

## **Y Master 1511**

### **Chapter 1511: Great Fortune!**

Time flies, months pass like a shuttle, and in the blink of an eye, three months have gone by since the new batch of disciples arrived at the Immortal Secret Realm.

From the moment he received the Spirit Stone, Ye Fan has been in closed-door meditation, never opening the gates, so no one knows what level he has reached now, nor does anyone know what Divine Skills he has comprehended.

Three months after Ye Fan entered seclusion, Qi Tianlin emerged, radiating light all over, his eyes deep like the sea.

This time upon coming out, his goal was to pass all tests and reclaim his position as number one!

Many people ended their meditation early to witness this, eager to see if he could smoothly pass the daunting Divine Soul, physical body, and comprehensive strength tests.

Under the gaze of many, Qi Tianlin appeared very natural and calm, without any fluctuations in his Divine Sense, showing an unfathomable demeanor.

Under everyone's attention, Qi Tianlin calmly walked onto the Heaven and Earth Bridge, step by step reaching the Peak, and eventually stepped down calmly, without triggering the phenomena like Ye Fan did.

This was something everyone was mentally prepared for, after all, the name Qi demon carried significant weight, and his strength was not to be underestimated.

The main reason for not triggering the phenomena is that this was not his first test; he had already been tested twice before, a conclusion reached after deduction by the academy elders.

After passing the Divine Soul test on the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Qi Tianlin immediately went on to pass the physical body test at the Lake of Reincarnation, striking huge waves, though difficult, he eventually passed smoothly.

Finally, he set his sights on the Life and Death Bridge; he hadn't passed the previous two attempts, but this time, he aimed to pass.

Over the three months, he had been continuously cultivating and gaining inspiration, gaining new insights and understanding about the Life and Death Tower, and was confident he could pass the test.

Even someone like Ye Fan at the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm managed to pass, he felt that in terms of talent, strength, and comprehension, he was not inferior to others, and certainly could pass.

After a difficult battle, Qi Tianlin slew all nine Heavenly Pride people on the ninth level, successfully passing the Life and Death Tower test, becoming the second disciple of this new generation to pass the tower.

Qi Tianlin's performance shocked the Immortal Academy elders!

Because he also broke through, successfully surpassed shackles, reaching Mid-stage Divine Power Realm, and triggered a grand Heavenly Tribulation.

Of course, in terms of strength and power of the Heavenly Tribulation, although Qi Tianlin is also a demon, compared to Ye Fan's tribulation, it was just like a little sorcerer compared to a great one, not comparable.

However, being able to trigger a tribulation, gaining attention from Heaven, all indicates demon-level genius, with limitless future achievements.

"Qi demon actually broke through, looks like we need to work harder, otherwise we'll certainly be left far behind by them!"

Seeing Qi Tianlin's breakthrough and the tribulation, many geniuses lamented.

With Ye Fan ahead and Qi demon behind, they who were once invincible now felt immense pressure, forcing them to cultivate harder and breakthrough, or be eliminated in this great era.

After the breakthrough, Qi Tianlin inquired about Ye Fan's situation, hoping to spar with him, but Ye Fan was in seclusion, causing his wish to fall through.

"Sooner or later, there'll be a battle between us..."

Gazing at Ye Fan's closed-door meditation Dong Mansion, Qi Tianlin whispered a sentence, then looked towards the Dong Mansion where Zhou Zhaolong was situated.

He knew Zhou Zhaolong was in terms of talent and potential, not inferior to him, since he himself had successfully broken through, Zhou Zhaolong was likely not far from breaking through.

However, he did not wait, instead chose to enter seclusion again, consolidating his realm.

Just on the seventh day after Qi Tianlin secluded himself again, a powerful aura erupted from Zhou Zhaolong's place of meditation.

He had emerged from seclusion!

Zhou Zhaolong's choice was just like Qi Tianlin's; as soon as he emerged, he immediately tested his Divine Soul and physical body power.

After passing both tests, he fought his way onto the ninth level of the Life and Death Tower, where he was almost beaten to death, but finally passed successfully.

In less than ten days, the newly ranked first and second disciples consecutively passed all the tests, driving everyone to madness.

Zhou Zhaolong seemed as if he had an agreement with Qi demon; after passing all the tests, he slightly rested, and after recovering from his injuries, he directly triggered his tribulation, breaking through on the spot!

Lan Yingfei swayed his sleeves, directly sending Zhou Zhaolong out of the Ancient City, so he could undergo his tribulation outside.

Since even Heaven noticed such a demon, it's natural to undergo Heaven's test, to grow within the tribulation; if one couldn't withstand it, it would be a death in vain.

Zhou Zhaolong smoothly passed the tribulation.

Meanwhile, rumors about Ye Fan became increasingly widespread, all claiming Jiang Molin and the others' deaths were related to him.

Though it didn't clearly point out that those six were killed by Ye Fan, the intention couldn't be more obvious, even an idiot could understand.

Under pressure, Lan Yingfei stated that Ye Fan was currently in seclusion and couldn't be disturbed. After he emerges, he will personally investigate and seek clarification from him, forbidding anyone from mentioning it again.

As Law Enforcement Elder said, others had nothing else to say.

Although Lan Yingfei appeared very kind, he was indeed the most strict and absolutely impartial in the entire Immortal Academy.

In the following months, many people gradually passed all the tests, with Wu Jingtian and Yue Chuan as the most impressive, worthy of being the strongest heirs of the Di Clan.

During this period, Lan Yingfei was kept busy, handling the aftermath of Jiang Molin and others, and figuring out how to explain to their families.

Additionally, every so often someone breaks through, and heavenly tribulations continually descend.

Although Lan Yingfei was overwhelmed, his mood was surprisingly good. The new batch of disciples truly lived up to expectations, with many demons among them, able to welcome either major or minor heavenly tribulations.

You must know, among a million cultivators, having a few who experienced heavenly tribulations is quite impressive. Some people even choose rainy days to break through, aiming to use heavenly thunder to validate their results.

The barbarian Shi Ye specifically cultivated the power of the divine soul and obtained a fragmented technique for cultivating divine sense from a relic site in the Ancient City, rapidly enhancing his divine soul power.

Anyone chosen by the Immortal Academy is naturally a genius, and their cultivation speed is rapid. In the unique environment of the Immortal Secret Realm, their progress can be described as advancing a thousand miles in a day.

Some disciples from previous years also broke through under their stimulus, with the area outside the Ancient City almost being battered to ruins by heavenly tribulations, forcing many Xuan Beasts to retreat deeper into the Wilderness Mountain Forest.

“Humans, if you continue to force us, we won’t mind blocking your disciples in your Immortal City!”

The continuous heavenly tribulations prompted angry roars from the supreme beings deep in the Wilderness Mountain Forest, shaking the entire Ancient City, with rune array patterns flickering.

This was an extremely terrifying existence, conservatively estimated to hover between the Lord Realm Peak and Venerable Realm, likely having reached the Venerable Realm, comparable to a Saint.

Six months later, Ye Fan emerged!

As soon as he came out, he was summoned by Lan Yingfei to inquire about the killing of Jiang Molin and others.

“Their deaths have nothing to do with me; heaven knows how it happened.”

Ye Fan quickly understood the origin of the rumors and coldly said, “If someone targets me, I am not afraid, let them come!”

"I didn't say you killed them, right? Rest assured, I've suppressed this matter, no one will dare to trouble you for no reason."

Seeing Ye Fan harboring murderous intent, Lan Yingfei frowned slightly, warning Ye Fan not to act recklessly; he would handle the matter himself.

After leaving Lan Yingfei's place, Ye Fan did not immediately return to seclusion.

The recent isolation had greatly benefited him, not only stabilizing his realm but also deepening his comprehension of divine skills and martial arts.

The cultivation method lies in flexibility and control, constantly being in seclusion is not good; he had not reached that level yet, so he needed to relax while cultivating.

At this moment, he wanted nothing else but to wander aimlessly along the tree-lined avenues of the Ancient City, looking at the age-old buildings and flowing water, finding peace in his heart.

When he came out, Lan Yingfei had told him he could choose a martial arts skill in the Ancient Hall, a right that every disciple of the Immortal Academy has; others had already made their choices, but he had been in seclusion, not having chosen a martial arts skill.

The Immortal Academy had a long history, producing many strong people; some strong people, in their final moments, often returned to the academy, either contributing or leaving behind some powerful martial arts skills.

Ye Fan did not go to the Ancient Hall to choose a martial arts skill directly, but wandered aimlessly in the Ancient City.

Passing by flowing water and small bridges, through a fallen leaf forest, Ye Fan unknowingly arrived near the Immortal Stele at the center of the Ancient City.

This towering Immortal Stele was the symbol of the academy, with immortal light swirling around it, rumored to be left by an Immortal.

Of course, this couldn't be verified, as the stele was there when the Immortal Academy was discovered; according to the first dean of the Immortal Academy, if it wasn't left by an Immortal, it was likely crafted by a Great Emperor.

Standing before the Immortal Stele, Ye Fan paid his respects with reverence, carving the patterns of the stele with his consciousness.

The immortal light flowed on the stele, patterns extremely complex, and Ye Fan immersed his consciousness in the stele, feeling the passing of time, the immortal charm on the stele.

Hmm?

Suddenly, Ye Fan discovered that within the Immortal Stele seemed to be a fragmented loose hand technique, just one move, with terrifying power, difficult to grasp, unable to deduce.

“This is a great fortune!”

Ye Fan suppressed his excitement and began carving some patterns of this loose hand move.

However—

The loose hand was fragmented, unable to be truly performed, its power greatly reduced, other parts seemingly erased, invisible.

“Let me try and see if I can restore it!”

Elder Xuan in Ye Fan’s sea of consciousness taught him a secret technique for tracing the origin.

Swish swish swish...

Following Elder Xuan’s teachings, Ye Fan moved his hands, divine power overflowing.

Instantly, a special aura spread, and Ye Fan gradually sensed all the patterns of this loose hand move!

Chapter 1512: Nameless Sanshou Technique

The opportunity was fleeting, and after Ye Fan engraved the nameless Sanshou technique in his Divine Soul, all traces vanished completely.

Later generations, no matter how profound their cultivation becomes, can no longer recreate even a fraction of this technique; it's as if it has completely disappeared.

This means that only Ye Fan obtained the perfect Sanshou technique!

This nameless technique is merely a single move.

Ye Fan deduced within his mind and was shocked to discover that the power of this move was unbelievably strong, suddenly draining half of his divine power, something unprecedented.

It's important to know that he possesses a Main God Embryo and three hundred fifty-nine Void God Embryos, his divine power vast as the ocean, equivalent to a hundred times that of other cultivators in the same realm, almost inexhaustible, yet could only be performed once, consuming most of his divine power. This demonstrates just how terrifying its power is!

A true treasure was found!

Ye Fan thought to himself and hurriedly left, heading towards the Ancient Hall.

The elder guarding the Ancient Hall was very familiar with Ye Fan and did not need any verification, directly guiding him to a side hall where many powerful martial arts techniques were stored, created by the strong people collected by the Immortal Academy.

Ye Fan wandered among them without immediately choosing.

Because there were too many martial arts techniques, making it hard to choose.

Throughout the ages, every strong person lays the foundation for creating their martial arts techniques in the Divine Power Realm. Observing myriad skills and forming one's own style is the most important thing at this time.

Ultimately, Ye Fan chose the Ba Jie Fist because he did not focus on external forces; neither spear technique nor swordsmanship was as direct as the fist.

A powerful body is the best weapon!

The Ba Jie Fist, as the name suggests, is the fist technique of the Eight Phase World; one punch can shatter a world, eight punches can destroy the Three Realms and Six Paths, nothing can withstand it.

This is an extremely domineering fist technique, compared to it, Domineering Fist isn't even worth mentioning, not touching the core of the fist technique at all.

After confirming his choice, under the elder's supervision, Ye Fan imprinted it within his sea of consciousness, thanked the elder, and then walked out of the Ancient Hall.

...

Northeast of the Ancient City, there was a raised Yellow Earth Mound, resembling a small hill. There were no birds, and it was deathly quiet, even more desolate than near the Lake of Reincarnation, with not a single plant, just barren land.

This area in the Ancient City is a Forbidden Zone, no one is allowed to approach it, not even the dean can see through it, filled with danger.

