

Y Master 681

Chapter 681 Both Jade and Stone Burn Together

After Chen Daozang revealed his true strength, Chu Xuanji also refused to be outdone and immediately broke through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi!

This all seemed simple, but in reality, it was the result of many years of Chu Xuanji's accumulated insights.

As the second Supreme Strongman on the Dragon Ranking, Chu Xuanji's talent made Yan City feel ashamed—Yan had said more than once that Chu Xuanji was more likely to reach that legendary realm than he was.

Once, having delved into too many areas, Chu Xuanji's energy was scattered and his realm and cultivation progress were slow, not even comparable to Jie Dao at that time.

Over the years, Chu Xuanji had vigorously caught up and started focusing most of his energy on cultivation, not only becoming the second Supreme Strongman in the Huaxia Cultivation World, just after Yan, but also accumulating a vast understanding of martial arts.

Just now, he had worn the Black Iron Fist set, burned the essence of his Gang Qi, disregarded life and death, and struck a blow that surpassed his limits, comparable to the invincible power of a Great Perfection of Gang Qi, which greatly inspired him.

This critical moment of inspiration, like a thread, linked all of Chu Xuanji's martial arts insights over the years together, thereby allowing him to break through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi in one fell swoop.

"The... Evil Emperor has also broken through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi!"

"We still have hope for rescue!"

Sensing Chu Xuanji's aura suddenly climbing step by step until it became as powerful as Chen Daozang's, those cultivators who had been in despair, debilitated, now seemed like lost children finding their way home, each one bursting with joy.

"I didn't expect the Evil Emperor to break through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi at such a critical moment, it's really wonderful!"

Lv Zhan also became extremely excited.

Just now, when Chen Daozang had revealed his true strength and released the aura of a Great Perfection of Gang Qi, he had despaired just like the other cultivators in the plaza.

But now, with Chu Xuanji's breakthrough amidst crisis, he saw the dawn of victory!

If even an outsider was so thrilled, what about Ye Fan and Chu Ji?

At that moment, both Ye Fan and Chu Ji were so excited that they clenched their fists, yet they did not utter a word.

At this time, silence was more eloquent than words.

They simply looked proudly at Chu Xuanji, feeling proud to have such a master!

"Haha... Brother Xuanji, you truly deserve to be the Evil Emperor, indeed sinister enough to break through to a realm we others can only dream of at such a pivotal moment!"

The Lv Family Patriarch, Lv Yuan, both excited and envious, shouted, "Next, I can rest easy dealing with that villain Jie Dao!"

"How is that possible? How could he break through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi at this time?"

Jie Dao ignored Lv Yuan's words and just stared intently at Chu Xuanji, his eyes filled with resentment that Chu Xuanji's strength had advanced a step further, making it impossible for him to ever catch up in this lifetime.

This whole thing, like a thorn, was lodged in his heart, driving him to madness with hatred!

"So what if he broke through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi? He's still going to die at the hands of his own disciple, isn't he?"

After venting his anger, Jie Dao spoke again, with a tone that sounded like sour grapes, full of schadenfreude.

Huh?!

Startled by Jie Dao's words, whether it was Lv Yuan, or Ye Fan, Chu Ji, and Lv Zhan, or even the cultivators on the plaza whose lives were hanging by a thread, all were suddenly shocked awake.

At that moment, they all realized a terrifying fact: Chu Xuanji had just broken through to the Peak of Gang Qi, while Chen Daozang had already achieved this breakthrough long ago, merely suppressing his realm deliberately. The two were fundamentally incomparable.

"Chu Xuanji, you actually breaking through to the Peak of Gang Qi at this moment was truly beyond my expectations,"

From the sky, Chen Daozang was also surprised by Chu Xuanji's breakthrough during the fight, but he soon calmly accepted it, still posing as if he controlled the whole situation, "But... just like I said before, no matter how much you struggle today, the outcome will not change, including your breakthrough to the Peak of Gang Qi!"

"Lv Yuan, at all costs, kill Jie Dao!"

Ignoring Chen Daozang's taunting, after quickly adapting to the Peak of Gang Qi, Chu Xuanji shouted loudly, "Ji and Xiao Fan, immediately command the remaining cultivators to leave, and be quick!"

"You can count on me, Evil Emperor!"

Lv Yuan responded loudly, then flicked his wrist and his Inheritance Spear pointed towards Jie Dao, "Jie Dao, you villain, come and meet your death!"

Whoosh!

As the words fell, figures moved!

Lv Yuan, wielding the Lv Family's Inheritance Spear, rapidly advanced towards Jie Dao.

"Yes, Master!"

Simultaneously, Ye Fan and Chu Ji echoed in unison, swiftly running towards those previously despairing, paralyzed cultivators, preparing to follow Chu Xuanji's instructions and lead them to escape.

"It seems you do have foresight, knowing that even if you break through to the Peak of Gang Qi, you are still no match for me, so you plan to entangle me and save the others."

Chen Daozang watched all these unfold, yet did not intervene, instead, he taunted with a sneer, "However, this isn't quite like your style—at least, in my memory, you never cared about the world's people. And now you've become worried about the nation and its people, quite unusual indeed."

"Enough talk, come and embrace death!"

Seeing Lv Yuan and Jie Dao fighting together, and with Ye Fan, Chu Ji, and Lv Zhan directing the innocent cultivators to flee, Chu Xuanji finally felt relieved, concentrated his spiritual energy, and his war intent exploded dramatically.

"Embrace death?"

Even though Chu Xuanji had broken through to the Peak of Gang Qi, Chen Daozang was still full of disdain, mocking as he faced Chu Xuanji, "Even within the same realm, there are disparities! Did you think that just by breaking through to the Peak of Gang Qi, you could compete with me?

If you had already reached the threshold of the Peak of Gang Qi and were merely suppressing it deliberately to prevent breakthrough, then after the breakthrough, you could indeed have harnessed the true combat power of the Peak of Gang Qi, possibly even propelling yourself to become the greatest within this realm due to your accumulated foundation. In your current situation, however, you stand no chance!"

"Is that so?"

Chu Xuanji's expression was cold as he made a resolute decision, his expression firm and determined.

As the words fell, the Gang Qi within Chu Xuanji surged, and his aura soared once again!

"Still thinking of fighting to the death? Dream on!"

Seeing Chu Xuanji attempting to burn his Gang Qi essence again, Chen Daozang shouted coldly, no longer wasting words, and charged directly at Chu Xuanji.

Chen Daozang could ignore Chu Xuanji burning his Gang Qi Essence in a fight to the death during the Peak of Gang Qi Realm, but he could not afford to let Chu Xuanji burn his Gang Qi Essence in a fight to the death!

Because, at this moment, if Chu Xuanji were to really burn a lifetime's cultivation of Gang Qi Essence in a fight to the death, he could severely injure him!

This was not the outcome he wanted!

After all, according to his plan, after killing Zhe Xuanji and the others, he still had to make a concerted effort to deal with Yan, then head towards Yanjing, conduct a bloody purge of the Ye Family, completely overturn Huaxia, and take the first step towards dominating the world!

Quick!

Worried about Zhe Xuanji burning his Gang Qi Essence, in that moment, Chen Daozang pushed his speed to the extreme, instantly covering hundreds of meters to come within attack range, and swung out a punch in succession!

Whoosh!

As Chen Daozang threw his punch, a torrent of Gang Qi surged from his right fist, merging with the rich Evil Yin Qi to form a dark Punch Ray, blasting towards Zhe Xuanji!

"Xuanyin Fist" was adapted by Chen Daozang from the "Xuansha Fist" that Zhe Xuanji had created, focusing mainly on boxing techniques.

This was Chen Daozang's first use of the boxing technique from "Xuanyin Fist." Although the attack power was not as strong as the Killing Move "Shadowless Yin Demon Slash," the attack speed was significantly faster, aiming to force Zhe Xuanji to abandon burning the Gang Qi Essence in his body.

Swish!

Zhe Xuanji's feet flickered, and he instantly sidestepped over a hundred meters, avoiding the Punch Ray that was howling towards him.

So fast!

With his punch missing, Chen Daozang couldn't help but be shocked!

The surprise was because he hadn't expected that after Zhe Xuanji had broken through to the Great Perfection Realm of Gang Qi, with the help of the high-level magic artifact Ghost Ring, his speed would be so fast — although not as fast as his, but also not by much!

"I want to see how long you can dodge!"

After a short moment of shock, Chen Daozang let out a low shout and charged towards Zhe Xuanji again.

Zhe Xuanji continued to dodge, avoiding Chen Daozang's sharp moves while continuing to burn the Gang Qi Essence in his body during the fleeting moments after dodging.

Clearly, Zhe Xuanji knew that if he didn't burn the Gang Qi Essence in his body, his attacks would hardly cause fatal damage to Chen Daozang, and he would be bound to lose.

If the enemy doesn't move, I don't move.

If the enemy intends to move, I move first.

You chase, I dodge.

One punch, two punches, three punches...

In the sky, Chen Daozang repeatedly lunged at Zhe Xuanji, swinging his fists, and in an instant, he had thrown eighty-one punches!

Suddenly, in the sky, Punch Rays appeared frequently, with continuous bursting sounds, and the area where the two were fighting became a complete vacuum.

"Zhe Xuanji, are you forcing me to also burn Gang Qi Essence?"

Missing repeatedly, Chen Daozang felt somewhat furious and also a bit alarmed.

