.

“This...”

Ye Fan was stunned, never expected such a thing to happen, looking at the vice dean for clarification.

“No need to be surprised, your divine consciousness has connected with the Immortal Stele; from this moment on, you are truly part of our Immortal Academy!”

The vice dean explained to Ye Fan with a smile, then turned to Yaling and said, “From today, he is your junior student, guide him about some of our academy’s rules and taboos, off you go!”

After leaving the vice dean’s tower, Ye Fan had nowhere to go, so he followed Yaling for a casual stroll through the academy.

Unknowingly, they arrived at a plaza in the center of the academy, where a smooth as mirror stele stood three zhang tall.

“This is our academy’s Immortal Stele, every student of the academy can find their name on it!” Yaling introduced to Ye Fan.

Ye Fan nodded, having already found his name at the very end, alongside some basic information and enrollment time etc.

As he looked at the names one by one, Ye Fan found Yaling’s name at the thirty-sixth position, amazed at her high rank, indicating her extraordinary strength.

“Little brother Ye Fan, don’t envy your sister, she’s entered earlier than you and her contribution value is higher, so naturally ranks better!” Yaling teased.

“Contribution value? What exactly is that?” Ye Fan asked.

“Contribution value, it’s naturally the contributions made to the academy; for instance, tasks released by the academy you complete will earn you corresponding contribution value, and the academy releases tasks every month for students to complete.”

As Yaling explained, Ye Fan gradually understood what exactly contribution value was, essentially personal points.

The stronger the academy’s strength, the more contributions one makes, and the more points one earns, leading to higher rankings.

According to Yaling, this Immortal Stele was made through sacrificial refinement using Outer Heaven Immortal Materials, left by the first dean as the academy's treasure!

The Immortal Stele is spiritually connected, able to record everyone's contribution and strength values, accumulating them to determine ranks, not remaining constant.

Then, Yaling told Ye Fan about the five forbidden areas within the academy, which are only secrets to new students, but common knowledge to old ones.

Within the Immortal Academy, besides the secluded place of the dean, known as Old Bastard, the other four locations are academy's top-secret areas.

Among them are the Immortal Tower for comprehensive strength assessment, the ninety-nine-layered celestial ladder viewed as purgatory, and the cemetery where past strong people of the academy rest.

Each student in the academy has their own Dong Mansion for cultivation, but these are not fixed, instead obtained through competition of strength.

Ye Fan, having just reported, had yet to gain his own cultivation Dong Mansion, so his living arrangements were a bit awkward.

"Little Brother, as you call me sister, I'll reluctantly take you in, for now you can stay in my Dong Mansion, but no funny ideas, like watching when I'm bathing..."

Yaling looked mischievously at Ye Fan, with an irresistibly charming smile.

“_”

Ye Fan was speechless, his reasoning telling him, Yaling is certainly a rose with thorns, better admired from afar than intruded upon!

Chapter 1480: Sharing a Room

The Immortal Academy has a long-standing heritage. The founding dean possessed the ability to connect heaven and earth, establishing the academy with the intention of discovering some geniuses who, despite their humble origins, possess extraordinary talent.

The academy is absolutely fair, with all resources obtained solely through one's own efforts. To acquire more and better resources, one must have not only strong personal strength but also noteworthy performance in the academy.

According to Yaling, every student goes through an assessment before entering the Immortal Academy. Only those who pass can enter for study.

Upon entering the academy, students undergo a special training to assess their realm and strength. This training is terrifying, comparable to hell, and all who have undergone it shudder at the mention of their experiences.

Once the special training is complete, there is a test of realm and strength, followed by cultivation in the Immortal Secret Realm.

The Immortal Secret Realm is a very special place in the academy, providing Spirit Stones necessary for cultivation. It also hosts experienced strong people and elders who discuss martial arts and provide guidance, along with insights from predecessors for students to observe.

It can be said that the Immortal Secret Realm is a holy land in the hearts of all disciples of the Immortal Martial Academy. However, aside from newcomers who can cultivate there for one year, other students must make great contributions to the academy or exchange contribution values for the qualification and time to enter the Immortal Secret Realm again.

Contribution values are priceless to every student—not only can they be exchanged to enter the Immortal Secret Realm for cultivation, but they can also be used to obtain various treasures such as cultivation techniques, martial arts, elixir pills, spiritual treasures, and more.

