

Y Master 551

Chapter 551 Chu Xuanji vs Wu Mu - Part 2

Hmm?

At the same time, Chu Xuanji furrowed his brow.

That punch just now, although he didn't use any martial arts techniques, with his Martial Arts Cultivation at the Peak of Gang Qi, unleashing Gang Qi should have shattered even a massive boulder, yet it had been neutralized by a blow from the Evil Yin Monster—the monster's strength had exceeded his expectations!

"Hehehe..."

Having cleaved through the Gang Fist unleashed by Chu Xuanji, the Evil Yin Monster let out a peculiar laugh. With a mighty leap, it brought up a trail of black smoke as it rushed toward Chu Xuanji once more, blade in hand.

Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye, the colossal figure of the Evil Yin Monster, almost a hundred meters in size, appeared in front of Chu Xuanji. The Evil Yin Blade in its hand chopped down again, creating a blade light formed of Evil Yin Qi that was over ten meters long and five or six meters wide, completely enveloping Chu Xuanji.

Swoosh—

Faced with the Evil Yin Monster's aggressive assault, Chu Xuanji's figure flickered, instantly flashing dozens of meters away, leaving behind an afterimage.

Whoosh!

The Evil Yin blade light struck Chu Xuanji's afterimage, dispersing it instantly, then it hit the mountain below, scattering in all directions.

The flowers, grass, and trees on the mountain were corroded by the Evil Yin Qi and withered instantly, filled with an aura of death.

Unlike Gang Qi, Evil Yin Qi is a type of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi that primarily corrodes and destroys the vitality of all living creatures. While the mountaintop had no life, the flowers, grass, and trees upon it were all alive.

After the blade missed its mark, Wu Mu sneered and continued to command the Evil Yin Monster to chase Chu Xuanji with its blade.

"Heaven has Five Elements: Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth..."

Chu Xuanji avoided direct combat, multitasking as he dodged and silently recited the mantra of the 'Five Elements Formation'. His hands were placed in front of his chest, rapidly transforming handprints at an extreme speed.

"Essence Energy of flame, Divide!"

With a low shout, Wu Mu cast the 'Divide' hand sign from the 'Five Elements Formation'.

As the handprint was made, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi began to whirl and stir, as strands of Essence Energy of flame separated and gathered.

"Fire Dragon Technique!"

With another low shout, Chu Xuanji's handprints changed once more, casting the handprint for the 'Fire Dragon Technique'.

The Fire Dragon Technique is a simplified version of the Fire Dragon Formation.

When Ye Fan was refining Elixir Pills, he had once triggered the Fire Dragon Formation within the Medicine Furnace, but its power was incomparable to the Fire Dragon Technique used by Chu Xuanji.

In an instant, the gathered Essence Energy of flame suddenly ignited, transforming into a red dragon that roared as it charged at the Evil Yin Monster!

"Damn it!"

The sudden change caught Wu Mu off guard, and his expression shifted as he hurriedly maneuvered the Evil Yin Monster to dodge.

As a Magician at the Gang Qi Great Success Realm, he was very much aware that the Evil Yin Monster was afraid of fire.

Even though Wu Mu reacted swiftly and steered the Evil Yin Monster to evade, it was still struck by the fire dragon descending from the sky and was shattered into pieces upon impact.

Wuuu wuuu!

As the fire blazed fiercely, the Evil Yin Qi on the Evil Yin Monster rapidly evaporated, and even the horrifying, evil resentful spirit let out cries of agony.

"Old Dog Chu, your Fire Dragon Technique can't break my 'Ghost King Descent'!"

Even though the Evil Yin Monster had weakened somewhat, Wu Mu showed no signs of panic, but rather a confident expression.

Because as long as the resentful spirit was unscathed and the Evil Yin Qi continuously replenished, the Evil Yin Monster would not dissipate,

As soon as he finished speaking, he moved his mind, forming a handprint with both hands, once again employing the powerful spell 'Ghost King Descent' to replenish the Evil Yin Qi for the Evil Yin Monster.

"Fire Dragon Technique!"

Ignoring Wu Mu's taunts, Chu Xuanji formed handprints again, activating the Fire Dragon Technique. Another fire dragon formed in the sky and dove down at the Evil Yin Monster.

Swoosh—

The fire dragon manifested as Chu Xuanji moved rapidly, pushing his speed to the limit, and fiercely pounced toward Wu Mu.

Create confusion, strike elsewhere!

The Evil Yin Monster was conjured by Wu Mu using 'Ghost King Descent'. If he could kill Wu Mu, naturally the Evil Yin Monster would vanish.

"Thinking of getting close to kill me? No chance!"

Wu Mu seemed to have anticipated Chu Xuanji's actions and immediately let out a cold laugh, his thoughts shifting as a black boat-shaped magical artifact appeared beneath his feet.

Mid-level Magical Artifact, Shuttle Boat.

Well aware that his own speed was far less than Chu Xuanji's, Wu Mu saw the Evil Yin Monster blocked by the fire dragon and knew he couldn't escape Chu Xuanji's close-range strike. Without hesitation, he activated the Shuttle Boat.

The moment the Shuttle Boat emerged, the airflow beneath Wu Mu's feet increased in speed severalfold. With a whooshing sound, he was carried hundreds of meters away.

Hmm?

In terms of speed, Chu Xuanji was at most five times faster than Wu Mu. Now that Wu Mu had activated the mid-level magical artifact 'Shuttle Boat', his speed surged, and Chu Xuanji couldn't catch up to him in a short time.

Moreover, because the fire dragon formed by the Fire Dragon Technique lacked a Fire Spirit, it couldn't exist as long as the Evil Yin Monster and would disappear in a moment.

Once the fire dragon vanished, the Evil Yin Monster would attack him again, continuing to hinder his attempt to kill Wu Mu.

Swoosh—

With these thoughts in mind, Chu Xuanji had to give up on killing Wu Mu. He halted his momentum, changed direction, and rushed towards the Evil Yin Monster with great speed.

In the sky, the Evil Yin Monster was struck once more by the fire dragon, scattering in all directions. A portion of the Evil Yin Qi evaporated, but an even greater amount of Evil Yin Qi gathered again beside the resentful spirit.

Whoosh!

As the Evil Yin Monster was reforming, Chu Xuanji charged to a place a hundred meters away from it and punched out again.

Knowing the strength of the Evil Yin Monster, Chu Xuanji directly unleashed the killing move 'Qi Rushes to the Sky' from the Xuansha Fist.

And it was... the Ninth Layer!

Ninety-nine times the power!!

"Xuansha Fist" was created by Chu Xuanji, who spent his whole life blending his martial arts insight and experience into it; nobody was more familiar with Xuansha Fist than him.

With this attack, Chu Xuanji held nothing back, determined to slay the resentful spirit!

As the saying goes, it's not your friends or family who know you best, but your opponents.

As Chu Xuanji's enemy and old rival, Wu Mu's understanding of Chu Xuanji was beyond what outsiders could imagine.

He was deeply aware of the terror of "Qi Rushes to the Sky." Sensing that Chu Xuanji had unleashed "Qi Rushes to the Sky," his pupils shrank, and his heart leaped to his throat!

"Whoosh!"

A punch was thrown, unleashing a stream of Gang Qi that was more than ten times more concentrated than before, shooting out from Chu Xuanji's fist like a laser cannon, blasting towards the core of the Evil Yin Monster—the resentful spirit.

Crackling!

Along with a series of air-bursting sounds, the punch hit right in the middle of the Evil Yin Monster's body.

That spot was exactly where the resentful spirit resided!

"Thump!"

In an instant, the Gang Fist exploded like a cannonball, the terrifying energy directly scattering the Evil Yin Monster.

Wooo wooo!

The resentful spirit wailed, its black glow instantly dimming considerably.

At the same time, about a third of the Evil Yin Qi that had been swirling around the resentful spirit vanished into nothingness.

"Hiss~"

Seeing this, Wu Mu's lips twitched in distress, and he immediately formed a handprint, "Gather!"

As the handprint was made, the scattered Evil Yin Qi surged back towards the resentful spirit, circling around it and once again forming the Evil Yin Monster, albeit much smaller than before.

However—

The resentful spirit, which had been injured by Chu Xuanji's punch, recovered its essence after receiving the Evil Yin Qi, its black light intensifying significantly.

Even so, Wu Mu remained wary of Chu Xuanji's killing move "Qi Rushes to the Sky," fearing if Chu Xuanji used it a few times consecutively, he would directly kill the resentful spirit. He immediately maneuvered the Evil Yin Monster away from Chu Xuanji.

World Martial Arts all share a common characteristic: The greater the power, the more complex it is, the more difficult it is to cultivate, and the longer the time required for activation.

Chu Xuanji, although eager to use the killing move "Qi Rushes to the Sky" again, knew that as an ultimate move, it took a long time to activate, and it couldn't be used consecutively—there would be a pause between uses.

At this moment, Wu Mu used this pause to move the Evil Yin Monster far from him, and so Chu Xuanji naturally couldn't continue using it.

Firstly, the greater the distance, the weaker the power of the Gang Qi; secondly, with enough distance, Wu Mu could easily maneuver the Evil Yin Monster to dodge, rendering Chu Xuanji's attacks futile.

Although he didn't use the killing move "Qi Rushes to the Sky" in quick succession, Chu Xuanji did not hold back, continuing to chase the Evil Yin Monster.

"Ghost King Descent!"

Just then, Wu Mu's "Ghost King Descent" was completed once again. The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi violently fluctuated, and streams of Evil Yin Qi poured down from the sky towards the Evil Yin Monster continuously.

With the replenishment of Evil Yin Qi, not only did the Evil Yin Monster grow stronger, but the resentful spirit also seemed completely restored, as if immortal.

"Qi Rushes to the Sky!"

Sensing this, Chu Xuanji's eyebrows twitched, and he unleashed the ninth layer of "Qi Rushes to the Sky" once more!

Whoosh—

This time, the Evil Yin Monster did not sit idly by, but instead swung its Evil Yin Blade, slashing at Chu Xuanji with a single strike.

"Bang—"

In a flash of electricity and a shower of sparks, the Gang Fist collided with the sword light formed of Evil Yin Qi, the sword light instantly dissipated, and the Gang Fist, unstoppable as before, hit the Evil Yin Monster once again, scattering it and injuring the resentful spirit.

"Hmph!"

Seeming to have anticipated this outcome, Wu Mu wasn't angered but snorted coldly, maneuvering the resentful spirit away from Chu Xuanji once again, causing the Evil Yin Monster to reform.

"Wu Mu, you old thief, don't think that just because you rely on the Evil Yin Monster, you can contend with me. When your Mind Power is exhausted, your time of death will come!"

After a frenzied bout, Chu Xuanji saw that he wasn't able to break through Wu Mu's "Ghost King Descent" and stopped attacking. He looked toward Wu Mu, who was five hundred meters away, with a gaze sharp as a knife and a hint of anger in his eyes.

With his strength, if Wu Mu didn't have the Soul Summoning Banner in his hands to command the resentful spirit in the Evil Yin Monster, killing Wu Mu would be no different than slaughtering a chicken.

Now, although Wu Mu could use the Evil Yin Monster to hold him off, once Wu Mu's Mind Power was depleted, he wouldn't be able to continue controlling the Evil Yin Monster.

But because of his Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts, and his Martial Arts Cultivation having stepped into the Peak of Gang Qi, he still possessed Gang Qi and Mind Power within him, and killing Wu Mu would be as easy as flipping one's hand.

"Heh, Old Dog Chu, I forgot to tell you, just before you arrived here, I had consumed a Plant Essence, storing a huge amount of Heaven and Earth Essence in my body— who will be the first to give out is still an unknown factor!" Wu Mu sneered, his face full of mockery.

Whoosh!

As Wu Mu's words echoed in his ears, Chu Xuanji showed color for the first time.

Heaven and Earth Essence, as the name suggests, is the condensed essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, which is not only easy to absorb but also refines quickly. It can be converted into the Power, Gang Qi, and Telekinesis needed by Martial Artists and Magicians in a very short time.

In such a situation, if what Wu Mu said was true, Wu Mu could refine the Heaven and Earth Essence in his body, continuously replenishing his Mind Power.

In this case, Chu Xuanji's hope of exhausting Wu Mu to death was almost impossible; on the contrary, he might even, as Wu Mu suggested, run out of Gang Qi first.

After all, he didn't have any Elixir Pills on him to recover Gang Qi quickly.

"Old Dog Chu, if you know what's good for you, get out while you can, lest you end up getting killed by me!" Seeing that Chu Xuanji didn't dare to act rashly, Wu Mu's momentum surged, and he laughed coldly.

"Master, I'll help you!"

As Wu Mu's voice had just faded, Ye Fan's voice suddenly rang out from Five Saints Mountain.

Chapter 552 Gaining the Upper Hand, Forcing into a Desperate Situation

Just now, while Chu Xuanji was engaged in fierce combat with Wu Mu, Ye Fan pushed his speed to the limit, sprinting towards the Five Saints Mountain with all his might.

Because Wu Mu and Chu Xuanji were exchanging blows at an incredibly fast pace, Ye Fan could not make out their forms during his sprint, but through strong spiritual sense, he gauged the situation.

He knew clearly that Chu Xuanji would not be able to deal with Wu Mu anytime soon solely because Wu Mu held the top-grade high-level magical artifact, the Soul Summoning Banner!

The Soul Summoning Banner provided Wu Mu with the capital to challenge beyond his realm!

Of course, that was also because Chu Xuanji had no magical artifacts; otherwise, even with the Soul Summoning Banner in hand, Wu Mu would have been splattered with blood right there.

At that moment, seeing the battle at a stalemate and Wu Mu's arrogance unabated, Ye Fan could not help but speak up.

Chu Xuanji had no magical artifact, but he, Ye Fan, did!

Currently, he possessed the Ghostly Gourd, Xuanye Flying Blade, Black Iron Fist set, and Ghost Ring.

Among them, the Ghostly Gourd and Xuanye Flying Blade were mid-level magical artifacts, while the Black Iron Fist set and Ghost Ring were high-level magical artifacts—the Black Iron Fist set could double the speed and power of attacks, and the Ghost Ring, besides hiding and sensing aura, could boost speed by twice!

