

Y Master 1491

Chapter 1491: Immortal Secret Realm (Part 2)

Upon entering the grand array, inside there was actually an ancient palace, with red bricks and green tiles, magnificent and imposing, with soaring eaves and carved beams and painted rafters.

Walking into the palace, Ye Fan was shocked to find a quaint and massive Transmission Array Platform right in the center.

On the Transmission Array Platform, numerous intricate and mysterious array patterns were engraved, while on the wall opposite the platform was a strange design, looking like letters, but definitely not letters.

The platform was very large, accommodating thirty people without feeling crowded at all. Lan Yingfei led everyone onto the platform and advised them to pay attention to safety before activating the array patterns. Beams of light flickered, and top-grade spirit stones in the platform grooves powered it.

Buzz!

With a soft sound, the light shone brilliantly, dazzling everyone, compelling them to instinctively close their eyes. When they opened them again, they were already in the void.

Within the void, darkness was eternal, and time seemed to have stopped at this moment. Everyone felt the same as Ye Fan, unsure of what kind of place they were about to set foot on.

Crash!

No one knew how long it had been before they finally fell from the void and landed on another platform.

Ye Fan was the first to react, looking around to find it was also a palace, similar to the one in the Immortal Academy with its refined and unique charm.

Lan Yingfei waited until everyone was accustomed before leading them out of the palace, smiling: "Youngsters, welcome to the Immortal Secret Realm. Shortly, the dean will talk to you, so just listen attentively."

After speaking, Lan Yingfei directly flew towards a floating pavilion in the sky, and shortly after, Dean Old Immortal strolled down from the void.

"Youngsters, you are all exceptional talents, the future hope of humanity, so I won't bind you with any shackles. Over the next year, you may freely allocate your time for cultivation..."

The Old Bastard glanced at everyone before informing them that the Immortal Secret Realm is a special existence, with only this ancient city surrounded by the wilderness mountain forest where powerful Xuan Beasts roam.

There is no issue with cultivating within the ancient city, but once outside, encountering powerful Xuan Beasts may lead to fatal danger.

Of course, if you wish to hone yourselves through battle, you may attempt to hunt those vile beasts, submit the beast's body and earn some contribution value, with more contribution value leading to higher rankings on the Immortal Stele.

A Synchronization Stele is in this Immortal Secret Realm, where their names have already been recorded by the dean before their arrival.

Contribution value can be exchanged for precious cultivation resources, whereas ordinary resources are freely available without needing contribution value.

In the old city's aspects of the Immortal Secret Realm, there are six regions and one forbidden zone, and the so-called forbidden zone hosts the secret Transmission Array Platform within the palace.

Among the six regions is the Spirit Stone Storage, where spirit stones can be freely claimed for cultivation, with the quantity and time recorded with each claim to prevent deliberate theft of the academy's resources.

Additionally, there are several places filled with Martial Arts Insights, left by predecessors and sages, regarded as invaluable treasures.

These Martial Arts Insight places encompass the Heavenly Dao comprehension; each insight can be auctioned for sky-high prices, attracting All Holy Lands to scramble for it.

Yet—

Here it is selflessly available for students to delve into, which is merely unimaginable in other power structures.

From this, it's evident that the Immortal Academy truly stands as a sanctuary dedicated to humanity—for so many years without crumbling, it naturally has its reasons.

There are also three places to test academy strength: the Heaven and Earth Bridge, the Lake of Reincarnation, and the Life and Death Tower.

The Heaven and Earth Bridge tests Divine Soul's power, with ten steps and each step posing immense pressure, unaffected by the physical body, solely suppressing the Divine Soul, requiring a sufficiently strong soul to reach the top.

The Lake of Reincarnation tests the physical body's strength and power; it appears calm, merely a pool of clear water, yet once inside, the water severely attacks the cultivator's physical body, requiring perseverance to traverse from one side to the other for complete completion.

The Life and Death Tower tests comprehensive strength, where just having a strong soul and body isn't enough; actual combat power and application are also assessed.

Every disciple has one test opportunity each month, only by surpassing each realm's limits can they pass the test, which is extremely difficult.

There's an additional area, mysteriously obscure with no clear understanding, even the academy after long management hasn't understood it, listed as a forbidden zone not to be approached!

This ancient city is extremely vast, accessible only to Immortal Academy disciples, considered a top-secret location. Becoming an Academy disciple is tantamount to being granted entry here.

"Ye Fan, come find me in the Immortal Palace later, I have things to discuss with you!"

Before leaving, the dean transmitted divine consciousness to Ye Fan and the others, then waved them away to arrange their own time.

Ye Fan and the others dispersed, with the Bai Yan wolf staying close by, specially allowed here, with the deputy dean turning blue in the face, compelling him to banish it here, otherwise, the academy's other treasures wouldn't be safe.

Ye Fan secretly called Hu Fei and others to his side, strolling around the ancient city in pretentious fashion. Bai Yan wolf angrily remarked, there wasn't even a snack vendor here, greatly disappointed.

Ye Fan and others chuckled, a cultivator's life is inherently austere, can it be like the mundane world, that's a detriment to the martial heart.

Worn ambition in comforts of home, how many bold and heroic strong people ultimately ruin their promising future due to coveting worldly riches?

After wandering for a while, Ye Fan took everyone unnoticed towards the Immortal Palace, summoned by the dean, it cannot be ignored.

Within the Immortal Palace, Ye Fan and others saw Dean Old Immortal, who clearly was awaiting them.

Upon Ye Fan and others entering, without waiting for them to speak, he first invited them to sit, since they had a full year, no one was concerned about the brief time involved, and the dean certainly had lessons to impart, a rare opportunity indeed.

“You all are exceptional, no need for superfluous words, I hope you cherish this year’s time, for after it ends, returning for cultivation will require contribution value for exchange.”

“Here is truly a cultivation holy ground; I hope each of you achieves progress within this year, Ye Fan, with your great fortune, you should refrain from slackening, I won’t discuss the Void Sky Illusion Realm’s matters, but if your progress is unsatisfactory, I will pursue the responsibility for destroying the Void Sky Illusion Realm.”

“Ah...”

The dean’s words left Ye Fan stunned, believing he passed it off, yet evidently hadn’t.

“Dean, rest assured, I certainly won’t disappoint your expectations!”

“You’re worried I’ll demand compensation for the Void Sky Illusion Realm?”

Dean smiled with implicit significance.

“...”

Ye Fan was full of black lines.

Chapter 1492: Heaven and Earth Bridge

Not long after leaving the Immortal Palace of the dean, Ye Fan heard a commotion and exclamations coming from the direction of the Heaven and Earth Bridge—someone had started testing their Divine Soul Power!

Ye Fan was not surprised at all by this.

Every new disciple has a chance to be tested once a month. Having just arrived here, everyone wants to know the depth of their strength, so naturally, they all want to take the test.

Besides, the test can also reveal each person’s strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to focus on targeted improvements in their future cultivation.

“Let’s go, let’s have a look too!”

Hu Fei is someone who loves excitement. Wherever there is excitement, you can be sure he'll be there.

"Alright!"

Many responded; they too wanted to see what mysteries this so-called Heaven and Earth Bridge held.

Upon arriving near the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Ye Fan discovered it was an arched rainbow bridge suspended in the air, one end reaching straight into the sky. It was covered with mysterious symbols, full of the aura of Dao.

What was shocking was that, besides the mysterious symbols, there were also marks of blades and axes on the bridge, as if a fierce battle had occurred in the distant past, nearly destroying this rainbow bridge.

The closer he got, the more Ye Fan could feel an ancient desolation. Some of the creatures engraved on the bridge were completely unknown to him, whether on Earth or in this world—neither seen nor heard before.

At that moment, a young man was walking toward the Heaven and Earth Bridge.

Additionally, there was a handsome young man who was retreating with a dejected look, clearly dissatisfied with his scores.

Around them, not only were there their batch of new disciples, but also some returning disciples who relied on contribution points and were paying attention to their scores.

These disciples from previous batches had complex feelings in their hearts. For the future of the Human Race, they hoped there would be a few outstanding geniuses among this new cohort.

But for the sake of competing for the only path to Proving Dao, they did not want too many competitors.

“The Emperor Road is cruel, filled with blood and bones. Countless geniuses and demons—ultimately, only one can succeed...”

People sighed, coming from the Five Domains, they were all geniuses and demons. However, in this Immortal Academy overflowing with talent, if they could not display exceptional skills, they would end up as supporting characters, the green leaves that set off the strongest.

“The strength of the Divine Soul does not represent everything; the strength of the body is just as important...”

Some students, whose Divine Soul tests were unsatisfactory, murmured quietly.

While talking, that determined young man had already stepped onto the first stair, and the rainbow bridge suddenly burst out with a soaring scarlet light reaching the nine heavens.

Boom!

Unchanged in expression, the young man moved forward again, stepping onto another stair, with an orange light shooting up to the sky.

Step!

Step!

Step!

The young man's steps were as heavy as mountains, each step causing a tremor, with a series of lights continually bursting forth from the bridge: yellow, green, blue—three rays of light in succession, leaving the scene in utter silence.

The Heaven and Earth Bridge tests a cultivator's Divine Soul Power without causing any harm to the body, so others have no way of knowing the pressure those being tested are under.

"Ma Mingxiao is incredible, being able to continuously climb five layers of stairs—simply breaking the norm!"

“Who before him didn’t have to pause at each step, paying a great price with every advance?”

The onlookers were amazed. Climbing five layers in one breath—no one had achieved this before Ma Mingxiao, and he seemed to have more energy left, as if stepping onto the sixth layer wouldn’t be too hard.

Listening to the surrounding exclamations, Ma Mingxiao wore a proud smile. Although his rank wasn’t high among the thirty new disciples, having reached such a level of Divine Soul strength was enough to gaze down on many.

After resting for a moment, Ma Mingxiao began to charge toward the sixth layer, his Divine Soul bearing mountain-like pressure, drenched in sweat.

Bang!

Ma Mingxiao stepped onto the sixth layer with one foot, the light began to flicker, and the pressure he endured grew even greater, as though it would crush his Divine Soul.

“Ah...”

With a fierce yell, Ma Mingxiao’s eyes shot out with two beams of strong lights, and as his left foot joined, he finally stood proudly on the sixth layer.

“My god, how strong is his Divine Soul Power? Even at just the Early-stage Divine Power Realm, his Divine Soul Power can persist up to the sixth layer—simply terrifying!”

“The Ma Family has produced a genius. If nothing goes wrong, within the next three thousand years, the Ma family’s influence will match those of ancient lineages.”

“Even geniuses meet rivals; he isn’t of any special physique—perhaps he had some fortunate encounter?”

The power of the Divine Soul is the hardest to train. Without corresponding secret techniques to temper the Divine Soul, one can only rely on natural elevation through strength advancement. Ma Mingxiao reaching the sixth layer took many by surprise.

Even though when he climbed five layers at once, some had predicted he might reach the sixth, seeing it with their own eyes still shocked many.

Ten layers of stairs, each with increasing pressure on the Divine Soul; reaching the sixth layer absolutely allowed one to walk with an air of dominance in their clan’s region.

Boom!

Ma Mingxiao wanted to go further, but as he lifted his foot, a mysterious force bounced him back.

Thud!

