

Y Master 981

Chapter 981 Attitudes from All Sides (Supplement 32)

Ye Fan succeeded in a cross-level challenge, killing Jiang Yurong, a high-level War God Realm expert, like a hurricane swiftly sweeping through the global cultivation community, causing a huge stir.

Everyone thought Ye Fan was too dominant, too demon-like, such a person was a demon-level existence even in ancient times, a nightmare for all cultivators.

Living in the same era as such a person means being overshadowed by his light, no one can stand out, especially in the current environment. Even four out of the Six Great Supreme Talents have been killed by Ye Fan, leaving him without opponents in this era.

Just as things were calming down, after Ye Fan killed Jiang Yurong from the Jiang Family, he went on to demand the reward from the Xu Family for the Hidden God List competition, threatening to arrive at the Xu Family Ancestral Land in three days to demand an explanation from Xu Tianqi!

This news caused even more shock, and through the mouths of cultivators who attended the Jiang Family's grand event, it quickly spread throughout the entire cultivation world.

This classic battle became a topic for conversation among all cultivators, while there was also a heated debate about whether the Xu Family would return the essence stone.

"According to the Hidden God List competition rules, six million essence stones are awarded to the top ten of the competition, with Ye Fan being the first in the finals. If he had died in there, it would be understandable, but now he has come out alive. It would be unreasonable not to return it."

"That's wrong! If Ye Fan had come out of the Forbidden Land immediately after, there might have been room for negotiation before the War God Alliance made a decision, but he disappeared for too long, a full six months! Who could wait that long?"

"That's right, the War God Alliance has already made a decision, and it is impossible to change it for him because he disappeared for too long. If the War God Alliance changes its decision, it would weaken its authority, and surely Yan wouldn't want that to happen, right?"

"I don't think so. On the contrary, if Ye Fan misses out on the reward due to a trivial decision, it would greatly weaken the War God Alliance's sense of justice. Yan can't possibly not understand this logic."

For a time, there were arguments on both sides, with Ye Fan planning to go to the Xu Family Ancestral Land to demand an explanation, causing a great uproar over the essence stone.

The representatives of the Six Ancient Families returned to their clans early to report the situation to their clan leaders and make decisions.

Inside the Ross family of the American Alliance.

The clan leader Zorn, seated high on a hardwood chair, listened to the report from the dispatched representative, his brows gradually furrowing, having never imagined that Ye Fan would actually succeed in killing Jiang Yurong.

To him, it wasn't that Ye Fan was too strong, but that Jiang Yurong was too weak, disgracing the face of a high-level War God Realm by being killed by a younger generation.

As for Ye Fan wanting to demand the essence stone from the Xu Family, Zorn gave a cold smile and said, "Ye Fan is too naive. No one, having obtained such strategic reserve resources, would give them up, unless Yan stands up for him."

Then, he changed his tone, saying, "But Yan is unlikely to stand up for him, as the consequences would be too severe, and Yan surely knows that."

The representative humbly said, "Clan Leader, why wouldn't Yan support Ye Fan? I believe Yan is quite likely to back Ye Fan!"

Zorn gave a slight smile and said, "The reason is simple. Although Yan is the Hierarch of the War God Alliance, not every matter can be decided by him alone. If Yan stands up for Ye Fan, he would completely offend the Xu Family and the Luoke Family, risking impeachment within the War God Alliance. He would not take such risks. Remember my words: Yan is a smart man; he knows what to do."

At the same time, the clan leader of the Huang Jin Family, Rodriguez, Shijia Mo Ye of the Ancient Buddha Sect in the Tianzhu Alliance, and the chief of the African Elfa Tribe, Essenfake, voiced predictions similar to Zorn's. They all believed that Yan would never risk being impeached to stand up for Ye Fan.

That would be detrimental to the stability of the global cultivation community!

Without Yan standing up for Ye Fan, Ye Fan's attempt to demand an explanation and essence stone is almost doomed to failure; the Xu Family will not be polite to someone with hostility towards them.

Ye Fan is likely to hit a wall this time, and he may even encounter unexpected events, which is just what they want to see.

The Luoke Family went into a state of high alert, with a tense atmosphere in the air.

In a room in a European-style castle, Anton was discussing with his grandfather, Mei Luo.

"Grandpa, do we really have to return the essence stone to him?" Anton looked unwilling, after all, it was three million essence stones!

"What do you suggest? Return or not return?" Mei Luo's eyes were sharp as he lay comfortably on a reclining chair, rotating a pair of iron balls in his hand.

"Of course not. Why should we return the reward we already have? I'm not willing!"

In front of his grandfather, Anton did not hide anything. In the Forbidden Land, he was severely chased by Ye Fan, naturally bearing a deep hatred towards Ye Fan. Not to mention returning the essence stone, if he could, Anton would want to kill Ye Fan on the spot.

"If you don't want to return it, then don't return it!"

Mei Luo lay back on the reclining chair, without even lifting an eyelid, casually saying, "Your task is to cultivate peacefully, don't worry about this matter, I will handle it."

"Yes, Grandpa, I will go cultivate now!"

Upon hearing this, Anton vaguely guessed something, became excited, and retreated out. Upon reaching the doorway, he turned back and asked, "Grandpa, what if by any chance, the Xu Family returns the essence stone, what do we do?"

Mei Luo smiled calmly and said, "Don't worry, the Xu Family will definitely not return the essence stone. You must know, the essence stone holds extraordinary significance for any cultivation family. Xu Tianqi is no fool, the meat that has entered the stomach, isn't so easily spit out."

Hearing Mei Luo's words again, Anton completely relaxed and left the room, returning to his training chamber to begin cultivation.

At the same time, a similar scene unfolded in the Xu Family.

Upon hearing from the representative sent that Ye Fan had actually succeeded in his level-skipping challenge and even killed Jiang Yurong, Xu Wudao was both shocked and furious, feeling deeply aggrieved.

"If you'd died in the Forbidden Land, it would have been a perfect ending, but you just had to emerge alive. Damn it!"

Thinking of the essence stones Ye Fan would demand in three days, Xu Wudao couldn't sit still and went straight to find his grandfather Xu Tianqi for advice.

"Grandfather, this kid Ye Fan is too arrogant. Does he think our Xu Family truly has no one? Such provocation of our family's authority and dignity cannot be forgiven. It's best to cripple his cultivation, break his limbs, and throw him into the street as a beggar."

Xu Wudao was ruthless. After all, the two families were already like water and fire, and the Xu Family's dignity and authority could not be trampled upon. Naturally, he wished for Ye Fan's death.

"Dao'er, calm down. You've been too rash lately, which is why you've repeatedly suffered losses at the hands of that Ye Fan. Hatred should not blind your spiritual wisdom, or your cultivation will come to a halt here."

Xu Tianqi smirked coldly, "Don't worry, even if Ye Fan is gaining influence, I still don't see him as a threat. The essence stones will definitely not be returned to him. Go cultivate near the cold pond in the family ancestral land. Hopefully, the harsh environment there will help you calm down."

Xu Wudao hesitated for a moment and said, "Grandfather, what if Yan supports him? After all, Yan's strength is unfathomable."

Xu Tianqi smiled broadly, patted Xu Wudao's shoulder, and said, "Don't worry. Not to mention Yan won't stand up for him, but even if Yan did, so what? Not a single essence stone will be returned to him."

Xu Wudao knew his grandfather's temperament well, and hearing him say this, he was immediately reassured. Since grandfather said not a single stone would be returned, these essence stones would become the private property of the Xu Family. With these essence stones, his cultivation speed would definitely increase rapidly.

Though both were geniuses, he had been chased by Ye Fan like a homeless dog. This grudge must be avenged, or he would live in Ye Fan's shadow forever, invisibly affecting his cultivation mentality.

After leaving the room, Xu Wudao headed straight to the cold pond in the ancestral land.

In the Xu Family's ancestral land, there was a cold pond that emitted chilling air day and night. No grass grew around it, and approaching the pond felt like stepping into deep winter, with ordinary people getting frozen stiff just by nearing it.

No birds flew over the cold pond!

The piercing cold air was best for cleansing the heart and removing thoughts. Returning to Origin, Xu Wudao also felt he was too rash and had been unable to enter the right state while cultivating recently.

Sitting cross-legged near the cold pond, allowing the piercing cold to keep himself alert and calm, Xu Wudao entered a state of cultivation.

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Meanwhile, at the Lv Family Ancestral Land.

"Should you go find Master Yan?"

Chu Ji stood in the courtyard of a separate residence, hesitated for a moment, and asked Ye Fan.

On that day, after Ye Fan and the others left the Jiang Family, they came directly to the Lv Family Ancestral Land, preparing to head to the Xu Family Ancestral Land together.

"You're worried the Xu Family won't return the essence stones?" Ye Fan knew what Chu Ji was concerned about.

"Yes."

Chu Ji didn't hide her concern and said, "If Master Yan stands up for you, there's a high chance the Xu Family will return the essence stones. Otherwise, it's almost impossible!"

"Let's go see first. If the Xu Family shamelessly refuses, then I'll find Master Yan."

Ye Fan sighed.

How could he not want to ask Yan to stand up for him?

He just didn't want to make things difficult for Yan!

Chapter 982 Shutting the Door to Visitors

The Xu Family Ancestral Land is a sealed, peculiar space, similar to the Trial Holy Land, but much smaller, and was left behind by the distant ancestors of the Xu Family.

It is precisely this ancestral land that has ensured the Xu Family's enduring prosperity, even during the End of Dharma Era when the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi nearly dried up, the inheritance was not broken.

Apart from Xu Family members, outsiders cannot open this ancestral land, ensuring the safety and secrecy of the Xu Family.

Three days later, Ye Fan and his party arrived outside the Xu Family Ancestral Land, only to find it tightly closed, and they were unable to enter.

"Ha, Xu Family doesn't even dare open the door, they must be determined to cheat us!" Seeing that the Xu Family Ancestral Land had not opened, Lv Zhan said angrily, "Ye Zi, what should we do? Should we force our way in?"

"The Xu Family Ancestral Land is protected by a terrifying formation, we cannot force our way in, or we might lose our lives." Lv Yuan quickly stopped him, knowing that once his grandson goes mad, he could be reckless.