Back then, in an attempt to research this place thoroughly, the Immortal Academy lost over a dozen Lord Realm Peak strong people, causing the Academy quite a bit of heartache.

Over a dozen Lord Realm Peak strong people approached this mound, only to silently turn to ashes, unable to resist at all.

Eventually, the first dean personally intervened, but upon nearing a hundred meters of the mound, he felt an indescribable power, his body nearly exploding.

After that, the dean designated this as a Forbidden Zone, prohibiting anyone from approaching to prevent accidents.

Ye Fan stood there for a long time, astonished that there was such a place in the Ancient City.

Logically, this Ancient City should belong to the Immortal Academy, yet for years, no one has been able to know what this mound truly is.

After a prolonged observation, Ye Fan suddenly realized that this mound looked like a massive tomb buried beneath a peerless figure.

“If this truly is a tomb, then might it not contain the Ancient City’s earliest master?”

With a sigh, Ye Fan pondered, fearing even immortals are not eternal, no one can escape time’s judgment.

For seven consecutive days, Ye Fan did not cultivate but rather sought enlightenment, wandering within the Ancient City, understanding its profound essence.

On the eighth day, Ye Fan saw the Bai Yan wolf.

In this period, this fellow had become more majestic, as strong as an ox, standing taller than him.

“After being in seclusion for so long, isn’t it time to stretch those muscles? I propose we go hunting Xuan Beasts together.”

Seeing Ye Fan again, Bai Yan wolf immediately sensed Ye Fan's change, seemingly stronger, and promptly urged him to hone his skills with Xuan Beasts outside the city.

Under Bai Yan wolf's instigation, Ye Fan ventured once more outside the city, deep into the Wilderness Mountain Forest to hunt Xuan Beasts, checking both his strength and martial arts techniques.

This time, Ye Fan refrained from wanton slaughter, instead specifically seeking Xuan Beasts whose strength closely matched his own, engaging in life-or-death combat to grasp enlightenment and Martial Enlightenment.

Bai Yan wolf grinned widely, with Ye Fan holding back those powerful Xuan Beasts, easily stealing the Treasure Medicine guarded by them.

In this process, Ye Fan finally experienced the power of the nameless Sanshou technique.

In a fierce battle with a Peak of Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast, despite deploying all his strength, he couldn't kill it. Finally using the nameless Sanshou technique, a single palm akin to the suppression of an Immortal Stele directly turned the beast into ashes.

"That was a Peak Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast! Just a step away from understanding the Domain's Secret Technique, entering the Lord Realm, even I would have to put in effort to kill it, yet you turned it into ashes with one strike, obliterating both form and spirit?!"

Bai Yan wolf watched, astonished, as Ye Fan made its eyes twitch repeatedly.

“Kid, this martial art is incredible, teach it to me!” Bai Yan wolf’s eyes lit up; with its keen vision, it knew the technique Ye Fan just performed was terrifying.

“This is not something you can cultivate, it’s specifically created for humans, and it’s just a single move!”

Ye Fan shook his head, not because he was unwilling to teach, but because the way of deploying divine power differed, making it impossible for Bai Yan wolf to learn.

“Nonsense, Chasing Star Step was also created for two-legged beings like you, yet this king still learned it?” Bai Yan wolf didn’t believe it, confident in its talent.

“...”

Ye Fan was helplessly entangled by it, so he directly struck this nameless Sanshou Technique into its sea of consciousness, letting it explore on its own.

After half a day, the Bai Yan wolf finally gave up, cursing angrily, “This method of employing Divine Power is completely wrong, I can’t use it no matter what, it’s driving this king mad.”

“I told you, you can’t cultivate it, you didn’t believe me, but now you do, right?”

Ye Fan laughed.

“Woof! Woof!”

Hearing this, the Bai Yan wolf got so angry that it kept biting Ye Fan.

After honing his skills deep in the Wilderness Mountain Forest for half a month, Ye Fan returned to the Ancient City with abundant prey and insights into the Ba Jie Fist and nameless Sanshou Technique.

“Did you kill all these Xuan Beasts? Without the help of that wicked wolf?”

Seeing the Xuan Beast corpses handed over by Ye Fan, Lan Yingfei was deeply shocked. Dozens of Xuan Beasts, not a single one was of the early-stage Divine Realm; all were mid-stage and late-stage Divine Power Realm.

It was really hard for him to believe that Ye Fan could leap two realms to kill these Xuan Beasts.

After all, the defensive power of Xuan Beasts far exceeded that of cultivators of the same realm, and most of these Xuan Beasts were killed with a single blow, with no extra wounds except for a fatal one.

Of course, the inner core and Beast Core had already been extracted, as he deserved; the academy only needed the bodies of the Xuan Beasts to assess the contribution value of a disciple.

The corpses of these Xuan Beasts certainly wouldn't go to waste either, as the vast life essence contained within their flesh and blood would greatly benefit cultivators when specially prepared.

In the Immortal Secret Realm, the disciples' daily meals were made from the meat of these Xuan Beasts, stewed with various Spiritual Medicines and Spiritual Springs, providing significant benefits when consumed regularly.

"Mhmm!"

Ye Fan nodded.

"Alright! I will add your contribution value."

After speaking, Lan Yingfei no longer paid attention to Ye Fan, instead appraising each Xuan Beast, registering them to calculate how much contribution value Ye Fan could earn this time.

Having gained contribution value, Ye Fan didn't linger further; he went directly to the Spirit Stone Storage to collect a large amount of Spirit Stones, returning to his Dong Mansion to begin another session of closed-door cultivation!

The continuous life-and-death struggles over the past half month rewarded Ye Fan tremendously, providing him with new insights and understanding of various martial arts and Cultivation Techniques.

At this moment, entering closed-door cultivation was just the right time to absorb these insights and understandings, truly integrating them into his Divine Soul.

Thinking carefully, Ye Fan now possessed quite a few martial arts techniques, with Nine Heavens Profound Body for defense and a body comparable to a Spiritual Treasure, far surpassing cultivators of the same realm.

For offense, he had the Xuandi Fist; although he'd just comprehended one move so far, with just this fist, nearly no one in the same realm could withstand it.

Additionally, there were the Domineering Fist, Ba Jie Fist, Heaven Slaying Seven Spears, Thunderclap Treasure Skill, and recently, he happened upon a nameless Sanshou Technique with even greater power than the Xuandi Fist, more than enough to save his life.

As long as these were fully comprehended, Ye Fan believed that under the Lord Realm, few could match him—just one move of the nameless Sanshou Technique alone could turn a Peak of Divine Power Realm strong person into flying dust!

During Ye Fan's time in closed-door cultivation, others also trained frantically, not wanting to fall too far behind; being left far behind in the Immortal Academy would be too great a blow for them.

Entering the Immortal Academy often revealed one's limited understanding, as many geniuses felt upon leaving it!

Before coming to the Immortal Academy, they were geniuses in their own domain, rarely meeting opponents, with no one able to defeat them.

Yet, upon arriving at the Immortal Academy, they realized their so-called genius was mere hubris, viewing the heavens from the bottom of a well. The academy was filled with demon-level geniuses, each possessing incredible strength, terrifying talent, and fortune defying fate.

Compared to these demons, many self-proclaimed geniuses paled into insignificance.

The sun and moon rotated, and time flew by!

In the blink of an eye, the year was almost over, and Lan Yingfei, along with many elders in the Immortal Secret Realm, was busy with preparations.

Not only did they need to transport the bodies of various Xuan Beasts, but they also had to bring along much data, including the disciples' performance and combat power display in the Immortal Secret Realm.

Crucially, they had to ensure the transmission array platform used for traversing the void was flawlessly secure, with no room for error!

Many years ago, there was an incident at the Immortal Academy—suddenly, an unexpected collapse occurred while traversing the void channel. If not for the elder leading the group who desperately used a

Venerable Realm Spiritual Treasure to protect everyone, that cohort of geniuses would have turned to dust.

Learning from past mistakes serves as a lesson for the future.

Lan Yingfei was determined not to see such an accident happen under his watch, so he personally checked very carefully, fearing any mishap.

As the day of departure drew near, many disciples concluded their closed-door cultivation, flocking to test their strength at the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Lake of Reincarnation, and Life and Death Tower.

Chapter 1513: The Last One to Emerge from Seclusion

Previously, almost everyone would go for testing every month, so they were quite aware of their own strength.

During the Heaven and Earth Bridge test, many people were stopped at the seventh stone step, where their Divine Soul encountered immense pressure and they couldn't take another step.

Of course, there were also those who didn't believe in evil and forcefully charged through, ultimately getting ejected without suspense, nearly injuring their Divine Soul.

Among these people, Zhou Zhaolong was the most stunning. He was previously hailed as a seed strong enough to contend with Qi Tianlin, with terrifying strength.

So-called geniuses commonly fight across one level, while demon-level geniuses can span two or even three Xiao realms to defeat opponents.

Without a doubt, Zhou Zhaolong was a demon-level genius. Heaven and Earth Bridge and Lake of Reincarnation, he passed all, indicating that his Divine Soul and Physical Strength both surpassed the limit, yet he was blocked at the eighth level during the Life and Death Tower test, unable to pass entirely.

Even so, his formidable strength still caused a huge sensation, making many geniuses feel deeply shocked!

After all, he had just made a breakthrough half a year ago!

According to the testing rules, after his breakthrough, the difficulty of the test drastically increased, incomparable to when he passed initially!

Compared to themselves, who could only ascend to the seventh stone step, and their Physical Strength tests that hovered between the seventh and eighth Qing Lian, Zhou Zhaolong absolutely counted as a demon-level genius.

“Comparing one to another can be deadly, comparing goods can lead to discarding!”

“Why is the gap so huge between geniuses of the same kind?”

Many people sighed like this, they were geniuses, while Zhou Zhaolong and the likes of Qi Tianlin were demons, incomparable!

Living in the same era as such people was simply tragic, only to miserably become supporting roles, unable to compete.

The day of departure finally arrived. On this morning, the Immortal Bell within the Immortal Secret Realm chimed continuously for nearly thirty minutes.

Numerous geniuses hurried to the square in front of the Ancient Hall, waiting to return to the Academy.

“Why hasn’t Evil Qi appeared yet? Could he not have heard the sound of the Immortal Bell?”

“That Ye person hasn’t appeared either, could it be they’re still in seclusion? Such steadiness!”

Soon, everyone noticed that two people were missing, Ye Fan and Qi Tianlin had not come, and they all looked toward the Dong Mansion where they were in seclusion.

At this moment, the door to Qi Tianlin’s seclusion exploded open.

Qi Tianlin, with steps like a dragon and tiger, opened and closed his eyes, Divine Radiance shot in all directions, his jet-black hair fluttered in the wind, his whole body enveloped in nine layers of divine halo, as if a Divine King had descended.

After leaving seclusion, Qi Tianlin didn't first go to the square in front of the Ancient Hall to assemble but went straight to the Heaven and Earth Bridge.

At this time, less than an hour remained until returning to the Academy, everyone was surprised, could he complete the test in less than an hour?

One must know, both the Heaven and Earth Bridge for testing the Divine Soul and the Lake of Reincarnation for testing Physical Strength and power were very difficult, let alone the Life and Death Tower which required a battle.

"Go! Let's take a look!"

Many people couldn't resist their curiosity and rushed toward the Heaven and Earth Bridge. However, when they arrived near the Heaven and Earth Bridge, Qi Tianlin had already reached the top, his expression calm as ever, with no sign of feeling pressured.

After walking down the Heaven and Earth Bridge with ease, Qi Tianlin didn't hesitate for a moment and flew straight to the Lake of Reincarnation, then under the watchful eyes of everyone, he swiftly crossed the Lake of Reincarnation, seemingly like a leisurely stroll, his body emitting a crystalline treasure light.

"It's too terrifying, he also just broke through half a year ago, yet both his Divine Soul and Physical Strength have surpassed the limit!"

“Too demonic, living in the same era as such people is simply a huge mistake.”

“If only I was born a few decades earlier...”

Seeing Qi Tianlin effortlessly pass tests they struggled to overcome, geniuses from various regions were shocked beyond measure and then sighed, not wanting to live in the same era as such demons.

After passing the tests of Divine Soul and body in an extremely short time, Qi Tianlin set his sights on the Life and Death Tower.

The Life and Death Tower had nine levels, each test was incredibly terrifying, even with Zhou Zhaolong’s talent and strength, he only reached the eighth level.

