

Y Master 561

Chapter 561 Kill Fallacies, Grand Ambitions, Contempt

"Half-step War God?"

"How... how is that possible?"

A few seconds later, the mercenaries beside Meng Ke recovered from their shock, staring at him with disbelief on their faces.

As members of the adventurer mercenary group, they had unconditional trust in Meng Ke, but thinking of Emperor Bai killing the King of Giant Boas—a being whose strength matched a Half-step War God—with just two blows, they began to doubt Meng Ke's words.

Because... Emperor Bai was too strong, far surpassing their understanding of a Half-step War God!

"He is Emperor Bai of the Huaxia Bai Family, a martial arts genius, disciple of Huaxia Saber King Jiedao, and the champion of the last Huaxia Youth List competition."

Noticing the mercenaries' confusion, Meng Ke explained, "His aura is indeed that of a Half-step War God, but he's the dominator among them. To put it accurately, with the strength he just displayed, he could very well be the strongest existence beneath a War God!"

"Captain, according to what you've said, doesn't that mean he could challenge a War God with the strength of a Half-step War God?" one of the mercenaries asked curiously.

"Based on the intelligence I have, such a demon has never appeared in the cultivation world, but he indeed has the potential to achieve this—his saber technique is too fearsome."

As Meng Ke spoke, he couldn't help but think of the power of 'Blood Kill' used by Emperor Bai earlier, and his heart still couldn't settle.

Although he was a Half-step War God, he admitted to himself that he couldn't take a single blow from Emperor Bai.

Even, in his view, even those so-called dominators of the Half-step War Gods would struggle to withstand that terrifying blow from Emperor Bai!

"Are you choosing suicide, or shall I make a move?"

Sometime later, while Meng Ke and the other mercenaries were still astounded by Emperor Bai's formidable strength, Emperor Bai silently appeared behind them, his eyes glowing red as he looked at them like a group of dead bodies.

Shua!

Startled by Emperor Bai's words, including Meng Ke, the dozen or so mercenaries of the adventurer mercenary group turned around in panic, their faces filled with fear as they looked toward Emperor Bai.

"Sir, our adventurer mercenary group bears no deep grudge against you, and we certainly did not mean to offend you just now; we were just shocked by your extraordinary power," Meng Ke said.

Meng Ke's face also showed panic, but as the leader of the adventurer mercenary group and a Half-step War God who had repeatedly danced on Death God's Scythe, his martial arts will was firm, and he quickly adjusted his emotions, stepping forward and bowing to Emperor Bai.

"Aside from my master, everyone who has seen me draw my sword has died," Emperor Bai stated emotionlessly, his murderous intention as evident as the colors of spring, impossible to conceal.

Gulp!

Hearing Emperor Bai's words again, apart from Meng Ke, the mercenaries felt as if Death God had pronounced their death sentences, their hearts violently trembling, their faces completely overtaken by fear.

Among them, several mercenaries with weaker martial arts will turned deathly pale, their bodies trembling uncontrollably, as if electrified.

Even Meng Ke's expression revealed some fear!

In his fear, Meng Ke completely abandoned the pride of being a Half-step War God, quickly bowed 90 degrees to Emperor Bai, and pleaded, "Sir, please spare our lives..."

"My patience is thin!"

Emperor Bai coldly interrupted Meng Ke, giving him and his men no chance for mercy.

"Form up!"

Seeing Emperor Bai determined to make a move, Meng Ke's heart sank, and he suddenly bellowed.

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh..."

As Meng Ke finished speaking, the mercenaries, who were previously frightened, reacted like robots receiving orders, gathering instinctively around Meng Ke to form a Hexagram Formation.

All this was because they often fought on the brink of life and death, not to mention the tacit understanding they had developed, executing Meng Ke's orders had become an instinct.

The Hexagram Formation was their common battle array, complementing each other in offense and defense, and it maximized their strength by uniting them, thus bringing out their most formidable power.

In the past, whenever they encountered powerful mutant beasts or enemies, they would form this formation.

"Your Excellency, we mean no offense, nor do we wish to confront you."

Once the formation was formed, Meng Ke did not dare to issue an offensive order but clung to a last shred of hope, hoping Emperor Bai would spare them.

However—

Emperor Bai's next words completely crushed Meng Ke's last hope: "I can give you a chance to make a move, I hope you don't make me bored!"

"Brothers, since he's set on killing us, we have no choice but to fight with all we've got—bring out the vigor like you would for your godmothers!"

Hearing Emperor Bai's words ringing in his ears, Meng Ke knew they could not escape their fate today and, giving himself up to it, he roared loudly, trying to boost the morale of the mercenaries around him.

Under normal circumstances, whether facing mutant beasts or other mercenaries and cultivators, such words from Meng Ke would likely stir up the fighting spirit within his men, inspiring them to fight to the death.

But—

The recent sight of Emperor Bai cleaving the King of Giant Boas in half with two strikes was so shocking that they simply couldn't muster their spirit, their faces still filled with fear.

"You have no chance now."

Emperor Bai originally wanted to see the power of Meng Ke and his men's formation, but seeing they hesitated to strike, he immediately lost his patience.

"Swoosh—"

As his words fell, Emperor Bai's figure flashed, almost as if teleporting, and he appeared in front of the Hexagram Formation formed by Meng Ke and the other mercenaries, transforming his hand into a blade and slashing directly.

This strike, Emperor Bai used no treasure sword, nor did he invoke any martial arts skills; it was merely a full-strength attack under normal conditions.

"Whoosh!"

As his Hand Blade slashed, a Gang Qi burst forth from Emperor Bai's hand, forming a clearly visible Gang Qi Blade Light, slashing towards Meng Ke and the others.

Whoosh—

At the same time, Meng Ke and the others quickly changed their formation—Meng Ke sprang out from the center of the Hexagram Formation, his muscles tensing as he swung the huge axe in his hand with all his might.

This axe, Meng Ke dared not hold back at all, employing his strongest martial arts technique as he too unleashed a blade light of Gang Qi.

But... The Gang Qi Blade Light unleashed by Meng Ke with his magic artifact axe paled in comparison to the clarity of the Gang Qi Blade Light released by Emperor Bai with his Hand Blade.

"Boom—"

The next moment.

Two streams of Gang Qi collided like two mountain peaks fiercely crashing into each other. Meng Ke's fully powered Gang Qi Radiance was instantly scattered, turning into nothingness, while the sword light from Emperor Bai's Hand Blade dimmed slightly but continued sweeping towards Meng Ke with undiminished force.

Meng Ke had no time to swing his second axe, nor could he dodge; in a critical moment, he could only horizontally block in front of him with his axe.

"Bang—"

The dull thud sounded again, sending Meng Ke flying back like a struck baseball, spitting a mist of blood from his mouth as the giant axe slipped from his hands.

With just a normal strike of his Hand Blade, Emperor Bai inflicted severe injuries on Meng Ke.

And had Meng Ke not used a mid-level magical artifact, the War Axe, in the nick of time to block in front of him, reducing most of the force, he would undoubtedly have died.

"Pfft... Pfft... Pfft..."

At the same time, a terrifying wave of energy ripple spread out. The mercenaries caught in it vomited blood and fell to the ground, dead.

"Too weak!"

Emperor Bai shook his head, losing any playfulness, and with a leap, dashed to the front of everyone, brandishing his Hand Blade three times in succession.

Unlike before, this time, Emperor Bai used a martial arts technique from the "Blood Shadow Saber Technique" called 'Mad Slaughter,' which was only second to 'Blood Kill'!

"Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!"

Three streaks of Gang Qi Blade Light slashed out consecutively, merging into one, forming a crescent-shaped blade light that completely enveloped Meng Ke and the others.

With no resistance, not even time to cry out in pain, all members of the adventurer mercenary group were slashed into a pile of blood and flesh, except for Meng Ke. The surrounding flowers and trees were also reduced to debris.

Although Meng Ke used Gang Qi to protect his body, he still couldn't change his fate of being slain—his organs were shattered, blood streamed from all seven orifices, and he died with eyes wide open in horror.

Seeing this, Emperor Bai's face remained expressionless, as if he had just slaughtered a group of chicks.

"Swoosh—"

Immediately, Emperor Bai focused his mind, and a surge of Telekinesis shot out from his Yintang point, targeting Meng Ke's War Axe, which rose into the air and flew towards Emperor Bai.

Swish!

Emperor Bai's right hand waved, grabbing the War Axe, he turned and left without looking back.

As he walked, Emperor Bai suddenly stopped.

Ten meters ahead of Emperor Bai, an elder in a white robe stood with his hands behind his back, apparently waiting for him.

The elder was none other than Emperor Bai's master, the Huaxia Saber King—Jiedao!

"Master."

Emperor Bai advanced a few steps and bowed to Jiedao.

"Your strength is already the strongest among those at the near-peak state. Your martial arts will is unbreakable, and your combat skills have reached a peak. Continuing to train through killing here has no more significance," Jiedao advised, recalling how Emperor Bai had successively slain the King of Giant Boas and several mercenaries.

"Next, you should head to Mount Tian to meditate in seclusion. It's the place with the richest Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on this planet, very suitable for closed-door cultivation. You can summarize your experiences and insights from the past half year, and you have a good chance at breaking through to the Gang Qi realm," Jiedao continued.

"Alright."

Emperor Bai nodded, giving a concise reply, then, thinking of something, he asked, "By the way, Master, I heard that Chu Xuanji has killed Wu Mu?"

"Hmm."

Jiedao nodded with a somber expression, his hatred for Chu Xuanji deeper than ever, already to the point of irreconcilable past-dead.

Although he had stepped into the peak of Gang Qi, he was no match for Chu Xuanji!

After all, Chu Xuanji had not only entered the peak of Gang Qi in terms of martial arts cultivation but his magic cultivation was also at the near peak of Gang Qi, making him one of the most powerful existences in the Hua Xia Cultivation World, second only to Yan!

"Master, rest assured, in the upcoming Qing bang competition, I will slay Chu Xuanji's disciple, Ye Fan, to gain some leverage for you and our Huaxia Bai Family," Emperor Bai declared, fully aware of Jiedao's frustration, his face stern with killing intent.

"Besides that, once I genuinely become powerful, I will help you slaughter Chu Xuanji!" he added.

"Good!"

Jiedao's face, previously marred by an ugly expression, now basked in radiant smiles.

In his eyes, given Emperor Bai's cultivation talent, with time, it was highly likely that he would surpass Chu Xuanji, entering the Great Perfection Realm of Gang Qi, and perhaps, even achieving that mythical realm, carving out a path for all supreme strongmen within the Gang Qi realm!

As for Ye Fan...

He didn't take him seriously at all.

Because.

In his mind, Ye Fan wasn't even qualified to be a stepping stone for Emperor Bai!

Dismissing Ye Fan.

He wasn't the first, nor would he be the last.

Wu Mu was the last one, now repenting in Hell!

Chapter 562 Weird

Time flowed like water, and ten days passed in a blink of an eye.

Halfway up the Five Saints Mountain, Ye Fan was seated cross-legged in the jungle, his eyes tightly shut, motionless, as if an old monk had entered meditation.

At this moment, he was immersed in a state of meditation, using his mind to manipulate the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, continuously circulating it along the route of the Grand Circulation, cleansing his body and marrow while absorbing and refining the essence into the Essence of Power.

One cycle, two cycles, three cycles...

After eighty-one cycles, Ye Fan absorbed and refined a strand of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and a pure Essence of Power was produced within his body.

"It's time to rush into the ninety-ninth vital acupoints!"

Ye Fan thought to himself, then controlled the newly created Essence of Power, surging towards the ninety-ninth vital acupoint within his body.

Under Ye Fan's manipulation, that powerful Essence of Power rushed like a torrent, irresistibly towards the ninety-ninth vital acupoint within his body.

Just as before, when the Essence of Power shot into the ninety-ninth vital acupoint, it was as if there was an invisible gate outside the acupoint, blocking all the Essence of Power from entering, preventing it from advancing even half a step!

With the barrier in place, Ye Fan could only break through it in order to store the Essence of Power in the ninety-ninth vital acupoint and condense a Power Seed.

"Break for me!"

After an unsuccessful impact, a sharp pain transmitted from Ye Fan's acupoints and meridians, but he clenched his teeth, endured the pain, and manipulated the Essence of Power to strike the acupoint barrier again.

Once!

Twice!

Thrice!

After the ninth impact, the invisible gate formed by the barrier of the ninety-ninth vital acupoint shattered, and the Essence of Power burst into the acupoint.

"Huff~"

Ye Fan let out a sigh of relief to himself, then concentrated his mind to compress the Essence of Power, striving to form the Power Seed.

Having had experience with condensing Power Seeds before, Ye Fan soon condensed the ninety-ninth Power Seed.

"Even if I absorb and refine the remaining essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, it won't be enough to assault the hundredth vital acupoint."

Having succeeded in charging the ninety-ninth vital acupoint, Ye Fan realized that there was only a sliver of essence left outside the crimson Gold crown, not enough to meet the needs of assaulting the hundredth vital acupoint, so he had to stop his meditation cultivation and slowly opened his eyes.

"The essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi is insufficient?"

Not far away, Chu Xuanji, also engaged in meditation cultivation, sensed the fluctuation in Ye Fan's aura, suddenly opened his eyes, saw Ye Fan's slightly regretful expression, and couldn't help asking.

"Hmm, the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi is basically used up now. I've only formed ninety-nine Power Seeds within my body. I still need nine more Power Seeds to break through to the realm of Innate Great Perfection!"

Ye Fan said this and planned to store the remaining essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi within his body, which he could use to recover strength when necessary.