Upon Lv Yuan's words, everyone, including Lv Zhan, gave up the idea of forcing entry and turned their eyes to Ye Fan, waiting for his decision.

"Chu Xuanji's disciple Ye Fan, along with seniors Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, Wushan, and Cang Bo, visits the Xu Family!" Ye Fan stepped forward and slowly spoke, his voice loud, echoing across the sky, lingering for a long time.

No response.

The area in front of the Xu Family Ancestral Land was silent.

Seeing this, Ye Fan frowned, and spoke again, repeating twice, but the Xu Family Ancestral Land still showed no sign of movement.

"Xiao Fan, the Xu Family has shut the door and isn't seeing guests, they must be trying to abrogate the agreement." Lv Yuan sighed, "In this situation, you can only ask Yan Lai to preside over justice."

Hmm?!

Upon hearing Lv Yuan's words, Ye Fan didn't speak but suddenly felt five auras rapidly approaching from the distance.

Swish!

At the same time, Lv Yuan and the others also sensed the five auras and turned their gaze toward them.

Gradually, under the watchful eyes of Ye Fan and others, the five auras came closer, and five figures appeared in their sight.

"It's the representatives of the Five Ancient Forces!" Xiao Selang recognized the newcomers, couldn't help but say.

Ye Fan and others remained silent; they also recognized the representatives of the five ancient forces.

These five had appeared at the Jiang Family's place, witnessing the miracle of Ye Fan skipping levels to kill Jiang Yurong!

"Evil Emperor's disciple, why are you standing outside? Could it be that the Xu Family closed the door and won't see guests?"

Soon, the representatives of the Five Ancient Forces arrived at the Xu Family Ancestral Land, among them, the representative of the Luoke Family saw Ye Fan and the others, and, heart stirring, asked with a smile.

The representatives of the other four ancient forces looked at Ye Fan with an expression of hostility.

"How wonderful to have friends come from afar! Welcome friends from the Tianzhu Buddhist Sect, Huang Jin Family, the Ross Family, Elfa Tribe, and the Loke Family to the Xu Family!"

The next moment, before Ye Fan could respond, a loud voice sounded from the previously silent Xu Family Ancestral Land.

"Boom~"

With the fall of the voice, a muffled sound was heard, and the surrounding environment suddenly changed. An ancient stone path appeared, winding and twisting, ending at an ancient door.

A rich surge of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi poured out from the door, vaguely revealing a scene of vibrant purple and red, with flourishing plants and singing birds, indeed making it a Cultivation Holy Land.

An elder slowly walked out from the ancient door, cupping his hands to the representatives of the five ancient forces, completely ignoring the presence of Ye Fan and others, as if they were air.

"Hiss~"

Seeing this, the representatives of the Five Ancient Forces were somewhat surprised. Though their forces have been around since ancient times, in terms of the aura of the ancient land, they were nothing compared to the Xu Family.

"Gentlemen, our Family Head is waiting in the ancestral house. Please follow me into the ancestral land!"

The doorkeeper of the Xu Family Ancestral Land spoke again.

He was an elder with a head full of white hair, dressed as a servant, yet his temples were prominent, and his eyes shone with a divine light, clearly a master.

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish...

Hearing the doorkeeper's words, the descendants of the five ancient forces swiftly flew toward the ancient door fueled by Gang Qi.

At the same time, Lv Zhan cursed in anger, "Damn it, the Xu Family knew we were here yet refused to open the door, but as soon as those five came, they were welcomed through the door. It's simply insulting!"

Ye Fan didn't mind these things; he was here to seek justice, not as a guest, so it was normal for the other party not to welcome him, as nobody would want their creditor blocking their gate for debt collection.

"I want to see Xu Tianqi. Xu Wudao spread rumors saying I died in the Forbidden Land and divided the rewards that should have been mine and Liu Li's. He must give me an explanation for this!"

Before the representatives of the Five Ancient Forces could follow the doorkeeper into the Xu Family Ancestral Land, Ye Fan spoke again.

Simultaneously, Lv Zhan and the others stepped forward, forming a powerful aura.

Upon hearing this, the doorkeeper elder from the Xu Family sized up Ye Fan for a moment, then sneered, "The name of our ancestor cannot be casually mentioned by a junior like you. Just for that reason, the Xu Family Ancestral Land is not a place you can enter!"

"Xu Tianqi is your ancestor, but not mine. Why can't I call him by name?" Seeing the opponent's unfriendly attitude, Ye Fan also stopped being polite and started confronting sharply.

The gatekeeper elder heard this, a hint of anger flashed in his eyes, but he didn't act, instead he coldly said, "What you said needs the ancestor to ask Young Master Wudao first to make a decision. Even if you go in, it is useless."

"Then did Xu Tianqi ask or not?" Ye Fan asked again.

"Now Young Master Wudao is in seclusion, meeting no one, not even the ancestor can see him. Before seeing Young Master Wudao and clarifying the situation, the ancestor will not see you. If you are willing to wait, then wait outside the ancestral land."

The gatekeeper elder's face was icy, not taking Ye Fan and the others seriously at all. Since there was no hope for reconciliation between the two sides and he had Xu Tianqi's directives, he certainly wasn't going to be polite.

Hearing the gatekeeper elder's words, Lv Yuan and Ye Feng, along with the others, instantly understood. The Xu family was neither saying yes nor no, just dragging things out without giving a precise time, clearly intending to postpone the matter indefinitely!

Ye Hei and Wu Zi inwardly cursed the Xu family as shameless. What is this? Not even allowing a meeting, and not letting them into the ancestral land, clearly giving them the cold shoulder!

Lv Zhan, being the most hot-tempered, immediately cursed, "Damn it, your Xu family is utterly shameless, thinking you can drag this out?"

"Such audacity, how dare you speak disrespectfully, you deserve a beating!"

The gatekeeper elder's face changed, and in anger and shame, as he spoke, he swung a palm towards Lv Zhan with a fierce Gangfeng, striking as fast as lightning.

With just one move, Ye Fan could tell that the gatekeeper elder's true strength was definitely at the Mid-level War God Realm's mastery, otherwise, he couldn't be so formidable.

Lv Yuan's eyes glared, and he quickly stepped forward, swinging his hand to meet the blow, forcibly intercepting the gatekeeper elder's attack before it hit Lv Zhan.

Bam!

With a loud crash, Lv Yuan stood unmoved, but the gatekeeper elder staggered back two steps until his back hit the stone wall, his face blushing!

"What do you mean by reaching out to my grandson in front of me?" Lv Yuan coldly asked.

The gatekeeper elder took a deep breath and quickly returned to normal, sharply countering, "Your grandson shows no respect for his elders and lacks upbringing. I just gave him some discipline for you, to teach him a lesson."

Lv Yuan laughed in anger and sneered, "I'll discipline my grandson myself, why do you need to overstep your bounds? Do you really think I'm that easy to bully?"

As he spoke, Lv Zhan stepped forward, throwing a punch at the gatekeeper elder while shouting, "Let me also teach you a lesson on Xu Tianqi's behalf, so you understand that being a watchdog requires a dog's awareness! Some people are not to be trifled with!"

Whoosh!

The gatekeeper elder's face changed drastically. From the earlier palm, he understood he was no match for Lv Yuan, but it was too late to retreat now, so he had to deal with the immediate threat first.

"I'd like to see who I dare not provoke."

Saying this, the gatekeeper elder also threw a punch at Lv Yuan. His whole body surged with energy and blood, as if he transformed into a different person, no longer showing any sign of old age, he struck with a Gang Fist.

Boom!

Their punch rays collided, creating a deafening sound. Lv Zhan did not pause, moved his foot, and rushed toward the gatekeeper elder.

The gatekeeper elder lamented in his heart. The punch just now was his strongest attack, yet it failed to shake off Lv Yuan, immediately realizing he was in trouble.

Seeing Lv Yuan's attack approaching again, the gatekeeper elder used all his strength, delivering an exquisite punch, to exchange another blow with Lv Yuan.

However, the disparity in strength was too vast. Even with all his might, it was useless. The two's Gang Fists collided; Lv Yuan was unharmed, not even his fist trembled. Meanwhile, the gatekeeper elder, like a hit baseball, flew backward in the air, spewing a mouthful of fresh blood, clearly severely injured.

Thud!

The gatekeeper elder flew more than two meters back, crashing heavily onto the hard ground. The color drained from his face, and he became dispirited.

This was Lv Yuan holding back, not wanting to completely tear things apart. Otherwise, with his strength, he could easily kill the gatekeeper elder instantly.

"Lv Yuan, you dare to come to our Xu family and cause trouble, what audacity?!"

After the gatekeeper elder was seriously injured, a voice suddenly came from within the Xu Family Ancestral Land, filled with intense anger.

Once the words were finished, three elders stepped out from the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

Xu Family's Three Masters!

They are the three grandfathers of Xu Wudao, known as the Xu Family's Three Masters, one of the Xu family's foundations!

"Heh... beat the young ones, out come the old ones. Beat the dog, and the dog's owner can't sit still. I thought you wouldn't come out!"

Lv Yuan was unfazed and coldly said, "Xu Changsheng, don't pin big labels on me, it was your family's dog biting people indiscriminately first, I just taught him a lesson, sparing his life already showed you face."

"Courting death!"

A flash of malice appeared in Xu Changsheng's eyes as he moved directly against Lv Yuan. With a lift of his hand, a black light palm appeared instantly, slapping down toward Lv Yuan's head like swatting an ant!

Chapter 983 Group Battle (Owed - 33)

"Xu Changsheng, do you really think I'm afraid of you? Watch me break your Void Palm!"

Lv Yuan spoke, raising the Black Halberd in his hand. With a move resembling a flame reaching the sky, his body spun, and the Black Halberd drilled through the black light palm like a drill, leaving a hole.

Boom——

With a loud bang, the black light palm shattered instantly in the air, causing him no harm!

Xu Changsheng was startled, realizing that the Xu Family's absolute techniques were used too often outside, leading many with intent to come up with countermeasures.

Huff!

However, he was unafraid. Seeing that the Void Palm couldn't subdue the opponent, he transformed his palm into a blade and executed a Void Slash towards Lv Yuan.

