

Y Master 1601

Chapter 1601: Secret Technique, Handbook

The Scripture Pavilion in the Forbidden Land of the Immortal Academy's Martial Mansion is divided into three layers. The first and second layers are places for storing cultivation techniques and martial arts, which are not considered special, but the third layer is quite different, clearly forming a space of its own. The walls are inscribed with space array patterns, which can enlarge the space within!

This point did not surprise Ye Fan.

He had encountered these types of things early on, similar to space bags and space spiritual artifacts, which look small on the outside but have large spaces inside. Within them, space array patterns exist.

Some high-level spiritual treasures can also contain array patterns; they may appear solid, but can still contain other items within; this is the marvelous use of space array patterns!

Upon entering, Ye Fan casually browsed some jade scrolls. These jade scrolls were casually placed on jade racks, without indicating what secret technique or cultivation insights they actually were!

Books will inevitably decay one day, but it's different with jade scrolls. Jade, by nature, can endure over time. Just seal the information inside, and it won't be subject to damage.

Ye Fan casually picked up some jade scrolls, spread his divine consciousness, and discovered what secret techniques these jade scrolls recorded!

According to the instructions of the Old Bastard, Ye Fan could freely choose from all the resources of the Immortal Academy, if he wished, without any obstruction!

“Phoenix Nirvana Technique!”

After examining several secret techniques, Ye Fan suddenly came across this particular technique, and was greatly shocked!

Information from the jade scroll indicated that the Phoenix Nirvana Technique is a forbidden secret technique, what people usually call a Forbidden Technique. Cultivators who practice the Phoenix Nirvana Technique are almost immortal; because through Nirvana, they can be reborn, though it consumes their Life Origin!

This is indeed worthy of being called a divine art. In battles, if one possesses the Phoenix Nirvana Technique, the chances of survival are significantly higher!

Ye Fan pulled it out; he didn’t intend to cultivate this secret technique but wanted to compare it with his Pure Yang Qi to see the differences.

Because, with Pure Yang Qi, he can achieve the same effect. As long as he doesn’t completely die, he can quickly recover in a short time and regain combat power!

In such situations, if it’s one-on-one, he can wear the opponent down to death!

Ye Fan was pondering whether combining the Phoenix Nirvana Technique and Pure Yang Qi would produce some effect?

After examining piece after piece of jade scrolls, Ye Fan was dazzled. These secret techniques varied greatly, all extremely rare. Some might even have been passed down by a Great Emperor.

For example, the Soldier Control Technique, which can control any spiritual treasure or weapon nearby, whether it has attack or defense capabilities! This is an extremely remarkable divine art, which Ye Fan unhesitatingly also collected. Although Soldier Control Technique consumed Divine Soul Power, fortunately, Ye Fan's Divine Soul Power was quite strong. Moreover, he had practiced Flying Sword Skill before, which has some similarities with the Soldier Control Technique, so it wasn't difficult to cultivate.

In the Xuan Realm, Flying Sword Skill is extremely common. As long as one's power reaches the Holy Embryo Realm and their Divine Soul is strong enough, they can perform Flying Sword Skill.

Of course, the genuine Flying Sword Skill still holds considerable power; the Flying Sword Skill that Holy Embryo Realm cultivators can perform is only effective against those of the same or lower realm!

After traversing most of the Third Layer's space, Ye Fan once again found a kind of forbidden secret technique, the Bright Moon Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique!

After examining the description of this Forbidden Technique, Ye Fan realized it was a Forbidden Technique passed down by an Ancient Emperor. Although it's a Forbidden Technique now, it was just an ordinary secret technique in the past!

The secret technique encompasses five aspects, communicating with the life forms of Heaven, Earth, Human, Divine, and Ghost, and has immense power over nearly any life form.

Such a strange technique?

Ye Fan immediately and without hesitation collected it. To this point, he had already selected three secret techniques, and then went on to choose some cultivation insights left by predecessors.

Finally, in a corner, Ye Fan found a dusty jade scroll, carefully blew off the dust, and used his divine consciousness to inspect it, discovering it was a handbook elucidating the Natural Dao, extremely mysterious!

“How come? You’re interested in this handbook?”

Lan Yingfei, seeing Ye Fan had picked up this jade scroll, smiled and asked.

In his view, this handbook was of no use at all, even though it’s known to be a good item, deciphering it is in vain!

Just like the Thunderclap Treasure Skill fragment in the Xuanwu Sect, even though it’s known that once deciphered, it would be enormously powerful, the problem is no one has managed to decipher it, so in the Xuanwu Sect, it’s virtually unattended, not even Great Elder Wu Xinhai could decipher it, let alone ordinary disciples!

“I want to check it out; this elucidates the Natural Dao, which could be beneficial for cultivation of the mental realm!” Ye Fan replied.

“If you can decipher it, that would be superb. This handbook has been here for who knows how many years; everyone knows it’s a good item, but very few have managed to decipher it.”

Lan Yingfei said, allowing Ye Fan to continue selecting, since the Old Bastard had already issued orders, Ye Fan could choose as much as he liked, and it’s up to him to take away.

Ye Fan nodded and continued searching in the Third Layer of the Scripture Pavilion. After inspecting all the jade scrolls, he didn’t find anything else that moved him!

However, Ye Fan was already very satisfied, with three secret techniques, several cultivation insights, and one handbook, which could be considered a massive gain.

Thinking back, this was simply unimaginable!

He could only exclaim, the collection at the Immortal Academy was exceptionally abundant, perhaps even all the contents of a Holy Land combined couldn’t match the richness of the Immortal Academy’s collection!

“Ye Fan, starting today, you should enter seclusion. Focus on cultivating and comprehending the secret techniques you have chosen. The academy will fully support you, and I will send someone to deliver the Spirit Stones you need. Also, don’t cultivate in the Heavenly District anymore; go directly to the underground third layer of the Dragon Tower, which is closest to the Dragon Energy and undoubtedly a Holy Land for cultivation, where no one will disturb you!”

After walking out of the Martial Mansion Forbidden Land, Lan Yingfei said to Ye Fan, “Don’t thank me; you earned this yourself, and it’s also the dean’s intention. If you want to express gratitude, thank the dean!”

“No matter what, thank you. Ever since coming to the Immortal Academy, you’ve taken good care of me. I have nothing to repay you with, but rest assured, the academy’s honor is my honor. I will do my utmost to uphold it!” Ye Fan vowed enthusiastically.

“Alright, no need to say more. I believe you can do it. Look ahead, they’re waiting for you!”

Lan Yingfei smiled and pointed to the front of the tree-lined avenue, where Hu Fei, Shi Ye, Yaling, Jin Changgeng, and others were waiting.

“You all gather for a bit. Tonight, go directly to the third layer beneath the Dragon Tower to cultivate; no one will stop you. I have things to attend to, so I’ll take my leave!” After saying this, Lan Yingfei left in full stride.

“Kid, it’s been a while since we had your barbecue. No matter what, you have to show us your skills today!” Bai Yan wolf came up, drooling.

“No problem.”

Ye Fan cheerfully agreed. Bai Yan wolf had never returned since following Ye Fan out of the Immortal Secret Realm.

In its words, the Immortal Secret Realm was just like that, battling those Xuan Beasts every day, eating raw meat and drinking Beast Blood. It almost forgot what cooked meat tasted like.

As for the Array Patterns in the Immortal Secret Realm, it had thoroughly studied them a few months ago. The only thing it hadn't figured out was that Yellow Earth Mound, which it couldn't understand no matter how it looked at it.

It suspected strongly that it might be an Immortal Tomb!

It was the only place it dared not provoke!

Ye Fan couldn't see through it either. He had left Bai Yan wolf there, hoping it could figure something out, but it still remained a foggy mystery, with no results.

The group came outside the Immortal Academy, and Shi Ye went hunting. When he was with the Barbarian clan, he often ate Xuan Beast meat and knew which Xuan Beast's meat tasted best and was nourishing for cultivators.

In fact, basically any Xuan Beast meat is highly nourished for cultivators unless it's highly poisonous, just like how Xuan Beasts prey on human cultivator flesh.

The blood and flesh of cultivators contain Life Essence Energy, which is just as nourishing for Xuan Beasts as Xuan Beast meat is full of abundant Life Essence Energy!

Soon, a few roars and the muffled sounds of Shi Ye came from the distant mountain forest, making everyone smile wryly. It seemed Shi Ye had an exacting palate, and ordinary Xuan Beasts couldn't catch his interest.

Soon after, intense Divine Power fluctuations came through the air, with dust flying in the distance, black mist swirling, obviously indicating an intense battle!

"That's odd. Look, the black mist isn't dissipating; it's clearly poisonous. Is that guy bringing back a venomous snake?" Hu Fei asked suspiciously, looking into the distance.

"Possibly."

Ye Fan nodded. The black mist was evidently highly toxic, corroding the surrounding trees.

Having cultivated the Martial Arts Heavenly Eye, he saw farther and clearer than others. Although he didn't witness the battle scene, it must be very fierce!

“I’ll go help!”

Hu Fei volunteered to head over, and the group wasn’t worried. Shi Ye’s combat power was widely recognized, and he had a Stone Staff comparable to a Holy Weapon, so hunting a Xuan Beast shouldn’t be an issue!

Furthermore, although the Immortal Academy hadn’t wiped out all nearby Xuan Beasts, they wouldn’t leave any strong enough to threaten the academy’s disciples!

Sure enough, the battle ended quickly, followed by another intense fight nearby, destroying a swath of woodlands and even erasing a small mountain, grinding it into power!

Half an hour later, Shi Ye and Hu Fei returned together. Hu Fei carried a golden leopard weighing a good seven or eight hundred pounds, and Shi Ye had a three-meter-long giant centipede hanging around his neck.

Seeing this, Yaling couldn’t help but frown. Being a girl, she had an instinctive fear of multi-legged creatures, not to mention this enormous centipede, which clearly had reached the point of Transformation but hadn’t yet transformed, opting for Beast Cultivation.

“You two overdid it with so much stuff. Can we finish it all?”

Sikong Po laughed as he welcomed them to the valley.

“You just don’t understand. Although the centipede is highly poisonous, if handled properly, its taste surpasses all other Xuan Beast meat!” Shi Ye explained like an expert, tossing the giant centipede by the stream for Ye Fan to handle.

This was wild game, something Ye Fan was quite familiar with. Scorpions, centipedes, snakes, spiders, toads—these are the Five Poisons. Aside from toads and spiders, the rest are delicacies.

When Ye Fan was young, Chu Xuanji raised many of these venomous creatures for pharmacological studies, and they were often eaten. Thus, Ye Fan has plenty of experience dealing with them!

“Ling Haotian is reputed the strongest heir among all Di Clans. Do you think Ye Zi can win?”

Watching Ye Fan busy himself, Hu Fei couldn’t help but ask.

Chapter 1602: Nine Heavens Profound Body Fifth Level

The setting sun casts a slanting glow, and the valley outside the Immortal Academy is enveloped in tranquility, with only the soft chants of little insects serenading the dusk.

The mountain wind sways the tree branches with a rustling sound, and the air is filled with a tantalizing aroma. Ye Fan, Yaling, and the others sit around a large iron pot, eating with great joy!

The large iron pot bubbles with hot steam, and chunks of meat churn continuously in the boiling water, releasing the waves of fragrance from within.

A three-meter-long centipede, after decapitation and de-legging, peeled, still weighs over a hundred catties. It takes three rounds to cook it in the large iron pot!

As for the golden leopard, it has been skinned and gutted by Ye Fan, now barbecued over the bonfire.

Jars of fine wine are placed by everyone's feet, and they eat and chat carefree!

"Ye Zi, I've heard that in the match between the two academies, you must defeat Ling Haotian. Are you confident?" Hu Fei takes a swig of wine, unable to hold back his question.

"To be honest, I'm not confident!"

Ye Fan answers honestly because he doesn't really know what realm Ling Haotian has reached or his actual strength!

"__"

Ye Fan's words plunge everyone into silence.

This concerns Ye Fan's life safety. Without the Emperor Weapon, things don't look good for Ye Fan.

Not only the Ling Family but also other powerful factions are waiting to pounce, like the allied clans of the Ling Family, families like the Qing Family who have a blood feud with Ye Fan.

“That Ling Haotian is incredibly powerful, being called the number one among the younger generation is not an overstatement.”

Yaling recounts a past event. Two years ago, Ling Haotian sparred with the strongest heir of an Imperial Clan from Central State. In less than a quarter of an hour, he defeated the clan’s strongest heir, overpowering him.

Despite both being the strongest heirs of an Imperial Clan, Ling Haotian managed to win with an overwhelming stance, demonstrating his immense strength!

That was two years ago. Now, who knows how much stronger he’s become. One can only tell after a fight!

However, one thing that reveals Ling Haotian’s current combat power is that in the Imperial Academy, he remains the top genius, even the demon You Yunxiao obeys him.

