

Y Master 571

Chapter 571 The Might of a Battle, Emperor Bai Appears

Whoosh!

When the Golden Eagle appeared again in the sky above the Tian Shan Sword Sect, the disciples in the square had not dispersed and turned their gazes skyward.

Seeing Xiao Selang with a pale, greenish complexion and unabated anger, Elder Meng knew he was holding back a feeling of suffocation and directed the Golden Eagle towards his dwelling.

Soon, the Golden Eagle stopped over the courtyard where Elder Meng lived, and both Elder Meng and Xiao Selang leapt down. With a cry, the Golden Eagle flew towards its nest.

"Little Wolf, you go back first. After the Sect Leader finishes his seclusion, I will go report this matter to him," Elder Meng said after landing and after a moment's thought.

"Yes, Elder Meng."

Xiao Selang gave a perfunctory bow and then, without wasting words, turned and walked out of Elder Meng's courtyard.

Seeing this, Elder Meng couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

He was well aware that today's events were a huge setback for Xiao Selang. If Xiao Selang could emerge from the shadow of defeat and strive for progress, he would undoubtedly achieve great success in the future.

On the contrary, if Xiao Selang couldn't move past this setback, he would become disheartened, develop a mental block, and find his path to cultivation inordinately difficult, maybe even reaching a point where he made no further progress.

From his perspective, the likelihood of the latter scenario occurring for Xiao Selang was greater.

Though Xiao Selang had faced trials fighting against mutant beasts and had sparring with other cultivators of the same realm, enduring life-and-death training, his journey had been mostly smooth sailing without suffering a blow like he did today.

As Elder Meng thought, the blow dealt by Ye Fan was extremely heavy for Xiao Selang. He felt both infuriated and lost, walking towards his dwelling like a zombie, to the point where he didn't even notice the seven brothers standing at the entrance. "Junior Brother Xiao!"

Noticing Xiao Selang's odd behavior, the four were puzzled, yet they quickly came forward—they knew what Xiao Selang and Elder Meng had been up to with the Golden Eagle, while the other disciples did not.

Xiao Selang's forehead had been cut before, but he had promptly cleaned the wound and applied the powder of the Healing Holy Medicine Nirvana Pill, so the injury had already healed completely, without any trace of anomaly.

At this moment, Xiao Selang, hearing their voices, looked at the four, and his face couldn't help but change, filled with both shock and anger!

The shock was because he feared the four knew of his easy defeat by Ye Fan.

The anger was because, without these four in front of him, he wouldn't have sought out Ye Fan and encountered such misfortune.

"Junior Brother Xiao, you and Elder Meng must have killed that guy, right?"

Though the seventh brother felt Xiao Selang's behavior was strange, he couldn't help but ask, seemingly inquiring but actually sounding more like he was confirming his assumption.

After all, in the past, some cultivators had caused trouble on Mount Tian, but the outcome was always death, not to mention that this time Xiao Selang and Elder Meng had taken action together?

"I think there's no need for Elder Meng to take action. Junior Brother Xiao alone would suffice."

"Of course, with Junior Brother Xiao's strength, I estimate it wouldn't take more than three moves to deal with that kid."

"Three moves? In my opinion, a one-shot kill!"

The other three also had the same thoughts, and after the seventh brother spoke, they began to patronize Xiao Selang in succession.

"Sss~"

Normally, Xiao Selang would enjoy the flattery from these brothers, but at this moment, their praise felt like salt on his wounds, making him gasp in frustration and shiver uncontrollably.

"Junior Brother Xiao, did that guy manage to escape?"

Witnessing this scene, and considering Xiao Selang's unusual behavior, a ridiculous notion sprang to their minds. Hardly believing it, they asked him.

Although Xiao Selang was furious, he knew that everything was his own fault, so he walked past the four without uttering a word.

What's wrong with Junior Brother Xiao?

Watching Xiao Selang's slightly shaking figure, the four were filled with doubt.

"Xiao... did Junior Brother Xiao actually get defeated by that kid?"

Alongside the doubt, one of them uttered an astonishing possibility.

Crack!

Stunned by this statement, Xiao Selang felt a pang in his heart. He clenched his fists subconsciously, stopped in his tracks, and said fiercely, "I'm going into seclusion for cultivation. All of you leave at once!"

As his voice fell, Xiao Selang no longer paid any attention to the four and quickly entered his courtyard, closing the door behind him.

"Uh..."

Shocked by this, the one who had spoken previously was taken aback.

Initially, he had blurted out the question without thinking and scolded himself for being foolish afterward, considering such an outcome impossible. But now, seeing Xiao Selang's reaction, he realized that he might have guessed correctly!

It wasn't just him; the other three were also dumbfounded.

Although they did not believe Xiao Selang could lose, reason told them that if Xiao Selang had not been defeated, he definitely would not have acted so out of character. Especially after hearing that last remark, he had reacted like a cat whose tail had been stepped on, exploding with rage.

"Seventh brother, shall we go ask Elder Meng?" After the shock, someone suggested.

"Hmm!"

The seventh brother nodded and led the other three quickly toward Elder Meng's dwelling.

"The four of you still have the nerve to come to me?"

Seeing the four, Elder Meng was furious. In his opinion, had it not been for their clash with Ye Fan, the subsequent events would never have transpired.

"Uh..."

As the four of them entered, they saw Elder Meng Bai erupting in anger, leaving each one standing in shock, utterly at a loss.

"Ah..."

Perceiving this, Elder Meng Bai realized that the disciples had always been haughty and could not tolerate outsiders causing trouble in Tian Shan Sword Sect's territory, especially since Ye Fan had been picking Snow Ginseng within the hundred miles governed by the Sect. Strictly speaking, it wasn't wrong for the four to intervene.

"Elder... Elder Meng, did that kid who was picking Snow Ginseng get away?" The seventh junior brother recovered from his shock and mustered the courage to ask.

"You were supposed to patrol the mountain and gather herbs, yet you let an outsider find the Snow Ginseng first!" Elder Meng Bai replied coldly, ignoring the question: "What are you even good for?"

"..."

Frightened, the seventh junior brother and the others quickly lowered their heads, not daring to make a sound.

"Starting today, for the next three months, forget about cultivation, just continue patrolling the mountain and gathering herbs!" Elder Meng Bai commanded sternly, "If something like this happens again, don't bother returning to the Sect, just get as far away from me as you can!"

"Yes!"

Once again hearing Elder Meng Bai's words, the four vaguely felt that if it were only a matter of Ye Fan escaping, Xiao Selang wouldn't have reacted so abnormally, nor would Elder Meng Bai be so irate. Clearly, there was more to the story.

Understanding all this, they dared not further inquire unwisely but instead chose to wisely bow their respects and accept the order.

"Additionally, inform any disciples patrolling and gathering herbs that if they encounter that person again, they must not provoke him!" Elder Meng Bai added.

"Yes!"

Receiving the order once more, the four quickly left the residence of Elder Meng Bai.

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At dusk, the setting sun cast its last rays across Tian Shan, a mix of gold and white reflecting each other, painting a natural canvas so breathtaking it could leave one breathless.

However—

Faced with such a beautiful sight, the four disciples, punished to patrol the mountain and gather herbs for three months, were in no mood to appreciate it.

For one, they had lived in Tian Shan their entire lives, seeing such views daily, and had grown tired of them.

It's just like how a man, even if he beds a celestial fairy every day, will inevitably grow weary of it.

Furthermore, they were inexplicably being punished and were feeling quite depressed—where would they find the spirit to enjoy the scenery?

"Seventh brother, why do I feel like there's something very fishy about this whole affair?"

"Indeed, even if that kid got away, Junior Brother Xiao wouldn't have reacted so abnormally, nor would Elder Meng rage at us like that."

"Could it be that the kid defeated Junior Brother Xiao and Elder Meng?"

"Is your head stuck in a door?"

Hearing the words of the last speaker, the seventh junior brother frowned in rebuke: "Elder Meng is an absolute overlord within the Half-step Gang Qi realm, apart from Supreme Strongmen of the Gang Qi Realm, who could defeat him?"

"I was confused," the other admitted his error promptly.

"If that kid couldn't defeat Elder Meng, could he possibly have defeated Junior Brother Xiao?"

"The kid's aura was terrifying, and his strength must be formidable, especially his Flying Knife Assassination—it's unpredictably deadly. It's possible that he defeated Junior Brother Xiao!"

"I think your head's been squashed by a door too. If Junior Brother Xiao had been defeated by that kid, would Elder Meng have let him go?" retorted the one previously scolded by the seventh brother, less than amiably.

"That possibility is not non-existent."

To the person's astonishment, the seventh junior brother actually supported this conjecture and analyzed, "Junior Brother Xiao has already broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm and has mastered the Heavenly Sword Sixth Form—Wind Sword. If that kid could defeat Junior Brother Xiao, he definitely qualifies as a genius of demon-level talent. Such a person would naturally have a powerful background. It's quite likely that Elder Meng decided to swallow his broken teeth out of fear of the opponent's background."

"Seventh brother's argument makes sense. Who in the world is that kid, anyway?"

Upon hearing this, the other three felt the rationale was sound and were also filled with curiosity about Ye Fan's identity.

Xiao Selang had been gathering information on the young generation of talented cultivators, which was typically carried out by Outer Disciples. Although they were Inner Sect Disciples, they were unaware of this endeavor.

Had it not been so, they wouldn't have been so startled when Xiao Selang presented Ye Fan's portrait.

"Where is the person you were talking about?"

Before the four could make sense of everything, an abrupt voice rang out.

No sooner had the sound dissipated than the figure appeared.

Emperor Bai, with the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade on his back, appeared suddenly before them, his gaze sharp as a blade, his body engulfed in an aura of killing intent, like a veritable Killing God.

Clunk!

The unmistakable inquiry of Emperor Bai rang in their ears. As they gazed upon Emperor Bai's indifferent face and felt the terrifying killing intent emanating from him, all four felt a shiver in their hearts, as if

their chests were weighed down by a mountain. They didn't dare to take a deep breath, feeling a penetrating cold from head to toe.

Seeing their reaction, Emperor Bai realized he had put too much pressure on the four and thus reined in his aura before asking again, "Where did the man who used the Flying Knife go?"

"He... he went toward the northwest,"

The seventh junior brother felt relieved but still terror-stricken. Such fear caused his voice to tremble as he responded.

Upon hearing this, Emperor Bai looked intently toward the continuous snow-capped mountains in the northwest. Then, without waiting for the four to recover from their shock, he vanished without a trace, as if he had never been there.

Chapter 572 The Amazing Summoning

Night fell, and a crescent moon hung askew in the sky, its gentle moonlight pouring down and scattering across the snowy mountains, enveloping them in a silver glow.

With the arrival of night, the temperature atop the snow mountains plummeted. The howling wind bit at one's face like the cut of a knife, unbearably stinging.

Of course, this was true for ordinary people.

For cultivators, they could create currents of air to surround their bodies, preventing the cold wind from getting close. And those in the Innate Realm could ward off the chill by covering their bodies with Inner Strength, no longer fearing the cold.

Atop the snow mountain, Ye Fan sat cross-legged on an open space, forced to envelop his body in Power to keep the cold at bay.

At noon, after his battle with Xiao Selang, he had left that snow mountain as quickly as possible, flipping over three more snow mountains and still not finding the Snow Lotus King.

When night fell, he stopped his search for the Snow Lotus King, intending to cultivate through the night.

This was the plan he had made before coming to Mount Tian—search for the Snow Lotus King during the day and cultivate at night.

Only—

The thing that differed from the plan was that tonight, he did not engage in Meditation Cultivation but instead was carefully recalling every single detail of his battle with Xiao Selang.

Without a doubt, Xiao Selang was the strongest opponent he had encountered since he began his cultivation.

Especially Xiao Selang's Heavenly Sword Sixth Form—Wind Sword, which combined speed and strength to near perfection, was extremely difficult to counter.

Remembering Xiao Selang's Wind Sword, Ye Fan knew very clearly, had it not been for his Magic Cultivation breaking through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, his mental perception becoming more acute, and the power of his Flying Knife Assassination Technique significantly increasing, he would not have been able to break through it at all.

Of course, besides the Wind Sword, none of Xiao Selang's other attacks posed a threat to Ye Fan, who had consistently suppressed him in battle, and that was without exerting his full strength!

"The old man was right; although the Flying Knife Assassination is powerful, it still needs to surprise and control the enemy. If it comes to a head-on conflict, its threat significantly diminishes."

After carefully recalling the fight, Ye Fan summarized in his heart, "Moreover, once the opponent breaks free from my Flying Knife Assassination and engages me in close combat, I will undoubtedly be defeated. After all, my movement technique speed and defense can only be considered on par with one at the Innate Great Perfection Realm; I cannot contend with a Martial Artist a Half-step into the Gang Qi Realm, let alone the absolute dominators among those Half-step Gang Qi."

"The most urgent task is to find every possible way to elevate my Martial Arts Cultivation to the Innate Great Perfection Realm. In doing so, whether it's my speed of movement or defense, I will have a safeguard, and the power of my Martial Arts Attacks will surge, significantly enhancing my combat strength."

Thinking of this, Ye Fan's brows furrowed tightly together.

At present, he had formed Power Seeds in only 99 of his body's vital acupoints. To break through his Martial Arts Cultivation to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, he would need to form Power Seeds in the remaining nine vital acupoints!

And without a special opportunity, relying solely on absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi would make it difficult to break through even in one or two years.