The Void Palm is a range attack, while the Void Slash concentrates to a point, and its attack power increased several times, making it much more difficult for Lv Yuan to handle.

Waving the Black Halberd like it was impervious to water, Lv Yuan employed the ancestral halberd technique to withstand Xu Changsheng's swift and more ferocious Void Slash, gradually falling into a disadvantage, with only defensive moves and no chance to counterattack.

Xu Changsheng's cultivation was already slightly superior to Lv Yuan's, and with the Xu Family's exceptionally fierce Void Slash, known for its dominance among Ancient Heavenly Techniques, made the situation even more difficult.

Chopping with his palm, causing ripples in the void, the power was astounding. Lv Yuan, despite giving his all, could barely fend off the tide-like attacks, making any thoughts of counterattack impossible.

Ye Fan noticed this and was about to act, but Ye Feng suddenly shouted, "Xiao Fan, don't move yet, let us handle this!"

Obviously, Killing Emperor Ye Feng and Wu Sect Leader Wushan, both with sharp eyes, noticed Lv Yuan was not Xu Changsheng's match and were also concerned that it was an Xu Family ploy to lure Ye Fan into action, thereby crippling him.

Huff!

Huff!

At this moment, two other elders approached, engaging with the two, preventing them from interfering in the fight between Xu Changsheng and Lv Yuan.

Upon exchanging blows, Ye Feng and Wushan felt a weight in their hearts. The Xu Family's legacy, thriving for thousands of years, indeed had its reasons. The other two of Xu Family's Three Masters were quite remarkable, and it seemed taking them down would require some effort.

Any carelessness not only could prevent them from assisting Lv Yuan but also could lead to their downfall. Immediately, they focused their minds, temporarily putting aside Lv Yuan's situation, to concentrate on dealing with Xu Wudao's two uncles.

Cang Bo, lacking strength, did not participate in the conflict.

Lv Yuan roared repeatedly in anger, but due to being unable to overpower Xu Changsheng, he was continuously pushed back.

Xu Changsheng's palms sent waves of Gang Qi, often disrupting Lv Yuan's halberd techniques before they could be fully deployed, leaving Lv Yuan extremely frustrated and unable to unleash the might of the Lv Family's ancestral techniques.

"Lv Yuan, admit defeat. Consider yourself part of the Hua Xia Cultivation World; I won't make it hard for you. But you must take them and get as far away as possible—Xu Family Ancestral Land is not a place for you!"

Xu Changsheng, with energy to spare, was leisurely and formed a stark contrast with Lv Yuan. While fighting, he could speak, his voice resonating like a bell, full of vitality.

"Screw you, go ahead and kill me if you dare. In the Lv Family, heroes are born, have you seen any Lv Family member surrender willingly?"

Though Lv Yuan could only defend, he was after all a top-tier expert, with enduring energy. Despite being at a disadvantage, his defense was exceptionally tight. Even though Xu Changsheng's palm attacks were fierce, they couldn't break through his defense.

However, maintaining such a tight defense clearly consumed more energy than his opponent. Moreover, to keep up this defense, he had to prevent Xu Changsheng from getting close, otherwise, it would be his end.

The principle of short defeating long, never changes. Xu Changsheng's bare hands were two zhang (about 6.5 feet) shorter than Lv Yuan's long halberd, but they were flexible and varied, with sharp palm winds.

If he managed to get close to Lv Yuan, Lv Yuan would have no choice but to give up his weapon and admit defeat; there would be no way to fight back.

The Black Halberd was very powerful at a distance, but ineffective up close, so he had to ensure Xu Changsheng couldn't close in. Once Xu Changsheng got within range, the fight would be over without suspense.

Ye Feng, skilled in assassination, made attacks that were cunning and deadly, often killing with one hit. Xu Changsheng's second brother faced him and immediately found himself in trouble, forced to dodge continuously without daring to confront him directly.

The reason was simple: Ye Feng fought heedlessly, always with moves leading to mutual destruction, forcing his opponent to gamble with courage, life for life.

This kind of constantly life-threatening combat was something Xu Changsheng's second brother found highly uncomfortable.

Xu Changsheng's third brother facing Wushan was even less fortunate. Wushan, a Magician, excelled in illusion attacks, easily entrapping the opponent in a self-created Illusion Realm with a single move.

Although Wushan couldn't resolve the opponent quickly, the opponent could do nothing but oppose him, trapped in the Illusion Realm and constantly subject to its attacks, keeping their spirits highly tense.

Fortunately, Xu Changsheng's third brother had a fairly strong Martial Arts Will; otherwise, under Wushan's illusion attacks, he might not have lasted long.

At the entrance to the Xu Family Ancestral Land, three factions fought separately, with none interfering with the other, while Ye Fan and others watched from the sidelines.

Besides Ye Fan and Cang Bo, the opportunity to witness such battles up close was tremendously beneficial for the others' future growth.

Should they be able to digest the inspirations from these battles, it would be a significant enhancement to their strength.

"Ignorant fools, I've been lenient, yet you are unaware. Don't blame me for being ruthless then!"

Seeing Lv Yuan still unwilling to concede, Xu Changsheng changed his palm technique, unleashing the Great Void Slash, with even greater power. Each wave of palm radiance like a Heavenly Blade accurately cleaved at the tip of Lv Yuan's yet-to-be-deployed halberd blade, producing a ringing metal clash.

Ye Fan's face changed; among the three, only Lv Yuan was in the most danger. Ye Feng and Wushan had completely grasped the rhythm of the battle, already standing invincible, with ending the fight being only a matter of time.

"Grandpa Lu, I'm here to help you!"

Ye Fan shouted loudly, and with a thought, a flying knife instantly shot out, carrying a ten-foot-long sword light towards Xu Changsheng.

"How dare you!"

Xu Changsheng executed a Great Void Slash, accurately striking the tip of the flying knife, instantly knocking it away.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan also closed in on him, showcasing his prowess in close combat, and launched an Azure Sky Overlord Blood punch towards Xu Changsheng's lower elixir field.

Xu Changsheng was startled; the dantian is a vital part for any martial artist. Even though he was confident in himself, after hearing of Ye Fan's achievement of obliterating Jiang Yurong, he did not dare to be careless and quickly diverted half of his attention to deal with Ye Fan.

Bang!

Xu Changsheng's hand blade chopped onto Ye Fan's fist.

However—

What shocked Xu Changsheng was that his hand blade, when it struck Ye Fan's fist, felt as though it had hit a piece of raw iron, only managing to deflect Ye Fan's fist off its original course, but not shearing it off as he had expected.

Ye Fan's punch missed, and the Gang Qi grazed Xu Changsheng's ribs, blasting into the nearby stone wall and creating a large circular pit with debris flying everywhere, resembling a crater on the surface of the moon.

Xu Changsheng was taken aback, not expecting Ye Fan's attack power to be so formidable, and his expression became particularly grave.

With Ye Fan's assistance, Lv Yuan's pressure was greatly reduced. With a loud shout, he released his pent-up frustration, altering his halberd techniques to become fierce and powerful, unleashing indestructible spear radiance that relentlessly struck Xu Changsheng's vital areas.

Ye Fan used both Magic and Martial Arts, confronting Xu Changsheng's Great Void Slash with the Domineering Fist while simultaneously manipulating the Xuanye Flying Blade to assassinate him with Flowing Light.

The pressure on Xu Changsheng doubled immediately. He was being attacked by the two of them until he was drenched in sweat, unable to counterattack, and was in a hazardous situation.

"Heh heh, fortunes rotating, next year it's my family; old man, why aren't you showing off anymore?"

Lv Zhan never let his mouth be idle. Just now when Lv Yuan was at a disadvantage, he kept silent. Now that Ye Fan's intervention had turned the tide, the two sides had swapped roles in attack and defense. With Xu Changsheng being attacked by both of them and struggling awkwardly, he couldn't hold back from speaking up.

"Hiss~"

Xu Changsheng was so infuriated by Lv Zhan's words that he almost passed out!

At this moment, he had long lost his composure and didn't even have the space to speak, let alone distraction, or else he would immediately suffer fierce attacks from both of them.

Lv Yuan's halberd techniques, once unfolded, were astonishingly powerful, each move deadly, while Ye Fan could not be underestimated. Xu Changsheng even felt that Ye Fan posed a greater threat to him than Lv Yuan.

Because although Lv Yuan's halberd was fierce, its attack speed was not fast, and with his Void Slash, he could completely force Lv Yuan to not fully exploit the halberd's characteristics.

But Ye Fan was different. The Domineering Fist was extremely peculiar, with Primordial Qi attached to each punch, making it explosively powerful.

The deadly part was that Ye Fan also enjoyed close combat, and his physical strength was extraordinarily formidable. At least Xu Changsheng believed that even a cultivator in the High-level War God Realm might not have as strong a physique as Ye Fan.

On top of that, Ye Fan possessed the absolute technique of Flying Knife Assassination, highlighting the initial potency of the Manipulation Stream magician.

Previously, all cultivators believed that the Illusion Technique stream was the viable path for magicians, dismissing the Manipulation Stream, but Ye Fan's Flying Knife Assassination had broken this myth!

For long-range attacks, there was the Flying Knife Assassination and Lv Zhan's big halberd; for close-range, Ye Fan's Iron Fist. Xu Changsheng, fighting two at once, holding out for so long, was already a miracle. Unfortunately, he was already powerless, and facing the joint attack from Ye Fan and Lv Yuan, he was completely on the defensive, with the risk of death at any moment.

Swoosh—

Taking advantage of Xu Changsheng blocking Lv Yuan's spear radiance, Ye Fan secretly activated the fourth style of "Flying Sword Skill," 'Surging Rainbow,' propelling the flying knife. The Xuanye Flying Blade's ten-foot-long sword light contracted into a one-foot seven-colored flowing light, like a surging rainbow, shooting towards Xu Changsheng!

Even before the knife arrived, Xu Changsheng instinctively felt the power of this strike, hastily mustering his nearly exhausted Gang Qi, slashing three consecutive Great Void Slashes, barely deflecting the flying knife and escaping death.