Each demon-level strong person is notoriously proud, and earning their genuine respect is no easy feat!

From You Yunxiao’s attitude towards Ling Haotian, one can infer that Ling Haotian’s real combat power is likely exceedingly strong!

“No matter what, you have to win. We don’t want to lose such a good brother!” Han Sandong says with a smile to Ye Fan.

In the Immortal Mansion Ruins, it was him, Ling Ziyan, and Ye Fan who plundered Liang Boyao and You Yunxiao!

Having shared spoils together, Han Sandong naturally doesn’t want Ye Fan to lose.

As for the Di Clan Ling Family, Han Sandong has always had a disliking, their spirit stone mine in the Northern Domain was plundered repeatedly by the Nine Great Bandits.

“Ye Fan, we can’t do much to help you, everything depends on yourself, keep at it, we believe that you will surely win!”

Gu Hao and the others sincerely wish Ye Fan luck, praying that in the sparring contest with the Imperial Academy, he can defeat his opponent and win the contest.

This serves not only as encouragement for Ye Fan himself but also as motivation for the morale of the Immortal Academy!

The Immortal Academy has always been overshadowed by the Imperial Academy, which disgruntles the academy’s disciples!

This time, through the battle in the Immortal Mansion Ruins, they discovered that while the Imperial Academy is strong, it is not unbeatable. Perhaps, in this sparring contest, the Immortal Academy can reclaim its strength.

“Ye Fan, if there’s anything you need help with, feel free to ask. As long as we can help, we won’t hesitate!” Yaling said.

This time, she didn’t show excessive intimacy with Ye Fan or mention her own support, instead including everyone, showcasing her wisdom.

She understands that Ye Fan’s heart has already been deeply captivated by a girl named Su Liuli, and it’s hard for them to have a future together.

In such circumstances, she chooses to let things run their natural course. If she and Ye Fan are destined, there will be opportunities; if not, it’s not something she can force.

“No matter how strong he is, I will fight until the end, striving for victory!”

Ye Fan declares word by word. This match is too crucial; he cannot afford any oversight or error.

The silence falls over everyone again.

Because what is known as sparring, is substantially different from competition — a competition has judges, and judges announce the results and regulate the rules.

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The sparring was not about comparing skills at all; it was essentially real combat without any rules. As long as neither party admitted defeat, the sparring would continue indefinitely, unless one admitted defeat or died!

“What strongest heir of the Di Clan? I don’t believe that nonsense. Hit him with a big stick, and I’ll give him a concussion just the same!” Shi Ye said gruffly.

His words drew a chorus of eye-rolls. The strongest heir of the Di Clan was not just a mere title, just like the Saint Heirs of the major Holy Lands, who were selected through thousands of trials and naturally had their powerful aspects.

The members of the Family of the Martial Emperor, Wu Jingtian, and the Imperial Family, Yue Chuan, although they lost to Qi the Demon and Zhou Zhaolong, it didn’t mean they were not strong, but rather that Zhou and Qi were too monstrously powerful.

This feast was enjoyed thoroughly, with everyone having drunk quite a lot of wine, but given their levels of cultivation, none would get drunk unless they specifically wanted the alcohol to take effect.

Hundreds of pounds of meat were divided amongst them and thoroughly consumed, each person eating over a hundred pounds, which would be unimaginable to ordinary people.

After eating and drinking their fill, everyone returned to the academy and dispersed. Ye Fan headed straight for the Dragon Tower.

Along the way, many disciples from the Immortal Academy saw him and encouraged him, hoping he could defeat Ling Haotian and bring glory to the Immortal Academy!

Approaching the Dragon Tower, Ye Fan could clearly see the flow of Earth Vein Dragon Qi. The six Dragon Veins around the Immortal Academy spewed Essence Qi, which the Dragon Tower absorbed, forming a delicate balance.

At the entrance to the Dragon Tower, Ye Fan saw the two old men guarding it, sitting like clay statues in front of the tower gate, paying no attention to his arrival as if they hadn't even seen him.

Ye Fan didn't mind this and directly entered the Dragon Tower, feeling the Dragon Qi washing over his body like water.

Following the descending staircase, Ye Fan quickly reached the underground Third Layer. Here, not only was the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi dense, but the Dragon Qi was even thicker, almost forming a viscous liquid!

Dragon Essence is formed this way; when the Earth Vein Dragon Qi becomes dense enough, it turns into a liquid, and further concentration forms Dragon Essence!

This shows just how precious the ten or so drops of Dragon Essence that Ye Fan gave to Princess Yue Bai were!

As Ye Fan walked along, he noticed that strong people were stationed on the second and first underground levels. Judging by their ages, they were likely over a thousand years old, each resembling formidable ghosts crawling out from their graves!

Only the Third Layer was devoid of people; it was silent, but not dark, with brilliant colors interwoven from Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Earth Vein Dragon Qi, forming a magnificent scene.

Ye Fan thought for a moment and sat cross-legged at the center of the Third Layer of the Dragon Tower, imagining himself as the pearl between the Six Dragons Playing with a Pearl.

As his Mystical Skill operated, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Earth Vein Dragon Qi formed an energy storm that enveloped him tightly, with every pore of Ye Fan's body absorbing this energy.

Once the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Earth Vein Dragon Qi entered Ye Fan's body, they followed specific routes within and completed three cycles before being stored within his Dan Tian Qi and the Holy Embryo in his three hundred and sixty acupoints.

At this moment, everyone within the Dragon Tower opened their eyes in astonishment and looked towards the lower levels, but they saw nothing.

The materials used in the construction of the Dragon Tower were quite peculiar, able to block the Martial Arts Heavenly Eye, making it impossible to see whatever was occurring below.

But there was one thing they were sure of: something extraordinary was happening below because they all felt the Dragon Qi fluctuating and diminishing!

“What is going on? Why has the Dragon Qi suddenly decreased?” The senior members were puzzled, but the elders guarding the lower two levels roughly guessed the situation, though they were even more shocked.

“Who could absorb such a terrifying amount of Earth Vein Dragon Qi in a short time, aren’t they afraid of exploding?”

This was the doubt in their hearts!

One must understand that the human body’s capacity is limited, much like a balloon that inflates as air is blown into it, but once it exceeds its limit, it can only go “pop” and burst.

The human body is similar, which is why some people, despite having quality Elixir Pills and Spirit Stones, cannot refine or absorb them properly.

Elixir Pills and Spirit Stones contain vast amounts of Life Essence Energy and Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. A cultivator with shallow cultivation would not dare absorb too much Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi at once, or they would surely explode!

However—

What they never expected was that Ye Fan's body was like a bottomless pit, never to be filled. Much of the Earth Vein Dragon Qi and Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi did not enter his meridians and acupoints but directly merged into his flesh!

This was a metamorphosis akin to a rebirth, though Ye Fan himself had yet to notice. His blood, flesh, and bones, having been repeatedly shattered and regenerated, had become extraordinarily strong to an unfathomable degree.

Gradually, under the influence of the Earth Vein Dragon Qi, another transformation began within him, with the Nine Heavens Profound Body evolving towards the Fifth Level!

Once successfully broken through, his body would be comparable to a Lord Realm Peak strong person, becoming a Supreme Treasure Body!

"Just how powerful was the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, to create this Supreme Divine Skill of cultivating the Nine Heavens Profound Body?"

Feeling the transformation within his body, Ye Fan couldn't help but inwardly question himself.

Chapter 1603: Ling Haotian Emerges from Seclusion

In the southern East Domain, the climate is warm and humid, not much different from the Southern Domain, with lush mountain ridges lying like giant dragons, grand and imposing!

Luoxia Ridge, a place blessed by nature, is rich in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, misty as water, with various spiritual beasts traversing within, streams gurgling, Yao Grass exuding fragrance by the cliffs, Spiritual Medicine growing, resembling a human fairyland!

This is the place where the descendants of the last Great Emperor of the Xuan Realm, the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, live. It is also the ancestral land of the Ling family, known to them as the Emperor's Rise Land!

For those not of the direct lineage, Luoxia Ridge strictly prohibits any outsiders from entering, making it a most guarded area.

Within this Luoxia Ridge, there is an ancient cave where the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor once secluded himself in his later years, revered by the Ling Family members as the Ancestor Cave, or the Emperor Cave.

In each generation of the Ling family, only the strongest successor is qualified to enter the Emperor Cave to cultivate, comprehending the various Xuan Techniques left by the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor!

On this day, the vicinity of the Emperor Cave on Luoxia Ridge was ablaze with smoke and glow, dense Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi seemed to be liquefying, five-color lights flickering!

Boom!

A loud explosive sound echoed, and amidst the rolling dust, a young man emerged from the Emperor Cave, appearing as both a deity and demon, emanating a powerful aura that obliterated everything around!

“Sizzle sizzle!”

Two beams of light swept across the sky like Heavenly Swords, almost tangible, splitting the clouds afar with an astonishing force!

Tall and robust, his exposed skin glowed with a bronze luster, facial features sharp as if sculpted.

Two sword-like eyebrows slanted into the temples, with deep and incomparably profound eyes, as if the sun, moon, and stars were disintegrating within, black hair loosely draped over the shoulders, exuding an unruly air!

“Hao Tian has finally come out of seclusion!”

The loud explosive sound alarmed everyone in the Ling family, making them pause and look towards the Emperor Cave, their eyes shimmering with hopeful light!

They knew this loud explosion signified the exit of Ling Haotian, the strongest successor of the younger generation in the Ling family, heralding the arrival of the time to recover their previous honor!

“Hao Tian, come this way!”

A majestic voice came from the sky, and soon the Ling Family's Saint appeared, sky-stepping in the void towards an open space in front of a distant palace, gracefully like a deity walking among mortals!

Normally, an ordinary cultivator, once reaching the Divine Power Realm, capable of manipulating certain elements of Heaven and Earth, would already be seen as a deity in the eyes of ordinary people!

Ling Haotian, reining in his aura, extinguishing the light in his eyes, casually donned a blue silk robe, elegantly walking towards the open space before the palace, akin to an immortal!

Soon, Ling Haotian landed before the Ling Family's Saint, speaking in a deep voice: "Clan Leader, what's the matter?"

"Sigh..."

The Ling Family's Saint sighed deeply, narrating the events of recent occurrences in detail to Ling Haotian and then said, "Hao Tian, whether our Ling family can reclaim the Emperor Weapon, wash away our shame, and rise again, it all depends on you. Don't let us down!"

"I never thought so much would happen while I was in seclusion..."

Ling Haotian, filled with rage to the extreme, eyes flickering with a thread of lethal intent, murmured, "Ye Fan, I will personally kill you, retrieve the Emperor Weapon that belongs to our Ling family, and you are destined to be a failure, merely a stepping stone on my path to the Godless Path!"

“Well said! Hao Tian, the prosperity and honor of our clan depend solely on you. The clan will fully support you, ask for whatever you need!” praised the Ling Family’s Saint.

“No need, after half a year of seclusion, I’ve already surpassed the pinnacle of the Divine Realm and could break through at any moment. No amount of cultivation resources would help now; I need an opportunity for a breakthrough.”

Ling Haotian confidently stated, “According to what you’ve said, that boy surnamed Ye is merely at the late-stage Divine Realm, not worth worrying about. Even at the same realm, I can easily kill him! Moreover, I’ve already surpassed the pinnacle of the Divine Realm?”

“There’s something else I think you should know!”

The Ling Family’s Saint hesitated for a while and then recounted the outside world’s rumors about some ambiguous relationship between Princess Yue Bai and Ye Fan.

“What? Such a thing exists?”

Ling Haotian’s eyes immediately flared up, for a man, this was the most intolerable thing!

“I’ll personally inquire, to see what’s really going on!”

Determined, Ling Haotian decided to set off immediately for the Central Domain to ask Princess Yue Bai for clarification. He wouldn't allow such a thing to happen, not even as a rumor!

As the strongest successor of the Di Clan, Ling Haotian was particularly protective of his reputation, especially concerning his engagement with Princess Yue Bai!

If Princess Yue Bai indeed had an ambiguous relationship with Ye Fan, it would be a fatal blow to him.

As a man, if you can't even protect your own woman, how could you stand in the cultivation world?

Not to mention taking over the Ling Family in the future and becoming the Saint Lord!

As an Imperial Clan, the Ling Family naturally does not lack large-scale Transmission Array Platforms; these vast platforms can traverse the vast domains without any issues.

Furthermore, after numerous modifications, the Ling Family's Transmission Array Platform can reach directly into the Imperial City of the Moonlight Dynasty, facilitating the connection between the two Imperial Clans.

Ling Haotian stood on the Transmission Array Platform, activated the array patterns, and a beam of light flickered, forming a shimmering portal into the void, connecting to the endless void!

Without hesitation, Ling Haotian stepped inside; the portal into the void disappeared, and Ling Haotian entered the void, heading across to the Central Domain's Moonlight Dynasty!

In the Central Domain, there are three immortal dynasties; these are colossal entities, thriving from ancient times to the present, enduring tens of thousands of years, unmatched by any power.