This was similar to when Wu Mu fought Chu Xuanji—if Wu Mu hadn't consumed a Plant Essence beforehand, storing a large amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi inside his body, he wouldn't have been able to hold out for so long.

"Ninety-nine Power Seeds are equivalent to ninety-nine Dantians—your Power storage amounts to ninety-nine times that of an ordinary Peak stage Innate martial artist, and the quality is comparable to the Power of a martial artist at the realm of Innate Great Perfection, which is simply unbelievable."

Chu Xuanji said this and couldn't help but inwardly exclaim about the terror of the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, "Although this cultivation method is difficult and slow to progress, it has many advantages. First, your bodily functions far surpass those of cultivators at the same level. Furthermore, the quality and quantity of your Power far exceed them. Once you step into the realm of Innate Great Perfection, you will possess strong combat power merely based on your Martial Arts Cultivation. If you add your Magic Cultivation to that, then even the average Half-step Gang Qi realm master wouldn't be a match for you, only the absolute dominators of the Half-step Gang Qi realm could pose a threat!"

"By the way, once you step into the Gang Qi Realm, would you be able to store Gang Qi within the 108 vital acupoints?" Chu Xuanji thought of something towards the end and asked.

"I don't know, my memory of this cultivation method only extends to reaching the Innate Great Perfection. I have no knowledge of what comes after," Ye Fan shook his head.

"Oh?"

Chu Xuanji was surprised by the answer, then thought for a moment and said, "Although I don't know why you have such an incredible cultivation method in your memory, I think it's very likely related to the crimson Gold crown. Maybe once you break through to the Innate Great Perfection, you will be able to learn the subsequent cultivation method."

"Well, I can only take one step at a time."

Ye Fan nodded, feeling in his heart that if he were to step into the realm of Innate Great Perfection, it was very likely that something bizarre would happen.

This was an intuition.

He didn't know why he had this intuition, but it was strong!

"Old man, I'm going to take a bath first, I'm almost stinking,"

Seeing that Chu Xuanji was no longer speaking, Ye Fan realized that his body was smelly, covered in black dirt.

All that filth had been expelled from his body—during the process of absorbing and refining the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the essence followed the route of the Grand Circulation to shatter and refine his body.

"Hmm."

Chu Xuanji nodded his head but didn't continue with his meditation cultivation. Instead, he stood up, ready to leave the place after Ye Fan had finished bathing.

Soon, Ye Fan came to a small river halfway up the mountain by himself. He quickly undressed and stepped into the river to wash.

After a thorough half-hour wash, Ye Fan emerged from the river to change into a new set of black robes and returned to Chu Xuanji's side.

"Two days ago, Yan called me to inform me about the Nolan Family's outcome—Nolan Mingde's cultivation was crippled, and he was locked up in the Yanhuang Organization's secret prison headquarters. Members of the Nolan Family like Nolan Changfeng, who were involved in criminal activities, have been arrested, but the trial verdict has yet to be announced. Unless something unexpected happens, the main members of the Nolan Family will likely spend the rest of their lives in prison."

To avoid disturbing Ye Fan's cultivation, Chu Xuanji had been keeping Ye Fan's personal mobile phone and the special communicator from the Yanhuang Organization for the past ten days, during which he received the call from Yan.

Just now, Chu Xuanji had been so concerned with whether Ye Fan had broken through to the realm of Innate Great Perfection that he forgot to mention the call, so when he saw Ye Fan approaching, he relayed the call's content.

The Nolan Family was finished!

Chu Xuanji's words echoed in Ye Fan's ears, and his mind was as clear as a mirror.

Other than the contacts and influence accumulated over hundreds of years, the Nolan Family was able to dominate in the Northeast largely because they had Nolan Mingde, a Half-step Gang Qi realm powerhouse, and several family members at the Innate realm.

Now that the Yanhuang Organization had captured the core members of the Nolan Family, leaving behind only the weaker younger generation, maintaining the Nolan Family's glory would be more difficult than reaching the heavens.

On one hand, due to this blow from the Yanhuang Organization, the government forces in the Dong san Provinces will definitely not continue to act as a protective umbrella for the Nolan Family.

Consequently, the Nolan Family's enemies in the underworld, business world, and the cultivation world will certainly kick them while they are down and seek revenge for past grievances. With the younger and weaker members of the Nolan Family, they would be incapable of resistance.

"Apart from the Nolan Family, the Ghost Sect must have suffered as well, right?" Ye Fan asked.

"With Wu Mu committing such heinous acts, his disciples naturally couldn't escape."

Chu Xuanji snorted coldly: "The Yanhuang Organization wiped out the Ghost Sect entirely, all of its disciples had their Martial Arts Cultivation crippled, and from now on, the Hua Xia Cultivation World will no longer have the Ghost Sect as a sect!"

"They brought disaster upon themselves and deserve no sympathy!"

Ye Fan had no pity for the destruction of the Ghost Sect; on one hand, the Ghost Sect, led by Wu Mu, was almost at a point of irreconcilable enmity with him. On the other hand, from top to bottom, the members of the Ghost Sect were all ill-intentioned, and leaving such people would only harm society.

"Now, with only three months left until the Qing bang competition, what's your plan? Are you going to continue searching for medicinal ingredients or find a place to continue your cultivation in seclusion?" Chu Xuanji spoke again, inquiring about Ye Fan's upcoming plans.

"Currently, my Magic Cultivation has already broken through to the realm of Innate Great Perfection. As for Martial Arts Cultivation, due to the incredibly unpredictable nature of my Cultivation Method, it's virtually impossible to make a breakthrough in a short period unless I'm as lucky as I was this time."

Ye Fan indirectly gave his answer, "On the other hand, if I can find all the ingredients to refine the 'Lifespan Extension Pill' before the Qing bang competition, I can use the 'Dan Tribulation' induced by the pill's refinement to absorb a massive amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi with the Crimson Golden Crown and convert it into essence for my cultivation."

Chu Xuanji's eyes lit up at this.

Not only was his strength remarkable, but he was also well-versed in ancient books, skilled in medicine, and alchemy; he knew well that the 'Lifespan Extension Pill' is one of the most difficult elixirs to refine in this world. According to ancient texts, refining the Lifespan Extension Pill is also an act of defying Heaven's will and changing fate, which requires bearing Heaven's punishment.

The so-called punishment, according to the ancient texts, refers to the Dan Tribulation.

Actually, the Dan Tribulation is also a form of Heavenly Tribulation, where Heaven attacks the person refining the elixir.

For ordinary people, both Dan and Heavenly Tribulations are full of crises, a scenario of nine deaths and one life. However, Ye Fan, owning the mysterious Crimson Golden Crown, not only faces no danger but can also turn misfortune into a blessing and upgrade his strength.

Not long ago, Ye Fan used a Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique to extend the Old Master Ye's life, which is an example.

"The main ingredients for the Lifespan Extension Pill are yin spirit flowers, Immortal Grass, Sky Cold Mushroom, and Snow Lotus King, while the other auxiliary ingredients are relatively easy to find, available at auction houses. So far, you have three of the main ingredients, just missing the Snow Lotus King. To find it, you'll have to go to Mount Tian," advised Chu Xuanji after pondering for a moment.

"I plan to head directly from here towards Mount Tian, striving to find the Snow Lotus King as soon as possible."

While speaking, Ye Fan suddenly sensed a slight fluctuation in the Crimson Golden Crown inside his body.

Ye Fan was shocked, and he fully mobilized his mind to sense it, only to find the fluctuation very fleeting, as if it had never happened.

What surprised Ye Fan even more was that with the appearance of that fluctuation, his thoughts were inexplicably interfered with—he became more determined to go to Mount Tian.

"Could it be that the Crimson Golden Crown is interfering with my thoughts? Is it eager for me to go to Mount Tian??"

After his surprise, Ye Fan couldn't help but ask himself and then suddenly remembered something important.

His mother, Ling Yun, had committed suicide by jumping off a cliff on Mount Tian!

Chapter 563 Tian Shan Sword Sect, Bodhi and Disciples

Heavenly Mountain is one of the world's seven major mountain ranges, located in the heartland of Eurasia, the largest landmass on Earth, and it serves as the junction for three major alliances: Huaxia, the Russian Alliance, and the Tianzhu Alliance.

According to Chu Xuanji, about twenty years ago, Heavenly Mountain was the first place on Earth where the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi began to increase and then spread from Heavenly Mountain towards the rest of the globe.

As of today, the quantity of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on Earth is ten times what it was over twenty years ago!

Including the Yanhuang Organization, all major global forces went to Heavenly Mountain seeking the true cause of the increase in Primordial Qi, but to this day, no answers have been found.

The Snow Lotus King, needed by Ye Fan to refine the Lifespan Extension Pill, is a treasure born from the increase in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi—Heavenly Mountain Snow Lotus transformed after absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Heavenly Mountain Snow Lotus, also known as "Snow Lotus Flower," is a rare and precious Chinese herb unique to Heavenly Mountain, growing on steep cliff walls around 4000 meters above sea level, and is celebrated as the "King of Herbs" and "Top-Grade Medicine."

Of course, that is for ordinary people.

For cultivators, ordinary Heavenly Mountain Snow Lotus is of little use, but the Snow Lotus King is very beneficial as it contains Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. If a cultivator takes it, they can absorb and refine the Primordial Qi within it, recovering exhausted Power and Mind Power.

It is for this reason that Snow Lotus King is the main ingredient in many Elixir Pills.

However, Snow Lotus Kings are extremely rare in the entire Cultivation World. First, because the Snow Lotus King itself is quite rare, and second, because it has been monopolized by the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

The sect of the Tian Shan Sword Sect is established near the famous Turquoise Pool on Heavenly Mountain, has over a hundred disciples, and its Sect Leader Cang Bo, known as the Huaxia Sword King, has transcended mastery in swordsmanship. Ranked in the top ten of the Dragon Ranking, his strength even surpasses that of Heavenly Master Zhang, the Sect Leader of the Wudang Sect.

The Tian Shan Sword Sect also has three Great Elders, each at the Half-step Gang Qi realm, one of whom is the ruler of this realm level.

Beyond this, there are over a dozen disciples within the Tian Shan Sword Sect who have stepped into the Innate Realm, making their overall strength quite formidable. They hold a distinguished position within the Huaxia Cultivation World, arguably stronger than the Wudang Sect in terms of sect strength—just lacking the foundational depth to compete with Wudang Sect directly.

At the crack of dawn, the outer disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect got up early to begin their busy day—sweeping, fetching water, and cooking.

Unlike the outer disciples, the inner sect disciples have only one task—cultivation.

In the courtyard of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, dozens of inner sect disciples sat cross-legged, immersed in meditation cultivation, absorbing and refining the constant flow of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and enhancing their own cultivation levels.

Being the top genius of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Xiao Selang received even better treatment than the inner sect disciples.

His cultivation site was located in a secret chamber of the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Eight fist-sized Essence Stones were arranged in specific positions in the chamber, forming a Formation.

With the activation of the Formation, Essence Stones continuously released Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, flowing towards the centrally seated Xiao Selang.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around Xiao Selang forcefully dispersed by a burst of Gang Qi, as he abruptly opened his eyes, which emitted fierce light, and his face revealed uncontrollable excitement!

"I've finally advanced to the Half-step Gang Qi realm!"

Xiao Selang said excitedly, swinging his right hand out and striking the chamber's wall with a Hand Sword.

"Swoosh—"

The Hand Sword swung, and a stream of Gang Qi burst from Xiao Selang's palm, transforming into a white airstream that slammed into the chamber wall.

"Boom—"

A muffled sound rang out as the entire chamber shook, as if it were experiencing an earthquake.

Once the shaking had subsided, a clear sword mark appeared on the chamber wall, surrounded by dense cracks like a spider web.

"The power of Gang Qi is really domineering!"

Seeing the power of a single Hand Sword strike, Xiao Selang couldn't help but beam with joy.

Crack—

At that moment, the stone door of the chamber slowly opened, and an old man wearing a gray robe slowly entered the chamber.

The elder was none other than Huaxia's Number One Sword, Sect Leader Cang Bo of the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

"Master!"

Immediately rising to his feet, Xiao Selang bowed deeply to Cang Bo.

"Not bad, you broke through much earlier than I anticipated," Cang Bo said, waving his hand with a smile. He had been outside the chamber. Sensing the strengthening of Xiao Selang's aura, he knew that Xiao Selang had broken through.

"Hmm, it felt easier than I expected," Xiao Selang replied happily.

"Now, do you understand why I only allowed you to take Plant Essence after you reached the Peak of Innate Realm?" Cang Bo asked with a smile and then, without waiting for Xiao Selang to reply, answered, "When your strength is weak, you will try all means to cultivate and enhance strength, and this will solidify your Martial Arts Will, which is the best time to temper Martial Arts Will. Martial Arts Will is the key to breaking through to the Gang Qi Realm!"

"Master's teachings are profound. I am deeply grateful,"

Xiao Selang bowed again, his eyes filled with gratitude as he looked at Cang Bo.

Originally, when he met Ye Fan at the annual auction held by the Cultivation World, he was still at the Peak stage of Innate. After returning to Heavenly Mountain from the auction, he took three Plant Essences in one go and directly advanced to the Innate Great Perfection Realm.

Since then, besides solidifying his Innate Great Perfection Realm, he also started to compress the Gang Jin in his Dantian, transforming it into Gang Qi, until today when he finally advanced to Half-step Gang Qi realm.

"No need for thanks, the Qingbang Competition is in three months. Keep pushing yourself, solidify your realm fully, and strive to excel at the Qingbang Competition," Cang Bo gestured again, full of expectation.

"Please rest assured, Master, in this Qing bang competition, I will defeat all the geniuses and ascend to the pinnacle of the Qing bang!"