"According to ancient texts, like the creation of the Lifespan Extension Pill, defying the heavens and changing fate is also a Forbidden Technique, which will incur Heaven's Punishment. For others, Heaven's Punishment is a nightmare, but for me, it's an opportunity—the crimson Gold Crown can transform the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi gathered by the Heavenly Tribulation into Essence, which I can absorb and refine."

Ye Fan looked up at the vast expanse of sky, filled with a trace of yearning, "If only I could find the Snow Lotus King. In that case, I could attempt to concoct the Lifespan Extension Pill before the Qing bang competition, and there's a very good chance I could use that opportunity to elevate my Martial Arts Cultivation to the Innate Great Perfection Realm all at once. By then, if I can also perfect the Flying Knife Assassination Technique, I should have a chance at competing for the championship, right?"

"Yes, perfecting the Flying Knife Assassination Technique!"

Ye Fan had a sudden flash of inspiration!

To date, he had abandoned the 'Illusion Technique Stream' of the Magic Domain, focusing on the 'Manipulation Stream,' but he had not actually cultivated any techniques related to 'Manipulation Stream,' relying solely on his Mind Power to control the Knife Assassination.

Once he learns the techniques of the Manipulation Stream, the power of the Flying Knife Assassination will double!

This is similar to a Martial Artist who hasn't learned any martial arts techniques, relying only on inner strength for attacks, which belong to the most basic form of attack. And once martial arts skills are employed, the combat strength increases significantly, the same principle applies!

Indeed, Ye Fan had long thought of learning the techniques of the 'Manipulation Stream,' but he did not have any such techniques at hand. He even asked Yan about it, and found out from Yan that the Yanhuang Organization did not possess any Magician Manipulation Stream techniques.

Moreover, according to Yan, it's very likely that no such Manipulation Stream techniques exist on Earth!

Ye Fan was shocked when he first heard this from Yan but later understood the reasons behind it.

Firstly, the number of Magicians in the Cultivation World is too few, far fewer than Martial Artists.

Secondly, although Magicians are subdivided into Illusion Technique Stream and Manipulation Stream, in reality, almost all Magicians focus on the Illusion Technique Stream.

This is because the Manipulation Stream is too draining on Mind Power during combat, mainly relying on the element of surprise to win, and once the opponent is on guard, it is difficult to defeat them head-on.

Whereas the Illusion Technique Stream is different.

The Illusion Technique Stream brings out the strengths of a Magician to the fullest, communicating with the heavens and the earth through one's Mind, using the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to launch attacks, not only powerful but also capable of attacking the enemy's Consciousness.

For these reasons, the Magicians of the ancient Cultivation World almost unanimously chose to focus on the Illusion Technique Stream, with very few opting for the Manipulation Stream.

Under such circumstances, when the ancient Cultivation World declined, the Manipulation Stream virtually disappeared from the Cultivation World, and there were hardly any techniques passed down. To this day, it is not surprising that there are no Manipulation Stream techniques on Earth.

"Although there are no Manipulation Stream techniques on Earth, I can try to integrate the Swordsmanship and Saber Technique of Martial Artists into the Manipulation Stream, transforming them into skills of the Manipulation Stream!"

Ye Fan had a moment of brilliant inspiration. Once integrated successfully, the power of his Flying Knife Assassination Technique would explode exponentially!

Without hesitation, Ye Fan immediately concentrated his Mind, beginning to recall the Swordsmanship and Saber Techniques he had learned.

While he had mainly practiced the "Xuansha Fist" taught to him by Chu Xuanji from a young age, his talent was so exceptional that he quickly mastered it and then devoted the remaining energy to other Cultivation Techniques and martial arts skills, including a Saber Technique "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes" and a Swordsmanship "Jade Maiden Sword Technique."

The "Jade Maiden Sword Technique" was taught to him by Chu Ji, and at the time, he found it extremely difficult to learn, mastering only a little.

It was only later that Chu Ji told him that the "Jade Maiden Sword Technique" was created by his mother, Ling Yun.

"The 'Jade Maiden Sword Technique' is too profound a martial art, I've only learned a bit of the basics, it isn't suitable to attempt, I can only try the 'Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes.'" After some thought, Ye Fan decided to try out the "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes."

The "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes" were created by a martial artist during the Qing Dynasty, comprising a total of thirteen moves, containing sweeping, chopping, diverting, shaving, skimming, pressing, slashing, and thrusting actions. It could barely be considered a mid-grade martial technique.

"The flying knife is too short to suit large, sweeping moves. The fifth form, 'Swallow Pierces the Forest,' is more appropriate."

Ye Fan carefully recalled the moves of the "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes," eliminating them one by one, until finally, he was left with three forms, among which the fifth form, 'Swallow Pierces the Forest,' was the most suitable.

'Swallow Pierces the Forest' is one of the quick blade techniques in the "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes," emphasizing on rapid deployment speed and crafty angles, akin to a swallow weaving through the forest, making its trajectory hard to trace and leaving the opponent unable to defend effectively.

"Huff!"

After pondering for a moment, Ye Fan suddenly sprang into action, turning his hand into a blade, and with a bounce of his feet, he thrust out with a hand blade, fast as lightning.

"Martial arts attacks entail movement that follows the heart, the blade that follows the body, and then channeling the power into the blade to launch an attack."

Having demonstrated a move of 'Swallow Pierces the Forest,' Ye Fan stood still, deeply contemplating, "However, the flying knife assassination is entirely led by the heart, infusing mind power into the flying knife, having nothing to do with movement technique. The two are quite different. How can I integrate them?"

Without an answer, Ye Fan stood still, lost in deep thought.

"Whoosh—"

Time passed unknowingly until a Xuanyue Flying Blade whizzed out from Ye Fan's sleeve, shooting towards the woods in front of the clearing.

"No, that's not right!"

Ye Fan shook his head, his first attempt ending in failure.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

...

Sounds of slicing through air followed one after another as Ye Fan tried again and again, but all attempts failed abysmally, unable to integrate the "Cold Blade Thirteen Slashes" into the flying knife assassination technique.

Despite this, Ye Fan wasn't discouraged and once again demonstrated 'Swallow Pierces the Forest' in the style of martial arts, before continuing his attempts.

Attempting over and over again.

Failing over and over again.

Through the entire evening, Ye Fan was completely absorbed in research, exhausting his mind power twice.

Fortunately, he had remnants of Heaven and Earth Essence within him. After absorbing and refining it, his mind power quickly recovered.

"It seems I was too presumptuous. Martial artists and magicians have fundamental differences. It's not easy to incorporate a martial artist's techniques into a magician's manipulation stream," he realized.

As dawn broke, Ye Fan ceased his research, contemplatively stating, "Although I haven't succeeded in my attempts, through a night of research, my flying knife assassination has become more flexible, with increased attack speed and varied angles, making it unpredictable even in head-on combat."

Even though he failed, Ye Fan wasn't disheartened; after all, not all was lost—the increased flexibility of the flying knife assassination could still enhance his combat capabilities to some extent.

After eating some compressed biscuits casually, Ye Fan looked towards the vast snow-capped mountain, momentarily feeling lost—Mount Tian was so vast with cliffs of four to five thousand meters commonly seen, he didn't know where to begin searching for the Snow Lotus King.

Hm?

Just as Ye Fan was feeling lost, he suddenly sensed a faint vibration from the Crimson Gold crown within him.

Although the vibration was very slight, he still caught it.

Following the tremor, the Crimson Gold crown, just like before, interfered with Ye Fan's thoughts, making him instinctively look towards the northwest.

"What's happening?"

"Why do I feel like something in that direction is calling me??"

In the morning light, Ye Fan gazed at the towering snow peak to the northwest, his heart filled with shock.

Chapter 573 Shocking Secrets

As the fluctuations of the Crimson Golden Crown vanished without a trace, the feeling of being summoned in Ye Fan's heart also dissipated, as if it had never appeared.

But Ye Fan knew that both the fluctuation of the Crimson Golden Crown and that magical summoning had indeed existed!

"Since searching for the Snow Lotus King on Mount Tian is a matter of luck, why not go there to see what's really going on."

Ye Fan was not a man of hesitation; he quickly made a decision, packed up his backpack, and hastily descended the mountain.

Because that snow peak was quite vague and far from the snow mountain where Ye Fan was, he had to first descend this snow peak and then head in the northwest direction.

As the saying goes, it's easy to go up the mountain but hard to come down.

Even though Ye Fan was strong, the wet and slippery surface of the snow mountain could lead to a fall off the cliff, so he had to slow down and it was already afternoon by the time he descended.

"If only I could perform Qi Manipulation Flight or had a Flying Mutant Beast."

Standing at the base of the mountain, Ye Fan looked up at the highest snow peak in the northwest direction, knowing it would not be easy to reach there. He could not help but smile bitterly, and at the same time, he silently decided to find a way to acquire a Flying Mutant Beast before he could perform Qi Manipulation Flight.

With a Flying Mutant Beast, not only travel would be convenient, but it could also assist him in battle, its value not lesser than that of a Magic Artifact.

Perhaps due to the urgency to unravel the mystery to see what was summoning him, Ye Fan did not stop to cultivate in the following days; instead, he traveled day and night and finally arrived at the towering snow mountain on the eastern side on the afternoon of the fifth day.

"Bright Moon rises over Mount Tian, among the vast sea of clouds, this snow peak must be Tumor Peak, the highest mountain of Mount Tian."

Draped in a garb of snow and ice that shined like silver armor under the azure sky, Tumor Peak sparkled uniquely with a natural landscape crafted as if by divine intervention, making Ye Fan marvel in astonishment.

"I shall see what exactly is summoning me on Tumor Peak!"

Ye Fan withdrew his gaze, his figure flashed, and he rapidly strode toward the summit.

Like the other peaks of Mount Tian, the base of Tumor Peak was first glaciers and snowfields followed by a Primitive Forest.

"There are so many mutant beasts here!"

Entering the Primitive Forest, Ye Fan noticed that the forest at the base of Tumor Peak had far more mutant beasts compared to the forests he had passed through before, including three that were as strong as cultivators at the Innate Great Perfection Realm.

Unlike when he encountered and killed that Mutated Wolf before meeting Xiao Selang, Ye Fan, eager to continue his journey, did not initiate an attack on the mutant beasts in the forest unless they attacked him first, in which case he resolved them with a single strike, including those three formidable beasts resembling Innate Great Perfection Realm cultivators.

After Ye Fan had slain those three formidable beasts, other mutant beasts in the forest seemed to become aware of Ye Fan's ferocity and dared not attack him anymore; instead, they ran as fast as they could upon seeing him, like rats seeing a cat.

Consequently, Ye Fan's ascent up the mountain was much faster.

"The Crimson Golden Crown is fluctuating again? And even more violently than before!"

As the sun was about to set, Ye Fan felt a change in the Crimson Golden Crown within his body and suddenly stopped, startled.

No sooner had the Crimson Golden Crown fluctuated than the vanished magical summoning reappeared, more intensely than before.

"Such a strong summoning, it's like it wants to hook away one's soul!"

Feeling that intense summoning, Ye Fan's heart fiercely shook, and he quickly stabilized his consciousness, reinforcing his Martial Arts Will.

After doing all this, both the interference from the Crimson Golden Crown and the impact of that summoning on Ye Fan had significantly reduced.

However—

Ye Fan's curiosity and doubt had in fact sharply increased!

Driven by curiosity, Ye Fan didn't consider the potential dangers on Tumor Peak and accelerated to his limit, quickly rushing towards the summit.

After crossing the forest, night completely fell, and Ye Fan stepped into the glacial snowfield where the ground became slippery, forcing him to slow down.

As time passed, Ye Fan got closer to the peak, the frequency and magnitude of the Crimson Golden Crown's fluctuations increased, and the magical summoning grew even more intense.

In response, Ye Fan had to divide his attention, stabilizing his consciousness while continuing his journey.

Finally, as the first light of dawn pierced the east and west horizons the next day, Ye Fan climbed up Tumor Peak.

The majestic Tumur Peak was enveloped in white snow and swirling clouds, a magnificent scene resembling an Immortal Realm. On the west side was a steep cliff, below which was a gorge, bottomless at a glance.

"The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the gorge is so rich! At least three times that of the summit!"

Ye Fan looked down at the gorge below, employing mental perception, and immediately detected the anomaly in the gorge.

"Could it be that there are some strange treasures in the gorge?"

Filled with curiosity, Ye Fan very much wanted to go down for further exploration, but because the cliffs of the gorge were too steep, he dared not let the idea lead to action.

Just then—

Inside Ye Fan, the fluctuations of the Crimson Golden Crown reached a terrifying extent, making his consciousness tremble!

"What's going on?"

Ye Fan was greatly alarmed and quickly stabilized his consciousness again.

"Whoosh—"

The answer to Ye Fan came as a whooshing sound!

As the sound echoed, a crimson gold halo suddenly flew out from above Ye Fan's head, forming a faint crown pattern and rapidly flying towards the pitch-black gorge.

As the crown pattern flew out, the fluctuations within Ye Fan's heart completely vanished, and the magical summoning also disappeared. Moved, he immediately realized that the crown pattern was very likely his own Crimson Golden Crown!

This discovery greatly alarmed Ye Fan!

Although he still had not figured out exactly what the Crimson Golden Crown was, it had saved him from the brink of death multiple times, making it his greatest reliance!

"Crimson Gold Crown, come back!"

Ye Fan shouted towards the canyon, but the Crimson Gold Crown didn't respond. Instead, it kept moving further away from Ye Fan, its light also dimming.

"Damn it, I knew I shouldn't have come to this godforsaken place!"

Even though Ye Fan's consciousness was strong and his Martial Arts Will was firm, facing this sudden catastrophe, he was caught off guard and couldn't help but curse loudly.