Additionally, there are some ordinary nations and Wu Shang Sects, which possess incomparable immortal heritage, some even older than the four great divine dynasties, their foundations equally solid.

Most importantly, one of the two academies, the Imperial Academy, is located at the center of the Central Domain, at the center point of the three great dynasties, occupying an area equivalent to the capital of a small nation.

Unlike the Eastern Domain, the Central Domain does not occupy any Spirit Mountain grand rivers but instead builds imperial cities; each imperial city has various array patterns that can forcibly gather the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Earth Vein Dragon Qi for personal use!

With the city nurturing the qi, living within the imperial cities and major Holy Lands has the same cultivation effects.

Thus, whether it's nations, Wu Shang Sects, or dynasties in the Central Domain, they all build cities to accumulate the Heaven and Earth Essence Qi, evolving into cultivation sanctuaries, each dynasty is a dominant force, almost as powerful as Holy Lands.

Especially the three great dynasties, they are superpowers, capable of influencing the layout of an entire domain, dominating the earth, and vying with the other Imperial Clans!

The Moonlight Imperial City is majestic and grand, covering an extensive area, like an immortal divine city in the heavens, exuding an ancient, weathered aura.

The city gates are tall, and several dozen Xuan Beasts can march side by side without crowding; the walls are mottled, with divine power fluctuations, which, if great adversaries attack, can release divine light to protect the entire Ancient City.

At the center of the imperial city, purple aura rushes skyward, vaporous forming a dragon shape, clearly a place where dragon veins converge, the earth's energy flows, making it an ideal place for cultivation.

Inside the imperial city is very quiet, without a hint of bustling noise, mainly serene and harmonious, with hardly any passersby.

Ling Haotian went straight to the palace and met the Emperor of the Moonlight Dynasty within the majestic and splendid palace, a middle-aged man in a dragon robe, wearing a True Dragon Crown, expressing the dignity characteristic of an authority figure even in tranquility!

“Uncle, I have come this time with some matters to verify with Sister Yue Bai; can I meet her?”

Though arrogant and domineering, Ling Haotian dared not show any disrespect before the Moonlight Emperor, his tone exceptionally respectful.

“Oh, what matter requires you to personally make the journey? Can you tell me first?” The Moonlight Emperor said lightly.

“Just some personal matters, I dare not trouble Uncle’s mind!”

Ling Haotian felt a bit awkward; how could he discuss such matters in front of the Moonlight Emperor?

“Unfortunately, Yue Bai has retreated since returning from the Immortal Mansion Ruins and is not seeing anyone; not until she ends her retreat, even I cannot disturb her cultivation.”

The implication in the Moonlight Emperor’s words was clear; Ling Haotian’s trip went in vain, as Princess Yue Bai was currently in closed-door meditation and wouldn’t see anyone, not even him, her fiancé!

“In that case, I will tell you then...”

Ling Haotian contemplated for a moment; since it concerned the reputations of both families, it had to be investigated thoroughly, so he recounted the current rumors and gossip from the outside world to the Moonlight Emperor, finally asking, “Uncle, do you think it’s necessary to clarify these matters? Otherwise, it would be very detrimental to the reputations of both our families!”

“So that’s it!”

The Moonlight Emperor pondered for a moment, shook his head, and said, "Wise nephew, in the Immortal Mansion Ruins, Little White indeed got somewhat close to that young man named Ye, but whether there is anything else between them, I'm not sure; everything must wait until Little White comes out of her meditation to be fully revealed; you should wait a bit longer!"

"This..."

Ling Haotian felt troubled; he never expected to cross the endless void and travel millions of miles to get such a result: Princess Yue Bai was in meditation and would not see anyone!

In this way, it's no longer possible for him to verify whether Princess Yue Bai and Ye Fan had the ambiguous relationship people outside were talking about!

"Could it be she's deliberately avoiding me?"

Such a thought suddenly popped into Ling Haotian's mind, making his heart sink sharply.

"Uncle, since Sister Yue Bai is in meditation, I shouldn't disturb her, but I will thoroughly investigate this matter and return both myself and Sister Yue Bai a clear name!"

Ling Haotian said in a deep voice, with a killing intent surging in his eyes, after speaking, he bowed to take his leave, striding toward the palace's exit.

Chapter 1604: Harsh Words Laid Down

Ling Haotian, after leaving the Yuehua Dynasty, did not continue traversing the void but flew towards the direction of the Imperial Academy like a divine rainbow streaking across the sky. Mountains and rivers swiftly receded beneath his feet, and in just three days, he was not far from the Academy.

During these three days, Ling Haotian unintentionally overheard many stories about Ye Fan and Princess Yue Bai, with various versions circulating. Most believed that Princess Yue Bai and Ye Fan had an ambiguous relationship.

“Have you heard? In the Burial Immortal Land, that Ye actually gifted the little princess of the Yuehua Dynasty over a dozen drops of Dragon Essence. What kind of relationship is that?”

“Nonsense, I was there at the time; how could I not know? That Ye is quite impressive, controlling the Heavenly Tribulation and forcibly splitting open a Dragon Vein to obtain over a dozen drops of Dragon Essence!”

“That’s Dragon Essence! How could he bear to give it away? If it were me, I wouldn’t part with it for anything. Even if I did, I’d at least keep a good portion for myself!”

“You don’t know, do you? The little princess of the Yuehua Dynasty was already Ye’s woman a long time ago. Given to one’s own woman, how’s it any different from keeping it yourself? Plus, he can win favor with the Yuehua Dynasty, gaining a powerful ally. Only a fool wouldn’t give it!”

“Impossible, right? Princess Yue Bai is the fiancée of Ling Haotian, the strongest heir of the Ling Family. Wouldn’t that mean he’s coveting the wrong partner? Can Ling Haotian tolerate this?”

“What can he do? He hadn’t come out of seclusion then and didn’t know at all. He probably knows now, but it’s already too late. He’s already been cuckolded...”

These comments were heard by Ling Haotian in a tavern in a border town of the Yuehua Dynasty, where several cultivators were discussing avidly over drinks, nearly infuriating Ling Haotian to the point of a rampage and mass slaughter.

“Ye, if I don’t kill you, I, Ling Haotian, swear not to be human!”

In the end, Ling Haotian suppressed his rage and murderous intent, went to a secluded spot, and roared to the heavens to vent his anger, startling away the birds and beasts around him. Some ordinary birds and beasts were directly shattered by the sound waves and met a tragic end!

On the outskirts of the Imperial Academy is an extensive forest spanning hundreds of thousands of miles, where the cries of apes, tigers, crane calls, and wind sounds echo, with various untransformed Xuan Beasts residing in the dense woods.

This place is also an adventurous paradise for the disciples of the Imperial Academy. Disciples with strong cultivation often leave the academy to hunt Xuan Beasts in this wilderness to hone themselves and gain cultivation resources and contribution points for the academy!

Of course, within three thousand miles of the academy, there are no strong Xuan Beasts, with the strongest being no more than Late-stage Holy Embryo Realm, and even Peak Holy Embryo Realm Xuan Beasts are rare!

However, in the central depths of the wilderness forest, there are not only Xuan Beasts of the Divine Power Realm but also those of mid to late Lord Realm, even of the Venerable Realm.

These Xuan Beasts have long had the ability to transform, but they chose to cultivate in their original form, enhancing their lifespan. Although their cultivation speed is slower, their combat power is formidable, and their defensive capabilities are astonishing.

In the same realm, even the human race's genius strong people may not be a match for the Xuan Beasts, as these beasts possess innate divine abilities coupled with formidable physical strength and defensive power. Usually, in the same realm, humans encountering Xuan Beasts can only flee.

"Roar..."

A gigantic bird flew across the void like a dark cloud sweeping across the sky, exuding a powerful aura with divine light flickering on its body.

"Howl..."

The giant bird flew from one mountain to another, its claws like Heavenly Swords, shredding a mountain peak as if cutting through tofu, grabbing a giant python of a hundred meters long from the mountain's belly and disappearing into the distant sky!

"Roar!"

On the ground, a raging bear erupted, smashing the head of a colorful, thirty-meter-long tiger into pieces, snatching a beast core and an inner core, and crunching them in its mouth.

Having eaten the beast core and inner core, the raging bear dragged the tiger's carcass into a massive cave, with not a single threatening Xuan Beast nearby. Undoubtedly, this raging bear is a tyrant here!

Hmm?

Upon arriving here, Ling Haotian also became much more cautious, as many Xuan Beasts here have strength not inferior to his own. Being attacked would be a massive trouble.

In most cases, the Xuan Beasts here are still unwilling to risk everything against humans, but if humans overreach, the Xuan Beasts will organize a powerful counterattack.

In the past two days, Ling Haotian witnessed many deadly battles among the Xuan Beasts. In the realm of Xuan Beasts, the jungle law is the sole survival rule.

Weaker ones get eliminated, a choice of natural competition, with no room for mercy. Each surviving Xuan Beast has its own survival means and trump card!

Getting closer to the academy, Ling Haotian vaguely sensed the signs of Imperial Academy disciples' activities. It seems there are disciples hunting Xuan Beasts for training.

“Ah...”

About three to four hundred miles away from Ling Haotian, in a mountain hollow, You Yunxiao was battling fiercely with a Peak Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast.

At this moment, he was covered in blood, and the Xuan Beast he was fighting was also scales flying, its body riddled with terrifying wounds. It was a scaled flying lizard, with considerable power.

Hoo!

At his critical moment, Ling Haotian descended from the sky, punching the scaled flying lizard. The fierce Punch Ray tore the void, directly severing the three-meter-long scaled flying lizard in half, hot blood pouring down like rain, thoroughly drenching You Yunxiao!

“Heaven... Brother Tian, you finally returned!”

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Seeing this scene, You Yunxiao was overjoyed and quickly called out!

This Scale Armor Flying Lizard was already at the end of its strength, and it was soon killed by Ling Haotian. They took out the inner core and beast core, allowing You Yunxiao to refine them on the spot and recover his strength.

“Brother Tian, I’ve embarrassed myself...”

Very soon, You Yunxiao restored seventy to eighty percent of his strength. The two sat by the campfire, eating roasted flying lizard meat while chatting.

You Yunxiao recalled for Ling Haotian the entire event of being chased by Ye Fan in the Immortal Mansion ruins and being robbed.

Of course, he didn’t hide the embarrassing incident where he ended up in a humiliating pose; it was the main reason he had been spending days hunting Xuan Beasts outside the Immortal Academy in the mountain forest.

Firstly, he didn’t want to see people. Secondly, some disciples, who favored the Dragon Yang, approached him, making him so angry that he nearly resorted to violence.

During this time, he and Liang Boyao had become completely notorious. Not only the disciples of the Imperial Academy, but even cultivators from elsewhere often send messages to him, saying they wanted to be “good friends,” which made him even more furious!

“As I speculate, that bastard Ye’s strength should be around the same as yours before your retreat. As for what extent he has reached now, we can only know by fighting!” You Yunxiao said to Ling Haotian.

“Hmph!”

Ling Haotian snorted coldly and said, “Even if he becomes stronger, he is definitely not my match. I will personally tear him apart~”

“Brother Tian, don’t be careless. I seriously suspect that the one who robbed me and Liang Boyao is likely him! If that’s the case, he may have gotten the Liang Family’s Dragon Seeking Formulas!” You Yunxiao mentioned.

“Rest assured, what he relies on is nothing but my Ling Family’s Xuandi Fist, and I’ve comprehended Xuandi Fist much deeper than him. I am the authentic one!”

Ling Haotian was extremely confident, dismissive of Ye Fan, and then said, “The one who robbed you must be him, and even if it’s not him, it’s him. This sh*t bucket must be placed on his head!”

You Yunxiao nodded, “Then what should we do now? I don’t dare to return to the academy for fear of seeing those peculiar looks. I’m afraid I’ll lose control and kill someone.”

“What to do? Of course, we go and settle accounts with that little bastard Ye!”

Ling Haotian was filled with killing intent; his family was humiliated, his fiancée was snatched, his brother was bullied—no matter what, he couldn’t swallow this anger!

“Now?”

“Yes, right now!” Ling Haotian’s eyes shot out two beams of Killing Light, gazing toward the direction of the Immortal Academy, exuding powerful killing intent.

“But the two academies have agreed that everything must be resolved at the academy contest. Going to the Immortal Academy now, I’m afraid the dean won’t agree!” You Yunxiao said hesitantly.

“We won’t go through the academy; we’ll go to the nearest Cangyue City and use its Transmission Array Platform to go directly to the Immortal Academy!” Ling Haotian said solemnly.

Once decided, the two transformed into two beams of Flowing Light, rushed to the nearest Cangyue City, and after paying a certain amount of Spirit Stones, they activated the Transmission Array Platform, traversing the Void!

Cangyue City is also an ancient city. It’s said that it was once the Holy Land of an ancient Wu Shang Sect, so it has a large Transmission Array Platform capable of traversing regions!