However—

By this time, Ye Fan had already closed in. Seizing the instant when Xu Changsheng was distracted by dealing with the flying knife, he struck Xu Changsheng's chest with an Azure Sky Overlord Blood punch.

"Pfft—"

Xu Changsheng spat out a mouthful of blood, his entire body collapsing backward, a concave fist seal appearing on his chest, his entire Gang Qi being dispersed, lying on the ground almost like a dead dog.

Meanwhile, the battles of Ye Feng and Wushan were also reaching their conclusion, both having gained the upper hand, victory was only a matter of time.

"Stop!"

At this moment, an angry shout resonated!

Xu Tianqi appeared!

Chapter 984 Dominance Over the Weak (Owed - 34)

The Xu Family's Three Masters forcefully took action, engaging in a fierce battle with Ye Fan, Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, and Wushan, but found themselves at a disadvantage.

At this moment, Xu Tianqi suddenly appeared.

In an instant, a terrifying aura surged from the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

The aura surged, and a figure appeared!

Xu Tianqi stepped on Gang Qi, taking a step forward, he arrived outside the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

Swish swish swish swish...

Seeing this, Ye Fan and the others quickly retreated.

Xu Tianqi's cultivation was unfathomable, even if they all attacked together, they wouldn't be able to shake him. Therefore, they dared not confront him head-on.

Xu Tianqi walked out of the Xu Family Ancestral Land, expressionless, as he took out a porcelain bottle from his bosom and poured out three Elixir Pills, tossing them to Xu Changsheng and the others.

The three individuals instinctively caught the Elixir Pills, swallowed them directly, and sat cross-legged on the ground to catalyze the pills and heal their injuries. Their hearts were filled with humiliation, not daring to even glance at Xu Tianqi.

Besides that, there was also shock!

Among them, Xu Changsheng felt the most shocked. Through the exchange of blows, he realized that although Ye Fan's realm was still at the Mid-level War God Realm, his real combat power was comparable to the overlords of the High-level War God Realm, or even stronger!

Amidst his shock, Xu Tianqi also understood that Ye Fan must not be allowed to remain, lest he become a major threat in the future. However, infuriatingly, he himself did not have the capability to kill Ye Fan now; he could only place his hopes on his father, Xu Tianqi.

"In my memory, there's never been anyone bold enough to come to the Xu Family to cause trouble, let alone injure people of our Xu Family. You all have guts!"

Xu Tianqi scanned the faces of Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, Wushan, and the others with a grim expression.

"You will pay for your actions!"

With that, Xu Tianqi suddenly struck, a Void Slash slashed across Wushan's body, making him cough up blood and fall backward.

Immediately, Xu Tianqi kicked out like lightning, a Qi Ray whistled through the air, shooting towards Lv Yuan.

Lv Yuan couldn't dodge at all, was hit by the Qi Ray, his Protective Aura dimmed, and he flew backward, spewing a mouthful of blood, his face turning extremely pale.

Amid the shock of everyone, Xu Tianqi struck again, throwing out a hand transformed from Gang Qi towards Ye Feng.

Although Ye Feng was known for his speed and dodged as quickly as possible, he was still affected by the Qi Fist, sent flying, blood seeping from his lips.

Powerful, domineering!

Xu Tianqi struck successively, instantly injuring Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, and Wushan!

"Grandpa..."

"Dad!"

"Ancestor..."

Lv Zhan, Ye Hei, and Wu Zi's expressions changed; full of worry, they rushed to the side of Lv Yuan and the others, quickly taking out Nirvana Pills to heal them.

Crack!

Ye Fan clenched his fists tightly, extremely angry but didn't impulsively strike!

Because through Xu Tianqi's previous moves, he could see that Xu Tianqi's cultivation had reached a miraculous level, comparable to Master Yan, one of the strongest in the world!

Although he did not rashly act, Ye Fan shouted angrily: "The Xu Family spread rumors saying I died in the Forbidden Land to cheat Hidden God List rewards, and now you've injured Senior Lv Yuan and the others, it's simply intolerable!"

Intolerable?

Xu Tianqi laughed, speaking coldly: "Kid, the rewards were decided by the War God Alliance. If you're not happy, go find Yan instead of bringing people to cause trouble at the Xu Family."

"Cause trouble? The first to strike was your Xu Family's guard dog!!" Ye Fan shouted angrily.

"Young and impulsive can be understood. I can give you a chance to reform. Hmm, if you leave immediately, I won't hold the previous matters against you, otherwise, don't blame me for being impolite!"

Xu Tianqi sneered continuously, if not for the concern that keeping them all might anger Yan, he would have killed Ye Fan and the others immediately.

What is called shameless?

What is called the pinnacle of brazenness?

Ye Fan saw it vividly in Xu Tianqi, dodging left and right, avoiding the crucial points without directly answering the questions.

"Xu Tianqi, your Xu Family is bullying people too much!!"

All of this angered Ye Fan to madness, murderous intent instantly released, momentum continuously rising as he secretly contacted Elder Xuan, attempting to awaken Elder Xuan to slay Xu Tianqi.

"Ye Fan, don't!"

"Ye Fan, don't be impulsive, impulsiveness is the devil, you're just throwing your life away without solving any problems."

Su Liuli and Chu Ji hurriedly advised Ye Fan upon seeing this, they knew well that even if Ye Fan had limitless potential, there was no chance of defeating Xu Tianqi given the vast disparity in their realms.

Without answering, Ye Fan's anger burned, murderous intent frantically rising, his clothes fluttered without wind, Protective Gang Qi thickening to a foot, his entire body emanating a faint golden glow, like a real-life Golden Arhat.

"Ye Fan, calm down, you're not helping the situation, it's meaningless!"

Chu Ji, having been in society for years, though her cultivation hadn't advanced, had seen through human nature.

At this moment, she clutched Ye Fan's hand, saying urgently: "Calm down, he's deliberately provoking you to act impulsively, then use that as a pretext to cripple you, can't you see? Go outside and find Master Yan to uphold justice."

Hearing Chu Ji's words and unable to connect with Elder Xuan, Ye Fan gradually calmed down, analyzed briefly, and immediately understood Xu Tianqi's malicious intent.

Chu Ji was right, if he had acted impulsively against Xu Tianqi, then he would have a reason to strike back at him.

Compared to such a Supreme Strongman like Xu Tianqi, the difference was too great; he could easily cripple him.

If he were crippled, even Yan's arrival would be too late to help!

"Hoo~"

Ye Fan took a deep breath, slowly retracting his exposed murderous intent, his eyes gradually returning to clarity from a crimson red.

Xu Tianqi sighed inwardly, realizing the plan to cripple Ye Fan wouldn't work. Whether it was letting the gatekeeper act or having Xu Changsheng and the others show up, it was all Xu Tianqi's arrangement with one goal—to provoke Ye Fan, force Ye Fan to make a move, and then seize the opportunity to cripple Ye Fan!

As for killing Ye Fan, he did not intend to. Firstly, he feared Master Yan causing him trouble.

A man's name is a shadow of the tree; with Yan sitting atop the Divine and Dragon Rankings, being number one isn't without basis.

He wasn't confident he could remain undefeated when facing Yan!

Secondly, the dead feel no pain; keeping Ye Fan alive could increase his suffering, making it more meaningful than killing him.

Unfortunately, this plot was seen through by Chu Ji, stopping Ye Fan from making another mistake and disrupting his plan, causing slight regret in his heart.

Seeing he couldn't awaken Elder Xuan to kill Xu Tianqi, Ye Fan quickly moved to Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, and Wushan.

The lightly injured Ye Feng, with his strong cultivation, quickly recovered to eighty percent, though still shouldn't act, as it might worsen his injuries.

Lv Yuan's injuries were the heaviest, looking somewhat terrifying, with blood still at the corner of his mouth, his Big Halberd across his chest.

At this time, their hearts were heavy; only now did they realize how powerful Xu Tianqi was, daring to confront Yan, he truly had the strength!

After a moment, Lv Yuan finally stabilized his injuries, using Secret Techniques to suppress them as this was definitely not the best place for healing.

Wushan and Ye Feng also finished their healing, standing by Ye Fan, showing their support.

Xu Changsheng and the others stopped their healing as well, though their faces were still a bit unnatural, they were much better compared to Lv Yuan and the others.

"Xu Tianqi, you truly go to any lengths to kill me!"

Seeing Lv Yuan and the others stabilizing their injuries, Ye Fan's gaze was as sharp as a knife, fixing on Xu Tianqi: "Today's matter won't end here. One day, I will return to the Xu Family Ancestral Land!"

"Heh, not to mention a wet-behind-the-ears brat like you, what difference would it make if Yan came??"
Xu Changsheng sneered coldly.

"Xu Changsheng, are you trying to spar with me?!"

As Xu Changsheng's words fell, a voice suddenly boomed!

With those words, a figure appeared!

Yan stepped on Gang Qi, like a streak of Flowing Light, swiftly approaching!

Chapter 985 Yan's Arrival

Swish!

Xu Changsheng's face suddenly changed. Speak of the devil, and he shall appear. He had just said the Xu Family did not fear Yan, and Yan immediately showed up.

At this moment, Xu Changsheng felt like dying!

Because he knew very well that even though the Xu Family had been around for thousands of years, making it the oldest Martial Arts Family in Huaxia with a strong foundation, they still somewhat feared Yan. Otherwise, Xu Tianqi would have long replaced Yan in controlling the War God Alliance.

Seeing Yan's timely appearance, Lv Yuan and others quietly breathed a sigh of relief. He, along with Ye Feng and Wushan, had just been injured. Although the Nirvana Pill could allow them to recover their injuries in a short time, they were no longer suitable to fight. Moreover, even if they did, they were far from being Xu Tianqi's match. If Yan hadn't come, they would have had no choice but to leave aggrieved.

The three exchanged glances, standing in perfect synergy behind Yan, forming a standoff against the four members of the Xu Family.

Faced with Yan's aggressive momentum, Xu Changsheng forced a dry laugh and said, "Yan, you are the number one strongman of this era; how dare I spar with you?"

The situation was stronger than people, Xu Changsheng understood this very well, and now was not the time to tear faces with Yan. Even if there was a glimmer of hope, they didn't want to oppose the Supreme Strongman who firmly occupied the first place on both lists.