Because, by now, the aura on Zhe Xuanji could be described as terrifying, enough to give him a sense of crisis!

"You want to dominate the world and also break through that legendary realm, so you won't do that."

Zhe Xuanji responded coldly while continuing to burn the Gang Qi Essence in his body.

Having cultivated together with him for many years, Zhe Xuanji knew Chen Daozang's nature like the back of his hand, fully grasping his mindset.

"You..."

Chen Daozang was uncontrollably angry.

Although he wished he could immediately burn his Gang Qi Essence and strike down Zhe Xuanji in one fell swoop, he knew that Gang Qi Essence was the most precious thing for a cultivator at the Gang Qi Realm. Once lost, it would damage the primordial, and even though it could be replenished through cultivation, it would take a very long time.

Such a cost was too expensive; Zhe Xuanji could bear it, but he could not!

Because, once he did that, then the plans to make a spirited effort to kill Yan would be as difficult as reaching the heavens.

At that time, his plan would be completely disrupted, perhaps never to be realized.

This... was something he absolutely didn't want to see!

"Zhe Xuanji, you're ruthless!"

Chen Daozang said through gritted teeth, and after weighing his options, he finally decided to abandon his plan to kill Zhe Xuanji that day.

It must be said, Chen Daozang was a very decisive person; once he made a decision, he didn't hesitate and turned to leave.

"You can leave, but leave your life behind!"

Zhe Xuanji roared furiously and suddenly turned from passive to active, leapt forward, and instantly blocked Chen Daozang's path.

In a breath, the situation was reversed.

Zhe Xuanji frantically burned the Gang Qi Essence in his body, like a War God descending, charged forward with a fearless momentum, and punched towards Chen Daozang!

He was willing to perish together with Chen Daozang!

Not for himself, nor for his disciple.

Only to stop Chen Daozang's plan and save the Hua Xia Cultivation World!

Chapter 682 Turn the Tide

Desperate!

Even after Chu Xuanji had broken through to the Peak of Gang Qi, forcing Chen Daozang to flee in a panic, he still chose to frantically burn the essence of his Gang Qi, desperately trying to kill Chen Daozang.

Because he knew very well that with Chen Daozang having broken through to the Peak of Gang Qi and having completely gained momentum, if he were allowed to leave Hua Xia unharmed today, it would be like letting the tiger return to the mountain. In the future, with Chen Daozang's strength and his influence in the Dark World, he could definitely rally a large group of strong people to form a terrifying force, capable of overturning the order of Hua Xia and even the whole world!

Whoo whoo whoo! Whoo whoo whoo!

With one punch, the sky changed color, a cold wind picked up, and countless streams of Evil Yin Qi rushed toward Chu Xuanji.

At that moment.

He was completely enveloped by Evil Yin Qi, emitting a ghastly aura, but his mind was not affected in the slightest. On the contrary, his expression and gaze were extremely determined, as if the falling sky would not alter his decision at this moment!

Boom boom boom~

Soon after, with a roaring sound, a surging wave of Gang Qi burst out from Chu Xuanji's right fist, like a tidal wave, instantly sucking in all the surrounding Evil Yin Qi, and then transformed into a huge black Punch Ray.

The Punch Ray flashed into existence, the terrifying energy fluctuations spreading in all directions, causing the entire sky to seem to tremble. The dark clouds above were instantly dispersed.

"Chu Xuanji, don't force me!"

Feeling that massive wave of energy, Chen Daozang knew he was locked in and couldn't escape the battle area. He let out a great roar but didn't burn his Gang Qi essence like Chu Xuanji. Instead, he waved his hands continuously, releasing streams of Gang Qi, trying to recreate the "Xuanyin Gate" in defense.

This time, Chen Daozang was much faster, and in an instant he created a Xuanyin Gate that was ten meters high and five meters wide, blocking his front.

Because Chu Xuanji, in the instant of throwing his punch, absorbed all the Evil Yin Qi in the battle area, the Xuanyin Gate Chen Daozang created had noticeably less Evil Yin Qi, and its power was slightly weakened.

Even so, the Xuanyin Gate Chen Daozang created at this moment, compared to when he had previously suppressed his realm and was at the Peak of Gang Qi, was much stronger.

However—

This did not reassure Chen Daozang.

He didn't stop, continuing to rapidly wave his hands, wanting to create a second Xuanyin Gate.

All this, because he knew that one Xuanyin Gate simply could not withstand a strike from Chu Xuanji, who was burning the essence of his Gang Qi!

After all, just a moment ago, when both he and Chu Xuanji were at the Peak of Gang Qi, Chu Xuanji blew up his Xuanyin Gate with a punch, aided by the burning essence of his Gang Qi and wearing the Black Iron Fist set.

Boom!

As expected, following a loud noise, that terrifying Punch Ray, like a black sun falling, shattered the Xuanyin Gate in an instant.

A terrible energy storm was born, sweeping in all directions from the point of impact, but unable to approach that still-dazzling Punch Ray—any Energy Wave near it instantly turned to nothing.

At that moment...

Chen Daozang cast the second Xuanyin Gate, again blocking the black Punch Ray.

Boom!

Without any surprise, when the black Punch Ray hit the second Xuanyin Gate, the loud noise was heard again, and the second Xuanyin Gate shattered explosively.

After smashing through two Xuanyin Gates in a row, the light of the black Punch Ray dimmed slightly, and the energy fluctuations also decreased a bit, but it was still much more powerful compared to the Punch Ray that Chu Xuanji had released at the Gang Qi peak state.

This is bad!

With two Xuanyin Gates shattered, Chen Daozang's heart shook, and he could only stimulate the Protective Aura to the extreme, in order to fend off the black Punch Ray's attack.

Boom!

Immediately afterward, another loud noise, Chen Daozang was struck by the Punch Ray, the Protective Aura on his body unable to withstand the terrible energy impact and explosively shattered.

The terrifying Energy Wave instantly sent Chen Daozang flying far away.

All of this, though complicated, happened in an instant, so fast that no one could see the exact process, only feeling the heart-throbbing energy fluctuations.

However—

Soon, everyone saw a figure appear in the sky.

Chen Daozang was severely injured?

Seeing Chen Daozang flying backward, whether it was Ye Fan, Chu Ji, and Lv Zhan, the three people who had temporarily stopped fighting, or Lv Yuan and Jie Dao, who had paused their battle, or even those cultivators who were fleeing, all were stunned.

"Pfft!"

As if in response to the crowd, in the sky, Chen Daozang fell like a kite whose string had been cut, drifting with the wind, his robe tattered and blood spewing from his mouth endlessly.

He was injured again.

And the wounds were much worse than before, with his meridians and internal organs having been shaken as well as multiple broken bones all over his body.

"Evil disciple, die!"

Seeing Chen Daozang severely wounded, Chu Xuanji roared, wanting to charge at Chen Daozang again.

Strike when the enemy is sick, take their life!

Chu Xuanji intended to take Chen Daozang's life in one fell swoop!

"Pfft!"

However—

Just as Chu Xuanji began to run his Gang Qi, his body shuddered violently, and he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Master!"

Seeing this, Ye Fan thought Chu Xuanji had also been seriously injured, his face turning pale as he shouted out loud.

"The Master was too reckless when he burned his Gang Qi just now and didn't stop at all. He wanted to stimulate the Gang Qi again, which led to losing control of the Gang Qi, getting swallowed by it, and injuring himself. The injury is not serious."

Upon witnessing this, Chu Ji took a moment to think and then understood the reason.

Although her combat power still could not match Ye Fan's, in terms of experience, she far surpassed him.

"That's good,"

Hearing this, Ye Fan secretly breathed a sigh of relief, then abruptly shifted his gaze towards Chen Daozang falling to the ground and said, "Since master can no longer sustain the battle using Gang Qi, then I will be the one to chop off Chen Daozang's dog head!"

"No way!"

Chu Ji quickly stopped Ye Fan, her tone grave, "Although Chen Daozang has been seriously injured, at their level, they can still continue to fight forcefully. If you go now, you'll be sending yourself to death."

Just as Chu Ji's words fell, the originally falling Chen Daozang suddenly stopped, once again standing in the air.

"Chu Xuanji, I truly did not expect that the attack you launched by burning the essence of your Gang Qi at all costs could actually break through my two Xuanyin Gates and shatter my protective aura, causing me heavy injury!"

Chen Daozang looked at Chu Xuanji from afar, his words filled with teeth-gritting rage. By the end, he was so full of hatred that he seemed on the verge of madness, "I hate this, how I wish I could tear you to pieces right now!"

Originally, he thought this trip to Huaxia would entirely go as planned, to overturn the whole of Huaxia. Who would have thought his plans would come to naught at Chu Xuanji's hands!

"If you are not convinced, we can continue. The battle today will not end until one of us is dead!"

Chu Xuanji's mouth was stained with traces of blood. Only one-quarter of his Gang Qi remained in his body, just enough for one more 'Qi Rushes to the Sky'. Yet his face was resolute, as if willing to burn the last essence of his Gang Qi and renounce all his cultivation, as long as he could kill Chen Daozang.

"You..."

Chen Daozang trembled with rage.

At this moment, he was seriously injured, although he could still continue to fight forcibly, he would certainly suffer backlash afterward, causing his injuries to worsen.

What was more important was that he could see that Chu Xuanji was determined to fight to the death.

In this case, even if he wanted to kill Chu Xuanji, he would have to burn his Gang Qi essence just like Chu Xuanji.