Perhaps because of the ease with which he'd broken through to the half-step Gang Qi realm, Xiao Selang felt that pushing forward to the Gang Qi realm was not a difficult task, sounding utterly confident.

"It's good to be confident, but do not become arrogant. Your will in martial arts is firm enough to withstand the pain of compressing Gang Jin to transform into Gang Qi; breaking through the half-step Gang Qi realm is not difficult. But... breaking through to the Gang Qi realm itself is extremely challenging. If it weren't so, there wouldn't be so many cultivators stuck at this threshold."

Sect Leader Cang Bo cautioned him, also serving as a subtle reminder for Xiao Selang not to get carried away.

"Thank you for the reminder, Master. I will continue to work hard."

Upon hearing these words, much of Xiao Selang's initial delight scattered, yet his spirit of combat remained high.

"Hmm."

Noticing Xiao Selang's spirited determination, Cang Bo nodded in satisfaction, then added a reminder, "In this Qing bang competition, geniuses are everywhere. You must be careful, especially of Emperor Bai and Leng Feng. In addition, there are some hidden demons, and even Ye Fan, a disciple of Chu Xuanji, warrants caution."

"That Ye Fan is merely at the peak of the Innate Realm, hardly worth mentioning. Even if he steps into Innate Great Perfection, he won't pose a threat to me." Xiao Selang spoke confidently, as if he could crush Ye Fan with a slap.

"He is Chu Xuanji's disciple, and also practices both magic and martial arts. At the peak of the Innate Realm, he was able to easily kill cultivators at the Innate Great Perfection realm. He certainly has some tricks up his sleeve; you cannot afford to be careless." Cang Bo straightened his face a bit, his tone turning serious.

"Understood, Master."

Seeing this, Xiao Selang realized Cang Bo was somewhat displeased and refrained from further arrogance, though deep down he still did not regard Ye Fan as a true competitor.

After all, he thought, Ye Fan might have his techniques, but so did he—Heavenly Mountain Sword Technique was not to be underestimated!

As the saying goes, a father knows his son best.

Although not his biological father, Cang Bo had watched Xiao Selang grow up and knew him like the back of his hand.

He could see that Xiao Selang was giving him lip service, but also knew that even if he talked until he was blue in the face, Xiao Selang might not take Ye Fan seriously until Ye Fan demonstrated his abilities in the Qing bang competition. Then, Cang Bo could remind Xiao Selang anew.

"By the way, Master, what do you think Bodhi Wuyin was thinking? Back then, so many people were desperate to become her disciple, among them were extremely talented individuals, yet she took none. Now, she has suddenly taken Su Liuli as a disciple—even if Su Liuli is talented, she's not much stronger than other geniuses. Such a move puts her at too much of a starting disadvantage compared to her peers, making it very difficult for her to catch up, don't you think?"

Seeing that Cang Bo was silent, Xiao Selang recalled the encounter he had with Bodhi Wuyin and her disciple Su Liuli a few days ago on Mount Tian and couldn't help but ask.

"Perhaps that girl named Su Liuli has some special qualities that we haven't discovered," Cang Bo pondered. Bodhi Wuyin is a supreme figure in the Buddhist sect, her cultivation profound and mysterious; he did not believe Bodhi Wuyin would choose a disciple who had past her prime cultivation period without a reason.

"Outer disciples say that this Su Liuli seems to know that Ye Fan you just mentioned, and they're apparently on good terms, though whether it's true or not is another matter," Xiao Selang muttered, his expression slightly odd.

"Bodhi Wuyin, as a supreme Buddhist figure, not only developed the Bodhi Skill from the Amitabha Sutra but also is said to have severed the ties of emotion and desire as her cultivation demands none to fear,"

Seeing Xiao Selang's odd expression, Cang Bo, guessing Xiao Selang's thoughts, cautioned, "Her disciple is likely to have inherited her mantle and would also be a person devoid of emotional entanglements. You should try not to waste your energy on romance but focus more on your cultivation."

"Yes, Master," Xiao Selang responded respectfully, yet he secretly thought: Severed emotion and desire? Ha, if I could conquer her, the sense of achievement would surely be no less than winning the Qing bang competition, right?

...

Su Liuli was unaware that she had caught Xiao Selang's attention.

At that moment, she was sitting cross-legged on a snowy mountain not far from the Tian Shan Sword Sect's sect, her eyes tightly shut, fully immersed in her cultivation.

The wind at the mountaintop was not mild, and the blowing snow was piercingly cold.

However—

Around Su Liuli's body, a stream of Qi enveloped her; whenever the wind and snow blew towards her, they were scattered by the Qi flow, not even allowing the snowflakes to touch her snowy white robe.

Swish!

As the first rays of sunlight spilled onto the mountain, Su Liuli slowly opened her eyes, concluding a night of meditation cultivation.

"Liuli, since you activated your root of wisdom, your comprehension has reached incredible levels. Coupled with your Glazed Body, your cultivation has advanced by leaps and bounds. It shouldn't be long before you can accept my teachings," Bodhi Wuyin, also dressed in a white robe, approached with a rare smile on her face, yet inwardly marveled at the miraculous Glazed Body.

Without responding, Su Liuli lifted her head to gaze at the eastern horizon, her expression complex.

"In this life, are we destined never to meet again?"

As she stared, an image of Ye Fan surfaced in her mind; her delicate body trembled slightly, and she helplessly closed her eyes.

Because—

Once she accepts Bodhi Wuyin's teachings, she will sever the bonds of emotion and desire, completely erasing Ye Fan from her life.

Chapter 564 Entering Mount Tian

The setting sun dipped below the horizon, painting the western sky with streaks of crimson, akin to a fierce blaze consuming the clouds—splendid and magnificent.

Atop a snowy peak of Mount Tian, Su Liuli, clad in a white robe, stood at the summit, gazing toward the west.

The mountain breeze made her white robe flutter with a whooshing sound and tousled her black hair, but she remained as still as if she were unaffected, quietly enjoying the sunset.

A moment later, Bodhi Wu Yin, also robed in white, arrived behind Su Liuli but did not disturb her.

Because she knew that ever since Su Liuli arrived at Mount Tian, she had watched the sunset every evening.

"Master, why was Mount Tian the first place in the world where the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi started to increase?" Su Liuli turned her gaze away, asking with a trace of curiosity.

"This is an unsolved mystery of the global Cultivation World. All cultivators want to know the reason, but so far, no one has found an answer."

Bodhi Wu Yin shook her head. She had once come to Mount Tian alone, seeking answers, but despite not finding any, she encountered a white tiger that had mutated into a demon beast. It took tremendous effort to slay it.

That mutated white tiger also became the first demon beast discovered in the Cultivation World, with a strength comparable to a Supreme Strongman of the Gang Qi realm.

"Master, it seems someone is coming?"

Hearing Bodhi Wu Yin's words, Su Liuli was about to say something when she suddenly detected a presence approaching.

"Hmm."

Bodhi Wu Yin nodded, aware of the presence early on, but she had not paid much attention.

"It seems to be the aura of Xiao Selang from the Tian Shan Sword Sect."

Su Liuli found the aura familiar. Upon careful sensing, she immediately recognized it as identical to that of Xiao Selang whom she had met previously.

"It's him," Bodhi Wu Yin confirmed with a nod.

"What is he doing here?"

Su Liuli was puzzled. In her view, she and her master, Bodhi Wu Yin, had only a coincidental encounter with Xiao Selang, so there was no reason for him to seek them out.

"Like a weasel paying a New Year's visit to a chicken, no good intentions," said Bodhi Wu Yin, whose mind was clear as a mirror, but she did not respond directly and instead turned to look in the direction from which Xiao Selang was coming.

Soon, under the watchful eyes of Bodhi Wu Yin and Suli Li, Xiao Selang's figure appeared in their sight.

Today, Xiao Selang was wearing a dark blue robe, with a treasure sword strapped to his waist, and black boots on his feet. At first glance, he looked like an ancient swordsman from movies or television series, graceful and elegant.

"Master Bodhi, Miss Su Liuli, I am delighted to see you both again."

The voice arrived before the man.

As the words ceased, so did his steps.

In the sunset glow, Xiao Selang stood three meters away from Bodhi Wu Yin and Su Liuli, cupping his fists and bowing slightly, seemingly offering his respects to Bodhi Wu Yin, yet his gaze rested on Su Liuli.

"Do you have business with us, teacher and student?" Bodhi Wu Yin asked calmly.

"Meeting is fate. We are not far from the Tian Shan Sword Sect. I'd like to invite Master Bodhi and Miss Su Liuli to visit our sect, to allow us to extend our hospitality," Xiao Selang offered with a smile that he deemed charming.

"I have long been accustomed to solitude; I do not take to crowds," Bodhi Wu Yin shook her head.

"Master Bodhi, if you were to visit, it would certainly grace our Tian Shan Sword Sect. Please honor us with your presence," Xiao Selang continued, his smile polite despite noting Bodhi Wu Yin's disinterest.

Bodhi Wu Yin remained silent, hoping that Xiao Selang would get the hint and leave.

"Miss Su Liuli, our Tian Shan Sword Sect is near the Turquoise Pool, which has delightful scenery. Both you and Master Bodhi are sure to enjoy it there," said Xiao Selang, turning to Su Liuli as his alternative target, knowing well that if Su Liuli showed interest, even if Bodhi Wu Yin disliked bustle, she would accompany her.

"My master doesn't like crowds," Su Liuli reiterated what Bodhi Wu Yin had said earlier.

"Miss Su Liuli, why don't you visit our Tian Shan Sword Sect by yourself? I can accompany you back after the visit," Xiao Selang invited again, his true intent—to extend the invitation to Su Liuli, now plainly revealed.

Despite Cang Bo's prior warning to not waste his efforts on Su Liuli, as she was likely to be Bodhi Wu Yin's heartless inheritor, Xiao Selang hadn't given up his pursuit.

On the contrary, Cang Bo's words only fueled his competitive spirit!

As the genius of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, having been raised in the admiration of his elders and the envy of his peers, and now having broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi Realm, he became the unrivaled sovereign among his generation of cultivators!

All this had significantly inflated his self-confidence.

In his view, although Su Liuli was a great beauty and the disciple of the Buddhist Supreme Bodhi Wu Yin, being pursued by him was the highest honor for Su Liuli—she had no reason to refuse!

Because of this arrogance, as soon as he learned that Cang Bo had entered seclusion, he made his way here.

"Have you got a hole in your head, or are you just playing dumb? If my master doesn't go, how could I possibly go with you?"

Although Su Liuli's personality had changed quite a bit since following Bodhi Wu Yin's cultivation path, she still retained some of her previous demeanor. As she saw Xiao Selang's true colors and persistent annoyance, her brow furrowed, and without a shred of courtesy, she retorted.

Swish!

At the sound of Su Liuli's harsh words, Xiao Selang's face suddenly changed!

As the premier genius of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, when had he ever been humiliated like this?

"You go back and tell Cang Bo that I'm not interested in visiting the Tian Shan Sword Sect. In the future, I don't want any of your Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples disturbing the peace of my apprentice and me," Master Bodhi Wuyin spoke again, issuing a dismissal.

"Alright, then I'll take my leave."

Xiao Selang replied sullenly, without offering any bows or formalities, and turned to leave.

"Heh, I kindly invited you to visit our sect, and you refuse, yet you dream of living on Mount Tian? Keep dreaming!"

After he had turned around, Xiao Selang sneered inwardly, planning to wait for Cang Bo to finish his closed-door cultivation before asking him to drive Master Bodhi Wuyin and her apprentice away!

Such things had happened before—numerous cultivators, attracted by the fame of Mount Tian, had come with the hope of establishing sects or cultivating for extended periods, only to be expelled by the Tian Shan Sword Sect!

Watching Xiao Selang's retreating figure, Master Bodhi Wuyin shook her head in secret. In her view, even if Su Liuli truly let go of Ye Fan, she would definitely not be interested in Xiao Selang.

...

As Xiao Selang left, feeling aggrieved from the encounter with Master Bodhi Wuyin and her apprentice Su Liuli, Ye Fan had arrived at Mount Tian all by himself.

"The Snow Lotus King grows on the cliffs of Mount Tian at an altitude of four or five thousand meters. To find it, I must first reach Turquoise Pool and then ascend to the snow-capped peaks. According to my speed of travel, I should arrive there by tomorrow," Ye Fan thought to himself after nightfall, halting his steps and gazing up at the seemingly endless mountain ranges.

"If that's the case, then there's no need to rush. I will cultivate here tonight, which is perfect for becoming familiar with the usage of Magic in the Innate Great Perfection Realm."

A few days ago, Ye Fan used the Crimson Golden Crown to absorb the resentful spirits in the Soul Summoning Banner and transform them into the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, helping him break through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm in Magic Cultivation.

But... because he continued to absorb and refine Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi afterward to enhance his Martial Arts Cultivation, he had not taken the time or energy to familiarize himself with and understand the Magic applications of the Innate Great Perfection Realm.

Deciding to act on the thought, Ye Fan opened his backpack, ate something casually, and then sat down cross-legged, gathering his consciousness.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Immediately, with a thought, Ye Fan activated his Mind Power, and two Xuanye Flying Blades flew out from his sleeves, transforming into two beams of white light, shuttling back and forth in the air.

He specialized in the 'Manipulation Stream' within Magic, where applying the Magic meant Flying Knife Assassination.

About an hour later, Ye Fan's Telekinesis was almost completely drained, and he had to stop the Flying Knife Assassination practice to enter a state of Meditation Cultivation. He began absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to restore the consumed Mind Power.

Practicing Flying Knife Assassinations consumed Mind Power, while Meditation Cultivation restored it, forming a perfect cycle between the two.