After landing, Ma Mingxiao collapsed directly to the ground, gasping heavily, his face flushed red like blood, even the sweat dripping down carried traces of blood, revealing how immense the pressure he bore was.

“Let me give it a try!”

A genius from the Northern Domain stepped out from the crowd, exuding a wild aura, with a square face and sharp features, his tiger-like eyes flashing with untamed and wild light.

The bitter cold of the Northern Domain breeds a fierce people, with bandits rampant; it is a paradise for adventurers, where the Nine Great Bandits roam freely.

“This is Xiong Kuang, the future head of the Xiong Family in the Northern Domain. Just like his name suggests, he is a wildly unruly fellow, but indeed very strong...”

Hu Fei leaned towards Ye Fan, introducing the identity and background of Xiong Kuang to the crowd.

The Xiong Family is an absolutely large family in the Northern Domain, not at all inferior to the power of the Holy Land, especially in the Northern Domain, where they have deep connections with the Nine Great Bandits.

The origin of the Xiong Family is extremely mysterious, long untraceable, but according to the speculation of the Nine Great Bandits, the Xiong Family might have originally been a hybrid of the Human and Demon Clans. The Northern Domain is harsh and cold, unlike the Southern Domain which has many Demon Clans. However, this does not mean that there are no Demon Clans in the Northern Domain, with the Snow Bear Clan being one of them.

But due to generations of intermarriage with humans, the demon blood of the Snow Bear Clan has become increasingly diluted, and by modern times, they are no different from humans.

The Xiong Family of the Northern Domain has always considered themselves part of the Human Race. In the great battle between the Humans and Demon Clans, several masters from the Xiong Family fought fiercely against the Demon Clan.

From that moment, people realized the Xiong Family might have some demon heritage, but it was also that battle that solidified the Xiong Family's identity as part of the Human Race, and no one ever mentioned their demon heritage again.

“Roar...”

Xiong Kuang roared and took a step onto the second layer of steps. In the next moment, a flash of light forced him off the second layer and back to the first.

The Heaven and Earth Bridge has its own rules—one must ascend layer by layer, no matter how powerful they are, they cannot skip layers.

Although he was thrown off, Xiong Kuang's attempt left everyone astonished—while others ascended step by step honestly, he actually tried to skip the first layer?

After being thrown off, Xiong Kuang's stubbornness kicked in, his eyebrows raised, exuding an overwhelming aura, and he once again attempted to step across two layers in one go.

“...”

Even after Xiong Kuang was thrown off, he still attempted to cross two layers in one step, leaving everyone speechless.

Bang!

However—

To everyone's surprise, this time Xiong Kuang succeeded; both feet landed on the third layer.

However, it lasted only a moment before he was shaken off again. This time, the force was stronger, injuring his Divine Soul. It would take at least three days of rest to recover.

“That's a bit eerie indeed...”

Xiong Kuang left with that remark, as he couldn't test his soul power again this month.

Next, several others stepped forward to test their soul power, but almost all were stopped by the sixth layer, unable to progress further.

These individuals were all at the early-stage Divine Realm and were geniuses from various domains. Crossing a small realm to defeat opponents was no problem for them, yet they couldn't even step onto the sixth layer, showcasing the terrifying nature of the Heaven and Earth Bridge. To fully pass the soul power test, they still had a long way to go.

"Let me give it a try!"

Hu Fei eagerly knocked a genius from a Xiao family away with his shoulder and walked towards the Heaven and Earth Bridge.

The genius had a glimmer of ferocity in his eyes, but seeing that it was Hu Fei, known as the "little bandit," who knocked him away, he held back his anger.

His clan was just a minor family and didn't possess significant power. If he truly offended Hu Fei, there was no need for Hu Fei to act personally; he could simply tell his grandfather, and wiping out their family would be as easy as child's play.

Which of the Nine Great Bandits is a kind soul?

They're all killers who don't bat an eye, even the Holy Land and Di Clan are somewhat wary of them, let alone him?

Bang!

Hu Fei stepped onto the first layer, red light soaring skyward, indicating he passed the first layer. Immediately after, Hu Fei continued upward, step by step, finally reaching the fifth layer, where he got stuck, unable to move under the immense pressure.

Ultimately, Hu Fei didn't risk injury to his soul and backed down step by step.

The Heaven and Earth Bridge only has ten layers; reaching the fifth is already halfway to victory. After all, cultivation techniques for divine soul are very rare and obscure, most people's soul power progresses with their realm.

Although Hu Fei's performance was not astounding, he was satisfied as he wasn't much worse than the others.

Next, Gu Hao and Jin Changgeng stepped forward to test. Both climbed to the sixth layer, causing Hu Fei to curse them as monsters.

"I'll give it a shot too!"

The Barbarian Shi Ye approached the Heaven and Earth Bridge with a club in hand.

His appearance was highly eye-catching, dressed in beast skin with messy hair, looking as if he had just emerged from a primordial forest.

The crowd had high expectations for Shi Ye's performance, but his attempt was disappointing, getting repelled after only reaching the fourth layer.

"Divine Soul is my weak point!"

Shi Ye scratched his head, a distressed expression on his face.

At the same time, Hu Fei and the others simultaneously turned their gaze towards Ye Fan, as if they eagerly awaited him to take the test!

Chapter 1493: The Younger Generation Surpasses the Old

The Barbarian clan emphasizes the cultivation of the physical body, with few able to match the strength of their physical bodies, but they are somewhat lacking in terms of Divine Soul, being only slightly stronger than the average Cultivator.

"Don't worry, having a strong body can still sweep away all opponents, Divine Soul Power is just a part of your overall strength!" Ye Fan comforted.

He actually wanted to teach Shi Ye his Divine Soul Sword Technique, but he had promised Zuo Fengshan earlier that the Divine Soul Sword Technique would never be taught to others, so he could only offer some comfort.

“Brother Ye Fan, why don’t you test it as well?”

Hu Fei encouraged Ye Fan to test as well, wanting to see how many levels Ye Fan could ascend.

Ye Fan shook his head: “Forget it, you all tested at the early stage Divine Realm, I’ve just reached the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, I’m still a distance away from the Divine Realm, there’s no need for testing.”

“I’ll give it a try!”

Just as everyone was about to leave, Zhou Zhaolong suddenly walked over, glancing at Ye Fan and everyone with intentional indifference, then headed towards the Heaven and Earth Bridge.

“Zhou Zhaolong is testing too. Which level do you think he can make it to?”

Seeing Zhou Zhaolong, who was reputed to be the second genius among the new disciples, approaching, many people who were about to leave stopped and started to speculate.

“It’s really hard to say; after all, Divine Soul Power isn’t as visibly obvious as Physical Strength, but considering his overall strength, his Divine Soul Power shouldn’t be weak!”

The majority of the new disciples were very familiar with the strengths of Zhou Zhaolong and Qi Tianlin, anticipating Zhou Zhaolong’s impressive performance.

At that moment...

Qi Tianlin also walked over from afar, watching the ancient Heaven and Earth Bridge with interest, seemingly wanting to test as well.

Whether Qi Tianlin or Zhou Zhaolong, both were only about twenty years old and did not yet understand the value of hiding one’s talents and biding one’s time. Showing their strength in front of others and receiving respect and admiration were temptations not easily resisted by most people.

Cultivators are also human and have the same vanity as anyone else!

Swoosh!

Under everyone’s gaze, Zhou Zhaolong steadily stepped onto the first level of the staircase, a red ray of light surged straight into the Nine Heavens.

Soon, he ascended step by step with ease, quickly reaching the sixth level of the staircase.

“Uh...”

At this moment, everyone's hearts were in their throats; the sixth level of the staircase was almost a huge barrier. Before this, no one could cross this watershed, all were blocked at the sixth level.

Standing on the sixth level, Zhou Zhaolong turned to look at everyone, appearing relaxed, as if he didn't feel any pressure at all.

“This guy is truly a demon, the sixth level that stops most people seems to be just the beginning for him!”

Many people rubbed their eyes vigorously, unable to help but exclaim in surprise; this was truly a demon!

On the sixth level, Zhou Zhaolong gave Ye Fan a deep glance, full of implied meaning!

Clap!

Then, he turned and stepped up, climbing to the seventh level of the staircase, suddenly staggering and nearly rolling off the steps.

Zhou Zhaolong's face changed drastically; no wonder other geniuses were stuck at the sixth level with no one successfully ascending to the seventh. The Divine Soul pressure here was too strong, more than twice as strong as that on the sixth level.

He felt as if his Divine Soul was bearing the weight of an Ancient Divine Mountain, causing his Divine Soul to let out a wail!

"I don't believe it..."

Zhou Zhaolong roared furiously, accumulating his strength, almost pushing his Divine Soul Power to its limit, then laboriously took an eighth step.

Boom!

A black ray of light soared into the sky from the Heaven and Earth Bridge like a mountain range, exuding a terrifying aura.

Three seconds!

He only held on for three seconds before vomiting blood, retreating hurriedly; at this intensity of Divine Soul pressure, he simply couldn't endure for long. Reaching the eighth level was already extraordinarily impressive.

Eight levels?

Everyone was collectively stunned.

Transcending directly from the sixth level to the eighth, surpassing everyone by two entire levels,

What does this mean?

Zhou Zhaolong's Divine Soul Power was extremely terrifying; the first seven levels of the staircase lit up in rainbow colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

But the eighth level was pitch black like ink, making one's heart palpitate!

When Zhou Zhaolong reached the eighth level, everyone clearly saw the entire Heaven and Earth Bridge tremble violently.

No one can say clearly which era this Heaven and Earth Bridge belongs to; even the first dean who discovered this Ancient City couldn't explain it.

The Immortal Secret Realm was the highest secret of the Immortal Academy, bar none; from the time it was discovered, it had the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Lake of Reincarnation, and Life and Death Tower; all facilities were from eons ago.

Seeing Zhou Zhaolong's results, many who were originally dissatisfied with his title as the second strongest of the new disciples were convinced.

With such terrifying Divine Soul power, without a doubt, his ability to comprehend Divine Skills surpassed others, even potentially being the first to breakthrough to the Lord Realm.

"Brother Tian Lin, you should also give it a try, don't let Zhou show off!"

As the number one among the new disciples, Qi Tianlin had many followers who advocated for him to participate in the test and overshadow Zhou Zhaolong.

"Is it necessary?"

Qi Tianlin's smile remained unchanged, unclear if he was asking the crowd or questioning himself.

"Of course it's necessary; his popularity has almost surpassed yours, showing a tendency to replace you as number one. If you don't demonstrate your might, it could undermine your position!" Qi Tianlin's followers said.

“Fine, I’ll give it a try; perhaps I’m not as good as him!”

Qi Tianlin spoke with humility, but his eyes projected an unshakeable belief in victory.

As the reigning strongest of the new generation, Qi Tianlin’s prestige had been severely hit twice, both due to Ye Fan.

The first time, Ye Fan shattered his myth of being number one by passing the test on his third attempt with overwhelming strength, whereas he himself had barely managed it after six tries.

The second time was in the Void Sky Illusion Realm, where he barely held on until the twenty-eighth day, only to be swept out by the Holy Light on the twenty-ninth day.

Yet, Ye Fan broke through the Void Sky Illusion Realm by relying on the Heavenly Tribulation, lasting until the thirtieth day and completing a full month of special training!

These two events dealt a heavy blow to his prestige!

The only thing that put him at ease was that Ye Fan’s realm was too low to pose a threat to him.