Additionally, according to Yaling, there is a Heaven and Earth Spiritual Root in the academy, which is one of the main materials for refining Soul Gathering Pills. A mere branch and leaf is needed.

This information made Ye Fan's heart race with excitement; he was determined to obtain the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Root no matter what!

Since others hadn't returned yet, Ye Fan could only temporarily stay in Yaling's Dong Mansion for the time being. The secret training ground couldn't be opened just for him; it had to wait until everyone arrived to be opened.

That evening, Ye Fan and Yaling walked side by side along the academy's path towards her Dong Mansion for cultivation, the sunset giving the entire earth a golden cloak.

“Boy, stop!”

As the two walked forward, a sudden shout came from ahead, followed by a few young individuals in their twenties appearing before them.

“Xie Zuwu, what do you want?”

Before Ye Fan could speak, Yaling’s face turned cold, and she said coldly to the leading young man.

“Nothing, just wanted to warn this boy,”

Xie Zuwu took two steps forward, his eyes shooting out fierce light, and said coldly, “Boy, this is the Immortal Academy, not a place you can act recklessly. Here, a dragon must coil, a tiger must crouch. You have to understand there are things you can’t touch, or you’ll bring death upon yourself!”

“I don’t understand what you mean, please be clear!” Ye Fan frowned slightly, glancing at Xie Zuwu.

“Alright, I’ll be clear!” Xie Zuwu glanced at Yaling, then said viciously, “Stay away from the Saintess Yaling, or you’ll die without knowing how it happened!”

“Xie Zuwu, I don’t need you to interfere with my affairs. Ye Fan is my brother, if you threaten him, you’re against me. Believe it or not, I’ll make you disappear within seven days!”

Seeing someone dare to threaten Ye Fan, Yaling refused to tolerate it, her phoenix eyes filled with anger, stepping forward coldly approaching Xie Zuwu.

“Saintess Yaling...”

Xie Zuwu’s heart skipped, he didn’t expect this outcome, hurriedly smiling apologetically, “So he’s Saintess Yaling’s brother! A misunderstanding, truly a misunderstanding. I hope Saintess Yaling wouldn’t bear grudges against small people like me!”

Xie Zuwu knew well the influence of Saintess Yaling in the academy. If she wanted to act against him, she wouldn’t need to do it personally; just a hint from her and he’d have no place to bury himself.

“Get lost! Relay my message: anyone who dares bother Ye Fan is opposing me, Yaling, don’t blame me for being ruthless!” At this moment, Yaling was full of domineering energy, like a female emperor.

Those who accompanied Xie Zuwu turned pale with anger but dared not retaliate, only capable of quickly leaving with Xie Zuwu.

“Damn, we lost face this time. Immediately investigate Ye Fan’s identity, if he lacks a significant background, I’ve got a hundred ways to kill him!”

After walking far enough away, Xie Zuwu gritted his teeth angrily.

“That Ye isn’t to be messed with! Shielded by Saintess Yaling, we might not easily act against him!” one disciple beside Xie Zuwu said.

“Afraid of what? He hasn’t undergone Purgatory Training; in Purgatory, killing someone is like child’s play. Dare to snatch my woman, I want him dead!” Xie Zuwu’s eyes turned red, like an evil ghost.

“Sister Yaling, I never thought you’d be so impressive in the academy, your little brother will rely on you from now on!” After Xie Zuwu and his group left, Ye Fan joked with Yaling.

“Stop being cheeky!”

Yaling smiled sweetly, as if a hundred flowers had blossomed, leaving Ye Fan momentarily stunned.

Nonetheless, he was even more convinced that Yaling was a rose with thorns – considering the situation earlier, surely Yaling would have plenty of suitors, and getting too close to her might cause misunderstandings among her suitors.

“Misunderstandings are fine.”

Ye Fan quickly brushed aside these boring thoughts and followed Yaling to her Dong Mansion.

This was a place with Earth Dragon Veins, where Dragon Energy periodically steamed from below, misty like fog, making anyone soaked in its essence feel refreshed, with all pores seeming to open.

Ye Fan understood well that beyond the Immortal Martial Academy were six great dragons in worship, with intense Dragon Energy converging here, divided into different areas of varying Dragon Energy richness. Cultivating in this place of dense Dragon Energy itself signifies many issues.