For the rest of the night, Ye Fan spent his time immersed in cultivation.

"The concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on Mount Tian is indeed higher than in other places; the recovery rate of Mind Power is noticeably faster," Ye Fan thought as dawn broke and he woke up from his Meditation Cultivation, his Mind Power fully restored. Instead of continuing to practice Flying Knife Assassinations, he stood up and resumed his journey.

Through last night's cultivation, not only had he familiarized himself with the Mind Power applications of the Innate Great Perfection Realm, but he had also purified his Mind Power, firmly consolidating his Magic Cultivation in the Innate Great Perfection Realm.

"That must be the Sect of the Tian Shan Sword Sect over there."

At noon, Ye Fan arrived at Turquoise Pool and saw buildings halfway up a large mountain near the pool. His heart stirred, and he immediately guessed that it was the Tian Shan Sword Sect's Sect.

Despite realizing this, Ye Fan did not head towards the Tian Shan Sword Sect but moved in the opposite direction.

He understood clearly that even if there was Snow Lotus King on the cliffs of the snow mountains near the Tian Shan Sword Sect, it would have already been harvested by the Sect's disciples and would not be his to find.

Whoosh!

Two hours later, as Ye Fan climbed a snow mountain, he suddenly sensed four presences. Looking intently, he spotted four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples with swords on their backs descending from the mountain peak.

"It seems that the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect have searched all the nearby snow mountains."

Thinking thus, Ye Fan abandoned the idea of climbing further and decided to search for Snow Lotus King on the snow mountains far from the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Hm?

Just as Ye Fan made his decision, the Ghostly Gourd on his body quivered slightly.

"Could it be treasure?"

A major reason why the Ghostly Gourd was a Mid-level Magical Artifact was its acute sensing power towards Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures. Noticing the tremor, Ye Fan ceased walking instantly and rushed toward the source of the Ghostly Gourd's sensation.

Snow Ginseng?

A moment later, in the place sensed by the Ghostly Gourd, Ye Fan discovered a Snow Ginseng breaking through the soil.

Snow Ginseng, as the name suggests, grows in the snow and, although its medicinal value is not as great as Snow Lotus, is a rare Spiritual Medicine of Mount Tian.

The reason the Snow Ginseng had been detected by the Ghostly Gourd was that it had absorbed the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and was undergoing a transformation, with the potential to evolve into a Snow Ginseng King.

And... the value of a Snow Ginseng King was only slightly less than that of a Snow Lotus King, making it a priceless treasure.

"Seems like my luck isn't bad."

Ye Fan smiled slightly, flashed beside the Snow Ginseng, squatted down, and dug it out using the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Boy, put down that Snow Ginseng at once!"

Shortly after Ye Fan picked up the Snow Ginseng, an angry shout came from ahead, the tone leaving no room for doubt!

Chapter 565 - Is Ye Fan a Punching Bag?

Angry shouts arose as four figures sprinted toward Ye Fan from ahead.

Each person wore a long green robe with a sword-shaped pattern on the chest.

That sword-shaped pattern was the symbol of the Tian Shan Sword Sect!

They were none other than the four disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect that Ye Fan had seen earlier!

As inner sect disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, aside from cultivation, they had a monthly task of gathering medicinal herbs—searching for Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures on Mount Tian, then submitting them to the Sect. The Sect would reward them based on the value of the treasures they collected.

Earlier, when they were on the mountaintop and spotted Ye Fan, they hastened down the mountain, just in time to witness Ye Fan collecting Snow Ginseng.

Ye Fan had already sensed their presence, but didn't pay it much mind. Now hearing this furious shout, he looked towards the four men.

"Boy, are you deaf or what? Put down that Snow Ginseng now!"

Soon, the four disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect stopped thirty meters away from Ye Fan. The leader among them shouted angrily at Ye Fan once again.

Although the other three didn't speak, they all glared at Ye Fan furiously, looking ready to attack at any moment.

"This Snow Ginseng was found by me. Why should I put it down?" Ye Fan frowned as he looked at the four men, their tone making him very uncomfortable.

"Mount Tian is the territory of our Tian Shan Sword Sect. Every plant and flower on the mountain belongs to the Tian Shan Sword Sect, including the Snow Ginseng in your hand—you may not take it!"

The leading Tian Shan Sword Sect disciple squinted his eyes and stared coldly at Ye Fan, speaking word by word.

"If I remember correctly, the Yanhuang Organization hasn't specified that the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures on Mount Tian belong to your Tian Shan Sword Sect."

Hearing the lead Tian Shan Sword Sect disciple's explanation, Ye Fan felt even more uncomfortable. In his view, the Tian Shan Sword Sect was far too overbearing, just like the bandits of ancient times, claiming the mountain as their own.

"How dare you!"

"You're courting death!"

"Put down the Snow Ginseng!"

As Ye Fan's words ended, the three previously silent disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect shouted in anger.

Meanwhile, the lead disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect gripped his sword handle, ready to draw his sword at any moment, and said with a naked threat, "Boy, don't try to intimidate us with the Yanhuang Organization—it won't work! If you know what's good for you, hand over the Snow Ginseng immediately, or I guarantee you won't leave Mount Tian alive!"

Without responding, Ye Fan simply took off his backpack and placed the Snow Ginseng inside.

"You're seeking death!"

Seeing Ye Fan's actions, the leading disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect shouted angrily and fiercely drew his sword.

"Clang!"

The sword was drawn from its sheath, its tip pointing at Ye Fan.

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

Seeing this, the other three disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect also drew their swords one after another.

"Boy, I'll give you one last chance. Leave the Snow Ginseng behind or die!"

The leading disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect strode toward Ye Fan, sneering as he walked. He felt as if Ye Fan was the Monkey King trapped under the Five Finger Mountain, and he was The Buddha—Ye Fan could not escape his palm.

Not just him, the other disciples also watched Ye Fan mockingly, not taking him seriously at all.

Firstly, they hadn't sensed a powerful aura from Ye Fan; secondly, as they said, Mount Tian was the territory of the Tian Shan Sword Sect—over the past few years, no cultivator had dared to act recklessly on Mount Tian!

"Swish—"

The next moment.

Before the four disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect could get close to Ye Fan, a sudden bursting sound rang out.

A Xuanye Flying Blade shot out from his sleeve, turning into a white light that whooshed toward the leading disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect!

In an instant.

A sense of impending death surged in the heart of the lead disciple. He instinctively swung his sword to intercept the incoming flying blade.

However—

Before he could swing his sword, he felt a cold sensation at his throat. Looking down, he saw the Xuanye Flying Blade floating in front of his throat—just a centimeter forward, and it would penetrate his throat!

Whoosh!

The sudden turn of events drastically changed his complexion. His body stiffened, as if under an immobilization spell, and he dared not move at all.

"Uh..."

The other three were also startled by this scene; their eyes widened, mouths agape, looking incredulously at the floating Xuanye Flying Blade, their minds blank.

"You... who are you? Could it be that you want to make enemies with our Tian Shan Sword Sect?!"

After the shock, the leading disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect regained some of his composure, keenly aware that Ye Fan could have easily killed him just then. Thus, he refrained from rash actions and only invoked the name of the Tian Shan Sword Sect to intimidate Ye Fan.

"Don't let me see you again, or I won't mind making this place your burial site. Get lost!"

From the beginning, Ye Fan disliked being threatened. The four disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect were not only arrogant but also threatened him. His expression chilled, and he barked a command, his voice embedding a mind attack.

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

With Ye Fan's furious shout, the four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples felt as if thunder had exploded by their ears, shaking their consciousness and causing their bodies to go limp as they fell to the ground.

Seeing their state, Ye Fan no longer paid them any mind, his consciousness moved, he retracted his Xuanye Flying Blade and turned around to leave.

This time.

The four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples didn't dare to make a sound, on the contrary, they watched Ye Fan's departing figure with pale faces, their eyes filled with fear.

Because, reason told them that with the strength Ye Fan had just displayed, killing them would be no different from crushing an ant!

What's more important was that Ye Fan completely disregarded the Tian Shan Sword Sect!!

"Seventh Senior Brother, what do we do?"

When Ye Fan's figure had disappeared, the youngest disciple asked in panic.

"Huh~"

The leading Seventh Senior Brother took a deep breath, steadied his mind, and snorted coldly, "I admit he is very strong, but it's impossible for him to run wild in Mount Tian. Come, follow me back to the sect!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the disciple known as Seventh Senior Brother flashed, swiftly running down the mountain.

Seeing this, the other three Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples no longer talked nonsense and quickly followed behind him.

...

Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Xiao Selang, who was thwarted by Bodhi Wu Yin and Su Liuli, didn't as usual stay in the chamber for cultivation but instead paced back and forth in his room with a very ugly expression on his face.

Last night, after he returned to the Tian Shan Sword Sect, he had intended to immediately go to the secluded Cang Bo and tell him about Bodhi Wu Yin and Su Liuli's plan to stay permanently in Mount Tian, urging Cang Bo to drive them away. However, fearing that his act of disobeying Cang Bo's arrangement and seeking out Su Liuli privately might get exposed, he had to abandon this idea and decided to wait until Cang Bo ended his seclusion to discuss the matter.

However—

After making this decision, Xiao Selang felt incredibly stifled in his heart, unable to calm down for cultivation.

"Did you have a hole in your brain? Or are you pretending to be stupid? If my master doesn't go, how could I possibly go with you?"

Su Liuli's words echoed in his ears like a curse, like a sharp sword piercing through the pride in his heart!

"Bitch, once my master comes out of seclusion, I will have him drive you and that old virgin Bodhi Wu Yin out of Mount Tian!"

Not knowing how much time had passed, Xiao Selang stopped pacing, filled with hatred he said, "And... soon, I will make you regret it! I will make you realize, Xiao Selang taking an interest in you was the fortune you cultivated over eight lifetimes—once I become the leading figure of the young generation, even if you beg me crying to be with me, I wouldn't even look at you!!"

"Huh~"

After calming himself in a manner similar to Ah Q, Xiao Selang deeply exhaled, trying to expel all the repression and frustration in his heart, but he couldn't achieve it—the rage in his heart couldn't be suppressed.

Um?

Just then, Xiao Selang suddenly sensed four presences quickly approaching his room.

"Xiao... Junior Brother Xiao!"

Soon, a voice sounded from outside the door.

"Come in!"

Xiao Selang replied irritably.

Creak!

With a light sound, the door opened, and the four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples who had a conflict with Ye Fan walked into the room, each looking like a wronged wife, their expressions very unhappy.

"What's the matter?"

Xiao Selang, seeing their expressions and not considering why they looked so aggrieved, asked in a stern voice.

The four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples were older than him, but he was regarded and loved as the number one genius of the younger generation in the sect, enjoying a status even higher than that of the lead disciple. Besides, he was already on a short fuse, and his tone left no room for pleasantries.

Perceiving the irritation in Xiao Selang's tone, the four Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples were taken aback, soon realizing he was in a bad mood, they hesitated, unsure whether to speak about their conflict with Ye Fan.

"Speak quickly if you have something to say, spit it out if you have a complaint!"

Xiao Selang, already on edge, became instantly annoyed seeing them enter and remain silent.

"Xiao... Junior Brother Xiao, earlier we were gathering herbs on the mountain when we saw a person who had found a Snow Ginseng absorbed in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. We stopped him to demand the Snow Ginseng, yet he not only refused to hand it over but also attacked us directly with a Mind Attack," said the Seventh Senior Brother, despite not understanding why Xiao Selang was so temperamental but realizing this could be a perfect chance to get back at the offender, hastened to add, "We were no match for him, so we told him our identities. But he totally disregarded the Tian Shan Sword Sect, saying that if he sees us again, he would turn Mount Tian into our grave..."

"Who is he? To dare ignore our Tian Shan Sword Sect, has he eaten the guts of a leopard?" As expected, Xiao Selang's anger flared even more upon hearing this.

"We asked his identity, but he didn't tell us," explained the Seventh Senior Brother, adding hesitantly, "But... his weapon was very distinctive, a Flying Knife; if we use this to track his identity, it shouldn't be difficult..."

"A Flying Knife?"

Xiao Selang paused for a moment. Across Hua Xia, there weren't many cultivators who used Flying Knives, and the only one capable of using a Mind Attack to intimidate the four men in front of him was none other than Ye Fan, whose name had recently shaken the Hua Xia Cultivation World.

Thinking this, Xiao Selang immediately turned, pulled out a portrait from a cabinet, and asked, "Is it this person?"

"Uh..."

Shocked at seeing Ye Fan's portrait, all four exclaimed in unison, asking, "Xiao... Junior Brother Xiao, how do you have his portrait? Who is he?"

"Hey, I was worrying about how to vent this anger, and it turns out this kid surname Ye has delivered himself to my doorstep, just like a pillow to a napping person!"

Xiao Selang, instead of answering, scoffed coldly, feeling as though Ye Fan was his outlet for releasing anger.

Chapter 566 - Having a Sword but Playing Cheap

"A Ye who uses a Flying Knife, could he be the Ye Fan who recently became notorious in the Huaxia Cultivation World?"

Upon hearing Xiao Selang's words, the seventh senior brother had a thought and suddenly blurted out a question.

Ye Fan?!

Although the other three Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples didn't recognize Ye Fan, they had heard of his fearsome reputation and knew about his deeds of blood-washing the Nanqinghong and single-handedly challenging the Hongwu Sect, all wearing surprised expressions as they looked at Xiao Selang, waiting for his answer.

"Yes, he is Ye Fan, the personal disciple of Chu Xuanji."

Xiao Selang nodded, but he didn't reveal Ye Fan's background as a member of the Ye Family; he only mentioned the identity of Chu Xuanji's personal disciple.