In the forest near the Immortal Academy, the Void trembled, and in a flash of light, Ling Haotian and You Yunxiao stepped out from the Void, flying straight towards the nearby Immortal Academy!

“Who dares trespass the Immortal Academy?”

As soon as they approached the Immortal Academy, they were intercepted by a patrolling elder, who coldly questioned!

“My name is Ling Haotian, a disciple of the Imperial Academy, here to challenge your Immortal Academy’s Ye Fan! Please convey a message!”

Ling Haotian came to trouble Ye Fan but didn’t dare cause chaos in the Immortal Academy, so he restrained his temper.

“I’m sorry, Ye Fan is in seclusion and won’t see anyone. Please leave!”

The elder directly issued an eviction order.

“Does he want to hide like a turtle? Brother Tian personally comes to challenge him, yet he avoids meeting, a cowardly person!” You Yunxiao coldly mocked.

“Think whatever you like; the two academies have agreed, everything resolved at the academy contest. If you insist on breaking in, bear the consequences yourselves!” The elder was quite stern.

“Are you delaying time for him?”

Ling Haotian shouted angrily, “Well, I’ll say this here: at the academy contest, I will have a life-and-death battle with that bastard Ye in front of you, and personally crush him!”

Chapter 1605: On the Eve of the Great Battle

The Dragon Tower in the Immortal Academy remained shrouded in the Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth, with six Earth Dragon Veins gushing Essence Qi, purple dragons rising into the air, truly a Holy Land for Cultivation.

Ye Fan sat cross-legged on the third underground floor of the Dragon Tower, continuously comprehending enlightenment and Martial Enlightenment, paying no heed to any events in the outside world, completely immersed in his own spiritual realm.

He was unaware that Ling Haotian came looking for him, as the academy had not informed him of this matter, fearing it would disturb his meditation.

During his cultivation, Ye Fan continually comprehended the secret techniques he acquired from the Scripture Pavilion of the Immortal Academy, finally mastering the first Heavenly Sound of the Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique.

This was a supreme divine skill, and Ye Fan felt that such a supreme divine skill was probably created by a strong Quasi-Emperor level, or it might even be a secret technique left by a Great Emperor!

The reason was that this supreme divine skill involved the secrets of the Heavenly Dao, resonating with the Divine Soul, communicating with the power of the Heavenly Dao, killing invisibly, something that could not be created without great wisdom.

The first Heavenly Sound was the word “Zhen” (镇), roared out during the resonance of the Divine Soul, possessing supreme power, capable of subduing a person directly to death!

Ye Fan simulated it repeatedly in the Virtual Space. Initially, it had no power, but as his comprehension deepened, the power of this Heavenly Sound gradually became apparent.

When the word “Zhen” was uttered, a complex symbol appeared within the Divine Soul, with the Tao Marks of the Heavenly Dao condensing into a giant “Zhen” character, subduing all.

Most of the time, Ye Fan spent in the real space. The Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth and the Dragon Energy of the Earth Vein nourished his body, making it stronger and exuding a crystalline treasure light!

In addition to comprehending the Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique, Ye Fan also comprehended another divine skill, the Soldier Control Technique!

This was a secret technique more mysterious than the Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique, with profound explanations of various Spiritual Artifacts.

According to what was described in the Soldier Control Technique, every Spiritual Artifact and Holy Weapon has a Spirit Soldier, also known as an Artifact Spirit, varying in strength, sometimes unknown even to the owner of the Spiritual Artifact.

The Soldier Control Technique was based on this principle, allowing control over any Spiritual Artifact, Spiritual Treasure, and even Holy Weapon through this secret technique!

By mastering the Soldier Control Technique to perfection, one can control all things, even using the opponent’s body as a Spiritual Treasure to control, a terrifying divine skill.

However, similarly, this divine skill was very difficult to comprehend as there were hardly any written texts, only mysterious symbols and Tao Patterns.

During seclusion, Ye Fan devoted much time to comprehending these two secret techniques, successfully mastering the first Heavenly Sound of the Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique.

But the Soldier Control Technique was only grasped superficially, with some aspects needing constant deduction by himself for insight, requiring very high comprehension.

Fortunately, his comprehension wasn't low to begin with; otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to comprehend the Thunderclap Treasure Skill, such a profound and hard-to-understand supreme divine skill.

Through continual deduction, Ye Fan gradually realized some mysteries of the Soldier Control Technique. Once deployed, it could temporarily affect the opponent's Spiritual Artifact, although only weakly.

This was enough since in duels between experts, life and death often happened in an instant. As long as the opportunity was seized, deploying the Soldier Control Technique at the most critical moment would inevitably cause immense trouble for the opponent, possibly changing the outcome.

At this moment, Ye Fan felt his hand was much stronger. With the Immortal Stele Scattering Hand, Soldier Control Technique, and Divine Soul Resonance Sound Wave Technique as his trump cards, he confidently felt that no one in the same realm could threaten his life!

In the timeless process of cultivation and enlightenment, Ye Fan was enveloped in a giant cocoon of light, continuously absorbing and refining Dragon Qi and Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth. The Holy Embryo Illusion within his 360 acupoints solidified completely, each bearing different postures, appearing like real Holy Embryos!

As time slipped by, the date of the competition between the two academies drew near, yet Ye Fan showed no intention of coming out of seclusion, seizing the opportunity to enhance his strength!

...

Meanwhile,

At the distant Central Domain Emperor Institute, Ling Haotian accepted an seemingly impossible mission—to venture alone deep into the Hei song Forest at the northern part of the academy and hunt down a Flying Sky Divine Crocodile.

This was a powerful Xuan Beast at the Peak of the Early-stage Lord Realm, its body covered with black scales, harder than Refined Gold, almost invulnerable to swords and spears. In addition to its extraordinary speed, it can fly and escape to the earth, making it fearsome, ruthless, and cunning, extremely difficult to hunt!

Several strong people from the Immortal Academy have tried to hunt it, yet ended up falling in battle, swallowed by the Divine Crocodile, turning it into a lingering problem for the Emperor Institute.

If not for wanting to temper the talented disciples of the Emperor Institute, the high-level authorities might have directly sent in strong individuals from the Late-stage Lord Realm to annihilate it.

Hence, when Ling Haotian took the mission, it shocked the entire Emperor Institute as no one expected him to make such a decision at this critical juncture.

“Brother Tian, don’t act impulsively. It’s more crucial to conserve your strength for the upcoming competition between the two Academies!”

Upon learning about the mission, You Yunxiao immediately came to dissuade him.

“Don’t worry, I’ll be fine. After this period of seclusion, my cultivation has reached a bottleneck. Continuing to cultivate like this won’t help; I need a significant battle to find a breakthrough opportunity!” Ling Haotian said calmly.

“Then let me accompany you, at least to look out for each other. If you make a breakthrough during the battle, I can also help hold off the enemy for a while!” Seeing persuasion was futile, You Yunxiao proposed going along with him.

“No need, you focus on cultivating.” Ling Haotian declined, understanding that this was a mission he had to complete alone, as per the rules.

“Then... alright, just be careful and prioritize safety. Even if you can’t hunt that beast, don’t take unnecessary risks.”

You Yunxiao patted Ling Haotian on the shoulder, knowing his temperament and that further persuasion might backfire.

“Hmm.”

Ling Haotian nodded, turned around, and headed for the Hei song Forest.

Two days later, Ling Haotian reached the edge of Hei song Forest, located 7,000 miles north of the Emperor Institute, amidst a chain of undulating mountains.

The name Hei song Forest came from its harsh climate, supporting no other tree species except the pitch-black pine trees. Beyond the distant snowy mountain tops, below the snowline lied the lush Hei song Forest.

In the depths of the Hei song Forest was a not freezing cold spring, its water extremely low in temperature, far below freezing point, yet it never froze.

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile is hidden within this not freezing cold spring, and besides hunting other cold-resistant Xuan Beasts, it also attacks humans. Many cultivators passing overhead have been ambushed by it.

Ling Haotian is very alert. On this journey, he carefully avoided some powerful Xuan Beasts, not confronting them directly, because the true strength of some Xuan Beasts is far beyond what he can handle!

This Hei song Mountain Range stretches for thousands of miles, naturally housing many Xuan Beasts. Ling Haotian followed the map's marked location and quickly approached the not freezing cold spring.

It wasn't until approaching this terrifying area that he realized the horror of the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile; within several hundred miles, there's no Xuan Beast daring to come near.

Surrounding the not freezing cold spring, within a diameter of several hundred miles, except for small creatures like bugs and ants, there's not even a single Holy Embryo Realm Xuan Beast; at most, some reckless True Essence Realm Xuan Beasts ignorantly invade!

Ling Haotian soon arrived near the not freezing cold spring, a small cold pond hidden among the mountains, dark as ink, silent as stone, without a ripple, emitting waves of chilling cold that cause heart palpitations.

“Boom!”

Ling Haotian tentatively punched, the scorching Punch Ray blasted into the cold pond, splashing a large amount of pond water that sprinkled around the vicinity.

“Sizzle...”

The water drops hit the ground, instantly freezing into ice, cracking the stones on the ground. From a distance, Ling Haotian felt a piercing chill, indicating how the water temperature in the not freezing cold spring was extremely low.

“Roar...”

With a tragic scream, a ten-meter-long monster swiftly flew out of the cold pond, entirely pitch black, with short limbs and a long tail, its small eyes flashing with vicious blood-red light.

“Kid, you dare ruin my plans; if I don’t kill you, my heart’s hatred won’t be soothed!”

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile fixed its small eyes on Ling Haotian not far away, transmitting via Divine Sense.

After reaching the Divine Power Realm, any Xuan Beast has the ability to transform, its wisdom naturally not inferior to humans, and communicating becomes even simpler.

“You want to kill me? I’m afraid you won’t succeed. Let me send you on your way!”

Ling Haotian was rather domineering, deciding to strike first, directly using Xuandi Fist, punching towards the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile!

“Roar!”

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile roared furiously, twisting its body quickly in the air. The Punch Ray brushed against its scales and headed towards a distant mountain peak, while it rapidly attacked Ling Haotian!

The two sides engaged in a deadly battle, Ling Haotian unleashed one move after another, the Xuandi Fist causing heaven and earth to shatter, while the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile, relying on its speed and tough body, confronted Ling Haotian, leaving marks all over its body.

“Wind Blade, Flame Saber!”

Ling Haotian shouted, simultaneously performing two divine skills. A sudden gale roared between heaven and earth, huge Wind Blades striking the scales of the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile, emitting a clang and even sparks flying!

Immediately, the Flame Saber hit the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile’s body, causing some damage but not fundamentally harming it.

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile’s enormous tail swung over, directly sending Ling Haotian flying, his clothes turning into pieces!

“You’ve already broken through to the Mid-stage of Lord Realm?”

Ling Haotian's expression changed. Although the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile hadn't demonstrated Domain Power, judging from its attack power, it was undoubtedly a breakthrough!

"That's right, broke through not long ago, die!"

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile smirked, unleashing its Domain Power, aiming to devour Ling Haotian directly.

To Xuan Beast like it, the flesh of the Human Race is extremely delicious and nourishing; it wouldn't let go of this opportunity to prey!

"Want to eat me? I think you should contribute your Beast Core and inner core instead!"

Ling Haotian shouted, a golden crown appeared above his head, exuding a terrifying aura.

Then, Ling Haotian decisively burned his Divine Power, forcibly boosting his combat power by a large margin, the sheer force breaking through the constraints of the Domain, directly striking the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile's front!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The battle restarted; in just a few breaths, the vicinity of the not freezing cold spring was devastated beyond recognition, with large areas of trees disappearing, mountain peaks severed, the ground cracking with spider-web-like fissures.

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile perished!

Having broken through to the Mid-stage of Lord Realm, it was brutally slain by Ling Haotian!

Chapter 1606: Shattered Body Rebirth

A few days later, Ling Haotian returned to the Imperial Academy and took out the corpse of the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile from his space spiritual artifact.

The Flying Sky Divine Crocodile's body was almost shattered, with a huge wound on its head, brain matter splattered, and its beast core obviously removed, leaving only its enormous corpse.

"Ugh..."

Many disciples, teachers, and elders at the Imperial Academy witnessed this scene, and they were all dumbfounded.

Because they could tell that this Flying Sky Divine Crocodile was no longer at the peak of Early Lord Realm but had broken through to the Mid-Stage of Lord Realm.

You must know, Ling Haotian was only at the Peak of Divine Power Realm!

Throughout history, there have been very few cultivators at the Peak of Divine Power Realm who could kill a Xuan Beast at the Mid-Stage of Lord Realm, and not even some Young Emperors at this realm could do it!

How could they not be shocked!

In their shock, they once again marveled that Ling Haotian was a demon among demons, and among the younger generation across the Five Great Domains, there was probably no one stronger than him!