The ninth level...

All who experienced it felt it was a death trap, without honing one’s overall strength to the pinnacle, it was impossible to pass!

However, everyone was still very excited, in terms of reputation, Qi Tianlin consistently overshadowed Zhou Zhaolong, now both were at Mid-stage Divine Power Realm, Zhou Zhaolong reached the eighth level, so Qi Tianlin had to pass entirely to prove he was stronger.

Both the Heaven and Earth Bridge and the Life and Death Tower have a common feature—adjusting difficulty according to the cultivator’s realm, the higher the realm, the greater the difficulty to pass!

In each realm, without cultivating to the pinnacle, it is impossible to pass the test, can Qi Tianlin really do it?

If he really can pass entirely, it would mean one thing—he has already cultivated to beyond the limit at Mid-stage Divine Power Realm.

Beyond the limit!

What does this concept imply?

It would mean Qi Tianlin can break through to Late-stage Divine Realm at any time, he’s consciously suppressing his cultivation speed.

“Sss~”

Realizing this, many people gasped in shock.

Even Zhou Zhaolong couldn’t stay calm, his face dark, as Qi Tianlin once again outshone him in the test, making him particularly annoyed.

After Qi Tianlin's test, he calmly moved to the square outside the Ancient Hall, quietly waiting to traverse the void and return to the academy!

The Immortal Secret Realm is a limited resource of the academy and cannot be indefinitely used by new recruits. If one wishes to return to cultivate here again, they must accumulate contribution points to exchange for time spent cultivating here.

At this moment, of the twenty-four new disciples of the current cohort, only Ye Fan had yet to arrive; everyone else was present, just waiting for him!

"He sure can keep his cool, about to leave yet he still hasn't emerged from closed-door cultivation. Does Elder Lan need to invite him out personally?" some of the geniuses complained discontentedly.

They all arrived early to wait for departure, even Qi Tianlin did not delay the departure time.

Now, with less than half a stick of incense worth of time before departure, Ye Fan still appeared leisurely without any intention of coming out, making these geniuses particularly disgruntled.

"Has Ye Fan not come yet?"

Lan Yingfei walked out of the Ancient Hall, glanced at the crowd, and asked with a frown.

“Maybe he didn’t hear the assembly bell? Should I go call him?” Jin Changgeng stood up and said.

He knew very well that Saintess Yaling held Ye Fan in high regard, and he couldn’t allow any mishap with Ye Fan, otherwise, he would have to face Yaling’s wrath.

“No need; I’ll invite him myself!”

Lan Yingfei was both amused and exasperated. How could this kid keep his cool, nearly returning yet still not out of closed-door cultivation?

What?

The dignified Law Enforcement Elder of the Immortal Academy personally going to invite a newly enrolled disciple?

This was unprecedented since the establishment of the academy, leaving all the geniuses dumbfounded!

“Elder Lan, just send someone to call him, why do you need to lower yourself and personally invite him?” A genius, not fond of Ye Fan, said enviously.

"I have other matters to discuss with him, no need for more words." Lan Yingfei directly went to the front of Ye Fan's closed-door cultivation pavilion.

Boom~

Before he could speak, the door of the pavilion slowly opened, and Ye Fan walked out, spotting Elder Lan Yingfei at the door, and was momentarily stunned.

"Huh? What is Elder Lan doing here?"

Ye Fan was puzzled, but he did not express it, and instead greeted him, saying, "Elder Lan, I haven't delayed departure time, have I?"

"Not at all!"

Lan Yingfei waved his hand and said to Ye Fan, "I just received the dean's transmission, saying you can let your wolf cultivate in the Immortal Secret Realm for one more year. After a year, let it find you at the academy. The dean wants to know your thoughts on whether to leave it behind or bring it back to the academy with you now?"

"That Bai Yan wolf hasn't caused trouble, right?"

Ye Fan felt a surge of nervousness. At the academy, it dared to sneak into the Spiritual Medicine Repository, maybe it had caused some recent mischief again.

“No, the dean says it followed Thunder Venerable, has remarkable talent, and can maximize its strength here, making it a great ally for you in the future — kid, the dean is quite considerate of you!”

Lan Yingfei looked at Ye Fan with a knowing smile.

Though Ye Fan was somewhat older compared to other geniuses, and at a disadvantage, his potential seemed limitless, and his strength was growing rapidly. In just a few years, he might completely catch up to those Saint Heirs and the strongest heirs of the Di Clan.

“As long as it hasn’t caused trouble, it’s fine.”

Ye Fan felt relieved, his biggest worry was that the mischievous wolf had done something outrageous again.

Woosh!

While they were talking, a flash of white light passed by, and the Bai Yan wolf appeared next to Ye Fan. After a few months, it had grown stronger, with traces of blood on its body, indicating it had just fought with Xuan Beasts outside the city.

“Old Bai...”

Ye Fan conveyed the dean’s decision to it, then used divine consciousness transmission to tell it about the suspicious tomb in the northeast corner of the Ancient City, asking it to pay attention and study the city’s defensive array patterns as they might come in handy in the future.

“Leave it to me. This king is the grandmaster of array patterns; nothing short of the Emperor Array rune’s pattern can stump me,” Bai Yan wolf said excitedly, having changed the most in the past year. Even Ye Fan found it hard to read now.

Though the Immortal Academy’s cultivation environment was good, it wasn’t as good as here. Given an extra year to stay, it was naturally willing.

“Kid, while I’m not by your side for a year, you mustn’t slack off. Work hard on the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, understood? Otherwise, this king will waste you and find a suitable heir for the Supreme anew!”

Bai Yan wolf said righteously.

“Slap—”

Ye Fan gave Bai Yan wolf a slap, but in his heart, he hoped that Bai Yan wolf would uncover the mysteries of the Forbidden Zone of the Immortal Secret Realm in the coming year!

Chapter 1514: Return

After more than half a year of cultivation, Ye Fan had solidified his foundation very well. Although he hadn't made another breakthrough, he had refined a large number of spirit stones and brought his early-stage Divine Power Realm cultivation to its peak.

According to Elder Xuan, within the Xiao realm, Ye Fan had no bottleneck. As long as he had enough spirit stones, he could continuously break through.

However, to ensure Ye Fan's foundation was firm, Elder Xuan did not let him break through again but instead asked him to perceive martial arts, cultivation techniques, and secret techniques continuously during his cultivation.

Regarding the nameless Sanshou Technique that Ye Fan obtained, Elder Xuan gave it a very high evaluation, saying it was no less than the Xuandi Fist, and it was very likely left behind by a Great Emperor from the Ancient Times.

Elder Xuan even had a bold guess, but he didn't share it with Ye Fan.

He thought that even a Great Emperor who dominated the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths and looked down on all beings might not be able to create such a sanshou technique. Its origin might be the ultimate realm pursued by an emperor throughout his life—Immortal!

However, this guess was too terrifying for Elder Xuan to confirm, so he didn't tell Ye Fan. Instead, he gave this sanshou move a name that wasn't too common but not too dazzling either—Immortal Stele Scattering Hand!

Because Ye Fan had obtained this sanshou technique from the Immortal Stele, calling it the Immortal Stele Scattering Hand was perfectly appropriate!

“He’s still at the early-stage Divine Power Realm? He hasn’t made another breakthrough?”

As Ye Fan walked toward the crowd, some sharp-eyed geniuses immediately noticed that his realm was still at the early-stage Divine Power Realm.

When they arrived, many of these geniuses had also reached the early-stage Divine Power Realm, and later, they broke through to mid-stage Divine Power Realm one after another.

However, Ye Fan had broken through to the early-stage Divine Power Realm within just over a month of entering the Immortal Secret Realm. Given the cultivation environment within the Immortal Secret Realm, he should have been able to break through to the mid-stage Divine Power Realm.

Some people were puzzled, while others were gloating, as they certainly didn’t want someone who was originally inferior to them to quickly rise and catch up with their pace.

“As expected!”

Li Tianfeng said sinisterly, “He thought that with the rich Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the Immortal Academy, he could make continuous breakthroughs. Now he’s tasting the bitter fruit, right?”

“That’s right, continuous breakthroughs will inevitably lead to an unstable foundation. It’s impossible for him to break through to mid-stage Divine Power Realm now.”

“Breaking through two realms continuously in such a short time might look glorious now, but it will certainly leave indelible hidden dangers, and in the future, it might lead to serious consequences due to an unstable foundation!”

Li Tianfeng’s two close aides echoed him. They were all Li Tianfeng’s staunch supporters and knew of the feud between Zhou Zhaolong and Ye Fan, so they spared no effort to attack Ye Fan.

However, their opinion was also acknowledged by some—it was common knowledge in cultivation that rapid breakthroughs might grant powerful strength in a short time, but it would certainly have significant hidden dangers that, once erupted, could destroy a cultivator’s foundation.

“Perhaps he didn’t choose to break through at all but wanted to cultivate to the extreme of early-stage Divine Power Realm!”

Someone proposed a different viewpoint.

“That’s also possible! After all, he broke records three times in a row, so he surely knows this bit of common knowledge!” Some neutral geniuses nodded, not denying this possibility.

“If he wanted to cultivate the early-stage Divine Power Realm to its extreme, then could he pass all the tests if he participated now?”

People became curious, as Ye Fan had left a deep impression on them last time by passing the Heaven and Earth Bridge and Lake of Reincarnation in one go and passing the Life and Death Tower twice.

Moreover, it had been more than half a year since Ye Fan's last breakthrough. Given the environment and cultivation resources in the Immortal Secret Realm, he should have been able to cultivate the early-stage Divine Power Realm to the extreme.

"Ye Fan, why don't you test yourself?"

"Yeah! Let's see how your progress has been over the past half-year?"

"We hope you can create new achievements and pass everything!"

"Ye Zi, we support you! Go bravely!"

Many people were hoping to see if Ye Fan could pass all three types of tests in one go. If he could do it, perhaps in the early-stage Divine Power Realm, no one would be his match. Even the Emperor's disciples Wu Jingtian and Yue Chuan might not have been able to pass all three at once when they were in the early-stage Divine Power Realm.

"Ahem... Don't get your hopes up. The transmission array platform is already activated, and there's no time for him to take the test. Follow me and return to the academy immediately!"

Just as everyone was excitedly urging Ye Fan to take the test, Lan Yingfei came to them, holding back his laughter as he spoke.

“Ah...”

Many people were dumbfounded.

Even Ye Fan didn't expect to return so soon; otherwise, he would have exited a day earlier to test if his divine soul and physical strength had surpassed the realm's limits.

But it's too late now; the transmission array platform was already activated, leaving no time for him to take the test.

Such a massive array platform required a terrifying amount of spirit stones each time it was activated, enough to make a medium-sized sect or clan turn pale.

Though the Immortal Academy was wealthy, it couldn't afford to waste resources, especially for such long-distance teleportations.

Besides, Ye Fan had suspected that the Immortal Secret Realm wasn't in the Immortal Academy or even in the Xuan Realm but had reached the starry sky.

This kind of cross-star teleportation consumed a shocking amount of spirit stones, especially with additional materials he might not know of, making the cost even higher.

The Immortal Academy could only activate it a few times a year, and waste was strictly prohibited.

“What a pity, I thought I could see him test again!” a genius shook his head and sighed.

“Yes, I really wanted to see if he could pass everything again, but there’s no time!”

This was the sentiment of many.

Ye Fan’s performance was too stunning, making them eager to see him challenge the tests again.

“Even if he could test, there’s no way he could pass all three. Achieving a mid-to-upper level would already be impressive!”

As everyone regretted that Ye Fan couldn’t continue the challenge, a cold, discordant voice rang out.

Hmm?

Everyone was taken aback!

Without a test, claiming that Ye Fan couldn't pass and could only reach a mid-upper level was blatantly slandering Ye Fan and attempting to undermine his Martial Arts Will!

What is most important to a martial artist?

A firm and unyielding Martial Arts Will, an invincible martial heart.

The person who said this deserved to be condemned!

People looked toward the voice and found it was once again Li Tianfeng, and they couldn't help but reveal a knowing expression.

The new generation of the Immortal Academy's disciples had been together for more than a year, and everyone knew that Li Tianfeng and Ye Fan weren't on good terms.