"So, it turns out that's why he dared to be so arrogant!"

"Even if he is Chu Xuanji's disciple, he shouldn't disregard our Tian Shan Sword Sect, should he?"

"Exactly, Chu Xuanji is strong, but if Sect Leader and the secluded Inner Sect Elder join forces, defeating him wouldn't be difficult!"

Apart from the seventh senior brother, the other three disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect suddenly realized why Ye Fan was so arrogant and seemed quite displeased.

As inner disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, they were well-aware that the strongest person in the sect was not Cang Bo but the secluded Inner Sect Elder Xiao Jian.

Like the three great Inner Elders of the Yanhuang Organization, Xiao Jian was also a hidden Supreme Strongman, not listed within the Dragon Rankings, but his strength was comparable to the top ten experts in the rankings; he was only unknown to the world because he secludes himself for cultivation all year round.

"Xiao... Junior Brother Xiao, could it be that Ye Fan has offended you before?"

As the dialogues of the three Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples concluded, the seventh senior brother suddenly thought about how Xiao Selang had not only brought up Ye Fan's likeness but also mentioned something about Ye Fan "showing up at their doorstep," hinting at something, and couldn't help but ask.

"Hmm."

Xiao Selang nodded his head.

Although he personally had no grievances with Ye Fan, he knew Ye Fan was on good terms with Su Liuli and hence attributed her matters to Ye Fan.

The reason he had Ye Fan's portrait was that he had informed the outer disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect to collect portraits of the young generation's strong individuals, including Martial Arts genius Emperor Bai of the Bai Family and the top expert of the young generation from the Yanhuang Organization, Leng Feng.

"Junior Brother Xiao, since that's the case, we must teach him a lesson, or he'll think our Tian Shan Sword Sect is easy to bully!" The seventh senior brother suggested.

"I was thinking the same," Xiao Selang sneered, then said, "Alright, you guys go back first; I'll go find Elder Meng to discuss this matter."

As his words fell, Xiao Selang no longer paid attention to the four of them, and with a flicker under his feet, he dashed out of the door, heading towards the innermost building of the sect.

The owner of that building was Elder Meng—Meng Bai.

Meng Bai was one of the three great elders of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, who had long reached the half-step Gang Qi realm and was an absolute overlord among half-step Gang Qi cultivators, his strength even surpassed Nolan Mingde, the clan leader of the Nolan Family, and was on par with Hong Lie of the Yanhuang Organization.

Usually, if Cang Bo was in seclusion or out, all matters of the Tian Shan Sword Sect were handled by the three great Outer Elders together, with Meng Bai having the final say.

"Little Wolf, come in."

A moment later, as Xiao Selang reached the entrance of Meng Bai's room, the door automatically opened, and Meng Bai's voice came from inside, carrying a terrifying penetrating power.

"Greetings, Elder Meng."

As Meng Bai's voice reached his ears, Xiao Selang's consciousness shuddered, secretly admiring Meng Bai's strength while swiftly entering the room and bowing deeply to Meng Bai.

In the room, Meng Bai sat cross-legged on a mat with a black long sword placed beside him, his whole person resembling an unsheathed sharp treasure sword, emitting a daunting presence.

Even though Xiao Selang had broken through to the half-step Gang Qi realm, he still felt somewhat uncomfortable facing the sharpness emanated by Meng Bai.

Noticing this, Meng Bai retracted his aura and asked, "Little Wolf, what brings you here?"

"Elder Meng, it's like this..."

As Meng Bai retracted his aura, the pressure on Xiao Selang drastically reduced, prompting him to speak about the conflict between Ye Fan and the four including the seventh senior brother.

"Did Little Seven and the others get hurt?"

After listening to Xiao Selang's report, Meng Bai fell silent for a moment before asking again.

"No."

Xiao Selang shook his head, then quickly realized something and added, "However, that guy Ye Fan was utterly boastful, saying that if he encounters the seventh senior brother and the others again, he'll kill them, completely disregarding our Tian Shan Sword Sect!"

Meng Bai raised his eyebrows but didn't reply.

"Elder Meng, that guy Ye Fan is way too arrogant; we must show him some color, or outsiders will mock our Tian Shan Sword Sect and think we are afraid of him!" Xiao Selang expressed his thoughts.

"Punishing him is easy, but this will bring trouble to the sect—Chu Xuanji is not someone to be trifled with."

Meng Bai frowned, being an Outer Sect Great Elder of the Tian Shan Sword Sect; he not only knew of Chu Xuanji's terrifying strength but also knew that Chu Xuanji had killed Wu Mu two days ago.

"Elder Meng, I know Chu Xuanji is very strong, but if teacher and Elder Xiao join forces, we have nothing to fear!" Xiao Selang said fearlessly.

"With the strength of Senior Brother Cang and Elder Xiao, if they join forces, they naturally don't have to fear Chu Xuanji, but turning him into a sworn enemy over a mere Snow Ginseng that doesn't even count as plant essence is truly unwise."

Meng Bai shook his head and said, "Moreover, Chu Xuanji has a not-so-shallow friendship with Yan, and six years ago, because Yan emerged from seclusion to save the world, if we really break with him beyond repair, Yan will definitely side with him."

"Elder Meng, you've misunderstood my intentions," Xiao Selang explained.

"Oh? How so?"

Elder Meng had assumed Xiao Selang was going to settle scores with Ye Fan and was admittedly puzzled by Xiao Selang's words.

"The lesson I spoke of does not involve killing Ye Fan but merely requires him to hand over the Snow Ginseng and admit his fault, then we can let this matter rest."

Xiao Selang said, seizing this opportunity to trouble Ye Fan. It appeared to be a gesture of standing up for the four disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect and defending the Sect's honor. More importantly, it was an excuse to vent the frustrations he suffered at the hands of Su Liuli and achieve mental clarity.

Elder Meng countered, "Presumably, you've also heard of Ye Fan's exploits. With his style of conduct, getting him to relinquish that Snow Ginseng might be harder than reaching the heavens. If he doesn't hand it over, what will you do?"

"I will challenge him with the Snow Ginseng as the wager, but not to kill him, only to defeat him!"

Xiao Selang confidently declared, "By doing so, not only will the Sect's honor remain intact, but Chu Xuanji would have nothing to complain about. After all, it is his disciple who lacked in training."

"Given that boy's arrogant nature, he would probably accept your challenge. Not a bad idea, but I will go with you," Elder Meng said, his eyes sparkling as he made his decision.

"Elder Meng, do you doubt that I am his match?"

Xiao Selang looked unhappy; he had absolute confidence in his own strength. To him, defeating Ye Fan was as easy as flipping his hand.

"Not at all."

Elder Meng shook his head and gave a bitter smile, "You've recently broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm and have mastered the Sixth Form of the Heavenly Sword Nine Forms; defeating him should be easy. However... you've just reached the Half-step Gang Qi realm, and your control over Gang Qi is still unrefined, making it hard to guarantee that you won't accidentally kill him in a duel."

"Elder Meng, you worry too much; even without invoking Gang Qi, I can easily defeat him," Xiao Selang said confidently.

"Although that boy is indeed at the Peak stage of Innate, he possesses the strength to kill someone in the Innate Great Perfection realm and likely has many techniques at his disposal. If you do not use Gang Qi, defeating him will not be an easy task. I should accompany you just in case."

Elder Meng shook his head again; to him, while the honor of the Tian Shan Sword Sect was indeed important, it was imperative to ensure Ye Fan's life and to prevent him from sustaining severe injuries. Otherwise, the Tian Shan Sword Sect would face Chu Xuanji's wrath.

This was something he did not wish to see!

After all, neither Sect Leader Cang Bo nor Elder Xiao Jian would want to provoke Chu Xuanji!

"Alright."

Seeing that Elder Meng was insistent, Xiao Selang reluctantly agreed, yet he secretly resolved to prove his strength in front of Elder Meng—easily defeating Ye Fan without resorting to Gang Qi!

Half an hour later.

A sharp cry of an eagle resounded through the sky, as a golden eagle appeared above the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Generally, an eagle is only seventy centimeters long, but the one that appeared was six to seven meters in length, with wings spread wide like a fighter jet soaring in the sky.

"Whoosh~"

Suddenly, the golden eagle swooped down from the sky, landing in the plaza of the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

"Why has the Golden Eagle appeared?"

"Could it be that another cultivator is causing trouble in Mount Tian?"

In the plaza, disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect stirred, looking around and asking each other, their expressions filled with shock.

The shock was because they all knew that the golden eagle that landed in the plaza was a mutant beast that had absorbed Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, with feathers hard as iron and a beak sharp as a knife, possessing the strength comparable to a Half-step Gang Qi realm Cultivator. It served as a Guardian Beast of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, with an esteemed status and was only used by Sect Leader Cang Bo and Great Elder Meng Bai!

In their memory, the last time the Golden Eagle was used was three years ago.

At that time, Sect Leader Cang Bo and Xiao Selang had left to travel, and a cultivator from the Tianzhu Alliance came to Mount Tian, killing three disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect. Great Elder Meng Bai rode the Golden Eagle across Mount Tian, ultimately finding and killing the invader from the Tianzhu Alliance on the spot.

"Looks like Junior Brother Xiao has convinced Elder Meng to teach that Ye Fan a lesson!"

In a small courtyard of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, the four disciples who had previously clashed with Ye Fan saw the Golden Eagle, and the one called Little Seven by Xiao Selang let out a cold laugh.

"Since the Golden Eagle is involved, surely Elder Meng will go too. That boy is as good as dead!"

The other three disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect were thrilled, lamenting only that they could not witness Ye Fan being splattered with blood on the spot.

Meanwhile, Elder Meng, accompanied by Xiao Selang, arrived at the plaza.

"Elder Meng, has someone else killed our brothers?" asked a disciple of the Tian Shan Sword Sect as the two appeared among the crowd.

Whoosh!

Though others didn't speak, they shared the same thoughts, all casting their gaze toward Elder Meng, awaiting his response.

"Continue with your Cultivation; I'm taking Little Wolf to handle a matter," Elder Meng answered, deliberately vague, grabbing Xiao Selang by the arm, leaping onto the back of the Golden Eagle, and communicating with it through his mind.

The Golden Eagle let out another sharp cry and, with a powerful flap of its wings, soared high into the air, heading towards the snowy mountain Ye Fan had left earlier.

Chapter 567 - Slaying the Mutant Beast

Whoosh!

On a snowy mountain not far from the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Bodhi Wu Yin opened her eyes and swept her gaze towards the Golden Eagle, her face showing a trace of puzzlement.

Although she, like Chu Xuanji, preferred solitude, it did not mean she was ignorant of the Hua Xia Cultivation World. On the contrary, she had her own unique channels of information.

Otherwise, she would not have gone to Hanghu to find Su Liuli after their first chance meeting in Southern Tibet and secretly followed her until Su Liuli and Ye Fan's emotional calamity unfolded, seizing the opportunity to take Su Liuli as her disciple.

There are few mutant beasts in the cultivation world with strength comparable to a cultivator in the Innate Realm; even fewer can be tamed, and the Golden Eagle is one of the most famous among them. Like the "Heavenly Sword Nine Forms" of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, it is a symbol of the sect.

She knew well that only a handful of people in the Tian Shan Sword Sect could utilize the Golden Eagle, and it was only deployed during significant events.

"Master, that Golden Eagle is huge, is it a demon beast?"

Su Liuli also saw the Golden Eagle in the sky and asked with some astonishment.

"It can only be considered a half-demon beast, with strength equivalent to a Half-step Gang Qi realm human cultivator," Bodhi Wu Yin explained, then said, "Liu Li, continue cultivating here. I'll go see what's going on."

"Okay."

Su Liuli nodded.

Bodhi Wu Yin wasted no more words, sprung up, and soared into the sky, manipulating Qi to fly towards the Golden Eagle.

Her speed was extremely fast, yet she did not directly catch up with the Golden Eagle. Instead, she maintained a distance.

Moreover, to avoid being noticed by Meng Bai and Xiao Selang on the Golden Eagle, Bodhi Wu Yin specifically created a white airflow around her body, which from a distance looked like a moving white cloud, making it impossible to detect her presence.

The Golden Eagle possesses strength akin to a Half-step Gang Qi realm cultivator largely because of its incredible speed.

Its fearsome speed makes each of its attacks particularly terrifying, and with demonic power formed inside its body from refining Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, it can easily break the defenses of any cultivator below the Gang Qi Realm.

However—

In order to find Ye Fan, when the Golden Eagle flew from that snowy mountain where Ye Fan had left, Meng Bai had it slow down and reduce altitude so that he could release his mind and carefully sense Ye Fan's aura.

"Elder Meng, did you sense that guy's aura?"

On the back of the Golden Eagle, Xiao Selang steadied himself, turned his head and asked Meng Bai.

"Strange, there's no cultivator's aura nearby," Meng Bai replied with some confusion.

"Could he know we're after him to settle scores and chose to flee?" Xiao Selang asked somewhat reluctantly.

"Impossible."

Meng Bai shook his head and said, "Based on what you've said, his conflict with Little Seven and the others took place in the morning. He wouldn't have been able to escape in just a few hours."

"So, he likely has a magic artifact that conceals aura, or knows some secret technique that can hide it?" Xiao Selang's mind raced, and he immediately thought of something.

"That should be the case."

Meng Bai nodded, but his eyebrows quietly creased.

Originally, him riding the Golden Eagle and releasing his mind to search should have made finding Ye Fan not so difficult.

Now, since Ye Fan could conceal his aura, finding him would be as hard as ascending to heaven—Tian Shan is so vast, and without being able to use his mind to search, looking for Ye Fan would be like searching for a needle in a haystack!