However—

Zhou Zhaolong was different.

Zhou Zhaolong was at the same realm as him, and his prestige was no lesser. If he did not act to salvage his reputation, his position as number one might be in jeopardy!

This... was absolutely something he did not want to see!

Soon, Qi Tianlin arrived before the Heaven and Earth Bridge!

At this moment, Qi Tianlin was dressed in a blue robe, his black hair casually draped over his back, his face sharp as if carved by a knife, exuding heroic aura, and shrouded in a faint layer of Divine Radiance, mysterious and unfathomable.

Appraising the talismans and carvings of birds, flowers, and fish on the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Qi Tianlin stepped onto the first tier as if he were leisurely roaming through mountains and rivers, hands clasped behind his back.

Boom!

Crimson light shot skyward.

Immediately after, without pausing, Qi Tianlin ascended six tiers at one go, stopping slightly on the seventh tier of the Heaven and Earth Bridge.

Behind him, lights flickered as colorful beams of light soared into the sky, indicating his successful passage of the first seven tiers.

“A demon, indeed a demon!”

Some people grinned, others bitterly smiled, feeling it a pity to be born in the same era as someone like him.

These geniuses could dominate any era and become legends, but in this era where heroes rise in masses, there were too many prodigious demons, their brilliance completely overshadowed.

“This guy, indeed extraordinary!”

Gu Hao’s eyes fixed tightly on Qi Tianlin, couldn’t help but shake his head and sigh.

As the Saint Heir of the Ancient Sacred Land, Gu Hao knew much; similar eras had appeared in ancient records and some unofficial histories, where numerous heroes rose, various geniuses and prodigies emerged, yet eventually only one person could truly succeed.

Ye Fan was also quite surprised, but he didn’t show it, maintaining a calm expression.

“Hoo~”

Meanwhile, Qi Tianlin took a deep breath, adjusting his spiritual energy to its optimal state.

Clearly, he knew that the next three tiers would be extremely terrifying, and even he did not know if he could ultimately reach the top!

Nevertheless, his performance had already shocked some disciples from previous generations.

Because, in their batches, almost no one could ascend to the sixth tier during their first test, and now, someone had managed to reach the eighth tier, greatly surpassing them.

“The younger generation is to be feared!”

This was the heartfelt voice of the older generation of disciples, illustrating how talent emerges continuously, even in the Immortal Academy.

Bam!

Qi Tianlin ascended the eighth tier, a black beam of light shot up to the sky, accompanied by a terrifying aura as if emanating from the Nine Netherworld, daunting all hearts.

“No wonder he could only step onto the eighth tier...”

Qi Tianlin sighed inwardly, knowing the pressure here was incomparable to the previous seven, almost the sum of the previous seven tiers.

Those with weak Divine Souls simply couldn’t withstand this level of pressure. However, such a test also had benefits; continuous cultivation near the limits of the Divine Soul’s endurance would inevitably lead to significant growth in Divine Soul Power!

Upon reaching the eighth tier, Qi Tianlin’s entire body seemed as if fished out from water, a surge of vigorous vitality bursting straight to the Nine Heavens from the top of his skull.

Damn it!

For the sake of his status, Qi Tianlin decided to take a risk; he had to surpass Zhou Zhaolong by at least one tier.

Bam!

Qi Tianlin took an excruciating step, stamping firmly on the ninth tier, gritting his teeth, he stood on the ninth tier. Immediately, a silver beam pierced the firmament like a Heavenly Sword, its fierce murderous intent causing many to collapse disheartened.

This kind of murderous aura alone would overwhelm ordinary people, let alone Qi Tianlin standing on the ninth tier?

He created a miracle!

Swish!

Upon witnessing this scene, Zhou Zhaolong's face turned ashen; he initially thought he could surpass Qi Tianlin in terms of Divine Soul, but didn't foresee this outcome, still being surpassed.

Qi Tianlin reached the ninth tier, just one step away from completely passing the Divine Soul's power test. This result astonished many, even leaving some of the older disciples utterly shocked.

This generation of disciples was unbelievably strong, and the Immortal Academy would undoubtedly shine because of them!

"Brother Ye, you have already created two miracles; I believe this Divine Soul Test won't be hard for you. Why not give it a try and open our eyes?"

Descending from the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Qi Tianlin said with a smile to Ye Fan.

Chapter 1494: Lake of Reincarnation

Hmm?

Many people showed a look of surprise. Although Qi Tianlin and Ye Fan had seen each other many times before, they had never spoken proactively. Today, however, he took the initiative to greet Ye Fan...

Some older disciples were even more shocked. Ye Fan, who seemed unremarkable and unknown, had actually created two consecutive miracles.

"Ye Fan, brother, go take the test. Are we afraid of him? I have confidence in you!" Jin Changgeng patted Ye Fan's shoulder and egged him on.

"That's right, with your strength, even if you're not as good, you won't be much worse. Go test it out!" Gu Hao also said.

However—

Ye Fan did not agree but shook his head slightly and said, "There's no need. I have no intention of testing!"

"He actually refused Qi Tianlin's suggestion?"

The crowd was in an uproar. No one had expected that Ye Fan had no intention of testing his Divine Soul Power and flat-out refused!

“Is he afraid of embarrassing himself? A small ant at the Holy Embryo Realm probably can’t even climb three steps!” Someone sneered and taunted.

“It must be so. It’s better to hide one’s weakness than to show it and be ridiculed. He’s indeed clever!” another said sarcastically.

“During the Heaven and Earth Bridge test, there’s nowhere to hide. I think he’s simply afraid, right?”

Because Ye Fan had shone so brightly before, many people were displeased by it and seized this opportunity to belittle Ye Fan with words to vent their frustration.

Ye Fan was unconcerned. He was well aware of his Divine Soul Power and felt no need to test it.

If he could cultivate on the Heaven and Earth Bridge, that interested him a bit.

Within his Divine Soul, there was the Divine Soul Fire, and even without cultivating the Divine Soul Sword Technique, his Divine Soul grew much faster than others.

“Someone’s testing their physical strength at the Lake of Reincarnation. Quickly, go take a look!”

At this moment, someone in the crowd shouted, and many people hurried toward the Lake of Reincarnation.

Seeing Ye Fan had no intention to test, Qi Tianlin and others also headed to the Lake of Reincarnation.

“Let’s go take a look too.”

Hu Fei, though feeling it was a pity Ye Fan didn’t test, didn’t insist on persuading him but suggested heading to the Lake of Reincarnation.

“Okay.”

Ye Fan nodded, and the group made their way to the Lake of Reincarnation.

By the time Ye Fan and his group arrived, there were already many people there, pointing and discussing near the Lake of Reincarnation.

The Lake of Reincarnation wasn't far from the Heaven and Earth Bridge. Many who were frustrated by the Divine Soul Power test came to the Lake of Reincarnation to test their Physical Strength, hoping to regain some confidence.

The Lake of Reincarnation is a small lake, like a mirror, calm and without ripples. Around the small lake is a desolate area of stones, without even a single blade of grass.

About ten meters from the lake's edge stands a dead, old tree, with a large crow's nest on it, making everything appear desolate.

Except for when new disciples arrive, this place is almost devoid of people because the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi here is so scarce it's infuriating.

Ye Fan sensed that the environment here was much like Earth's previous environment, where Cultivators could hardly absorb the Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth to cultivate.

Such a desolate place where even a rabbit wouldn't be is normal.

But today, it was lively, with many new disciples coming to test their Physical Strength and power.

Though there's no grass growing around the Lake of Reincarnation, and no fish or shrimp in the water, there are nine Qing Lian growing, each emitting a faint blue treasure light, clearly not ordinary.

The interval between each Qing Lian is the same, precisely like they were artificially planted, but who could plant Qing Lian in such a Lake of Reincarnation?

No one knows how many years have passed, but these Qing Lian have never changed, only a single leaf floats on the water!

At this moment, someone had already walked into the Lake of Reincarnation, struggling to approach the first Qing Lian.

The lake water in the Lake of Reincarnation is different from ordinary lake water; it holds enormous danger, able to destroy a Cultivator's body, unrelated to the Divine Soul.

Ye Fan secretly marveled, the Heaven and Earth Bridge and the Lake of Reincarnation were undoubtedly man-made, specifically for honing and testing future generations' Divine Soul and Physical Strength.

"What kind of person would have such heaven-shaking, earth-shattering abilities?"

"Could it be an Ancient Emperor??"

Ye Fan speculated in his heart.

Boom!

With a loud noise, the young strong person in the Lake of Reincarnation was pushed out by the water, his body cracking, almost shattering, groaning in pain.

“How is it? What does it feel like inside?”

“What feel? How about I kick you down so you can feel it yourself?”

The person rolled his eyes, a trace of fear and dread flashing in his eyes as he looked at the Lake of Reincarnation.

The rules were self-explanatory; although the Lake of Reincarnation didn't have as direct an expression as the Heaven and Earth Bridge, the nine Qing Lian were obviously the nine realms, with the pressure on the Physical Strength doubling as one approached each one.

Ye Fan understood this point after watching a few people; he didn't test because it was unnecessary.

Previously, while in Thunder Venerable Master's tomb, he underwent the tempering of the Thunder Long River, making his Physical Strength invincible at the same level.

The next few people's tests were nothing spectacular, although all were geniuses, the gap was still significant. Some excelled in Divine Soul Power, while others excelled in Physical Strength. Unless tested comprehensively, nothing could be conclusively stated.

Zhou Zhaolong, previously at the Heaven and Earth Bridge, was overshadowed by Qi Tianlin, feeling particularly dissatisfied. This time at the Lake of Reincarnation, he was determined to redeem some pride.

As a Demon Level strong person, Zhou Zhaolong, famed as the second strongest of the new disciples, truly had extraordinary abilities.

After entering the Lake of Reincarnation, he slashed his way through and smoothly reached the seventh Qing Lian.

At this moment, a hazy aura surrounded him, even the Heavenly Eye could not see through it.

“Brother Zhao Long is indeed powerful, whether it’s his physical body or Divine Soul, they far surpass an average genius,” Li Tianfeng said enviously.

He was also extraordinary, climbing to the sixth step in the Divine Soul Test, ranking among the top thirty, and his physical body was also pushed out only after reaching the sixth Qing Lian.

Boom!

Zhou Zhaolong forcefully reached the position of the eighth Qing Lian and was pushed out after holding on for five seconds, his whole body covered with cracks as if it had been hammered like fine porcelain.

Having broken through the eighth layer with both his body and Divine Soul, Zhou Zhaolong was indeed a demon, and many people were shocked!

Afterward, a strong sense of helplessness surged in their hearts – this world belongs to such demon-level geniuses, unrelated to themselves, no matter how hard they try, can they catch up with their steps?

Even at the early-stage Divine Realm, the gap is too vast!

However, these people are geniuses after all, with each being a genius of a state, or even a top demon of a domain, though heavily hit, they were not discouraged.

“I still have a year to cultivate. In this year, I must catch up and surpass them!”

This was the earnest feeling of many people!

Hu Fei and the others also participated in the physical strength test, and surprisingly, Hu Fei’s physical strength reached the sixth Qing Lian, on par with other geniuses.

“As a fierce bandit, I naturally have a way to temper my body. If I can’t even reach the sixth Qing Lian, wouldn’t that be too embarrassing for my grandfather?”