In this scenario, Li Tianfeng's words were undoubtedly an attempt to make Ye Fan doubt his abilities, thus destabilizing his Martial Arts Will and disrupting his invincible mindset.

After all, once back at the academy, a fierce ranking battle among the new generation would take place, as disciples displayed their divine skills to compete for the academy's resources.

If Ye Fan's invincible mindset was broken now, it could be exploited in the competition, perhaps even leading to his defeat because of it.

Reaching their realm, they were beyond mere brute force; cultivation techniques, martial arts, spiritual treasures, divine skills, and psychological tactics were all employed to the fullest!

Any slight flaw in the Martial Arts heart could become a target for others to attack. Those with intentions could use this to initially weaken a martial artist's fighting spirit and ultimately defeat them.

Losing in techniques and divine skills isn't terrifying—claiming never to lose in life is almost impossible; even an Ancient Emperor might have moments of retreat. But as long as the Martial Arts Will isn't destroyed and the belief in invincibility remains, one can still strive for the path of the Great Emperor.

The truly frightening thing is losing the will. A cultivator without a Martial Arts Will has essentially lost, lacking the invincible mindset when facing opponents, leading to inevitable defeat even if slightly stronger.

Facing Li Tianfeng's words, Ye Fan did not argue. His Martial Arts heart was as steadfast as stone, unbreakable and unaffected by mere words.

Though unfazed, Ye Fan still gave Li Tianfeng a deep look.

"Hmph!"

The cold and disdainful look in Ye Fan's eyes made Li Tianfeng's anger flare up, but he couldn't act at this moment, so he just snorted coldly and turned away.

"This isn't your first time crossing the void, but I must remind you to ensure safety. No one is allowed to act recklessly, or you'll have your cultivation abolished and be expelled from the academy!"

Seeing the discussion end, Lan Yingfei led everyone onto the transmission platform, sweeping a stern gaze over them as he issued a strict warning.

The crowd stiffened, quickly standing properly, with no one daring to speak again. The Ancient Hall was silent, even their breathing sounding like noise.

"Buzz!"

At that moment, Elder Lan Yingfei stomped his foot, fully activating the transmission array runes. A blinding light flashed, and everyone involuntarily closed their eyes.

When they opened them again, they found themselves in the void, swiftly heading into the unknown ahead!

Bang!

After an unknown amount of time, a flash of cyan light tore open the void, and under Lan Yingfei's guidance, Ye Fan and the others fell from the void onto a transmission platform, unmistakably back at the academy.

#### Chapter 1515: Kindred Spirits

The Immortal Martial Academy is located right in the center of six Dragon Veins. The Dragon Veins surge with Primordial Qi, enveloping the area like water. Towering Ancient Trees and fragrant Yao Grass abound; Spiritual Springs are everywhere, and waterfalls emit mist and clouds like rolling thunder!

Today is the day a new batch of disciples returns from the Immortal Secret Realm, with countless eyes fixed on a particular Forbidden Land, waiting quietly.

Unlike the Imperial Academy, which only recruits unparalleled geniuses and the strongest heirs of the Di Clan, Holy Lands, and the Wu Shang Sect, the disciples come from various regions, representing a complex web of different powers. Among the new batch of disciples are quite a few old acquaintances.

On the summit of a low mountain, Yaling stands gracefully in a light moon-white Yan Luo dress, exuding an otherworldly charm like a Banished Immortal, irresistibly alluring yet majestic. She resembles a deep pool, unfathomable.

Everyone knows that Yaling is the Holy Maiden of the Treasure Pavilion, and heir to the next Pavilion Master. She must be here to welcome Jin Changgeng, the Saint Heir of the Treasure Pavilion.

Not far from her side, a figure stood, majestic as a god yet as formidable as a demon, emitting an aura of fierceness.

This young man's panther-like head and round eyes, with whiskers rooted in his flesh like steel needles, resemble a bristling porcupine, clearly indicating a person not to be trifled with.

"Why is Han Sandong, that fierce bandit, here too?" someone asked in confusion.

"You don't know? In this group of new disciples is someone named Hu Fei, his brother. How could he not come?"

Many are shocked that Han Sandong is here to welcome someone because he is known in the academy as the Lone Wolf—antisocial and proud yet incredibly strong. Who would warrant his personal welcome?

"Hu Fei? Could he be a descendant of Hu Tongtian, ranked fourth among the Nine Great Bandits? No wonder Han Sandong came personally. Han Sandong's grandfather was ranked third among the Nine Great Bandits and had a good relationship with Hu Tongtian. Their descendants must have a strong connection!"

Only then do people realize, looking at Han Sandong with eyes full of awe and dread. He is undoubtedly a formidable figure, with immense power.

As people continue to speculate, another figure appears beside Yaling and Han Sandong. Standing with them, gazing towards the Forbidden Land leading to the Immortal Secret Realm.

"The genius from the Sikong Family of the Eastern Domain, Sikong Po? Why is he here? He isn't known to be close to any of the new disciples."

Seeing Sikong Po appear, many are puzzled since none of the new disciples seem to have any connection to him.

Standing together, these three can certainly intimidate many, prompting people to naturally keep their distance.

Besides the hill where Yaling and the others are, other places are also filled with people waiting for their respective ones.

In the academy, while personal strength is important, having like-minded friends is crucial for success.

To vie for cultivation resources, at Immortal Martial Academy, almost periodically, talents ranked low challenge those ahead to gain better rankings and resources.

Whoosh!

As everyone waits anxiously, Elder Lan Yingfei appears. Behind him, Ye Fan and others file out. Without the guidance of an elder, they couldn't possibly navigate the Quasi-Emperor's Killing Array, lest they trigger it, turning everyone into Blood Mud, eradicating even their Divine Souls.

After crossing the Killing Array, Elder Lan Yingfei smiles slightly, glancing at those who came to greet them. Turning to Ye Fan and others, he says, "Welcome back, little brats. Rest well today. The ranking

tournament will be held tomorrow. It's your best chance to prove yourselves and gain better cultivation resources. Do your best!"

Whoosh!

As he finishes speaking, Elder Lan Yingfei's figure moves a step, covering several hundred feet, disappearing from sight, headed to report to the Dean Old Immortal.

"Little brother, Changgeng, welcome back!"

Seeing Ye Fan and others emerge, Yaling and the others smile and go to greet them, exchanging pleasantries with everyone.

"Saintess Yaling is becoming more beautiful, making us feel ashamed!"

Hu Fei teased Yaling playfully, having grown familiar with each other, allowing for more casual conversation.

"Little bandit, is your skin itching? Want sister to help loosen your bones!"

Yaling smiled radiantly at Hu Fei, frightening him into speechlessness, knowing better than to flirt again.

“Hu Fei, what were your gains this past year?”

Han Sandong stepped forward, positioning himself between Yaling and Hu Fei, knowing full well Yaling’s fearsome prowess. Even in his all-out state, matching Yaling might be a stretch, let alone Hu Fei.

“Quite fruitful. The Immortal Secret Realm is indeed the best place for practice; one year there is equivalent to several years outside,” Hu Fei replied seriously, holding great respect for his third brother.

Among the Nine Great Bandits, aside from the mysterious Old Bastard Divine Dragon who is difficult to track, Han Sandong could be considered the strongest.

“That’s good, keep working hard at Cultivation. Someday, we should also go ahead and venture on Emperor Road ourselves. Even if we can’t Prove Dao, as long as we can dominate the Northern Domain, that’s enough. By then, the nine of us will join forces to achieve glory once more, and rob all the treasures of those so-called Holy Lands and Di Clan!”

Han Sandong laughed heartily, fully displaying the charm of a fierce bandit, not taking even Holy Land and Di Clan seriously.

“I say, are you two rogues addicted to robbery?”

Gu Hao, the Ancient Saint, seemed a bit displeased. Without any unexpected events, he would definitely become the Saint of the Ancient Sacred Land. Wasn’t this undermining him?

“Uh... slip of the tongue, slip of the tongue, Brother Gu Hao is one of us. We definitely wouldn't rob you! Rest assured, as long as you ascend to the position of Saint of Ancient Sacred Land, no one will dare touch your spirit stone mine in the Northern Domain!” Han Sandong said awkwardly, his old face turning red.

Gu Hao felt a twinge in his heart; this was no small promise. Be aware, the Nine Great Bandits run rampant in the Northern Domain, with even Empire Clans possessing broken Emperor Weapons being disregarded by them. If he could secure their protection, ascending to the position of Saint would be a certainty.

Even for the long-term development of the Sacred Land, the Saint would pass the position to someone with a close relationship with the bandits, ensuring the spirit stone mine industry in the Northern Domain remains untouched.

“Then thank you! If I become the Saint, I will surely ally with everyone!”

Gu Hao also made his promise. Having the support of the Nine Great Bandits is more crucial than anything else, even the Saint must weigh its pros and cons. He firmly ensured Han Sandong's alliance.

“What about me? Our Sikong Family also has interests in the Northern Domain!” Sikong Po said with a smile as he walked over.

“Do you want us to survive or not? If everyone were like you, we bandits would have to change careers! Well, we won't touch the Sikong Family's interests either!”

Han Sandong was clearly joking, strong people appreciate each other, and he and Sikong Po have a good personal relationship. In the past year, outside of Cultivation, they shared fierce drinking sessions, each time drinking Sikong Po to exhaustion.

“That’s more like it, it’s rare for us all to gather today. I propose a small party to welcome everyone and wish good results for tomorrow’s ranking match!”

Sikong Po’s proposal received consensus; the group noisily headed outside the academy.

Not far behind them, Saintess Ling Ziyuan from Purple Smoke Pavilion silently watched Ye Fan’s back.

A woman’s sixth sense told her that Saintess Yaling from the Treasure Pavilion might have some inexplicable feelings towards Ye Fan.

Recalling that Ye Fan once lived with Yaling for several days before, Ling Ziyuan felt an indescribable melancholy, silently sighed, and turned away.

Inside the academy, there was a restaurant set up by that Old Fox, the vice principal, but they didn’t go there, choosing instead to head towards the mountains and forests.

The Old Fox vice principal is extremely greedy, if anything flies by, he plucks it clean. The restaurant he opened within the academy is extravagantly luxurious with outrageously high prices.

Many disciples from the Immortal Academy come from wealthy clans or sects, almost sparing no expense to cultivate a genius, so they're not stingy with spending.

Cultivators are human too; they need to experience worldly life amidst their tense Cultivation routines, and the restaurant is an ideal place to do so during their free time.

Shi Ye and Hu Fei, among others, have tasted Ye Fan's cooking, and know his culinary skills aren't less than those top chefs at the academy.

The group of eight reached a small valley surrounded by green hills and clear waters. Barbarian Shi Ye took a big stick and wandered in the woods for a while, soon returning carrying a Xuan Beast weighing several thousand pounds.

This was a Crocodile Dragon, with a body like a crocodile and a head like a dragon, its veins carried traces of True Dragon Blood. With hard Cultivation, perhaps it had a glimmer of opportunity to activate the True Dragon Blood within and move closer to a True Dragon.

Unfortunately, this Crocodile Dragon encountered Barbarian Shi Ye and could only become a meal for the group.

Ye Fan personally took action, cleaning and skinning the Crocodile Dragon, refining the murderous Qi from its flesh, then dividing it into thousands of pieces. He retrieved a large iron pot and various seasonings from the Virtual Space, set up the pot, fetched Spiritual Spring Water, and began to stew Crocodile Dragon meat.

Additionally, Ye Fan drew out a heap of flames, took out the Thunder Emperor Spear, skewered the Crocodile Dragon meat weighing hundreds of pounds, and set it on fire to roast.

Poor Crocodile Dragon, whose Cultivation reached Early-stage Divine Realm, yet got knocked out by a Barbarian of the same realm and ended up as a meal for the group, contributing to Humans.

Yaling looked at the bustling Ye Fan with a smile on her face, her eyes sparkling with curiosity—Does this guy know if he's passed through the Divine Soul Bridge, Lake of Reincarnation, and Life and Death Tower?

Chapter 1516: A One-Year Lackey?

The gentle breeze blew softly, with Primordial Qi lingering in the air. The aroma of meat filled the valley, and flames danced in the fire. Ye Fan, Yaling, Jin Changgeng, Hu Fei, and others sat together, surrounded by the scent wafting from the boiling crocodile dragon meat in the large iron pot.