"The hills will not change, the rivers will flow forever, Chu Xuanji, let's settle our accounts in the future. We'll see!"

Although already furious beyond measure, Chen Daozang eventually, driven by his terrifying willpower, suppressed his urge to tear Chu Xuanji apart. With one loud shout, he turned and flew towards the western horizon using Qi Manipulation.

As he watched Chen Daozang flee, Chu Xuanji made no move to pursue.

For one, there was a considerable distance between him and Chen Daozang. If Chen Daozang was determined to escape, it would be impossible to catch up with him.

Furthermore, only one-quarter of his Gang Qi remained inside him. Even using 'Qi Rushes to the Sky', he could not deal a killing blow to Chen Daozang.

What was most important was that he had achieved his objective—to injure Chen Daozang severely enough that he could not cause trouble for a while. Now that Chen Daozang was heavily injured, he would have to halt his plans, and his influence would likely be affected to some extent.

This way, he wouldn't be able to summon and gather the strong people of the Dark World in a short period of time. Meanwhile, in the Huaxia Cultivation World, Yan would be able to make use of this time to hunt down Chen Daozang.

"Phew~"

Seeing Chen Daozang making a hasty retreat, Ye Fan and Chu Ji simultaneously breathed a sigh of relief. Chu Ji stared intently in the direction Chen Daozang had fled, an unmistakable hatred in her eyes.

"Everyone says that the Evil Emperor is selfish and cares for no one but himself, that it was only for Yan's sake that he fought against the death virus and saved the world back then. But now, for the sake of saving the Huaxia Cultivation World, he does not hesitate to burn his Gang Qi essence. It is really sigh-worthy and admirable!"

Lv Zhan could not help but sigh, his gaze towards Chu Xuanji filled with respect.

"Evil Emperor!"

"Evil Emperor!"

As Lv Zhan's words died down, those cultivators who had initially fled the square stopped in unison, bowing and paying respects to Chu Xuanji, grateful for his lifesaving grace.

"Brother Xuanji, this battle will be recorded in the annals of cultivation history. Even if you cannot break through to that legendary realm in the future, this one battle alone is enough!" Lv Yuan said with a smile, raising his voice.

Swish!

Unmoved by Lv Yuan's praise, Chu Xuanji abruptly set his eyes on Jie Dao.

Clank!

Feeling that Chen Daozang's presence had utterly vanished and seeing Chu Xuanji's gaze sweep over like a blade, Jie Dao's entire body shuddered with fear.

"Why... why has it come to this?!"

Jie Dao couldn't help but secretly question himself, his face now devoid of the bloodthirsty joy and previous schadenfreude, replaced only by shock!

"Jie Dao, you assisted tyranny and brutally slaughtered innocent cultivators, your sin deserves to be torn to thousands of pieces!"

The response to Jie Dao was a low shout from Chu Xuanji.

As his voice trailed off, his figure appeared.

Chu Xuanji, as if he had used the Instant Teleportation Technique, appeared instantly within a hundred meters of Jie Dao, and with a sweeping motion of his right hand, he struck out.

In an instant, a surge of Gang Qi erupted from Chu Xuanji's right palm, manifesting into a Gang Qi hand that glimmered with a dark light, containing terrifying energy fluctuations, and struck towards Jie Dao.

At the peak of Gang Qi, Chu Xuanji could defeat Jie Dao in three moves.

Now, having not only breached the Great Perfection Realm of Gang Qi but also wearing two High-level Magical Artifacts—the Black Iron Fist set and the Ghost Ring—what would he do?

Bang!

With a muffled sound, Jie Dao's protective aura was directly torn apart by the Gang Qi hand, the horrifying Energy Wave sending him flying into the air.

At that moment...

Chu Xuanji's body flashed, instantly arriving before Jie Dao, again raising his right hand, slapping down at Jie Dao as if swatting a fly.

"Slap—"

The sound of the slap was crisp.

Jie Dao was flipped over by Chu Xuanji and plummeted to the ground!

Chapter 683 Old Grudges and Loves

Chu Xuanji first shattered Jie Dao's protective aura with a slap, and with the second slap, he sent Jie Dao hurtling towards the ground at lightning speed.

He struck twice in succession, each time controlling his power to perfection. The first time, he used only a portion of his strength, and the second time, he used purely physical force, because with his current strength, even a casual slap could turn Jie Dao into a pile of flesh.

"Ah...!"

In the sky, Jie Dao quickly stabilized his form, sustaining only light injuries. However, he was filled with such hatred that he couldn't stop howling.

All of this was because Chu Xuanji's actions were more painful to him than simply being struck dead!

Swoosh!

After howling, Jie Dao's mind cleared a bit. Knowing full well he was no match for Chu Xuanji, he didn't hesitate and fled with a flash of his body.

"Do you think you can escape?"

Chu Xuanji snorted coldly, transforming into a phantom like a hawk swooping down on its prey. He almost instantly caught up with Jie Dao.

Swish!

Chu Xuanji swung his right hand, his fingers claw-like, surging with gang qi, emitting terrifying waves of energy as he grabbed for Jie Dao's neck.

The next moment.

Before Jie Dao could dodge or resist, he was caught squarely by Chu Xuanji, who held him in the air like a little chick.

"Die!"

Jie Dao bellowed, transforming his hand into a blade, and slashed a hand blade at Chu Xuanji.

But—

Chu Xuanji was faster!

"Slap—"

A crisp sound echoed as Chu Xuanji slapped Jie Dao's Dantian, a burst of gang qi rocketing out from his palm and into Jie Dao's body.

"Pfft!"

Jie Dao's body trembled violently, his Dantian shattered, his qi vortex dissipated, and all his cultivation reduced to nothing as he spewed out a mist of blood.

"Chu... Chu Xuanji, you're so cruel!"

As he saw his cultivation wasted, Jie Dao was initially dazed before turning into an evil ghost, glaring at Zhe Xuanji with vengeance in his hoarse voice, shouting, "Kill me! If you dare, kill me!"

"I've said before, you abetted tyranny, and your crime deserves pieces scattered to the winds!"

Chu Xuanji, his expression cold and murderous intent flickering in his eyes, didn't take it upon himself to do the deed but grabbed Jie Dao and manipulated qi to fly down to the plaza below.

"Evil Emperor, kill him!"

"Punch him to oblivion, let him leave no corpse behind!"

Soon, Chu Xuanji landed with Jie Dao in tow. The surrounding cultivators, returning from their ecstatic rebirth, stared at Jie Dao with intense killing intent, as if they couldn't wait to tear Jie Dao into pieces.

"Jie Dao assisted the fiend Chen Daozang in slaughtering over a hundred of our Huaxia practitioners. He must be executed!"

Chu Xuanji said coldly, tossing Jie Dao into the crowd, and added, "But I think he shouldn't die too easily. After you beat him severely, hang him on the Tian Shan Sword Sect's plaza to feed the eagles!"

"Old mongrel Jie Dao, give me my junior brother's life back!"

"Old bastard, you killed my brother, I will beat you to death!"

"Old coot Jie Dao, you killed my disciple, I will turn you into pieces!"

As Chu Xuanji's words fell, the cultivators' outrage soared, completely enraged, and like a tide, they pounced on Jie Dao, giving him a flurry of punches and kicks.

Chu Xuanji had disabled Jie Dao's Dantian and destroyed his qi vortex, rendering his cultivation useless, but his strong body had not suffered serious damage.

Although the cultivators were immensely angry, they felt Chu Xuanji's reasoning made sense; they couldn't let Jie Dao die too comfortably, so they held back from delivering lethal blows.

As a result, Jie Dao suffered hundreds of punches and kicks in a short period but didn't die; only blood trickled from the corner of his mouth, and his body accumulated broken bones.

"You... you ants, get away from me!"

Seeing those who once looked up to him beating him, Jie Dao couldn't contain his rage and yelled loudly.

Bang!

In response to Jie Dao's scream was a kick!

A cultivator, seething with anger, swung his foot and stomped on Jie Dao's face, forcefully silencing Jie Dao's roar.

"Ah...!"

A few seconds later, Jie Dao spewed out a mouthful of blood, frenzied with hate and bellowed again.

Bang!

The response to Jie Dao was still a kick!

This time, another cultivator kicked right between Jie Dao's legs, the power erupting and shattering Jie Dao's nether regions.

"Sss~"

Jie Dao trembled with pain, almost fainting, only to be kicked in the head by another cultivator and instantly brought back to consciousness to continue suffering the brutal beating.

"Jie Dao, as the Huaxia Saber King, could have been recorded in the annals of Huaxia's cultivation history, but he chose to degenerate and abet tyranny, utterly unworthy of pity!"

Lv Yuan, appearing beside Chu Xuanji at some point, watched as the once towering Jie Dao was beaten by the many cultivators and couldn't help but sigh.

Chu Xuanji, hearing this, showed no mercy or sympathy on his face, and he didn't even glance at the scene of Jie Dao being beaten but instead looked at Ye Fan and Chu Ji, who were approaching him.

"Brother Xuanji, although you've severely wounded Chen Daozang, forcing him to flee the battle, the price you paid was not small,"

Lv Yuan retracted his gaze, remembering how Chu Xuanji had burned his Gang Qi Essence in the struggle with Chen Daozang, hesitated for a moment, then asked, "How long do you estimate it will take for you to recover the Gang Qi Essence you consumed?"