After the news of Ling Haotian killing the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile shocked the Imperial Academy, it spread rapidly like having grown wings across the Five Domains.

“This Ling Haotian is indeed the strongest heir of the Di Clan, his strength is too powerful!”

“In my opinion, he is definitely the number one below the Lord Realm, and even some elders of certain Holy Lands may not be his match!”

Ling Haotian's strength equally shocked the cultivators of the Five Great Domains!

You must know, for outstanding geniuses, it is not difficult to cross one small realm and defeat their opponents, but defeating a Xuan Beast is not that easy.

Because compared to human cultivators, Xuan Beasts naturally have a significant advantage in physical constitution, possessing great physical strength, resilient life force, and incredible defense.

Ordinary cultivators at the same realm can't compete with Xuan Beasts; being able to defeat a Xuan Beast at the same realm is already considered a genius.

Yet Ling Haotian could leap two small realms to kill a Xuan Beast whose strength and defense were equally impressive, which itself indicates many things.

"Now, that young man named Ye is in trouble!"

"Even though Ye Fan is equally a demon-level genius, the sparring competition definitely doesn't allow the use of Emperor weapons. Without the deterrence of Emperor weapons, he is bound to lose!"

Upon learning about Ling Haotian's feats, many cultivators believed that Ye Fan was doomed to lose. Even though both were demon-level geniuses, there was a realm gap between them; Ye Fan couldn't possibly defeat Ling Haotian!

This opinion became mainstream for a while; in every city, every tavern, and tea house, wherever cultivators gathered, they discussed this matter.

Back then, Ye Fan swept through the Qing Family with Emperor weapons, and later, the appearance of Artifact Spirit Xuan Elder intimidated the Ling Family. Many major powers witnessed it firsthand and naturally also knew about the bet between them.

Initially, there were people optimistic about Ye Fan, believing that even if Ling Haotian were the strongest heir of the younger generation of the Ling Family, he might not be Ye Fan's match.

However—

After Ling Haotian leaped realms and killed the Flying Sky Divine Crocodile, almost all those who supported Ye Fan made a complete turnaround, changing from supporting Ye Fan to supporting Ling Haotian.

They believed the power gap between the two was too vast, and after reaching the Taoist Divine Realm, every small realm was a chasm, the so-called Divine Realm barrier.

Unless one had special means, defeating an opponent one realm higher was almost impossible!

It can't be denied that Ye Fan is indeed strong, being able to challenge across levels, but so is Ling Haotian, and even more outstanding!

...

While the outside world was hotly debating Ling Haotian's killing of the Mid-Stage Lord Realm Flying Sky Divine Crocodile, in the Immortal Academy's Dragon Tower, clouds steamed and colorful mists rolled, with streams of dragon energy constantly rising from the ground for all the cultivators in the Dragon Tower to use for cultivation!

Ye Fan occupied the most advantageous position in the entire Dragon Tower, madly absorbing Earth Vein Dragon Qi and Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and at the same time, he refined a large amount of spirit stones.

All those were high-grade spirit stones, completely condensed from Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, without any impurities, leaving no residue after refining.

He felt that he was not far from breaking through to the Fifth Level of Nine Heavens Profound Body, as vast amounts of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and Earth Vein Dragon Qi continuously improved his constitution.

All this, besides his relentless cultivation efforts, consumed a tremendous amount of spirit stones!

"Old Sixth, this can't go on like this!"

Elder Han, in charge of the Spirit Stone Storage, found Deputy Headmaster Old Fox, and said worriedly, "Most of the spirit stones in our academy's stocks have been refined by that kid Ye Fan, and if this continues, we won't be able to distribute the cultivation resources for next month. The Northern Region spirit stone mines still haven't sent new spirit stones; we're going to run short!"

“How could this happen? How many spirit stones has he actually used?” Old Fox asked, frowning.

“As much as thirteen thousand six hundred jin!”

“Wha...what?!”

Old Fox was nearly startled out of his skin by this number, over ten thousand jin of spirit stones, a whole three side boxes; even if this kid were eating spirit stones, he couldn’t consume that much, could he?

“Alright then, economize and control the expense. Starting today, halve the spirit stones given to him! Reduce the others by one-tenth. I’ll immediately send Old Wu and the others to the Northern Domain to see what’s happened. They should have been delivered long ago, and their delay means something must have happened!”

Old Fox quickly made a decision. He knew that both the Immortal Academy and the Imperial Academy had their own spirit stone mining areas in the Northern Domain to mine spirit stones for the cultivation of their disciples and elders.

Although the Nine Great Bandits were rampant in the Northern Domain, the local spirit stone mining areas of the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy remained very safe, never having been plundered.

Even the Nine Great Bandits are extremely wary of these two academies, preferring to extend their reach to the lands of the Holy Land or the Di Clan rather than touch the spirit stone mines of the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy.

Firstly, they cannot afford to provoke them, and secondly, their descendants also study in the academies, so naturally, they wouldn't do such a thing.

But aside from being plundered by bandits, what other unexpected events could occur to delay the delivery of spirit stones from the mining area?

Upon thinking of this, Old Fox's expression suddenly changed, muttering to himself, "Please don't let it be that scenario, otherwise it would be absolutely disastrous..."

"You mean the mining area..."

Elder Han's expression changed drastically as well, quickly covering his mouth halfway through speaking, his eyes filled with terror.

Although cultivators nowadays can soar through the skies and burrow into the earth, they still lack understanding of both places, making them extremely mysterious.

Deep in the cosmos, life may exist, as the Ancient Emperors almost all had the habit of gazing at the starry sky, and people from the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy know that life truly exists in the cosmic vastness.

The underground is even more mysterious, with secrets buried beneath the vast land that no one knows, leading to strange occurrences in mining areas since ancient times.

Once, a Wu Shang Sect dug out something inexplicable in a Northern Territory spirit stone mine, resulting in the deaths of many, eventually forcing them to seal the mine.

That place is now the infamous Forbidden Zone of the Northern Territory—Ghost Mine, where black whirlwinds rage throughout the year, dangerously unapproachable by both humans and animals.

If strange occurrences have truly happened in the mining area, the matter could be huge or trivial, even the Immortal Academy must handle it with caution!

“Boom...”

At this moment, a loud roar echoed from the Dragon Tower.

Ye Fan’s body was filled with flashes of lightning, and the Thunder Power seemed to have gone berserk, rampaging through his meridians, wreaking havoc on his body!

“Bang!”

With a blast, Ye Fan exploded entirely, his flesh flying, his crystalline essence blood pierced the void, shaking the entire Dragon Tower!

“What’s going on?”

“What happened?”

A few ancient Supreme Elders rushed together into the third underground floor of the Dragon Tower, the sight before them stunning them all!

All around the third underground floor of the Dragon Tower lay remnants and broken flesh, violet bones shattered into small fragments, making the entire floor a bloody mess, the scene was unbearable!

“How could this happen?”

A Supreme Elder said incredulously.

He could hardly believe that Ye Fan had exploded and died!

For so many days, Ye Fan had been continuously absorbing and refining the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi from the Earth Vein Dragon Qi, and there had been no unusual signs, so why did this happen today?

“No, look at these flesh remnants on the ground!”

Another Supreme Elder pointed to those remnants on the ground, exclaiming in shock, “They still possess life and haven’t completely died!”

“Could it be the legendary Fragmentary Rebirth?”

Everyone who entered couldn’t help but take a deep breath, their eyes emitting profound light, silently staring at the fragmented flesh on the ground.

They were not mistaken. Although Ye Fan was shattered, his divine sense persisted, with each drop of essence blood, each piece of muscle containing his consciousness.

Under the guidance of his divine sense, these remnants repeatedly underwent baptism by the Earth Vein Dragon Qi, becoming increasingly crystalline as they slowly reassembled.

Upon witnessing this scene, everyone relaxed, leaving the third underground floor to provide him a quiet environment for rebirth!

As time ticked by, Ye Fan completed his arduous reassembly, and this time, his treasure body was even harder, fully comparable to cultivators at the Peak of Early-stage Lord Realm.

“Swish!”

Ye Fan donned a new set of clothes, once more quietly cultivating, seeking enlightenment, and martial enlightenment!

After reaching the Divine Power Realm, he was able to comprehend the elemental forces in the heavens and earth, which are essentially the essence of Tao in the primordial elements.

Through this Fragmentary Rebirth, Ye Fan unexpectedly grasped the Phoenix Nirvana Technique, as Fragmentary Rebirth and Phoenix Nirvana Technique are similar in nature.

The difference is that the Phoenix Nirvana Technique requires the consumption of some Life Origin Power, whereas Fragmentary Rebirth does not; it is a necessary experience for cultivating the Nine Heavens Profound Body.

With each Fragmentary Rebirth, Ye Fan’s treasure body rises a level, though the dangers involved are unspeakable, as a single misstep might lead to actual death.

“Fragmentary Rebirth is indeed perilous.”

Despite gaining experience from Fragmentary Rebirth, Ye Fan couldn't help but secretly feel apprehensive, then a thought struck him, "The tournament between the two academies is approaching, isn't it?"

Chapter 1607: Your Boasts Stink Worse Than Athlete's Foot!

Five days before the sparring contest between the two academies was scheduled to begin, the Immortal Academy gradually became lively, as strong people from all directions rushed to the Immortal Academy to witness this world-renowned event!

The sparring contest between the two academies is held among each generation of disciples, with the host location alternating between the two academies. The previous sparring contest was held at the Imperial Academy, where the Immortal Academy won only three out of ten contests, suffering a crushing defeat.

This time, it was the Immortal Academy's turn as the host venue, and whether it was the Academy Director Old Immortal or the Deputy Director Old Fox, including everyone at the Immortal Academy, they were all holding their breath.

Everyone hopes to redeem themselves in this sparring contest, to show the heroic leaders of the forces in the Five Domains that the Immortal Academy is no less than the Imperial Academy!

For a time, cultivators from various places swarmed into the Immortal Academy, filling the forest paths of the academy, where not a single ordinary person could be found.

Even the disciples of the Immortal Academy restrained themselves considerably at this moment, as no one dared to act recklessly, since they might accidentally bump into a descendant of a Gu Shi Family.

If they were even more unfortunate, they might accidentally step on the foot of a Supreme Elder from a Holy Land; such incidents were all too likely given how many such people were present in the Immortal Academy now!

Of course, the Deputy Director of the Immortal Academy, this Old Fox, was not hosting these people for free; naturally, he had his ways of making money, and he certainly wouldn't let this opportunity pass without extracting some benefits from these visitors.

As time went day by day, more and more people from various forces in the Five Great Domains arrived, many Di Clans even had Saint-level and Supreme Elder-level strong people arriving!

The Ling Family of the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor Family naturally also arrived, with the Ling Family's Saint and Ling Gu, Ling Batian, and others having already moved into rooms prepared by the Immortal Academy, quietly awaiting the arrival of the sparring contest between the academies!

Meanwhile, the Imperial Academy was also preparing intensely, selecting ten top disciples to represent the Imperial Academy and spar against the Immortal Academy!

Given the stakes of the academy's reputation and standing, the Imperial Academy dared not be careless; besides Ling Haotian, You Yunxiao and Liang Boyao were also included.

Using a large transmission array platform from the Imperial Academy, the Imperial Academy director led the deputy director, a group of elders, and the team led by Ling Haotian to traverse the void and arrive near the Immortal Academy in the Southern East Domain!

Surrounding the Immortal Academy, there are six mountain ranges, winding like dragons, truly genuine Dragon Veins, with the dragon head facing the position of the Immortal Academy and the dragon tail facing outward.

The group from the Imperial Academy stopped on the spine of one of the Dragon Veins and did not immediately fly to the Immortal Academy, choosing instead to rest right there!

“Director, the Immortal Academy is right in front of us. Why don’t we go there to rest instead of stopping here?” asked a disciple from the Imperial Academy who was visiting the Immortal Academy for the first time, puzzled.

“Hehe, of course, we’re waiting for them to come greet us!”

The Imperial Academy’s Deputy Director Old Monster Zhou sneered, saying, “We all come from various Di Clans and Holy Lands, people of identity, unlike that bunch of country bumpkins from the Immortal Academy. Naturally, we should have the might and pomp of those in higher positions!”

These remarks made the disciples of the Immortal Academy feel deeply satisfied.

The disciples of the Imperial Academy come from various Di Clans and Holy Lands, Wu Shang Sect, which is a big difference from the Immortal Academy’s less restrictive admission of students, making them naturally possess a strong sense of superiority, believing themselves to be a cut above!

Especially in the past few hundred years, the Immortal Academy has rarely won in the sparring contests between the two academies, further bolstering their belief in the superiority of the Imperial Academy!

The senior members of the Imperial Academy also think this way, leading to disciples following their example, so the arrogance and tyranny of the Imperial Academy's disciples are normal, given their extremely noble backgrounds; they would be considered Second Generation on Earth!

However, among these disciples participating in the sparring contest from the Imperial Academy, You Yunxiao and Liang Boyao had always kept solemn faces, their eyes almost burning with fire!