Huh?

Just as Meng Bai was feeling somewhat troubled, not far from where the Golden Eagle was circling, on another snowy mountain, Ye Fan saw the Golden Eagle and was extremely surprised.

Although he was the private disciple of Chu Xuanji and had grown up in deep forests and mountains with him, he had only encountered a few mutant beasts, and had never encountered one as powerful as the Golden Eagle before.

"There are people on the Golden Eagle, could it be the Tian Shan Sword Sect coming to settle scores with me?"

Immediately, without waiting for Ye Fan to recover from his shock, as the Golden Eagle flew closer, Ye Fan sensed the auras of Meng Bai and Xiao Selang, his mind stirred, guessing a possibility.

Without an answer.

Ye Fan was not sure of this, but he also knew that the people on the Golden Eagle hadn't discovered him because he had activated the Ghost Ring, concealing his own aura.

Soon, the Golden Eagle flew past the snowy mountain where Ye Fan was, and Ye Fan continued onward, planning to look for the Snow Lotus King on a few cliffs above.

Huh?

As he walked, Ye Fan sensed an aura, suddenly stopped in his tracks, and his gaze swept toward a forest ahead, where he starkly saw a black shadow.

At just a glimpse, Ye Fan saw that the shadow was a Mutated Wolf.

The wolf was much larger than Little Wolf, about one meter tall and five meters long, with shiny fur, powerful limbs, stark white teeth, and its wolf eyes emitted a greenish glow, filled with a ferocious aura.

"Aura equal to an Innate Great Perfection realm Mutated Wolf?"

Aware of the ferocious aura emanated by the Mutated Wolf, Ye Fan was initially stunned, then quickly realized that he hadn't noticed the wolf probably because it had sensed the aura of the Golden Eagle and consciously concealed its own.

Once wild animals absorb and refine Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and mutate, not only does their body become stronger, forming demonic power within, but their brain area is also altered, intelligence heightened, commonly known as Spiritual Wisdom.

Generally speaking, the stronger the mutant beast, the more developed its Spiritual Wisdom, the smarter it is.

"Roar~"

Just as Ye Fan had guessed, the Mutated Wolf had specifically concealed its aura earlier because it was afraid of being discovered by the Golden Eagle. Now seeing the Golden Eagle far away, it growled lowly at Ye Fan.

"Swoosh—"

After growling, the Mutated Wolf sprang up, turning into a black shadow, and rapidly pounced towards Ye Fan.

Seeing this, Ye Fan knew that the Mutated Wolf had not only sensed his aura but had also judged that his aura was weaker than its own, hence it initiated the attack.

"Hey, it actually takes me for food."

Ye Fan chuckled softly and did not control the Xuanye Flying Blade to kill the Mutated Wolf. Instead, he pulled out a Black Iron Fist set and wore it on his hand, preparing to use martial arts to battle the Mutated Wolf.

"Roar~"

Within a few breaths, the Mutated Wolf had pounced in front of Ye Fan. Seeing that Ye Fan neither dodged nor flinched and looked at it with contempt, it was immediately enraged and roared again, baring its ghastly white fangs as it opened its big, bloody mouth.

"Huff! Huff!"

As the Mutated Wolf closed in, the wind from its movement blasted Ye Fan like ice shards, causing a stinging pain in his eyes that forced him to close them.

Swish—

The next moment.

Just as the Mutated Wolf's front claws were about to reach Ye Fan, he moved!

He slipped his feet, smooth as a greased eel, instantly flashing to the side and causing the Mutated Wolf to swipe at empty air.

"Huff!"

After dodging, Ye Fan sprang back like a spring behind the Mutated Wolf. Without waiting for it to land, he clenched his right fist, activated his power, and struck full force at the Mutated Wolf's abdomen!

Qi Rushes to the Sky!

As he made his move, Ye Fan executed the killing move "Qi Rushes to the Sky" from "Xuansha Fist" at the Third Level, twenty-seven times the power!

The Black Iron Fist set, infused with power, flickered with black light, looking like a mass of dark energy, striking right at the abdomen of the Mutated Wolf.

"Bang!"

Power exploded, and with the enhancement from the Black Iron Fist set, the strength doubled and hit the abdomen of the Mutated Wolf like an exploding cannonball, instantly blasting a bloody cavity there.

The terrifying force sent the Mutated Wolf flying, blood spilled all over, scattering like a shower of blood blossoms.

"Ow!!"

The intense pain caused the Mutated Wolf to let out a heart-wrenching howl, the ferocity and violence in its eyes completely gone, replaced by fear!

Clearly... it had not anticipated that Ye Fan was so powerful!

Boom!

In an instant, the body of the Mutated Wolf crashed into the mountain side. The horrific force cracked the mountain, causing debris to scatter all around.

The Mutated Wolf howled in pain again, struggling to get back up.

"Not dead?"

On the other side, Ye Fan was also somewhat surprised.

Although his martial arts cultivation had not yet broken through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, because of his cultivation of the Nine Heavens Profound Skill, his power quality was comparable to an Innate Great Perfection Cultivator.

Hence, his punch just now was equivalent to an Innate Great Perfection Cultivator's fully powered strike without using martial techniques—fifty-four times the power!

Such an attack power was enough to instantly kill an Innate Great Perfection Cultivator. Even a Half-step Gang Qi realm Cultivator taking it directly would get injured.

"No wonder they say mutant beasts can sweep across cultivators of similar strength. Both their attack and defense are abnormally strong!"

After the surprise, Ye Fan realized that not only did mutant beasts have terrifying attack power, but their defense was also astonishing; their only weakness was that they could not cultivate martial arts and magic like humans, only relying on brute force to attack.

As Ye Fan pondered, the Mutated Wolf, enduring its injuries, managed to stand up but did not dare continue the attack and instead, fled in terror.

"Swoosh—"

Seeing this, Ye Fan's consciousness moved, and the Xuanye Flying Blade shot out from his sleeve, turning into a white gleam and instantly entering the brain of the Mutated Wolf.

"Pfft—"

The flying blade pierced through, leaving a blood-red cavity in the brain of the Mutated Wolf as hot blood spurted out fiercely.

Thump—

The vast body of the Mutated Wolf crashed to the ground, convulsing violently like it was electrocuted, and soon, it was motionless.

"Although the Mutated Wolf of the Innate Great Perfection Realm does not have a Demon Core, it does have a Demon Core which Little Wolf can eat."

Having killed the Mutated Wolf with one strike, Ye Fan mobilized the Xuanye Flying Blade again, easily slicing open the abdomen of the Mutated Wolf.

Having done all this, Ye Fan leapt up and instantly swooped in front of the corpse of the Mutated Wolf, crouched down, and took out a bead from its abdomen.

The bead was barely different in size from the glass marbles used in checker games, entirely black, containing concentrated demonic power. It was the Mutated Wolf's Demon Core.

The so-called Demon Core is where mutant beasts store their demonic power, similar to human cultivators' Power Seed, only larger.

Hmm?

Moments later, just as Ye Fan was putting away the Demon Core of the Mutated Wolf, he suddenly sensed the three auras that had disappeared earlier rapidly approaching!

The three auras were from Meng Bai, Xiao Selang, and the Golden Eagle!

"Bad, the aura I released while killing the Mutated Wolf has been discovered by them!"

Ye Fan thought this, just about to hide. However, he suddenly heard the Golden Eagle cry out, its piercing screech echoing throughout the entire sky.

After the screech, the Golden Eagle, carrying Meng Bai and Xiao Selang, dove from high above and charged at Ye Fan at lightning speed!

Chapter 568 - Forced Battle!

The Golden Eagle's speed was incredibly fast; it took just a few breaths for it to land on the clearing where Ye Fan had killed the Mutated Wolf, the terrifying velocity whipping up a fierce wind that caused the trees to sway incessantly.

As the Golden Eagle touched down and folded its wings, its gaze fixed coldly on Ye Fan, giving him a sudden palpitation.

Fortunately, his consciousness was strong and his Martial Arts Will resolute; it didn't affect him much. He turned his attention to Meng Bai and Xiao Selang instead.

Meng Bai and Xiao Selang jumped down from the back of the Golden Eagle and stood beside it.

Both were dressed in the attire of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, with treasure swords hanging at their waists. When they saw Ye Fan's gaze sweep over, they couldn't help but meet it.

Among them, Meng Bai's gaze was piercing and oppressive—it felt like having a sharp treasure sword held at one's neck, for no reason one would feel tense and fearful.

In contrast, Xiao Selang's eyes weren't as sharp, but they carried a clear disdain—he held his head high, his mouth almost turned up to the sky, his air of arrogance hitting Ye Fan full in the face.

Shua!

After sizing Ye Fan up, Meng Bai couldn't help but turn his attention to the corpse of the Mutated Wolf, his brows furrowing.

As a dominant figure at the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he wasn't just strong but also well-experienced, instantly judging that it was a Mutated Wolf with strength comparable to an Innate Great Perfection Cultivator.

Killing the Mutated Wolf in just two moves?

Seeing that the Mutated Wolf only had two wounds, Meng Bai was shocked!

Mount Tian was the first place on Earth where the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi increased, so it had the most mutant beasts, some of which were very powerful.

As the Outer Elder of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Meng Bai knew that the attack power and defense of mutant beasts were extremely strong, almost enough to sweep aside cultivators of equivalent strength.

In his opinion, any ordinary cultivator at the Innate Great Perfection realm who encountered a Mutated Wolf was doomed to die, even... it wouldn't be easy for cultivators at the Half-step Gang Qi realm to kill a Mutated Wolf.

And yet...It took Ye Fan only two moves to kill the Mutated Wolf!

Hmm?

Meng Bai was not the only one to notice this—Xiao Selang did too.

Occupying the feng shui treasure that is Mount Tian, the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect generally had opportunities to hone their skills by killing mutant beasts.

As the number one genius of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Xiao Selang had more chances and instances of killing mutant beasts than other disciples and had a clear understanding of their strength.

Although he was arrogant, he had to admit that at his Innate Great Perfection realm, even if he used the 'Heavenly Sword Nine Forms', the Tian Shan Sword Sect's treasured skill, he couldn't kill the Mutated Wolf in front of him in two moves!

Therefore, when he saw only two wounds on the Mutated Wolf, Xiao Selang's pupils abruptly constricted!

Reason told him that Meng Bai was right—Ye Fan was stronger than he had imagined. If he only used the power of his Innate Great Perfection realm, he wouldn't stand a chance against Ye Fan!

This sudden turn of events made Xiao Selang's expression extremely ugly, and the rage in his heart inexplicably intensified while his eyes looked at Ye Fan as though they were about to spew fire.

After all, he had decided to defeat Ye Fan using only the strength of his Innate Great Perfection realm!

"So, this is why you dare to run wild on Mount Tian—you've broken through the Innate Great Perfection!" Xiao Selang spoke irritably, venting his annoyance.

"Run wild? I think it's your Sect's disciples who have gone too far, right?"

Seeing Meng Bai and Xiao Selang's Tian Shan Sword Sect attire, Ye Fan suspected they were here to cause him trouble. Hearing what Xiao Selang said, he confirmed this suspicion, but he didn't show any fear. Instead, he returned fire.

First, he didn't think he was in the wrong for the morning's incident; second, although Meng Bai and Xiao Selang couldn't sense his real strength, he could sense theirs and knew what they were capable of.

Even though Xiao Selang was at the Half-step Gang Qi realm, it seemed he had just broken through and his aura was not stable, posing no threat to Ye Fan.

And although Meng Bai's aura did pose a danger, Ye Fan had a trump card—the Flying Knife Assassination. If it came down to a fight to the death, it was still uncertain who would emerge victorious.

Moreover, Ye Fan believed that with the deterrent of Chu Xuanji, the two would not dare to lay hands on him!

"It seems the Seventh Junior Brother and the others weren't wrong; you truly do not regard the Tian Shan Sword Sect seriously!"

Xiao Selang's expression changed, the anger in his features intensified, "Do you think you can just push around the Tian Shan Sword Sect, because you have Chu Xuanji's backing?"

As the words fell, Xiao Selang's aura began to rise step by step, his eyes burning with fury as if he was on the verge of lashing out at any moment.

"The outside world says that Chu Xuanji's secluded disciple behaves arrogantly, with no regard for anyone. Now it seems those reports are not false." Meng Bai took a step forward as if to pre-empt Xiao Selang from striking, his eyebrows knit together as he stared at Ye Fan.

Ye Fan snorted coldly, "Compared to you Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples, I see only small fry claiming to be overlords."

"Boy, what did you say?"

On hearing Ye Fan's arrogant words again, Xiao Selang became furious. He had lived on Mount Tian for over twenty years and had never seen a cultivator be so brash!

"Little Wolf, don't be impulsive!"

Seeing Xiao Selang on the brink of exploding with rage, Meng Bai quickly pressed down on his shoulder, then frowned and said to Ye Fan, "Ye Fan, as I understand it, you almost injured our Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples this morning and even threatened to kill them if you saw them again. Now, you claim that our Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples are arrogant. Are you suggesting that the disciples of our Sect have lied to me?"

"Whether they lied or not, you need to ask them."

Seeing that Meng Bai wanted to reason, Ye Fan's tone became a bit more polite, "All I know is that this morning, I found a Snow Ginseng on the mountain. I had just picked it and hadn't even had the chance to put it in my backpack, when your Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples demanded that I hand it over to them. When I refused, they drew their swords and tried to take it by force..."

"Mount Tian is our Tian Shan Sword Sect's territory; every blade of grass and every tree here belongs to us," Xiao Selang interrupted Ye Fan furiously.