However—

Curse as he might, Ye Fan did not rashly chase after it. Instead, he sat down cross-legged and continued to observe the canyon below.

Both intuition and reason told him that, since the Crimson Gold Crown had led him here through great hardships and then flown out from his body, there must be unknown secrets involved.

If he waited patiently here, he might uncover those secrets, and there was even a possibility that the Crimson Gold Crown would return.

In the depths of the canyon—

The Crimson Gold Crown was enveloped in a mass of light, speeding towards the valley floor.

The valley bottom was pitch black, flickers of black light twinkled above, like a black barrier that completely isolated the lower part of the valley from above, as if they were two different worlds.

As the black barrier appeared, the Crimson Gold Crown suddenly accelerated, its light intensifying, striking the black barrier like a fierce laser cannon!

"Boom—"

The Crimson Gold Crown smashed into the black barrier, producing a thunderous booming sound.

The boom caused a resonance, as if the entire Tumur Peak were trembling.

After the rumbling noise, the Crimson Gold Crown was rebounded upwards, and the area where it hit the black screen dimmed a bit, although the surrounding light was flowing towards that spot.

"What... what's happening? Was there an earthquake??"

Atop the peak, Ye Fan was nearly shaken off the cliff, his face changed color in fright, and he peered down, but still could see nothing.

"Swoosh—"

At the valley's bottom, the Crimson Gold Crown, not waiting for the light at the black barrier's damaged section to fully recover, accelerated and struck again.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

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For a while, the booming sounds continued non-stop; Tumur Peak seemed to be undergoing an earthquake, glaciers were shaken into cracks, turning into ice blocks and falling into the valley bottom.

Caught by this abrupt disaster, Ye Fan was terrified beyond measure. He did not stay on the mountain top but quickly ran towards a flat area below the peak top. Besides being covered with glaciers, this area had rocks which were far more stable than the glaciers.

Soon, Ye Fan reached the flat area and the continuous booming sound suddenly stopped, replaced by a thunderous rumbling noise!

Avalanche!

The Crimson Gold Crown's continuous assaults on the black barrier eventually triggered an avalanche, and Tumur Peak's summit collapsed, sending a mountain of snow thundering down.

"That was close!"

Seeing this, Ye Fan felt a residual fear. If he had reacted even slightly slower just then, he would have been buried by the avalanche, undoubtedly dying!

After the shock, Ye Fan once again turned his gaze towards the canyon. While witnessing countless blocks of ice falling, he also faintly saw a glimmer of crimson gold light.

"It seems, the avalanche was caused by the Crimson Gold Crown!"

A thought crossed Ye Fan's mind. He was eager to fly down to the depths of the valley to investigate, but... it was just a thought!

In the deep part of the valley.

The Crimson Gold Crown stopped its assault, but it didn't revert to the shape of a crown. Instead, it transformed into a crimson gold person!

This figure looked vividly lifelike, indistinguishable from a real person.

He had long crimson gold hair and a crimson gold beard, appearing like an old man.

The crimson gold elder stood barefoot, suspended in air, his brow furrowed as he looked at the black barrier with a complex expression.

"Ling Yun, old friend, I know you reinforced the seal mostly to protect them, to cover up the truth, to prevent Earth from facing a catastrophe of destruction!"

Looking on, the crimson gold Elder Huang sighed softly, speaking in obscure language, "And you left me in this world, low in Primordial Qi, because you worried about the seal being discovered! In your view, once the seal is discovered and broken, and Earth faces the catastrophe of destruction, I could save your son's life!"

"But have you considered, having me stay in such a world, low in Primordial Qi, to guard your son instead of helping you fight and kill in that other world, this is both torture and an insult to me!"

In the air, the expression of the crimson gold elder turned slightly angry, "Once, for the sake of your children, you gave up the mission you had to shoulder, content to stay in this world. Although I was dissatisfied, I did not object, after all, it was your choice whether to complete the mission! Now, because you were injured by Ye Wenhao, you returned there to complete your mission, yet you leave me behind here, which is absolutely absurd!"

"Originally, with the level of Primordial Qi deprivation in this world, I could never have restored my power or broken this seal, but there is always a glimmer of hope in the universe—your son is lucky, having continuous serendipitous encounters, and I've benefited from him, recovering a trace of my power!"

"Break it for me!!"

As the words fell, the crimson gold elder suddenly transformed into a giant gold palm and ferociously struck the black barrier!

Chapter 574 Earth-shattering Changes, Blessings and Disasters Coexist

As the golden palm struck, a crimson gold light illuminated the entire canyon, turning the originally pitch-black canyon into a golden ocean, yet it remained unable to approach the black barrier.

Boom—

The next moment.

The huge golden palm fiercely smacked onto the black barrier, causing its center to immediately cave in, forming an imprint of a palm.

A terrifying energy surged from the center of the palm imprint, violently rushing outwards in all directions.

"Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang..."

The mountains surrounding the canyon were impacted, resembling the eruption of an earthquake, causing several huge cracks in the glaciers of the snow mountains where Tumor Peak was located. The shattered ice blocks thunderously collapsed, falling into the canyon together with the previously avalanched snow.

Simultaneously, the black barrier began spinning wildly, like a black vortex, suddenly flinging the golden palm up towards the sky.

A massive amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi spurted out from the black vortex, also shaken up towards the sky, disappearing without a trace, leaving only a little above Tumor Peak.

"Er..."

Atop Snow Summit, Ye Fan clutched the sturdy mountain rocks tightly, watching as the mounds of ice mixed with accumulated snow plunged into the canyon, the shock in his heart was simply indescribable, and he was completely dumbfounded.

Amidst his extreme shock, Ye Fan did not notice a crimson-gold elder hovering in the air above his head.

Perhaps the blow just now had consumed too much of the elder's strength, or perhaps the elder was wounded by the sealed forces, his light dimmed significantly, blending with the morning light, and if one did not discern carefully, he was completely unnoticeable.

"I was overconfident, underestimating the power of this seal. Once the seal vortex is activated, the seal will move automatically, and finding it again in the future will not be an easy task," the crimson-gold elder, observing all that he had caused, sensed the disappearance of the seal's energy fluctuations and quickly understood the reasons, somewhat regretting, "Moreover, the seal has now opened a gap, a massive amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi has surged into Earth, and the seal on that end will definitely show anomalies, significantly increasing the likelihood of it being discovered. Once the seal on that side is found, Earth's destruction will be imminent."

"Swoosh—"

Thinking this, the crimson-gold elder restored the crown pattern, flashed intensely, and entered Ye Fan's Yintang point!

Crimson Golden Crown?!

Feeling the Crimson Golden Crown enter his body, Ye Fan suddenly snapped out of his profound shock, overjoyed.

After the joy, Ye Fan noticed that the light of the Crimson Golden Crown was even dimmer than when it first appeared, as if it might disappear at any moment.

"What exactly happened? Why has the Crimson Golden Crown turned like this?"

Ye Fan was immensely shocked, the dimness of the Crimson Golden Crown indicated it was damaged, something that hadn't occurred even when it helped him resist the Heavenly Tribulation before.

Whoosh!

Shortly after, before Ye Fan could figure out the reason, a stream of memories suddenly blasted into his mind, causing his consciousness to tremble and his head to ache terribly.

"This really benefits the lad; even in that world, 'Flying Sword Skill' is considered an extremely rare martial arts skill. I wonder if this boy can comprehend it. If he can't, I can only hope he has some good luck during my slumber, and doesn't encounter unbeatable foes, or else it will be troublesome."

"If he can survive this period and successfully breaks through to the Qi Condensation Realm, condensing the Nine Profound Body, I will make him the master of the 'Nine Heavens Mystic Crown,' giving Earth a chance for survival—if by then he fully dedicates himself to enhancing his strength, even if the catastrophe of destruction arrives, Earth might still have a chance to survive this calamity!"

"Consider this a trial for the kid, and also a way to atone for Earth, so Ling Yun won't come blaming me later, thinking I caused Earth's destruction," mused the Crimson Golden Emperor as he forcibly instilled the cultivation method of 'Flying Sword Skill' into Ye Fan's mind, then completely fell into a deep slumber.

Ye Fan was completely oblivious to this.

When that stream of memories entered his mind, he immediately steadied his consciousness while tightly grasping the rocks, preventing himself from falling into the canyon.

As Ye Fan steadied his consciousness, the overwhelming headache gradually subsided, and the information that had entered his mind became clearer.

"'Flying Sword Skill' is a swordsmanship but is only suited for Spiritual Practitioners. Martial Artists cannot cultivate it; it requires Spiritual Practitioners to activate Spiritual Power to control and display the flying swords, and when practiced to the extreme, it can kill enemies from a thousand miles away..."

As Ye Fan began to understand the information the Crimson Golden Crown had blasted into his mind, he was ecstatic, "Manipulation Stream Secret Technique! It's actually a Manipulation Stream Secret Technique!!"

Having had experience cultivating 'Nine Heavens Profound Skill,' he was somewhat familiar with some of the strange terms, well aware that what was referred to as Spiritual Practitioners in the method were actually Magicians on Earth, and Spiritual Power was Mind Power.

And the 'Flying Sword Skill' now in his mind was specifically tailored as an Attack Secret Technique for Manipulation Stream Magicians, incredibly powerful!

After his ecstasy, Ye Fan continued to read the information, completely forgetting his current situation.

He didn't know how long it had been, but Ye Fan had completely assimilated the cultivation method of 'Flying Sword Skill,' learning that it consisted of nine moves in total. Although very powerful once mastered, it was extremely difficult to cultivate, and it consumed a shocking amount of Mind Power when executed.

"With my current strength, I wonder which move I can cultivate?" Ye Fan felt eager to try, then suddenly remembered his current circumstances, snapped awake, and noticed that most of the glacier and snow on the mountain had fallen into the canyon, revealing much of the mountain's rocks.

And the canyon was completely filled by the glacier and snow, utterly disappearing.

"Could it be... did I spend a long time receiving the information on 'Flying Sword Skill' just now?"

Seeing the changes before him, Ye Fan was startled, looked up to the sky, and saw the sun was already high, suddenly realizing something, he gave a bitter smile, "It seems I inadvertently immersed myself in the cultivation method of 'Flying Sword Skill,' unknowingly contemplating it, not only losing track of time but also ignoring the surroundings."

"Wait, why has the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi here suddenly become much denser?"

After a bitter smile, Ye Fan suddenly noticed that the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around him had become much denser. He stared in disbelief, "Could this also be caused by the Crimson Golden Crown? Impossible, right??"

With no answer, Ye Fan quickly regained his composure from the shock and then looked down at the steep cliff under his feet, calming down considerably, "The first thing to resolve now is to figure out a way to get down."

As the words fell, a flash of inspiration suddenly crossed Ye Fan's mind.

"Clang—"

With a move of his consciousness, Ye Fan launched three Xuanye Flying Blades in succession, embedding them into the cliff below, each three meters apart from one another.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan loosened his grip, his body plummeted down sharply, and he landed precisely on the first Xuanye Flying Blade. Using his excellent coordination, he stabilized his figure and then moved in the same way to the second and third flying blades.

Following that, Ye Fan continued in the same process, constantly manipulating the Xuanye Flying Blades to embed in the cliff, turning them into a ladder to escape the summit's precipice.

"Why didn't I think of this method before?"

Several minutes later, Ye Fan landed on a flat area below the cliff, internally cursing himself for being foolish.

Previously, if he had thought of this method, he could have ventured deeper into the canyon and found out what exactly was happening there.

Although he hadn't seen what exactly happened at the bottom of the valley, reason told him that the sudden increase in the density of the Primordial Qi above Tumor Peak was definitely related to the events in the valley.

"Let it be, I won't ponder the reasons now; rather, I'll try practicing the Flying Sword Skill, and see if I can successfully cultivate the first move."

Ye Fan shook his head, no longer dwelling on what happened at the bottom of the valley, and instead sat cross-legged, gathered his consciousness, and began to cultivate the Flying Sword Skill.

Miles away, at the base of a snowy mountain, Emperor Bai in a black robe, carrying the High-level Magical Artifact, Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, stood still looking in the direction of Tumor Peak.

That day, after hearing the disciples of Tian Shan Sword Sect say Ye Fan headed northwest, he pursued that direction.

A few hours ago, he suddenly heard a loud noise coming from the area of Tumor Peak, and even saw a flash of golden light.

He didn't know what had transpired, but felt that something was off, so he pushed his speed to the limit, racing toward Tumor Peak.

At this moment, he stopped because he suddenly noticed an increase in the density of the Primordial Qi!

"The sudden densification of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi must be related to the strange phenomenon at Tumor Peak," he deduced.

As he watched, Emperor Bai recalled that twenty-something years ago, the thickening of Primordial Qi on Earth also started at Tian Shan, and connecting it to the earlier phenomenon at Tumor Peak, he vaguely guessed something.

Thinking this, Emperor Bai immediately took out a specially made communicator to contact Jie Dao.

Jie Dao had come to Tian Shan with him, but had not ventured deep into the mountains and was instead meditating in a secluded spot at the entrance of Tian Shan.

"Little Emperor, what's the matter?"

At the entrance of Tian Shan, in a canyon, Jie Dao asked with some confusion.

"Master, I just noticed a strange phenomenon at Tumor Peak. As I approached Tumor Peak, I found that the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi has started to become denser..." Emperor Bai reported truthfully.

"Oh?" Jie Dao interrupted Emperor Bai, asking with a look of surprise, "What phenomenon?"

"The entire glacier and snow at Tumur Peak collapsed, and there was also a flash of golden light in the sky, brief yet brilliant."