"So arrogant earlier, acting like Yan Master was nothing, and now how did he become so cowardly? So obsequious after boasting, what a joke!"

Lv Zhan mumbled a sentence behind the crowd, loud enough for Xu Changsheng to hear, instantly making his face blush like a big red cloth.

Xu Changsheng glared fiercely at Lv Zhan, not speaking, but the warning in his eyes was intense.

Meanwhile, Xu Tianqi and his two other sons directed their gaze toward Yan, the former with a playful look, and the latter two with deep apprehension.

Lv Zhan stared back at Xu Changsheng fearlessly. Now that Yan was here, the situation had changed drastically, and he was confident. At this moment, Xu Changsheng definitely wouldn't dare to lay a hand on him.

Ye Hei, Wu Zi, and Xiao Selang were also very excited. Xu Tianqi's power had shocked everyone, and with one move, he injured Lv Yuan and the three strongest, making them feel especially stifled.

But now, with Yan's arrival, the momentum of the Xu Family was directly suppressed.

"What does Yan intend to do?"

"Is he really going to tear faces with a giant like the Xu Family for Ye Fan?"

Representatives of the Five Great Families all whispered in their hearts but said nothing. Instead, they watched coldly to see if Yan would really fight the Xu Family to the end for Ye Fan.

From what they knew about Master Yan, they believed that Yan would definitely not break with the Xu Family for Ye Fan's reward. That would greatly weaken Yan's prestige in the War God Alliance, which would not be conducive to the stability of the global Cultivation World.

"Master Yan, you're just in time. Please uphold justice for me and Liu Li and help us reclaim the Essence Stones we deserve from the Hidden God List rewards."

Ye Fan suppressed his excitement, came before Master Yan, and bowed deeply, recounting everything that happened after he and Lv Yuan arrived.

Master Yan frowned and looked at Xu Tianqi, the latter showing an indifferent expression, as if what Ye Fan said had nothing to do with him.

"Master Xu, why won't the Xu Family return the rewarded Essence Stones? And why did they injure them?"

After listening to Ye Fan's account, Yan's heart burned with rage, but to avoid tearing faces with the Xu Family, he forcibly suppressed his anger and spoke to Xu Tianqi.

"Why should I return the Essence Stones? Simply based on their words? Their one-sided words mean I should return the Essence Stones? Ridiculous!"

Xu Tianqi was utterly unyielding and didn't provide any so-called explanation, maintaining an extremely tough stance.

"Furthermore, the rewarded Essence Stones were decided by the War God Alliance's collective meeting. No one has the right to change that. Until the War God Alliance changes its decision, my attitude will not change!"

Yan's eyebrows twitched, Xu Tianqi was clearly being unreasonable, using the War God Alliance as a shield, refusing to hand over the rewards due to Ye Fan and Su Liuli.

"Xu Tianqi!"

This time, Yan called his name directly, shouted sternly: "Don't forget, the War God Alliance made that decision because your great-grandson spread rumors that everyone who entered the Forbidden Land died, misleading the world. On that basis, the War God Alliance decided to distribute the rewards."

"Now that Ye Fan and Su Liuli have both appeared, it proves that your great-grandson lied, deceiving all members of the War God Alliance, and fraudulently took the rewards originally belonging to Ye Fan and others. According to the rules of the Hidden God List competition, now that Xiao Fan and the others are out, the rewards should be given to them."

"Yan, although you are the Alliance Hierarchy of the War God Alliance, you can't cover the sky with one hand, saying whatever goes. The decision was collectively passed by all Vice Alliance Hierarchs and above, you have no right to change the War God Alliance's decision."

At this point, Xu Tianqi shifted the focus, continuing: "If you want to gain a good reputation by giving them rewards, I won't object, you can entirely call on all major alliances to gather the Essence Stones for them, but we, the Xu Family, will not be part of this."

"Xu Tianqi, I understand your meaning, you're determined not to return the Essence Stones, can I take it that way?"

Yan's voice chilled, a faintly suppressible killing intent quietly emanated from him, causing the surrounding temperature to drop slightly.

Lv Yuan and others gasped, involuntarily taking two steps back, although Yan was not targeting them, that powerful killing intent was still somewhat unbearable for them.

Just how powerful has Yan become?

Why is the murderous aura so intense??

As the Killing Emperor, Ye Feng, who is also a master on the Divine List, is particularly sensitive to murderous aura. In an instant, he understood that Yan was truly enraged. It seems this matter will not be easily resolved.

The representatives of the Five Great Families also sensed Yan's faint murderous aura and were shocked in their hearts. However, they still did not believe that Yan would fight with the Xu Family to the end over a mere Ye Fan. It would be unwise.

Given Yan's character of always considering the bigger picture, he would absolutely not do such a thing. Ye Fan would likely have to swallow his anger this time.

Not only will the Xu Family not return the Essence Stone unless the Xu Family is subdued, the Luoke Family will also not return the Essence Stone. After all, it is the foundation of their family's power, a strategic resource that nobody would easily hand over.

"That old coffin dweller, so miserably arrogant, and he dares to face Master Yan with such confidence. Aren't they afraid that Master Yan might annihilate their Xu Family in a fit of rage?"

Lv Zhan, Xiao Selang, Ye Hei, and others gathered together, quietly discussing, all believing that the Xu Family was too arrogant, especially Xu Tianqi, who relied on his powerful strength and didn't even show Master Yan respect, clearly relying on some backer.

Ye Hei smiled broadly and said, "Don't worry, according to my guess, Master Yan will definitely not let this slide. The more that old coffin dweller jumps around, the harder he will fall."

They did not speak quietly, so their voices naturally reached the representatives of the Five Great Families who were nearby.

Hearing these young ones referring to Xu Tianqi as a coffin dweller, those representatives looked at each other in dismay.

Why are the younger generations nowadays so audacious? They have no respect for us, their predecessors, and speak so sarcastically and insidiously.

They were even thinking about what would happen if this 'old coffin dweller' phrase reached Xu Tianqi's ears.

Facing the murderous aura emanating from Yan, Xu Tianqi fell silent for the first time, his expression changing constantly. Finally, he gritted his teeth and said, "The decision made by the War God Alliance

cannot be changed lightly. Returning the Essence Stone is absolutely impossible! My stance will not change!"

"Hahaha..."

Yan, extremely angry, laughed instead. After laughing twice, he suddenly stopped and said with a chilling voice, "The so-called decision by the War God Alliance was made on the basis of your great-grandson Xu Wudao misleading the world with lies. It holds no weight."

"Strictly speaking, your great-grandson Xu Wudao purposely spread rumors to deceive and win the reward of the Hidden God List. He should be severely punished!"

These words were decisive, leaving Xu Tianqi speechless. His expression continually changed, and he subtly signaled Xu Changsheng, who immediately understood and quietly retreated into the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

Ye Fan sighed with emotion. This is the true strength of a power figure. When will I be able to speak as boldly as this, overpowering an ancient family?

Ye Fan believed that day would soon come. He was full of confidence in himself. With the enhancement of the Creation Pill, his life has evolved to a level that ordinary people find difficult to comprehend!

The representatives of the Five Great Families were inwardly alarmed, realizing that Yan might indeed break ties with the formidable Xu Family for Ye Fan, otherwise, he wouldn't have said such things.

Does he truly believe he can overpower the Xu Family and seek justice for Ye Fan?

The representatives of the Five Great Families had some doubts. They all knew that in the Cultivation World, it was entirely different from the Mortal World; strength is the best passport. Without absolute strength, fairness is impossible to achieve.

In the Cultivation World, where the strong are respected, there is no concept of absolute fairness, and nobody pays attention to the justice of a small cultivator.

Only strength can gain recognition. Although Ye Fan is a demon among the younger generation, leading his peers, in the eyes of these elder Supreme Strongmen, he is still nothing more than an ant.

If it weren't for Yan backing him up, no family would treat him as anything significant and might even mobilize experts in their family to kill him on his path to growth.

"Punish Wudao? Yan, are you joking?" Xu Tianqi sneered and said.

However—

As soon as he finished speaking, an extremely terrifying aura instantly emanated from Yan, as if an ancient giant stood before him, forcing him to swallow the words he was about to say and look at Yan with astonishment.

Swish!

At the same time, everyone else was dumbfounded and changed colors!

Because...

They all felt that Yan's aura was stronger than before!

"How is this possible? Could it be that Yan has truly broken through and entered that legendary domain??"

In the next moment, almost everyone had this thought surge in their hearts.

Chapter 986 The Legendary Domain

In the modern cultivation world, the Top-level War God realm is the ultimate realm, and no one can break through it.

Theoretically speaking, when a cultivator reaches the Top-level War God Realm, their Gang Qi has already been compressed to an extreme realm. Forcing further compression would inevitably lead to an explosion, and the cultivator forcing the compression might not leave even bones behind, being blasted to smithereens by their Gang Qi.

Ever since the increase in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, after the cultivation speed of cultivators improved, no one has ever reached that legendary realm.

According to ancient records, when Gang Qi is compressed into a liquid, both the cultivator's body and strength undergo earth-shattering changes.

This legendary realm is called the True Essence Realm, but it only exists in ancient records, and no one has ever truly succeeded.

Among the top ten cultivators in the Divine List, Chu Xuanji and Bodhi Wu Yin are no longer present. As a supreme strongman, Yan can be said to be at the forefront of the global cultivation world, a guiding light for everyone.

However—

Even he has been stuck at the Top-level War God Realm for countless years without taking that crucial step forward.

And now, everyone feels that Yan's aura is stronger than at any time they've seen before. They instinctively believe Yan has made some breakthrough, shattering the legend of that forbidden realm, stepping into the legendary domain.

Meanwhile, they have doubts. According to ancient records, when a cultivator successfully compresses all their Gang Qi into liquid, the whole person will undergo earth-shattering changes, but Yan's aura only surpasses the past without any significant changes.

Half a step into the legendary domain!

At that moment, representatives of the Five Great Families and others like Xu Tianqi deduced that Yan had not fully succeeded, only half succeeded!

But this already terrified them. The True Essence Realm has blocked countless supreme strong people, and until now, no one in the global cultivation world has touched the threshold of the True Essence Realm. Yan is already half a step ahead.