"You go kill Wu Mu's chief disciple, Ku Rong!"

Chu Xuanji immediately understood Ye Fan's intention, but he chose not to use Ye Fan's magical artifacts.

Because he was too proud!

In his view, Wu Mu had merely half-stepped into the peak of the Gang Qi realm, while his own magical cultivation was at half-step peak of Gang Qi, and his martial arts cultivation had already fully entered the peak of Gang Qi realm...

Even with Wu Mu possessing the top-grade high-level magical artifact Soul Summoning Banner, he could not accept being unable to defeat Wu Mu!

"Master, Wu Mu, that old scoundrel, has ill intentions and commits heinous crimes. If he escapes, it will lead to unforeseeable consequences. Please, set aside your pride for now!"

Ye Fan had lived with Chu Xuanji since he was young, and their relationship had long surpassed that of ordinary master and disciple. They knew each other well, and Ye Fan was well aware of Chu Xuanji's inability to let go of his pride, prompting him to remind him immediately.

"Swoosh!"

"Swoosh!"

"Swoosh!"

As soon as the words were spoken, without waiting for Chu Xuanji to recover, Ye Fan moved his mind, and the Xuanye Flying Blade, Black Iron Fist set, and Ghost Ring all flew towards Chu Xuanji.

Hearing Ye Fan say this, Chu Xuanji also realized that if Wu Mu were let go today, even if Yan personally took action later, it would be difficult to kill Wu Mu.

Understanding all this, upon seeing Ye Fan sending the three magical artifacts, Chu Xuanji had no choice but to let go of his pride, and with a large wave of his hand, a stream of Gang Qi mingled with air currents gathered the three magical artifacts in front of him.

Hmm?

Initially, upon hearing Ye Fan mention lending Chu Xuanji a helping hand, Wu Mu thought Ye Fan was recklessly overestimating himself and found it somewhat amusing.

At this moment, understanding Ye Fan's intentions, he then focused his gaze on the three magical artifacts.

"Hey, old dog Chu, even if you put on the Black Iron Fist set and simultaneously manipulate the flying blade, you can't possibly kill me. As for that Ghost Ring, hey, as far as I know, it's used to hide and sense aura."

As Huaxia's Artifact Refining Master, Wu Mu instantly recognized the three magical artifacts, but he was unaware that the Ghost Ring came in a pair and could merge into a high-level magical artifact, doubling the speed, still appearing unconcerned.

Without responding, Chu Xuanji immediately put on the Black Iron Fist set and Ghost Ring and also triggered them with his mind.

"Swoosh——"

The magic artifact was activated, and Chu Xuanji's figure flashed, he rushed towards the Evil Yin Monster once again, leaving behind a trail of afterimages.

"How did his speed suddenly increase that much?"

Feeling the sudden increase in Chu Xuanji's speed, Wu Mu's face changed in shock.

Previously, he could tell that Chu Xuanji's speed was about five times his own. After he activated the Shuttle Boat, he narrowed the gap.

At this moment, Chu Xuanji's speed had suddenly increased to more than ten times his own, and even if he activated the Shuttle Boat, it was extremely dangerous!

"Die!"

While Wu Mu was still shocked by the increase in Chu Xuanji's speed, Chu Xuanji had already closed in within a hundred meters of the Evil Yin Monster, swinging his right fist once again.

"Whoosh!"

As the Iron Fist swung, Gang Qi surged.

A condensed stream of Gang Qi shot out from Chu Xuanji's right fist, amplified in power after passing through the Black Iron Fist set, and roared towards the Evil Yin Monster.

This punch, because Chu Xuanji used the Black Iron Fist set, magnified its strength by eighty-one to a total of 162 times!

It equaled 162 times the attack strength of a Peak of Gang Qi martial artist without using martial arts techniques!

With such power, even a martial artist at the Innate Great Perfection Stage had to avoid its edge and dared not take it head-on!

Due to the initial shock and distraction, Wu Mu missed the opportunity to maneuver the Evil Yin Monster to dodge; now, it was too late to do so.

Even controlling the Evil Yin Monster to reduce the power of Chu Xuanji's punch was too late!

"Bang—"

A dull sound erupted as the Gang Qi explosively burst forth, the terrifying energy fluctuations instantly created a vacuum around them. The Evil Yin Monster shattered instantly, turning into Evil Yin Qi, nearly half of which was directly evaporated.

And as the core hub of the Evil Yin Monster, the resentful spirit bore the brunt of the energy assault at the very center, was blown hundreds of meters away, its black glow completely weakened, not to mention, its size reduced by half!

"Gather!"

The power of this punch far exceeded Wu Mu's expectations, frightening him to the point of trembling as he hurriedly triggered magic to manipulate the Evil Yin Qi and regather the Evil Yin Monster!

"Whoosh—"

Just then, a piercing sound of breaking air arose.

The Xuanye Flying Blade suddenly flew out from Chu Xuanji's hand, enveloped in a layer of Gang Qi and also tinged with his intense Blood Qi. As it passed, all the Evil Yin Qi within a five-meter radius was evaporated.

Immediately afterward,

Before the resentful spirit could replenish the Evil Yin Qi and regather the monster's body, the Xuanye Flying Blade transformed into a streak of white light, piercing through its body.

"Argh~"

The resentful spirit had already been severely injured by Chu Xuanji's punch earlier, and now attacked again, its black glow completely dimmed, and its absorption speed of Evil Yin Qi greatly reduced.

And this timing perfectly compensated for the pause period of Chu Xuanji using his killing move 'Qi Rushes to the Sky'.

"Swoosh—"

Taking this opportunity, Chu Xuanji lunged forward, attacking the resentful spirit!

Previously, since the Evil Yin Monster was too large and powerful, Chu Xuanji dared not get too close, which significantly weakened his attacks.

However, now that the Evil Yin Monster was dispersed and temporarily unable to regroup, and the resentful spirit was severely damaged, Chu Xuanji naturally dared to approach closely.

"Pfft—"

As he dashed forward at high speed, Chu Xuanji opened his mouth and sprayed a mouthful of Life-bound Essence Blood onto the Black Iron Fist set on his right hand.

"No!!"

Wu Mu howled in despair at this scene.

In his view, the power of Chu Xuanji's previous punch was already astonishing. Now, with the addition of Life-bound Essence Blood, the badly damaged resentful spirit would likely be unable to resist and be annihilated outright!

With this thought, Wu Mu dared not continue fighting and crazily triggered his mind power; he waved the Soul Summoning Banner in his hand, turning it into a black hole.

Whooo! Whooo!

Summoned by the call, the severely damaged resentful spirits suddenly dispersed, turning into numerous weaker spirits and swiftly surged towards the Soul Summoning Banner.

"Wu Mu, you old scoundrel, prepare to die!"

Seeing Wu Mu react in fright and retract the resentful spirits, Chu Xuanji paused his movements, then changed direction and charged straight at Wu Mu.

Just like before, Wu Mu was prepared early and triggered the Flying Boat immediately, hastily fleeing while recalling the resentful spirits.

Only—

Compared to before, Chu Xuanji had triggered the Ghost Ring, doubling his speed!

With that, even though Wu Mu exerted his utmost effort, he couldn't escape and instead found the distance between him and Chu Xuanji rapidly closing!

"Damn it, how did his speed suddenly increase so much? Could it be that the Black Iron Fist set and the Ghost Ring have a speed-enhancing function?"

Sensing Chu Xuanji's rapidly approaching aura, Wu Mu felt extremely anxious, yet he couldn't figure out the reason.

Because, in his memory, although the Black Iron Fist set was a high-level magical artifact, it only had functions to increase attack speed and power, while the Ghost Ring only had functions to hide and detect aura.

On the other hand, even though his Flying Boat was only an intermediate-level magical artifact, because it had only the function to enhance speed, it could increase his speed by three to four times.

"No, if this continues, I will be killed here!"

Seeing that Chu Xuanji's aura was less than two hundred meters away from him, Wu Mu forced himself to calm down, then out of the corner of his eye, he saw Ye Fan quickly ascending the mountain.

"There!"

Seeing Ye Fan, a lightbulb went off for Wu Mu, and he immediately changed his escape route, diving down like a large bird, charging towards Ye Fan.

In his view, since Chu Xuanji was exceptionally fond of Ye Fan, if he could capture Ye Fan, he could force Chu Xuanji to hesitate and not dare to make a move against him.

"You're asking for death!"

Seeing this scene, Chu Xuanji became furious.

"Whoosh—"

After roaring in anger, Chu Xuanji moved his mind and the Xuanye Flying Blade flew out again, whistling towards Wu Mu, intending to block him from laying hands on Ye Fan.

Swish!

Just as Wu Mu was about to seal his magic and subdue Ye Fan, he was startled by the whistling sound of the flying knife, causing his face to change color and make him quickly alter his flight direction.

"Swoosh—"

The Xuanye Flying Blade turned into a streak of white light, crossing the path Wu Mu had to take to reach Ye Fan. Had Wu Mu not dodged in time, that strike would have killed him.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

...

Despite the unsuccessful strike, Chu Xuanji continued to control the Xuanye Flying Blade to assassinate Wu Mu, causing an explosion sound with each passing and its speed and power greatly exceeded when Ye Fan used it.

While Wu Mu relied on the speed-enhancing Flying Boat for dodging, he was far from composed, rather quite disheveled, and narrowly escaped being hit by the flying knife several times.

The distance between Chu Xuanji and him was closing again, now less than a hundred meters!

Ten meters.

This was the dangerous distance for Postnatal Realm cultivators.

Thirty to fifty meters.

This was the dangerous distance for Innate Realm cultivators.

And... a hundred meters!

This was a perilous distance for Gang Qi Realm supreme strongmen, practically instantaneous!

"Old Dog Chu, don't force me!"

Feeling Chu Xuanji's aura less than a hundred meters away, Wu Mu felt engulfed by a sense of danger, his entire being becoming anxious and immediately, he bellowed out furiously.

Ignoring him, Chu Xuanji continued to chase with all his might!

"Chu Xuanji, you should be aware, with my strength, if I use Mind Power Attack, your disciple absolutely cannot withstand it! If you don't want your disciple to be utterly destroyed, you'd better stop right now!"

In a critical moment, Wu Mu bellowed out trying to threaten Chu Xuanji.

"You can try if you dare!"

Chu Xuanji retorted coldly, continuing to chase Wu Mu relentlessly, not at all concerned about Wu Mu attacking Ye Fan with Mind Power.

Because.

Having witnessed Ye Fan endure the Heavenly Tribulation, he had a thousand reasons to believe—Wu Mu doing so would be akin to seeking death!

Chapter 553 Extremely Dangerous

"Old Dog Chu, you forced my hand!"

Seeing that Chu Xuanji was unfazed by his threat, Wu Mu, like a cornered mad dog with bloodshot eyes and a ferocious expression, roared furiously, "Even if I die, I'll take your disciple down with me!"

As his roar subsided, a terrifying Mind Power burst forth from Wu Mu's forehead, silently shooting toward Ye Fan.

Mind Attack!

Wu Mu had half a foot in the Peak of Gang Qi, his consciousness far stronger than Ye Fan's. His Mind Power Attack was terrifying; even cultivators at Innate Great Perfection who lacked Martial Arts Will found it hard to resist.

Yet Ye Fan was only at the Peak stage of Innate, so in his view, using Mind Power to kill Ye Fan was as easy as flipping his hand.

In an instant, the terrifying Mind Power that Wu Mu stimulated shot into Ye Fan's forehead, rushing towards his consciousness.

Hmm?

Even though Ye Fan had already prepared to resist after hearing Wu Mu's earlier roar, Wu Mu's Mind Power was overwhelmingly powerful. As soon as it entered his body, it caused his consciousness to tremble.

"My mind is as unyielding as a rock!"

At this critical moment, Ye Fan immediately pushed his own will to the limit, forming an invisible fortress to protect his consciousness, allowing his originally trembling consciousness to stabilize.

At that moment,

Wu Mu's Mind Power, like a torrent, silently struck against Ye Fan's consciousness.

Upon collision, the fortress formed by Ye Fan's will instantly shattered, his consciousness trembling severely, and his face turning somewhat pale!

"What's happening?"

"Why hasn't the Crimson Golden Crown appeared?"

Ye Fan had assumed the Crimson Golden Crown would appear as usual to help him resist the Mind Attack and counterattack the opponent when his consciousness was under severe attack.

Seeing that the Crimson Golden Crown hadn't appeared, he was shocked and a panic arose.

The panic was momentary; Ye Fan dared not place all his hopes on the Crimson Golden Crown but quickly eradicated any distractions in his heart and reaffirmed his Martial Arts Will to guard against Wu Mu's second Mind Attack.

Whoosh!

Simultaneously, Chu Xuanji's expression suddenly changed!

Having witnessed Ye Fan resisting the Heavenly Tribulation and the power of the Crimson Golden Crown within Ye Fan's body, Chu Xuanji hadn't been worried that Wu Mu's Mind Attack would severely injure or even kill Ye Fan.

But now,

seeing that there was no golden light on Ye Fan's forehead and instead his face was somewhat pale, Chu Xuanji realized that the Crimson Golden Crown hadn't helped Ye Fan resist Wu Mu's Mind Attack!

"Wu Mu, you bastard, you're courting death!"

Amidst his shock and concern, Chu Xuanji dared not let Wu Mu continue his Mind Attacks on Ye Fan. He roared loudly, his consciousness moved, and once again, he maneuvered the Xuanye Flying Blade to assassinate Wu Mu.

Besides, he once again accelerated to his limit, bursting towards Wu Mu with a murderous aura.

"Old Dog Chu, I'll give you one last chance, either stop or collect your disciple's corpse!"

Wu Mu, both astonished and pleased by Ye Fan's ability to resist his Mind Attack, was shocked by the strength of Ye Fan's will among cultivators of the Innate realm, but pleased that, while Ye Fan had resisted, it was clearly very strenuous and even slightly injurious - something likely to instill some fear in Chu Xuanji.