Emperor Bai explained, then added, "Master, I suspect that the thickening of the Primordial Qi around Tumur Peak is related to the previous phenomenon. Why don't you come over and take a look?"

"I'll head there now. Wait for me at the base of Tumur Peak."

Jie Dao made a decisive decision, then added, "This matter is too mystical; it's very likely linked to the thickening of Earth's Primordial Qi twenty-something years ago. To be safe, do not act on your own until I arrive."

"Okay!"

Emperor Bai responded, and seeing that Jie Dao had ended the call, immediately put away the special communicator and sprang towards Tumur Peak.

Jie Dao too did not tarry; he leapt into the air, activated his Gang Qi within, and sped towards Tumur Peak.

Perhaps to avoid attracting the attention of Tian Shan Sword Sect, Jie Dao deliberately circumvented the sect's location on his way to Tumur Peak, instead flying over the snowy mountain where Bodhi Wuyin and Su Liuli were located.

Hm?

On the snowy mountain, Bodhi Wuyin, who was originally practicing meditation with Su Liuli, suddenly opened his eyes and looking at Su Liuli, softly called out: "Liuli."

"Master, what is it?" Su Liuli opened her eyes, asking with some confusion.

"Just now, a strong Martial Artist in the Gang Qi Realm appeared nearby, I'll go check it out. Continue your cultivation with peace of mind, I'll be back soon."

As the words fell, Bodhi Wuyin leapt into the air, pursuing the direction from which Jie Dao had departed.

Chapter 575 Dazzling and Overwhelming

Although Bodhi Wu Yin, like Jie Dao, was at the Peak of Gang Qi, she possessed a secret technique that allowed her to perfectly conceal her aura. Not to mention cultivators at the same realm, even the entire Yan couldn't detect her presence.

Nonetheless, to be on the safe side, Bodhi Wu Yin did not closely follow Jie Dao. Instead, she deliberately kept her distance, hanging far behind Jie Dao without letting him out of her range of mental perception.

Hmm?

After an unknown amount of time, the Tumor Peak, which was experiencing a glacier and snow collapse, came into view for both Bodhi Wu Yin and Jie Dao, and their expressions changed simultaneously!

Although Jie Dao had learned from Emperor Bai about the anomaly at Tumor Peak, he had not expected the entire glacier and snow of Tumor Peak to collapse, almost beyond recognition.

Compared to him, the shock in Bodhi Wu Yin's heart was even greater.

Reason told her that something bizarre must have occurred at Tumor Peak, or such a drastic change would not have happened!

After all, almost the entire mountain's glaciers and snow had collapsed, which required a terrifying amount of energy fluctuation; only an earthquake could achieve that.

And if there had been an earthquake at Tumor Peak, she wouldn't have failed to perceive it before!

"First, find Little Emperor and understand the situation!"

After the shock, Jie Dao quickly made a decision, soared down with his Qi manipulation, and flew towards the base of Tumor Peak.

Soon, Jie Dao arrived at the forest entrance at the base of Tumor Peak, but found no sign of Emperor Bai. Using his mental perception to scan the area, he was startled to find that Emperor Bai had already reached halfway up the mountain.

This discovery made Jie Dao's expression turn ugly; he pulled out a special communicator, contacted Emperor Bai, and coldly scolded, "Didn't I tell you to wait for me at the foot of the mountain? How dare you ascend on your own?"

"Master, I was planning to wait at the base of the mountain for you, but earlier, I suddenly sensed the aura of a cultivator at the Innate Great Perfection Realm at the peak, and the aura was intermittent. I found it odd and, fearing that someone else might reach there first, I decided to go up the mountain to check," Emperor Bai hurriedly explained. Although he was a descendant of the Bai Family and known as the number one genius of the younger generation in the Huaxia Martial Arts World, he held Jie Dao in high respect, bordering on reverence.

"Oh?"

Upon hearing this, Jie Dao's interest was piqued. He released his mental perception again and indeed detected the aura of an Innate Great Perfection Realm cultivator. He instantly instructed, "That aura is very close to you, go and see what's going on. I will be right there!"

"Alright!"

Emperor Bai, having also sensed the aura, hastily acknowledged Jie Dao's command and then disconnected the communication, dashing towards the location of the aura.

The owner of that aura was none other than Ye Fan!

Although he had activated the Ghost Ring, which could hide his own aura, every time he manipulated his flying knife to practice the "Flying Sword Skill," his aura would be projected outward.

"The 'Flying Sword Skill,' this Manipulation Stream Attack Secret Technique is simply incredible. I've only learned a bit of the first move, and the power of my Flying Knife Assassination has already increased by half!"

Ye Fan was completely immersed in the cultivation of the "Flying Sword Skill," not using his mental perception to scout his surroundings. He was unaware that his aura had been detected, and even more unaware that Emperor Bai, Jie Dao, and Bodhi Wu Yin were swiftly approaching his location. Instead, he retracted the Xuanye Flying Blade with a thought, his heart brimming with excitement.

"Although the secret technique is powerful, as stated in the technique itself, it is very difficult to cultivate. It requires seclusion and deep contemplation to potentially master the first style. Since it can't be mastered in a short period, I shouldn't focus all my efforts on cultivation. I should continue as before, searching for the Snow Lotus King during the day and cultivating at night."

Even amidst his excitement, Ye Fan's mind remained clear. He was absolutely confident in his own comprehension but also realized that the "Flying Sword Skill" was not something that could be mastered in a day or two.

With that thought, Ye Fan no longer lingered but silently dashed towards a cliff ahead.

Tumur Peak had many cliffs and precipices. When Ye Fan had previously scaled the peak, he was too preoccupied with unraveling the mysteries in his mind and hadn't inspected them. After the anomaly, he had been absorbed in cultivating the "Flying Sword Skill," and only now had he decided to take a look.

"How did the aura disappear again?"

Not far from where Ye Fan had just left, Emperor Bai noticed the disappearance of Ye Fan's aura again. Frowning, he maximized his speed and quickly arrived at the spot where Ye Fan had been moments before.

Hmm?

Seeing the footprints left on the ground, Emperor Bai's pupils contracted slightly, and he immediately followed the footprints.

Meanwhile, not far behind Emperor Bai in the sky, Jie Dao also noticed the disappearance of Ye Fan's aura and found it very strange. He too followed in the direction of the moving aura towards Emperor Bai.

"Could it be that Jie Dao and Emperor Bai, the master and disciple, are intending to target Ye Fan?"

In the sky behind Jie Dao, Bodhi Wu Yin furrowed her brows.

Although Emperor Bai and Jie Dao hadn't met Ye Fan and were not familiar with his aura, Bodhi Wu Yin was different—just a few days ago, she had personally witnessed Ye Fan's battle with Xiao Selang, a martial arts genius from the Tian Shan Sword Sect. She was very familiar with Ye Fan's aura and immediately recognized that the aura belonged to Ye Fan.

At the moment, although she could no longer sense Ye Fan's aura, she knew that Ye Fan possessed a magic artifact that could conceal his aura, which was not surprising. Instead, she was curious about the intentions of Emperor Bai and Jie Dao.

Because once out of the forest on the mountain, there were no mutant beasts, Ye Fan had not used his mental perception to scout the surroundings. Up to now, he was unaware that he was being followed and was quickly heading towards a cliff.

Hmm?

Suddenly, Ye Fan's stride halted, his pupils dilating sharply!

What appeared in his eyes was a cliff. The glaciers around the cliff had shattered, most of them plunging into the ravine below, leaving only a few pieces.

Because the surface of the cliff was flat, the snow on top had remained. At first glance, it appeared as a vast expanse of dazzling white.

In the midst of that snow, nestled in a crevice in a rock, grew a white flower. The stem and leaves of the white flower were completely covered by the snow, and the blossom blended seamlessly with the snow, making it almost indiscernible unless looked at closely.

The flower had twelve petals total, forming a spherical cluster at the stem's tip, with edges or entirely in purple-brown, sharply pointed at the tips, the outer layer sparsely covered with long, soft hairs, the middle and inner layers lanceolate.

This flower was none other than the Snow Lotus, the most famous bloom of Mount Tian!

"Could it be the Snow Lotus King?"

Ye Fan's mind stirred, and he quickly released his mental perception to check whether the Snow Lotus contained Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. If it did, it would indeed be the Snow Lotus King!

Hmm?

No sooner had Ye Fan released his perception than he sensed a powerful aura swiftly approaching from behind him, its speed extremely quick.

In addition, behind that powerful aura, there was an even more terrifying presence!

The presence was so overwhelming that the moment Ye Fan noticed it, he felt his heart tremble with fear!

Whoosh!

The sudden turn of events caused Ye Fan's face to change dramatically, and he quickly turned to look.

"Is it him?"

The sprinting Emperor Bai, upon seeing Ye Fan's somewhat unfamiliar face, startled momentarily and subconsciously stopped in his tracks.

Although he had not met Ye Fan face to face before, he had seen Ye Fan's photograph and was very clear about his appearance.

Meanwhile, as Emperor Bai halted, Ye Fan also got a clear view of Emperor Bai's face, causing his pupils to dilate!

Clearly... he had also seen Emperor Bai's photograph!

The reason for this was that the enmity between him and Emperor Bai was too deep!

First, the Ye Family and the Bai Family had always been rival clans, their grudges starting from the older generations and growing deeper over the decades, reaching a point where they were utterly incompatible.

Although Ye Fan had never considered himself as part of the Ye Family's young masters, he had vowed to help his father, Ye Wenhao, ascend to the top. Moreover, having sent Young Master Bai, Bai Luo, to prison and inflicted severe damages on the Bai Family consecutively, he had long been regarded as a thorn in the Bai Family's side.

Second, Chu Xuanji and Jie Dao had feuds, and their hatred would also affect the conflict between Ye Fan and Emperor Bai!

Lastly, Emperor Bai was the champion of the previous Qing bang competition and a leader among the young generation in the Cultivation World, a target everyone aimed to defeat, and Ye Fan was no exception!

"The world really is small."

Upon their eyes meeting, Emperor Bai smirked disdainfully, his intent for battle and killing subtly manifesting, exerting tremendous pressure on Ye Fan.

Ye Fan steadied his consciousness, using his Martial Arts Will to counter Emperor Bai's oppression.

"Hmph!"

Seeing that Ye Fan was resisting his oppressive aura, Emperor Bai snorted coldly, his aura surged explosively, and his killing intent and battle spirit erupted like a volcanic eruption, fusing together like a sharp treasure sword cleaving at Ye Fan, terrifyingly powerful.

"My heart is as steady as a rock!"

Facing the renewed oppressive aura from Emperor Bai, Ye Fan felt as if a mountain was pressing on his chest, his consciousness faintly trembling, he quickly gathered his thoughts and again stabilized his mind, resisting with his Martial Arts Will.

However—

Emperor Bai's aura was just too fearsome. He seemed like a blood-stained battle sword, his killing intent formidable. Even with Ye Fan's exceptionally strong consciousness and firmly resolute Martial Arts Will, it was quite challenging to resist. In a blink, sweat beaded on his forehead, and his breathing rhythm was disrupted.

"You at least saved some face for that old bastard Chu Xuanji!"

Seeing that his oppressive aura couldn't make Ye Fan crumble, Emperor Bai gave a cold laugh, looking at Ye Fan as if a divine being looking down on an ant, filled with disdain—just using his aura, he was nearly overpowering Ye Fan; killing him would be as easy as flipping his hand!

"It seems your master only taught you Martial Arts, not how to be a decent human. Otherwise, you wouldn't talk nothing but rubbish," Ye Fan retorted coldly, unfazed by Emperor Bai's extremely terrifying pressure and threats after hearing him insult Chu Xuanji.

"If you crave death that much, I wouldn't mind fulfilling your wish," Emperor Bai said, eyes brimming with murderous intent.

"Buzz~"

The Bloodthirsty Mad Blade as if sensing Emperor Bai's killing intent, emitted a soft hum, seemingly ready to unsheathe and draw blood at any moment.

"If you want to be hunted by my master and the Yanhuang Organization, by all means, bring it on." Ye Fan did not back down, his rationality telling him that Emperor Bai wouldn't have engaged in so much talking if he dared to make a move.

"You..."

Sure enough, upon hearing this, Emperor Bai's face changed color, then sneered coldly again, his gaze piercing as he said, "What else can you do other than rely on Chu Xuanji, that old bastard, to bully others? Dare to fight me one-on-one?"

Chapter 576 Contending for the Snow Lotus King, Establishing a Battle Agreement!

Facing the humiliation from Emperor Bai, Ye Fan's eyes narrowed into slits, his gaze angry and icy.

However—

As angry as he was, he also knew that with the strength Emperor Bai had shown, his Flying Knife Assassination could pose a threat, but... the likelihood of killing Emperor Bai was very small.

If he failed to kill Emperor Bai, with the strength Emperor Bai had displayed, a counterattack would be inevitable, and he would undoubtedly die!

Besides, Ye Fan keenly discovered that the energy rapidly approaching from the sky bore some similarity to Emperor Bai's and it was very likely Jie Dao, Emperor Bai's master!

In such a situation, he naturally couldn't accept the challenge and could only choose to suppress his anger deep within his heart.

"One strike, if you can withstand just one of my strikes, I will consider you the winner!"

Seeing that Ye Fan dared not fight, the disdain in Emperor Bai's eyes became even more apparent, as if he could kill Ye Fan with just a flick of his hand.

"In the Qing bang competition, I will take your dog life!"

Ye Fan coldly stated, then without waiting for Emperor Bai to respond, suddenly turned around and with a forceful push off the ground, rapidly moved towards the cliff.