Hu Fei detailed his feelings to Ye Fan about being in the Lake of Reincarnation. At first, there was no sensation, like ordinary lake water.

However—

Upon reaching the first Qing Lian, a tremendous pressure was felt, as if thousands of pounds were pressing against him, especially ahead, where moving even a step was near impossible, requiring physical strength for further progression.

There is a terrifying force in the lakewater, targeting the cultivator's body, but it gradually strengthens. In the water, people feel as if they are shackled, and every step forward requires great effort and cost.

Bam!

Shi Ye swung his big stick at the lake, instantly raising a curtain of water, and then stepped into the water.

The Lake of Reincarnation, mastering life and death, breaking reincarnation, holds mysterious powers, excellently testing a cultivator's physical strength and power.

Simply having powerful strength is insufficient; terrifying physical strength is also needed. Achieving this makes shattering Spiritual Treasures and breaking Domains barehanded not a dream.

“My goodness, as expected of a Wild Man! His physical strength and intensity are unbelievably terrifying!”

“Unbelievable, his Divine Soul strength is weak, barely stronger than a regular cultivator, yet his physical strength is abnormal!”

Amid the exclamations, Shi Ye, with steady steps, showing only a tangled head, remarkably walked to the position of the seventh Qing Lian, indicating his physical strength passed the seven stages, significantly stronger than most people.

“No more, I can’t hold on!”

Shi Ye, gritting his teeth, slowly retreated, unable to cross over.

Though he only reached the seventh Qing Lian, it was still impressive, given the second strongest new disciple Zhou Zhaolong also only reached the eighth Qing Lian.

“This new batch of disciples is truly embarrassing the veterans!”

Some returning older disciples sighed, seeing their era slipping away to the new generation’s rise.

“Qi Tianlin went in; he certainly will be tested too. Can he once again outshine Zhou Zhaolong and keep the first spot?”

“First? Just a title others give after boasting; without a real contest, who can claim to be first? I say that Ye guy is the first!”

Some geniuses not fond of Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong used Ye Fan to curb their momentum.

After all, Ye Fan created a Sacrificial Refinement during the first test and overcame Gui Moyuan of the same realm during the third test.

Moreover, he endured longer in the Void Sky Illusion Realm than both Zhou Zhaolong and Qi Tianlin, thus rightfully earning his first-place claim.

Besides, Wu Jingtian and Yue Chuan did not join the test or even watch, leaving people feeling unfathomable.

Both are heirs of the Di Clan, having left Imperial Academy for the Immortal Academy; suggesting they didn't dare to join the test, nobody would ever believe it.

There must be something fishy in this!

As people discussed, Qi Tianlin walked into the Lake of Reincarnation, heading toward the nine Qing Lian, quickly reaching the seventh Qing Lian.

Boom!

With Qi Tianlin's steps, the whole lake seemed about to boil, though nobody could see clearly what was happening, but when the water calmed, they saw him at the ninth Qing Lian.

He surpassed Zhou Zhaolong, proving his worthiness of the first title.

Once again, Qi Tianlin demonstrated to everyone that he remains the top among the new disciples!

"Uh..."

At that moment, besides Ye Fan, everyone else was dumbfounded!

Chapter 1495: Life and Death Tower

On the second day, many were still testing their physical strength and Divine Soul power, but Ye Fan didn't go to watch, instead choosing to start seclusion cultivation in the cave attributed to him.

"I say, don't go into seclusion yet. There's bound to be a good show today. Yesterday was just a test of physical and Divine Soul power, but today someone's sure to test their comprehensive strength. Don't you want to know the results?" Hu Fei tried to pull Ye Fan along to join in the fun.

“No need, Hu Fei. Listen to me, no matter how strong others are, it’s theirs, not ours. Instead of envying a fish near the abyss, it’s better to retreat and weave a net. Steadfast cultivation is the key!”

Ye Fan truly wished for his friends to grow stronger. In an era where various geniuses and demons were rising, the future cultivation world would surely be filled with blood and strife. To survive in such chaos, strength was paramount.

This is a world where strength reigns supreme; only with great strength can one earn respect and the hope of survival. Otherwise, one is destined to be eliminated by this world.

“I’ll play for one more day, and tomorrow I’ll cultivate.”

Hu Fei grinned cheekily, but his heart felt warm.

Because he knew Ye Fan meant well for him.

In this generation’s consciousness, many are not inferior to him in terms of strength or influence. To stand out, one must put in more effort than others.

“Suit yourself!”

Ye Fan went directly into seclusion, ignoring external happenings. Seeing so many geniuses filled him with a strong sense of crisis.

Such is the Immortal Academy, and the Imperial Academy is likely similar, perhaps even stronger.

After all, Imperial Academy recruits strong people from either the Di Clan or Holy Lands; at worst, direct lineage disciples from ancient, long-standing Gu Families.

In comparison to these people, he does not hold an advantage. He must redouble his efforts, using time to make up for his shortcomings.

One year later, the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy will hold a so-called friendship meeting. In reality, it's just a competition between the two academies' disciples.

To call it a sparring match sounds better, but it's more like the two major academies competing in secret to see whose disciples are superior, and a fight to the death is very likely.

By then, Ling Batian, the strongest heir of the Ling Family, and Qing Lian, sister of Qing Zi, will surely come looking for him.

While he is advancing, others are not idle either, so he has no time to waste. He must work hard to improve his realm and strength within this year.

Although Ye Fan did not go to watch at the Life and Death Tower, he could imagine it would certainly not be empty; many wanted to test their strength.

And indeed, except for a few indifferent people, both new and previous generations of disciples had come to the Life and Death Tower!

The Life and Death Tower stands in the center of the Ancient City at a large plaza, with the tower right in the middle, nine floors high and exuding ancient charm.

Before entering the Life and Death Tower, no one knew what perils lay within, and all were waiting.

Judging by the Heaven and Earth Bridge and Lake of Reincarnation, the Life and Death Tower wouldn't lead to actual death. Passing through was considered passing, and if not, they wouldn't end up dead inside. They would surely be teleported out.

"Doesn't anyone want to try? Then I'll see how this Life and Death Tower pushes me to the brink of death!" A young genius strode into the Life and Death Tower.

Under watchful eyes, the first floor soon lit up, emitting a faint glow; it was unclear if it meant the test had commenced or it was already passed.

A quarter of an hour later, the second floor also lit up, indicating he passed the first floor.

The entire tower has only one portal on the first floor, with no windows on the nine floors, and some strange creatures carved on it.

Hardly anyone could recognize what creatures were depicted, attributing them to what Xuan Beasts might look like after mutation.

If Ye Fan were present, he could certainly identify some of them, for there were carvings of legendary Divine Beasts and mutant beasts from Ancient Times, like the Five-clawed Golden Dragon, Taotie, Qiongqi, Pixiu, and Yazi.

With continuous exclamations from the crowd, four floors of the Life and Death Tower lit up, and the person still hadn't emerged, astounding everyone!

You must know, the Life and Death Tower tests comprehensive combat power, not just simple Divine Soul or physical strength, so reaching this level is already impressive.

Bang!

As people discussed, a figure was ejected from the Life and Death Tower, revealed as the young genius who entered earlier. He was now in shambles, almost perishing.

Upon landing, he said nothing, sitting cross-legged on the ground to operate and heal, ignoring all questions.

“I’ll give it a try!”

Seeing no answers, a young man with sword-shaped brows and starry eyes stood up and walked straight into the Life and Death Tower, the door closing automatically.

An hour later, five layers of the Life and Death Tower lit up, and he was eventually ejected, exclaiming in terror with four words: “A thin line between life and death!”

Wow!

The crowd erupted in astonishment!

His strength was considered above average among the crowd, yet he only made it to the sixth layer before being kicked out.

The Life and Death Tower was too abnormal. People couldn’t help but complain internally; some who were eager to try backed off.

They wanted to test their strength but were unwilling to get injured, fearing that it would delay their cultivation and be counterproductive!

However, there were also some people who thought they should test their overall strength.

Hu Fei and Shi Ye, along with others, entered the test only to find themselves besieged by a group of strong people whose powers were quite similar to their own.

There were only two ways to pass the test: either quickly kill these people or endure until the time ran out, when they would disappear automatically.

Hu Fei managed to reach the fourth level before he couldn't hold on any longer and nearly got killed in the Life and Death Tower, while Shi Ye persisted until the sixth level—his terrifying physical strength combined with the ancestral Stone Staff granted him a formidable presence that could disperse entire armies.

Jin Changgeng and the Ancient Saint both reached the fifth level and couldn't help but curse the person who designed the Life and Death Tower as a pervert. Facing scores of strong people with similar strength on their own, getting through it felt like seeing a ghost!

"I seriously suspect that the Void Sky Illusion Realm of special training is likely just a replica of the Life and Death Tower, albeit a failed one."

"Makes sense, I strongly agree with your opinion. The two are very similar; the difference is one involves Xuan Beast and Demon Clan, while the other involves humans."

Jin Changgeng and Gu Hao, each supporting the other, gritted their teeth as they speculated.

The path to becoming a Great Emperor is paved with bones; whether it's the Demon Clan or Human Race, collisions are unavoidable on this path, not something you wish or do not wish to see, but rather certainty.

"If one among us can prove Dao and succeed, we can rely on that person to take care of our descendants. I believe for ten thousand years, no one would dare offend our heirs!"

Hu Fei, not yet married, was already planning for his descendants, saying while putting his arm around Shi Ye's shoulder.

"Speaking of which, bandit, what kind of woman do you plan to find as a wife?" Shi Ye asked with a smile.

"Why even ask? Of course, I'm looking for a top-grade beauty! I think the Holy Maiden of the Holy Land or Fairy from a long-established Gu Families, and Princess from an ancient Dynasty are all good choices."

Hu Fei ticked off options on his fingers one by one, causing faces to darken for Jin Changgeng and Gu Hao beside him.

Because Hu Fei considered both the Holy Maiden of the Treasure Pavilion and the Ancient Sacred Land as options.

After their testing, Qi Tianlin also arrived. Now wherever he went, many people surrounded him as if he were the bright moon among stars.

He proved his prowess with his strength in both the Heaven and Earth Bridge of Divine Soul Test and the Lake of Reincarnation in Physical Body Test, proving he was still the top disciple of the new batch.

At this moment, under the anticipation of the crowd, Qi Tianlin entered the Life and Death Tower, preparing to test his overall strength. No matter what, he aimed to create a miracle and completely eliminate the influence Ye Fan had left on him.

As time passed, the Life and Death Tower lit up layer by layer, illuminating seven levels, indicating he had passed through seven stages.

“Too disheartening!”

The onlookers couldn’t help but inwardly complain; being around such a demon made it hard to feel accomplished, as no matter how outstanding they were, Qi Tianlin overshadowed them, preventing them from standing out.

Nonetheless—

Being considered by the Immortal Academy still showed their resilience. Although feeling defeated, they grew stronger and did not lose heart.

At this moment, many secretly vowed to cultivate vigorously and aim for a day when they could surprise everyone.

Having just arrived at the Immortal Secret Realm, the crowd formed a competitive environment of ‘you chase, I pursue,’ making Elder Lan Yingfei secretly breathe a sigh of relief as he observed in the shadows.

In such an environment, falling behind meant losing more resources and being inferior to others, which these prodigies could not accept.