"There is no hope in the short term,"

Chu Xuanji responded indifferently, as if not the slightest bit concerned about the matter.

"Master, are you alright?"

Just then, Ye Fan and Chu Ji, along with Lv Zhan, hurried over, eagerly asking.

"I'm fine,"

Chu Xuanji, not wanting Ye Fan to worry, shook his head lightly and lied, "I've just consumed some Gang Qi Essence, I will recover it with some cultivation."

"Then that's good."

Chapter 684 Old Grudges and Loves_2

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan believed it to be true and immediately let out a sigh of relief, then instinctively asked, "By the way, Master, what exactly is going on? How could Chen Daozang possibly be your disciple? And also, from what Auntie said before, is my mother's death related to him as well?"

"Master, you talk to Xiao Fan, I'll go find Yuxin and the others."

When Ye Fan brought up the past, Chu Ji's expression changed slightly, and she was the first to speak.

As her words fell, Chu Ji, without waiting for Zhe Xuanji to speak, leapt up and left swiftly.

Hmm?

Noticing Chu Ji's unusual behavior, Ye Fan's eyebrows raised slightly.

If he had only suspected that Chu Ji was emotionally disturbed by the appearance of Chen Daozang before, now he was one hundred percent sure of it.

"Lv Yuan, from now on, you and the others will organize and handle the follow-up matters. Xiao Fan and I will take a walk," Zhe Xuanji said, not directly answering Ye Fan's question, but first speaking to Lv Yuan.

"Alright."

Lv Yuan nodded in agreement, turned, and walked towards Sect Leader Cang Bo and the others at Tian Shan Sword Sect.

Meanwhile, Zhe Xuanji walked silently towards a deserted corner of the square, with Ye Fan following by his side.

A moment later, Zhe Xuanji led Ye Fan to a hilltop near the square and casually set up a Soundproof Array.

"Chen Daozang was the first disciple I took in my life."

Zhe Xuanji looked at the distant horizon, his thoughts seemingly drifting back to the past, his expression a bit distant. "He was already fifteen when he became my disciple, past the prime age for cultivation, but he had a great talent for cultivation and quickly caught up with his peers."

"Later, I met Ji. Ji, like Chen Daozang, was an orphan. At that time, Chen Daozang, feeling sorry for Ji, asked me to take her with us. I found that Ji's talent for cultivation was average, so I did not agree, but Chen Daozang insisted, and in the end I acquiesced," Zhe Xuanji continued, unable to help but sigh. "After Ji came back to Mount Tian with us, Chen Daozang took care of her and taught Ji how to cultivate. In some sense, Ji was more like Chen Daozang's disciple because, from beginning to end, I never formally took Ji as my disciple, even when I later personally taught her Cultivation."

"So that's how it is, no wonder Auntie became so upset when Chen Daozang appeared," Ye Fan suddenly realized when he heard this.

"Ji's feelings for Chen Daozang are very complex, like between a master and disciple, siblings, and even like a father and daughter, and there's even a bit of romantic affection. It can be said that before I severed ties with Chen Daozang, he was the most important person in the world to Ji," Zhe Xuanji remarked sadly, "This is also why after that incident took place, Ji's Cultivation has remained stagnant—Chen Daozang's affair is a knot in her heart, even a Heart Demon."

"Before, my Aunt said that Chen Daozang caused my mother's death; is that why you broke off the master-disciple relationship with him?" Ye Fan's heart stirred, asking again.

"Your mother was someone Ji happened to find injured and unconscious in Mount Tian. Ji brought your mother back and initially, along with Chen Daozang, tried to save her. After their attempts failed, she pleaded with me to try. I agreed to help and used many methods. Eventually, your mother's injuries healed, but I always felt that it wasn't me who saved her, but rather she saved herself."

Zhe Xuanji, turning his head to look at Ye Fan with a complex expression, said, "Xiao Fan, I won't hide it from you, in my lifetime I have seen countless people, but your mother is the only one I couldn't see through. I couldn't discern the depth of her Cultivation, nor could I see what Cultivation Technique she was practicing. Moreover, she once claimed to us that she was from an Elder Gu Cultivation Family and had suffered an attack by enemies, but when I discreetly investigated, I could not find any leads."

"Uh..."

Ye Fan was momentarily stunned when he heard Zhe Xuanji reveal these secrets.

"At the time, although I was curious, due to my nature, I didn't press the matter. After your mother healed, she didn't rush to leave. Seeing that she had no ill intentions and got along well with Ji, I let her stay in Mount Tian."

"When your mother had been at Mount Tian for a while, I noticed that Chen Daozang had fallen in love with your mother, but she remained indifferent. Chen Daozang was a persistent man; once he set his mind on something, even if he had to knock down a south wall, he would accomplish it. He pursued your mother relentlessly, but to no avail."

During the conversation, Zhe Xuanji sighed once more and said, "Later on, Ji noticed this and became downcast. Your mother was a clever woman; she had long seen the importance of Chen Daozang in Ji's heart, so she suggested leaving, and it just so happened she met your father seeking medical help on the mountain."

"You might have heard what happened next. Your mother fell in love with your father, Ye Wenhao, but your father, to protect the greater interests of the Ye Family, agreed to an arrangement made by the Chen Family's old man and entered into a marriage alliance with the Qin family. Pregnant with you, your mother went to Yanjing to find Ye Wenhao, only to be humiliated and driven out of the Ye Family Mansion."

"Heartbroken, your mother left Yanjing and returned to Mount Tian, where she gave birth to you. After Chen Daozang learned of this, he was furious and wanted to come down the mountain to kill your father and exterminate all the Ye Family members. I stopped him."

"Until one day, your father, burdened with guilt, came alone to Mount Tian to find your mother and met her at the back of the mountain. Your mother forgave your father and even allowed him to visit you. When Chen Daozang found out, in a fit of rage, he threw your mother off a cliff, and later, he wanted to kill your father too, but I intervened to stop him."

"Although I was extremely angry at that time, considering our past relationship, I didn't kill him, nor did I destroy his cultivation. I simply banished him from the mountain. Who knew that after he descended, he went straight to Yanjing, intending to slaughter the entire Ye Family. Although the Yanhuang Organization had not yet been established, the government had a special cultivator organization, considered a precursor to the Yanhuang Organization, and its leader was Yan. Yan, sensing Chen Daozang's intentions, took action to stop him and imprisoned Chen Daozang."

"Because Yan had a good personal relationship with me, he didn't deal with Chen Daozang but handed him over to me."

At this point, Zhe Xuanji couldn't help but close his eyes for a moment, his tone complex with regret and other emotions, "I still didn't kill Chen Daozang, I only severed our master-disciple relationship and ordered him to leave Huaxia, never to set foot in Huaxia again!"

"Filled with resentment, Chen Daozang left and took control of the Qinghong Organization in the era of nations in the United States. After that, he secretly infiltrated Huaxia, causing destruction, until today, having greatly succeeded in his cultivation, he sneaked into Huaxia, ready to take his revenge!"

"Then did my mother really die? And did you finally discover her true identity?" Ye Fan couldn't help but ask.

"As for the true background of your mother, I still don't know it to this day."

Zhe Xuanji sighed and said, "After your mother fell off the cliff, I went to search for her, but I did not find her remains. Later, I had Yan help with the investigation, yet still, there were no traces of your mother—she is likely dead."

Hearing this, a hint of sorrow flashed in Ye Fan's eyes, and he remained silent.

"Ji had a very close relationship with your mother and nearly treated her as her own sister. It is precisely because of this that she has been unable to forgive Chen Daozang for killing your mother, resulting in a deep-seated issue in her heart, even evolving into a Heart Demon, until earlier this year she finally resolved this and broke through the Half-step Gang Qi realm." Zhe Xuanji added.

Cra-aack!

Upon hearing Zhe Xuanji's words again, Ye Fan snapped back from his sorrow, fists clenched tightly with a murderous aura enveloping him.

"Xiao Fan, rest assured, whether it's to make things right for you or to prevent Chen Daozang from harming the Hua Xia Cultivation World, I will not let him get away."

Sensing Ye Fan's towering intent to kill, Zhe Xuanji said solemnly, "I will go find Yan later, and have him spare no expense to track down Chen Daozang's whereabouts, and then join forces with him to slay Chen Daozang!"

"Master, I must become stronger," Ye Fan suddenly said.

What?!

Zhe Xuanji was taken aback.

"I will remove the Qinghong Organization from Earth completely!!!"

Ye Fan's voice thundered like a vow reasserted.

Chapter 685 Setback of Siwen, Who Knows Whether It Is Misfortune or Fortune

From the moment Ye Fan killed Emperor Bai to Chen Daozang's sudden appearance, joining forces with Sword King Jiedao to go on a killing spree, all these events seemed complicated, but actually unfolded very quickly—by the time Chu Xuanji repelled Chen Daozang and crippled Jiedao's cultivation, less than half an hour had passed.

While the Tian Shan Sword Sect was in disarray, with many cultivators cleaning up the mess and Ye Fan having a secret conversation with Chu Xuanji.

In Yanjing, within the Hong Qiang Courtyard, a meeting of extremely high standards and significant meaning had been underway in a dedicated meeting room for half an hour.

Just like the first day's meeting, the second day's meeting was still presided over by the current top figure of the power pyramid. The elders, including Yan, were present, and political figures with real power, such as Ye Wenhao and Bai Guotao, participated.