"Hmm, at the time, that's what they said too, but... to my knowledge, the Yanhuang Organization hasn't dictated that absolutely everything on Mount Tian belongs to the Tian Shan Sword Sect, has it?" Ye Fan ignored Xiao Selang's fury, treating him as if he were thin air, and only looked at Meng Bai.

"While the Yanhuang Organization hasn't made such a rule, since our Tian Shan Sword Sect has established a sect on Mount Tian, naturally the mountain is our domain, and everything on it belongs to our sect!" Xiao Selang spoke again with an air of entitlement.

"Your strength is greater than his, and you should be higher in status within the sect; I will regard your response as the decisive one." Ye Fan's gaze remained fixed on Meng Bai.

Meng Bai pondered for a moment and then said, "While Little Wolf has exaggerated a bit, within a hundred miles centered on the Turquoise Pool, it indeed is our Tian Shan Sword Sect's territory. It is an unwritten rule tacitly acknowledged by the Yanhuang Organization that other major sects consider the areas near their sects as their own domains."

"I'm sorry, I have never heard of this unwritten rule."

Ye Fan was certain that the Yanhuang Organization would never recognize this unwritten rule. It was all the Tian Shan Sword Sect using their power to bully the weak, forcing outsiders to accept this rule.

"Since you have not heard of it, then it is a case of ignorance and no crime—as long as you hand over the Snow Ginseng, we can forget everything that happened before!" Meng Bai proposed.

"Since I have never heard of this unwritten rule, I won't acknowledge its existence, and I won't hand over the Snow Ginseng!" Ye Fan flatly refused, his stance resolute.

To him, the Tian Shan Sword Sect's approach was nothing short of highway robbery.

"Young man, Elder Meng has been patient with you and has shown respect to both you and your master. Don't spurn the offer of a truce for a clash!" Xiao Selang managed to restrain himself because of Meng Bai's intervention, but seeing Ye Fan remain defiant, his anger flared up again.

"So if I don't hand over the Snow Ginseng, do you intend to rob and murder me?"

As it became clear that negotiation was futile, Ye Fan scoffed and said, "Don't say I didn't warn you—before coming to Mount Tian, my master Chu Xuanji had wanted to come along, but I didn't let him. If he finds out I died on Mount Tian, I guarantee that many people from the Tian Shan Sword Sect will be joining me in death, possibly even leading to the annihilation of your sect!"

"Ye Fan, I admit your master Chu Xuanji is powerful, but he's still not capable of exterminating our Tian Shan Sword Sect!" Angered by the mention of Chu Xuanji, Meng Bai spoke with a distinctly hostile tone.

"In that case, feel free to try!"

At those words, Ye Fan's eyes narrowed, and though he spoke defiantly, he silently concluded that if they should attack, he would immediately use his full strength to fling his Flying Knife Assassination and catch Meng Bai off guard in a bid to slay him in one blow, then deal with Xiao Selang afterwards.

With Meng Bai gone, Xiao Selang would be like a fish on a chopping board, ready to be carved up by him!

And as for... the Golden Eagle!

As a Magician, he could communicate with the Golden Eagle through his mind.

Should the Golden Eagle's intentions enter his body, they would face a ferocious strike from the Crimson Golden Crown, sealing their certain death!

While Ye Fan remained on high alert, Bodhi Wu Yin, who had been hiding in the sky, slightly furrowed his brows and made a secret decision—if Meng Bai dared lay a hand on Ye Fan, he would intervene immediately!

"Young man, we're not killing you not because we fear your master, but because we don't want to violate the Yanhuang Organization's rules!"

Meng Bai, unaware of Bodhi Wu Yin's concealed presence, spoke as he had previously planned with Xiao Selang, "Also, I hope you understand that the Snow Ginseng belongs to the Tian Shan Sword Sect! You may take it with you, on the condition that you defeat Little Wolf—if you can beat Little Wolf, the Snow Ginseng is yours. Otherwise, you must hand it over to us and apologize to our Tian Shan Sword Sect!"

"I'm sorry, I have no interest in fighting him."

Ye Fan rejected the proposal immediately. The Snow Ginseng was rightfully his; why should he have to prove its ownership through combat?

Moreover, in his view, Meng Bai's challenge could very well be a ruse, designed to probe his true strength, thereby facilitating a more strategic robbery.

Even if Meng Bai were telling the truth, to defeat Xiao Selang, Ye Fan would need to use all of his strength and reveal his ace in the hole—the Flying Knife Assassination.

Once his trump card was revealed, Meng Bai would be prepared.

Then, if Meng Bai went back on his word and proceeded with robbery and murder, Ye Fan would stand no chance, and likely meet his demise!

"If you dare not fight me, then hand over the Snow Ginseng and come back to the sect with me to apologize to my four senior brothers!" Xiao Selang sneered coldly, his right hand already resting on the hilt of his sword, ready to draw at any moment.

"I must refuse!"

"I've been patient with you for too long!"

Seeing Ye Fan's refusal, Xiao Selang shouted furiously and swiftly drew his sword, striking a blow towards Ye Fan!

Chapter 569 - Defeat!

The infuriated Xiao Selang finally couldn't hold back and launched an attack on Ye Fan!

For this sword strike, he didn't use any martial arts techniques; he merely stimulated the Gang Qi within his body and channeled it into the treasure sword in his hand.

"Swoosh——"

As he slashed with his sword, a stream of Gang Qi burst forth from the tip of the treasure sword, transforming into a beam of Gang Qi Sword Radiance, shooting towards Ye Fan.

Ye Fan had remained alert from beginning to end and was already prepared to react. Sensing Xiao Selang's movement through his Spiritual Sense, he swiftly dodged with a flash, moving like a teleportation, instantly dashing over ten meters away.

The Gang Qi Sword Radiance whooshed past the spot where Ye Fan had just been, before it could no longer maintain its form, scattered into wisps of Gang Qi that swept across the trees behind the clearing, merely snapping a few small branches and scattering leaves on the ground.

"It seems he has indeed just broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm and has yet to stabilize his realm; even when using a Magic Artifact to attack, the power isn't strong."

Glancing at the damage caused by Xiao Selang's sword strike, that's what Ye Fan thought. He didn't counterattack, but instead, turned his gaze to Meng Bai—while Xiao Selang couldn't pose a threat to him, Meng Bai certainly could!

"I want to see how many swords you can dodge!"

Seeing Ye Fan easily evade his strike, fury surged even stronger within Xiao Selang. Without waiting for Meng Bai to speak, he let out an angry shout and charged towards Ye Fan with his sword raised.

"Little Wolf, make sure not to take his life!"

Upon seeing this, Meng Bai knew it was nearly impossible to stop Xiao Selang from attacking Ye Fan now that he had been thoroughly provoked. He simply let Xiao Selang act but reminded him not to accidentally kill Ye Fan.

Up in the sky, Bodhi Wuyin had intended to help Ye Fan, but seeing him easily dodge Xiao Selang's attack, he realized that Ye Fan's combat strength was far stronger than it appeared on the surface. He then eased his mind and upon hearing Meng Bai's words, he decided not to intervene and chose to watch the developments calmly.

"Swoosh——"

Meanwhile, Ye Fan didn't engage in a frontal battle but instead, abruptly retreated.

Though he deduced from Meng Bai's words that the other party had some apprehensions about his background, to be on the safe side he still decided to distance himself from Meng Bai first.

If he could distance himself from Meng Bai, he wouldn't have to worry about being ambushed by Meng Bai, nor would he fear exposing his trump cards, allowing him to properly teach Xiao Selang a lesson.

At that time, whether Meng Bai would keep his earlier promise or not, he could handle it with ease!

"Thinking of escaping? It won't be that easy!"

Seeing Ye Fan retreat abruptly, Xiao Selang subjectively assumed that Ye Fan was trying to escape. With a cold laugh, he pushed his speed to the limit. He became like a phantom, hot on Ye Fan's heels.

Though Ye Fan's movement technique was fast enough to be on par with a cultivator of the Innate Great Perfection Realm, it was, after all, not as fast as a cultivator in the Half-step Gang Qi realm.

Even though Xiao Selang had just stepped into the Half-step Gang Qi realm, in terms of movement speed, he was incomparable!

Half a minute later, Xiao Selang had closed the distance to Ye Fan to within thirty meters.

For their level of strength, this was an extremely dangerous distance—giving full throttle to speed, one could reach the other in a blink of an eye!

Swish!

As the number one martial arts genius of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Xiao Selang hadn't only honed his skills by killing mutant beasts but had also sparred with cultivators from the other Five Great Alliances on multiple occasions under the guidance of Cang Bo, mastering his combat techniques and amassing a wealth of battle experience.

At that moment, seeing that the distance to Ye Fan had shortened to his striking range, Xiao Selang gave a cold smile, swung his right hand, and effortlessly darted out a sword strike at Ye Fan's retreating back!

"Swoosh——"

The Gang Qi Sword Radiance shot out from the sword tip once again, but this time it didn't aim directly at Ye Fan. Instead, it suddenly exploded, splitting into numerous smaller strands of Gang Qi Sword Radiance, swarming towards Ye Fan like a flock of wasps.

With this strike, he had directly employed the signature technique of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, the "Heavenly Sword Nine Forms," specifically, the Third Level, "Heavenly Snow."

Heavenly Snow, a sword technique created by the founder of the Tian Shan Sword Sect after studying the snowscapes of Mount Tian, when executed, would produce Sword Qi that flew out in all directions like snowflakes, capable of obscuring the skies—a widespread attack!

At this moment, Xiao Selang launched this move, 'Heavenly Snow,' with a clear purpose—to force Ye Fan to stop and have nowhere to escape!

"Huff!"

As if having eyes on the back of his head, Ye Fan didn't wait for the tiny strands of Gang Qi Sword Light to approach before he fiercely stepped down and threw a punch towards the incoming Gang Qi Sword Light!

Qi Rushes to the Sky, Third Level!

"Snap! Snap! Snap!"

With the punch thrown, explosive power burst forth, directly shattering the air and merging into the punch's wind, forming a large net that swept toward the Gang Qi Sword Light.

The Gang Qi Sword Light was thwarted, hesitated, and its potency sharply decreased. After piercing through the punch's wind net, it became very faint and struck Ye Fan's body, directly neutralized by Ye Fan's Protective Gang Qi, leaving not a scratch on him.

Xiao Selang wasn't surprised by this outcome.

On one hand, he subjectively believed that Ye Fan's Martial Arts Cultivation had broken through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, so it was normal for him to be able to withstand his distant Gang Qi Sword Light.

More importantly, his purpose in releasing this sword attack was to force Ye Fan to stop!

"If you dare, then take my next sword!"

Now that he saw his goal accomplished, Xiao Selang sneered and readied his treasure sword for another thrust!

Just at that moment!

"Whoosh—"

The sound of air being pierced rang out as a Xuanyue Flying Blade whooshed from Ye Fan's sleeve, turning into a streak of white light, and rapidly shot towards Xiao Selang.

"Insect tricks!"

Xiao Selang snorted coldly, changing from poking to slashing, as he sliced at the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Clang!"

A crisp sound emitted and sparks flew, with the Xuanye Flying Blade being slashed aside.

"Whoosh—"

A second sound of tearing air arose as another Xuanye Flying Blade shot at Xiao Selang, even faster than before!

"Useless!"

Xiao Selang repeated the act, sneering again as he cut down the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

However—

Unexpected to Xiao Selang, as he was about to launch his attack, the two Xuanye Flying Blades he had slashed down flew up at the same time, one after the other, from two different directions towards him.

"Hmph!"

Xiao Selang snorted, his right hand vibrating as he swung his treasure sword twice.

"Clang! Clang!"

Two swooshes of the sword shadow passed by, the Xuanye Flying Blades were struck again, but because Xiao Selang was rushed in his swordplay, the power wasn't great, only causing the Xuanye Flying Blades to deviate from their path and, unlike before, they were not knocked down.

The next moment.

Before he could swing his treasure sword again, two Xuanye Flying Blades shot toward him from two different angles like persistent phantoms.

Due to the close distance, Xiao Selang didn't dare to be careless and cut down the Xuanye Flying Blades with domineering energy again, instead, he quickly thrust out two swords.

"Clang! Clang!"

After being hit by his treasure sword, the Xuanye Flying Blades merely paused for a moment before shooting towards him again, this time even faster than before!

Whoosh!

This time, Xiao Selang finally showed signs of alarm!

A sense of danger surged in his heart!

With the crisis upon him, Xiao Selang didn't choose to clash head-on but instead stepped aside swiftly, dodging the attack of the two Xuanye Flying Blades.

Only—

What drove Xiao Selang to the brink of insanity was that the Xuanye Flying Blades were sticking to him like a shadow, immediately entangling him again.

"Get lost!"

Xiao Selang's anger was unstoppable, his energy inside his body surged, and he struck out with another sword.

Heavenly Sword Fifth Form—Mountain Sword!

The Mountain Sword, a move created by the founder of the Tian Shan Sword Sect after a Sudden Enlightenment while observing the Heavenly Mountain Range, focuses on power, claiming the might of one sword could compare to the force of a mountain, aiming to crush the opponent with absolute power!

Clearly... Xiao Selang was agitated by the persistence of the two Xuanye Flying Blades and used his most powerful attack in a hurry to get rid of their entanglement!

"Swoosh—"

As he slashed out, a semi-circular Gang Qi Sword Light appeared like a blade's edge, sweeping towards the two Xuanye Flying Blades.

"Clang! Clang!"

With two crisp sounds, the Xuanye Flying Blades were directly knocked away, flying dozens of meters away and distancing them from Xiao Selang.

"My turn!"

After slinging away the Xuanye Flying Blades with one sword strike, Xiao Selang knew this was a golden opportunity for a counterattack that he couldn't waste, or else he'd be entangled by the Xuanye Flying Blades again.