Do not underestimate this half-step difference. Yan now can absolutely sweep through the entire cultivation world, even if the Xu Family is strong, they cannot defeat Yan at this moment.

Lv Yuan and others' eyes lit up. They deeply understood what breaking through to the True Essence Realm meant for a cultivator.

Yan's experience is a treasure of inestimable value for any cultivator. They believe that when they finally reach a bottleneck one day, Yan will certainly share his experience with them.

Compared to Lv Yuan and the representatives of the Five Great Families, Xu Tianqi was even more astonished. He was also a Top-level War God realm cultivator, deeply understanding what that half-step forward meant for cultivators like them.

Originally, he had confidence in battling Yan, even if he couldn't win; Yan defeating him wasn't easy. But now, his confidence was shaken.

A half-step difference leads to a vast difference in strength; he was definitely not Yan's opponent.

At that moment, he deeply rejoiced in what he saw as the wisest decision he made earlier!

Under the pressure as massive as a mountain from Yan, Xu Tianqi reluctantly asked, "Yan, are you dead set on standing up for that Ye Family kid and seizing the Essence Stone?"

"Seizing?"

Yan said coldly, "I'm merely helping Xiao Fan retrieve what originally belongs to him! Also, to inform the world that even though Brother Xuanji is no longer here, no one can bully Ye Fan!"

Ye Fan's heart trembled, a warm flow passed through his heart, his nose a bit sour, both feeling Yan's determination behind those words and thinking of his master who had always been so kind to him.

He also felt the brotherly bond between Yan and his master, blood thicker than water; Yan was really going all out for him.

Lv Zhan and others were also shocked, knowing that Yan's words would soon spread throughout the cultivation world, clearly showing he would back Ye Fan completely. From now on, any family wanting to deal with Ye Fan would have to reconsider their weight.

Representatives of the Five Great Families looked at each other, seeing the shock in each other's eyes, calculating internally that this matter needed to be reported to their clan leaders quickly. They absolutely couldn't take any retaliatory actions against Ye Fan, otherwise, it might bring about a calamity upon their clans.

Xu Tianqi's face turned ashen, coldly warning, "Yan! I always thought you considered the bigger picture, didn't expect you to be so irrational. I advise you one last time, don't ruin the unity of the War God Alliance for selfish desires..."

"Enough nonsense. I've made myself very clear. I'll ask you one last time, the Essence Stone, will your Xu Family return it or not?"

Yan interrupted Xu Tianqi, directly pressing him without leaving any room, since things had reached an irreparable point, might as well make it big, also sending a warning to the other five ancient families to prevent them from scheming in secret.

"Not returning!"

Xu Tianqi's face constantly changed, seemingly struggling internally, finally hardening his heart with resolution not to bow down or yield at this time.

For a cultivator, especially for an ancient family with a long heritage, face is more important than anything else. If they compromised this time, the Xu Family wouldn't be able to hold their head high among the other Five Great Families again.

With the words spoken, Xu Tianqi's figure flashed, retreating directly into the Xu Family Ancestral Land, catching everyone, including Yan, off guard.

At the same time, a loud noise echoed through the sky; the gates of the Xu Family Ancestral Land closed, the Defensive Formation activated, each of the core Xu Family members guarding an Array Eye, pushing the formation's operation with all their might.

In an instant, the Xu Family Ancestral Land was enveloped in a powerful defensive formation, blocking Yan and Ye Fan and the others outside.

"What?!"

The sudden change left everyone present dumbfounded. Who would have thought that the Xu Family had planned this all along? Seeing that things couldn't end peacefully, they retreated to the ancestral land and activated the defensive formation.

Under such circumstances, even if Yan broke through the half-step, he might find himself helpless against the Xu Family.

The representatives of the Five Great Families looked schadenfreudely at Yan, curious to see how he would handle the situation.

They hadn't expected the Xu Family to pull such a move, but they all thought Xu Tianqi executed it brilliantly. No matter how powerful Yan was, he might not be able to break through the Xu Family's defensive formation.

Their own families had ancestral lands similar to the Xu Family's and were well aware of the power of a defensive formation, something that couldn't be broken by mere human strength.

They were naturally pleased to see Xu Tianqi's assertiveness. If Yan mishandled the situation, it could severely impact his status.

"Leader Yan, let's just drop it. You can't break the defensive formation. Better to stop now while you can; it won't tarnish your invincible reputation. After all, they've already taken refuge in their ancestral land."

The representative of the Ross family looked at Yan with a face full of glee. On the surface, he seemed to advise Yan to protect his reputation, but secretly, he was mocking him for being unable to break just a defensive formation.

"Shut up! What business is it of yours? Even if Zorn were here, he wouldn't dare speak to Master Yan like that. Who do you think you are?"

Lv Yuan was extremely displeased. He had always thought that with Yan's arrival, no matter how overbearing the Xu Family was, they wouldn't dare have a direct confrontation with Master Yan and would eventually return the Essence Stone.

But he never expected Xu Tianqi to pull such a stunt, hiding behind the defensive formation and stubbornly refusing to hand over the Essence Stone.

His mood was already bad, and the Ross family's words only added fuel to the fire. Before Yan could speak, he sharply rebuked them.

"You..."

The representative of the Ross family was seething but knew he was no match for Lv Yuan, so he had no choice but to glare at him hatefully and keep his mouth shut.

He had no doubt that if he continued to confront Lv Yuan, he might just get beaten up in front of everyone, which would be a huge loss of face.

His own embarrassment mattered little, but if the Ross family were humiliated because of him, that would be a problem!

"Damn it, the Xu Family is utterly shameless. Hiding in a turtle shell—what kind of hero is that? If they have the guts, come out and face Master Yan in three hundred rounds!"

Even the usually calm Ye Hei couldn't help but curse. They were all indignant for Ye Fan.

Originally, Xu Wudao spread rumors and tricked people for rewards, and the Xu Family was protective, refusing to hand over the Essence Stone. Now they're hiding behind the defensive formation and won't come out.

Lv Zhan chimed in, "You're giving Xu Tianqi way too much credit. He's nothing but an old coward. If he dared to come out, Master Yan could take him down in less than ten moves. How could there even be three hundred rounds? He's unworthy!"

The two sang in unison, making the beard of Xu Tianqi in the formation stand on end with rage. He had the urge to crush them but reasoned that going out was a bad idea. He couldn't defeat Yan and leaving the defensive formation would mean losing his last line of defense.

Over the years, the Xu Family Ancestral Land had accumulated a massive stock of Essence Stones, entirely capable of sustaining the defensive formation's consumption.

As long as no one attacked, they could hold out for years. This ancient defensive formation handed down through generations was the crystallization of several generations' efforts, not something easily breached.

Besides Xu Changsheng and others, all the Xu Family's core members were stationed at the Array Eye, monitoring the formation's operation. If needed, they could channel Gang Qi into the formation to enhance its power.

"Xu Tianqi, do you think hiding in the ancestral land means I can't deal with you? Today, the Xu Family must return the Essence Stone, or I will never relent!"

Yan coldly looked at the operating formation, deciding to force a breakthrough and enter the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

"If you have the ability, then break the formation! If you can indeed break the Xu Family's defensive formation, I'll willingly return the Essence Stone. Otherwise, there's nothing to discuss!"

Xu Tianqi sneered, convinced that Yan couldn't possibly break the family's defensive formation, believing it might even get Yan killed by the formation.

If Yan died, then no one in the cultivation world could suppress him, and he would stand as the supreme cultivator globally. Naturally, the Xu Family's status would rise along with it!

"Xu Tianqi, you're playing with fire!"

Yan shouted coldly, then turned to Ye Fan, saying, "Xiao Fan, give me the Yanhuang Furnace, and I'll take you to break the formation together!!"

Chapter 987 Break the Formation

The Defensive Formation of the Xu Family Ancestral Land shimmered with light, containing tremendous power.

Whoosh!

Yan brought Ye Fan before the Defensive Formation, shouted loudly, and used the Yanhuang Furnace to pave the way, fiercely smashing it towards the Defensive Formation!

Boom——

With a loud bang, the formation trembled violently and immediately rolled over, sweeping the two of them into the formation.

Sword light and killing intent enveloped the two like a spider web, carrying a terrifying murderous aura. Ye Fan had no doubt that if these sword lights pierced him, even his Nine Heavens Profound Body might not withstand it.

"Kill!"

Ye Fan shouted abruptly, punching at the sword light attacking him, directly using the second style of the Domineering Fist, Azure Sky Overlord Blood, dispersing the sword light in the air with a single punch.

Meanwhile, Master Yan used the Yanhuang Furnace to block the sword light and punched forward, hoping to break the Defensive Formation.

However——

The effort was in vain. Yan's Gang Fist merely dimmed the formation but did not shatter it. Several of the main Array Eyes absorbed Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi even faster, and the Energy within each Essence Stone was absorbed and turned to dust.

Under the urging of the Xu Family members, the Defensive Formation launched a powerful offensive, trying to grind Yan and Ye Fan, who forcefully broke into the formation, within it.

As a result, Ye Fan suddenly felt the pressure double, as if all the pressure was squeezing from all directions, forcing him to bring out his strongest power to resist the overwhelming pressure.

Yan remained unfazed, letting out an angry roar, Qi flowing through his hair, standing his black hair on end, as if he transformed into an Asura War God, his eyes bursting with strong light. His aura instantly soared to its peak, activating the Defensive Formation of the Yanhuang Furnace, blocking the sword light while punching time and again at the Xu Family's Defensive Formation.

Ye Fan's entire body emanated a faint golden light, exerting his physical strength to the extreme, dispersing the sword light attacking him with one punch. Meanwhile, with a thought, three flying knives, each carrying a sword light a meter long, flitted up and down, protecting him from being pierced by the sword light.

As time passed, Yan and Ye Fan still could not break the Defensive Formation. Although each of Yan's punches caused the formation to tremble violently, it was fundamentally unbreakable, only slightly dimming the radiance of the formation.

With massive Essence Stones supporting it, the Xu Family wasn't worried at all. They firmly believed Yan couldn't break the formation and instead was seeking his own doom, eventually to be slowly worn down by the formation until he was obliterated.