Based on Ling Haotian's analysis, both of them believed that back in the Immortal Mansion Ruins, the one who robbed them and placed them in such a position was undoubtedly Ye Fan!

Of course, in this sparring contest, they would not encounter Ye Fan again because Ye Fan's sole target is their boss, Ling Haotian!

As for them, they have already lost the qualification to be Ye Fan's opponents—in the Immortal Mansion Ruins, Ye Fan was able to defeat them and chase You Yunxiao for four thousand miles, so now, they could be hardly Ye Fan's opponents!

However, they were very confident in their hearts, as Ling Haotian had given them massive faith, according to Ling Haotian; no matter how powerful Ye Fan might be, he was absolutely not his opponent.

When the strong people from the Imperial Academy arrived near the Immortal Academy, the director and deputy director of the Immortal Academy, along with a group of strong people had already sensed it, but they didn't expect the Imperial Academy to have such grand ceremonials that would require them to personally welcome them into the Academy!

In the Forbidden Land, the Immortal Academy's Director Old Immortal mused for a moment, then transmitted a message to the Deputy Director: "You take people to greet them; I'll wait inside the academy with our disciples. They want a ceremony? Let's give them one!"

The Old Fox was startled but immediately understood Old Immortal's meaning, and began to sneer; promptly gathering a few dozen academy servants, grandly walked out of the academy gates and headed toward the mountain where Ling Haotian and others were located!

Old Immortal's intention was clear: You don't want to come? Fine! Since you want a grand welcome, I'll send the academy's servants to greet you!

Being able to manage the entire Immortal Academy, especially controlling such an Old Fox as the deputy director, Old Immortal was also a cunning character with plenty of schemes!

Of course, necessary etiquette should not be overlooked; after all, the Imperial Academy is a big force on par with the Immortal Academy; a certain level of respect must still be given!

Soon, the Old Fox brought the group to the mountain where the Imperial Academy was resting, smiling warmly: "Brother Dao Yan, it's been a long time! I represent our Immortal Academy in welcoming Brother Dao Yan and the many talented individuals of the Imperial Academy into the academy, please!"

Saying this, the Old Fox waved and the line of servants, fire makers, woodcutters, water carriers behind him lined up in two rows, seeming organized yet carrying none of the demeanor of supreme experts, but rather strong scents of everyday life!

The Imperial Academy Director Seng Dao Yan furrowed his brows, looking at those ordinary cultivators behind the Old Fox, and said in a deep voice: "Where is Old Immortal? Why didn't he come? Also, where are the disciples participating in the sparring contest of your Immortal Academy? Why haven't I seen them? I need an explanation!"

"Explanation? An explanation for what?"

The Old Fox blinked his eyes with a clueless look, saying, "The Director is busy entertaining other Holy Lands' Saints and cannot attend personally, while our disciples participating in the sparring contest think they need not come to greet and that my representation alone suffices. Is there any issue with that?"

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"You..."

A flicker of anger flashed in Monk Dao Yan's eyes, and he snorted coldly, saying, "Fine, I want to see what kind of trick that Old Bastard is up to!"

After speaking, Monk Dao Yan waved his hand, and the Imperial Academy's people immediately stood up, a vast aura spreading out, oppressing the surroundings, causing the nearby Xuan Beasts to feel immense pressure.

Naturally, the ordinary cultivators who chop wood, stoke fires, carry water and deliver soup in the Immortal Academy found it even harder to withstand such oppression, their faces turning suddenly.

If not for the Old Fox's foresight, using his own aura to resist most of the pressure, these people would surely make a fool of themselves as the Imperial Academy laughed at them!

Seeing how aggressive the Immortal Academy was, the Old Fox's expression also gradually darkened, but in an instant, he was smiling broadly again, saying warmly: "Let us lead the way for you all!"

While speaking, the Old Fox waved his hand, and those working cultivators hurried towards the Immortal Academy's gate; if they stayed any longer, even with the Old Fox resisting the powerful aura, they couldn't bear it!

Soon, everyone arrived at the Immortal Academy's gate, where Old Man Wu stood with a straight back, the disheveled look disappearing, wearing a vigorous outfit, appearing exceptionally spirited!

The group walked through the academy gates, following the wide stone path all the way to the Immortal Academy square.

In the square, Immortal Academy Director Old Immortal stood at the forefront, behind him were Lan Yingfei and a group of academy elders, followed by Qi the evil one and other top disciples of the Immortal Academy.

A crowd stood on the square, the powerful oppression rendering the entire square silent, a leaf could be heard falling, not far behind in the square, besides the rows of houses, a Dragon Tower revealed three layers of spire!

The Dragon Tower gleamed, true dragon energy coiling around its body, as if true dragons were sinuously moving upon the tower, an impressive sight!

“Brother Dao Yan, long time no see.”

Seeing the Imperial Academy arrive, the Old Immortal took two steps forward, smiling as he greeted, showing no trace of hostility.

“Well said! It’s been years, it seems your cultivation has advanced to another level, truly cause for celebration!”

Imperial Academy Director Monk Dao Yan also greeted with a smile, the two large hands tightly clasped together, as if truly reuniting old friends unseen for years!

However, among the top disciples of the Immortal and Imperial Academies, a soaring war intent pervaded, both sides glaring at each other like fighting roosters, completely unrestrained in revealing their war intent!

“Hmm?”

Ling Haotian was stunned, among the top disciples of the Immortal Academy, he couldn’t find Ye Fan, causing his heart to sink.

Afterwards, disregarding the two directors exchanging pleasantries, Ling Haotian stepped forward, standing in front of the Imperial Academy crowd, his gaze fixed on the Immortal Academy disciples, coldly saying: “Why isn’t that Ye bastard here? Is he afraid?”

“What did you say?”

“Who’s afraid?!”

Upon these words, the Immortal Academy crowd was immediately outraged!

“Please tell him, if he’s afraid, hand over the Emperor Weapon, and then kneel before me and kowtow thrice, I may consider sparing his life!” Ignoring the Immortal Academy disciples’ anger, Ling Haotian sneered.

“Such boastful words!” Qi the evil one snorted.

“Who do you think you are? Only Ye Zi should receive you personally? Not even considering yourself! Does being a Di Clan make one invincible? Don’t forget, before the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, your Ling Family was nothing!”

Han Sandong was enraged; his bond with Ye Fan was incredibly strong, and he couldn’t allow Ling Haotian to insult Ye Fan like this. As for why Ye Fan hadn’t come, he didn’t know, but at this moment, he could absolutely not show weakness!

For Ye Fan, for the Immortal Academy's reputation, he must speak up to refute, anyways, the descendants of the Nine Great Bandits have never feared anyone.

"You're Han Sandong, right? I know you; to me, you so-called top disciples of the Immortal Academy are nothing but dirt chickens and stray dogs, I alone can wipe you all out!"

Ling Haotian looked at Han Sandong sinisterly, overwhelmingly strong.

"You..."

The Immortal Academy disciples were all incensed; they've seen arrogance, but not such arrogance, publicly humiliating the Immortal Academy in front of senior officials is intolerable!

"Words bigger than your actions!"

As the Immortal Fate disciples seethed with anger, a voice echoed through the Immortal Academy, resonating back and forth between six great mountains.

"Pfft!"

Some disciples with weaker cultivation truly bled from their seven orifices due to the surging sound waves, already injured!

Ye Fan's figure darted from the Dragon Tower, soaring towards the square!

Chapter 1608: The Demon Clan Appears

Ye Fan's voice reverberated inside the Immortal Academy like a Heavenly Sound, lingering for a long time!

Swish!

Ling Haotian's face suddenly became extremely grim, his eyes almost shooting out fire as he stared fixedly at Ye Fan flying over from the direction of the Immortal Tower.

Everyone from the Imperial Academy glared furiously at Ye Fan; they'd all heard of Ye Fan's dominance but didn't expect him to be even more overbearing than imagined, publicly reprimanding and humiliating Ling Haotian!

"Good! Ye Zi, well said!"

Han Sandong laughed heartily, knowing he could not match Ling Haotian—as the strongest successor of the Di Clan, Ling Haotian's real strength was terrifyingly powerful!

But he was still full of confidence in Ye Fan!

At this moment, Ye Fan's forceful response made Han Sandong especially relieved!

"Is that Ye Fan? He doesn't look like much!"

"He's probably in the Late-Stage Divine Realm, hasn't reached the Peak of the Divine Power Realm. Even if he's a demon-level genius, a difference of one small realm is a gulf; how could he be an opponent for Ling Haotian?"

"It's said he's just a disciple from an unremarkable small sect in the Southern Domain Tianyuan State; compared to a massive power like the Di Clan, there's simply no comparison!"

"That's right, from a young age, a cultivator needs a good cultivation environment; even demon-level geniuses are no exception. Only a good cultivation environment can make someone's cultivation progress faster!"

...

Ye Fan's strong appearance and response immediately caused a small commotion in the square. The powerful figures from the Imperial Academy and the top disciples representing the Immortal Academy for the sparring match naturally attracted people from other forces to come and watch!

Some loose cultivators also arrived, and upon seeing Ye Fan's dominant response, they started discussing. However, overall, basically, no one believed Ye Fan was a match for Ling Haotian!

At this moment, an ordinary loose cultivator sneered, "That may not be true; the Di Clan isn't without its failures. Don't forget, all the great emperors in history came from ordinary backgrounds, and no clan has ever produced two Emperors!"

"Exactly, this brother speaks to my taste. What strongest successor of the Di Clan? There have been many such successors in the past in the Five Great Domains; initially dazzling with emperor bloodlines, reaching the Peak of the Divine Power Realm in their teens, but what happened in the end? Didn't they all fade into obscurity?"

A young loose cultivator with a fierce appearance like a demon clan member, slapped the shoulder of the cultivator beside him with gusto and laughed heartily.

"Indeed, the strongest successor of the Di Clan is nothing more than a stepping stone for future emperors. Although Thunder Venerable master didn't achieve the Emperor's position, in combat power, under the Great Emperor, no one was his match, not even a powerhouse at the Quasi-Emperor Ninth Layer Heaven Peak. Yet Thunder Venerable master was an orphan in his youth, not the strongest successor of any Di Clan but still beat that generation's strongest successor into a wretched retreat!"

At this moment, another voice emerged from among the crowd, and Bai Yan wolf, awe-inspiringly, popped out from behind Ye Fan, looking askance at Ling Haotian with utmost disdain!

These remarks made many from the Di Clan feel displeased, but nobody was willing to stoop to argue with a Xuan Beast, thinking it beneath them!

"Hmph!"

Ling Haotian snorted coldly, taking two steps forward, glaring at Ye Fan, utterly ignoring others' sneering, and said coldly, "It seems you're braver than I imagined. Since you've shown up, then spare the talk, let actions speak—I want a life-or-death duel with you, and don't say you dare not!"

"As you wish, at the sparring match, we shall have a life-or-death battle!" Ye Fan stood proudly, responding forcefully.

"What's going on? Everyone back down; this is a sparring match, and a life-or-death duel isn't for you to decide!"

Seeing Ye Fan and Ling Haotian facing off instantly and proposing a life-or-death duel, both of the deans simultaneously voiced their restraint, halting their verbal skirmish and then said, "The current world situation is very delicate. The demon clan is restless; once the agreement expires, the demon clan will certainly descend upon this world again, and then it will be a war between the human race and the demon clan for control of this world!

You all are elite members of the human race, the hope of the future. We don't wish to see any of you perish in a meaningless sparring match!"

"Not only you, but the disciples of the other two academies as well!"

As the words fell, the deans' gaze swept over the disciples of both academies.

Hearing the words of the deans reverberating in their ears, Ye Fan and Ling Haotian silently retreated to their respective camps, but their war intent did not diminish in the slightest; instead, it was even more heightened!

“Since the top disciples of the Imperial Academy have arrived, let’s hold the sparring match immediately!”

“Yes, we’re eager to see the sparring between the two academies’ disciples!”

A moment later, a voice from a middle-aged loose cultivator broke the silence of the square, and others chimed in, urging for the sparring match between the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy to commence.

“Everyone, please be patient. Although the people from the Imperial Academy have arrived, but they’ve traveled a long way. Let them rest a bit, so they can face the sparring match in peak condition, what do you think?”

The old bastion of the Immortal Academy spoke righteously, as if considering for the Imperial Academy, but slyly insinuated they would gain an unfair advantage, leaving Seng Dao Yan with a slight frown.

To be fair, Seng Dao Yan firmly believed that the overall strength of his academy’s disciples surpassed the Immortal Academy’s, and even if they started sparring right away, he was confident they could defeat the Immortal Academy.

But on second thought, since the Immortal Academy was being so generous, why not go along? Giving the disciples adequate rest would allow them to perform better.

The old bastard's words were reasonable, and even those eager to watch the sparring between the top disciples of the two academies couldn't argue against them.