"Swoosh—"

Realizing this, Xiao Selang's feet flickered as he merged with the sword in his hand, and he slashed towards Ye Fan once more.

Heavenly Sword Sixth Form—Wind Sword!

The sword strike was as fast as the wind, arriving in an instant.

This was known as the fastest strike within the Heavenly Sword Nine Forms, leaving the opponent no chance to dodge.

"Swoosh—"

As Xiao Selang's sword slashed down, a Gang Qi Sword Light materialized out of nowhere in front of Ye Fan.

Danger!

Ye Fan was startled and, not daring to hold back any longer, he fully concentrated his Mind to control the third Xuanye Flying Blade hidden in his sleeve!

"Whiz—"

As the sound of cutting through the air rose again, the Xuanye Flying Blade hit the Gang Qi Sword Light squarely, instantly piercing through it and scattering the Gang Qi Sword Light in Ye Fan's direction.

With the proximity being too close and the Gang Qi Sword Light already broken, Ye Fan did not dare to let the Gang Qi strike him and hastily retreated.

"He... He broke through my Wind Sword head-on?!"

Witnessing this scene, Xiao Selang did not pursue, but instead his eyes widened in sheer disbelief, his face filled with incredulity!

As the Heavenly Sword Sixth Form, the Wind Sword may be known for its speed, but its power is not weak. On the contrary, it is much stronger than ordinary sword moves, strong enough to slash a huge rock into gravel!

Such power is something even a Half-step Gang Qi realm Cultivator would not dare to meet head-on, instead, they would avoid its sharpness.

And because the speed of this sword is so swift, the opponent often doesn't have time to dodge before being struck!

Now, Ye Fan had broken the Wind Sword with the Xuanye Flying Blade, delivering a shock to Xiao Selang that was indescribable!

"How could his Flying Knife Assassination be so strong?!"

Amid his shock, this question completely filled Xiao Selang's mind.

How could it be possible??

"Whiz! Whiz!"

The sounds of two objects cutting through the air almost simultaneously rang out as the two Xuanye Flying Blades that had been knocked away by Xiao Selang whistled toward him again!

Xiao Selang, snapped back to reality, intended to use the Heavenly Sword Fifth Form: Mountain Sword to knock the Xuanye Flying Blades away as he had done before.

Only—

Just as Xiao Selang was about to swing his sword, the two Xuanye Flying Blades seemingly gained extra momentum, and their speed skyrocketed!

"Be careful!!"

At that moment, Meng Bai, who was watching the battle from atop a Golden Eagle in the sky, changed his face drastically!

"Whoosh!"

The next moment.

Before Xiao Selang could swing out his treasure sword, a Xuanye Flying Blade whizzed past the right side of his neck, slicing a lock of his hair cleanly into two, like cutting vegetables.

The strands of hair broke and scattered with the wind, but Xiao Selang was like a petrified statue, not daring to move an inch.

Because.

Another Xuanye Flying Blade was pointing right at his forehead!

Chapter 570 - Not Giving It All, Hard to Break the Emotional Tribulation

"Gulp!"

As drifting strands of hair appeared before him and he felt the coldness at his brow, Xiao Selang's heart hung in his throat, his body hair bristling, his Adam's apple uncontrollably quivering, and large beads of cold sweat instantly surged from his forehead.

"I've lost!"

In his horror, a voice rang out inside Xiao Selang's heart.

"No! How could I possibly lose to him??"

Xiao Selang seemed unable to accept this reality, roaring as he looked at Ye Fan. Due to his excessive movement, his brow hit the sharp edge of the Xuanye Flying Blade, cutting open a gash from which blood flowed freely.

"Little... Little Wolf, don't act rashly!"

Witnessing this scene, Elder Meng, soaring down on a Golden Eagle from the sky, suddenly snapped back to reality with his face still bearing deep shock.

No doubt...

It was shock!

Because... he was well aware that if Ye Fan could use the Xuanye Flying Blade to cut Xiao Selang's hair and stop it at his brow, then it would have been a simple matter for Ye Fan to kill Xiao Selang just moments ago!

Moreover, in Elder Meng's view, the ability of Ye Fan to stop the swift Xuanye Flying Blade precisely at Xiao Selang's brow in the last moment was ten times, a hundred times more difficult than piercing Xiao Selang's head with it; it had reached a level of perfect control, completely at Ye Fan's whim!

Hearing Elder Meng's warning and staring at Ye Fan's expressionless face, as blood continuously flowed down his forehead, Xiao Selang was forced to accept a grim reality—if Ye Fan hadn't shown mercy just now, he would now be a dead man!

"His control has reached such a level, truly inconceivable."

Meanwhile, up in the sky, Bodhi Wu Yin, equally stunned by Ye Fan's display of power, silently marveled to himself.

After his silent reflection, Bodhi Wu Yin saw Elder Meng riding the Golden Eagle toward Ye Fan, his brow slightly furrowed in readiness to intervene at any moment.

"It seems you all really want to go for broke!"

On the ground, Ye Fan looked up at Elder Meng flying toward him on the Golden Eagle, his eyes narrowing into slits, a terrifying intent to kill emerging from him.

Hm?

Feeling the terrifying killing intent radiating from Ye Fan, even Xiao Selang, hardened by extensive trials and life-or-death experiences, felt a bone-chilling fear, his body rigid, daring not to move at all.

"Ye Fan, don't be reckless!"

At the same time, Elder Meng's complexion changed, and he quickly communicated through his mind with the Golden Eagle to stop and hover in mid-air.

"If I had been reckless, he would already be dead."

Ye Fan replied expressionlessly, having refrained from killing just now, firstly because Elder Meng had previously cautioned him not to take his life, and secondly, he did not want to completely sever ties with Elder Meng and Xiao Selang.

After all, once ties were severed, it would be a battle to the death. Even if he could manage to kill them and the Golden Eagle as per the original plan by a stroke of luck, he would still suffer the Tian Shan Sword Sect's relentless retaliation—without Chu Xuanji by his side, if the Tian Shan Sword Sect pursued him to the ends of the earth, he alone would face insurmountable odds!

"You..."

As Ye Fan's words echoed in his ears, Xiao Selang's face turned red with anger, wanting to retort but unable to refute the truth.

Meanwhile, Elder Meng, with furrowed brows, said, "If you don't want to cause trouble, why did you hold the flying knife against Little Wolf's brow?"

"I just wanted to see if you would all honor the agreement."

Ye Fan responded grimly, ready to fight to the death if Elder Meng insisted on attacking him.

"As per the agreement, Little Wolf has lost, you may take the Snow Ginseng, and let Little Wolf go."
After a moment's hesitation, Elder Meng decided to let Ye Fan leave.

Hearing Elder Meng's words, Xiao Selang looked distressed, his mouth slightly agape as he wanted to say something, but feeling the coldness at his brow, he wisely swallowed back his words.

"I hope you don't change your mind, otherwise, I guarantee, even if I die in Tian Shan, you will all be buried with me!" Ye Fan said coldly.

As his words fell, Ye Fan moved his mind, and the Xuanye Flying Blade whistled back into his sleeve.

"Swoosh—"

Having retracted the Xuanye Flying Blade, Ye Fan left quickly without delay.

Seeing this, Elder Meng hurriedly dove down on the Golden Eagle, landing beside Xiao Selang.

"Elder Meng, are we really just letting him go?"

Xiao Selang did not wipe the blood off his face but watched Ye Fan leaving with a look of reluctance, his fists clenched tightly.

"His strength is far greater than what I anticipated, just his Flying Knife Assassination poses a threat to me!" Elder Meng said, his expression grave.

"What... What?"

Astounded at hearing Elder Meng's words, Xiao Selang was incredibly shocked. Although he acknowledged his loss to Ye Fan, in his view, if Elder Meng took action, he could easily kill Ye Fan.

"Little Wolf, didn't you feel that he never used his full strength during your fight?" Elder Meng countered.

Without responding, Xiao Selang recalled and realized that during their fight, the speed and power of Ye Fan's Xuanye Flying Blade had continually increased, seemingly without end, to the point that it even easily broke through his trump card—the Wind Sword!

"Even if he did not use all his power, with Elder Meng's strength, it should not be a problem to kill him! Besides, there is the Golden Eagle!"

Having had to accept that Ye Fan had not used all his strength in their fight, Xiao Selang was filled with humiliation, and the hatred in his eyes intensified.

"Little Wolf, you should remember, he has said before that Chu Xuanji knew he was coming to Mount Tian. If he suddenly died, Chu Xuanji would definitely investigate this matter, and even if he couldn't find any clues, he would ultimately blame our Tian Shan Sword Sect — offending Chu Xuanji over a single Snow Ginseng isn't wise!"

Although he said this, Meng Bai knew that things had progressed to more than just an issue over a Snow Ginseng, it was about the honor of the entire Tian Shan Sword Sect.

"Elder Meng, I don't care about the Snow Ginseng. The key is I can't swallow this anger!"

Xiao Selang looked displeased; he couldn't imagine how the Hua Xia Cultivation World and the whole Tian Shan Sword Sect would view him if word got out that he was easily defeated by Ye Fan.

"Little Wolf, a moment of patience will calm the winds and take a step back to broaden the skies."

Meng Bai frowned and said, "Though he is stronger than you now, it doesn't mean he will always be stronger. As long as you consolidate your realm and comprehend the Heavenly Sword Seventh Form, defeating him will not be difficult. If you defeat him in the Qing bang competition, won't this grievance be resolved?"

This time,

Xiao Selang did not speak.

He knew that Meng Bai was just trying to offer some consolation and even... in his view, even if he fully consolidated his Half-step Gang Qi realm and comprehended the Heavenly Sword Seventh Form, he would still be no match for Ye Fan.

After all, even Meng Bai, who was the dominant force in the Half-step Gang Qi realm, had said that Ye Fan could pose a threat to him!

Of course, he also knew that Meng Bai was placating him because he feared Chu Xuanji, who stood behind Ye Fan!

"How can his Flying Knife Assassination have such great power?"

After abandoning the idea of killing Ye Fan, Xiao Selang couldn't help but voice the doubt in his mind.

"There are two reasons. First, his flying knife is likely a Mid-level Magical Artifact of the Telekinesis type, very suitable for control-type Magicians. Second, his Mind Power quality is much stronger than that of other Magicians at the same realm, hence why he can manipulate the flying knife so freely," Meng Bai thoughtfully explained.

"So, with his abilities, does he have a hope of reaching the top three in the Qing bang competition?" Xiao Selang's face turned ashen.

"That's impossible! With his abilities, even entering the top five would be difficult. Although his Flying Knife Assassination is powerful, due to his low Martial Arts Realm, his movement speed is too slow, and his defense too weak. Once an opponent attacks from the start with the fastest speed, getting close to him, his defeat is certain! That means, if you hadn't been careless at the start and instead fought with all your might using the Heavenly Sword Sixth Form—Wind Sword, he would have also been in a dire state," said Meng Bai, shaking his head decisively.

"If nothing unusual happens, this year's Qing bang competition top three will likely be Emperor Bai, Leng Feng, and some hidden demon."

Emperor Bai.

Hearing this name, Xiao Selang fell silent.

Even without the setback from Ye Fan just now, he knew that Emperor Bai was an existence he looked up to.

Moreover, Emperor Bai was the paragon that all younger generation cultivators aspired to!

Because.

His master, Cang Bo, had once told him: at the Qing bang competition two years ago, although Emperor Bai was at the Innate Great Perfection realm, he had the strength to instantly kill cultivators in the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he just- hadn't shown his full strength!

"This Meng Bai is still rather wise."

In the sky, Bodhi Wuyin saw Meng Bai and Xiao Selang give up on killing Ye Fan, muttered to himself quietly, and silently left.

"Master, what happened? Why did the Tian Shan Sword Sect employ the Half-demon Golden Eagle?"

A moment later, having returned to the snowy mountain, Bodhi Wuyin approached as Su Liu Li stopped her Meditation Cultivation and opened her eyes, curiously asking.

"A cultivator picked a Snow Ginseng within the grounds of the Tian Shan Sword Sect and nearly injured a disciple. Elder Meng Bai rode the Golden Eagle to pursue that cultivator," Bodhi Wuyin explained but didn't dare say that the cultivator was Ye Fan.

As the saying goes, whatever you fear will come to pass. Bodhi Wuyin didn't mention it, yet Su Liu Li took the initiative to ask: "Master, which Sect does that cultivator belong to? To dare provoke the Tian Shan Sword Sect?"

"I don't know."

Bodhi Wuyin shook his head gently, but suddenly a strange thought emerged in his mind: Would Ye Fan find his way here?

As soon as the thought arose, Bodhi Wuyin hesitated whether to take Su Liu Li and temporarily leave Mount Tian.

It was only for a moment, but Bodhi Wuyin gave up on the idea.

Because.

She knew very well that some things are destined, and forcibly changing them is useless — Ye Fan and Su Liu Li's emotional tribulation could only be resolved by themselves. If the emotional tribulation isn't broken now, even if they don't meet this time, they are bound to meet eventually!

"What Cultivation Technique has he made Ye Fan practice, and why is Ye Fan's Mind Power quality high even though he is just at the Innate Great Perfection, yet surpasses that of Half-step Gang Qi Magicians?"

Having made her decision, Bodhi Wuyin thought of Ye Fan's previously displayed formidable combat power and couldn't help but quietly ask herself.

Without an answer, Chu Xuanji's figure emerged in Bodhi Wuyin's mind, causing ripples of disturbance in her normally unflustered heart as her thoughts drifted back to decades ago.

Not only Su Liu Li's emotional tribulation was unresolved,