Outside the Xu Family Ancestral Land, Lv Yuan and others looked worried. They only saw Yan and Ye Fan rush into the formation but couldn't see what was happening inside.

So much time had passed, and the formation was still operating. Although its radiance dimmed a bit, it showed no signs of collapsing, indicating that the two were surely encountering trouble inside.

"Grandpa, do you think Master Yan and Ye Zi have encountered any trouble? I have a bad premonition!" Lv Zhan whispered to his grandpa. They hadn't entered the formation, but the terrifying waves and thunderous sounds coming from the formation suggested that Master Yan and Ye Fan were struggling against the formation.

"The situation doesn't look good!"

Lv Yuan couldn't be sure either. The Xu Family's Defensive Formation was terrifying enough to make his heart palpitate, deeply worrying him about Yan and Ye Fan. If anything happened to them, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"The Xu Family's Defensive Formation is too perverse. Even with one foot into the legendary domain, Master Yan still can't break through!" Ye Hei muttered, deeply concerned for Ye Fan.

Su Liuli and Chu Ji said nothing, just frowned, watching the Xu Family Ancestral Land worriedly, hoping Ye Fan and Yan succeed in breaking the formation.

Meanwhile, representatives from the Five Great Families snickered. Although they couldn't see what was happening inside the formation, they knew Yan and Ye Fan were in big trouble.

"The Defensive Formation is a family's fundamental survival mechanism. How could it possibly be broken so easily? Although Yan seems to have one foot in the legendary domain, breaking the formation is impossible, and he might even die because of this."

The representatives from the Five Great Families gloated, waiting to see Yan and Ye Fan's failure. They believed Yan definitely couldn't break the Defensive Formation and would inevitably end in failure.

People outside couldn't see Master Yan and Ye Fan inside the formation, but the Xu Family members within could.

Watching Yan continuously strike the formation to no effect, Xu Tianqi displayed a mocking smile, leisurely sitting on a Taishi Chair, holding a purple sand teapot, drinking water while saying, "Keep hitting, let me see how long you can hold out!"

"Haha... The ancestor was right. I see Yan is seeking death. Our Xu Family's Defensive Formation has withstood thousands of years of storms; how could it be so easily broken?"

"He thinks himself powerful but is merely seeking his own death. A person courting death cannot be prevented, so we shall fulfill his wish."

The Xu Family members guarding the main Array Eyes manipulated the formation while arrogantly praising their family's Defensive Formation, confident in its effectiveness.

Xu Wudao also came over from the Cold Pond. Such a major event caused the entire Xu Family to leave seclusion, for it concerned the family's survival, leaving no room for negligence.

Initially, Xu Wudao was a bit worried that their family's Defensive Formation might not withstand Yan's onslaught.

But seeing Yan exhaust himself yet unable to break the formation, he relaxed, slyly saying, "Yan is seeking death. For a mere Ye Fan, he provoked our Xu Family, and this day next year will be his death anniversary!"

As he spoke, the strong Xu Family members guarding the major Array Eyes began injecting Gang Qi into them, enhancing the formation's power, intending to wear Yan and Ye Fan to death within it.

"Congratulations to Ancestor, starting tomorrow, the Ancestor will be the number one in the global cultivation world, and the position of the War God Alliance Hierarch naturally belongs to Ancestor!"

Xu Wudao came to Xu Tianqi with a happy smile on his face.

Xu Tianqi smiled and nodded, saying: "Dao'er, sit by my side, let us enjoy a good show and see how Yan breaks our Defensive Formation."

As he spoke, Xu Tianqi ordered, "Everyone, pay attention, do not worry about the consumption of Essence Stones, even if they are all used up it does not matter. Strengthen the formation's power, I want to see how long they can hold on!"

The Xu Family's main forces received the order and immediately accelerated the input of Essence Stones. A large number of Essence Stones were piled near the Array Eye, with the enormous Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi surging furiously into the formation, greatly enhancing the Defensive Formation's power.

At this time, Ye Fan was already in a very embarrassing state. If not for his strong resilience, he would have been unable to sustain this long. Even so, the consumption of Gang Qi was astonishing.

As the Xu Family members strengthened the formation's power, the sword light and killing aura became sharper. The Yanhuang Furnace's defensive formation alone was no longer sufficient, and he was stabbed by the sword light several times.

Under the effect of Protective Gang Qi, he barely blocked that sharp sword light. His Nine Heavens Profound Body had made some progress, and he also consumed a Creation Pill in the Forbidden Land. His body's strength was comparable to a Magic Artifact, and the sword light only left white spots on his skin.

Although his body could block the sword light, his clothes did not have this function. In an instant, Ye Fan's clothes were riddled with holes, turning into rags that even a beggar would not want.

Master Yan was unaffected, blocking all attacks with only Protective Gang Qi. However, the formation's resilience was too abnormal; despite his attack power, no matter how many punches he landed, the Defensive Formation dimmed and then brightened again, never breaking.

When the Xu Family members strengthened the formation's power, Yan realized that continuing like this was not feasible. Even if he could retreat unscathed, Ye Fan would certainly be injured, and breaking the formation was out of the question.

At that moment, Yan gritted his teeth and made a shocking decision.

With a wave of his hand, the Yanhuang Furnace appeared beside Ye Fan, rapidly rotating around him, blocking all attacks. At the same time, he said to Ye Fan, "Xiao Fan, lend me the Black Iron Fist set!"

Ye Fan did not hesitate at all, taking off the Black Iron Fist set and throwing it to him. Yan caught it swiftly and put them on his fists.

With a loud shout, Yan erupted with strong momentum, his entire being seemingly engulfed in flames.

Ye Fan drew a sharp breath. He knew what this meant; Yan had burned the Gang Qi Essence, causing his combat power to spike dramatically.

Now, it was too late to stop him. Ye Fan wisely moved aside with the Yanhuang Furnace, maintaining a certain distance from Yan.

Yan's aura, after burning the Gang Qi, continued to rise, quickly surpassing his peak state and kept ascending, seemingly limitless.

A massive amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi gathered toward Yan like a vortex, constantly enhancing his momentum, even those like Lv Yuan outside the formation sensed it and looked into the formation, full of amazement.

Although they did not know what was happening inside the formation, everyone knew something unbelievable was going on inside it.

Inside the formation, Xu Tianqi jumped from the Taishi Chair as if stepped on a cat's tail, exclaiming in shock, "Has Yan gone mad? He's burning his Gang Qi Essence?"

"Snake and Dragon Joint attack!"

Yan shouted loudly, responding with his actions.

The Snake and Dragon Joint attack is the most powerful killing move in the 'Yanhuang Fist'!

None can compare!!

'Yanhuang Fist' was created by Yan, and at this moment, he has one foot in that legendary Domain, burning his Gang Qi Essence. Imagine the power?

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Yan unleashed both fists, Gang Qi spurting out, transforming into a dragon and a giant snake, rushing toward the Xu Family formation with a terrifying wave that stirred up the surrounding Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

"Boom——"

A harsh screech accompanied by a deafening crash was heard. The Xu Family Ancestral Land's Defensive Formation instantly dimmed down, the main Array Eyes absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi from the Essence Stones frantically.

However——

The result was futile; the tremendous attack power of Yan's 'Snake and Dragon Joint attack' far exceeded the formation's speed of absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Crack!

A crisp sound was heard, a crack appeared in the Defensive Formation, followed by a rumbling sound. The entire Defensive Formation seemed to have undergone a chain reaction, collapsing with a boom, revealing the true view of the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

Yan succeeded in breaking the formation!

Chapter 988: Overpowering the Xu Family

The violent energy turbulence created countless holes around, and naturally, the gate no longer existed. Everyone saw this scene.

Yan, imposing and magnificent, stood with his back to the entrance, resembling a deity or demon.

Ye Fan stood beside Yan, deeply shaken by the formidable attack power Yan had just displayed.

Not just Ye Fan, in that moment, everyone was shocked; no one spoke, as if they hadn't snapped out of their disbelief, looking in astonishment at everything before them.

"Broke through? Yes, broke through!"

Lv Yuan and the others immediately regained their composure, showing expressions of joy, their eyes gleaming with excitement as they exchanged glances, seeing each other's thrill.

"Master Yan is unbelievably skilled, truly worthy of being the strongest of our time!"

"Indeed, able to single-handedly break the Xu Family's defensive formation—on a global scale, only Master Yan could achieve such a feat!"

“Now that the Xu Family’s ancestral defensive formation is shattered, what else can they rely on?”

As Lv Yuan’s words rang in their ears, Lv Zhan, Xiao Selang, and Ye Hei all became excited, as if injected with adrenaline, while Wu Zi, being introverted, said nothing but his face showed enthusiasm aplenty.

“Broke through, finally broke through!”

Su Liuli and Chu Ji were equally thrilled, holding each other tightly, expressing their inner joy.

The representatives of the Five Great Families also reacted at this moment, looking in awe at Yan and Ye Fan standing side by side, waves of shock surging inside them!

Initially, they thought Yan was like attempting the impossible, underestimating his abilities, but reality slapped them hard—giving a clear demonstration of what it means to be the strongest!

Alongside their shock, they deeply felt a sense of crisis, realizing Yan’s ability to break the Xu Family’s formation implied he could also breach their own family’s defenses!

This was an extremely terrifying signal!

They must immediately report this to the clan leader.

At this moment, all of them had thoughts stirred—seeing the Xu Family failing, without a defensive formation, the Xu Family seemed like an exposed bride, devoid of privacy.

They were right; the Xu Family was now fully exposed to everyone, having nothing left to resist Yan's dominance.

Xu Tianqi's smile vanished completely, standing petrified with a face full of horror, not moving, as if turned to stone.

Xu Wudao was even more stunned, losing all previous arrogance and defiance, internally echoing one sentiment: It's over, there's no possibility left to oppose Yan!

Several Xu Family experts guarding the Array Eye nearly had their Gang Qi drained by the formation, their faces turning pale as they gazed at the broken formation, written with shock and space.

Just moments ago, they were fantasizing about the formation grinding away and annihilating Ye Fan and Yan, believing Yan's rash entry was a death wish. But unexpectedly, in just a few moments, the formation was breached.