Sure enough, upon hearing Wu Mu's words again, Chu Xuanji's eyebrows instantly knitted together, his worry unmistakable.

At this moment, although he held a clear advantage, he couldn't kill Wu Mu in an extremely short span.

And Wu Mu could take this opportunity to continue his Mind Attacks on Ye Fan!

In Chu Xuanji's view, if the Crimson Golden Crown inside Ye Fan suddenly failed, Ye Fan, with his level of will, would find it hard to resist another Mind Attack from Wu Mu.

"Master, just go ahead and kill him, I can handle it!" Ye Fan shouted urgently as he saw Chu Xuanji slowing down.

Although he didn't know why the Crimson Golden Crown failed to appear, based on past experiences, he still believed that if his consciousness faced destruction, the Crimson Golden Crown should appear.

Alternatively, even if the Crimson Golden Crown didn't appear, he was confident in resisting Wu Mu's Mind Attack once more!

After all, not only did he practice Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts, but his will far surpassed that of other cultivators in the same realm. Moreover, he had undergone rigorous willpower training, especially during the last Heavenly Tribulation, which had significantly strengthened and solidified his will to a level comparable to that of a Half-step Gang Qi realm cultivator!

"Okay!"

Chu Xuanji, unaware of Ye Fan's actual situation, thought Ye Fan was using this opportunity to train his will, deliberately not using the Crimson Golden Crown. His worry instantly vanished.

With his concerns gone, Chu Xuanji once again pushed his speed to the limit, transforming into a ray of light, chasing after Wu Mu.

"You little beast, since you want to die, I'll grant your wish!!"

Wu Mu was completely enraged. If he had underestimated Ye Fan and hadn't used his full strength before, this time, he was truly intent on killing!

As his words fell, he once again stimulated his Mind Power, but did not launch the attack immediately, instead continuously compressing the Mind Power.

"Die!!"

After compressing nearly half of the Mind Power in his Mind Power Seed, he launched another Mind Power Attack at Ye Fan, this time several times stronger than before, determined to kill Ye Fan with a single blow!

Whoosh!

Facing Wu Mu's frightening strike, before the compressed Mind Power could even slam into Ye Fan's consciousness, merely entering his body caused his will to start disintegrating, his consciousness trembling nonstop!

It felt as though a mouse had seen a cat, his mind completely enveloped by a sense of impending death!

"No!"

"I can't back down!"

"Block it!!"

In this critical moment, Ye Fan didn't rely on the Crimson Golden Crown, instead desperately reaffirming his own will, trying to withstand Wu Mu's Mind Attack with his own strength.

The next moment.

The terrifying mind power silently crashed upon Ye Fan's consciousness.

Ye Fan's will had resisted for less than a second before it completely collapsed.

With the resistance of the will gone, that terrifying mind power breached his defenses like a flood, rushing into Ye Fan's consciousness and destroying it.

"Ahhhh..."

Ye Fan felt as if his consciousness was being ground up, his head splitting in pain, his face contorted, and he screamed uncontrollably.

"Xiao Fan!!"

Hearing Ye Fan's scream by his ear and seeing him in excruciating pain, Chu Xuanji's expression drastically changed, and he swung a punch toward Wu Mu!

This punch, delivered by Chu Xuanji in a rage and with no reservations, was a direct strike of "Qi Rushes to the Sky" at the ninth layer!

"Whoosh!"

A terrifying Gang Qi burst out from Chu Xuanji's punch, turning into a beam of light, and swiftly bombing toward Wu Mu.

"No!!"

A sensation of death completely enveloped Wu Mu, giving him an inevitable feeling of doom — no matter how he tried to dodge, he couldn't avoid Chu Xuanji's punch!

However—

Driven by an intense unwillingness and the desire to survive, he frantically manipulated the magic in his flying boat!

"Swoosh—"

In the blink of an eye, Wu Mu abruptly shifted sideways, his speed suddenly increasing as he streaked across like a beam of light.

"Snap!"

The Gang Qi from Chu Xuanji's punch passed where Wu Mu had just been, shattering the afterimage he left behind!

"Haha... Hahahaha... Hahahahaha!"

Having dodged Chu Xuanji's lethal attack, Wu Mu started laughing wildly as if invigorated, "Peak of Gang Qi! I finally broke through to the Peak of Gang Qi! Chu Xuanji, I really have to thank you! Without your relentless pressure, I wouldn't have broken through so quickly!!"

Whoosh!

Chu Xuanji's expression changed again!

Originally, Wu Mu was just half a step from the Peak of Gang Qi but now, in a moment of crisis, he had made a breakthrough, increasing his strength several folds!

Given this, even possessing the Black Iron Set, Ghost Ring, and Xuanye Flying Blade, it would be very difficult for him to kill Wu Mu now!

After all, Wu Mu had a top-grade High-level Magic Artifact, Soul Summoning Banner, and a Mid-level Magical Artifact, Flying Boat!

"Swoosh—"

Realizing all this, although Chu Xuanji was furiously enraged, he did not continue attacking Wu Mu but instead, darted toward Ye Fan in a flash.

Ye Fan had taken Wu Mu's horrifying strike, seriously injuring his consciousness with crevices forming that could shatter at any moment.

If it shattered, he would be obliterated both physically and spiritually, turning completely into a living dead!

"I cannot die!"

"I cannot die!!"

Halfway up Martial Saint Mountain, Ye Fan was curled up on the ground, clutching his head, his eyes bloodshot, his face distorted, drenched in cold sweat, desperately holding on with the desire to live and the belief not to give up, preventing his consciousness from completely breaking apart.

"Chu Xuanji, I have to admit, the will of this disciple surpasses my imagination, but... his life ends here!"

After breaking through and enhancing his strength, Wu Mu no longer feared Chu Xuanji, instead he burst with confidence, and seeing Chu Xuanji rushing towards Ye Fan, he knew Chu Xuanji was going to save Ye Fan and sneered immediately.

Swoosh—

After sneering, a new wave of mind power shot from Wu Mu's forehead and entered Ye Fan's forehead in a flash.

With the additional mind power from Wu Mu, Ye Fan's struggles were easily crushed, his beliefs were thoroughly smashed, and the cracks in his consciousness began to spread, spreading out like a spider web.

At this moment, considering Ye Fan's condition, not to mention an attack from Wu Mu's mind power, even a single attack from an Innate Mage would completely destroy his consciousness!

Just then...

The previously absent Crimson Golden Crown appeared!

The Crimson Golden Crown turned into a golden vortex, instantly absorbing Wu Mu's mind power and vanishing it into nothingness.

Immediately after, a drop of golden liquid flowed out from the Crimson Golden Crown, flowing into Ye Fan's initially shattered consciousness, repairing the damage at a terrifying speed!

"Whew~"

Seeing the dazzling crimson gold light flickering from Ye Fan's forehead, Chu Xuanji suddenly stopped and took a deep breath.

"What... What's happening?"

Wu Mu's face was full of confusion—despite his extensive knowledge, he had no idea what that flickering crimson gold light was.

"Swoosh—"

Without an answer, an almost tangible crimson gold light suddenly shot from Ye Fan's forehead, carrying a deathly aura, targeting Wu Mu!

This was the first time the mysterious Crimson Golden Crown had launched an attack on its own!

Chapter 554 Killing Wu Mu

Danger!

The moment Wu Mu detected the horrifying presence within the crimson golden light that shot towards him, his body tensed, and his consciousness trembled violently!

Without any hesitation, Wu Mu immediately multitasked, on one hand spurring the Flying Boat to flee and on the other hand, firming his will, combining it with his Mind Power to form an invisible fortress, guarding his consciousness.

However—

The speed of the attack from the crimson golden light exceeded Wu Mu's imagination.

Just as he propelled the Flying Boat less than a hundred meters away and the Mind Power had just wrapped his consciousness, the crimson golden light, as if equipped with a tracking device, directly penetrated his Yintang point!

Whoosh!

Wu Mu's face drastically changed, and he quickly gave up on controlling the Flying Boat, instead directing all his Mind Power to surge towards his consciousness.

As a Peak of Gang Qi Magician, he knew very well that to resist a Mind Attack, one had to rely on their Mind Power as well as their own will.

This was an advantage that Martial Artists could not have—Martial Artists could only resist Mind Attacks with their Martial Arts Will, and if they could not withstand it, their body and spirit would be utterly annihilated!

It felt like only an instant, yet also as if several centuries had passed.

While Wu Mu was fully activating his Mind Power and combining it with his will to form a fortress around his consciousness, the light emitted by the Crimson Golden Crown, like a laser cannon, blasted straight towards it.

This strike was as fast as lightning.

This strike was silent and breathless.

After the strike, the fortress made up of Wu Mu's will and Mind Power instantly shattered, and following that, his consciousness couldn't withstand the terrible pressure of the Mind Power and directly broke apart, destroyed!

"Pfft—"

With the destruction of his consciousness, Wu Mu unconsciously spat out a mist of blood, his body along with the uncontrollable Flying Boat falling from the sky due to Earth's gravity.

"What... what's happening?"

Witnessing this scene, Ku Rong was so shocked that his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets, his mind entirely occupied by confusion!

Wu Mu was doomed!

The next moment, the answer emerged in Ku Rong's mind.

Through sensing, Ku Rong could clearly feel Wu Mu's life force weakening rapidly. Seeing Wu Mu losing control of the Flying Boat and falling together with it, he could be certain that Wu Mu's consciousness had suffered a heavy blow, or had even been destroyed!

Once a person's consciousness is destroyed, falling from a height of hundreds of meters to the ground, death is certain!

"The Master had already broken through the Peak of Gang Qi and turned the tide, how could it suddenly become like this?"

Just like Ye Fan, although Ku Rong couldn't see the fight between Wu Mu and Chu Xuanji, he determined the situation through sensing their aura, well aware that after Wu Mu broke through to Peak of Gang Qi, Chu Xuanji was no longer a match for Wu Mu!

Instead of fearing Chu Xuanji, Wu Mu had taken the initiative to attack Ye Fan, aiming to kill him!

However—

Ye Fan hadn't died yet, but Wu Mu had met his end...

This sudden turnaround left him completely dumbfounded!

He even doubted whether everything he saw was an illusion!

An illusion?

"Bang—"

Wu Mu's body smashed heavily onto the peak of the Five Saints Mountain, turning into a mass of flesh, no longer emanating the slightest hint of life.

"Gulp!"

Ku Rong's throat moved with difficulty as he tried to escape, but his legs were as if cramped and he couldn't move at all, only shaking uncontrollably.

In contrast to Ku Rong, Chu Xuanji, having witnessed Ye Fan using the Crimson Golden Crown to resist the Heavenly Tribulation, wasn't shocked by the crown's ability to kill Wu Mu with a single strike. Instead, like a hunting falcon, he dove from the sky, swooping down towards Ye Fan.

"Xiao Fan, are you alright?"

Quickly, Chu Xuanji arrived beside Ye Fan, and seeing the fading crimson golden light above Ye Fan's head, he hurriedly stepped forward to support him, asking anxiously.

Even though he knew the Crimson Golden Crown could protect Ye Fan's consciousness, he was well aware that before the appearance of the Crown, Ye Fan had been subjected to two consecutive Mind Attacks by Wu Mu, and his consciousness had definitely been gravely injured!

No answer came; Ye Fan's face was pale, completely unresponsive, and the crimson golden liquid inside him, like glue, bonded his shattered consciousness back together, repairing the damage.

Later, after the fractures in Ye Fan's consciousness healed, the Crimson Golden Crown once again vanished, the light disappearing without a trace.

Ever since Ye Fan had defied fate to save Old Master Ye from Heaven's Punishment, the Crimson Golden Crown had stopped appearing in the form of a crown atop Ye Fan's consciousness, and became unperceivable to Ye Fan, manifesting only when his consciousness was in crisis.

Ye Fan had a feeling that the Crimson Golden Crown might have been damaged in the process of helping him resist Heaven's Punishment and had not yet recovered until now.

"Xiao... Xiao Fan!"

Seeing the Crimson Golden Crown's light disappear, Chu Xuanji's heart tightened, calling out to Ye Fan again.

Still with no response, but Ye Fan slowly opened his eyes, seeing Chu Xuanji's anxious face, he said, "Master, I'm all right!"

As the words fell, Ye Fan's face was filled with lingering fears.

Although he didn't know why the Crimson Golden Crown didn't appear when he first encountered Wu Mu's Mind Attack, he was well aware that Wu Mu's second Mind Attack was far more powerful than the first, making it impossible for him to resist. He could only endure with a strong desire to survive and belief.

If the Crimson Golden Crown had appeared a few seconds later, his Consciousness would have been completely destroyed by Wu Mu's Mind Power, utterly shattering his soul, reducing him to a living dead person.

"Phew~"

Hearing Ye Fan say it was nothing, and seeing the blood slowly returning to Ye Fan's pale face, Chu Xuanji breathed a sigh of relief. Then he asked, "What happened? Why didn't you use the Crimson Golden Crown to resist at the start?"

"I can't control the Crimson Golden Crown on my own."

Ye Fan replied with a wry smile, "In the past, whenever my Consciousness faced an irresistible attack or I got injured, it would come to my aid. But... this time, for some reason, it only took action at the very last moment."

"I see."

Upon hearing this, Chu Xuanji pondered for a moment before saying, "Xiao Fan, although the Crimson Golden Crown inside you is mysterious and powerful, it has too many unknowns, so you can't become too reliant on it in the future."

"Mhm."

Ye Fan nodded. A cultivator's most important attribute is their own strength. Relying too much on Magic Artifacts can lead to neglect in Cultivation, resulting in slow progress in strengthening one's ability, and ultimately, failing to become a true Supreme Strongman.

"Xiao Fan, are you sure you're alright now?"

Concern often breeds chaos. Although Chu Xuanji knew that the mysterious Crimson Golden Crown had the ability to repair the spirit, upon seeing Ye Fan stand up, he still felt somewhat anxious.

"I'm fine now. The Crimson Golden Crown can repair the spirit, and it has already healed my spirit injuries."