On the other side, Shi Ye twirled Ye Fan's Thunder Emperor Spear carefully grilling the crocodile dragon meat. The meat strips turned golden and luscious, with oil dripping into the fire, making crackling sounds.

Nearby, several jars of fine wine also emitted a strong aroma, drifting far with the breeze. They ate large chunks of meat and drank wine in big bowls, creating a lively and harmonious atmosphere.

"This crocodile dragon meat is excellent, fatty but not greasy, melting as soon as it enters the mouth, brimming with life essence. It is indeed top-quality ingredients!" Han Sandong commented while eating.

"Ye Zi's cooking skills are exceptional. Even the best chef employed by our clan can't make food this delicious."

Sikong Po, with oil dripping from his mouth as he ate, mumbled to Ye Fan, “Ye Zi, why don’t you become a Guest Elder at my Sikong Family? You won’t need to exert yourself; just teach our lazy chef a few tricks!”

“You’re dreaming too much. Ye Zi, since we’re on the same path, you must come with us to the Northern Domain, right?” Hu Fei said.

“Speaking of being fellow travelers, this iron pot and some seasoning were stolen from the Qing Family’s kitchen by Old Bai, so we’re comrades in a way!” Ye Fan laughed.

Poof!

Yaling had just taken a sip of wine and couldn’t hold back her laughter, spraying it all over him as she chuckled, “You rascal, stealing their Spirit Stone Storage wasn’t enough; you even cleaned out their kitchen. This is just too much...”

Hu Fei was dumbfounded, and after a while, he gave Ye Fan a thumbs-up and said, “Brother, I surrender to you. Is there anything you don’t want?”

“Cough... it was all Old Bai’s doing!” Ye Fan spread his hands, shifting all the blame to the Bai Yan wolf, indicating his innocence.

“\_\_”

Everyone was speechless together. The Bai Yan wolf was truly bizarre—emptying out someone's kitchen, can there be any more peculiar retaliation?

“Alright, the grilled meat is ready!”

Under Ye Fan's guidance, Shi Ye quickly mastered new skills, brushing on BBQ sauce repeatedly while grilling the crocodile dragon meat. The taste was absolutely superb, making one's mouth water even before it was fully cooked.

Once the meat was done, they pulled a piece off the Thunder Emperor Spear and began to devour it, munching away and licking their fingers with relish.

Although the Thunder Emperor Spear was just a replica, it was personally refined by the Thunder Venerable master. It only lacked some materials compared to the original Thunder Emperor Spear, but it was still rare and a fearsome weapon for killing enemies. Yet now, it had become a skewer for a group of foodies to grill meat, truly a case of great talent being wasted.

“This grilled meat is really good. Ye Zi, in future gatherings, we'll leave the grilling to you, and we'll just be responsible for eating!” Hu Fei praised while eating.

Previously, when they grilled meat, it was never this exquisite.

They would just clean and peel it, then roast it over the fire, which was a world apart from the meticulous grilling of Ye Fan.

“Although the crocodile dragon’s True Dragon Bloodline is thin, it still carries the bloodline. This meal is truly extravagant!”

As Gu Hao ate to his heart’s content, he couldn’t help but sigh. He felt it was surreal to eat such delicacies, noting that even in the Ancient Sacred Land, not many could enjoy such a feast.

“By the way, Ye Zi, last time you said you’d tell us once you’ve figured out your Divine Skills, but you haven’t said anything yet. Can you tell us now?” Hu Fei asked, after downing a jar of wine, with an alcoholic breath towards Ye Fan.

“You’ll find out during tomorrow’s competition. I’m not telling now to keep it a surprise!” Ye Fan teased.

“We despise you!”

Everyone made a gesture of disdain.

However, they didn’t press further but continued to chat about oddities and curiosities in the Cultivation World.

“By the way, little brother, did you take the test in the Immortal Secret Realm? Did you pass?” Yaling couldn’t help but ask.

“Is that even a question? That guy Ye Zi is a freak. Not only was he the first to pass all three tests, but he also crossed the Divine Soul Bridge and Lake of Reincarnation in one attempt and used only three days in between the two attempts for the Life and Death Tower, breaking the academy’s record...”

Upon hearing Yaling’s inquiry, Hu Fei, with meat crumbs in his mouth, exclaimed with envy, jealousy, and admiration.

“This...”

Though Yaling had expected Ye Fan to pass the tests, hearing Hu Fei and seeing the envious, jealous, and admiring looks from Shi Ye and Jin Changgeng left her stunned.

“Little brother, you’re still as remarkable as ever.”

After her brief shock, Yaling praised with a smile, feeling quite gratified in her heart.

As Ye Fan’s strength grew, she increasingly felt her initial choice might be the most correct of her life, bringing unimaginable benefits to herself and the Treasure Pavilion!

Afterward, Han Sandong and Sikong Po talked about the disciple ranking competition during their generation, prompting Ye Fan and others to perk up their ears, wanting to learn more about the rules.

“Actually, there’s nothing mysterious about the ranking competition. In simple terms, it’s a way for the academy to encourage students to cultivate diligently. The academy arranges opponents with similar strengths for matches based on each person’s strength.

Achieving a good rank in the competition allows one to get good cultivation resources, but if one’s strength stagnates, they can easily be challenged by others, and upon defeat, have to hand over all their resources willingly!”

“According to the rules, one is not allowed to kill opponents, nor intentionally cripple their cultivation during the matches, imposing many restrictions. This forces many people to be unable to use their trump cards.”

Upon hearing their introduction, Ye Fan couldn’t help but touch his chin, pondering silently.

Immortal Stele Scattering Hand is a powerful loose hand technique, arguably his strongest trump card apart from the Emperor Weapon—since the Xuandi Fist was already known to many!

Since the Immortal Stele Scattering Hand can’t be used, I can only rely on the spell immunity divine skill to secure an unexpected victory.

To fight for the best cultivation resources, he must go all out, as long as he keeps the Immortal Stele Scattering Hand and the Emperor Weapon as his trump cards.

The fewer cards exposed, the better he can survive in dangerous situations, for he doesn't believe the Ling Family will let things rest.

In the Immortal Academy, they might not dare to do anything, but once outside, who knows when the Ling Family might strike with dark intentions, so he must be vigilant.

Additionally, the Qing Family Ancestor is also a potential threat. The old man is not easy to deal with, especially since both Qing Yu and Qing Zi were killed by him, shaking the Qing Family's heritage and foundation. There's no guarantee the Qing Family Ancestor won't take desperate measures against him.

...

The feast lasted from morning until evening, and the several thousand pounds of crocodile dragon was devoured clean by everyone. Each person was particularly satisfied, not even a drop of soup was left in the large pot.

The crocodile dragon meat contained life essence; even a small piece could cause an ordinary person to explode with Essence Qi. Even the cultivators felt their bodies surging with Essence Qi after eating too much, nearly bursting.

"No way, I need to exercise, or else this much Essence Qi will blow me up!" Hu Fei was the first to stand up and started running around the academy.

With the first leading, others followed suit. Such life essence needed to be refined into their bodies, otherwise it would be wasted.

In the blink of an eye, only Ye Fan and Yaling were left in the small valley.

Yaling had drunk quite a bit, her face flushed, and her large eyes sparkling like ripples, enchanting like silk.

Ye Fan, on the other hand, having a Pure Yang Body, could quickly convert all the life essence into Pure Yang Qi, without the danger of exploding.

The two stood on a small hill, watching Hu Fei and others running circles around the Immortal Academy, and couldn't help but laugh.

Hu Fei and the others had overeaten, so much Essence Qi overflowed from them, spurting out of their seven orifices, creating a strange scene like human-shaped torches burning.

"These guys..."

Ye Fan shook his head with an amused smile, indeed, crocodile dragon meat was tasty, but eating too much wasn't pleasant either. Now they finally experienced the consequences.

After a few laps, Hu Fei was so exhausted he was panting, dripping with sweat as if he'd been fished out of water.

"Xiao Fan, I'm planning to set up betting for tomorrow's ranking tournament, with you as the top contender for the championship, with the lowest odds."

Yaling glanced at Ye Fan and continued, "The old rule stands: if you don't win and I lose money, then as a punishment, I'll be your follower for a year, how about it?"

"Why is it me? The four seeded contestants in this tournament are Qi Tianlin, Zhou Zhaolong, Wu Jingtian, and Yue Chuan, it has nothing to do with me!" Ye Fan replied with a wry smile.

"Because I want to! Is that not allowed?"

Yaling smiled slyly, as if a hundred flowers bloomed, her beauty was captivating.

"Of course, but what if I win?"

Ye Fan's heart stirred. He smiled and asked, "If I win, what will you give me?"

"If you win, I'll be your follower for a year, listening to your every command, how about that?"

Yaling charmed him with a smile, her jade-like fingers gently sliding across Ye Fan's face, leaving a faint fragrance as she floated away.

"Deal!"

Ye Fan gazed at Yaling's alluring, exquisite face and smiled, "Isn't winning the championship no big deal? It shouldn't be too difficult for me, so just wait to be my follower for a year!"

"Alright, I'll wait for you. As long as you can truly win, I won't go back on my word!" Yaling smiled alluringly.

"Alright, but I'm curious, what exactly do you mean by listening to my every command?" Ye Fan asked mischievously.

"Uh..."

Yaling blushed a little upon hearing this, glancing at Ye Fan with a flirtatious look, "Little brother, you have impure thoughts... Well, wait until you win and I'll tell you!"

With that, Yaling floated away, leaving a tantalizing scent behind.

“The championship...”

Ye Fan murmured to himself, his face filled with confidence.

Although he knew many people had yet to reveal their strength, waiting to dominate the ranking tournament, he was not afraid.

On the contrary, he eagerly anticipated the upcoming ranking tournament.

Because...

It will be the best place to test his year's cultivation achievements!

Chapter 1517: Ranking Tournament

By the time Ye Fan and his companions returned to the academy, the moon was already high above the willow trees, and the cold moonlight bathed the entire academy like water.

Within the academy, there were several sanctuaries for cultivation, all occupied by powerful disciples. Unless one could defeat them, they could never seize those places.

The strong remain strong!

At the Immortal Academy, the stronger the cultivator, the better cultivation resources they receive. Those who are weaker are gradually eliminated; it's a ruthless competitive process.

To acquire better resources, one must cultivate furiously. When sufficiently confident, one should challenge disciples who occupy superior resources and possess greater strength. If victorious, they can replace them and seize more cultivation resources.

Especially the Dragon Tower, which is the subject of fierce competition among all powerful disciples of the Immortal Academy; even some elders cultivate in the Dragon Tower.

According to Yaling, this Dragon Tower is the symbol of the Immortal Martial Academy, akin to the Immortal Stele. Ordinary disciples can earn contribution points by completing tasks issued by the academy and use these points to exchange for cultivation time in the Dragon Tower.

Six Dragon Veins spew Essence Qi, converging under the Dragon Tower, making cultivation within the tower twice as effective.

How do those weaker disciples manage to challenge those stronger than themselves?

The main reason is earning contribution points to exchange for cultivation time in the Dragon Tower, accelerating their cultivation speed.

Only by doing this can they hope to challenge above their rank, something the academy encourages. It creates a sense of urgency for every disciple, making them reluctant to slack off since a challenge could come at any time. Defeat means losing their position and resources, an outcome they dread.

The next day, the Immortal Academy's latest disciples' ranking tournament commenced as scheduled.

Each new disciples' ranking tournament is a grand event, with any academy disciple eligible to watch, meant to inspire them to work harder on cultivation!

The previous tournaments had many spectators, and this one is no exception. Even before the competition starts, many have arrived, seated at the spectator stands in front of the Martial Arts Arena, waiting for the event to begin.

This time, only thirty new disciples were recruited. Six perished outside the Ancient City in the Immortal Secret Realm, leaving only twenty-four.

With half an hour left before the ranking tournament, Ye Fan and the others arrived at the arena and were placed in the waiting area, preparing for the competition.

At this moment, distinguished individuals entered the VIP seats under the guidance of Deputy Dean Old Fox, Law Enforcement Elder Lan Yingfei, and others.

These people were helmsmen from various major forces, each a Heroic Lord, a Supreme Strongman who could shake regions with a mere stomp.

This time, many of the disciples participating in the Immortal Academy's latest ranking tournament came from their sects or Holy Lands, capturing their attention naturally.