In the meeting room, the leading figure sat in the middle of the front row seats, speaking, while the others, including Yan, were either listening or taking notes with their heads down.

Among them, Bai Guotao was taking notes while sneaking glances at Ye Wenhao and sneering secretly to himself.

At this moment, he still did not know about Ye Fan killing Emperor Bai or that Chen Daozang had infiltrated Huaxia and joined forces with Jiedao to commit a series of murders. He was fantasizing about

his nephew, Emperor Bai, killing Ye Fan and looking forward to seeing Ye Wenhao's 'spectacular' expression.

Ye Wenhao noticed Bai Guotao's gaze and was well aware of what Bai Guotao was thinking at the moment, but he did not pay attention to it and was taking notes seriously.

Because, he believed in his son.

That was all!

"Bang bang..."

Suddenly, someone knocked on the meeting room door.

The unexpected knocking sound caused the leading figure to stop speaking. He raised his eyebrows slightly and subconsciously looked towards the door.

At the same time, the other attendees also unanimously turned their gaze towards the door, their faces full of confusion.

Although this meeting was not nominally the highest level, it was the most substantial.

Now, only half an hour into the second day's meeting, someone knocking on the door to interrupt was simply unimaginable in the past!

"Comrade Wang Jun, please open the door."

After a brief silence, the leading figure spoke.

Due to the high confidentiality of this meeting, all attendees not only could not bring communication devices, but there were also no other personnel present in the venue. The leading figure had no choice but to ask the attendee nearest to the meeting room door to open it.

Under the gaze of everyone, the attendee named Wang Jun nodded in response, then stood up and quickly walked to the meeting room door and pulled it open.

Creak!

As the door opened with a light sound, two figures appeared at the entrance of the meeting room.

They were the leading figure's secretary and Yan's secretary.

Hmm?

Seeing those who arrived were them, almost all the attendees had a bad premonition surge in their hearts—something big had happened!

As if to confirm their speculation, the leading figure's secretary, with a somewhat solemn expression, walked quickly into the venue and straight towards the presidential stage.

Soon, under everyone's watchful eyes, the leading figure's secretary approached the presidential stage, bent down, and whispered in the leader's ear, "XXX, according to the report from Director Yan's secretary, ten minutes ago, a large massacre occurred at Mount Tian, with an extremely malicious nature. When I asked him for the specifics, he said that according to confidentiality rules, he could only report to Director Yan."

"XXX, I'll step out for a moment."

Following the secretary's report, Yan spoke up before the leading figure could respond.

Being the current strongest person in the world, Yan could hear the report of the leading figure's secretary clearly, not just from the seat next to him but even if he were outside the meeting room.

"I'll accompany you."

After a moment's contemplation, the leading figure decided and whispered something to another elder sitting nearby. Then he stood up with Yan and walked out of the venue.

"Could it be that something happened to Xiao Fan?"

Ye Wenhao's face suddenly turned pale within the venue!

He was the only cultivator in the entire venue besides Yan and naturally heard the leading figure's secretary's words crystal clear.

"Could it be that the Little Emperor killed that bastard Ye Fan, and Chu Xuanji, that old dog, protected his calf, sparking a great battle among cultivators?"

Unable to hear the secretary's report, Bai Guotao, who had been watching Ye Wenhao all along, noticed the change in Ye Wenhao's expression. While thinking to himself, a schadenfreude smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

"What's the situation?"

As soon as Yan stepped out, he casually set up a Soundproof Array and asked straightforwardly.

Though he wasn't a Magician, a Soundproof Array was a basic Formation. With his strength, mimicking a Soundproof Array with Gang Qi was effortless.

"Reporting to the leader, ten minutes ago, Ye Fan, disciple of the Evil Emperor, killed the Sword King Jiedao's disciple, Emperor Bai, during the Qing Bang competition. Subsequently, Chen Daozang appeared at the event, joining forces with Jiedao to start a large-scale massacre."

Yan's secretary bowed and quickly reported.

Hmm?

Even with the resolute minds of Yan and the leading figure, upon hearing this sudden news, their hearts sank.

Although the leading figure was not very aware of the affairs of the Cultivation World, he knew of Chu Xuanji, Jiedao, Ye Fan, and Emperor Bai.

It must be said, the composure of Yan and the leading figure was outstanding. Their expressions remained calm, and they didn't make a sound but waited for the follow-up report.

Seeing this, Yan's secretary hurriedly added, "The Evil Emperor, together with Elder Guyun, Lv Family Patriarch Lv Yuan, and Old Sword God Hua Jian, made a joint effort to intervene. In the end, the Evil Emperor broke through to the Great Perfection Realm of Gang Qi in one fell swoop, seriously injured Chen Daozang, and forced Chen Daozang to flee while also crippling Jiedao's cultivation."

Hearing this, both Yan and the leading boss secretly breathed a sigh of relief, and then Yan took the lead to ask, "What's the casualty situation?"

"Preliminary counts show more than 300 dead, including the Old Sword God Hua Jian and Elder Gu. The exact number is still being tallied," Yan's secretary replied.

"How could there be so many?"

The leading boss frowned deeply, the death toll exceeding 300 was undoubtedly a major event, and if it got out, it would cause a huge stir in international opinion.

"Reporting to the leader, both Chen Daozang and Jie Dao are extremely strong cultivators. Ordinary cultivators cannot even think about resisting, let alone having a chance to escape,"

Yan's secretary respectfully responded and then indirectly conveyed another piece of information to Yan, "Besides, Chen Daozang, the man behind the Qinghong Organization, has already broken through to the Gang Qi Great Perfection Realm, boasting extraordinary strength. If it weren't for the Evil Emperor's breakthrough during the battle, I fear none present would have survived."

As the secretary finished speaking, he intentionally showed a hesitant expression.

"What else is going on?" Yan asked with a frown.

"Before the massacre began, Chen Daozang claimed he would cleanse the Hua Xia Cultivation World and the Ye Family, and subvert the entire world order," Yan's secretary reported truthfully.

"A madman!"

Even with the leading boss's exceptional composure, one who could remain unflustered like a mountain, the words still infuriated him. "Director Yan, if I remember correctly, our last crackdown had eliminated the Qinghong Organization's influence within our borders. Now, they're causing trouble again, and it looks like we'll need to take even more decisive measures."

"Please rest assured, XXX. Once I have thoroughly investigated this matter, we will immediately initiate a clean-up operation against the Qinghong Organization."

Perceiving the leading boss's anger, Yan replied, then changed the subject, "However, the Qinghong Organization's influence is vast and global, making their total eradication extremely difficult. We can only administer severe punishment and suppression. Moreover..."

"Moreover, what?" the leading boss asked.

"Moreover, based on information in our Yanhuang Organization's possession, some of our comrades have secret ties with the Qinghong Organization."

Yan said with implication, "I personally believe we must thoroughly investigate this matter and punish the individuals involved; otherwise, it will become a major destabilizing factor!"

"Is there evidence?"

Upon hearing this, the leading boss, well aware of to whom Yan was referring, pondered for a moment before asking.

"There is, the evidence is conclusive," Yan answered succinctly.

"If that's the case, let's settle this matter here in this meeting while everyone is present,"

Perhaps because the matter was so significant, the leading boss remained silent for a full half-minute before making the decision.

Two minutes later, after communicating some details with Yan, the leading boss re-entered the meeting room.

The meeting was interrupted again, and all the attendees turned their gaze towards the two men.

Seeing their grave, ashen faces, the attendees felt an even stronger sense of foreboding, as if a storm was about to break within the building.

"Twenty minutes ago, there was an extremely vicious killing spree at Mount Tian. Director Yan will now brief everyone on the details,"

the leading boss said in a low tone as he took his seat again.

A killing spree?!

The attendees were shocked upon hearing the leading boss's words, their faces changing to varying degrees.

Stability.

This was what the Hua Xia leadership most wished to see.

A killing spree meant instability and was a top priority that required immediate action!

"The situation is as follows..."

Yan took over the topic from the leading boss and quickly relayed the information that the secretary had just reported to everyone.

"Huff~"

After hearing Yan's words, Ye Wenhao's anxiety eased, and he silently breathed a sigh of relief. Then, thinking of Chen Daozang's undying nefarious intentions, he clenched his fists discreetly.

"The Little Emperor was killed by that bastard of the Ye Family at the Qing bang tournament?"

"Jie Dao and Chen Daozang joined forces in a rampant killing spree, and were stopped by that old dog Chu Xuanji?!"

At the same time, Bai Guotao was shocked to his core, completely dumbfounded.

To him, Emperor Bai eliminating Ye Fan was meant to be as easy as slicing through vegetables. If Ye Fan were to die, Ye Wenhao would certainly be affected, and the Bai Family might still have a chance to recover the situation!

But now, all these developments seemed as unreal as a moon's reflection on water, deceptive as a flower viewed within a mirror!

Not only Bai Guotao, but also Bai Yuan, one of the elders and the Bai Family Head, felt dazed after hearing the news, the reality seeming so surreal he found it hard to believe in the moment.

Hard to believe?

"Furthermore, based on intelligence and evidence held by the Yanhuang Organization, some comrades within our organization are involved with the Qinghong Organization. After exchanging views with XXX, to eliminate the hidden dangers within the organization and ensure the stability of the situation, we've decided to deal with this matter seriously!"

The next moment.

Yan's words exploded in the meeting room like a thunderclap, shocking Bai Yuan and Bai Guotao so much that they nearly fell from their chairs.

It's over!