Ye Fan shook his head and spoke truthfully, but deep down, he had a nagging feeling that if his spirit had been completely shattered, the Crimson Golden Crown wouldn't be able to restore it.

It's like when a person is seriously ill, a doctor can treat them, but if the patient has already died, the doctor can do nothing to bring them back.

"Eh, your aura seems different from before."

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words again, Chu Xuanji completely let go of his worries, then sensed that Ye Fan's aura had grown stronger. He was initially surprised but then understood, "However, this is normal. You previously faced consecutive Mind Attacks from Wu Mu, and you survived only by relying on your own Martial Arts Will and Mind Power, which is a valuable life and death experience. It has trained your will well, making your spirit even stronger."

"Mhm."

Ye Fan nodded.

Will and Mind (spirit) are the main components of the Consciousness (Soul). The stronger the will, the more powerful the spirit.

Magicians, through Meditation Cultivation, refine the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi into Mind Power by eliminating distracting thoughts from their minds, focusing their Mind Power, and simultaneously tempering their will.

Compared to Magicians, even though Martial Artists also use Meditation Cultivation, their main focus is on refining the body. As for Mind Cultivation and will training, they are not as advanced as Magicians.

Furthermore, the precision with which Magicians manipulate Mind Power with Magic is extremely high, and every use of Magic is a form of training for the Mind. Therefore, at the same realm, a Martial Artist's spirit is far from being as strong as that of a Magician.

"By the way, Master, did that Old Bastard Wu Mu die?"

Ye Fan released his Mind Power, unable to sense Wu Mu's aura, and blurted out in surprise.

Although he knew that the Crimson Golden Crown would likely attack Wu Mu, he had lost consciousness earlier and had not seen Wu Mu being killed.

"He's dead. That mysterious Crimson Golden Crown inside you emitted a beam of light that directly destroyed his spirit, causing him to fall from the sky. I doubt even his corpse is intact," Chu Xuanji said, secretly marveling at the terrifying power of the Crimson Golden Crown and understanding why Yan viewed the aura it emitted with apprehension.

With the power of that one strike from the Crimson Golden Crown, even Yan, who is ranked first on both the Divine List and the Dragon Ranking, would definitely not be able to withstand it!

"Good that he's dead. Otherwise, with his strength and possessing the top-grade High-level Magical Artifact, the Soul Summoning Banner, if he wanted to cause serious trouble, even the Yanhuang Organization would have a headache," Ye Fan said with some trepidation. Just now, if the Crimson Golden Crown hadn't appeared in time, not only would he have died, but Wu Mu could have escaped easily after killing him.

"Indeed."

Chu Xuanji felt somewhat lamentful. He originally thought that dealing with Wu Mu would be easy, but he hadn't expected Wu Mu to be able to refine a top-grade High-level Magical Artifact, nor had he expected Wu Mu to break through to the Peak of Gang Qi during the battle.

"Heh, after all this, Ku Rong actually thinks he can escape!"

As Chu Xuanji finished speaking, Ye Fan's spirit moved, and he suddenly became aware of Ku Rong's qi quickly shifting.

"He won't get away!"

Chu Xuanji let out a cold laugh, reached out to grab Ye Fan's arm, and then activated the Gang Qi within his body.

As Gang Qi surged forth, Chu Xuanji immediately leaped into the air with Ye Fan, soaring like riding the clouds and cutting through the wind, heading straight towards Ku Rong.

Hm?

Atop Five Saints Mountain, Ku Rong, who had just regained his senses from the shock, intended to sneak away unnoticed, but he suddenly sensed Chu Xuanji and Ye Fan's qi rapidly approaching and couldn't help looking back.

Just one look.

And it was enough to make his legs go weak, causing him to collapse onto the ground!

Chapter 555 Yan's Fury

For Ku Rong, his Magic Cultivation had only just entered the Innate Great Perfection Realm; Master Chu could crush him with just one finger!

Even, if he were to face off against Ye Fan without using the Soul Summoning Banner, he had no confidence at all.

After all, Ye Fan had once massacred the Nanqinghong Headquarters and single-handedly challenged the Hongwu Sect!

In such a situation, could one imagine the fear in his heart when he saw Master Chu and Ye Fan pursuing him while controlling their Qi for flight?

It's over!

Ku Rong slumped to the ground, utterly devoid of the courage to run, and merely watched Master Chu and Ye Fan approaching with a face full of terror.

"Master... Master Chu, it wasn't my doing, it was all Wu Mu—Wu Mu absorbed the resentful spirit and energy here to craft the top-grade high-level magical artifact Soul Summoning Banner to target you!"

Seeing Master Chu landing on the ground with Ye Fan, Ku Rong knelt down, shaking all over with fear but still retaining a bit of clarity, not daring to reveal Wu Mu's instruction to use the Soul Summoning Banner to assassinate Ye Fan, and instead completely disassociating himself from the incident.

"If it was all Wu Mu's doing alone, why did he involve you?"

Master Chu looked at Ku Rong expressionlessly and slowly said, "Don't say I didn't give you a chance—I'll let Xiao Fan duel with you. If you win, I'll spare your life."

"Master... Master Chu..." Ku Rong continued to plead.

Master Chu coldly interrupted, "What I say is absolute, like water poured out. Of course, if you dare not duel with Xiao Fan, then end your own life!"

"Huff... huff..."

Hearing Master Chu's words again, Ku Rong knew begging for mercy was useless and stopped wasting his breath. Instead, he turned his gaze toward Ye Fan, his breathing turning extremely heavy.

"Swoosh—"

A strong desire to survive momentarily made Ku Rong forget his fear. Not waiting for Ye Fan to act, he suddenly rolled over and shot back explosively.

As an Innate Great Perfection Realm Magician, his physical functions couldn't compare to an Innate Great Perfection Stage Martial Artist but were enough to rival a Postnatal Martial Artist; he withdrew dozens of meters in the blink of an eye.

"Xiao Fan, it seems this fellow is too scared to fight you and is set on running away," seeing Ku Rong retreating repeatedly, Master Chu said, unable to hide his insight.

"He won't escape!"

Ye Fan said and instantly leapt up, transforming into a phantom, swiftly pursuing Ku Rong; his speed was more than ten times faster than Ku Rong's.

"Ghost King Descent!"

Seeing Ye Fan rapidly closing in, Ku Rong, knowing his speed was vastly inferior, quickly waved his hands, casting the killing move "Ghost King Descent" from "Ghost Demon Skill" in an attempt to block Ye Fan.

Upon completion of the handprint, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi above Five Saints Mountain fluctuated momentarily. A stream of Evil Yin Qi descended from the sky, forming an Evil Yin Monster in the air wielding a large blade.

Although Ku Rong activated the killing move "Ghost King Descent" and used an intermediate magic artifact, because his own strength was much lesser compared to his master Wu Mu, and lacking the resentful spirits from within the Soul Summoning Banner, the Evil Yin Monster formed in the air was nearly invisible and could only be detected through mental perception, its power paled significantly.

"Go!"

As the Evil Yin Monster formed, Ku Rong took out a small black flag, swung it forcefully, and directed its tip towards Ye Fan.

In an instant, the Evil Yin Monster in the sky, like a robot receiving commands, leaped forward and slashed directly at Ye Fan!

"Hmph!"

Perceiving the Evil Yin Monster approaching with a blade, Ye Fan snorted coldly, his mind shifted, and he stimulated the seventy-three Power Seeds within his body. The Power Seeds spun wildly, and streams of power burst forth, transforming into Blood Qi and erupting from his body.

"Evil Yin Break!"

As Blood Qi emerged, Ye Fan roared loudly. Within the roar, not only was it loaded with a Mind Attack, but it also mixed with that stream of Blood Qi, instantly dispersing the Evil Yin Monster.

"What... What??"

Realizing that the Evil Yin Monster was dispersed by Ye Fan's roar, Ku Rong was so shocked he almost jumped off the mountain!

Although he had only recently advanced to the Innate Great Perfection, with the intermediate magical artifact "Ghost Flag," he could activate "Ghost King Descent" to form an Evil Yin Monster that even typical Innate Great Perfection Stage Martial Artists would struggle against.

Yet Ye Fan shattered his technique with a single shout...

How could he not be horrified?

What he didn't know was that Ye Fan had an Extremely Yang Body, within which flowed Pure Yang Qi, the nemesis of all Evil Yin objects.

Moreover, although Ye Fan's Magic Cultivation was only at the Peak stage of Innate, his quality of Mind Power was stronger than that of an ordinary Innate Great Perfection Realm Magician.

"Swoosh—"

Having shattered the "Ghost King Descent," and without waiting for Ku Rong to recover from his shock, Ye Fan's consciousness shifted, and the Xuanye Flying Blade shot out from his sleeve, transforming into a beam of light targeting Ku Rong.

"Pfft—"

Without any chance to react, Ku Rong's left calf was pierced by the Xuanye Flying Blade, blood spurting wildly.

"Pfft—"

A second blade created a bloody hole in Ku Rong's right calf.

"Plunk—"

With both legs injured, Ku Rong couldn't stand and fell backward onto the ground.

Ye Fan arrived like the wind, instantly reaching in front of Ku Rong and looked down at him from above.

Hmm?

With a single glance, Ye Fan suddenly noticed an ancient-looking treasure sword not far behind Ku Rong—the ancestral Soul-devouring Blade of the Nolan Family—only that the resentful spirits within it had been extracted.

"How come the Nolan Family's ancestral Soul-devouring Blade is here?"

Seeing the Soul-devouring Blade, a ominous thought surged in Ye Fan's mind, and he frowned at Ku Rong.

"Wu Mu... Wu Mu wanted to use the resentful spirits in the Soul-devouring Blade to craft a Soul Summoning Banner," Ku Rong explained fearfully.

"Snap—"

Ye Fan took a step forward, a flash of killing intent in his eyes, and said coldly, "I'm asking you why the Soul-devouring Blade is here! I didn't ask what Wu Mu is using it for!"

"Wu Mu exchanged it with Nolan Mingde for three magical artifacts..."

Ku Rong weakly answered, his voice soft and eyes flickering, not daring to meet Ye Fan's gaze.

Seeing this, Ye Fan, realizing that Ku Rong was hiding something, spoke even colder, "I'm giving you one last chance, if you don't tell the truth, I don't mind using the 'Puppetry Technique' to extract your memories."

"No... don't!"

Upon hearing this, Ku Rong screamed in fright. As the senior disciple of Wu Mu, he not only had heard of the secret 'Puppetry Technique' but also deeply knew the horror of it.

"Initially, Nolan Mingde was unwilling to make the trade, but later, upon learning that you had injured someone from the Nolan family, he agreed to the swap... but he added one condition: Wu Mu must kill you!" Perhaps due to his guilty conscience, Ku Rong's tongue tied towards the end.

Sure enough!

Ye Fan had felt something fishy upon seeing the Soul-devouring Blade, and after hearing Ku Rong's words, seeing the flickering in his eyes, he did not at all believe Ku Rong: the Soul-devouring Blade was indeed the Nolan family's ancestral treasure blade and also a top-grade mid-level Magical Artifact, more precious than three ordinary mid-level Magical Artifacts—even if Wu Mu pressured them, the Nolan family might not agree to the exchange!

After all, even if the Nolan family had angered Wu Mu, Wu Mu wouldn't dare to make a serious move against the Nolan family under the deterrence of the Yanhuang Organization, and Wu Mu's Ghost Sect had negligible secular power to threaten the Nolan family.

Now, having heard Ku Rong reveal the truth, Ye Fan confirmed his own judgment and also faintly felt that since the Nolan family had swung their blade at him, they would likely also cause trouble for Elder Miao and Miao Xiuling.

Thinking this, Ye Fan did not lay his hands on Ku Rong but instead raised his wrist and used a special communicator given by Yan to contact Yan.

This special communicator, given to him by Yan, was more advanced and had stronger security than those allocated to ordinary members of the Yanhuang Organization.

"Kid, why did suddenly you contact me? Is something the matter?"

Upon connection, Yan's voice came through, tinged with some confusion. He knew Ye Fan well enough to know that Ye Fan would not contact him without a good reason.

"Elder Yan, Xiao Fan has a matter that needs your assistance," Ye Fan went straight to the point.

"What's the matter?" Yan's curiosity deepened. In his memory, Ye Fan was a prideful person who disliked asking for help.

"Please, immediately instruct the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization's Liaobei Province Office to contact the Nolan family and stop them from killing an old man named Miao at the foot of Changbai Mountain in Changshi Village!"

Ye Fan spoke quickly, thinking that Miao Xiuling would be safe under Chu Ji's protection, so the Nolan family, if they were to act, would only target Elder Miao.

"Yanhuang Organization rules state cultivators must not harm ordinary people. Don't tell me the Nolan family doesn't take the Yanhuang Organization seriously?" Yan, upon hearing this, raised his eyebrows and then felt that there must be a reason behind it, asking, "Xiao Fan, what exactly is going on?"

"Elder Yan, it's urgent. Please give the orders to the person in charge of Liaobei Province first. As for the reasons, I'll explain them to you after you've given the orders," Ye Fan urged, somewhat anxiously.

"Okay!"

Sensing the urgency in Ye Fan's tone, Yan pondered briefly then agreed to Ye Fan's suggestion, "I'll notify Elder He immediately to inform the person in charge of the Liaobei office, and I'll contact you later!"

As the words fell, Yan ended the call proactively and immediately issued orders to He Yunting, then contacted Ye Fan again, saying, "I've instructed Elder He to handle this. As long as the Nolans haven't made their move yet, they absolutely won't dare to lay a finger on that Miao man once they receive the notice!"

"Thank you, Elder Yan!"

Ye Fan, on hearing this, secretly breathed a sigh of relief. The Nolan family might dare to defy the rules of the Yanhuang Organization in secret, but they definitely wouldn't dare to openly oppose the Yanhuang Organization!

Even in all of Huaxia, no force in the Cultivation World would dare to openly oppose the Yanhuang Organization!

"Now, can you tell me what this is all about?" Yan asked again.

"It's like this..."

Once again faced with Yan's inquiry, Ye Fan no longer concealed anything, telling Yan the entire story, including how he had come to be enemies with the Nolan family and how they had conspired with Wu Mu and his disciple Ku Rong to retaliate against him.