Among these notable figures, Ye Fan spotted the most unusual one at a glance.

He was a middle-aged man in his forties, with a head of messy black hair resembling a bird's nest, his upper body bare, revealing bronze skin, draped in beast skin, reminiscent of Shi Ye.

"Wild Man, is that old man your Barbarian clan's leader?" Hu Fei nudged Shi Ye with his elbow and asked softly.

"Yes, he's my clan's leader and also my grandfather." Shi Ye replied quietly.

"That old man is truly a formidable person!"

Hu Fei sighed. The Southern East Domain's Barbarian tribes rarely interact with outsiders; they are very mysterious but immensely powerful, rivaling Holy Lands because they carry the War God's bloodline.

"Today marks the opening of the Immortal Academy's latest disciples' ranking tournament, where twenty-four disciples will fiercely compete in the arena to determine their rankings!"

"On this grand occasion, the Immortal Academy welcomes guests from various domains; now, I solemnly introduce the distinguished guests watching today's tournament..."

Once all Heroic Lords were seated, Lan Yingfei moved to the edge of the Martial Arts Arena, delivering the opening statement, followed by introducing the attending Heroic Lords, and finally announcing the start of the competition.

The Immortal Academy's ranking tournament uses a round-robin format, where everyone competes against each participant, except themselves.

But... four individuals are exceptions!

They are Qi Tianlin, Zhou Zhaolong, Wu Jingtian, and Yue Chuan!

The academy, based on their overall performance in the Immortal Secret Realm over the past year, designated these four as seed players.

As seed players, they don't have to participate in the round-robin, automatically securing the top four rankings.

The remaining twenty are split into two groups for round-robin matches, where winners earn one point and losers zero points. Ultimately, ranking is determined by points, then they challenge the top four for the ultimate championship.

The grouping isn't random; the academy has arranged it so each participant's opponent is similar in realm.

In the past year, Lan Yingfei has known each disciple's strength thoroughly; initially, he had intended for Ye Fan to be a seed player—Ye Fan's actual combat power could rival a Mid-stage Divine Power Realm strong person!

However, Dean Old Immortal did not agree. He said Ye Fan must earn his place by fighting, without any special treatment, as a means to temper Ye Fan's mentality.

To make this tournament more exciting and viewable, the academy made an unusual decision—to have the four seed leaders compete first to secure the top four positions.

The other twenty, regardless of their score in the round-robin, can challenge any of the top four if they believe themselves capable of defeating them, claiming their position and vying for the championship.

The decision stirred a commotion; no tournament had ever been conducted so exceptionally. Normally, seed players only meet to compete for the championship at the end.

"Interesting!"

In the VIP seats, various Heroic Lords displayed anticipation on their faces. Such a tournament format was unprecedented. Could anyone, after establishing the top four, challenge them?

Next, the grouping commenced, and Ye Fan was placed in the first group. Besides Jin Changgeng and Shi Ye, Li Tianfeng and his loyal followers were also among the members.

“Heh...!”

Upon learning he was grouped with Ye Fan, Li Tianfeng revealed a sinister smile, intending to defeat Ye Fan with powerful tactics to prove himself.

The others were also eager to try, hoping to defeat Ye Fan to prove they were stronger. After all, Ye Fan had previously created many miracles and broken many records; many viewed defeating him as their goal.

The matches between the four seeded players were decided by drawing lots. After announcing the rules, Elder Lan Yingfei glanced at the four and said, “Now, let’s draw lots!”

The match between the four was still a round-robin, with each battling one another, swapping opponents regardless of victory or defeat, and ranking based on points.

Qi Tianlin stepped onto the stage, drew a jade token from the box, and handed it to Elder Lan Yingfei, who then announced the event and opponents listed on the token.

First match: Qi Tianlin versus Yue Chuan; Second match: Zhou Zhaolong versus Wu Jingtian!

Upon announcing the event and opponents, the audience’s excitement visibly rose; a peak battle from the start meant it would be extremely thrilling.

This was an arrangement by the academy, allowing the strongest four to engage in a dragon-tiger struggle, heating up the atmosphere for the subsequent matches to proceed smoothly.

Ye Fan and the other twenty individuals also eagerly anticipated; these four could truly be considered absolute demons!

This was their first collision, perhaps revealing how large the gap was between them and themselves.

“Mr. Yue, please!”

After announcing the event and opponents, Qi Tianlin smiled and gestured to Yue Chuan to proceed, then walked confidently towards the center of the Martial Arts Arena.

Yue Chuan didn’t speak, but his eyes shone with determination, striding boldly to the center of the Martial Arts Arena. Even Qi Tianlin couldn’t suppress his confidence in victory.

“Stop at grace, no assassins are allowed, do not kill the opponent, do not deliberately cripple the opponent’s Dantian. Surrendering or suffering severe injury leads to defeat. Now step back; the match begins!”

Elder Lan Feiying separated the two, announced the match rules, then rose into the air to oversee the battle from above.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

As Lan Yingfei's words fell, Yue Chuan quickly stepped forward three times, each step like a Divine Mountain descending, causing the Martial Arts Arena to tremble, lighting up all defensive formation patterns to prevent its destruction.

Simultaneously, a defensive shield formed around and above the arena to prevent the aftershocks of their battle from affecting the spectators.

Yue Chuan, a disciple of the Human Emperor Great Emperor, practiced the Emperor's Mysterious Skill, with black hair draped over his shoulders, a burly stature, exuding supreme emperor elegance even while standing still.

Qi Tianlin refused to be outdone, his body shimmering with divine light, enveloped in nine-layered divine rings, like a deity descending, every move wielding immense power.

"Yue Chuan, a disciple of the Human Emperor Great Emperor, certainly mastered the Emperor's Mysterious Skill; Qi's demon has no chance!"

“Qi’s demon isn’t simple either; how many mortals are truly extraordinary? Although he hasn’t practiced the Emperor’s Mysterious Skill, he might practice another Supreme Mysterious Technique; not only those of the emperor are powerful. Moreover, the emperor left more than one mysterious skill; who can say Qi’s demon hasn’t trained in an emperor’s skill?”

“Regardless of whether Qi Tianlin knows the Emperor’s Mysterious Skill, he must go all out against the emperor’s disciple—this battle is destined to be a dragon-tiger fight!”

As people discussed, the two in the Martial Arts Arena were already exchanging blows.

Bang!

Qi Tianlin and Yue Chuan exchanged a palm strike, a tentative attack aiming to gauge each other’s strength.

However—

Even as a tentative attack, its power was terrifying, rampaging energy like a Heavenly Sword clashing on the defensive shield, producing booming sounds!

This Martial Arts Arena was sacrificially refined by a strong person nearing quasi-emperor status from the Immortal Academy, inscribed with his formations; not even a Venerable Realm strongman could break it. Though Qi Tianlin and Yue Chuan were powerful, breaking the arena’s defenses was impossible.

“Mr. Yue, show your ultimate technique, let me experience the Human Emperor Great Emperor’s skills!”

Qi Tianlin shouted loudly, his speed breaking limits, shadows pouncing on Yue Chuan, each indistinguishable as his true form.

“Great Wave!”

Yue Chuan softly exclaimed, finally wielding his divine skill. An ocean appeared before him, unleashing mountain-crushing force towards Qi Tianlin, swiftly smashing his illusions.

“Water Element Divine Power? Not bad! Watch me break your divine skill!”

Qi Tianlin shouted, divine power overwhelming like an ocean, countless earth-colored spears emerging before him, thrusting into the boundless sea, breaking through waves towards Yue Chuan.

“Earth Element Divine Power? Yue Chuan is in trouble now...”

Seeing this, many beneath the stage secretly pitied Yue Chuan.

Earth overcomes water in elemental conflicts; Yue Chuan is inherently weaker than Qi Tianlin, and with divine skills restrained, he has virtually no winning chance!

## Chapter 1518: Di Clan's Strongest Successor

In the Martial Arts Arena of the Immortal Academy, a fierce battle between dragon and tiger was unfolding, captivating the audience below.

Many senior disciples from previous years were shocked. Such powerful strength, even they found it difficult to resist. The new disciples of this year were incredibly strong.

In the VIP seats, various heroic lords nodded repeatedly. The performance of Qi Tianlin and Yue Chuan was absolutely commendable. Even in their youth, they might not have possessed such strength.

“Is that so?”

Despite his Divine Skills being suppressed, Yue Chuan’s expression remained unchanged. He directly withdrew his Divine Skills. With a long howl, a Black Dragon, as if forged from molten iron, appeared behind him, baring its claws and fangs as it attacked Qi Tianlin.

In this world, there are no true dragons. What people call dragons are merely powerful jiao species, whose bloodline has evolved to possess some characteristics of the True Dragon, but are not true Divine Dragons.

Just like the Crocodile Dragon that Yue Fan consumed, it could be considered a type of dragon, but its bloodline was extremely diluted. Unless it undergoes atavism or its bloodline evolves, it would ultimately just be a Crocodile Dragon for its entire life.

However—

Cultivators can choose to condense their Holy Embryo into the form of a True Dragon during the process, allowing them to at least exhibit some characteristics and powers of the Divine Dragon!

Swoosh!

As the Black Dragon pounced towards him, Qi Tianlin's expression did not change. He fiercely threw a punch, the fiery Punch Ray tearing through the air, landing on the Black Dragon's head with a thunderous crash.

"I have a dragon too!"

Afterward, Qi Tianlin let out a loud shout, and a golden, radiant Golden Dragon appeared behind him, equally majestic, imposing over the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths.

"Roar~"

Although the Black Dragon was punched, it was only halted in its assault. Now, seeing a Golden Dragon of its kind, it immediately abandoned Qi Tianlin, letting out a hiss as it pounced toward the Golden Dragon.

The two dragon-shaped Holy Embryos fought wildly in the sky, while Qi Tianlin and Yue Chuan continued their rapid exchange of blows on the ground, unleashing dazzling Divine Radiance.

The two dragon-shaped Holy Embryos, one seemingly forged from Black Gold and the other like molten gold, each strike rang with a resounding clang, as if two Spiritual Treasures were colliding.

This epic battle left the audience below enthralled, frequently erupting in cheers!

Ye Fan in the waiting area couldn't take his eyes off the match between the two on stage, silently calculating how he could defeat them.

He had already spoken ambitiously in front of Yaling. In this competition, he must take the first place, no matter how strong these seed powerhouses were, he had to win!

Others also harbored various thoughts. Some, upon witnessing the combat power of the two, had rationally abandoned hopes for the first place, and even the top four was out of reach. All they could do was garner more points in the upcoming rounds and try not to embarrass themselves too much.

The two fought intensely for the time of two incense sticks. Yue Chuan gradually fell into a disadvantage, and the Black Dragon Divine Embryo was also suppressed by the Golden Dragon Divine Embryo.

“Roar!”

Yue Chuan let out a mighty roar, mountains and rivers crumbling, and punched out with a strike embodying Central Justice and Peace, gathering the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in an instant onto his punch, blasting towards Qi Tianlin!

“End it!”

Qi Tianlin’s black hair stood on end, exuding a wild aura, throwing a punch back at Yue Chuan!

“Emperor’s Holy Fist!”

Yue Chuan, with neither joy nor sorrow, knew he might lose, but even in defeat, he must lose gloriously. The Human Emperor, revered by the Ten Thousand Clans, was never inferior!

“Sacred Heavenly Dao Fist!”

Qi Tianlin similarly shouted, with both of them using their trump card martial arts, to decide victory in one strike!

Boom!

A loud explosion echoed, and the Martial Arts Arena was instantly enveloped in radiance. At Ye Fan’s level, unless one cultivated the Martial Arts Heavenly Eye, it was impossible to see what exactly transpired in the arena.

Thud, thud, thud...

Yue Chuan retreated seven steps and then swayed, collapsing to the ground with traces of blood seeping from his seven orifices, clearly injured!

“Pff!”

Although Qi Tianlin did not retreat, he too spewed a mouthful of blood. The Golden Dragon and Black Dragon, after a brief clash, returned to stabilize their injuries.

After both used their Absolute Techniques, the result was clear.

The Human Emperor’s successor was defeated, fallen to the demon-level Qi Tianlin!

This result left everyone silent, with Qi Tianlin’s prestige rising further. Almost everyone believed he could ultimately win the championship of this ranking tournament.

“Qi Tianlin wins!”