"Roar~"

As everyone was preparing to disperse, a long howl suddenly came from the northwest direction of the Immortal Academy. The howl was sharp and distant, as if coming from the edge of the sky, yet it clearly reached everyone's ears, displaying the terrifying strength of the newcomer!

"Who is it?"

Upon hearing the howl, both the Old Bastard and Seng Dao Yan felt a jolt in their hearts, exchanged a glance, and then turned their gaze towards the northwest of the academy!

The others could not sense anything, but the two of them realized that the newcomer's strength was definitely not inferior to any of them, almost on the same level!

In this world, except for the foundations of the major Di Clans, there should be no one stronger than them. Who on earth was the owner of this howl?

The howling stopped, and a black dot flew from the edge of the sky like a meteor, landing on the square of the Immortal Academy in the blink of an eye, forming a triangle stance with the Old Bastard and Seng Dao Yan!

He was a burly middle-aged man, with a head of black hair, eyes shooting out blue light, dressed in a black trench coat, his arms covered in black scale armor, as if forged by molten iron, exuding a sense of dark power, with explosive force seemingly contained within these arms!

“Demon Clan?!”

Everyone present was immediately startled. They had just been discussing the news that the Demon Clan was about to emerge, and they hadn’t expected the strong people of the Demon Clan to arrive immediately!

“My name is Hu Gang, and I presume you’ve all figured it out. Yes, I am from the Demon Clan!”

The middle-aged man said to himself, “Upon hearing of the upcoming exchange between the disciples of the Immortal Academy and the Imperial Academy, I’ve led a few disciples to witness the event. Surely, you don’t mind?”

No one answered, but almost all the cultivators wore unpleasant expressions.

The Human Race and the Demon Clan have irreconcilable conflicts. Humans hunt Xuan Beasts for their Beast Cores and inner cores, and even consume the flesh and blood of the Demon Clan.

Conversely, the Xuan Beasts of the Demon Clan also hunt human cultivators as blood food, not even sparing ordinary humans. The hatred runs too deep.

If it weren't for the words left by the Great Emperor, stating that as long as the Demon Clan doesn't go too far, humans should not make things difficult for them, they would have already clashed with no excuse needed!

"What is the Demon Clan up to?"

The Old Bastard and Seng Dao Yan exchanged a glance, feeling the Demon Clan had either come to provoke or to spy on the progress of the Human Race. Regardless of the reason, refusal seemed to be the best choice.

However—

Over tens of thousands of years, although wars have often erupted between the Human Race and the Demon Clan, it is no longer the initially irreconcilable situation!

Especially the two deans and some Supreme Elders of the Di Clan, who deeply understand that while the Demon Clan is terrifying, they are not the greatest threat to humans; the greatest threat is the human-shaped creatures.

After exchanging glances for a few moments, they decisively decided to welcome the Demon Clan's delegation, allowing them to observe the exchange competition between the two academies!

If possible, peacefully resolving the disputes between the Demon Clan and the Human Race would be the best outcome.

For this goal, they must take some risks!

However, for them, these risks are worth it. If there can be peaceful coexistence with the Demon Clan, it will be a blessing for both humans and the Demon Clan.

Many great forces and clans of the Human Race have practices of raising Xuan Beasts, capturing young Xuan Beasts and raising them to foster a bond with humans.

Many Holy Lands and the Wu Shang Sect have powerful Xuan Beasts as Guardian Mountain Beasts, which have little distinction from humans, at least protecting humans.

In other words, between humans and the Demon Clan, it is not entirely a life-and-death struggle. If it were truly like that, when the Human Race had a Great Emperor, they could have wiped the Demon Clan off this world!

Yet, the Great Emperor did not do so. Ever since, all Great Emperors passed down a saying: all beings are equal, and humans and the Demon Clan, in terms of status, are equal, with no talk of one enslaving the other!

Otherwise, when the Demon Clan had Demon Emperors, they also could have wiped the Human Race off the world, but the Demon Clan's Emperors did not do so either.

The Great Emperor has completely transcended the realm of humans or demons, belonging to a different kind of life; their insights and thoughts differ from everyone else's!

"Your delegation is arriving soon, right? I will personally lead the disciples of the Immortal Academy to welcome our friends from the Demon Clan!" The Old Bastard nodded towards the Demon Clan strongman and said.

"Good, truly open-minded and with great presence! We of the Demon Clan also wish to be friends with your Human Race, of course, this is just my personal thought and does not represent the entire Demon Clan!"

The Demon Clan strongman was straightforward, not hiding anything.

"Our Imperial Academy also welcomes friends from the Demon Clan to observe!" Seng Dao Yan also made a decision and said loudly.

"How can this be? Since when did humans become friends with the Demon Clan?" Many cultivators felt confused, like a King Kong lost in thought, puzzled as they spoke.

"If we can resolve the conflict with the Demon Clan, temporary forbearance is nothing!"

A Supreme Elder of the Di Clan had a flash of wisdom in his eyes, "I'm just afraid the Demon Clan comes with ill intentions!"

Chapter 1609: Tian Ji's Horse Racing Strategy

Under the leadership of the Old Bastard and Monk Dao Yan, the top disciples of the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy flew mightily towards a mountain range to the northwest direction of the Immortal Academy.

From a distance, Ye Fan could see over a dozen strong people from the Demon Clan standing in mid-air on a ridge, looking in their direction!

Ye Fan's eyesight was astonishing. Even though separated by a great distance, he could still make out that these strong people from the Demon Clan actually didn't have any characteristics of the demon race. If not told they were from the Demon Clan, it would be impossible to distinguish them in a crowd!

"Hahaha... Welcome, friends from the Demon Clan, to Han Yuan. Your presence truly brings honor to Han Yuan!" The Old Bastard laughed as he approached.

"The Imperial Academy also welcomes friends from the Demon Clan to encourage the cultivation of our Human Race's next generation!" Monk Dao Yan said with a smile.

"The two deans are too polite; I represent the Demon Clan in expressing our gratitude!"

An elder from the Demon Clan stepped forward and exchanged pleasantries with the two deans.

Behind him, aside from some elders, were young people. Each one was vigorous like a Serpent Dragon, clearly indicating their extraordinary cultivation.

Hmm?

Ye Fan focused his attention and discovered that the younger generation of the Demon Clan was unfathomable. With his strength, he couldn't gauge their depth, causing a shiver in his heart!

After several tens of thousands of years of recuperation and growth, the Demon Clan indeed developed and thrived. From these young people, the hidden power of the Demon Clan was apparent!

With the agreement between the Demon Clan and Human Race reaching its term, the Demon Clan would inevitably rise powerfully. By then, not only the older generation of strong people would collide with the Demon Clan, but the younger generation would also face the pressure of the Demon Clan!

These young strong people of the Demon Clan, conservatively estimated, surpassed Ling Haotian in strength, indeed an incredible force to reckon with!

However, what surprised Ye Fan was that these demons were so completely transformed that no trace of the Xuan Beast was visible on them!

"Their external appearance can change, but their bloodline power will not. Once they attack with full force, there will definitely be some shadow of the Xuan Beast!" Elder Xuan commented casually in Ye Fan's sea of consciousness.

Having once followed the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, Elder Xuan was undoubtedly well-versed and had a deep understanding of the Demon Clan. At this moment, he imparted some common knowledge about the Demon Clan to Ye Fan.

After choosing transformation, a Xuan Beast would dissipate its inherent power and accept the test of the heavenly tribulation. If they endure, they transform into a human form; if not, they vanish into nothingness!

Of course, some in the Demon Clan, after transformation, would choose to retain certain traits of the Xuan Beast to maintain some powerful attack or defense capabilities of their original form!

However, many Xuan Beasts know that the human body is the best cultivation form in this world and often discard all their original forms!

Once a Xuan Beast transforms, it becomes part of the Demon Clan; cultivation speed doubles, but lifespan drastically decreases. This is a trade-off; whatever benefits are gained, a price must be paid!

This is also why many Xuan Beasts capable of transformation choose to cultivate in their original form rather than transform, precisely for this reason!

Although the body of a Xuan Beast is not suitable for cultivation, its lifespan is extremely long; through the accumulation of time, they can still reach terrifying heights!

Ultimately, however, it is the Demon Clan that rules over Xuan Beasts. This is an essential difference; no matter how strong a Xuan Beast is, each advancement requires passing the test of heavenly punishment, which is lethal to them!

Many powerful Xuan Beasts did not die at the hands of humans but met their end in heavenly tribulations; Heaven is still protective of the Human Race!

Nevertheless, compared to the large population base of the Human Race, the number of cultivators is still very small, with even fewer reaching extremely high realms!

During the time Ye Fan was deep in thought, the directors of the two academies had reached some kind of agreement with the strong people from the Demon Clan and led the way towards the Immortal Academy!

Ling Haotian kept looking towards the young strong people from the Demon Clan, and even a blind person could see the battle intent in his eyes!

The young strong people from the Demon Clan did not dare underestimate him, for Ling Haotian was once acknowledged as the number one of the younger generation, and his strength was indeed formidable!

Soon, the Demon Clan was settled down, and after discussions between the Old Bastard and Monk Dao Yan, the intercultural contest between the two academies was set to take place the day after tomorrow!

For this contest between the two academies, the Immortal Academy specially opened a mysterious battlefield left from ancient times, the Void Sky Battlefield!

The Void Sky Battlefield is a secret place of the Immortal Academy; only the director, the vice director, and a few Supreme Elders know its location.

In previous contests, the Immortal Academy's battle platform was sufficient, but after Ye Fan shattered it with a single palm, the Immortal Academy clearly realized it was no longer suitable to use the battle platform!

The top disciples of the two academies are not easily matched, and those able to study at the Immortal or Imperial Academy are geniuses or demons capable of battling beyond their level!

If they continued using the battle platform, even Venerable Level defensive array patterns would not suffice and would be destroyed, which the Immortal Academy could not afford to lose.

"Old Bastard, are you sure you want to open the Void Sky Battlefield? That is a battlefield for Saint Lord level strong people. Is it not overdoing it a bit for these little brats to use?"

In the Forbidden Land where the director of the Immortal Academy was in seclusion, Monk Dao Yan was surprised upon hearing that the Old Bastard decided to open the Void Sky Battlefield and casually asked.

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Although the Void Sky Battlefield is the private property of the Immortal Academy, as the director of the Imperial Academy, Monk Dao Yan is also aware of it. In the past, the Immortal Academy generally did not open the Void Sky Battlefield except for duels at the Saint Lord Level!

“Better safe than sorry. Anyway, the Void Sky Battlefield is just sitting there idle. This generation of young people is very strong, much stronger than in the past. Various physiques have emerged. Once a battle breaks out, given their strength, if they give it their all, they might unleash unexpected power!” said the Old Bastard.

“Alright then, since you’ve decided, let’s open the Void Sky Battlefield!”

Monk Dao Yan nodded nonchalantly, since it’s not the private property of the Imperial Academy, he was happy to enjoy what was available.

After setting the time and place, Monk Dao Yan left the Old Bastard’s place of seclusion.

After Monk Dao Yan left, the Old Bastard gave a strange smile, then waved towards the distance, and the Old Fox came flying over excitedly, saying, “What are your orders, Director?”

“For this sparring match, our Immortal Academy must win. Think of ways to achieve this; I only want results. Our Immortal Academy can’t lose again!”

“Well...”

The Old Fox began scratching his head. Overall, the Immortal Academy is slightly inferior to the Imperial Academy. To win, a careful plan must be devised, and there’s also some risk involved.

“Alright, I’ll do my best!”

After pondering for a while, the Old Fox already had a confident plan. In the Immortal Mansion Ruins, aside from Ling Haotian, the top figure of the Immortal Academy who did not appear, everyone else showed up, and he had seen their strength clearly, having already made up his mind!

“According to past practice, the Imperial Academy always sends the weakest first and gradually increases strength, crushing the Immortal Academy all the way! This time, I’ll catch them off guard!”

The Old Fox quickly came up with a strategy, gathering Ye Fan and the other nine people and arranging the order of appearance for the sparring match in his office.

“Wu Jingtian, you go first, no need to be polite, directly defeat the opponent with the Emperor Fist. Whether our Immortal Academy can win this opening depends on you!” The Old Fox looked at Wu Jingtian and gave the arrangement.

“I will definitely do my best and carry our Immortal Academy’s prestige!” Wu Jingtian nodded, his body brimming with War Intent.

For the honor of the Immortal Academy, to uphold the name of Emperor Wu, he decided to give it his all. Even if the opponent is the strongest heir of the Di Clan, he must win, and win beautifully!

After hearing Wu Jingtian's words, the Old Fox smiled and then glanced at Han Sandong. This fierce bandit's descendant is extremely powerful, with great talent, high comprehension, and, moreover, ruthless, definitely a tough opponent!

"Han Sandong, you go second, you must end the battle quickly, win the match. Your opponent won't be too strong; with your strength, you should be able to defeat them completely!" said the Old Fox.