Due to these reasons, without the need for Immortal Academy teachers or elders to urge them, they put their all into cultivation. Moreover, this place was very conducive to cultivation, with progress described as rapid.

Boom!

The eighth level finally lit up, and those who had tested knew all too well what this meant, shocking everyone, as passing the eighth level was incredibly daunting.

By Qi Tianlin’s current strength, not even disciples from previous sessions could rival him, causing them great discomfort.

“Look at him, and then think about us back then; it’s truly embarrassing!” Some older disciples who returned with contribution points shook their heads.

“Can he pass the ninth level?”

People eagerly awaited, and at this point, no one doubted Qi Tianlin's status as the top of the new batch, whether it was the Heaven and Earth Bridge of Divine Soul Test or the Lake of Reincarnation in Physical Body Test, including the comprehensive Life and Death Tower test, Qi Tianlin showcased frightening strength.

He was only in the Mid-stage Divine Realm and had just recently entered it, yet was estimated to be able to challenge Late-stage and even Peak Divine Realm strong people.

Someone of his prowess, even placed in a long-established family clan, would be considered at elder level; yet he was only about twenty years old, making some older generation strong people feel incredible.

While people speculated, the entire Life and Death Tower suddenly shook violently, emanating a powerful aura that made the crowd's hearts quiver.

Shortly after, a figure was ejected, with Qi Tianlin emerging from the Life and Death Tower covered in blood, his aura weak, nearly dying inside.

"Hiss~"

The crowd gasped!

In their eyes, even Qi Tianlin suffering such serious injuries meant that passing the ninth level of the Life and Death Tower was indeed very difficult!

Chapter 1496: Not in the Jianghu, Yet a Legend

The Life and Death Tower lives up to its name, as life and death hang by a thread. Even someone like Qi Tianlin only reached the eighth floor before failing and nearly dying inside.

However, after the test, the name Qi Tianlin was known by nearly everyone in the Ancient City. As a newcomer, he attempted the Life and Death Tower for the first time and managed to pass through eight floors, an unprecedented feat!

“Qi Tianlin truly deserves to be the first among the new disciples, his strength is astonishing!”

“Ranking second, Zhou Zhaolong also deserves admiration. They have won at the starting line, with excellent bone structure and talent combined with their family’s full resources in cultivation; it’s difficult not to excel.”

“Right, they are people of great fortune, favored by heaven, undergoing Washing Marrow and Removing the Hair with various Spiritual Medicine since childhood, also cultivating top-tier techniques. Their families provided the best for them, placing high hopes on them, so such achievements are justifiable.”

In the Ancient City, similar discussions could be heard everywhere, whether among the new disciples or those from previous generations, all were talking about them.

“Zhou Zhaolong managed to reach the seventh floor of the Life and Death Tower, which is also quite powerful, second only to Qi Tianlin among the new disciples!”

“It’s a pity that the one named Ye Fan did not participate in the test, otherwise he might have brought some surprises!”

Someone recalled Ye Fan’s previous record-breaking achievements and couldn’t help but sigh.

“I think he didn’t dare!”

A young man remarked.

“Brother, why do you say this? Is there some inside story?”

Whether in the Mortal World or among cultivators, the flame of gossip burns brightly, seeking any hidden truths.

“It’s simple, he is merely at the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, not yet reaching the Divine Power Realm, compared to others, he has no advantage. Previously, he broke records twice in battles within the same realm, which doesn’t prove anything,” the young man said arrogantly.

“Brother, you are wrong to say this. Achieving this in the same realm is already quite extraordinary. Could you do the same?”

Someone stood up for Ye Fan.

After all, Ye Fan achieving this has already made him invincible within the same realm, even comparable to the Ancient Emperor.

“His age is too great, his potential is exhausted, he will struggle to make any further progress, and on the path of cultivation, he will inevitably be left behind, ultimately being eliminated by this world,” the young man said disdainfully.

“He is just an oddity, destined not to go far on the path of Martial Arts cultivation, there is no sense of achievement comparing to him.”

“Are you sure?”

Just then, someone walked in, appearing particularly sunny, yet their face was clouded.

“Of course!”

The young man answered casually without looking at the newcomer.

Then, upon glancing at the newcomer, he was immediately shocked to see it was Gu Hao, the Ancient Saint, who had a good relationship with Ye Fan.

“Very well, I’m two Xiao realms higher, yet dare not say such things. You’ve dared to say this about him, let me ask, would you dare battle him within the same realm?” Gu Hao’s expression grew darker, speaking coldly.

Back at the Southern Domain talent tournament, Ye Fan defeated him, and this young man was not even his equal. Even if battling Ye Fan with Divine Power Realm against Holy Embryo Realm, he would surely lose. Such blatant boasting is intolerable!

Upon Gu Hao’s words, the young man’s face changed instantly as he knew very well Ye Fan’s terrifying combat power within the same realm, knowing he would definitely lose.

“His age is too great, his potential is exhausted, he won’t progress much further, I have no need to compare myself with someone destined to be forgotten. In a year, I can suppress him with one hand,” the young man argued defiantly, his face growing red.

“If you dare not battle within the same realm, just say so, why make excuses?”

Gu Hao laughed coldly: “How about this, if you dare accept the challenge, I will answer for Ye Fan, you don’t need to suppress your realm. He will battle you at Holy Embryo Realm against your Divine Power Realm, and within thirty moves if he doesn’t defeat you terribly, I will admit defeat and apologize to you. How about it?”

“I...”

The young man thought of Ye Fan's terrifying combat prowess, hesitated for a long time, and finally said, "I don't want to fight with someone destined to be a waste!"

Having said this, the young man found a random excuse and left in a hurry, causing everyone around to laugh and scorn his actions.

The test had long concluded, but its influence was far from over. Many continued discussing, while admiring Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong's extraordinary strength, others secretly competed.

As discussions among the new disciples continued, Ye Fan's name was repeatedly mentioned, with people expressing regret that he did not participate in the test.

After all, Ye Fan is the demon level genius who broke records and created miracles twice!

In many people's eyes, he is already not inferior to Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong.

However, this is only in terms of reputation; in terms of strength, people still do not recognize him, as he is merely at the Holy Embryo Realm. Until he enters the Divine Power Realm, he can never be called a strong person.

If transitioning from the True Essence Realm to the Holy Embryo Realm is a heavenly chasm, then the difficulty of advancing from the Holy Embryo Realm to the Divine Power Realm is no less challenging.

The advancement from the Holy Embryo Realm to the Divine Power Realm is not merely a quantitative or qualitative change in strength, but a profound understanding, comprehension, and even control of the world.

This requires extremely high talent and insight; otherwise, it is impossible to achieve.

Many strong people at the Holy Embryo Realm are stuck at this hurdle, finding it difficult to make any progress for their entire lives. It's not that their strength is insufficient, but that their understanding and comprehension of the Heavenly Dao are lacking.

If Ye Fan cannot break through to the Divine Power Realm, he will inevitably be left far behind, eventually abandoned by this era. Forget about embarking on the path of the Great Emperor; he wouldn't even qualify to be a rival to these people.

Ye Fan had long thought about this; someone is targeting him. Even in the Immortal Secret Realm, where internal strife is strictly forbidden, they would still destroy his reputation with words.

On the day Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong ventured into the Life and Death Tower, Hu Fei told Ye Fan their results once again and urged Ye Fan to take the test, spouting a bunch of reasoning.

But Ye Fan only responded to Hu Fei by shaking his head again and again, leaving Hu Fei with no choice but to leave in frustration.

Ye Fan was not surprised at all that Qi Tianlin and Zhou Zhaolong achieved astonishing results.

After all, those two are demon level geniuses!

These days, the Bai Yan wolf remained mysterious, appearing unpredictably and often leaving no trace.

Fearing it might cause trouble, Ye Fan warned it several times, but to no avail, so he let it be. However, each time it returned, he pressed it to discuss various questions about the Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

Before entering seclusion, Ye Fan went to the Spirit Stone Storage, using his identity proof to claim a large amount of spirit stones, causing the academy elder who supervised the Spirit Stone Storage to feel a pang of heartache.

Although the spirit stones here were specially prepared by the academy for new disciples, claiming such a large amount still left them greatly shocked.

Returning to his Dong Mansion, Ye Fan went directly into seclusion, leaving behind a method to unlock the entrance for the Bai Yan wolf, just in case it returned after wandering outside and couldn't find him.

Practicing the Nine Heavens Profound Skill made Ye Fan's body seem like a bottomless pit. Apart from the 360 major acupoints throughout his body, many small acupoints seemed to start appearing, astonishing even Ye Fan, a grandmaster greatly knowledgeable about the human body, at their mysteriousness.

After refining and absorbing a great deal of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi from the spirit stones, these acupoints gradually emerged, densely scattered throughout his body.

Under inner observation, these acupoints resembled a sky full of stars, inhaling and exhaling the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. Ye Fan could feel his power increasing, though there was no sign of rapid breakthrough.

While cultivating, Ye Fan continually pondered, gaining inspiration from both the Xuandi Fist and the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, and further comprehending the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears.

The fist has no form, only Fist Intent—just having Fist Intent makes every punch a Xuandi Fist. This is the true meaning Ye Fan realized after countless days and nights.

As for the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears, with such a daring name, it's sufficient to demonstrate the extraordinary nature of this spear technique. Although Ye Fan thought he had fully understood it before, the more he delved, the more he realized its complexity.

Vaguely, Ye Fan felt that the Heaven Slaying Seven Spears were not inferior to the Thunderclap Treasure Skill and Xuandi Fist, an ancient spear technique long lost, rarely truly understood by anyone.

The body like a mighty furnace, refining everything, extracting its essence, discarding the dross...

Ye Fan integrated all martial arts he had learned, including medical skills, into one refined core, beginning to ponder deeply.

This was a transformative process, but not a transformation of the body—rather, a spiritual sublimation, an elevation of realm.

During this time, the Bai Yan wolf returned a few times, each time covered in blood, gravely injured to the point of near-death, shocking and worrying Ye Fan, making him suspect someone had targeted it with such viciousness.

No matter how much Ye Fan asked, the Bai Yan wolf always evaded the question, unwilling to speak directly. Fortunately, Ye Fan's medical skills were superb, and he had plenty of Spiritual Medicine, pulling it back from the brink of death each time.

The Bai Yan wolf did not let Ye Fan save it in vain; each time, it would earnestly explain a segment of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill for Ye Fan.

Of course, sometimes it seemed ambiguous, requiring Ye Fan to think carefully to truly bypass misunderstandings and reach the true meaning.

"Darn wolf, are you fooling me again?"

After listening to the Bai Yan wolf's explanation of a segment of the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, Ye Fan felt something was off and stared at it, questioning.

"How could I? But, I also heard this from the Venerable, so during the storytelling, I may have dozed off or let my mind wander—just bear with it!" The Bai Yan wolf, for once, showed a bit of embarrassment.

“__”

Ye Fan showed the Bai Yan wolf his middle finger, saying, “You win!”

“Old Bai, seriously, who hurt you this badly? Tell me. No matter who it is, even if it’s the strongest heir of the Di Clan, I’ll get revenge for you!”

Ye Fan asked again, even deciding to reveal his true combat power if necessary.

He regarded the Bai Yan wolf as both a teacher and a friend, naturally unable to watch it be bullied!