Lan Yingfei was deeply shaken. He already had a high estimation of the two's abilities, yet witnessing them truly in action still left him in awe.

He knew that if the match proceeded normally, the two might battle for several hours before one emerged victorious. The reason for such a swift outcome was that both had resolved to end it quickly, resulting in a clash of their strongest forces from the very beginning.

Under these circumstances, Qi Tianlin's advantage became apparent. As a demon-level strong person at the mid-stage Divine Power Realm, he had already cultivated beyond the limit, which allowed him to defeat Yue Chuan so swiftly.

However, the fact that Yue Chuan could hold out for so long was enough to prove his strength. Indeed, the Emperor's disciple is extraordinary!

The spectators below were also stunned by this match. Because Yue Chuan had been so low-key before, without any remarkable performance, they had underestimated him. When he was previously designated as a seed player, some among them were unconvinced, but now they all accepted it.

That kind of powerful attack power, combined with the Black Dragon Divine Embryo, is something few besides Qi Tianlin could withstand. The Emperor's clan is not to be dishonored!

The Saint of the Human Emperor's Imperial Clan was also present, and naturally didn't look pleased with the result.

"Clan Leader, I lost, disgraced the ancestors of the Human Emperor, please punish me!"

After the match ended, Yue Chuan silently left the arena and approached a mighty middle-aged man in the VIP section, bowing his head and speaking.

“Raise your head!”

The Clan Leader of the Human Emperor’s Imperial Clan said calmly, “Victory and defeat are common in battles. On the path of cultivation, no one wins without ever losing. As long as you haven’t lost the heart for martial arts, there’s a chance for resurgence. Conversely, if you cannot properly face this defeat, then it’s a true loss!”

These words were powerful and resounding, deeply shaking Yue Chuan, who then resolutely raised his head, his eyes shining with confidence, and said to the Clan Leader, “I understand!”

“It’s good that you understand, you may go!”

With a smile, the Clan Leader of the Human Emperor’s Imperial Clan nodded and waved him away.

A temporary win or loss means little, as long as there remains an opportunity for resurgence, without losing the spirit and Martial Arts Will, there’s a possibility of turning the tables.

Even the Human Emperor was not outstanding in his early years; it was only in middle age that he gradually overtook everyone, eventually stepping over all his competitors to achieve the supreme imperial position.

After both had retreated to the waiting area, Lan Yingfei took a deep breath and announced, “The second match, Wu Jingtian versus Zhou Zhaolong!”

Their entrance immediately attracted the attention of all the spectators present. One was a demon-level genius of an ancient family, the other the strongest disciple of the Emperor’s clan. Their backgrounds are complex, promising a brilliant collision.

The Zhou Family, although it has never produced a Great Emperor, has produced several who neared the Quasi-Emperor level. Their foundation is profound, and apart from lacking an heirloom Emperor Weapon, they are in no way inferior to the Emperor’s clan.

The Family of the Martial Emperor, although it had an Emperor Weapon to suppress its foundation, the weapon was damaged in the last Emperor Weapon battle and is now merely a remnant Emperor Weapon.

Moreover, in the Immortal Academy, regardless of whether you are an Emperor disciple or a grassroots individual with no backing, everyone is treated equally, so one’s background won’t play any role.

In such a scenario, individual strength becomes especially significant.

“I have much respect for the Martial Emperor, but this time I will show no mercy and will surely defeat you!”

Zhou Zhaolong stood on the stage, appearing very confident.

Qi Tianlin was not the strongest disciple of the Emperor's clan, yet he defeated Yue Chuan. Zhou Zhaolong believed that he could also defeat Wu Jingtian and contend with Qi Tianlin for the championship.

"I will show no mercy either. The Martial Emperor never yielded to anyone, and as his descendant, I will definitely not lose!"

Wu Jingtian, too, was full of confidence. Yue Chuan had lost, and restoring the Emperor's clan's reputation now rested on him. He absolutely could not fail.

"Brother Zhao Long will win!"

Meanwhile, a cheer erupted from the crowd below, led by Li Tianfeng and others, forming Zhou Zhaolong's cheering squad!

In contrast, Wu Jingtian had no one cheering for him upon his appearance, making him appear quite forlorn compared to Zhou Zhaolong.

This was because as the strongest descendant of the Family of the Martial Emperor, with distinguished status and aloof personality, he had virtually no companions or friends.

Wu Jingtian wasn't bothered by this at all.

To him, the path of the Martial Emperor was destined to be lonely!

He needed no encouragement from anyone!

He believed himself to be invincible!

Because, since his debut, he only lost once, just before entering the Ancient Battlefield in a battle against Ye Fan.

But that was a battle under the same realm; had he unsealed himself, Ye Fan definitely wouldn't be his match.

In this match, his opponent was also in the Mid-stage Divine Power Realm, so there was no need to suppress his realm. Hence, he felt very confident. The Martial Emperor was invincible, and with his blood running in him, possessing an invincible will, he believed he wouldn't lose.

Both erupted with strong war intent, and before they even engaged, a powerful energy storm emerged between them, purely a collision of war intent.

Lan Yingfei appeared between them, glanced at them, and said in a deep voice, "I won't repeat the rules; you know them better than anyone, step back, the match begins now!"

## Chapter 1519: 1390: Emperor Sha's Legacy

Boom!

As Lan Yingfei announced the start of the match, a gleam flashed in Zhou Zhaolong's hand, revealing a cold, narrow treasure sword. With divine power, he summoned a dozen meters of sword light, like striking a flash of lightning.

"Silver Moon Slash!"

Without hesitation, Zhou Zhaolong raised the treasure sword high above his head and then slashed fiercely at Wu Jingtian. The massive sword light descended like a silver moon, its momentum astonishing.

"Emperor Fist!"

Wu Jingtian remained unfazed, steady as a mountain, and boldly countered with a punch. The fierce punch struck the sword light hard!

Boom!

With a loud explosion, Wu Jingtian's Iron Fist shattered the sword light, then advanced boldly. The Emperor Fist unfolded like propelling a world, with each punch's power stacking, becoming progressively stronger.

“It’s somewhat like the Triple Waves!”

Ye Fan nodded silently, noticing the similarities between Wu Jingtian’s martial technique and the Triple Waves. Both continuously accumulate power to eventually unleash a destructive force, obliterating all obstacles.

One could say that this is a very domineering fist technique. It’s just uncertain how many punches Wu Jingtian can throw. If he manages to deliver dozens of punches, even late-stage Divine Realm strong people might have to avoid the sharp edge.

“Autumn brings death, everything withers!”

Zhou Zhaolong’s expression turned solemn, his saber technique transforming into something fierce and cunning. Simultaneously, he unleashed his divine skills, creating countless killing swords in the void, which shot out beams of Sword Radiance, piercing through the void!

“This is...”

“Four Seasons Killing Technique?”

“The legendary Emperor Sha legacy?”

“No wonder he’s so strong? He actually obtained the Emperor Sha’s legacy!”

Watching Zhou Zhaolong use the deadly techniques, many were shocked. Those unfamiliar with Emperor Sha kept asking who he was to cause such astonishment?

Not only were those in the audience shocked, but even the heroic lords in the VIP section displayed unsightly expressions, glancing towards a specific direction where an elder sat. Despite sitting there quietly, he exuded a powerful pressure, evidently a strong individual in the Venerable Realm.

“Everyone, please remain calm. What Long-er is using is not Emperor Sha’s legacy but a secret technique, only possessing this single style, and lacks Emperor Sha’s kind of violent killing intent!”

The elder glanced at the heroic lords and said slowly, “It’s merely a powerful divine skill my Zhou family accidentally obtained, which happens to align perfectly with Long-er, enabling him to unleash such power!”

“It better not be Emperor Sha’s legacy, or else the Zhou family will become the mortal enemy of all cultivators, and even if strong, they will be exterminated!” a heroic lord said ominously.

Through the conversations, Ye Fan gradually understood who Emperor Sha was and why he was opposed by everyone!

Between the ancient and taigu eras, there was a chaotic era, known as Luan Gu, because it was the most disorderly, darkest period.

During those twenty thousand years, Emperor Sha intimidated the entire era, and although he made great contributions to humanity, his achievements were willfully erased.

Since Emperor Sha was a madman proving Dao through killing, he slaughtered masses, bearing great sins — on his path to proving Dao, he not only slew countless human heroic lords but also numerous demons and human-shaped creatures.

While emperors are typically revered by all tribes, Emperor Sha was the sole one abandoned by all tribes, ascending to his absolute peak with combat power that shook ancient times, yet he left no legacy at his death, being the only emperor with no trace left behind.

Emperor Sha's most profound legacy is the Four Seasons Killing Technique, which shocked the world whenever unleashed, leaving no one alive under such terrifying killing techniques.

Though Emperor Sha disappeared tens of thousands of years ago, people still dread his legacy appearing, as it would herald a monumental catastrophe.

“Martial Emperor Golden Body, Martial Reversal of the Firmament!”

Facing such deadly techniques, Wu Jingtian couldn't remain calm. His body flickered with golden light, as though forged from Divine Gold. Then, he simultaneously unleashed the strongest martial arts created by the Emperor Wu, capable of crushing heaven and earth stars.

Crack!

With a crisp sound, countless killing swords shattered under Wu Jingtian's punches. He then transformed into the Martial God, with a miniature universe seeming to be born between his fingers, shattering space with his punches.

Bang bang bang bang...

In an instant, the two exchanged over a hundred moves, each a clash of strength, neither retreating, and the explosion of Divine Radiance outshone fireworks.

They fought increasingly faster, with only two silhouettes intertwining in the Martial Arts Arena, continually producing explosive sounds like cracking beans, reflecting their fierce battle.

In the VIP section, all heroic lords watched the two in the arena with unblinking eyes, utterly stunned by their combat.

Despite their current strength allowing them to easily erase either person, if of the same realm, they likely wouldn't possess such powerful combat capability.

"Wu Jingtian has already obtained Emperor Wu's true legacy; as long as he survives, he's destined to be a hot contender in the Emperor Road struggle!" said a heroic lord.

“Zhou Zhaolong is remarkable too, rarely meeting a worthy opponent in the same realm!” another heroic lord nodded and asserted.

“The strongest heirs of the Di Clan truly live up to their reputation. Compared to them, we so-called geniuses seem lacking!” someone lamented below, realizing that even geniuses vary greatly depending on their origins.

They might be true prodigies within their clans, even the top geniuses in a region, rarely facing opponents, but when compared to the strongest heirs of the Di Clan, they seem inadequate.

One stick of incense burned out!

Another stick of incense burned out!

By the time the fifth stick of incense burned out, neither side had gained the upper hand, locked in a fierce, evenly matched battle, with the sound of punches and kicks erupting continuously, bright lights flickering in the Martial Arts Arena, energy overflowing.

If this weren't a defensive formation set up by a strong person nearly reaching the Quasi-Emperor level, it would have long been reduced to ruins by the two of them.

Zhou Zhaolong was secretly amazed. The heir of the Emperor Wu was indeed powerful, usually inconspicuous, but when it came to the fight, he turned out to be such a tough opponent.

Wu Jingtian was also extremely shocked. When others previously said Zhou Zhaolong was the second genius among the new disciples of this generation, he had dismissed it. Now it seemed he was indeed a formidable rival.

“Let’s finish this!”

Zhou Zhaolong shouted, and a strange beast appeared behind him. Covered in sharp spikes, it looked like a gigantic hedgehog, yet its face resembled a toad. With short limbs and fierce light shooting from its eyes, it was clear it wasn’t benevolent.

Buzz!

As soon as the beast appeared, it vibrated, and the spikes on its body transformed into a myriad of Killing Swords, shooting towards Wu Jingtian. An ordinary person would surely have been turned to ash with one strike.

At this moment, Wu Jingtian finally advanced to the Martial Arts Realm. His heart devoid of joy or sorrow, his hands moved, drawing mysterious and unfathomable marks, and a terrifying aura emanated from him.

At this moment, Wu Jingtian seemed possessed by Emperor Wu himself, surrounded by flying Heavenly Dragons, soaring Divine Phoenixes, a crawling Mystic Turtle, and a fire-breathing Qilin.

“Is this... the Eight Styles of Martial Reversal?”

Ye Fan was shocked. Wu Jingtian's Eight Styles of Martial Reversal had grown more powerful, with significant progress compared to before!