"Don't worry, Director, leave it to me. Watch me beat him until his egg yolk spills out!" Han Sandong's bandit-like words elicited a burst of laughter around.

"Qi Tianlin, you go third. I imagine defeating the opponent won't be too difficult for you, right?" the Old Fox said lightly.

"Rest assured, Director, I'll definitely win!"

Qi Tianlin nodded, displaying a cool demeanor, unwilling to utter another word.

"Sikong Po, you'll be in the fourth match. Just do your best; it doesn't matter if you win, don't exert yourself!"

"Shi Ye, you're in the fifth match!"

"Zhong Shanlang, you're in the sixth match!"

After arranging six matches, the Old Fox pondered for a while, glanced at Yaling, and said, “Yaling, you’ll be in the seventh match. Do your best; winning is preferable, but it’s okay if you don’t win!”

“I will definitely win!”

Yaling’s voice was calm, yet carried an extremely strong confidence.

Inspired by her, the others were also high-spirited; no matter how strong the Imperial Academy was, they were determined to defeat them!

The eighth and ninth matches were also last year’s disciples, very powerful, all at the Peak of Divine Power Realm, but they were unlikely to win as they would face the top disciples of the Imperial Academy like You Yunxiao, whose strength was on a different level!

Tian Ji Racing Horses Strategy!

Seeing the Old Fox’s arrangement, Ye Fan immediately thought of a famous betting strategy from Earth, clearly an above-steed-to-below-steed tactic, ensuring victory in the first three matches!

However, this also meant that the disciples of the Immortal Academy scheduled for the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth matches would be unlucky, as they would encounter powerful opponents from the Imperial Academy, likely resulting in defeat without victory!

As for him, there's no need for an arrangement; both publicly and privately, his battle with Ling Haotian is inevitable, and his opponent is already set—Ling Haotian!

Chapter 1610: Void Sky Battlefield

The Void Sky Battlefield is a secret place of the Immortal Academy, hidden in the void, invisible to ordinary people.

For tens of thousands of years, aside from a few instances where Saint Lord Level strong people resolved grudges, the Void Sky Battlefield has never been open to disciples of the academy—this time, it's a groundbreaking event!

This fully demonstrates the importance the Immortal Academy places on this sparring match!

At dawn, a streak of dawn light pierced the sky and earth, the red sun rose from the horizon, and the sunlight poured down as if draping the entire Immortal Martial Academy in a layer of rosy haze.

In the morning sunlight, the area around the Dragon Tower of the Immortal Martial Academy was already densely packed with people, with the various Di Clans and Holy Lands, and the Wu Shang Sect occupying advantageous positions, and no one dared to approach them.

The outskirts were filled with some loose cultivators who came after hearing the news; apart from super fierce individuals like the Nine Great Bandits, few loose cultivators could stand on equal footing with the Di Clans!

Naturally, the Demon Clan also occupied a favorable position, standing alongside the various major forces!

Around them, there wasn't a single Human Race member, clearly leaving a vacuum area.

The Saint Lord of the Family of the Martial Emperor stood in the void in simple clothing, appearing no different from ordinary people, but no one dared to underestimate this family, proving Dao with martial arts already represents powerful combat power, and the Eight Styles of Martial Reversal pushed attack power to the extreme!

The Saint Lord of the Human Emperor's family also arrived, shrouded in a layer of Mystic Light, appearing like an Emperor among people, exuding an intimidating aura!

"Buddha..."

With a chant, several Golden Arhats appeared, followed by a dozen young monks, each with a Buddha Light disc behind their heads, mysterious and powerful.

"These are people from the Western Regions Buddha Demon Sect!"

Many exclaimed, among the Five Domains, only the Western Region is particularly mysterious, generally not interacting with others, unexpectedly even the Western Regions Buddha Demon Sect arrived this time.

The large discs of Buddha Light behind those young monks' heads are a secret technique of the Buddha Demon Sect, called the Buddha Light Rebirth Wheel, which allows one's thoughts to be undying, and the Buddha Body to exist eternally.

Naturally, by reversing the Buddha skill, when the Rebirth Wheel turns black, Buddha becomes Demon, combat power skyrockets, almost immortal, unless one can obliterate their Buddha Light Rebirth Wheel, but that's extremely difficult!

There are quite a few secret techniques capable of rapidly repairing damaged bodies, each exceedingly powerful, the Buddha Light Rebirth Wheel, One Thought Undying, Eternal Body, and the Phoenix Nirvana Technique Ye Fan obtained, all belong to the realm of Forbidden Secret Techniques!

Suddenly, a commotion arose in the distance as members of the Emperor Clan Ling Family arrived, a massive, overwhelming presence, hundreds came, it seemed this time the Ling Family deployed their entire strength, even several Supreme Elder level strong people came!

This sparring match holds significant meaning for both the Immortal Academy and the Imperial Academy, but it means even more for the Ling Family!

This battle will determine the ownership of the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown, an Emperor Weapon, and also the Ling Family's status among the Di Clan, they couldn't take it lightly!

Although they don't have an Emperor Weapon, the Ling Family's foundation is extremely powerful, upon arrival, they immediately occupied a favorable position, and no one dared to compete with them, the strength of the Di Clan was fully evident!

“Why haven’t the people of the Immortal Academy and Imperial Academy arrived yet?”

Suddenly, someone grew impatient and muttered.

Following that person’s words, in a floating palace of the Immortal Academy, the Imperial Academy Director, Monk Dao Yan, led ten top disciples stepping through the sky, walking towards the Dragon Tower.

The top ten disciples of the Imperial Academy were mostly from the strongest heirs of the Di Clans or the Saint Heirs of the Holy Lands, and the Wu Shang Sect, all young geniuses selected from thousands, each possessing strength to fight across levels, the momentum they projected together was extremely terrifying!

“Can Ye Fan win?”

In the crowd, Tong Qianchen was full of worry, her bright eyes continuously searching through the crowd.

At this moment, Ye Fan and the disciples of the Immortal Academy hadn’t arrived yet, she stood abreast with Zhang Taiyi and Shen Tu.

This time, to cheer and support Ye Fan, the Xuanwu Sect almost came in full force, not only did the three of them arrive, but Sect Leader Tong Tianhao and Great Elder Wu Xinhai were also present.

Additionally, out of the three Supreme Elders, two came, leaving only one to guard the sect, Wang Qingshan and Shen Ximen were not far away.

With the status of Xuanwu Sect, they could not possibly contend against the Di Clans, Wu Shang Sect, and Holy Lands, they could only remain on the fringes.

“The Immortal Academy is nothing but a bunch of ants, they are doomed to lose this sparring match!” declared a disciple from the Imperial Academy.

As disciples of the Imperial Academy, they hailed from the Di Clans, Holy Lands, and Wu Shang Sect, naturally not putting the Immortal Academy in their eyes.

“Indeed, the Imperial Academy is quite commendable, not only is their strength formidable, but their preferences are also unique, surprisingly they have a fondness for Longyang, truly an excellent tradition!”

A young man with disheveled hair and a burly figure laughed and mocked.

“You...”

You Yunxiao and Liang Boyao were infuriated, this was a permanent scar in their hearts, being brought up again in front of others made them burn with shame and anger!

“What about you? Did I say something wrong?” The young man smiled as he spoke.

“Hmph!”

You Yunxiao snorted coldly and said no more, knowing that the more they explained this matter, the darker it became. Back at the Immortal Mansion Ruins, many saw his and Liang Boyao’s disgraceful scene, leaving no room for explanation!

“What is this? The Imperial Academy still has such traditions? How surprising!” some uninformed cultivators asked one after another, while those who knew added fuel to the fire in their descriptions.

As they spoke, saliva flew everywhere, listeners gasped in shock, occasionally breaking into bursts of uncontrollable laughter.

Although the crowd did not openly say who it was, no one was a fool, and naturally they could guess. Their eyes towards the people of the Imperial Academy held an added layer of meaning, which enraged the Imperial Academy’s people greatly, but there was nothing they could do!

“The time has come, Old Immortal, shouldn’t you appear now?”

The Director of the Imperial Academy, Monk Dao Yan, said darkly and deeply.

The crowd's discussions made his face as the Director of the Imperial Academy lose light, and he wished to immediately start the competition between the two academies, no longer listening to the unbearable comments!

"Ants of the Immortal Academy, are you afraid? Why don't you dare to appear when the time comes? Are you afraid of our Imperial Academy's strength?"

"In every previous tournament, the Immortal Academy has never won, and this time is no exception. The overall strength of my Imperial Academy is much stronger than the Immortal Academy!"

Many disciples from the Imperial Academy shouted, doing their utmost to ridicule and suppress, their sense of superiority was too strong, they didn't take the Immortal Academy's disciples seriously at all.

In their view, the disciples of the Immortal Academy are all grassroots, not many disciples from major forces, born much inferior to them, feeling indignant to be on equal footing with such people!

"Noisy!"

With a loud shout, the Director of the Immortal Academy, Old Immortal, led Ye Fan and others before the crowd, coldly saying to Monk Dao Yan of the Imperial Academy, "Is this the quality of your Imperial Academy? If it weren't for them about to participate in the tournament, I would teach them a lesson now to show them how to behave!"

"Less nonsense, since you're here, let's open the Void Sky Battlefield and prepare for the competition!" Monk Dao Yan said expressionlessly.

“As you wish!”

Old Immortal snorted coldly, his hands moved, and strands of mysterious and unpredictable Mystic Light emerged from his hands, forming a mysterious rune in the void.

“Boom!”

With a loud noise, the rune dispersed, and a quaint battlefield appeared on the Dragon Tower, built with cliff stones, each stone possibly holding a story.

Each stone surface was covered with knife scars and arrow holes, stained with blood, it's unknown how many peerless experts stood here, battling to split the heavens, deciding life and death.

The vast Martial Arts Arena, boundless in sight, many stones bore the names of strong people, cracks were everywhere, resembling an ancient battlefield.

Although there were no remains scattered around, the aura left by fallen masters remained indelible, penetrating into one's bones.

Everyone who came here couldn't help but feel as if they experienced a thousand battles in an instant, sensing the aura of deceased masters.

“Whoosh!”

As the crowd moved, All Holy Lands and the Di Clan, Wu Shang Sect scrambled for favorable spectating positions; although it was just a competition among the younger generation, it concerned the future of the entire Xuan Realm, making them pay close attention!

“One of the most prestigious Ancient Battlefields in the Five Domains, deservedly renowned, but this time, will the Imperial Academy continue its previous glory, or will the Immortal Academy excel?”

“The last time this Void Sky Battlefield opened was eight hundred years ago, I clearly remember the old Saint Master of Purple Smoke Pavilion, swallowing mountains and rivers, an ultimate battle, slaying several formidable foes, but ultimately expiring, passing away here.”

“I also remember, fifteen hundred years ago, the Supreme Saint of the Yin Yang Sect wielded the Yin Yang Xuan Skill, shaking the heavens, vanquishing unprecedented foes at this battlefield, blood staining the battleground!”

The opening of the Void Sky Battlefield evoked memories for many elders, numerous battles occurred here as if just yesterday, the people and events had not faded.

The Void Sky Battlefield of the Immortal Academy was indeed a unique place, many Saint Lord-level strong people resolved their grievances here on the ancient battlefield, with every occurrence a shocking great duel.

Throughout tens of thousands of years, countless brilliant figures fell here, leaving eternal legends, leaving later generations awestruck and sighing.

“Whoosh!”

Just as everyone was immersed in reminiscence, Old Immortal and Monk Dao Yan stepped onto the ancient battlefield side by side, simultaneously!

The top ten disciples of both the Immortal Academy and the Imperial Academy stood at the two ends of the ancient battlefield, distinctly divided, though the duel hadn't started yet, an intense War Intent already filled both sides!

“Interesting!”

A few young people of the Demon Clan also saw the Immortal Academy's Void Sky Battlefield for the first time, their eyes blazing with gun light.

“Don't underestimate it!”

A Supreme Elder of the Demon Clan transmitted his Divine Sense to a few demon-level geniuses, saying: “This is the Human Race's Ancient Battlefield, qualifying to open this battlefield are all outstanding strong people!”

Although the demon-level demons were arrogant and presumptuous, they were very respectful towards the Supreme Elder's words, without speaking back, but even a blind person could see their disdain in their expressions!

"Tap tap tap..."

Soon after, an old man whose hair was all fallen walked through the void step by step towards the ancient battlefield, though seemingly shaky, ready to topple at any moment, yet no one dared underestimate this elder!

"It's actually him?"

The Supreme Elders of some Holy Lands and Di Clan's eyes blazed with intensity, they were already ancient-grade cultivators, and the elder before them was a half-generation above, the previous Manor Master of Spirit Manor, famed throughout the Five Domains two thousand years ago.

Five hundred years ago, he suddenly disappeared, many thought he had passed away, unexpectedly he wasn't dead, judging by his appearance, it seemed today's tournament invited him as the referee and host!