Chapter 1497: One’s Own Path

“__”

There was no answer. Bai Yan wolf’s pure white eyes had a faint hint of redness, and tears shimmered in its eyes.

It, skilled at observing subtle cues, knew that Ye Fan was not just paying lip service but genuinely willing to avenge it. This emotion, thicker than blood, deeply moved its usually indifferent heart!

Gurgle!

Bai Yan wolf's eyes suddenly rolled over, and its large eyes, deep green with faint golden flashes, were not lacking pupils at all.

"Ye Fan, you don't need to say anything more..."

Bai Yan wolf tried to calm its emotions and spat out a Purple Jade Bottle, from which it took out a strange Treasure Medicine, shockingly humanoid, possibly a Divine Medicine.

"This..."

Ye Fan gasped, staring intently at this Divine Medicine, then looked at Bai Yan wolf.

"Take it. I know it's what you need. I hadn't given it to you before, hoping you could forgive my selfishness," Bai Yan wolf said sincerely.

"I never expected... this nearly extinct Divine Medicine was with it!" Elder Xuan couldn't help but sigh.

Then, Elder Xuan urged Ye Fan to quickly put it away to prevent the medicine's efficacy from dissipating. Such a Divine Medicine is as precious as an Immortal Elixir, only its effect is unconventional, so it's not as revered as Immortal Elixirs.

This medicine, called Immortal Heart Grass, is a supreme treasure for condensing the Divine Soul and one of the primary materials for refining the Soul Gathering Pill. With it, it could even replace two main ingredients.

“I didn’t fight anyone; instead, I went outside the city and had battles with other Xuan Beasts. These injuries were caused while fighting those formidable Xuan Beasts...”

After Ye Fan put away the Immortal Heart Grass, Bai Yan wolf explained its experiences over the past few days. It turns out it would sneak out of the city every day to battle Xuan Beasts in the Wilderness Mountain Forest, vying for Treasure Medicine.

It’s an extremely perilous process; any carelessness could lead to being torn apart by other Xuan Beasts. Bai Yan wolf only escaped danger repeatedly by relying on its extraordinarily fast Chasing Star Step and powerful body.

According to it, the area outside the city is an excellent place for practical combat. The Xuan Beasts there are very strong, but their intelligence is not on par with their strength, possibly due to suppression by the Heaven and Earth Great Tao.

In these days, it had secretly consumed many Treasure and Divine Medicines and fought numerous battles with powerful Xuan Beasts, leading to a rapid increase in strength, enough for self-preservation.

Knowing Bai Yan wolf was unharmed and not attacked by humans, Ye Fan finally felt relieved, his murderous aura subsiding, and he continued to ask some questions about Thunderclap Treasure Skill.

“The key to Thunderclap Treasure Skill is...”

This time, Bai Yan wolf taught with dedication, even sharing some of the Thunder Venerable’s initial insights when creating the Treasure Skill.

With this, Ye Fan’s understanding of Thunderclap Treasure Skill progressed by leaps and bounds, with lightning flashing within at every gesture, as if opening a new world.

These days, others also went into seclusion one after another, diligently cultivating, not daring to slacken for fear of being left behind by others.

Cultivation in Martial Arts is like rowing against the current, advancing or retreating. While others are arduously cultivating, even a moment’s carelessness might see you left behind by others, which is unacceptable for any proud genius.

In addition to practice, some geniuses often wandered to places where the insights and experiences of strong predecessors during their cultivation were engraved.

These martial arts insights left by the predecessors are extremely precious, only comprehensible but not expressible, very helpful for cultivation, especially some experiences and insights on breaking through barriers, which are hard to come by.

Cultivation in Martial Arts, every Great Realm is a watershed; if crossed, you can soar to new heights like birds in the sky and fish in the sea. If not, you might remain stagnant for life.

Therefore, these martial arts insights are absolute treasures for newcomers, more precious than the Spirit Stone needed for cultivation by ten thousand times.

Jin Changgeng was very aware of this.

As the Saint Heir of Treasure Pavilion, he often witnessed the astronomical prices fetched by the scrolls of martial arts insights left by the predecessors.

Fragmented cultivation techniques, partial loose hand styles, lost martial arts; all these are more valuable than Spirit Stones because many major forces are not short of Spirit Stones but do lack these insights and sentiments.

Ye Fan also went out a few times during this period to learn and ponder the insights and mental realms of the ancients at the stone tablets where predecessors left their insights.

This was Elder Xuan's request!

According to Elder Xuan, both he and Bai Yan wolf had limitations in guiding Ye Fan, so Ye Fan must draw on everyone's strengths to create something of his own.

These martial arts insights are the wisdom crystallization of the predecessors, the highlights of their cultivation process, and guiding lights for future generations.

Ye Fan watched and comprehended one after another; sometimes, he stood in front of a stone tablet for hours, almost like a sculpture.

The predecessors' insights gave him great inspiration, enlightening some issues in Martial Arts that he couldn't understand before. Unknowingly, his understanding of Martial Arts rose to another level.

There are thousands of paths in the world; each person takes one. As long as one can prove the Dao, they become the Great Emperor, respected by Ten Thousand Clans. However, the paths eventually lead to the same destination.

Using Martial Arts to seek the Dao ultimately is just reaching the Heavenly Dao. Capturing a trace of Heavenly Dao leads to its recognition, finally standing at the pinnacle of this world; the extremity of an Emperor is to behold the Immortal.

Ye Fan continuously pondered and cultivated, sometimes entering Virtual Space, where a single seclusion lasted a year, consuming a vast amount of Spirit Stones.

Ultimately, Ye Fan felt clearly that he had cultivated the Holy Embryo Realm to its extreme but still couldn't break through to the Divine Power Realm.

"Why is this happening?"

Ye Fan pondered endlessly to no avail. According to logic, reaching the Divine Power Realm involves comprehending the elemental powers of heaven and earth. Once he understood the power of an element, he should be able to break through to the Divine Power Realm smoothly.

Lightning is also a kind of element!

Ye Fan felt that he had actually comprehended the power of an element, yet he could not breakthrough to the Divine Power Realm.

Is it his method that's incorrect?

Or is it that the timing isn't right?

Ye Fan was somewhat perplexed!

For three consecutive days, he wrestled with this question, but it was only when he saw the returning Bai Yan wolf that he suddenly gained a sliver of enlightenment.

His Mystical Skill was different from others, as was his physique. Perhaps he could not tread the paths of those before him; his journey must be one of his own, even if the future was a field of thorns. He had to carve out his own road.

"Battle!"

This was Ye Fan's enlightenment. He had now cultivated the Holy Embryo Realm to its peak, with all 360 acupoints in his body fully open, and the Holy Power circulating smoothly. What he lacked was a life-and-death battle.

In the Ancient City, he naturally couldn't find someone for a duel of life and death, not even Li Tianfeng. Doing so would violate the Academy's rules.

"I need an evenly matched battle!"

Ye Fan's eyes emitted two lightning-like beams of light.

"Ye Fan, think carefully. Beyond the city, danger lurks at every turn. A single misstep could cost you your life. Are you really sure about this?"

Listening to Ye Fan's desire to leave the city and fight Xuan Beasts, Bai Yan wolf was startled. Although it had confidence in Ye Fan's abilities, the Xuan Beasts outside the city were no easy foes. Each was immensely powerful.

"I've decided. I need a life-and-death battle; otherwise, I can't breakthrough!"

Ye Fan nodded and then added, "Besides, I need contribution points. As long as I can hunt enough Xuan Beasts, I can naturally earn more contribution points. I need these contribution points to exchange for what I want. It's a win-win situation, so why not?"

“Since you’ve decided, I have nothing more to say. Let’s set off then!”

Bai Yan wolf directly led the way, guiding Ye Fan towards the east gate direction.

During this time, it had thoroughly familiarized itself with the environment outside the Ancient City and knew well where Xuan Beasts matched Ye Fan’s current strength.

Ye Fan treated it as a brother, and Bai Yan wolf would naturally not betray him.

The man and the wolf traversed a green stone road shaded by dense foliage, crossing half the Ancient City before they arrived at the east gate.

The city gate was open yet protected by a mystical forbidden barrier. Humans could come and go without issue, but Xuan Beasts couldn’t attack in, no matter how strong they were.

Upon reaching the vicinity of the city gate, Bai Yan wolf squeezed through a water channel dog hole near the gate, leaving Ye Fan flabbergasted.

Ye Fan arrived at the city gate, where an elder guarding the city approached, inquiring whether he was leaving the city and what the matter was.

Ye Fan truthfully replied, saying he was going out to hunt Xuan Beasts for contribution points and that he was on the brink of a breakthrough, needing a heavenly battle to possibly breakthrough during the fight.

“Young one, I do not advise you to go out and hunt Xuan Beasts. It’s too dangerous! However, since you insist, I cannot forcibly stop you.”

The gate’s elder produced a small Jade Platform in his palm, which he handed to Ye Fan, saying, “This is a Transmission Array Platform. If you encounter danger, activate it immediately to traverse the void back here. Don’t be careless.”

“Thank you, elder. I will be careful.”

Ye Fan was very touched.

This was the elders of the Immortal Academy, showing great concern for their academy disciples. Everyone leaving the city had to carry a Transmission Array Platform to ensure escape in times of peril.

One could say it’s a lifesaving item given by the academy to every disciple, especially within the Immortal Secret Realm, where such protective measures are the best.

Parting with the gate’s elder, Ye Fan stowed the Transmission Array Platform and strode out of the Ancient City. A rush of primal wilderness air greeted him, as though he had returned to the Ancient Chaos.

“Now that we’re outside the city, what do you plan to do?” Bai Yan wolf asked, sidling up to him.

“Fight, bloody combat!”

Ye Fan’s eyes shone with resolute light, and in his eyes, there seemed to be countless Xuan Beasts letting out dying wails, startling Bai Yan wolf into a shuddering chill.

“Those Xuan Beasts are in trouble!”

Bai Yan wolf mused privately and then pointed out a place to Ye Fan, where there was a powerful Xuan Beast resembling a wild ox, immensely strong, guarding a stalk of Divine Medicine it had long coveted. It was time to seize it under the guise of this opportunity.

Chapter 1498: Someone Wants to Play with Fire

The Ancient City is located at the center of a vast wilderness mountain forest, surrounded by endless primordial forests, with ancient trees towering over and old vines like dragons, exuding an aura from the times before the Great Flood.

“Awoo...”

Bai Yan wolf let out a habitual howl, transformed into a white light, and darted into the forest, shouting, “You big stupid ox, your king has come again, come out and meet your end quickly!”

Ye Fan shook his head with a chuckle. He was no longer surprised by Bai Yan wolf's antics. This guy was extremely arrogant, and ordinary Xuan Beasts simply didn't catch its eye.

"Moo..."

With Bai Yan wolf's taunts falling, a muffled sound rang from the depths of the forest.

Thud!

Thud!

Thud!

Soon, it was as if an earthquake occurred, with the ground quaking intensely.

"You vile wolf, coming to covet my Divine Medicine again. This time, I'm going to crush you into pulp!"

With an angry voice, a Xuan Beast as large as three zhang long and one zhang tall, resembling a black wild ox, smashed through countless trees, charging out from the depths of the forest, its eyes emitting a captivating light akin to two searchlights.

This was an exceptionally majestic wild ox, with curved horns like two Heavenly Blades, radiating a pitch-black glow. Its forehead bore a patch of gold, akin to a star embedded within.