As the two returned side by side, many disciples of the Immortal Academy had followed them, witnessing the close connection between Ye Fan and Yaling, breaking many hearts.

“They entered; that wretched Ye Fan actually entered Saintess Yaling’s Dong Mansion...”

These people all followed from a distance, and the moment they saw Ye Fan and Yaling walk into the Dong Mansion, someone exclaimed.

“They went in, so what? It wasn’t like you went in!” someone said sourly.

“What on earth is this kid’s identity? When has the Holy Maiden Yaling’s Dong Mansion ever let a man inside? He’s the first one!” Some of the people pursuing Yaling were jealous, their eyes green with envy, saying in confusion.

“Maybe he’s really Saintess Yaling’s brother?”

Someone tried to comfort themselves with this thought.

Yaling's Dong Mansion wasn't very deep, and the space was even smaller inside, with only a stone bed, a mat for meditation, a stone table, and a stone drum, nothing more.

"Ah... Don't look, close your eyes!"

As soon as Ye Fan walked into the Dong Mansion, he immediately heard a high-pitched scream by his ear, and he quickly shut his eyes, using his hands to block his ears.

But right at the moment his eyes closed, he inadvertently saw a blood-stained cloth and a semi-transparent undergarment, leaving him extremely embarrassed.

Having been through it before, he naturally understood what that blood-stained cloth was—definitely not something for dressing a wound!

Yaling quickly tidied up her things, her heart pounding wildly, feeling even more awkward than Ye Fan. This embarrassing situation diluted the joy of meeting Ye Fan.

"You didn't see anything, right?"

After a long while, Yaling calmed down, threatening Ye Fan with a clenched delicate fist.

“Right, I didn’t see anything, even if I did, I’d immediately forget it and pretend I hadn’t seen it!” Ye Fan said.

“You...”

Yaling, greatly embarrassed, stamped her foot hard, then said, “No matter what you saw, if you dare to speak even half a word, I won’t let you off!”

“I didn’t see anything to begin with, so what would I say?”

Ye Fan played dumb. This was absolutely not the time to provoke her; otherwise, when a woman goes crazy, it can be very scary.

“Hmph!”

Yaling snorted, depressed, “Looks like you are sensible. Tonight I’ll sleep on the bed, you can rough it on the mat.”

With that said, Yaling laid on the stone bed with her clothes on. The Dong Mansion had already been sealed, making it very dark inside.

“They have actually closed the Dong Mansion...”

The crowd that had followed outside felt utterly disheartened. What did this mean?

Ye Fan had no idea about the mood of these people outside. Smelling the elusive fragrance of a woman lingering in the small room, he concentrated his consciousness, sitting cross-legged on the mat, entering a state of cultivation.

“Let me warn you first, don’t do anything while I’m asleep, got it?” Yaling turned over, grinding her teeth at Ye Fan.

“Can I take it as a hint? That I should do something while you’re asleep?” Ye Fan said with a meaningful smile. If she hadn’t mentioned it, he absolutely wouldn’t have thought of it. Wasn’t this a reminder?

“Careful, or I’ll beat you up!” Yaling turned over, giving him the back of her head.

“Back-facing style?”

The phrase suddenly popped into Ye Fan’s mind, and he quickly reined in his thoughts to avoid letting his imagination run wild.

A lone man and a single woman in the same room, if nothing happens, would people say it's worse than a beast?

For Ye Fan, this night was absolute torment. The elusive fragrance emanating from Yaling told him she was still a virgin.

During this time, Ye Fan constantly immersed himself in cultivation, filling his time with tense training and battles to keep his mind off other random thoughts.

However, he was ultimately human, not a sage, especially with Pure Yang Qi in his body. Under the influence of Earth Vein Dragon Qi, little Ye Fan stubbornly wouldn't bow his head, leaving him extremely embarrassed.

Yaling, in fact, was also not asleep. The scenes from earlier kept flashing through her mind. Her most shameful items had been seen by Ye Fan, making her feel utterly mortified.

Besides, she rarely had females over in her Dong Mansion, not to mention suddenly having a big man like Ye Fan. Sleeping soundly was out of the question!

Especially with the unique manly scent emitting from Ye Fan, which made her consciousness tremble and her mind foggy.

No one could guarantee what would happen this night...