That was the thought in their minds as their faces turned deathly pale.

Chapter 686 Using a Chicken Feather as a Command Arrow

Chen Daozang infiltrated Huaxia, joined forces with the Huaxia Saber King, and went on a killing spree. He was stopped by the Evil Emperor and many strong people, and ultimately it was the Evil Emperor who broke through to the Great Perfection of Gang Qi, burned the essence of his Gang Qi, and repelled Chen Daozang...

This news, on the day it happened, spread throughout Huaxia and the global Cultivation World at an astonishing speed, causing a huge uproar!

If for the Huaxia Cultivation World, the incident itself was more shocking, then for the global Cultivation World, the news revealed behind the incident was undoubtedly more shocking.

First, Chen Daozang had already broken through to the Gang Qi Great Perfection Realm, threatening the first position on the Yan Divine List.

Second, although Chu Xuanji had broken through to the Gang Qi Great Perfection Realm, he had to burn a great amount of Gang Qi essence to repel Chen Daozang, and how much strength he had left was an unknown.

The next morning, a spokesperson for the Yanhuang Organization held a press conference, attracting major media outlets from both inside and outside Huaxia.

At the press conference, the Yanhuang Organization spokesperson first expressed deep condolences for the lost cultivators, then issued a stern condemnation of Chen Daozang and Jie Dao's insane actions, and announced to the world that the Yanhuang Organization would spare no expense to eradicate the Qinghong Organization!

Meanwhile, Huaxia's higher-ups, following the minutes of the highest-level meeting, formed an investigation team headed by the Yanhuang Organization to probe the officials involved with the Qinghong Organization.

Bai Guotao's secretary was the first to fall.

He was secretly taken away by the members of the investigation team the next morning.

Besides him, more than a dozen other people in Huaxia Officialdom were taken away, including some who were just a step away from becoming Provincial Governors with real power.

These abducted officials had one thing in common: they all carried the heavy label of the Bai Family.

The Bai Family was completely finished!

The storm that started in the Cultivation World but ultimately swept through the officialdom made all members of the system realize this fact.

Eventually, a bombshell news confirmed their judgment—the morning of the third day, as soon as Bai Guotao entered his office, he was secretly taken away by the personnel of the investigation team!

This news was like a heavy bomb that exploded in the Huaxia officialdom, causing a massive shake-up. Almost all members of the Bai Family's echelon felt at risk, and some even tried all means to distance themselves from the Bai Family Faction as quickly as possible.

At that point, the years-long contest between the Ye and Bai factions was coming to an end, turning into a dragon-slaying game at its finale.

And the one who won this chess game wasn't the chess player from the Ye Family Camp, Old Master Ye, but an uncontrollable chess piece that dictated its own destiny—Ye Fan!

Almost everyone who knew the inside story had to admit a fact: if it weren't for Ye Fan's intervention, the outcome of the struggle between the Ye and Bai factions would still be undecided!

While all this was happening, the Qing bang contest came to an end.

Due to heavy casualties among the top ten contestants of the Qing bang contest, in addition to the murder incident, Qing bang contest ended early, with Ye Fan winning the championship without dispute, Su Liuli coming second, and Leng Feng placing third.

On the same day the Qing bang contest ended, Ye Fan left Mount Tian with Chu Ji, Su Yuxin, and others, heading back to Yanjing.

Lv Zhan also accompanied them.

Lv Zhan was going to the Du Sect headquarters in Yanjing to collect his bet.

That day, prior to Ye Fan's ultimate showdown with Emperor Bai, Lv Zhan had bet a staggering ten thousand Essence Stones, shocking the crowd.

Now that Emperor Bai had reported to Yama Palace, Lv Zhan naturally had to collect this fortune that could drive any major Cultivation Family or Sect crazy according to the bet.

The Du Sect had existed since ancient times and was recognized as one of the most ancient Sects in the Huaxia Cultivation World, with a long history and profound heritage.

The headquarters of the Du Sect is located in the Yanjing Suburb, in a manor built like an ancient garden, its scale not inferior to the Royal Gardens of Yanjing City at all.

This indirectly affirmed the strength of the Du Sect.

The main gate of the manor was still antique in design, a red sandalwood door painted with red lacquer. Two lifelike crystal-clear Jade Lions stood at the door, and four Martial Artists, like javelins, stood at the entrance, their gazes sharp as knives, sweeping over to Ye Fan and Lv Yuan who were approaching the manor.

"Who are you? What business do you have at the Du Sect?"

As soon as Ye Fan arrived at the manor gate with Lv Yuan, a Martial Artist stepped forward and asked in a stern voice.

"Wow, just a mere gatekeeper's lackey is so imposing, Du Sect is really something!"

Having hit it off with Su Jindi, Lv Zhan picked up some of his expressions quickly and spoke without hesitation.

"Knowing this is the Du Sect headquarters and still daring to cause trouble, are you tired of living?"

When the Martial Artist heard Lv Zhan calling him a lackey, his face turned red with anger and he shouted back.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Martial Artists sensed something was amiss and quickly stepped forward, attempting to gloss over the situation: "Gentlemen, my brother has a fiery temper and is not good with words. If he has caused any offense, we hope for your understanding—may I ask what brings you two to the Du Sect headquarters?"

"Now you remember to lower your stance, but it's too late!"

Lv Zhan snorted coldly and said, "Tell your Elder Hua to come out immediately, and have us carried in on a palanquin!"

"Demanding Elder Hua to personally receive you... your audacity is even greater than athlete's foot!"

"Exactly, who do you think you are? Leaders of the Yanhuang Organization?"

Hearing Lv Zhan's words again, not only did the original Martial Artist's face change, even the leader of the Martial Artists changed his expression, while two of the Martial Artists started to sneer.

Chapter 687 Using a Chicken Feather as a Command Arrow_2

"You're truly blind, not even recognizing the disciple of the Evil Emperor or the Young Supreme of the Hua Xia Cultivation World!"

Lv Zhan reprimanded them irritably, "If I were the Sect Leader of Du Sect, I'd definitely kick all four of you blind fools out of the sect, to prevent you from causing trouble..."

"Brother Lv, let's focus on the important matters."

Ye Fan, finally unable to watch any longer, interrupted with a bitter smile.

The disciple of the Evil Emperor?

The Young Supreme of the Hua Xia Cultivation World?!

Upon hearing Lv Zhan's words again, the dissatisfaction on the faces of the four martial artists vanished instantly, replaced by sheer horror!

A man's reputation, a tree's shadow.

Although they did not recognize Ye Fan, they were fully aware of his formidable reputation, knowing he had killed Emperor Bai who had broken through to the Gang Qi Introduction Realm, thus dominating the younger generation of the Hua Xia Cultivation World!

In addition, they had all heard about how the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji had broken into the Peak of Gang Qi, burned the essence of Gang Qi, repelled Chen Daozang, and saved the Hua Xia Cultivation World!

"We... we apologize, young masters, we were blind to Taishan, your magnanimity can hold a boat..."

After the shock, the leading martial artist, reacting swiftly, bowed and bent over like an ancient servant meeting his lord, begging for forgiveness.

The other three martial artists, upon hearing this, woke as if from a dream and hurriedly bowed to follow suit.

"Rest assured, we don't intend to make things difficult for you. Just lead us to Elder Hua or even the Sect Leader of Du Sect is fine."

Ye Fan, interrupting the apologies of the four martial artists with a wave of his hand.

"Yes, yes, young masters, please!"

The leading martial artist, upon hearing this, nodded excitedly, fast like a pecking chick.

As soon as he finished speaking, he first instructed an underling to inform others, then immediately made a welcoming gesture, personally leading Ye Fan and Lv Yuan into the headquarters estate of Du Sect.

"Oh, Brother Ye Fan, Brother Lv Zhan, welcome, welcome! It's an honor for us to have you visit the Du Sect!"

Two minutes later, just as Ye Fan and Lv Yuan were walking towards the central courtyard of the estate, a figure darted towards them, so enthusiastic that his voice arrived before he did.

As soon as the voice faded, the figure appeared.

This person was a chubby man with graying hair and small eyes that looked like slits at first glance.

His face bore a warm and genial smile, but no matter how you looked at it, it seemed to contain a cunning feel.

This was none other than Elder Hua, a well-known figure in the Du Sect.

"Old Man Hua, Brother Ye and I aren't here as guests. We're here to collect the essence stones we've won!" Lv Zhan got straight to the point, showing no consideration for Elder Hua's dignity, "Fifty thousand stones, not one less!"

"Little Brother Lv Zhan..."

Though Elder Hua was well aware of the purpose of Ye Fan and Lv Zhan's visit, hearing Lv Zhan say it so bluntly made Elder Hua wear a pained expression, truly a dilemma too difficult to voice.

Before the big fight between Ye Fan and Emperor Bai, Lv Zhan had bet ten thousand essence stones on Ye Fan's victory with odds of 1 to 5. Elder Hua, convinced of Emperor Bai's inevitable victory, was overjoyed at the time, thinking he'd make a fortune, a stark contrast to his current expression.

"Who are you calling 'little brother'? You could be our grandfather by generation."

Lv Zhan hummed, "Elder Hua, don't try to be familiar with us; we have no such affection for you. Bets must be honored, and if the Du Sect dares to welsh, be careful that the Evil Emperor doesn't wipe you out in anger!"

"Hiss~"

Upon hearing Lv Zhan's blatant threat, Elder Hua was not angered but instead terrified, sucking in a cold breath as the flesh on his face trembled.