Since Emperor Bai dared not strike him, there was no need to waste words with Emperor Bai— the urgent matter at hand was to get the Snow Lotus King!

Otherwise, whether it was Emperor Bai discovering the Snow Lotus King or Jie Dao, Emperor Bai's master arriving and discovering it, he would not possibly be able to get the Snow Lotus King!

Hmm?

Seeing this, Emperor Bai's gaze naturally swept towards the cliff, and he spotted the Snow Lotus King at a glance!

"Clang!"

Seeing the Snow Lotus King, Emperor Bai didn't hesitate and immediately drew the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade!

With the sword unsheathed, the blood qi within Emperor Bai boiled completely, surging to his hands and transmitting into the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, making the blade's edge flicker with red light.

—Swoosh!!

With the blade in hand, Emperor Bai did not linger and casually struck with one slash!

This slash seemed casual and did not use any martial techniques, but the momentum was overwhelming, containing terrifying power!

With a slash, the Gang Qi spurting from the blade tip merged with the blood qi around Emperor Bai, combining with that terrifying murderous intent to form a blood-colored sword light, blasting towards the front of Ye Fan!

"Danger!!"

Ye Fan's heart pounded wildly, and he hastily retreated!

"Bang—"

Ye Fan had just retreated several meters when the terrifying blood-colored sword light, like a laser cannon, struck the path Ye Fan was about to advance on.

The sword light passed, vaporizing the air in front and creating a huge crack in the ground, several meters deep.

Immediately afterwards, the cliff's wall below was also struck by the sword light, as if it had been sliced open, revealing a deep crack with debris flying everywhere.

Seeing this, Ye Fan was both shocked and angry.

Shocked by Emperor Bai's terrifying strength—with the power of that one strike from Emperor Bai, if it had hit him, he would have undoubtedly died, his entire body turning into a pile of blood and flesh!

Angry that Emperor Bai had actually made a sudden attempt on his life!

"Don't look at me like that, if I had wanted to kill you just then, you would already be dead!"

Sensing Ye Fan's angry gaze, Emperor Bai gave a cold smile, his body flashed, and he rapidly moved towards the Snow Lotus King.

Witnessing this, Ye Fan's expression changed, and he instantly realized that Emperor Bai's previous strike was intended to drive him back to snatch the Snow Lotus King!

"Whoosh—"

Realizing all this, Ye Fan's mind shifted, and the Xuanye Flying Blade flew out of his sleeve, whistling towards the Snow Lotus King!

Originally, he wanted to harvest the whole Snow Lotus King, but now that Emperor Bai was competing for it, he had to settle for second best and use the Xuanye Flying Blade to sever the roots of the Snow Lotus King, then collect it through Mind Power from a distance!

Of course, he could also use Mind Power to forcefully uproot the Snow Lotus King, but not knowing the exact condition of the Snow Lotus King, he was afraid of accidentally destroying it and dared not attempt.

"Hmph!"

As he sprinted, Emperor Bai heard the sound of the flying blade and, understanding what Ye Fan was thinking, immediately snorted coldly, not turning his head as his left hand formed a blade and executed a Hand Blade strike!

"Clang!"

A wave of Gang Qi shot from Emperor Bai's palm, accurately hitting the flying Xuanye Flying Blade, the terrifying force directly knocking the Xuanye Flying Blade away.

Successful with his strike, Emperor Bai also reached the top of the cliff and stretched out his hand to grab the Snow Lotus King.

Seeing this, Ye Fan steeled his heart, a wave of Mind Power howling out from the Yintang point between his eyebrows, silently acting on the roots of the Snow Lotus King.

The next moment.

Before Emperor Bai could grab the Snow Lotus King, its roots abruptly broke and it soared into the air, flying towards Ye Fan.

However—

The Snow Lotus King is not a Mind Control Magic Tool after all, and its flying speed was not considered fast.

Swoosh!

Emperor Bai let out a cold laugh, his body sprang up, leaping high and with a wave of his hand, he grabbed the Snow Lotus King.

"Emperor Bai, I discovered the Snow Lotus King first, don't push people too far!!"

His possession of the Snow Lotus King snatched away, Ye Fan was completely angered, a terrifying killing intent emerging from him, his fists clenched tight, his gaze icily fixed on Emperor Bai.

"Hey, what does it matter that you discovered the Snow Lotus King first? Now the Snow Lotus King is in my hands!" Emperor Bai said with a cold laugh.

"You..."

Ye Fan's fists creaked, his eyes seeming to spit fire.

"Hey, do you also want to press me with Chu Xuanji, that old bastard, and the Yanhuang Organization? The Yanhuang Organization has no rule against martial artists competing for strange treasures; it's just that you are too weak and were preempted by me!" Emperor Bai taunted, looking at Ye Fan as if watching a clown perform.

"Huff~"

Once again hearing Emperor Bai's words, Ye Fan felt deeply stifled but refrained from erupting in anger. Instead, he deeply exhaled a breath of stale air as if to expel all the frustration and indignation in his heart.

Inhale, exhale!

After doing this three times, Ye Fan completely calmed down, his face devoid of any trace of anger.

"Eh?"

Emperor Bai had thought his actions would infuriate Ye Fan into attacking him, allowing him to legitimately slay Ye Fan. Seeing Ye Fan quickly regain his composure, he couldn't help but feel a tinge of surprise.

To that, Ye Fan said nothing, only giving Emperor Bai a deep look!

At that moment, there wasn't a trace of hatred or murderous intent in Ye Fan's eyes, yet it made Emperor Bai's heart skip a beat!

Because, Emperor Bai could clearly sense the resolve in Ye Fan's gaze!

That resolve seemed to tell Emperor Bai: from this point on, it would be a fight to the death between Ye Fan and him!

Such resolve was immensely firm, as if even if the sky were to fall, it wouldn't change a bit!!

After that glance, Ye Fan withdrew his gaze and turned to leave.

"Wait!"

Seeing this, Emperor Bai called out to stop Ye Fan from leaving.

Ignoring him, Ye Fan didn't even pause his footsteps—he didn't believe Emperor Bai would dare to attack him!

Otherwise, Emperor Bai wouldn't have exhausted his efforts to infuriate him by competing for the Snow Lotus King—although the Snow Lotus King was rare, it was not as valuable as Plant Essence to cultivators, and even less so for Emperor Bai.

As if to confirm Ye Fan's speculation, Emperor Bai suddenly made a startling offer: "I can give you the Snow Lotus King."

Huh?

Despite knowing that Emperor Bai would likely set conditions even if he gave him the Snow Lotus King, because the Snow Lotus was extremely important to him, Ye Fan still instinctively stopped in his tracks.

"Ordinarily, even though the Snow Lotus King is precious, it's only so to average cultivators. With your strength, you shouldn't need it. You care so much about it, could it be that you intend to use it for Alchemy?"

Emperor Bai had already guessed that Ye Fan greatly valued the Snow Lotus King, hence their competition over it. Seeing Ye Fan stop, Emperor Bai's guess was further affirmed, though he was still somewhat puzzled.

"State your conditions."

Hearing Emperor Bai's words, Ye Fan's heart trembled slightly, then he quickly responded coldly to prevent Emperor Bai from guessing that he planned to use it to concoct Lifespan Extension Pills.

"It seems the Snow Lotus King is indeed very important to you."

Emperor Bai stopped pondering what Ye Fan wanted the Snow Lotus King for, and voiced his thoughts, "As long as you can withstand one cut from me, I will give you the Snow Lotus King!"

Withstand one cut?

Startled upon hearing Emperor Bai's words, Ye Fan moved, turning to look at Emperor Bai.

"Just one cut!"

Emperor Bai said with a smile, his expression brimming with confidence.

He firmly believed, among cultivators below the Half-step Gang Qi realm, none could withstand his cut!

After all, he had slain the King of Giant Boas with just two cuts!

The King of Giant Boas, already a half-demon capable of sweeping through the cultivators of the Half-step Gang Qi realm, would not be at a disadvantage even against the absolute dominator of the Half-step Gang Qi realm cultivators. Instead, it would have the upper hand due to its strong attack and defense powers.

And Ye Fan, merely at the Innate Great Perfection Realm, would definitely not be able to withstand his killing move—Blood Kill!

"What if I withstand your cut and you don't honor your promise?" questioned Ye Fan, somewhat tempted.

"Heh, If I say it, I naturally will honor it."

Emperor Bai, both annoyed and excited by Ye Fan's words, was annoyed because Ye Fan seemed to underestimate his strength, and excited because he could tell that Ye Fan was considering accepting his proposal.

"Empty words prove nothing."

As Emperor Bai had thought, Ye Fan indeed wanted to accept Emperor Bai's proposal.

Because, reason told him that the appearance of the Snow Lotus King here was likely related to the anomaly caused by the Crimson Golden Crown, leading to a sudden increase in the concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

If this assessment was true, then losing this Snow Lotus King might make it very hard for him to find another one.

If he couldn't find another Snow Lotus King, his plan to concoct the Lifespan Extension Pill would be ruined!

Then, not only would he miss the chance to improve his strength through concocting the Lifespan Extension Pill and breaking through the Innate Great Perfection Realm, but he also wouldn't be able to extend Old Master Ye's life.

If Old Master Ye were to pass away before that crucial meeting, whether Ye Wenhao could successfully ascend to the top would be a huge question mark!

Although Emperor Bai's strength was very powerful, even stronger than Hong Lie who was known as the first below the Gang Qi Realm, Ye Fan thought he could manage to withstand just one cut from Emperor Bai.

"Since you worry about me reneging, how about we go to the Tian Shan Sword Sect and let the people of the Tian Shan Sword Sect bear witness, what do you say?"

Emperor Bai thought of a brilliant idea.

If Ye Fan and he were to compete at the Tian Shan Sword Sect, the true nature of his killing Ye Fan would inevitably spread throughout the entire Cultivation World via the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

That way, he could not only honor the Jie Dao, but also the Yanhuang Organization would not hold him accountable, and Chu Xuanji couldn't seek revenge against him—if Chu Xuanji attempted revenge, he would become the laughingstock of the Huaxia Cultivation World and be despised by all cultivators!

"Do not agree!!"

The next moment.

Just as Ye Fan was about to agree, a voice suddenly rang out.

The moment the voice fell, a figure appeared.

Bodhi Wuyin revealed himself in the air!

Chapter 577 Past Grudges, Ye Fan Accepts the Challenge

Amid the sky, Bodhi Wu Yin, resembling a Heavenly Immortal descending to the mortal world, treaded on Gang Qi and floated gracefully forward, her sanctified and noble aura spreading around her, preventing anyone from harboring the slightest blasphemous thought.

Swish!

Startled to see Bodhi Wu Yin appear and sensing the powerful aura radiating from her, Emperor Bai, who had previously been arrogantly invincible, was shocked into changing his expression, now appearing slightly solemn.

Not far behind Emperor Bai, Jie Dao stood with his hands behind his back, floating in the air; his eyes sparkled with surprise, and his gaze followed Bodhi Wu Yin's figure as she moved, as if she carried some kind of magic on her.

Just like Jie Dao and Emperor Bai, the master and disciple, when Bodhi Wu Yin appeared, Ye Fan's gaze was irresistibly drawn to her.

Bodhi Wu Yin?!

At that moment, sensing the powerful, sacred, and noble aura around Bodhi Wu Yin, he vaguely guessed something and his face revealed a trace of excitement!

Although he had never met Bodhi Wu Yin nor seen her photograph, in his view, in all the heavens, the only woman who could possess such a noble, sacred, and powerful aura was the Buddhist sect leader, Bodhi Wu Yin.

Moreover, Bodhi Wu Yin was dressed in white, exactly as Su Liuli had once described.

"Please...please, are you Master Bodhi Wu Yin?"

In his excitement, Ye Fan couldn't help but speak before Bodhi Wu Yin even came close.

Initially, in his search for Su Liuli, he had followed her to the Southwest, only to find that she had eventually joined the Buddhist sect and become a disciple of Bodhi Wu Yin.

All along, he had wanted to find Su Liuli, but because Bodhi Wu Yin, like Chu Xuanji, appeared and disappeared without a trace, he had been unable to locate her.

At this moment, if he could confirm that the person before him was indeed Bodhi Wu Yin, then he could see Su Liuli!

"Hmm."

Bodhi Wu Yin nodded gently and in a flash, she appeared beside Ye Fan, her expression slightly complex as she said, "With your strength, it would be difficult to withstand his full-force strike. Do not accept the challenge."

Swish!

Startled by Bodhi Wu Yin's words, the excited look on Ye Fan's face was completely erased, replaced by sheer astonishment!

Clearly...he hadn't expected Bodhi Wu Yin to say that!

"Sigh..."

Seeing the astonished expression on Ye Fan's face, Bodhi Wu Yin couldn't help but silently sigh in her heart.

Because she had secretly followed Su Liuli in the past, she had seen everything Ye Fan did in Hanghu and Dong Hai.

She knew well that Ye Fan was a confident person, possessing a steely pride.

She also knew that for someone as confident and proudly spirited as Ye Fan, refusing to fight, to admit defeat, would be a devastating blow!

But—

Having just witnessed Emperor Bai's move, she was very aware that from start to finish, Emperor Bai had not shown his true strength, and the strike that had previously forced Ye Fan back hadn't even used martial skills.

Beyond that, as a Peak of Gang Qi realm strong person, leader of the Buddhist sect, and ranking amongst the top ten on the Dragon Ranking, she was well aware of the strength of the "Blood Shadow Saber Technique".