"Martial Reversal of the Firmament!"

Wu Jingtian shouted, and with one punch, all the metallic Killing Swords were pulverized, even the Holy Embryo of the beast was sent flying with a punch.

"Wu Dong Qian Kun!"

Wu Jingtian, one punch after another, unleashed his ultimate techniques from the bottom of his trunk.

At the pinnacle of martial arts, a shocking display, shaking heaven and earth, invincible under the sky, this is the way of Emperor Wu: no matter how many divine skills or spells there are, I break them all with a punch!

Facing Wu Jingtian's ultimate killing move, Zhou Zhaolong became serious, shouting loudly as he pushed his strength to the limit, then roared, "Devouring Gold Beast, Unify!"

The beast that had been sent flying instantly merged into his body, causing Zhou Zhaolong to become bizarre, covered in spikes all over his body. With a small golden shield in his left hand and a slender treasure sword in his right, he opposed Wu Jingtian's Eight Styles of Martial Reversal!

“Kill!”

Both refused to yield, each showcasing their absolute techniques. Zhou Zhaolong was forced to frequently unleash his ultimate moves, displaying the bottom of his trunk techniques.

Boom!

The two of them clashed mightily and were simultaneously blasted backward. Wu Jingtian crashed into the defensive shield, spat out a mouthful of blood, and his face turned pale, clearly suffering significant injuries.

Zhou Zhaolong also hit the defensive shield, with a trickle of blood at the corner of his mouth, obviously injured but not as seriously as Wu Jingtian.

“I won!”

Zhou Zhaolong stood up with difficulty, step by step, moving to the center of the Martial Arts Arena, proclaiming his victory!

Wu Jingtian remained silent. This defeat dealt him a significant blow, being the strongest heir of the Di Clan, yet losing this match.

“Emperor Wu, Emperor Wu, martial intent first, as long as the martial intent remains, there is no defeat!”

The Clan Leader of the Family of the Martial Emperor spoke to console, worried about Wu Jingtian falling into a Heart Demon.

“Clan Leader, there’s no need to say more, I understand. Rest assured, I will surely know shame and then find courage, the heart of martial arts is eternal!” Wu Jingtian stood up, swallowed a Healing Holy Pill, and quietly stepped down.

“Zhou Zhaolong wins!”

Lan Yingfei announced the result expressionlessly. As the Law Enforcement Elder Ou Tie Mian, he was accustomed to victory and death. Although both performances were commendable, they could not affect his judgment.

“Brother Zhao Long is mighty!”

“Brother Zhao Long is domineering!”

Upon hearing the news of Zhou Zhaolong’s victory, Li Tianfeng and others shouted enthusiastically, as if they had defeated Wu Jingtian themselves, showcasing a triumph of petty minds.

Zhou Zhaolong raised his head high and stood proudly, enjoying the cheers of Li Tianfeng and others, while scanning his eyes around the surroundings, finally pausing briefly on Ye Fan.

At that moment, his eyes were filled with contempt and killing intent!

Hmm?

Ye Fan sensed Zhou Zhaolong's killing intent and narrowed his eyes slightly.

Those familiar with him knew that this was a sign of him about to explode!

Chapter 1520: Uproar Among the Crowd

After the two matches ended, it was already noon. Wu Jingtian and Zhou Zhaolong and the others were badly injured, making it impossible to continue the competition.

Lan Yingfei consulted Dean Old Immortal and decided to postpone the matches of the four, holding the first group round robin in the afternoon.

After the two matches in the morning, the buzz around Qi Tianlin's championship was growing louder. Almost everyone believed he would eventually win the championship.

Especially the new disciples of this session, all knew that Qi Tianlin, after leaving seclusion, rapidly passed the tests at Heaven and Earth Bridge and Lake of Reincarnation, and also passed the test at Life and Death Tower, becoming the only mid-stage Divine Realm strong person to clear all levels.

“The championship this time definitely belongs to the demon Qi!”

“If Zhou Zhaolong could defeat Wu Jingtian with absolute dominance, maybe he could compete with the demon Qi. But now, it seems... impossible!”

“Without a doubt, the first place of this session is definitely the demon Qi. He’s too powerful; no new disciple can defeat him!”

“We can only strive not to lose too badly and achieve a middle-high rank level!”

“This is the stage for a demon...”

“...”

Such opinions could be heard everywhere in the academy. After the two matches in the morning, Qi Tianlin’s popularity reached its peak, and almost everyone believed he would eventually win the championship.

And at this time, an astonishing news came out. Saintess Yaling, one of the Four Great Immortals of Immortal Martial Academy, opened betting in the name of Treasure Pavilion, betting on the final champion of this ranking competition.

It shocked people that in Yaling's betting, Ye Fan, who wasn't even rated among the four seed players, had the lowest odds, only 1 to 1.8.

This means that in Yaling's bet, Ye Fan is dominating the four seed players, being the greatest favorite to win the championship!

Wow!

The moment the news came out, everyone was astonished!

No one expected the usually shrewd Treasure Pavilion would offer such odds, which seemed to many as simply giving away spirit stones!

Qi Tianlin, with the highest buzz for the championship, still had odds of 1 to 2.5, while Zhou Zhaolong's odds were 1 to 6, obviously thinking he couldn't win!

"Isn't this Saintess Yaling out of her mind or squeezed her head by the door? How could she offer such odds, isn't she crazy?"

"Isn't this clearly giving away spirit stones to everyone? Hurry and buy, before she changes her mind!"

At once, everyone rushed madly to the betting desk set by Yaling, nearly everyone bet that Qi Tianlin would ultimately win the championship.

Many bet their entire fortunes and even borrowed treasures and spirit stones from familiar people!

Because, as Yaling mentioned, in this betting, any person, any form of bet, spirit stones, treasure medicine, spiritual artifacts, can all be appraised!

As such, it sparked a gambling craze throughout the academy, not only did disciples from previous sessions come to place bets, but even some unclear-background teachers joined in.

“Brother, we have good relations, right? Lend me a thousand pounds of spirit stones!”

“Brother, you’re late. I wanted to help, but I just mortgaged all my spirit stones and treasures and now even have no copper coins left.”

Instantly, the matter spread rapidly throughout the academy, many went to find familiar friends to borrow spirit stones and treasures, hoping to make a big profit from this opportunity.

Because everyone knew Ye Fan was only at early-stage Divine Realm, whereas Qi Tianlin was at the peak of mid-stage Divine Realm, battling across stages was no problem at all.

In many people's view, as long as Qi Tianlin doesn't throw the match, Ye Fan has no hope of winning first place.

Moreover, Ye Fan wants to challenge Qi Tianlin, but first has to get past Zhou Zhaolong, Wu Jingtian, and Yue Chuan.

None of these three are easy opponents, Ye Fan probably can't beat them, let alone win the championship. Even if Qi Tianlin were willing to throw the match, it wouldn't help.

In this situation, people went crazy, many even wagered life-binding spiritual treasures, if Ye Fan really made a surprising win, probably quite a few would end up committing suicide.

"Could there be some conspiracy? I heard that Saintess Yaling is good at business, she's famously savvy, would she do such an obviously losing deal?"

Some were cautious, buying Qi Tianlin while also buying some Ye Fan, to avoid ending up in complete ruin.

"This shrewd little girl, she's going to bankrupt everyone!"

Upon hearing the news, Dean Old Immortal was speechless but did not stop it, willing to bet is a rule of the game, he couldn't break it.

But he knew, this time quite a few people were going to cry, Ye Fan's real strength couldn't be hidden from everyone, but not from him, every move of Ye Fan's was under his watch, no one knew better than him how strong Ye Fan was.

"Uh..."

Upon learning this, Lan Yingfei's heart skipped a beat. He knew Ye Fan's strength was quite strong, definitely not inferior to Wu Jingtian and others, but compared to Qi Tianlin, he might not necessarily win; where did Yaling's confidence come from? To believe he would definitely win the championship?

"No, this matter must be reported to Old Immortal, let him decide!"

Lan Yingfei scratched his head, deciding to let the Old Immortal go and worry about it.

"Arrange for someone to quietly place a bet, betting that Ye Fan can ultimately win the championship. We can't let the Treasure Pavilion earn all the money; we should get a share too!"

In the end, the Dean Old Immortal made such a decision.

"Remember, you absolutely cannot spread the word, do not let anyone know we did it, otherwise those people definitely won't fall for it!" The Old Immortal revealed a cunning smile, gazing into the distance as he chuckled, "Old man, you have a good granddaughter! But I just don't want you all to have the meal alone. You eat the meat, I also need to get some broth!"

If the disciples in the academy knew that even the Dean secretly sent people to bet on Ye Fan ultimately winning, they would immediately sense something.

Just before the afternoon competition started, as people rushed to the viewing seats to wait, Yaling welcomed a special guest.

Bam!

The visitor placed a fist-sized jade gourd in front of Yaling and whispered, "Bet on Ye Fan winning! This is a hundred thousand pounds of top-grade spirit stones!"

Hmm?

Yaling was stunned, realizing this small jade gourd was a precious space spiritual artifact, engraved with space array patterns, and despite its small size, it could easily hold fifty thousand pounds of top-grade spirit stones.

Yaling looked thoughtfully at the visitor, immediately understanding that someone was intentionally scheming against her. She didn't know who was behind it, but she knew she couldn't announce it, so she quickly put away the jade gourd, nodded, and recorded this bet separately.

"Miss Yaling, you're quite skilled, but don't play too excessively, otherwise lots of people might lose everything!"

As the person left, he transmitted to Yaling using divine consciousness.

Gulp!

Yaling's heart pounded, not understanding why the visitor said that.

Before Yaling could grasp the meaning, the bettor had already left.

Soon after, a disciple who entered the academy earlier than Yaling came over hesitantly and said, "Saintess Yaling, I don't have any spirit stones or treasures left, but I have contribution points. Can I bet with those?"

Contribution points?

Those are items that can be exchanged for cultivation time in the Dragon Tower, absolutely the most valuable thing for the academy's disciples.

"Certainly!"

Yaling nodded; as long as you're willing to bet, there's nothing she wouldn't dare to take, except for people.

“What? Even contribution points can be bet? I’m going to bet right away!”

Upon hearing Yaling was accepting contribution points, many became eager and rushed to place more bets before the match started.

Qi Tianlin, upon hearing the news, smiled faintly; he also placed a bet, and a large one, on himself, confident that he would certainly win the championship, believing Ye Fan couldn’t possibly compete with him.

He admitted, Ye Fan was very strong, an unbeatable existence in the same realm, even able to defeat ordinary strong people at mid-stage Divine Power Realm.

But he wasn’t just any strong person; he was a demon-level genius, capable of fighting above his level. Even if Ye Fan was the same type as him, he was confident he could defeat him!

In fact, in his heart, Ye Fan didn’t even qualify to be his opponent!

“With just him wanting to win the championship, in this competition, I’m going to make him look bad, defeat him directly, and strip him of eligibility to challenge, causing Saintess Yaling to lose everything!”

Li Tianfeng’s face turned gloomy, his eyes emitting fierce light, his fist clenched tightly until his knuckles turned white.

“Do your utmost to defeat him; even if you can’t defeat him, force out his true combat power, let’s see how many moves it takes to beat him!”

Meanwhile, Zhou Zhaolong found Li Tianfeng.

In the first group Ye Fan was in, there were several people under Zhou Zhaolong, and although their strength wasn’t particularly strong, they had all broken into mid-stage Divine Power Realm. Ye Fan was just at early-stage Divine Power Realm, and he was confident that even if Li Tianfeng couldn’t defeat him, he could force out his full power.

“Don’t worry, leave it to me. I’ll make sure he doesn’t pass this level!”

A female cultivator named Sun Biyue said with a smile.

“Be careful, this kid has cultivated the Xuandi Fist of the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, it’s mighty powerful. You need to be cautious.” Zhou Zhaolong reminded them.

“What? He’s cultivated the Xuandi Fist of the Emperor Clan Ling Family? How can Ling Family let him go? Though in the academy the Ling Family might not dare do anything, once outside, Ling Family definitely won’t let him go; their unique skill cannot be passed on!”

Upon hearing this news, Li Tianfeng and others were initially shocked, but then immediately understood, bursting into laughter; Ye Fan not only couldn’t win the championship this time, but might never leave the academy, unless he could cultivate to the Venerable Realm at least.