Also, four star-like spots dotted its body, seemingly capable of connecting with the power of heaven and earth.

Yet, this wild ox Xuan Beast did not utilize any Divine Skills or Holy Power, relying solely on brute strength, lowering its head and emitting two white Essence Qi streams from its nostrils, charging violently at Bai Yan wolf.

“Little Yezi, hold it up; I’ll be back shortly!”

Bai Yan wolf shrieked, launching into a bizarre Chasing Star Step, transforming into a Flowing Light, dashing towards the wild ox’s lair.

Whoosh!

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan immediately stood in front of the wild ox, preventing it from returning to protect its lair.

Whoosh!

In the next moment, Ye Fan was the first to attack, hurling a punch towards the wild ox's forehead.

"You insignificant human..."

The wild ox Xuan Beast's eyes turned red instantly, naturally aware of Bai Yan wolf's intentions, and immediately launched a savage charge, lowering its head at Ye Fan.

"Well done!"

Ye Fan smiled slightly—he had come precisely to slay Xuan Beasts, hone himself, and search for breakthrough opportunities, so he naturally didn't fear battle, unleashing the Invincible Fist Intent.

Boom!

The purple-gold fist was like a mountain ridge, sweeping across the sky, shaking the void fiercely, smashing onto the wild ox's forehead, emitting a dazzling light.

The wild ox Xuan Beast's forehead erupted with a formidable force, forcibly blocking Ye Fan's fist, yet its forward momentum was also abruptly halted.

Ye Fan's legs sank into the ground, his purple-gold fist vibrating; it was the first time he was suppressed in a corporeal confrontation.

This wild ox Xuan Beast was at least at the early-stage Divine Realm; otherwise, it would be impossible to possess such a terrifying body. Ye Fan quickly assessed the wild ox's realm.

No wonder the dean forbade them from casually venturing out of the Ancient City—truly, peril lurked everywhere, given they had only just penetrated the wilderness mountain forest; who knew what powerful Xuan Beasts lay concealed in the heart of the forest.

“Moo!”

The Yu Fei Spirit Beast let out an earth-shaking roar, its body bursting with a swirl of black light, as Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi flowed like water through its five-star-like dots and into its body.

Instantly, the wild ox Xuan Beast's physique enlarged, towering like a small mountain, its eyes flickering with fierce light, akin to two bright lamps, as its massive hooves aimed to crush Ye Fan's skull, intending to pulverize him.

Swoosh!

Ye Fan launched into Chasing Star Step, rapidly sidling a hundred zhang away, then his eyes shot out dragon-shaped rays, emitting a potent aura!

After reaching the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, he had yet to strike, and now he intended to test his progress!

“Kill!”

Ye Fan shouted, his entire body erupting in a purple-gold glow, resembling a miniature War God, his purple-gold fist radiating brightly, causing the sun in the sky to lose its brilliance.

Crack!

Iron Fist sliced through the air, creating endless thunder and lightning, instantly breaking off one of the wild ox Xuan Beast’s horns, sending it flying, shattering a mountain peak, flashing with Divine Light as it landed afar.

Roar...

The wild ox Xuan Beast yelped in pain, its figure suddenly shrinking, eyes flickering with terror—its horns, the hardest part of its body, had actually been broken by Ye Fan’s punch, stirring instinctive foreboding within it.

Simultaneously, it realized that continuing the battle might very well lead to its demise here—Xuan Beasts have an almost instinctive sense of impending danger, and the wild ox Xuan Beast felt a cowardly fear!

“Continue!”

Securing a successful strike, Ye Fan's War Intent soared, deepening his understanding of the Emperor's Fist.

The key to Invincible Fist Intent mattered most; at that moment, Ye Fan's spiritual energy achieved Unity for the first time in combat, integrating Domineering Fist, Heaven Slaying Seven Spears, and Xuandi Fist into one cohesive attack!

The purple-gold fist filled the skies, causing heaven and earth to dim, and summoned Heavenly Thunder, incessantly striking the wild ox Xuan Beast!

"Moo..."

The wild ox's morale was shattered, its momentum plummeting. Combined with its innate fear of thunder and lightning, it had already started to entertain retreat.

With a loud roar, the Wild Bull Xuan Beast also went all out, spraying Innate Life-bound Essence from its nose, and all the star-shaped spots on its body flew into the sky, forming a Star Light Array that covered all directions, charging directly at Ye Fan.

Boom!

The Innate Life-bound Essence was scattered by Ye Fan's fist, and the Star Light Array covering all directions was shattered under Ye Fan's Iron Fist. Following that, Ye Fan's fist smashed onto the Wild Bull Xuan Beast's forehead.

Crack!

The massive cow head fractured, with Ye Fan's fist as the center, spreading outward, dense like a spider web!

The Wild Bull Xuan Beast's eyes suddenly dimmed, and a small black calf broke free from its top of the skull, emitting a terrified sound, fleeing into the depths of the dense forest!

"Thinking of leaving?"

Ye Fan unfolded the Chasing Star Step, instantaneously intercepted in front, directly firing a Purple Light that shattered the Divine Soul of the Wild Bull Xuan Beast. A fist-sized black crystal fell out.

This is the Beast Core of the Wild Bull Xuan Beast, the source of its power, a favorite of cultivators, purer than the energy contained in Spirit Stones, because it has been refined and purified.

Ye Fan put away the Beast Core, and then walked towards the depths of the forest.

He knew that to have been favored by such a powerful Xuan Beast, that Divine Medicine must be extraordinary. However, Ye Fan had no intention of seizing it, especially since Bai Yan wolf had already given him an Immortal Heart Grass, essential for refining the Soul Gathering Pill.

Besides, he's not Bai Yan wolf, who can't walk away from treasure, always wanting to snatch it, even if it belongs to his own people.

In the following days, Ye Fan launched a massacre of Xuan Beasts in this Wilderness Mountain Forest, with Bai Yan wolf, the wicked and treacherous black-hearted guy, causing many Xuan Beasts to fall into its traps.

In endless battles, Ye Fan's understanding of Xuandi Fist, Thunderclap Treasure Skill, and Heaven Slaying Seven Spears deepened, and their power increased immensely.

Numerous Early-stage Divine Realm Xuan Beasts were killed by him, regardless of their Divine Skills, all shattered under the Invincible Fist Intent.

During this period, Bai Yan wolf deliberately lured a Mid-stage Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast to see where Ye Fan's ultimate combat power lay.

After a fierce battle, Ye Fan unintentionally struck a punch with Tao Mark swirling around it, blasting open all Divine Skills of the Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast.

Then, the Xuan Beast also turned to flying ash under Ye Fan's Invincible Fist Intent, not even leaving a Beast Core, causing Bai Yan wolf to complain endlessly about Ye Fan's wastefulness.

“That was a Beast Core of a Mid-stage Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast, and you just destroyed it. Although it had just entered Mid-stage Divine Power Realm, the quality of its Beast Core had greatly improved!”

Bai Yan wolf muttered.

After consecutive battles, Ye Fan’s practical experience rapidly soared, his understanding of martial arts deepened day by day, but he still couldn’t break through to the Divine Realm, even life-and-death combat couldn’t make him advance.

And after days of killing Xuan Beasts, Ye Fan’s Space Spiritual Artifact was filled with Xuan Beast corpses, with forty to fifty Xuan Beasts already dead at his hands.

In this process, Bai Yan wolf also gained greatly, as most Xuan Beasts it chose for Ye Fan guarded some Spiritual Medicine and Treasure Medicine.

While Ye Fan was in fierce combat with Xuan Beasts, Bai Yan wolf took the back route directly and stole the Treasure Medicine.

During this period, Ye Fan also noticed other young strong people who came out of the Ancient City to hunt Xuan Beasts, but they all came in groups.

Whenever he saw these people, Ye Fan often avoided them, not meeting them, after all, everyone was unfamiliar and in this dangerous Wilderness Mountain Forest, a person dying was like a chick dying, nobody would care.

After being out of the Ancient City for almost a month, Ye Fan had grown tired of such battles. Since life-and-death blood battles couldn't make him break through, he could only think of other ways.

The day before preparing to return to the Ancient City, Ye Fan lit a bonfire in a mountain hollow, cleaned and skinned a small Xuan Beast, roasting it on the bonfire, the fragrance pervading.

Bai Yan wolf lay obediently at his feet, unable to do such a job, only waiting to eat ready-made food.

Under the roasting flames, the Xuan Beast Meat dripped grease onto the fire, making a crackling sound, soon roasting golden, crispy outside, tender inside, delicious and appealing.

"It smells so good, kid, leave the roast meat and you can get lost!"

At this moment...

Several figures walked out from the darkness, all young, none over twenty, wearing Immortal Academy attire.

Not paying attention, Ye Fan continued roasting the meat.

“Didn’t you hear me? Quickly get lost!”

The leading young man’s face sank when he saw Ye Fan ignored them, killing intent spreading, speaking coldly.

“Who are you?”

Bai Yan wolf, indignant, grinding its teeth, said, “Want to snatch our roast meat? After this King eats, there’ll be some bones left for you.”

“You... are you Ye Fan?”

The leading young man finally saw Bai Yan wolf hiding in Ye Fan’s shadow and instantly confirmed Ye Fan’s identity, his face becoming ferocious.

“It’s me!”

Ye Fan didn’t deny it, also noticing that the five young men before him were the new batch of disciples with him, and seemed to be close to Li Tianfeng, who targeted him everywhere.

“Excellent!”

The young man sneered, “This is really finding by chance what you seek, you should end yourself, or let us brothers take action?”

“I haven’t offended you, have I? Why force me like this?”

Ye Fan frowned, these people were all Early-stage Divine Realm, although they had just entered less than half a year ago, their strength was indeed strong, all geniuses from various places, tough to handle.

“Don’t you think? Grandpa wants to teach you a lesson, is that not allowed?”

The leading young man sneered, waving his hand, the five releasing mighty auras approaching Ye Fan.

Chapter 1499: He Who Kills Shall Be Killed!

Whoosh!

At the same time, another person arrived, and the six moved in on Ye Fan and the Bai Yan wolf together.

Hmm?

Ye Fan raised an eyebrow, knowing that this battle was unavoidable—these people clearly had ill intentions!

“Brother Jiang, don’t underestimate him. After all, he’s said to be invincible in the same realm. Even Qing Zi, hailed as the Southern Domain’s top genius, died at his hands. He’s stronger than that demon Qi in the same realm,” one person said with a sarcastic tone.

“Invincible in the same realm? I see that as nothing more than a joke.”

Jiang Molin sneered, “Only a fool would fight him in the same realm. Isn’t it easier to just stomp him to death?”

“True, he’s already in his twenties, yet hasn’t broken through to the Divine Realm. It seems his potential has been exhausted, he’s not worth sparing!” The others chimed in, looking at Ye Fan as if he were already dead.

“I give you two choices: First, end it yourself and spare yourself the suffering. That beast belongs to us. Second, we act, and you’ll die slowly after much torment. Choose!”

Jiang Molin didn’t regard Ye Fan at all. To him, Ye Fan was only powerful within the same realm, but they were all geniuses with the ability to battle above their level. With so many of them, how hard could it be to kill just one Ye Fan?

“Are you so sure you have me cornered?”