In her view, if Emperor Bai were to use the killing move 'Blood Kill' from the "Blood Shadow Saber Technique," Ye Fan would utterly be unable to withstand it, he might not even be able to dodge!

In such a situation, she would rather shatter Ye Fan's spirit than watch him senselessly march towards his own death!

"As the saying goes, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-floor pagoda. Indeed, as the leader of the Buddhist sect, your compassion is admirable!"

Before Ye Fan could recover from his astonishment, Jie Dao's eyes lost their sparkle of surprise, his expression suddenly turned from the warmth of spring to the cold of winter, chillingly fearsome, his tone full of mockery.

"Jie Dao, I know you hate Chu Xuanji to the bone, but you must not take out your resentment on Ye Fan—Ye Fan is innocent." Facing Jie Dao's mockery, Bodhi Wu Yin responded calmly, her expression neither joyful nor sad, like a living bodhisattva.

"When have I ever taken my resentment out on him?" Jie Dao asked angrily.

"Doesn't everything right now prove it?" Bodhi Wu Yin questioned back.

"Hehe... hehehe... hehehehehe..."

Hearing Bodhi Wu Yin's words again, Jie Dao suddenly burst into derisive laughter as if he had gone mad, but the anger within him increased, like a volcano about to erupt.

"This matter has nothing to do with my master!"

Sensing the anger emanating from Jie Dao, and considering the complex history among Jie Dao, Bodhi Wu Yin, and Chu Xuanji, Emperor Bai looked at Bodhi Wu Yin with a somewhat unsightly expression and tightly furrowed brows, saying, "Please do not wrongly accuse my master!"

Bodhi Wu Yin remained silent, looking towards Jie Dao.

"Hoo!"

Jie Dao stopped his eerie laughter, took a deep breath, and met Bodhi Wu Yin's gaze with a complicated expression filled with anger, hatred, and an indestructible love!

"Bodhi Wu Yin, back then, you devotedly loved Chu Xuanji, but he was immersed in his cultivation and various studies. Feeling disheartened, you chose to become a monk, joined the Buddhist sect, and recited Buddhist Scriptures tens of thousands of times. Eventually, through the 'Amitabha Sutra,' you created the 'Bodhi Skill,' which greatly shook your reputation and led to you being revered as a leader of the Buddhist sect. Even rumors spread that you were a fairy who did not partake in the mortal world's pleasures, having severed all desires. But I know you never severed those desires—deep inside, you never forgot Chu Xuanji!"

Watching, Jie Dao spoke in a low tone, "If not for this obsession, with your comprehension and talent, you might have already broken through to the Innate Great Perfection, surpassed Yan, and become the world's supreme strongman! Similarly, if not for this, you wouldn't have come out today to save Chu Xuanji's disciple, would I be right?"

"Jie Dao, some words, I've said to you years ago, why are you struggling like this?" Bodhi Wu Yin sighed gently.

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

Upon hearing this, Jie Dao laughed wildly again and then spoke once more, his tone full of intense reluctance and jealousy, and an indelible hatred, "Yes, why am I struggling like this? Is it because I can't stand not having you? Or is it because I can't stand losing to Chu Xuanji?"

No, it's none of those! I'm just furious. I am wholly devoted to you, willing to do anything for you, yet Chu Xuanji doesn't even spare you a glance. You think he is the perfect man, while in your eyes, I am just a petty-minded villain! Isn't it absurd that I vent my resentment on such juniors?"

"A guy who only knows how to bully behind his powerful backers, what makes me think my master should bother with him? Bodhi Wu Yin, you're placing too high a value on that trash behind you! Similarly, you also overestimate Chu Xuanji—that old bastard is not even worthy to be mentioned in the same breath as my master!"

Emperor Bai, aware that Jie Dao had developed hatred from love for Bodhi Wu Yin, no longer cared about propriety, directly addressed Bodhi Wu Yin by name, and unabashedly insulted Chu Xuanji and his disciple, Ye Fan.

Bodhi Wu Yin frowned slightly upon hearing this.

Ye Fan's expression changed dramatically, and his gaze sharpened like a knife as he stared at Emperor Bai: "Emperor Bai, I warn you, do not insult my master! You are not qualified to do so! Your master isn't either! Using your own words, he isn't even qualified to be mentioned in the same breath as my master!"

"Is that so? If your master is so powerful, why did he teach someone as useless as you? What else can you do besides rely on your master? You don't even dare to face my blade, and you still have the face to speak to me here? If I were you, I'd rather jump off this cliff to save myself from the embarrassment of living!"

Faced with Ye Fan's retort, Emperor Bai was uncontrollably furious but could find no grounds to attack Chu Xuanji, and so he directed all his anger and resentment toward Ye Fan, hurling a barrage of insults.

"Young man, being ahead for a moment doesn't mean you will be ahead forever. Arrogance isn't a good thing."

Hearing Emperor Bai's insults towards Ye Fan, Bodhi Wu Yin's brows furrowed even tighter, fearing that Ye Fan might be provoked and thus accept Emperor Bai's challenge, she quickly spoke out.

"Arrogance without strength is courting death, but arrogance with strength is natural!"

Jie Dao sneered, "Bodhi Wu Yin, you cannot deny that with Little Emperor's strength, he can indeed look down on all young cultivators!"

"Hey, Bodhi Wu Yin, the truly arrogant one is not me, it's that trash behind you! A waste who doesn't even dare to take one blow from me, yet acts arrogant in front of me, that's what arrogance is, well, of course, it can also be called courting death!"

Encouraged by Jie Dao's support, Emperor Bai sneered repeatedly, looking at Ye Fan with disdain, like a haughty prince staring at a beggar.

"Who says I dare not take your blow?" Ye Fan suddenly said.

"Ye Fan, don't be impulsive!"

Originally, Bodhi Wu Yin was worried that Ye Fan might be provoked and accept Emperor Bai's challenge. Now, hearing Ye Fan's words, her expression changed dramatically, and she quickly spoke out to stop him.

However—

Unexpectedly to Bodhi Wu Yin, when she turned to look at Ye Fan, she saw not a trace of anger on his face, only calmness.

"Master Bodhi Wu Yin, I know you mean well, and I thank you for everything you've done for me!"

Ye Fan said, bowing deeply to Bodhi Wu Yin, then raising his head and speaking softly, "But... I must accept this challenge!"

"Why?"

Bodhi Wu Yin was very puzzled. She could see that Ye Fan was exceptionally calm and also certain that Ye Fan understood Emperor Bai's strength. Under normal logic, Ye Fan should have chosen to be patient.

"First, the Snow Lotus King is of great importance to me. Second, I might not care about him insulting me, but... I cannot tolerate him repeatedly insulting my master!" Ye Fan said each word with firm conviction.

"Could it be... he has some unknown trump card?"

Sensing the determination in Ye Fan's gaze, Bodhi Wu Yin was taken aback, pursed her lips, and ultimately said nothing more.

Emperor Bai, however, wore a triumphant smile, feeling as though Ye Fan was already a dead man in his eyes: "Don't just talk the talk, since you agreed, let's start now!"

"Today, I take your blow; tomorrow, I shall take your head!"

Ye Fan's gaze swept towards Emperor Bai like a blade, his Martial Arts Will more resolute than ever.

Chapter 578 First Battle Against Emperor Bai (Part 1)

"Taking my head from my neck? With just you? This is the coldest joke I have heard since I was born!"

As Ye Fan's words echoed in his ears, Emperor Bai laughed full of mockery, looking at Ye Fan as if he were looking at an idiot.

Jie Dao also sported a face filled with scornful amusement.

Just now, he had watched the entire process of Ye Fan and Emperor Bai vying for the Snow Lotus King, gaining a clear understanding of their strengths.

In his view, although there was only a half-realm difference between Ye Fan and Emperor Bai, their combat abilities were as different as clouds are from mud, and they simply could not be discussed on equal terms.

Master Bodhi Wu Yin did not laugh at Ye Fan.

Because she could feel the determination in Ye Fan's words—that this vow was extremely important for Ye Fan, and if he could not achieve it, even if he did not die at the hands of Emperor Bai, there would always be a knot in his heart, and perhaps even a Heart Demon would emerge, completely ruining his cultivation journey!

Even more so because of the rapid increase in Ye Fan's strength over the short span of a year!

Within the year, Ye Fan had risen from the Postnatal Perfection Realm to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, in terms of both cultivation speed and improvement in combat ability, his progress could only be described as defying the heavens!

In such a situation, if Ye Fan were given enough time, what would be difficult about killing Emperor Bai?

The only thing she was worried about was that just now Ye Fan had accepted Emperor Bai's challenge.

"Let's do as I said before and fight at the Tian Shan Sword Sect; let the people of the Tian Shan Sword Sect bear witness to avoid old bastard Chu Xuanji and Yanhuang Organization accusing me of bullying the weak," Emperor Bai said again, a sinister smile on his face.

"It's just catching a single saber strike, a fight that can be finished in the blink of an eye; why trouble ourselves to go all the way to the Tian Shan Sword Sect?"

Before Ye Fan could reply, Master Bodhi Wu Yin spoke up first, right after Emperor Bai's voice fell. She had decided that if Ye Fan truly could not withstand a single saber strike, she would intervene at the critical moment to save his life.

Even if Jie Dao and Emperor Bai, teacher and student, became angry, she would not fear them.

However, if they went to the Tian Shan Sword Sect, under the public eye, her concerns would be much greater, and even if she intervened, it would cause a great uproar in the Hua Xia Cultivation World.

Beyond that, she was also well aware that Emperor Bai was doing this to spread the word of this battle through the Tian Shan Sword Sect.

At that time, if Ye Fan couldn't withstand a strike, as Emperor Bai said, since the duel would be a voluntary agreement with the Tian Shan Sword Sect as a witness, Chu Xuanji and the Yanhuang Organization would have no reason to trouble Emperor Bai.

And even if Ye Fan survived Emperor Bai's strike, the ones who would lose face would still be Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji!

This was a solution that satisfied both concerns, with a truly malicious intent.

If Master Bodhi Wu Yin could think of this, Ye Fan was naturally as clear about it as a mirror.

Seeing Master Bodhi Wu Yin signaling him with her gaze not to agree, Ye Fan gently shook his head, silently indicating that everything was fine and under his control.

After all this, he turned his gaze to Emperor Bai and said coldly, "The location of the battle can be at the Tian Shan Sword Sect, but with an additional condition."

"What?" Emperor Bai asked.

"If I catch your strike, not only do you have to give me the Snow Lotus King, you also have to slap yourself in the face ten times in public and apologize to my master!" Ye Fan stated solemnly.

"You..."

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words, Emperor Bai's face changed with anger, but then he sneered, thinking that Ye Fan could not possibly withstand his strike, "As long as you can withstand my strike, not to mention slapping myself, apologizing to you and your master, it wouldn't be a problem even if I had to kneel down and call you grandfather!"

"Master Bodhi Wu Yin, in case he reneges and breaks the agreement, please bear witness," Ye Fan said to Master Bodhi Wu Yin.

Master Bodhi Wu Yin nodded and replied, "Alright."

"The sooner you die, the sooner you reincarnate; let's not waste words, let's go!"

Hearing Ye Fan's words again, sensing the confidence in his words, Emperor Bai seethed with fury, wishing he could split Ye Fan in two with his saber right there and then.

"Master Bodhi Wu Yin, to save time, I will take Little Emperor to Tian Shan Sword Sect. How about you bring that kid?" Jie Dao suddenly proposed.

Without responding, Master Bodhi Wu Yin looked to Ye Fan, and seeing him nod, she grabbed him and, powering up her Gang Qi, soared into the sky, flying toward Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Seeing this, Jie Dao grabbed Emperor Bai and hurriedly followed behind them.

Since Master Bodhi Wu Yin and Jie Dao were flying with Ye Fan and Emperor Bai respectively, they didn't dare to fly too fast, maintaining not too distant from each other.

Therefore, although Master Bodhi Wu Yin was curious whether Ye Fan still had unknown trump cards, for fear of being overheard by Jie Dao and his disciple Emperor Bai, she had to let it go.

...

At the same time.

Several hundred miles away from the Tian Shan Sword Sect, Yan and Chu Xuanji were flying through the air with Qi Manipulation Flight, their speed incredibly fast, like two streaks of white light speeding through.

"Xuanji, Qi Manipulation Flight really drains the Gang Qi inside the body too much. Even with the strength of both of us, flying from Yanjing to Mount Tian is not easy. I hope your guess is correct; otherwise, just to restore the Gang Qi in our bodies will take a lot of time," Yan turned his head towards Chu Xuanji and said with a wry smile.

That morning, as usual, while he was cultivating in the Hong Qiang Courtyard, a symbol of power and status, he suddenly sensed an increase in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi throughout Yanjing, which he found quite puzzling.

A bit later, before he could figure out the reason for it, Chu Xuanji suddenly appeared before him, saying that the sudden increase in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi was very likely related to some extraordinary event near Mount Tian, similar to what had happened over twenty years ago. Chu Xuanji proposed that they explore together to find out the truth.

As a Supreme Strongman ranked first on both the Dragon Ranking and the Divine List, Yan was acutely aware of the gravity of the situation and how it could have an immeasurable impact on the entire Cultivation World. Therefore, he agreed to Chu Xuanji's proposition without delay, and they set off for Mount Tian together.

"It shouldn't be wrong," Chu Xuanji said, despite adding the word "should," his tone was quite confident.

"That's very good."

Yan smiled upon hearing this and then, thinking of something, asked, "By the way, isn't your disciple in Mount Tian? Why don't you contact him?"