During the Qing bang competition, Du Sect had always believed that Emperor Bai would surely be the champion. To attract more bets, they indeed made exhaustive efforts, some of which slightly offended Ye Fan.

Now, Chu Xuanji had broken through to the Gang Qi Great Perfection Realm, repelled Chen Daozang, and became the savior of the Huaxia Cultivation World. If he were to deal with Du Sect, it wouldn't even require him to act personally— a simple gesture could summon a swarm of responses.

Stepping back, with the combat power Ye Fan demonstrated by killing Emperor Bai, if he were to rampage through the Du Sect's headquarters estate, there would be very few who could subdue him.

"__"

As Elder Hua trembled with fear, Ye Fan was rendered speechless.

Initially, he had been curious why Lv Yuan insisted he come along to collect the winning bets, only now did he understand the reason— Lv Yuan was waving the tiger skin banner of himself and Chu Xuanji!

"Rest assured, young masters, Du Sect has maintained its reputation for thousands of years and naturally will not default on this debt."

Sweat beaded on Elder Hua's forehead as he spoke in a submissive tone, "Just... just, could you young masters possibly give us a chance to pay in installments? Split into three segments, paying a total of fifty thousand Essence Stones, with a deadline of one year!"

"No way!"

Lv Zhan flatly refused, "Both Brother Ye and I are about to break into the Gang Qi Entry Realm and need a large number of Essence Stones. Who can wait a year?"

"How about two times? Give twenty-five thousand first, and another twenty-five thousand later?"

Elder Hua bargained. Du Sect has casinos all over the world and needs a massive amount of Essence Stones to operate, naturally opting to give less wherever possible.

"Old Man Hua, Du Sect is wealthy and powerful; producing fifty thousand Essence Stones shouldn't be difficult,"

Lv Zhan chuckled, "These fifty thousand Essence Stones, Brother Ye and I will split them evenly, each taking twenty-five thousand. And as you probably know, both Brother Ye and his master, the Evil Emperor, have rather nasty tempers. If Brother Ye runs out of patience, it won't just be about the Essence Stones anymore."

"Give them, immediately!"

On hearing this, Elder Hua was so frightened that his plump body shuddered, terrified that Ye Fan might vent his anger on Du Sect, and quickly agreed despite the pain.

"__"

Ye Fan was speechless again; he hadn't expected Lv Zhan to scare Elder Hua with such a bluff.

"Brother Ye, you currently possess the Black Iron Fist set and the Ghost Ring, two high-level Magic Artifacts, and you're about to receive the mid-grade Flying Magical Artifact rewarded by the Yanhuang Organization, which is equivalent in value to a high-level Magic Artifact. Plus, these twenty-five thousand Essence Stones— you are definitely the number one tycoon among the young generation in the global Cultivation World!"

Lv Zhan spoke again, still jesting, but actually telling Ye Fan that these were not just empty words; he really intended to give Ye Fan twenty-five thousand Essence Stones.

"Lv Zhan, you?" Ye Fan was taken aback.

"Brother Ye, although I won these fifty thousand Essence Stones, you staked your life for them, so it's only right to share half with you. Besides, we hit it off the moment we met, getting along like a house on fire..."

Lv Zhan spoke and realizing he had misspoken, quickly changed his tone, "You will need a lot of Essence Stones to break through the Half-step Gang Qi Realm and the Gang Qi Realm itself, so don't refuse it. Otherwise, I'll fall out with you!"

"Alright."

Ye Fan felt a warmth in his heart upon hearing this and didn't fuss about refusing.

Because, as Lv Zhan said, he indeed desperately needed Essence Stones to break through his Martial Arts Realm!

Chapter 688 Invincible Among Peers

Because 50,000 essence stones were a vast fortune and were cumbersome to carry, after Lv Zhan and Elder Hua reached an agreement, they decided to split the 50,000 essence stones in two and had them delivered to the locations designated by Ye Fan and Lv Zhan by people from the Du Sect.

"Old Man Hua, if Ye brother and I don't see the essence stones within three days, your Du Sect better brace for the Evil Emperor's wrath!"

When leaving the Du Sect headquarters estate, Lv Zhan once again used Chu Xuanji's influence as a scare tactic against Elder Hua, which caused Elder Hua much frustration.

After Ye Fan and Lv Zhan left the Du Sect headquarters estate, they temporarily parted ways, Ye Fan went to receive his award for the Qing List competition from the Yanhuang Organization, while Lv Zhan went to meet up with Chu Ji and the others.

According to Ye Fan's earlier arrangements, they planned to gather together that evening.

...

Ye Fan was not unfamiliar with the Yanhuang Organization Headquarters.

Previously, after creating havoc in the Southeast Asia Special Zone, decimating the Nanqinghong headquarters, and facing off against the Hongwu Sect alone, he was captured by Yanhuang Organization Law Enforcement Team Captain Hong Lie and brought to the Yanhuang Organization Headquarters.

At that time, Hong Lie, extremely furious over his disciple Ye Long being crippled by Ye Fan, wanted to bend the law for personal benefit but was stopped by Outer Elder He Yunting from the Yanhuang Organization. Later, he made a wager with Ye Fan and ended up being taught a lesson by Yan and was to be imprisoned in the dungeon for five years.

Latter, several great elders of the Yanhuang Organization pleaded for mercy on behalf of Hong Lie. Eventually, Yan decided to show leniency and did not imprison Hong Lie.

However—

After that incident, instead of learning his lesson, Hong Lie's hatred for Ye Fan grew even stronger. Consequently, before the Qing List competition, he specifically sought out Leng Feng to provoke him to cripple Ye Fan and to vent his malice.

Ye Fan, unaware of these machinations, simply defeated Leng Feng with imposing and domineering force, rendering Hong Lie's plans for revenge fruitless.

Whoosh!

When Ye Fan drove to the Yanhuang Organization Headquarters, the members on guard duty at the gate all turned their gaze towards him.

In addition, many members of the Yanhuang Organization inside the office building sensed Ye Fan's presence, stood up, and walked to the windows to watch.

"Mr. Ye, Elder He had instructed that you can head directly to his office when you arrive,"

One of the Yanhuang Organization Outer Members on guard duty immediately stepped forward and spoke with great respect.

Although he was just an Outer Member of the Yanhuang Organization, he knew Ye Fan had topped the Qing List and was regarded as the Young Supreme of the Hua Xia Cultivation World; he had even specifically looked up Ye Fan's photograph.

As his words fell, he gestured to allow entry, and another Yanhuang Organization Outer Member immediately opened the gate.

"Thank you."

Ye Fan thanked with a smile, drove into the Yanhuang Organization Headquarters, and eventually parked his car in front of the office building.

"Xiao Fan, you finally arrived,"

The moment Ye Fan stepped out of his car, He Yunting, an Outer Elder of the Yanhuang Organization, walked out from the office building, coming forward with a smile: "The Leader has been waiting for you today and hasn't gone anywhere else. Let me take you up."

"Thank you, Elder He."

Ye Fan thanked with a smile, exhibiting a humble demeanor.

Seeing this scene, He Yunting felt deeply moved.

There was a time when Ye Fan's cultivation was miles behind his, yet now, although Ye Fan was only in the half-step Gang Qi realm and not as advanced in cultivation, his combat power was no less inferior to his!

Moreover, sense told him that if Ye Fan could easily slay someone as formidable as Emperor Bai, who was comparable to a master of the Gang Qi Introduction Realm, then he definitely had the strength to kill him!

After a moment of reflection, He Yunting no longer indulged in idle talk and led the way.

Hmm?

After entering the office building, just as Ye Fan was about to follow He Yunting to the elevator, he sensed someone watching him in secret. Turning his head, he startingly found it was Hong Lie.

Whoosh!

As Hong Lie saw Ye Fan's gaze sweep towards him, he jolted as if struck by electricity, his complexion drastically changed, and then he immediately lowered his head, pretending to have seen nothing.

Acting guilty,

At this moment, Hong Lie was terrified that Ye Fan might come after him!

"Xiao Fan, initially, Leader Yan intended to imprison Captain Hong in the dungeon for five years, but given the current turbulence in the Cultivation World and the Yanhuang Organization being severely understaffed, a few of us old fellows approached Leader Yan and pleaded for mercy on behalf of Hong Lie..."

Seeing this, He Yunting nervously began to explain, as if he feared that Ye Fan might seek retribution against Hong Lie.

"Elder He, let's go see Leader Yan,"

With just a glance, Ye Fan withdrew his gaze, completely ignoring Hong Lie's presence and interrupting He Yunting.

"Uh..."

He Yunting paused for a moment, then came to a sudden realization. Given Ye Fan's current status and strength, he genuinely had no reason to bother with Hong Lie anymore.

Because, the once considered most promising contender to break through the Gang Qi Introduction realm, dubbed invincible under the Gang Qi Introduction Realm, Hong Lie, had been surpassed by Ye Fan, and would only be left far behind, to the point where he could only look up to him!

Even He Yunting could see this, let alone Hong Lie himself?

Bitterness welled up in Hong Lie's heart, and afterward, he silently entered his office without saying a word.

Two minutes later, led by He Yunting, Ye Fan arrived at Leader Yan's office.

Although Yan was the head of the Yanhuang Organization, he rarely worked from the office at the Yanhuang Organization Headquarters all year round, leaving He Yunting to handle the affairs, appearing only during significant matters.