"Wu Mu is looking for death!"

Hearing that Wu Mu, in his efforts to craft the Soul Summoning Banner, had absorbed all the resentful energy and spirits from the North Korea Special Zone and condensed them into resentful spirits, Yan shouted angrily, the killing intent in his voice palpable even to Ye Fan on the other side of the communicator.

"Rest assured, Elder Yan, my master and I were at the Five Saints Mountain looking for Yin Spirit Flowers and chanced upon that scoundrel Wu Mu. Wu Mu, although he had crafted the top-grade high-level Magical Artifact Soul Summoning Banner, was still slain by my master! I learned of the collusion between the Nolan family and scoundrel Wu Mu from his senior disciple Ku Rong!"

Ye Fan thought for a moment and did not disclose the fact that Wu Mu was killed by the Crimson Golden Crown, instead attributing Wu Mu's death to Chu Xuanji.

"A top-grade high-level Magical Artifact? We owe Xuanji big time for this; otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable!"

Upon hearing this, Yan could not help but shudder at the thought—if Wu Mu had left Huaxia with the successfully crafted Soul Summoning Banner, it would have been a disaster!

"Xiao Fan, don't worry, I'll handle this matter myself and give you an explanation!"

After the initial fright, Yan, feeling even angrier, decided to deal with the matter personally!

Chapter 556 Bite Off More than One Can Chew

"Thank you, Elder Yan."

Ye Fan quickly expressed his gratitude, but he also understood that Elder Yan's personal involvement was not really about looking after him; instead, it was because the Nolan clan had colluded with Wumu to forge the Soul Summoning Banner, which had violated the taboos of the Yanhuang Organization and thoroughly enraged Yan.

It's over!

Originally, Ku Rong had hoped that Ye Fan would spare his life, and when he heard Ye Fan agreeing to let Yan handle the matter, he realized Yan was furious and his face turned ashen— even if Ye Fan spared him, the Yanhuang Organization would not let him off the hook!

As if to confirm Ku Rong's guess, Ye Fan put away his communicator and looked at Ku Rong with an impassive face, "If I am not mistaken, Wumu wouldn't personally come after me even after successfully forging the Soul Summoning Banner; he would have you do it, right?"

"Uh..."

Ku Rong's face changed drastically, and he looked at Ye Fan with an expression of disbelief, as if to say, "How do you know that?"

Seeing Ku Rong's ghostly appearance, Ye Fan knew his guess was correct. He raised his hand, as if to strike Ku Rong dead with a palm, but then he felt his phone vibrate.

Ye Fan had a thought and lowered his hand, taking out his phone.

The phone was a specially made device provided by Chu Ji, which ensured he could be contacted anywhere, anytime during his quest to find ingredients for the Returning Essence Pill.

And the person calling him now was none other than Chu Ji herself.

"Xiao Fan, did those bastards from the Nolan clan eat the guts of a bear and a leopard to actually send someone after Xiu Ling's grandpa?" The moment the call connected, before Ye Fan could say anything, Chu Ji's voice came through the receiver, her tone quite annoyed.

To her, the actions of the Nolan clan showed they had no regard for the Yanhuang Organization, nor did they take Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji seriously!

"What... what happened?"

Ye Fan's heart tightened. After contacting Yan, he had worried that the Nolan clan might act out of turn before Yan could handle the situation, but he hadn't expected them to actually dare to do so.

"Seven days ago, Xiu Ling tried calling Elder Miao and couldn't reach him. People from Changshi Village said Elder Miao had gone into the mountains to collect herbs. Since then, Xiu Ling has been calling every day, but hearing that Elder Miao has yet to return to the village, she's been extremely worried."

Chu Ji spoke gravely, "Seeing how concerned the girl was, I sent someone to Changshi Village. They have just arrived and found people sent by the Nolan clan within the village..."

"Elder... Elder Miao is alright, isn't he?" Ye Fan asked urgently, his heart hanging in his throat.

"He's fine. Elder Miao hasn't returned from the mountains yet, and the men from the Nolan clan were just waiting for him in the village; he luckily escaped harm," Chu Ji said, acknowledging Elder Miao's good luck, "Elder Miao hasn't come back yet, and the two men sent by the Nolan clan have already been detained by my people."

"Phew~"

Relieved to hear Elder Miao was unharmed, Ye Fan let out a long sigh, his clenched fists gradually relaxing.

"But on the other hand, after you killed Nolan Xuan that day and gave a warning to his brother Nolan Qi, the Nolan clan still dared to send people after Elder Miao—it's outrageous, isn't it?" Chu Ji spoke again, her voice filled with anger and a tinge of confusion.

After all, if this matter was exposed, the Nolan clan would simultaneously offend the Yanhuang Organization, Ye Fan, and Chu Xuanji, which would be too costly a price to pay— especially for just going after Elder Miao.

"The Nolans are after more than just Elder Miao," Ye Fan revealed the truth.

"What do you mean? Don't tell me the Nolan clan is targeting you too?"

Although she said this, Chu Ji was somewhat skeptical. Setting aside the two formidable backers Ye Fan had in Chu Xuanji and the Ye Family, Ye Fan's own feats of single-handedly wiping out the Nanqinghong Headquarters and taking on the Hongwu Sect alone were enough to deter the Nolan clan.

"Not intending, they already have," Ye Fan replied, "To kill me, the Nolan clan exchanged their ancestral treasure sword, the Soul-devouring Blade, with Wumu for three mid-level magic artifacts and teamed up

with Wumu to forge a top-grade high-level magical artifact—the Soul Summoning Banner—hoping to use Wumu’s hand to kill me."

"How did you come to know all this?" Chu Ji exclaimed, leaping up from the sofa in shock.

"Here’s what happened..."

Facing Chu Ji’s inquiry, Ye Fan did not withhold any information and concisely recounted the event to Chu Ji, not hiding the truth that Wumu had been killed by the crimson gold crown within his own body.

"Master... Master was killed by him?"

"And... what is this crimson gold crown? Even if it’s a top-grade high-level magical artifact, how could he possibly kill Master with its power, given his strength?"

Hearing the truth, Ku Rong looked at Ye Fan with wide eyes, full of shock, his mind completely occupied by disbelief.

"No wonder the Nolan clan dared to act against Elder Miao. They must have been certain that Wumu would kill you, but they didn’t expect Wumu to end up dead by the hands of her uncle!"

Unlike Ku Rong, Chu Ji, having seen the might of the crimson gold crown, was not surprised. Instead, she laughed with schadenfreude, "Heh, if they knew the outcome now and then imagined your usual style of doing things, they would probably be scared shitless!"

"There's no need for me to take action; Elder Yan wants to handle this matter personally."

"Yan is taking care of it personally?"

Chu Ji was once again startled. In her memory, although Yan was the leader of the Yanhuang Organization, he usually delegated authority and seldom directly dealt with the organization's matters, focusing instead on his cultivation and silently guarding the heart of Huaxia, Yanjing.

In a sense, Yan's existence represented a form of deterrence!

Just like how the nuclear weapons of superpower countries acted as deterrents during the era of nation-states.

"Yan was so irate, probably not just because he owed you and your master a face, but because that old Wu Mu absorbed over a million resentful souls and their resentment from the North Korea Special Zone, with the Nolan Family essentially complicit—if it weren't for the resentful souls in the Soul-devouring Blade, Wu Mu would never have done this—it's simply insufficient to use only the resentful souls from the North Korea Special Zone to make the Soul Summoning Banner into a top-grade high-level magic artifact!"

After a brief moment of shock, Chu Ji thought it over and understood the reason.

"Hmm."

Ye Fan was not at all surprised that Chu Ji could guess this.

He had long felt that Chu Ji, in front of others, was not as flirtatious and indecent as she was when she was with him. On the contrary, she was a strong and powerful woman. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been called the Demon Queen.

Even more, Ye Fan had a sneaking suspicion that Chu Ji was keeping many secrets from him, including the reason why she had resolutely left the mountain years ago against Chu Xuanji's objections.

"Hey, I was thinking of discussing with you whether we should teach the Nolan Family, who know nothing about life and death, a lesson. Now it seems unnecessary—since Yan is going to handle it himself, he will definitely make an example of them. The Nolan Family is in for a rough time!" Chu Ji said with a tone of schadenfreude.

"Yeah, let's not bother with the Nolan Family for now. Just hand the person over to the Yanhuang Organization. As for Elder Miao, to be on the safe side, bring him back to Dong Hai."

Ye Fan spoke and glanced at Ku Rong, abandoning the decision to send Ku Rong to his death. Instead, he decided to leave everything to the Yanhuang Organization to handle as he had said.

Meanwhile.

Nolan Qi, whose Dantian and Power Seed had been destroyed by Ye Fan, walked into the hall of the separate courtyard built in the middle of a man-made lake at Nolan Manor.

Inside the hall, Nolan Mingde and Nolan Changfeng had been discussing something. When they saw Nolan Qi enter, they stopped talking in unison. Nolan Mingde then asked, "Xiao Xuan, what's the matter?"

"Grandpa, I want to know if that damned bastard is dead yet?" Nolan Qi said with a fierce look, his eyes brimming with profound hatred.

Hearing Nolan Qi's words and feeling his hatred, both Nolan Mingde and Nolan Changfeng knew that the bastard in question was none other than Ye Fan.

It was Ye Fan who had destroyed his Dantian and killed his brother—Nolan Xuan, the martial arts genius of the Nolan Family!

This made his hatred for Ye Fan reach an unthinkable level; he dreamed of tearing Ye Fan to pieces!

"No news yet."

Nolan Mingde shook his head and then added, "But don't worry, the North Korea Special Zone will definitely become that little beast's grave!"

"Yes, Little Qi, don't be anxious. Master Wumu is in the North Korea Special Zone, and killing that little beast is as easy as squashing an ant!" Nolan Changfeng spoke to console him.

"Ding-a-ling-ling—"

As soon as Nolan Mingde's and Nolan Changfeng's words were spoken, before Nolan Qi could reply, the phone in the hall suddenly rang.

Hmm?

At the sound, Nolan Mingde felt a move in his heart and turned his head to look at the caller ID.

The next moment.

When he saw the caller ID was from the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization's Liaoning Province office, he picked up the phone with slight confusion, "Hello, Director Shen..."

"Brother Nalan, Elder He just called to inform you immediately not to lay a hand on an old man from Changshi Village named Miao, what's going on?" On the phone, Shen Lang of the Yanhuang Organization's Liaoning Province office interrupted Nolan Mingde directly.

Just before, he had been deep in cultivation when he was awoken by a deputy director of the office, who told him that Elder He Yunting, the Yanhuang Organization's number one authority, had called to warn the Nolan clan not to attack an elderly man named Miao from Changshi Village.

This puzzled him, but he did not dare to call Elder He Yunting to ask and instead directly dialed Nolan Mingde's number.

Swish!

Hearing Shen Lang's words, Nolan Mingde's face changed dramatically, shocked to the core: How did Elder He Yunting, the number one authority of the Yanhuang Organization, come to know about this matter?

"Director Shen, I was not aware of this matter. It must be some trouble caused by one of those damn kids below. I will investigate this now," Nolan Mingde, though extremely shocked, still managed to keep his cool and promptly replied, his voice showing no sign of deviation.

"Hmm."

Shen Lang gave a grunt of acknowledgment, and with some concern admonished, "Brother Nalan, you must have heard of Elder He's status and position within the Yanhuang Organization. Since this is a matter personally supervised by him, it's definitely no small issue. Make sure you investigate thoroughly. You must ensure not a single hair on that Miao elder is harmed, or else, you and I will both be in big trouble!"

After speaking, Shen Lang did not wait for Nolan Mingde to respond and hung up the phone first.

"Whew—"

After the call ended, Nolan Mingde let out a sigh of relief, inwardly glad that the people he had sent had not captured Elder Miao yet, which would have complicated matters.

Besides his relief, he was also puzzled about why this matter had caught the attention of a big shot like He Yunting.

It wasn't just him who was confused; Nolan Changfeng, who had heard the conversation, was equally baffled, "Dad, what's going on? How did Elder He of the Yanhuang Organization come to know about this? Could it be that little beast Ye Fan who caused this?"

"Let's not worry about that now. Immediately call the people you sent out and tell them not to lay a finger on that Miao old man!" Nolan Mingde, instead of answering the question, replied with an anxious face.

Even though he did not know how this issue had grabbed He Yunting's attention, his reasoning told him that if anything happened to Elder Miao, the Nolan Family would indeed face dire consequences, just as Shen Lang had said—unable to get away with it.

Chapter 557 The Consequences Are Severe

Nolan Changfeng was also aware of the stakes involved and didn't dare delay, pulling out his phone immediately to make a call.

"Young Master Wang."

The call connected quickly, and a respectful voice came through the receiver. The owner of the voice was a big-time underworld boss who commanded respect in Liao Bei and even among the Dong san Provinces. Yet, he was nothing more than a dog kept by the Nolan family, known by the nickname Liu Laosan.

"Have the men you sent to Changshi Village responded yet?" Nolan Changfeng asked.

"Young Master Wang, they haven't called me today. I think that old bastard hasn't come down from the mountain yet..."

On the other end of the line, Liu Laosan, who was renowned in the Dong san Provinces underworld, responded with a frightened tone, worried that Nolan Changfeng might lose his temper.

"That's good! Quick, contact them at once, and tell them not to act!"

Relieved by this news, Nolan Changfeng then said sternly, "Also, I don't care what methods you use, make sure those two men you sent disappear from Huaxia forever and never return!"

"Uh..."

Silence followed; Liu Laosan on the phone was stunned, unsure of what drama Nolan Changfeng was enacting.

"Did you hear me?" Nolan Changfeng snapped.

"Yes... yes, Young Master Wang!"

Liu Laosan was jolted awake, answering instinctively, yet he didn't question why Nolan Changfeng had suddenly decided to refrain from targeting the elderly Mr. Miao.

Speak only when necessary, ask questions only when appropriate.

This was the wisdom he had gathered from dealing with the powerful during his rise from an unknown thug to a prominent underworld boss in the Dong san Provinces.