"The kid's communication device is having issues; I can't get through," Chu Xuanji said with a wry smile. "However, it's very likely that we'll run into him on Mount Tian."

"Xuanji, why do I feel like you're hiding something from me? Don't tell me that the increase in Earth's Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi has something to do with your precious disciple?" Having heard Chu Xuanji's words again, Yan felt that something was amiss, and recalling Ye Fan's miraculous performance when resisting the Heavenly Tribulation, a thought suddenly flashed through his mind.

"It's not good to say for now, we'll know once we see him."

Chu Xuanji smiled, not really hiding anything. One important reason he was certain that the increase in Earth's Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi might be due to some event in Mount Tian was precisely because Ye Fan was there.

"If that's the case, then let's not stop midway to recover our Gang Qi. Let's head straight to the location," Yan said with unusual excitement.

Chu Xuanji nodded and increased his speed to the utmost, flying shoulder to shoulder with Yan in the direction of Tian Shan Sword Sect.

An hour later.

Master Bodhi Wuyin, Ye Fan, Jie Dao, and Bai Di were the first to arrive at Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Whoosh!

In a small courtyard of Tian Shan Sword Sect, Meng Bai immediately sensed the presence of Master Bodhi Wuyin, Jie Dao, and Bai Di, and his eyes snapped open!

Because Ye Fan had activated the Ghost Ring to conceal his presence, it went undetected.

"One of them is Master Bodhi Wuyin, among the other two, one has a presence that is nearly equal to Master Bodhi Wuyin, and the other stronger than me—who are they? Why have Master Bodhi Wuyin and they come to Tian Shan Sword Sect?" Meng Bai's heart was filled with doubts as he sprang up and rushed out of the courtyard toward the plaza—he had sensed that the presences of the three people were moving in the direction of the plaza.

"Such mighty three presences, two of which are stronger than the Sect Leader's? Which two Supreme Strongmen have come to our Tian Shan Sword Sect?"

At the same time, two other Outer Elders of Tian Shan Sword Sect, as well as the young martial arts genius Xiao Selang, sensed the presence of Master Bodhi Wuyin, Jie Dao, and Bai Di, their hearts filled with shock.

After the shock subsided, like Meng Bai, they rushed out of their dwellings and ran frantically towards the plaza.

On the plaza, many Inner Sect Disciples of Tian Shan Sword Sect, as usual, were carrying out their Cultivation. Some were meditating to absorb and refine the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, some were practicing martial arts, creating a lively scene.

"Look, someone's coming!"

Out of the blue, a disciple at the Peak stage of Innate Realm who was practicing mental perception, sensed the presence of Master Bodhi Wuyin's group and exclaimed in surprise.

As the words of the disciple at the Peak stage of Innate Realm spread, the disciples of Tian Shan Sword Sect on the plaza stopped their Cultivation one after another, casting their gazes toward the distant sky, where they could see four indistinct figures hurrying towards the plaza.

"Qi Manipulation Flight, they're Supreme Strongmen in the Gang Qi Realm!"

"Supreme Strongmen in the Gang Qi Realm coming to our Tian Shan Sword Sect? And four at once?"

"No, only the presence of two of them is that of the Gang Qi Realm Supreme Strongmen. The presence of another is close to the Gang Qi Realm, and one more is undetectable."

On the plaza, the Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples exclaimed in wonder, with the strongest among them, a disciple in the Great Perfection Realm, providing the explanation.

As his words fell again, before anyone else could speak further, Master Bodhi Wuyin, carrying Ye Fan, and Jie Dao, holding Bai Di, appeared almost simultaneously in the sky above the plaza.

The next moment.

In front of the astonished expressions of the many Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples, Master Bodhi Wuyin, grasping Ye Fan, descended like a Heavenly Immortal, treading on Gang Qi that resembled white clouds, and floated lightly to the ground.

At the same time, Jie Dao, clutching Bai Di, swooped down like a hunting eagle and landed abruptly on the ground.

"Clap! Clap!"

After the two landed, the marble tiles on the ground were unable to withstand the impact and shattered instantly, debris scattered by the airflow towards all directions, causing those Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples who were close to them to exclaim and dodge.

Those further away from Jie Dao and Bai Di didn't dodge but, feeling the terrifying presence of the two, were as scared as mice seeing a cat, not even daring to breathe too loudly, let alone look at them.

On the other hand, because Ye Fan had activated the Ghost Ring to hide his aura, and Master Bodhi Wuyin also retracted his aura, they did not affect the Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples on the plaza.

"Master Bodhi, Sword King, your presence graces Tian Shan Sword Sect, we apologize for not receiving you from afar. Please forgive us," a voice rang out. Meng Bai swiftly arrived above the plaza, bowed, and offered a salute to Master Bodhi Wuyin and Jie Dao.

Master Bodhi?

Sword King?!

Startled by Meng Bai's words, the disciples on the plaza were abuzz!

Master Bodhi Wuyin and Jie Dao were not only listed in the top ten of the Dragon Ranking but were also ranked exceptionally high—one at third place and the other at fourth. Their reputations and prestige were far beyond what other Gang Qi Realm strong people could compare to!

Whoosh!

After the commotion, they collectively turned their gazes towards Ye Fan, their hearts filled with curiosity, "The young man by Sword King should be Little Saber King Bai Di, but who is this person??"

Chapter 579 First Battle Against Emperor Bai (Part 2)

Just as the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect were puzzled, Meng Bai was also baffled.

Although he recognized Ye Fan, he couldn't comprehend why Ye Fan was with Bodhi Wu Yin, nor could he understand the current situation.

"Two years ago at the Qing bang competition, the Tian Shan Sword Sect was led by you, and you are Meng Bai, correct?" Jie Dao looked at Meng Bai and spoke indifferently.

"To be remembered by Sword King Predecessor is an honor for Meng Bai!"

Upon hearing this, Meng Bai showed a surprised face, then hesitated for a moment before asking, "May I know why Sword King Predecessor and Master Bodhi are gracing the Tian Shan Sword Sect with your presence?"

Jie Dao was about to explain the purpose of their visit, then feeling that Meng Bai was not of high enough status, he asked, "What about Cang Bo? Why hasn't he come out?"

"Sect Leader Cang..."

"Sword King Predecessor, Master Bodhi, Sect Leader Cang is delayed in seclusion, failing to greet both of you. I sincerely apologize!"

At this moment, a resounding voice echoed throughout the entire Tian Shan Sword Sect.

With the voice, a figure surged up from the back mountain of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, lifting a stream of air currents, roaring as it approached.

Although he was the Sect Leader of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, his age and seniority were less than Jie Dao's and Bodhi Wu Yin's, and he wasn't even from the same era, but due to his outstanding talent, he had stepped into the Gang Qi Great Success Realm, significantly pushing the newer generation forward.

Whoosh!

In an instant, including Ye Fan, everyone turned their gaze towards the Qi Manipulating Cang Bo flying over.

"Sect Leader!"

Following Cang Bo's arrival, including Meng Bai, all members of the Tian Shan Sword Sect bowed and greeted him.

Amid the crowd, Xiao Selang couldn't help but glance at Ye Fan and Emperor Bai while bowing, his eyes distinctly different—he envied Emperor Bai, while his gaze towards Ye Fan was filled with hatred.

Simultaneously, Cang Bo's gaze swept across Jie Dao, Emperor Bai, and Bodhi Wu Yin, finally resting on Ye Fan, with a flicker of surprise in his eyes—he could not detect Ye Fan's aura nor see through his strength!

"Cang Bo, is the Old Sword King well?"

Since ancient times, those who practiced the sword and those who practiced the dao have been rivals, even sworn enemies. With Jie Dao's abilities, he didn't regard Cang Bo highly, but that old monster of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, he valued greatly.

"My master has been in seclusion these past few years."

Cang Bo smiled, having taken over the Tian Shan Sword Sect after breaking into the Gang Qi realm—his master had passed on the position of Sect Leader to him, becoming the only Inner Sect Elder, constantly secluded in cultivation, with all sect affairs managed by him.

Jie Dao intended to inquire about the strength of Cang Bo's master, but seeing that the other party did not volunteer any information, he refrained from asking further.

"Sword King Predecessor, you and Master Bodhi suddenly visiting our Tian Shan Sword Sect must surely be for a reason. Please speak freely, anything the Tian Shan Sword Sect can do, we will not hesitate!"

It must be said that Cang Bo's ability to develop the Tian Shan Sword Sect to such a scale over the years was not only due to his immense martial arts talent but also due to his high emotional intelligence, managing his words and actions impeccably, cleverly asking about the four people's intention while not mentioning his master's strength.

"My disciple wishes to compete with Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji's closed-door disciple, and I hope for you to witness it," Jie Dao went straight to the point and clarified his intention.

Whoosh—

Jie Dao's words were like a ladle of cold water poured into a hot oil pan, immediately causing the Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples in the square to explode in uproar.

"So that guy is Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji's disciple, Ye Fan!"

"I heard he just defeated Junior Brother Xiao a few days ago, and now he's challenging Emperor Bai—does he intend to sweep the younger generation before the Qing bang competition?"

"Quiet!"

Upon hearing his disciples' discussion, Cang Bo shouted sternly, then frowning, looked towards Xiao Selang, "Little Wolf, when did you fight the closed-door disciple of Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji?"

"A few days ago."

Xiao Selang's face turned purple, weakly responding, while cursing the Tian Shan Sword Sect disciple for bringing up an ill-timed subject.

"What happened?" Cang Bo asked.

"He was harvesting a Snow Ginseng within the area governed by the sect and nearly injured a sect disciple. Overcome by anger, Little Wolf and I went to find him and had a sparring match. Unfortunately, because of a moment of carelessness, I lost."

Meng Bai noticed Xiao Selang's embarrassment, spoke up to smooth things over, and to preserve Tian Shan Sword Sect's dignity, he intentionally said that Xiao Selang lost due to carelessness, not lack of skill.

"So, it was just a sparring match."

While outsiders could not detect the hidden meaning in Meng Bai's words, Cang Bo had a clear understanding and felt a slight displeasure, yet he did not show it on his face. Instead, he looked at Ye Fan with a smiling face, saying, "You are truly a worthy successor of Predecessor Xuanji. When I saw you half a year ago, you were merely in the Early Innate Realm. But now, even I can't see through your strength, truly commendable is Predecessor Xuanji's teaching!"

"Sect Leader Cang, you flatter him too much!" Emperor Bai could no longer listen in silence and scoffed.

"What do you mean?"

Cang Bo deliberately showed a surprised expression, but he already knew that Ye Fan was no match for Emperor Bai.

For one, Emperor Bai's strength was almost reaching the Gang Qi realm, and unless Ye Fan had broken through the Gang Qi realm, there was almost no chance for him to win against Emperor Bai.

Furthermore, if Ye Fan's strength had surpassed Emperor Bai's, neither Jie Dao nor Emperor Bai would show such arrogance.

"You can't see through his strength simply because he uses a special Magic Artifact to conceal his own aura," as if intentionally to embarrass Ye Fan, Emperor Bai stated loudly, "He is merely at the Innate Great Perfection Realm!"

"What... What? Daring to have a martial arts challenge with you, while only at the Innate Great Perfection Realm? I must admit, I'm even more impressed by how well Senior Xuanji has taught him!" Cang Bo knew Emperor Bai's mind very well and immediately played along.

Sure enough, Emperor Bai, wearing a contemptuous smile, said, "A martial arts challenge? He isn't qualified for that—our agreement was for him to take one strike from me! Yes, just one strike!"

One strike?

As soon as these words left Emperor Bai's mouth, including Cang Bo, everyone from the Tian Shan Sword Sect was taken aback.

In their eyes, leaving aside whether Ye Fan could withstand a single strike from Emperor Bai, simply the term "one strike agreement" put Ye Fan at a great disadvantage, shaming Chu Xuanji.

"My master once said, back at the Qing bang competition two years ago, you could already kill a Half-step Gang Qi realm Cultivator with a single strike, and now your power must be nearing the Gang Qi Realm! You specifically asked our Tian Shan Sword Sect to witness this fight because you're worried about the repercussions from the Yanhuang Organization and Chu Xuanji after you kill him with one strike, aren't you?"

After a brief pause, Xiao Selang guessed the reason for Ye Fan challenging Emperor Bai on Mount Tian and sneered, a classic case of kicking someone when they're down.

"So, that's it. No wonder you came here to have a martial arts duel."

"I have no idea where Ye Fan got the courage from! His strength is miles apart from Emperor Bai, and yet he dares to puff himself up in challenge!"

"A challenge is one thing, but only taking a single strike from Emperor Bai is simply seeking humiliation!"

"Humiliation is the least of it, did you not hear what Junior Brother Xiao just said? If Ye Fan can keep his life, he should consider himself lucky!"

"Given that, why would he even challenge him unless his head got stuck in a door??"

...

Following Xiao Selang's remarks, the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect on the square started discussing again; Ye Fan seemed like a fool in their eyes.

Despite the criticism and humiliation from the crowd, Ye Fan's expression remained as calm as water, as if completely indifferent.

"Sect Leader Cang, there are two reasons why Ye Fan accepted this one strike agreement."

Although Ye Fan was unmoved, Bodhi Wuyin still spoke out to explain, "First, Ye Fan had found a Snow Lotus King, which was then taken by Emperor Bai, and they used the Snow Lotus King as the stake for this duel. Second, since Emperor Bai repeatedly insulted Chu Xuanji, Ye Fan chose to fight to defend his master's honor, and made an agreement with Emperor Bai—if he could withstand a single strike, not only does Emperor Bai have to give him the Snow Lotus King, but he also has to slap himself ten times and apologize to both him and his master publicly!"