Today, for Yan to personally attend to his office for just one person was an exceedingly rare occurrence over the past few years, with only the most powerful figures at the peak of the power pyramid being the usual visitors!

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"The leader is waiting for you inside, just go in by yourself,"

He Yunting brought Ye Fan to the front of Yan's office door, spoke in a low voice, then without waiting for Ye Fan to respond, he turned and quickly left.

Seeing this, Ye Fan didn't think much of it but gently knocked on the office door instead.

"Xiao Fan, come in."

The knocking had barely ceased when Yan's voice came from inside the office, followed by a creaking sound as the door automatically opened.

As Ye Fan stepped into Yan's office, a rich gush of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi hit him in the face; the office spanned over three hundred square meters, decorated in an antique style.

In Huaxia officialdom, it's quite common for officials of a certain level to have a bedroom and study in their office.

As the leader of the Yanhuang Organization and one of the most powerful figures in Huaxia officialdom, Yan was no exception.

His office not only had a study and a lounge but also a cultivation room.

At this moment, as Ye Fan entered the office, the door to the cultivation room slowly opened, and Yan, dressed in a black robe, emerged.

"Master Yan!"

Ye Fan bowed respectfully at first sight.

"You don't make a sound until you impress everyone. You really did make your master proud,"

As Yan assessed Ye Fan's strength with a smile on his face, he was almost certain that Ye Fan's rapid progress in strength had something to do with the crimson golden crown within him.

But having learned from last time, he didn't dare to probe the crimson golden crown with his mind. Instead, he slowly walked to his desk and picked up a magic artifact, "This is the reward for the champion of the Qing bang contest, the mid-grade flying magical artifact, Cloud-piercing Shuttle."

"It's so small?" Ye Fan was taken aback.

The artifact in Yan's hand, the Cloud-piercing Shuttle, was only one meter long, entirely black, and at first glance looked like a fire poker.

"The Cloud-piercing Shuttle is a magical artifact left from the ancient cultivation world, made from special materials, containing a high-level Wind Array within. It requires essence stones to activate, but once activated, it will instantly enlarge and can carry three people,"

As he spoke, Yan flicked his wrist, tossing the Cloud-piercing Shuttle towards Ye Fan.

Whoosh!

With a swift wave of his right hand, Ye Fan caught the Cloud-piercing Shuttle, but he didn't try using it immediately. Instead, he bowed and thanked, "Thank you, Master Yan."

"This is the reward you deserve, no need to thank me," said Yan with a smile, gesturing with his hand, "Sit down, I want to talk to you."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan felt a twinge of curiosity about what Yan wanted to discuss, but without overthinking, he sat down on the sofa opposite Yan.

"I hear Xuanji told me you've pledged to eradicate the Qinghong Organization?" Yan asked first after Ye Fan took a seat, a curious glint in his eyes.

"Yes."

Ye Fan nodded slightly, his expression resolute as if nothing in the world could sway his decision.

"Do you know how powerful the Qinghong Organization is?" Yan asked with a smile.

"I've heard that the Qinghong Organization is hailed as the number one power in the Dark World, even stronger than the European Union's Dark Council. As for how powerful it actually is, I'm not entirely clear," Ye Fan answered.

"You dared to make such a pledge without fully understanding them?"

Yan couldn't help but laugh before he regained his composure and said seriously, "The Qinghong Organization is even more powerful than you imagine. To put it this way, even if the Yanhuang Organization were to go all out, it might not be able to eradicate the Qinghong Organization!"

"That strong?"

Ye Fan was slightly shocked; he had imagined the Qinghong Organization to be formidable but never to such an extent.

"Yes, there are three main reasons,"

Yan explained openly: "Firstly, the Qinghong Organization has an extremely wide reach, almost covering every corner of the globe, and they have several secret bases unknown to the outside world. Secondly, the Qinghong Organization has a massive number of members, and only a fraction of these are known to the various major alliances' intelligence agencies. Lastly, with Chen Daozang as the second highest master on the Divine List, who also combined your master's 'Xuansha Fist' to create the powerful martial skill 'Xuanyin Fist,' his ability to attract strong followers is outstanding, and he has many Gang Qi Realm experts under his command."

This time, Ye Fan remained silent.

"Now that you understand the real strength of the Qinghong Organization, do you still want to fulfill your pledge?" Yan asked with a smile.

"The path I choose, even if I have to crawl, I will finish; the pledge I make, I would rather die than not fulfill it!" Ye Fan responded decisively.

"Good, worthy of being Xuanji's personally trained disciple, you've got spirit!" Yan nodded in satisfaction and then inquired, "How do you plan to eradicate the Qinghong Organization?"

"First, I must become stronger."

"And then?"

"_"

Ye Fan was momentarily at a loss for words; he wanted to eradicate the Qinghong Organization not just because of the enmity forged with them over the past year, but also because Chen Daozang had killed his mother and sought to murder his father Ye Wenhao, wipe out the entire Ye family, and overturn the balance of power in Huaxia and the world!

"Let me teach you,"

Seeing Ye Fan's silence, Yan continued seriously, "If you want to eradicate the Qinghong Organization, there are only two paths you can take. First, like Chen Daozang, build a force that can rival Qinghong Organization. Second, dedicate yourself to cultivation, breaking through to that legendary realm first, standing above all and commanding the heroes of the world!"

With these words, Ye Fan felt like a child lost in the dark finding the way home, his face lighting up with hope!

"The first path requires chance, time, effort, and a host of capable assistants—everything of which is almost impossible for you to achieve. Thus, the only option for you is to take the second path, to focus on cultivation and break through to that legendary realm!"

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"Even if I were the first to break through that legendary realm, I would only be the strongest in martial prowess in the world. How would I go about eliminating the Qinghong Organization?"

Ye Fan was somewhat puzzled because, according to Yan, before Chen Daozang had broken through to the Gang Qi Great Perfection Realm, Yan could have completely destroyed the Qinghong Organization single-handedly.

"Being the strongest in martial prowess in the world is not the point, the point is being the first to break through that legendary realm."

Yan said with a wry smile, "I won't hide it from you. Looking around the global Cultivation World, I believe there are no more than ten people who have the potential to break through that realm, and you have the greatest hope among them!"

"Er..."

Ye Fan was startled, not expecting Yan to have such high hopes for him.

"You needn't be surprised. Your ability to cultivate from the Postnatal Great Perfection Realm to where you are now in less than two years is enough to prove your potential."

Yan explained, "The reason I say that once you break through that legendary realm first, you can eliminate the Qinghong Organization, is because the insights and experience you gain from breaking through that realm will become a priceless treasure that all strong people in the world dream of — you can use it as a bargaining chip, commanding a multitude to eliminate the Qinghong Organization for you!"

As he finished speaking, Yan's face was full of expectation.

Whether it's eliminating the Qinghong Organization, eradicating the hidden dangers to Huaxia and even the global Cultivation World, or obtaining the insights and experience of breaking through that legendary realm, all are his urgent hopes.

"So that's how it is." Ye Fan suddenly realized.

"Of course, there's one condition, you must not die young, being strangled in the cradle."

Once again, Yan opened his mouth, the tone of his voice suddenly turned, cautioning, "But at the same time, if you want to break through that legendary realm, just secluded, hard cultivation is not enough. You must undergo trials and battles. This will be an extremely severe test for you."

"What do you mean?" Ye Fan pondered thoughtfully.

"Besides giving you this mid-grade Flying Magical Artifact, the Cloud-piercing Shuttle, I will also give you a mask in a moment. Just by wearing that mask, which can change your appearance, others will not be able to recognize you. With this, coupled with your Ghost Ring to conceal your aura, you can completely become another person to undergo trials and battles — this can ensure your safety," Yan explained.

"You care so much for me, surely it's not just because of your personal relationship with my master?"

Although Ye Fan was very grateful to Yan, he remained rational, knowing that there are no free luncheons, "What do you want me to do?"

"You are right to think of that,"

Yan cracked a slight smile and did not conceal it, "In the long run, I want to use your hand to eliminate the Qinghong Organization and remove the threats it poses to Huaxia and the global Cultivation World! In the short term, I want you to lead the geniuses of the Huaxia Cultivation World to shine in the 'Hidden God List' competition held at the end of the year and win the championship!"

"Hidden God List competition?"

Ye Fan was intrigued, he had heard of this contest but had never delved into it.

"The Hidden God List competition is a contest where the young generation of the global Cultivation World competes, held every ten years, and participants must be under thirty years of age."

Yan nodded and said, "This year happens to be the year the Hidden God List competition is held, and also, due to a sharp increase in the amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on Earth this year, the entire Cultivation World is bustling. At that time, other alliances and ancient Families will send out geniuses to compete — among them, there might very well be demon-like beings like you!

In other words, if the recently concluded Qing bang competition was considered the most valuable iteration in recent Huaxia Cultivation history, then the Hidden God List competition at the end of the year will become the most valuable competition in the modern Cultivation World!"

"If you want to catch up with the elder generation of cultivators, break through that legendary realm first, command the multitude, and eliminate the Qinghong Organization, then you must at least take the first step — become unrivaled among your peers!"

Yan said forcefully, "The Hidden God List competition is your opportunity and platform to prove you are unrivaled among your peers!"

"Thank you."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan immediately stood up and bowed deeply to Yan in thanks.

At that moment,

he didn't utter a single word of bravado, but Yan could feel his determination!

It was the heart of the invincible!