"Phew~"

After ending the call, Nolan Changfeng let out a sigh of relief and placed the mobile phone on the coffee table, looking up to find Nolan Mingde with his brows furrowed tightly, silent.

"Grandpa..."

"Young Nolan, go outside!"

Seeing Nolan Qi wanting to speak reluctantly, Nolan Changfeng frowned and interrupted.

"Buzz~"

As he spoke, the phone began to vibrate.

Whoosh!

In an instant, Nolan Mingde, Nolan Changfeng, and Nolan Qi all simultaneously turned their gazes toward the mobile phone on the table.

Nolan Changfeng reached for the phone and saw that it was Liu Laosan calling, then instantly answered, "Did you notify them?"

"Young... Young Master Wang, there's trouble..."

Liu Laosan's response was off-topic, and his tone was somewhat panicked.

"What happened?" Nolan Changfeng asked urgently, his face changing.

"I just made a call, and the person who answered wasn't one of my men..." Liu Laosan explained, gasping for air.

"Who was it then? Where are your men?" Nolan Changfeng felt a bad premonition rising within him.

"They've been captured, and the person who answered is the one who captured them. He said... said... gulp..." Recalling the words he had heard earlier, Liu Laosan's tongue stumbled, continuously swallowing as he dared not speak.

"What did he say??"

Nolan Changfeng was frantic, bellowing his question.

"He... he said, Lady Chu stated that you didn't take Mr. Ye's words seriously, and the consequences are severe."

Liu Laosan mustered his courage to relay the message, his words leaving his mouth as he immediately held his breath, sweating profusely from his forehead, and struggled to remain standing.

All because he guessed who that Lady Chu and Mr. Ye were!

If even Liu Laosan could guess, how could Nolan Changfeng not?

Whoosh!

Nolan Changfeng's face changed again.

Upon learning that their plan to attack Elder Miao was leaked and caught the attention of the Yanhuang Organization, he had suspected Ye Fan was behind it, but now confirming this fact, he was both shocked and frightened.

"Tell Liu Laosan if he doesn't want to die, he should leave Huaxia now, go as far as he can, and never return!"

In that moment, Nolan Mingde spoke up, being a dominant figure in the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he had clearly heard their conversation and, much calmer than Nolan Changfeng, instantly made the safest, most sensible decision.

"Liu Laosan, listen, you must leave Huaxia immediately!"

Hearing Nolan Mingde's words, Nolan Changfeng understood and quickly adjusted his emotions to swiftly convey the message in an undisputed tone.

"Yes... yes, Young Master Wang..."

Liu Laosan replied weakly, then collapsed onto the sofa, drained of all strength, staring blankly.

Although he was very unwilling to give up his current identity, status, and power, he understood that if Ye Fan decided to hold him accountable, his death was inevitable—since Ye Fan could eradicate Nanqinghong, killing him would be no different from stepping on an ant!

Compared to Liu Laosan, while not as desperate and unwilling, Nolan Changfeng was also somewhat nervous: "Dad, with Liu Laosan out of Huaxia, that bastard Ye Fan won't be able to trace this back to us, but given his way of doing things, it's very likely he will retaliate against us. What should we do next?"

"Without Liu Laosan as the intermediary, the Yanhuang Organization can't confirm our intention to target Mr. Miao and won't do much to us. Also, since Mr. Miao is safe and sound, it's unlikely that bastard will cause further trouble by breaking the rules, otherwise, he wouldn't have allowed the Yanhuang Organization to handle this in the first place."

Nolan Mingde's eyes sparkled with intelligence and confidence, completely unperturbed by the threat delivered by Liu Laosan.

"Phew~"

When Nolan Changfeng heard this, the anxiety hanging in his heart quietly settled.

"Ding Ling Ling——"

Just then, the hurried ring of the telephone sounded again, breaking the silence in the hall and causing Nolan Changfeng's just-settled heart to leap to his throat.

Even Nolan Mingde was taken aback, his pupils dilated and a flicker of panic flashed across his eyes!

Almost instinctively, he looked at the caller ID on the landline and immediately saw that the caller was Shen Lang!

This discovery, as if enveloped with a kind of magic, made the panic across his face spread, eventually taking over his entire expression.

"Huh~"

A few seconds later, Nolan Mingde took a deep breath, composed himself, and then grabbed the phone, "Director Shen..."

"Nolan Mingde, I am calling you because we have a good personal relationship, yet you treat me like a monkey, setting traps for me—what do you mean by this?"

Shen Lang cut Nolan Mingde off abruptly, his tone no longer polite or friendly, but full of hostility.

"Director Shen, what happened?"

Detecting Shen Lang's unusual tone, Nolan Mingde felt a bad premonition but asked calmly.

"You still have the face to ask me? I want to ask you!"

As Shen Lang spoke, his anger intensified, "Just now, I received another call from Elder He of the Martial Hall, who said that Leader Yan had sent him to Shenjing to deal with your Nolan family's issues, ordering me to supervise Nolan Manor and not let any member of the Nolan family escape!"

Swipe!

Hearing Shen Lang's words again, Nolan Mingde's face drastically changed, his right hand trembled, and he nearly threw the phone away!

He had sensed Shen Lang's abnormality and considered that his plot with Wu Mu to deal with Ye Fan might have been exposed, but it was only a suspicion!

Now, after hearing Shen Lang's words, he could confirm that their actions had been exposed; otherwise, Yan, who usually let others handle affairs, would not suddenly send He Yunting, the first real power Elder of the Yanhuang Organization, to Nolan Manor!

"Nolan Mingde, at this point, do you still think of concealing things? What on earth have your Nolan family done? How could you have alarmed even Leader Yan??" Over the phone, Shen Lang was frantic, knowing he also had to bear responsibility if the Nolan family's issues were significant!

Now that Yan had personally given orders, it proved that the crime committed by the Nolan family was severe; he had to understand how grave the matter was to devise an appropriate response strategy!

"Ye... Ye Fan killed Xiao Xuan and completely destroyed Little Qi's Dantian and Power Seed, I was blinded by anger and thought about using Wu Mu to kill him..."

By now, Nolan Mingde knew that it was impossible to cover things up any further, continuing to hide anything was meaningless; by coming clean to Shen Lang, he might even find a glimmer of hope from him.

"What... what?"

On the other end of the line, when Shen Lang heard Nolan Mingde's words, it felt like he had been jabbed in the butt, and he jumped up, "You... you conspired with Wu Mu to kill Ye Fan??"

"Wu Mu wanted to trade three Magic Artifacts for our Nolan family's Soul-devouring Blade, using the resentful spirit from the Soul-devouring Blade to forge the Soul Summoning Banner. I agreed to the exchange but asked him to help me kill Ye Fan..."

"Ye... Ye Fan is dead??"

Shen Lang interrupted Nolan Mingde again, his tone also revealing some panic as he couldn't imagine what aftermath would follow if Ye Fan were killed.

But—

He had a thousand reasons to believe that if things really went that far, the Hua Xia Cultivation World was about to change!

"Wu Mu hasn't replied to me yet; he should not have done it yet."

Nolan Mingde thought for a moment, remembering that Wu Mu told him he would notify him if he had killed Ye Fan.

"If he's not dead, then why would Leader Yan personally intervene?" having heard this, Shen Lang breathed a sigh of relief but immediately felt puzzled again.

"Wu... Wu Mu told me that besides using the resentful spirit from the Soul-devouring Blade, he also needed to go to the North Korea Special Zone to absorb resentful spirits and resentment energy, so he must have been discovered," Nolan Mingde replied weakly.

"So that's it!"

Realization dawned on Shen Lang; according to Yanhuang Organization rules, it was strictly forbidden for Magicians to absorb resentful spirits or souls from graveyards using evil magic, and considering that the North Korea Special Zone was the resting place for hundreds of thousands of Hua Xia soldiers' Heroic Souls, what Wu Mu and Ku Rong were doing amounted to desecrating those Heroic Souls, a severe violation of Yanhuang Organization rules!

"Nolan Mingde, why the hell would you provoke Ye Fan, that demon star, of all people? And... you even collaborated with Wu Mu to help forge the Soul Summoning Banner? Do you have a death wish—don't drag me into your mess??"

Now understanding the reason, Shen Lang could not suppress his fury, as Liao Bei was his jurisdiction. With such events unfolding, he had to accept responsibility—at best he would be dismissed from his director's position, at worst the outcome was unpredictable.

"Director Shen... in a moment of anger, I was blinded. Please, for the sake of old times, save the Nolan family!"

As someone who was an absolute power player among those at Half-step Gang Qi realm, Nolan Mingde had never begged so humbly before, but now, facing Yan's wrath, he had no choice but to feed his pride to the dogs.

"Save the Nolan family? Hah, Nolan Mingde, at this point, you still expect me to save the Nolan family? Do you think I'm an immortal? I think a donkey must have kicked your head!!"

Shen Lang cursed furiously and then hung up the phone abruptly.

"Whoosh——"

Nolan Mingde's body shook, his hand trembled, and the handset immediately slid off, falling onto the desk with a crisp "snap".

Without picking up the handset, Nolan Mingde leaned helplessly on the sofa, his face devoid of any intelligence, pale as death.

Meanwhile, both Nolan Changfeng and Nolan Qi stared wide-eyed, standing there dumbstruck, motionless.

"Lady Chu said, you didn't take Mr. Ye's words to heart, the consequences would be severe."

At this moment.

They finally believed these words.

Chapter 558 Breaking through to Innate Perfection (Part 1)

Five Saints Mountain.

Ye Fan did not know that Yan had directly sent He Yunting, the first actual authority elder of the Yanhuang Organization, to handle the affairs of the Nolan Family. Instead, he focused his attention on a military camp halfway up the mountain.

The military camp was small, consisting of a row of houses and a courtyard, with two flags flying over the courtyard.

One was the Five Star Red Flag of Huaxia, and the other was the flag of the North Korea Special Zone.

"Did you kill all the soldiers guarding the cemetery?" Ye Fan retracted his gaze and asked Ku Rong coldly.

"No... no, Wu Mu had introduced Evil Yin Qi into their bodies, causing them to faint..." Ku Rong reflexively responded.

"Heh, that Wu Mu is quite meticulous in his planning!"

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan immediately guessed Wu Mu's intentions and was about to go to the military camp to help the soldiers dispel the Evil Yin Qi in their bodies when he saw Chu Xuanji flying towards him using Qi Manipulation.

"Why are you still keeping him around?"

As a cultivator who had reached the Great Success Realm of Gang Qi, Chu Xuanji used Qi Manipulation Flight, a near-magical skill that is remarkably fast. Seconds later, Chu Xuanji landed beside Ye Fan, his face expressionless as he looked at Ku Rong.

"I plan to hand him over to the Yanhuang Organization..."

Ye Fan explained and also shared his discovery of the Soul-devouring Blade and his conversation with Yan to Chu Xuanji, adding at the end, "Old man, to ensure there are absolutely no mishaps, strike his consciousness to prevent him from triggering any magic. After I revive the soldiers in the camp, let those soldiers notify the Yanhuang Organization to take him away."

"No... no..."

Startled by what Ye Fan said, Ku Rong shook all over and screamed in horror.

"Pfft——"

However... soon, Ku Rong's screaming abruptly stopped as he spat out a mouthful of blood mist and wilted like frosted eggplant.

Seeing this, Ye Fan inwardly admired Chu Xuanji's precise control over the Mind Attack, which neither destroyed Ku Rong's consciousness nor left him with any combat ability, something he could not compare with.

"You grab him, and I'll carry you over."

Although Chu Xuanji was indifferent to the fate of the world and unconcerned about the lives of the few soldiers guarding the cemetery, he had no objections to Ye Fan's intention to save them.

"Alright!"

Ye Fan nodded, stepped forward, bent down, and grabbed the listless Ku Rong, lifting him like a little chicken.

Seeing this, Chu Xuanji no longer wasted words. He grabbed Ye Fan's arm, activated his Gang Qi, and the three of them soared into the air, flying toward the military camp.

In the camp, all nine soldiers responsible for guarding the cemetery lay collapsed on the ground, unconscious, with Evil Yin Qi hovering over their heads, darkening their foreheads.

"We arrived just in time. Any later and the Evil Yin Qi would have invaded their consciousness. Then, not only would we need to dispel the Evil Yin Qi from their bodies, but we would also need to repair their consciousness. Otherwise, even if they were to wake up, they would become mentally deranged and perish completely within days," Ye Fan remarked as he arranged the nine soldiers in a row.

As soon as he finished speaking, Ye Fan moved his mind and formed the handprints for the 'Lead' character.

Upon completing the handprints, the Evil Yin Qi in the bodies of the nine soldiers seemed to be summoned, exiting their bodies and drifting towards Ye Fan, entering the Ghostly Gourd in his hands.

With the Evil Yin Qi expelled from their bodies, the nine soldiers did not wake up immediately but remained unconscious.

Ye Fan was not worried about this and, with a thought, a beam of telekinetic force shot from his forehead, affecting the black flag Ku Rong had placed on his body.

"Swoosh——"

The black flag rose on its own, and Ye Fan grabbed it in his hand.

Seeing this scene, the spiritless Ku Rong had no reaction, seemingly resigned to his fate.

"This flag can be given to Ruoshui for self-defense in the future," Ye Fan thought to himself, then moved his consciousness, triggering thoughts into the black flag to erase the Spiritual Imprint Ku Rong had left on it, turning the black flag into an ownerless object.

Meanwhile, the nine soldiers gradually opened their eyes, looking around bewilderedly at Ye Fan, Chu Xuanji, and Ku Rong as if they had just woken up.

"You were previously subjected to magic, falling into unconsciousness. The Magician who cast the magic on you has already been defeated by my master and me," Ye Fan said after a moment of thought, breaking the silence first.

Magic?

Magician?!

Stunned by Ye Fan's words, all nine soldiers were shocked.

Initially, as common soldiers, they were unaware of what Magicians and Magic entailed, but because of their special mission—guarding the cemetery—they had interactions with the Yanhuang Organization's North Korea Special Zone Office and gradually became aware of the Cultivation World, fully understanding the fearsomeness of Magicians!