"Bodhi Wuyin, let's talk about those stakes after he withstands my strike. I suggest you find a coffin now to prepare for collecting his corpse instead," Emperor Bai said irritably after hearing about the bet.

At Emperor Bai's words, Bodhi Wuyin raised an eyebrow, about to retort, but before she could speak, Ye Fan stepped forward silently.

Just one step, yet it instantly captured everyone's attention!

"Your blabbering too much."

In the quiet square, Ye Fan finally spoke, his voice not loud, yet it clearly reached everyone's ears, "Winning a duel isn't about having a sharp tongue."

"Fine, fine, fine, since you're in a hurry to reincarnate, I will fulfill your death wish right now!" Emperor Bai said furiously, upon hearing Ye Fan's words.

Jie Dao also looked grim, "Sect Leader Cang, let's cut the idle chat, find them a place to start the duel."

"Let's just do it here in the square."

Upon hearing this, Cang Bo responded to Jie Dao first, then summoned his Qi Yun Dantian, and boomed forcefully, "All disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect, retreat from the square and watch the duel!"

"Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!..."

As soon as Cang Bo's words fell, the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect swiftly moved towards the edges of the square, their departure sounds unending.

It felt as though, in their hearts, Cang Bo was a godly figure, whose words were divine decrees, unbreakable.

"Kid, originally I planned to show you my true strength during the Qing bang competition, but it seems you won't have that chance now—you'd better pray to the heavens to keep your body intact!"

As the Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples left the square, along with three Outer Elders led by Meng Bai, Xiao Selang sneered at Ye Fan, throwing one last face-saving comment before swiftly moving towards the edge of the square.

"Sword King, Bodhi, are we leaving the square or watching from the air?"

Seeing his disciples all exiting the square, Cang Bo glanced at Jie Dao and Bodhi Wuyin, asking them.

"Be careful, and try not to let him go all out with his strike!"

Hearing Cang Bo's comment, Bodhi Wuyin whispered a warning to Ye Fan, then using her Gang Qi, she rose into the air, responding to Cang Bo's inquiry with her actions.

"Bodhi Wuyin, I suggest you dispel the thought of saving him at the crucial moment; it's not possible!"

Jie Dao, guessing Bodhi Wuyin's intentions, scoffed and with a jump, moved into the air.

Seeing this, Cang Bo no longer wasted words. He too ascended into the air, leaving the empty square to Ye Fan and Emperor Bai.

Swish!

The next moment.

Everyone's gaze focused on Emperor Bai, awaiting his draw of the sword!

Chapter 580 First Battle Against Emperor Bai (Part 3)

"Originally, you weren't even worth my strongest blade, but I changed my mind now—considering your arrogance, I am going to make you disappear without a trace, turning into a heap of blood and flesh!"

On the quiet square, Emperor Bai gave Ye Fan a cold smile and started to build up his momentum—the killing move was powerful, but it required gathering strength, reaching the peak of one's power to deliver a berserk strike.

Typically, the speed of executing a killing move was slightly slower than other techniques.

In just two breaths, Emperor Bai's aura had escalated to its peak, a crimson Blood Qi enveloping his body, merging with the murderous aura emanating from him, enclosing him within it.

In an instant, a terrifying aura spread out from Emperor Bai as the epicenter toward all directions.

"The Blood Qi is nearly tangible, Emperor Bai indeed lives up to his reputation as the top of the Qing bang!"

As the dense Blood Qi emerged from Emperor Bai, a disciple at the Innate Great Perfection Realm outside the square exclaimed aloud.

Including Xiao Selang, no other disciple from Tian Shan Sword Sect or the three elders, including Meng Bai, spoke up; they seemed to tacitly agree with his statement.

Compared to them, Cang Bo and two others, due to their close proximity, could not only clearly see the rich Blood Qi on Emperor Bai but also feel the terrifying murderous aura that surged from him!

This murderous aura was accumulated from the fresh blood of countless mutant beasts and cultivators!

"It seems that this champion of the Qing bang contest could be none other than him."

Up in the sky, Cang Bo thought to himself silently, enviously glancing at Jie Dao.

In his view, including his disciple Xiao Selang, none of the younger generation could compare with Emperor Bai, and he even faintly felt that Emperor Bai might break an ancient decree—contending with the Gang Qi Realm with his half-step Gang Qi Realm!

Noticing Cang Bo's gaze, Jie Dao sported a proud smile, seemingly proud of cultivating a disciple like Emperor Bai!

Meanwhile, Bodhi Wuyin's brows deeply furrowed, a thick worry visible in her eyes.

Because... judging solely by the momentum displayed by Emperor Bai, she felt she had underestimated his strength, putting Ye Fan's life at imminent risk!

However—

As worried as she was, by this point, it was too late for her to stop the duel—Jie Dao kept his Mind focused on her constantly, making it very difficult for her to rescue Ye Fan in a crisis; everything had to depend on Ye Fan himself.

Beyond her worries, Bodhi Wuyin couldn't help but shift her gaze from Emperor Bai to Ye Fan.

Hmm?

Contrary to what Bodhi Wuyin had expected, facing Emperor Bai's dense Blood Qi and towering murderous aura, Ye Fan's expression remained as calm as water.

"He's so composed; he must have some trick up his sleeve, but what could it be?"

Seeing Ye Fan's demeanor, Bodhi Wuyin's worried expression eased a bit, her mind filled with curiosity.

"Clang!"

The answer to Bodhi Wuyin was a crisp sound!

"Whiz—"

Following the crisp sound, the whistling of the air arose, Emperor Bai pulled out the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade from his back and swiftly swooped toward Ye Fan!

In an instant, the terrifying murderous aura became an invisible tide, sweeping towards Ye Fan, assaulting his Consciousness.

Without dodging, nor blindly striking.

Ye Fan simply relied on his strong Martial Arts Will to stabilize his Consciousness, unshaken, continuously compressing and gathering his Mind Power.

Because he knew that before that opportunity appeared, if he struck blindly, it would only allow Emperor Bai to exploit his vulnerabilities.

He had to wait for that opportunity to launch the strongest Flying Knife Assassination, even if he couldn't kill Emperor Bai, at least he would severely disrupt him, preventing Emperor Bai from unleashing his most powerful blade, hence facilitating evasion!

"Has that guy been scared silly?"

Outside the square, Xiao Selang and the three Outer Elders of the sect could barely see Emperor Bai's figure; seeing him rapidly approaching Ye Fan, who remained unmoved, a thought surged in their minds.

"Being overconfident only leads to a dead end."

Meanwhile, Cang Bo had already concluded that Ye Fan was undoubtedly doomed and couldn't help but mutter to himself internally.

And Jie Dao's smile broadened on his face, as if he had already seen the outcome of the match.

As for... Bodhi Wuyin!

Once again, the color of worry dominated her usually unflappable face, and even her heart unusually rose to her throat!

Swish!

Just at that moment, Emperor Bai suddenly raised the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, switching from one hand to holding the blade with both hands!

Both hands on the blade!

This was a sign that Emperor Bai was about to use the 'Blood Kill' move!

Facing all this, Ye Fan remained unmoved.

"Die!!"

Emperor Bai roared, raising the blood-red Bloodthirsty Mad Blade with both hands, furiously driving the Gang Qi within his body, about to strike his most powerful blade!

Just then!

Ye Fan acted, madly driving the compressed and gathered Mind Power, applying it to the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Whiz—"

The sharp whistling of tearing the air arose, the Xuanye Flying Blade whistled out from the sleeve of Ye Fan, shooting like a Chun Light towards Emperor Bai five meters away!

—Chun Light!

The first move of the Flying Sword Skill!

At the critical moment, Ye Fan directly used his strongest move!

Although he had not yet mastered the first move of the Flying Sword Skill, "Chun Light," his practice of "Chun Light" had increased the power of his Flying Knife Assassination by half!

Besides, during the competition with Emperor Bai for the Snow Lotus King earlier, Ye Fan deliberately did not use the Flying Sword Skill, nor did he use the strongest Mind Power to drive the flying knife. Now, suddenly unleashing his trump card not only caught Emperor Bai off guard but also perfectly exploited Emperor Bai's mindset of using his strongest blade—at the instant Emperor Bai was about to strike, making it impossible for Emperor Bai to withdraw and dodge, forcing a head-on clash!

Danger!

The sudden turn of events shocked Emperor Bai!

Whoosh!

Without any hesitation, Emperor Bai didn't wait for all the Gang Qi gathered in his right palm to pour into the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, hurriedly slashing out!

This slash, because he was hurriedly trying to eliminate the crisis, sent the Xuanye Flying Blade flying. The strike was somewhat hasty, and its power was not even 50% of his usual strongest move "Blood Kill"!

Nevertheless, as Emperor Bai slashed out, Gang Qi burst from the tip of the Bloodthirsty Mad Blade, engulfed in blood qi. Mixed with Emperor Bai's terrifying killing intent, it transformed into a blood-red sword light two meters high, extremely terrifying!

"Clang!!"

A crisp sound echoed as the Xuanye Flying Blade was shaken off, and the blood-red sword light paused only slightly before continuing to slash towards Ye Fan!

But because of the impact of the Xuanye Flying Blade, the power of the blood-red sword light was somewhat reduced, and its speed also slowed down, yet it still contained terrifying energy fluctuations. It could shatter not just Ye Fan's body, but even a giant boulder!

Understanding this clearly, Ye Fan didn't dare to meet it head-on and instead, he flickered, turning into a phantom and dashing to the side!

The next moment.

The blood-red sword light howled past Ye Fan's side, instantly slicing through the afterimage Ye Fan left behind!

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The sound of the blade wind whistled, sweeping over Ye Fan, but it didn't cause him any harm, directly dissipated by the Power covering his body.

"Crack—"

At the same time, the sword light that passed by Ye Fan's side chopped downward from above, turning the green bricks on the ground into a pile of dust and leaving a deep crack.

For a moment, dust billowed but could not get close to Ye Fan, swept away by the airflow.

Within the flow of air, Ye Fan stood proudly!

He dodged it?!

In the sky above, Cang Bo's eyes suddenly bulged, filled with shock as he looked toward the proudly standing Ye Fan!

"Whew~"

Bodhi Wu Yin inwardly sighed in relief, his hanging heart quietly falling back into place, at the same time admiring Ye Fan's combat skills that were not inferior to Emperor Bai's. Ye Fan not only exploited Emperor Bai's psychology of wanting to show off his strongest strike, but his timing was also nothing short of perfect.

"Uh..."

The smile on Jie Dao's face instantly froze, his mouth agape wide as if a coconut could fit in!

"This... How is this possible?"

Emperor Bai's eyes widened, staring unbelievably at Ye Fan.

That slash just now, although he was caught off guard by Ye Fan, its power was only half that of his strongest strike, but it should have been enough to kill Ye Fan!

Even a cultivator of the Half-step Gang Qi Realm should have been slain by that one slash!

"Ye Fan is not dead!"

"Ye Fan intercepted Emperor Bai's strongest slash!"

"Wasn't Emperor Bai said to be able to defeat a Half-step Gang Qi realm expert in one slash?"

"Yes, I heard that the 'Blood Shadow Saber Technique' Emperor Bai cultivates merges his blood qi and killing qi into the saber technique, greatly intimidating an opponent's Consciousness. Once affected, the opponent hardly had a chance to dodge and must face it head-on, unable to exert their fullest potential, its power immensely terrifying!"

"That's right. I also heard about the legends of the 'Blood Shadow Saber Technique'. It's precisely by this terrifying saber technique that Emperor Bai seized the crown of the Qing bang, emerging as a leading figure among the younger generation!"

"How then could Ye Fan have dodged it?"

Outside the arena, the disciples of the Tian Shan Sword Sect too saw the outcome of the duel, at first in a clamor, then unanimously turning their gaze towards Ye Fan, filled with curiosity.

Hearing those Tian Shan Sword Sect disciples' comments, Xiao Selang's expression turned very ugly.

For him, how Ye Fan dodged Emperor Bai's slash was not important; what was crucial was that Ye Fan had dodged it!

This had thwarted his desire to see Ye Fan bloodily slain on the spot!

If even Xiao Selang felt this way, how much more so for Emperor Bai?

On the arena, Emperor Bai had recovered from his shock, realizing that Ye Fan had previously deliberately concealed the true power of his Flying Knife Assassination and had just now caught him off guard, allowing him to emerge unscathed from the blade light!

Understanding all this, Emperor Bai, like a lion played for a fool, became completely enraged, staring at Ye Fan with bloodshot eyes, emitting a terrifying killing intent. Even his hands trembled slightly, as if ready to strike Ye Fan with a second slash at any moment!

"The duel is over, Jie Dao, your disciple has lost. Please fulfill the pre-duel agreement!"

Noticing Emperor Bai's fury and murderous intent, Bodhi Wu Yin floated beside Ye Fan and gently reminded.

"Snort~"

As Bodhi Wu Yin's words reached his ears, Jie Dao's lips twitched, his face turned ashen, but he dared not erupt in anger and instead looked towards Emperor Bai, "Little Emperor, give him the Snow Lotus King."

"Swoosh——"

Although Emperor Bai was desperate to tear Ye Fan into pieces, he knew with Bodhi Wu Yin there, he couldn't harm even a hair on Ye Fan and reluctantly threw the Snow Lotus King to Ye Fan, then started to step away.

"Wait, the terms of our duel haven't been fully honored yet—you still need to slap your own face ten times and apologize to my master!"

Ye Fan caught the Snow Lotus King, expressionlessly spoke, "Of course, if you still want to kneel and call me grandpa, I don't mind!"