Ye Fan's gaze slowly turned cold, and he said, "The Immortal Academy strictly prohibits internal conflicts. How will you explain it if you kill me?"

"Hahaha..."

Jiang Molin laughed wildly, "Drop your naivety! This isn't the city; it's the Wilderness Mountain Forest. Even if we kill you, we can just blame it on a Xuan Beast. Who could find out?"

"That's right, the dean said there's a risk of falling outside the city anyway, so dying here is like child's play. No one would care."

"Just resign yourself to death, everything on you will be our spoils of war!"

"..."

The six mocked Ye Fan as much as they could but also revealed some information: that it's acceptable to kill and loot outside the city as long as the blame could be shifted onto the powerful Xuan Beasts in the forest.

"Can you tell a dying man why you are targeting me so specifically?" Ye Fan pretended to be weak, trying to extract the identity of the real mastermind from them.

“You might as well die in ignorance. Perhaps that would be a kindness to you!”

The young genius Jiang Molin smiled sinisterly, his snow-white teeth flashing cold light.

“Don’t try to escape; you can’t. We’ve set up the Kun Tian Array here, sealing the void. Even if you deploy the Transmission Array Platform, it won’t work.”

One young man thought Ye Fan might try to escape and said coldly.

Ye Fan naturally realized they were telling the truth because he felt the fluctuations of the sealed void.

At this moment, he felt endless killing intent, bearing immense pressure!

“Someone is leveraging you, trying to use your hands to remove me, right? Who is that person? Why don’t they act themselves?” Ye Fan’s gaze swept around, but he found nothing.

“Your intuition is sharp, and your guess accurate, but it won’t help you. Today you must die. As long as you’re dead, everything will be over.”

Jiang Molin was extremely arrogant. Encountering Ye Fan here was unexpected, but since he did, he would never allow Ye Fan to walk out alive.

“Just you six weaklings? Even if there were six more, I would kill them all!”

Seeing he couldn't extract the mastermind, Ye Fan spoke coldly, exuding a murderous aura.

“What's he saying? Has he gone mad with fear? He actually wants to kill all six of us? Hahaha...”

One of them laughed wildly, eyes gleaming with bloodlust, full of cruelty.

“Reckless fool, just an ant at the Holy Embryo Realm, daring to speak such arrogance!” another sneered.

The six advanced together, each exerting powerful pressure characteristic of the Early-stage Divine Realm. Their vitality was strong, each capable of battling above their level. Together, even a Mid-stage Divine Power Realm expert would have to avoid their edge temporarily.

“Tonight you must die. If you survive our six's fatal blow, that would indeed be a miracle.”

Jiang Molin laughed arrogantly. He didn't attack immediately; he wanted to see Ye Fan in utter despair.

“A miracle? I don't think so. Killing you six weaklings won't give me any sense of accomplishment!”

Ye Fan's words were forceful, like sacred sound, his gaze as determined as ever.

"Hahaha..."

The six seemed to hear the biggest joke of their lives and laughed simultaneously, eyes full of disdain, ridicule, and cold killing intent.

In their eyes, how could just a little cultivator at the Holy Embryo Realm compete with them?

No matter how stunningly Ye Fan performed before, they didn't take it to heart. After all, the realms were clear; they were a whole realm apart.

If five strong people of the Divine Realm couldn't kill a mere Holy Embryo Realm cultivator, they might as well just buy a piece of tofu and smash themselves to death.

"Dreaming of killing all six of us, are you?"

To avoid long nights with many dreams, they decided to act swiftly, killing Ye Fan outright and leaving him no chance. Each of these six young geniuses could contend with older generation experts; this was a death sentence.

“Each of you six are the elites of your respective clans or forces, yet you willingly become someone else’s lapdogs. I find that beneath you.”

Ye Fan glanced at the six, speaking calmly.

“You’re insolent!”

Chapter 1500: He Who Kills Shall Be Killed! (Part 2)

One of them suddenly turned livid, as if his sore spot had been touched, his voice chilly: “How Five Elements handle matters isn’t up to a dying man like you to comment!”

Seeing the six people surrounding him as if facing a great enemy, Ye Fan suddenly laughed!

“I really admire you, facing death yet you can still laugh!” Jiang Molin said.

“Of course I can laugh!”

Ye Fan spoke calmly: “Which one of you six isn’t a standout in your clan? In the young generation, you’re probably among the best, but to deal with a little Holy Embryo Realm cultivator like me, six must attack together; even if I’m defeated, I’ll go down with honor.”

“To deal with you, I alone am enough, they are just preventing your escape!”

One stepped forward, addressing the other five: “Let me gauge how capable he truly is!”

Buzz!

As he spoke, he slapped Ye Fan’s face, without using divine skills, purely relying on physical strength that made the void tremble, intending to humiliate first.

“Brother Gan’s strength grows ever stronger, purely physical strength has reached such terrifying levels, looks like he alone can slap this Ye kid into pulp!”

“Indeed, we don’t even need to act, Ye isn’t physically formidable compared to Brother Gan; he is nothing!”

Seeing Gan Luoyu attack, Jiang Molin and others marveled, praising his incredible strength—he could kill Ye Fan without divine skills.

In the meantime, a trace of fierce light flashed in Ye Fan’s eyes, these people wanting to kill him here stirred his killing intent!

Swish!

Ye Fan activated Chasing Star Step, rapidly moving like lightning, leaving an afterimage in place, and landed a slap on the man's face!

Clap!

Ye Fan's hand and the man's cheek met intimately, the sound crisp and loud!

"Ah..."

The man screamed, half of his face bloody and mangled, eyeball nearly burst, skull deformed, quickly retreating with endless fear in his eyes.

"Waste is just so vulnerable!"

Ye Fan sneered, facing six early-stage Divine Realm strong people alone, contemptuous of all directions.

"Who else wants to try? If not, all come at once!"

Ye Fan spoke indifferently, confronting six Divine Realm strong people alone, without fear.

“You...”

Jiang Molin was both shocked and angry, entirely unexpected that Ye Fan's body is so formidable.

“Old Bai, set up the supreme Formation, trap the place, don't let anyone escape!”

Ye Fan decided to massacre heavily, since here killing requires no accountability, he won't let those wanting him dead leave alive.

“Alright!”

Bai Yan wolf knows Ye Fan's strength well, though these people reached Divine Realm, they are nothing in Ye Fan's hands.

Immediately it began to act, spitting out small flags that grew larger with the wind, quickly fixing the place, sealing this space completely.

“So bold, you dare trap us?”

One didn't believe in evil, flashed a light in hand, a Killing Sword appeared, slashing directly at Ye Fan.

Boom!

Ye Fan quickly dodged, Killing Sword slashed empty, creating a terrifying crack on the ground, extending hundred feet, the dreadful Sword Radiance even cleaving a nearby hill.

“Set up Six Formation, encircle and kill him, must not let him escape!”

Jiang Molin sensed danger, Ye Fan’s strength exceeded their expectations, no one could match him one-on-one, now only collective besiege regardless of identity works.

Swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh...

Six quickly moved, positioning Ye Fan according to Five Elements Directions, all attacking together, various Divine Lights formed killing swords, slashing at Ye Fan.

“Useless!”

Ye Fan let out a long howl, pushing Chasing Star Step to the limit, traversing through the six’s Sword Radiance, his purple-gold fists colliding fiercely with the six’s Elemental Swords.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

The relentless sounds echoed, each punch from Ye Fan was heavier than ten thousand pounds, mixed with Thunder Power, causing the Elemental Sword to wail in anguish.

“How can his body be so strong? Has he surpassed the evil Qi?”

The six people were shocked, realizing that they’ve hit a hard rock this time, fearing the outcome might be grim.

However, at this moment, they couldn’t think about anything else, each displaying their Divine Skills, their Divine Power rampaging like an ocean, devastating everything around them.

Crack!

Ye Fan smashed three consecutive punches into the Elemental Sword formed of flame, that Killing Sword could no longer withstand the blows and was finally shattered by Ye Fan’s fists.

Immediately, Ye Fan endured two sword slashes, closing in on the person and engaging in close physical combat.

“Heart Flame, burn!”

The man was terrified, after witnessing Ye Fan’s terrifying physical strength, he was already cowardly. At this moment, being approached by Ye Fan felt like a nightmare. Without thinking, he directly displayed his Divine Skills to the fullest, even if it meant death, he wanted to drag Ye Fan along.

The Heart Flame’s temperature was extremely high, no ordinary body could withstand it. Even he himself, after casting Heart Flame, would be burned to death by his own fire, as it’s an internal flame. Even if he had comprehended the Fire Element, he couldn’t withstand it.

“Want to die? I’ll fulfill your wish!”

Ye Fan swept past him, wrenching his head off, then smashed it into powder with a slap, not even sparing his Divine Soul.

No blood was left, the person’s body instantly burned to ashes, even cracking the stones on the ground.

“No...”

The remaining five exclaimed together, trying to rescue him but it was too late. Ye Fan was too fast, by the time they understood what happened, that person had already turned into a pile of ashes.

The mountain wind blew, and the ashes on the ground disappeared immediately, the whole person seemed to have never existed, even the Jade Token turned into ash!

“Hiss...”

This terrifying scene made the five people’s hearts tremble with fear. They never expected Ye Fan to be so ruthless and decisive, nor did they expect him to be so powerful as to kill one person in an extremely short time despite six people teaming up.

However, Ye Fan was also not feeling well, having endured two Killing Sword blows directly, turning his clothing to ash, revealing his strong purple-copper-colored muscles, with two white marks on his back.

Two people attacked with full force, using Elemental Divine Power condensed into the Elemental Kill Sword, yet they couldn’t break his defense, leaving their hearts chilled.

“Kill! We must kill him, or none of us will survive!”

Jiang Molin regretted deeply at this moment, Ye Fan’s strength had exceeded his expectations, had he known this earlier, he would never have provoked him.

However—

Now it's too late to say anything, both parties had already fought, there's no possibility of reconciliation, only to exert all efforts to kill Ye Fan.

The other four, although fearful, understood what Jiang Molin said as reality. Things had reached this point, even if they wished to give up, Ye Fan would never let them go.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

The five joined forces to unleash their strongest attacks on Ye Fan, Wind Blades splitting the sky, raging through the long space, wooden spears dense like a forest, radiating sinister killing intent, Golden Sword splitting through the void, killing endlessly.

Ye Fan's eyes emitted dragon-shaped light, roaring with a long howl, a purple-golden figure appeared behind him, resembling a War God.

“Kill!”

Ye Fan pushed his strength to the extreme, Holy Power boiling, blood and Qi surging, unfolding Xuandi Fist, as if pushing small worlds, one punch causing the sky to collapse and the ground to crack.

He smashed countless Wind Blades with one punch, then Ye Fan stepped down, swung his leg, sweeping across, his long leg like a purple-golden Divine Dragon, flashing treasure light, directly kicking one person in half, colorful intestines gushing out with a 'whoosh.'

Immediately, Ye Fan appeared before him, scaring the young genius into a panic, yelling: "Don't kill me..."

"Those who kill, shall be killed. Since you came to kill me, be prepared to be killed!"

Ye Fan showed no mercy, slapping out a palm, directly erasing that person's Divine Soul, leaving only shattered limbs.

In just a brief moment, two of the six young geniuses had fallen, the remaining four were completely demoralized, looking at Ye Fan with eyes full of fear and despair!