"Thank... Thank you!"

After the shock, the squad leader among the nine soldiers got up and saluted Ye Fan in thanks.

"You're welcome."

Ye Fan smiled and responded briefly, then pointing to Ku Rong, he added, "This is the disciple of that Magician. He and his master came here to use magic to knock you unconscious to draw on the Heroic Souls of the cemetery."

Shua!

Hearing Ye Fan's words again, including the squad leader, all nine soldiers immediately turned their eyes to Ku Rong, their gaze filled with anger!

All nine soldiers were military personnel, and their mission was to guard the cemetery, holding high reverence for the heroes buried here.

Now, hearing from Ye Fan that Ku Rong and his master were here to draw on the Heroic Souls, one can imagine the fury in their hearts!

"He has already had his cultivation disabled by my master, and he can no longer use magic. I'll leave him in your hands to contact the Yanhuang Organization's North Korea Special Zone Office to take him away," sensing the anger in the eyes of the nine soldiers, Ye Fan, worried that they might kill Ku Rong in a fit of rage, spoke again.

"Phew~"

The leader of the class slightly closed his eyes, exhaled a stifled breath, adjusted his emotions, and refocused his gaze on Ye Fan, "Sorry, we failed to control our emotions. Rest assured, we will hand this scum over to the members of the Yanhuang Organization to receive the punishment they deserve!"

"If that's the case, then we'll take our leave first."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan nodded, then signaled to Chu Xuanji with his eyes.

Chu Xuanji, understanding the hint, did not trigger his Gang Qi to employ Qi Manipulation Flight and instead quickly left with Ye Fan.

Even so, their speed, resembling teleportation, astounded the nine soldiers!

"How impressive!"

"Could this be the legendary Martial Arts master?"

"No way, once I'm discharged, I'm going to cultivate too!"

"Class... Class leader, why didn't you ask who they were?"

"Yeah, if you had asked, we could find them to learn cultivation in the future..."

"Snap!"

The class leader first slapped his forehead, cursing himself for being foolish, then directly slapped the soldier, "Why didn't you remind me earlier?"

As his words fell, the class leader hurried out of the military camp, intending to catch up with Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji to inquire about their identities and to inform the Yanhuang Organization, but he only saw the vast Five Saints Mountain, unable to locate them at all.

Soon after, the other eight soldiers also ran out, all showing disappointed expressions.

...

"Old man, shall we go check out the place where Wu Mu died?" not far from the military camp on the mountain road, Ye Fan suggested.

"We should take a look. The Soul Summoning Banner must not fall into the wrong hands." Chu Xuanji nodded, then grabbed Ye Fan and propelled with Qi Control Flight towards the place where Wu Mu had died.

A moment later, Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji found Wu Mu's body, gruesomely mangled.

The Soul Summoning Banner lay not far from Wu Mu's body, swirling with rolling Yin energy and emitting black smoke, continuously absorbing the evil Yin Qi from around, looking quite eerie.

"The Soul Summoning Banner can autonomously absorb evil Yin Qi?"

Seeing this, Ye Fan couldn't help but be startled. In his memory, no magic artifact could do this.

Chu Xuanji, unusually frowning, said, "It's good that we came. Otherwise, whether the Soul Summoning Banner falls into the hands of magicians with evil intentions or if it continues to autonomously absorb evil Yin Qi, it will pose a huge threat in the future."

"What do you mean?" Ye Fan asked confused.

"The resentful spirits inside the Soul Summoning Banner are formed from the combination of the resentful spirit from the Nolan Family's ancestral treasure sword, the Soul-devouring Blade, and over a million resentful spirits from the North Korea Special Zone, far more formidable than I imagined. It has reached the point where it can autonomously absorb evil Yin Qi. Once the resentful spirits in the Soul Summoning Banner absorb enough evil Yin Qi, they will become even more powerful," Chu Xuanji explained, his expression slightly serious. "At that time, the Soul Summoning Banner will surpass the level of a top-grade high-level magical artifact, and perhaps even a magician at the level of Great Perfection of Gang Qi would struggle to manage it. When that happens, the resentful souls will break free from the formation's constraints within the Soul Summoning Banner and exist in the world as Yin Demons, harming the living."

"What should we do?" Ye Fan asked.

"I plan to bring it back and collaborate with Yan to kill the resentful spirits."

Chu Xuanji pondered, saying that due to the overwhelming power of the resentful spirits, although he could harm them with his strength, completely exterminating them was extremely difficult. If he were to join forces with Yan, it would be much easier.

"Kill the resentful spirits?"

Ye Fan's expression changed, blurting out, "Those souls include many Huaxia soldiers. They died at the hands of the enemy defending the country and its people, shedding their blood, the heroes of Huaxia! If the resentful spirits are killed, wouldn't that erase their souls as well?"

"If we don't kill the resentful spirits now, once it grows and breaks free from the Soul Summoning Banner, killing it will be as hard as reaching the sky," Chu Xuanji explained, "As for those Huaxia soldiers' souls being devoured by the resentful spirits, they have already disappeared from this world."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan's heart stirred, showing a moment of hesitation.

Noticing Ye Fan's unusual behavior, Chu Xuanji couldn't help asking, "What's wrong?"

"I can use the Crimson Golden Crown to absorb the resentful spirits, converting them into the pure essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to enhance my strength..."

"Then what are you waiting for?"

Chu Xuanji was initially startled, then interrupted Ye Fan with some surprise.

"Master, although those heroes' souls have been devoured and no longer exist, they became part of the resentful spirits. If I use the Crimson Golden Crown to absorb the resentment and convert it into the essence of Heaven and Earth, to cultivate and increase my strength, I will feel uneasy, and it might even leave a Heart Demon," Ye Fan said with a wry smile. Although he longed to increase his strength, deep down, he did not wish to do so, otherwise, he would be no different from Wu Mu.

"Silly boy, that's where you're wrong. Put yourself in the shoes of those deceased soldiers if you were them, would you want your soul to be part of a resentful spirit that harms the living?" Chu Xuanji asked.

"No," Ye Fan instinctively shook his head.

"Then what are you hesitating for?" Chu Xuanji asked with a smile.

"But... but..."

"Stop hesitating, I can tell you unequivocally that if those Huaxia soldiers have spirits in heaven, they would rather their souls be refined into the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to help you improve your cultivation rather than being senselessly destroyed by Yan and me!"

Seeing that Ye Fan was still hesitant, Chu Xuanji interrupted again, "Because, by helping you improve your cultivation, their sacrifices have meaning—you possess a patriotic heart and can continue their legacy—defending the nation!"

Chapter 559 Breaking through to Innate Perfection (Part 2)

At eight o'clock, the radiant sun had completely risen, casting its beautiful rays all around the sprawling mountainside.

Halfway up the Five Saints Mountain, under a thick tree as wide as a water barrel, Ye Fan sat cross-legged, holding the top-grade high-level magical artifact, the Soul Summoning Banner, in his hand.

"Hu~"

After taking a deep breath, Ye Fan expelled the random thoughts from his mind; then, with a single thought, he spurred his mind power to enter the Soul Summoning Banner.

Wuu wuu wuu! Wuu wuu wuu!

The moment his mind power merged with the Soul Summoning Banner, ghostly cries and wolf howls, ominous and eerie, echoed in Ye Fan's mind, filling his consciousness with a sinister feeling that nearly caused him to lose his composure.

So powerful!

Before, Ye Fan had only heard of the formidable resentful spirits inside the Soul Summoning Banner, having never experienced it firsthand. Now, sensing the aura of the resentful spirits, he was shocked.

Beyond shock, Ye Fan was not afraid.

After all, the crimson golden crown had absorbed two powerful souls from the Bloodline Token and had even helped him withstand the attacks of the Heavenly Tribulation; its power was peerless.

Shortly after, just as Ye Fan was stabilizing his mind and preparing to use his mind power to break into the formation within the Soul Summoning Banner, an image of an evil yin monster suddenly flashed in the depths of his mind.

The evil yin monster resembled the one formed by Wu Mu's activation of the Soul Summoning Banner's "Ghost King Descent," only much smaller in size.

Ye Fan knew this was an illusion formed by the resentful spirits influencing his consciousness, just as the Taoist figure had appeared when he probed the Wudang Sect's treasure, the Taiyin Xuan Sword, with his mind power. Therefore, he was not nervous, simply firming up his own consciousness.

"Kekeke..."

Suddenly, the evil yin monster began to laugh in a ghastly tone, "Such rich blood qi is truly nourishing!"

As soon as the voice dropped, the resentful spirit burst from the formation within the Soul Summoning Banner, transformed into the evil yin monster, opened its large gaping maw, and devoured Ye Fan's mind power. Then, a terrifying surge of evil yin qi burst forth from the Soul Summoning Banner, entered Ye Fan's body through his Yintang point, and charged towards his consciousness!

Swish!

At that moment, the hidden crimson golden crown appeared just as Ye Fan had anticipated, transforming into a crimson golden vortex that protected his consciousness.

"Sou—"

In the blink of an eye, the evil yin qi that had made Ye Fan's consciousness tremble and fear was completely absorbed by the crimson golden crown.

"What... what is this??"

The resentful spirit, now possessing spiritual wisdom, observed this scene and sensed the ancient and powerful aura emanating from the crimson golden crown, and screamed in terror.

It was answered with a terrifying suction force!

That force was so strong that the resentful spirit had no power to resist and was forcibly sucked away.

"No!!"

As it was about to leave the Soul Summoning Banner, the resentful spirit let out a sharp scream, attempting to resist, but it was in vain.

"Sou—"

Once the resentful spirit left the Soul Summoning Banner, it immediately transformed into multiple weaker spirits, trying to scatter in all directions. But before they could move even half a meter away from Ye Fan's body, they were successively sucked into his body by the strong attraction of the crimson gold crown.

"Ahhh ahhh ahhhhh..."

Rather than feeling any fear as the resentful spirits entered his body, Ye Fan heard them wailing in terror. One after the other, they were absorbed into the crimson golden vortex and dissipated into nothingness.

"This is simply inconceivable!"

As the second-ranked supreme strongman on the Dragon Ranking, Chu Xuanji was not only powerful but had also ventured into many fields, was well-read in ancient books, and had never seen anything like this scenario in his studies.

Unlike Chu Xuanji, Ye Fan was not astounded by the power of the crimson golden crown. Instead, he immediately focused his mind, ready to absorb and refine the essences of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi that the crown was feeding back, looking to enhance his strength.

Sure enough, as Ye Fan waited, streams of dense Heaven and Earth Essence shot out from the vortex formed by the crimson golden crown.

"First, I'll enhance my magic cultivation!"

Because of his cultivation of the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, for Ye Fan's martial arts cultivation to break through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, he needed to form power seeds in the 35 vital acupoints remaining in his body, and each seed needed to be brimming with the essence of power—the amount of Heaven and Earth Essence required was incalculable.

By contrast, he had only one mental seed in his body. To break through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm in terms of magic cultivation would be much easier!

Thinking thus, Ye Fan gathered his mind power, spurred his thoughts, and controlled the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to enter his consciousness. He circulated it along a special trajectory, refining his consciousness and converting the essence into his own mental power.

One cycle!

Ten cycles!

After ten cycles, the mental power Ye Fan had previously spent was fully restored.

Therefore, he stopped absorbing essence to convert into mental power, instead focusing all his efforts on compressing the mental power within the mental seed!

Once!

Ten times!

A hundred times!

After a full hundred compressions, the quantity of mental power in the mental seed had sharply reduced by half, but its concentration had doubled!

"I can't compress it too much at once; it must be gradual. First, I'll refine the Heaven and Earth Essence to replenish the other half of the essence of mental power, and then I'll compress it again."

Noting the changes within the mental seed, Ye Fan thought so, but didn't pause, absorbing and refining the Heaven and Earth Essence again.

He absorbed and refined the Heaven and Earth Essence again and again.

He compressed the mental power essence in the mental seed time and again.

As time passed, Ye Fan completely lost himself in his cultivation, staying motionless for nearly a day and a night.

Chu Xuanji had been guarding Ye Fan all this time, constantly using his mental power to monitor Ye Fan's condition and not daring to disturb him.

Hmm?

In the evening of the second day, Chu Xuanji suddenly sensed Ye Fan's aura surge dramatically!

Has the magic cultivation broken through?

Chu Xuanji felt a surge of joy in his heart, he stood up abruptly, waiting for Ye Fan to exit his meditation cultivation state.

Unable to see Chu Xuanji's joyful smile, Ye Fan was instead using his mind to carefully sense the changes in the Mental Seed.

In his perception, the Mental Seed had expanded about tenfold, and the essence of the Mind Power within it had also become ten times more concentrated.

"The quantity of Mind Power has increased tenfold, the quality and power have improved tenfold, and my consciousness has also become much stronger!"

After sensing the changes, Ye Fan's mind was clear as a mirror.

Whether it's the Postnatal Realm or the Innate Realm, both are divided into four stages: Entry, Great Success, Peak, and Great Perfection. Between each stage, the quantity and quality of Power and Mind Power increase tenfold.

And once a cultivator steps from the Innate Great Perfection into the Gang Qi Realm, the quantity and quality of Power and Mind Power will increase a hundredfold, making their strength undergo a qualitative leap.

This is also why cultivators of the Gang Qi Realm are referred to as Supreme Strongmen!

And because after stepping into the Gang Qi Realm the cultivator's strength increases so immensely, creating a huge gap from the Innate Great Perfection, hence from ancient times there has not been a single cultivator at the Innate Great Perfection who could defeat a cultivator in the Gang Qi Realm!

Even Ye Wenhao who is considered invincible at the Innate Great Perfection stage, when he used the earth-shattering skill 'Burning Nine Heavens' left by Ye Fan's mother Ling Yun, was only able to injure Chen Feilian, the overlord at half-step Gang Qi realm, but he could not kill him.

If attacking a cultivator in the Gang Qi Realm, it might not even be possible to injure them!

"Shua!"

Suddenly, Ye Fan opened his eyes, and a sharp light burst forth, his gaze now faintly containing a bit of imposing pressure.

That pressure, let alone ordinary people, even cultivators at the Postnatal Realm might not be able to withstand it.

"You've broken through, haven't you?"

Feeling the pressure in Ye Fan's gaze and the change in his aura, Chu Xuanji smiled and knowingly asked.

"Mhmm."

Ye Fan nodded slightly, and then... he violently urged his mind!

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

The next moment.

Three sounds of cutting through the air almost occurred at the same time.

Under the early morning light, three Xuanye Flying Blades shot out from the sleeves of Ye Fan, turned into three streaks of white light, and whistled towards a large tree a hundred meters away.

"Chi!"

"Chi!"

"Chi!"

The distance of a hundred meters was covered in a blink of an eye, and the sharp Xuanye Flying Blades pierced through the large tree effortlessly, leaving behind three holes.

"When I was at the Peak stage of Innate, controlling three Xuanye Flying Blades was somewhat strenuous, but now not only is it no longer a struggle to control them, the power is comparable to controlling a single Xuanye Flying Blade before!"

The three Xuanye Flying Blades circled in the air and returned in front of Ye Fan, he thought to himself with a hint of excitement in his expression.

Among Magicians of the Manipulation Stream, the primary method is to control Mind Control Magic Tools for attacking. The higher the strength, the greater the number of magic artifacts they can control and the more powerful they become.

"Next, let's try the power of controlling a single Xuanye Flying Blade with full force."

Putting away two of the Xuanye Flying Blades, Ye Fan once again focused his consciousness and then crazily stimulated his mind, applying it to the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Whoosh——"

A more piercing sound of cutting through the air sounded, and it seemed like the air was sliced open.

Hm?

Chu Xuanji's pupils suddenly constricted!

"Pop! Pop! Pop!"

"Clang!"

A series of explosive sounds were heard, and the sharp Xuanye Flying Blade violently collided with a one-meter-tall stone that was 1 meter thick, directly penetrating the stone and scattering debris in all directions!

"A speed equivalent to five times the speed of sound and it can easily penetrate a stone that's 1 meter thick?"

Realizing the power Ye Fan exerted when he fully urged a single Xuanye Flying Blade, even Chu Xuanji couldn't help being shocked—an artifact controlled by a Half-step Gang Qi Magician couldn't possibly be stronger than Ye Fan's!

"Xiao Fan, with your current strength, if you utilize the Xuanye Flying Blades for a close-range assassination, catching your opponent off guard, even the absolute overlord among cultivators at the Half-step Gang Qi realm will be killed!"

After the shock, Chu Xuanji said, "This will become your ace in the hole, and if not necessary, don't reveal it until the Qing bang competition—let it show its might then!"

"Got it."

Ye Fan nodded. As a focal point of the Hua Xia Cultivation World's attention, he certainly couldn't reveal his trump card easily. Otherwise, those cultivation geniuses and demons participating in the Qing bang competition would surely come up with countermeasures.

"By the way, Xiao Fan, you haven't absorbed and refined all the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi transformed by the crimson Gold crown, have you?" Chu Xuanji used his mind to probe Ye Fan's body and found that there was still a large amount of essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi remaining within Ye Fan.

"Mhm, I've only used less than one-tenth of it." Ye Fan nodded.

"If the remaining essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi can help your Martial Arts Cultivation break through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, then, unless some of those so-called cultivation geniuses and demons break through to the Gang Qi Realm, they will all be swept away by you!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Xuanji's heart rejoiced, wishing the Qing bang competition would come immediately.

Chapter 560 Blood Shadow Mad Blade, Supreme Emperor Bai

The Amazon Tropical Rainforest is located in the Amazon Basin of the American Alliance, covering an area of 7 million square kilometers.

In the era of nations, the Amazon Rainforest spanned across eight countries, occupying half of the world's rainforest area and 20% of the forest area, making it the largest and most species-rich tropical rainforest in the world, known as the "Lungs of the Earth."

In the era of nations, the Amazon Rainforest was a paradise for explorers, and now, it has become a heaven for mercenaries.

With the increase in the density of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on Earth, many precious plants in the Amazon Rainforest absorbed this qi and mutated. Although they could not compare to Plant Essence, they were still treasures for cultivators, attracting a large number of mercenaries to mingle here.

In addition to this, some young cultivators also liked to venture into the Amazon Rainforest to train, killing the mutated beasts that had absorbed Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Of course, the degree of mutation here was limited; they merely became much more ferocious, and there were no 'demon beasts'—mutated beasts with strength comparable to a Supreme Strongman of the Gang Qi Realm.

Even the giant boas of the Amazon Rainforest were no exception.

In the era of nations, the giant boas of the Amazon Rainforest were reputed to be the most ferocious pythons in the world, with bodies over ten meters long and tremendous strength, earning them the title of kings of the rainforest and the nightmare of all explorers.

But now, having absorbed Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the giant boas of the Amazon Rainforest had become the strongest mutated beasts in the rainforest and indeed worldwide. Some of these powerful giant boas were even stronger than a Half-step Gang Qi realm master, and they could hold their own against a half-step to full Gang Qi realm tyrant.

With such strength, the giant boas of the Amazon Rainforest became the nightmare of cultivators, with many becoming their food each year.

At dusk, as the sunset in the west, its afterglow spilled over the Amazon Rainforest, casting specks of golden light.

In the heart of the rainforest, a giant boa as thick as a water barrel and fifty to sixty meters long lay hidden within the jungle, motionless.

The giant boa was green all over, almost blending into the jungle entirely, except for its yellow and black snake eyes which flashed with a ferocious light.

Following its gaze, one could see a long-haired young man in a black robe, carrying a large sword on his back, approaching the jungle from a distance.

The young man had a squared face with well-defined facial features, as if chiseled by a knife; his narrow phoenix eyes glowed with a blood-red light, giving him a terrifying appearance at first glance.

He emitted a strong aura of bloodlust, so much so that no beast dared approach within a hundred meters of him; rather, those beasts, sensing the fearsome killing intent, frantically fled in terror.

Ignoring the fleeing beasts, the young man's gaze was fixed on the jungle ahead, his mind continually locked on the giant boa lurking within.

He had already sensed the aura of the giant boa, and he also deduced that today's giant boa was stronger than any he had encountered before; it was very likely the legendary King of Giant Boas, capable of sweeping aside all cultivators below the Gang Qi Realm.

Yet, he felt not a shiver of fear but a rare surge of excitement.

Because,

he was Emperor Bai.

The top-ranked individual on the Qing Bang in the Hua Xia Cultivation World.

Lauded as the leader among the younger generation of cultivators in Hua Xia.

His cultivation talent exceeded that of so-called geniuses, and many regarded him as a demon.

Thrilled, the blood in his body circulated faster, a faint red Blood Qi enveloping him, eerily combining with the murderous aura radiating from his body, creating a chilling presence.

One thousand meters.

Eight hundred meters.

Five hundred meters!

"Swoosh—"

When Emperor Bai was only five hundred meters away, the King of Giant Boas suddenly lunged out from the jungle, like an iron python, swiftly striking at Emperor Bai at an astonishing speed.

The horrifying speed, combined with the formidable strength of the King of Giant Boas, was destructively powerful, breaking and toppling the trees in front, creating a tremendous ruckus.

"Well met!"

Facing the sudden attack of the King of Giant Boas, Emperor Bai did not dodge or flinch, but rather, excitedly murmured to himself and violently drew out the treasure sword from his back.

Bloodthirsty Mad Blade!

The only sword in the world to reach the quality of a High-level Magic Artifact.

This treasure sword was forged during the most flourishing period of ancient cultivation, eventually falling into the hands of Jie Dao's clan and becoming the ancestral treasure sword of that family, passed down through generations until it reached Jie Dao.

And now, Jie Dao had passed it to Emperor Bai!

"Clang!"

The Bloodthirsty Mad Blade was unsheathed, seemingly sensing its master's intent for war and slaughter, emitting a crisp sound, its blade gleaming with a faint red light, chilling to the bone.

"Swoosh—"

Five hundred meters was a short distance for the King of Giant Boas.

In the span of two breaths, it closed the distance to just one hundred meters, simultaneously opening its large mouth and spitting out a glob of saliva.

Unlike venomous snakes, pythons are non-venomous.

As the king among pythons, the saliva of the King of Giant Boas also contained no venom, but it was extremely sticky, akin to a strong glue, with astonishing adhesive power.

"Hmph!"

Facing the saliva attack of the King of Giant Boas, Emperor Bai did not dodge or flinch, instead slicing out with his sword in one hand.

"Swoosh—"

With one slash, a Gang Qi mixed with sword wind shot out from the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, forming a Gang Qi Blade Light that instantly scattered the saliva spit out by the King of Giant Boas, continuing on with undiminished force to strike at the King!

The King of Giant Boas, famed for being able to sweep aside all cultivators below the Gang Qi Realm, had already gained Spiritual Wisdom and had judged that Emperor Bai was different and stronger than any human it had encountered before.

Therefore, it had never thought to immobilize Emperor Bai merely with its saliva, instead using the saliva attack as an Illusion Technique.

"Whoosh!"

Facing the Gang Qi Blade Light slashing towards it, the King of Giant Boas did not dodge either. It saw its tough, iron-like body suddenly roll over, its tail stretched straight, transforming into a long whip, lashing at the Gang Qi Blade Light.

"Snap—"

A crisp sound echoed as the Gang Qi Blade Light was directly shattered by the tail of the King of Giant Boas.

The surrounding flowers, grasses, and trees were blown apart by the scattered Gang Qi, breaking into pieces, and a wound opened up on the tail of the King of Giant Boas, with thick blood seeping out.

"Roar~"

Perhaps not expecting Emperor Bai to be able to injure it, the King of Giant Boas was initially startled, then, stimulated by the pain, it let out a furious roar and suddenly sprang forward, like a high-speed train, and ferociously pounced towards Emperor Bai.

Every giant python is strong, and their wrapping force is extraordinary.

In a sense, the King of Giant Boas had already surpassed the definition of a giant python, beginning to transform into what the ancient cultivation world described as 'Jiao'.

Setting aside its wrapping force, just its strength coupled with terrifying speed could shatter a giant rock, let alone a living human.

However—

Facing the attack from the King of Giant Boas, Emperor Bai did not dodge; instead, he once again swung the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade in his hand.

This time, he unusually chose to hold the blade with both hands!

"Blood Shadow Saber Technique, Blood Kill!"

Perhaps having gauged the strength of the King of Giant Boas, Emperor Bai no longer held back, swung again with his blade, directly employing the high-level martial arts killing move 'Blood Kill' from the "Blood Shadow Saber Technique"!

In an instant, the Blood Qi within Emperor Bai completely boiled over, surging to his hands, transferring into the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, causing the blade of the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade to flicker with red light.

"Whoosh!"

With one slash, the Blood Qi and Gang Qi merged, combining with Emperor Bai's frightening killing intent, transformed into a scarlet sword light, like a laser cannon, blasting towards the King of Giant Boas.

"Boom—"

The next moment.

The scarlet sword light solidly chopped onto the body of the King of Giant Boas, which abruptly halted. Its body, harder than steel, was as if it had been bombarded by a cannonball; a deep cut instantly opened up at its seven-inch area, thick and scalding blood spurted out, forming a cloud of blood mist that enveloped the surroundings for dozens of meters.

With just one strike, Emperor Bai broke through the defense of the King of Giant Boas, causing the energy and blood within the King of Giant Boas to churn!

"Roar~"

Intense pain made the King of Giant Boas go berserk, completely ignoring the pain on its body, it roared and continued to lunge at Emperor Bai.

"Die!!"

Without any hesitation, Emperor Bai held the blade with both hands and swung out another strike!

The second blade, again the killing move 'Blood Kill'!

"Splat—"

The scarlet sword light accurately chopped onto the wound on the King of Giant Boas, like a laser knife, instantly slicing the body of the King of Giant Boas into two halves, flesh flying everywhere, blood splattering, like a blooming blood flower.

"Wuu~"

The body split in two, the King of Giant Boas let out a painful wail, its two halves twitching as if electrocuted, the blood Qi inside rapidly depleted, and its vitality weakened significantly, almost losing all its combat ability, seemingly unable to survive much longer.

"Being able to force me to use a second blade, you should feel proud, you beast."

Emperor Bai proudly smiled, sheathed the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, and strode towards the King of Giant Boas to take the Half-demon Pill from its body.

Once beasts absorb the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and become demon beasts, a Demon Core forms inside their bodies.

Although the King of Giant Boas could not fully be considered a demon beast 'Jiao', it was only a step away from becoming one, possessing a Half-demon Pill inside its body.

"Uh... "

A kilometer away, a group of mercenaries, through military binoculars, witnessed Emperor Bai killing the King of Giant Boas with two strikes, each looking as if they had seen the most shocking thing in the world, with their eyes wide open and mouths agape, bodies stiff, like vivid statues.

"Sss~"

As they stared dumbfounded at Emperor Bai taking the Half-demon Pill from the King of Giant Boas, they gradually recovered from the extreme shock, but their mouths still twitched, inhaling sharply.

"He's a War God, right?"

Soon, as Emperor Bai disappeared from their sight, one of them could not help but ask, as if asking the others, yet also questioning himself; the War God Realm is equivalent to the Gang Qi Realm of the Hua Xia cultivation world, belonging to Supreme Strongmen.

"Nonsense, the King of Giant Boas can sweep through any cultivator below the War God level, if he isn't a War God after killing the King of Giant Boas with two strikes, then what is he?" immediately, a mercenary retorted.

The other mercenaries nodded in agreement, except for one.

Meng Ke.

Leader of the world's second-ranked Mercenary Corps 'Adventurers', possessing the strength of a Half-step War God!

He had appeared at the annual auction of the Hua Xia Cultivation World, where he exchanged three stalks of Plant Essence from his hand with Ye Fan for a 'Nirvana Pill' that had the power to revive the dead.

"He's a Half-step War God."

After a long silence, Meng Ke slowly spoke.

His voice was not loud, yet it exploded like a muffled thunder, shocking the surrounding mercenaries into stunned silence!