"This can't be, it absolutely can't be, our Xu Family's defensive formation has been passed down for thousands of years, never been breached before. This must be an illusion!"

Xu Changsheng roared in disbelief, unable to accept the feeling of plummeting from Heaven into Hell.

As Xu Changsheng's words echoed in his ears, Xu Tianqi's horror gradually faded, replaced by endless bitterness and gravity—he was even more unwilling to accept the reality before him.

But reality wouldn't change based on individual will, no matter how much he resisted—facts were facts, and the Xu Family Ancestral Land's defensive formation was ultimately broken.

Yan shattered not only the Xu Family's defensive formation but also a legend, a myth, destroying all confidence of the Xu Family~

What to do now?

What can stop Yan's advance now?

The Xu Family people were in despair, unable to even stop Yan's advance with the defensive formation—having no trump card left, only their flesh and blood would be left to resist.

But with Yan breaking the defensive formation, who among them could possibly match Yan?!

Fear, like a plague, spread throughout every Xu Family member's heart. Even though Yan hadn't arrived yet, their mental defenses were already on the verge of collapse.

The most frightened were Xu Tianqi and Xu Wudao; Xu Wudao knew well what kind of punishment awaited him with the formation broken.

Only now did he regret the decisions he once made, deceiving to gain the Hidden God List reward, but it was too late to change anything.

The fear within Xu Tianqi was even greater; he questioned his odds facing Yan, who could breach the defensive formation—he found himself without any chance, unable even to protect himself.

Had he been able to fight directly against Yan, he wouldn't have resorted to seeking refuge in the Ancestral Land to confront him with the defensive formation!

Under such circumstances, if Yan changed his ways and started a massacre in the Xu Family, the Xu Family would vanish completely!

All these thoughts seemed to drag on, yet in reality, they transpired in just a moment; one moment, the Xu Family dreamed of using the formation to grind away and extinguish Ye Fan and Yan.

The next moment, Yan had already punched with formidable force, shattering the defensive formation and breaking their dreams.

The smiles on the Xu Family's faces hadn't even faded, yet suddenly a drastic change occurred—turning their expressions from assured smiles to horror and disbelief.

Then it transformed into fear, deep-rooted fear; without a defensive formation, they had no means to confront Yan.

One punch shattered the defensive formation, Yan, like a god or demon, descended with Ye Fan into the Xu Family's Ancestral Land, standing fifty meters across from Xu Tianqi!

For these strong people, this distance is nothing at all, it's already within attacking range.

"Xu Tianqi, I'll ask you one last time, will you return the Essence Stone or not?"

Yan's voice echoed through the sky, reverberating throughout the entire Xu Family Ancestral Land, lingering for a long time, shaking those Xu Family members with insufficient cultivation, causing their blood to surge and their minds to be agitated.

The formation is broken, Lv Yuan and others naturally wouldn't be polite anymore and were the first to enter the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

The representatives of the Five Great Families exchanged glances and also entered the Xu Family Ancestral Land to see how the Xu Family would cope with Yan's aggressive pressure.

With the defensive formation broken, all strong people in the Xu Family Ancestral Land came out from various places, at this moment, it was already a matter of life and death for the Xu Family, they could not afford not to show up.

In an instant, the Xu Family Ancestral Land was densely packed with people, most of whom were strong Mid-stage War God Realm cultivators, and there were also Early-Stage War God Realm and Qi Cultivation Realm cultivators, overall, all strong people of the Xu Family were concentrated in this small space.

The two camps were clearly delineated, the representatives of the Five Great Families simply spectated and did not interfere in the feud between the two sides. They didn't have the qualification either, perhaps if their Clan Leaders were here, there might be a possibility.

Xu Changsheng was particularly aggrieved, for thousands of years, the Xu Family had never been attacked in their Ancestral Land, he thought Yan was bullying too much.

"Yan, don't go too far..."

After some time of healing, Xu Changsheng's injuries had completely healed, seeing Yan's attitude of having the Xu Family at his mercy, he couldn't help but take a step forward and angrily rebuke him!

"Shut up, you are not qualified to speak to me!"

Before he could finish speaking, Yan waved a gust of Gang Qi, a slap formed from Gang Qi fiercely struck him from fifty meters away, sending him flying.

"Ah..."

Xu Changsheng screamed, his entire body involuntarily flew through the air, scattering a trail of blood flowers and seven or eight blood-stained teeth!

Yan was truly angry, the attitude of the Xu Family made it impossible for him to control his inner rage.

He knew that if he didn't establish his authority, probably no one would take his words seriously, so he decided to be strong to the end, in any case, he needed to seek justice for Ye Fan.

Not for anything else, but because Ye Fan's potential was limitless, his cultivation speed was astonishing, given time, he was the most likely to break through that legendary domain, he absolutely could not watch such a promising talent be bullied.

More importantly, this was also an account for the deceased old friend Chu Xuanji — before entering the Forbidden Land, Chu Xuanji had a resolve to die and entrusted him with a child, he had to live up to the heavy trust of his old friend.

"Who else wants to make a move, I'll accompany you to the end today!"

Yan coldly swept his gaze over all the people in the Xu Family camp, extremely strong, intimidating the entire Xu Family with the force of one person!

"Well done, let's see who dares to offend! They've gone too far."

Lv Zhan was waving his arms in the back, as if it weren't Yan but he himself who had intimidated the entire Xu Family.

The strong figures of the Xu Family looked aggrieved, a few were eager to test their strength, relying on their high cultivation, they asked Xu Tianqi for permission: "Please approve, Ancestor, we want to fight for the clan, even if it means death, we cannot allow others to bully our Xu Family!"

"Shut up!"

Xu Tianqi's face looked as if he had eaten a fly, glaring at those requesting battle, wasn't this giving Yan an excuse for a massacre?

He knew that Yan was being aggressive not just because of the Essence Stone, but to establish dominance. If they fought back, they would give Yan an excuse to make a move, and how many would survive at that point was unpredictable.

"Ancestor..."

Xu Wudao was pale-faced, if Yan were to hold him accountable for lying, he would be in serious trouble and could only plead for Xu Tianqi's help.

"I'll count to three, if you don't make a decision, don't blame me for showing no mercy!"

This time, without waiting for Xu Tianqi to speak, Yan spoke again, his voice deep and resonant, his attitude extremely strong.

“One!”

Yan’s strength was unmatched, directly issuing a final ultimatum to Xu Tianqi, making it clear that he either returns the Essence Stone or they fight, two choices!

Xu Tianqi’s body trembled, but he did not immediately give an answer, instead casting a resentful look at Ye Fan.

In his eyes, all of this was caused by Ye Fan, if Ye Fan had died in the Forbidden Land, it would be great, there wouldn’t be such trouble, but Ye Fan, fortunately or unfortunately, came out alive.

Xu Wudao was staring intently at Ye Fan, wishing he could tear him apart!

“Two!”

Yan spoke again, giving Xu Tianqi no time to consider.

“Yan, Xu Family will return the Essence Stone!”

Seeing Yan count to two, Xu Tianqi’s whole body trembled, and he immediately said.

Clearly, Xu Tianqi knew very well, compared to the Essence Stone, the lives of the Xu Family were more important, the Essence Stone could be re-accumulated, but if the people were lost, the Xu Family could face extinction!

Chapter 989: Settling Scores After the Harvest

The situation is more formidable than the people, even if Xu Tianqi is unwilling, he cannot gamble the fate of the entire Xu Family. He waved with a livid face and ordered people to bring over 1.8 million Essence Stones.

According to the rules of the Hidden God List tournament, the first place is allotted six million Essence Stones, with the other three million Essence Stones divided among the second to tenth places.

In the finals of the Hidden God List tournament, only Ye Fan and three others survived to the end. As for the ranking, Ye Fan was first, Xu Wudao second, Anton third, and Su Liuli fourth.

Logically, Xu Wudao could only receive 1.2 million Essence Stones.

Yet he had previously spread rumors and deceitfully obtained a full three million Essence Stones.

After Xu Tianqi spoke, people quickly carried over exactly 1.5 million Essence Stones and placed them in front of Yan, Ye Fan, and others, piling them up like a small mountain.

Such a large number of Essence Stones, radiating a seven-colored halo, appeared more dazzling than gems, with the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi contained within being even more terrifying.

Watching the Essence Stones that should have belonged to their own family being handed over, the members of the Xu Family were almost glaring with bloodshot eyes, looking venomously at Ye Fan, as if Ye Fan had stolen their Essence Stones.

Ye Fan chose to outright ignore the gazes from the Xu Family members.

“Xiao Fan, put away the Essence Stones. This is your rightful due.”

Yan roughly estimated the size of the Essence Stones’ pile and believed that by now, Xu Tianqi absolutely would not dare to shortchange them.

Ye Fan nodded. He couldn’t put away so many Essence Stones all by himself. In the end, Su Liuli, Chu Ji and Lu Zhan, and others joined together to store the Essence Stones properly.

Watching helplessly as 1.8 million Essence Stones fell into the hands of others, the members of the Xu Family almost hated Yan and Ye Fei Na to the core, glaring at them as if they wished to kill them with their eyes.

Especially Xu Wudao, the person he hated most was Ye Fan, with Yan being secondary. He knew that all of this was caused by Ye Fan—without Ye Fan, not only would the Xu Family not need to return 1.8 million Essence Stones, but he also would not end up with a bad reputation of deceiving the world and cheating the Hidden God List reward.

Today, the Xu Family has completely fallen, and one could say their face was swept away. From today onwards, the Xu Family will be the laughingstock of the entire Cultivation World.

This deeply ingrained hatred almost turned Xu Wudao's gaze into a physical substance, something Ye Fan certainly couldn't fail to notice.

All Cultivators have a strong sixth sense, particularly developing a peculiar sensation to others' gazes.

In fact, not only Cultivators—people with a slightly sensitive constitution often sense when someone is watching them.

There's seemingly some magical power in a person's gaze. When people are watched, they often can't see the one watching, yet they usually sense being observed.

There's no need to mention for someone like Ye Fan, whose sensing power was exceptionally strong. Adding to it, the gaze from Xu Wudao was filled with deep hatred, naturally unmissable by his strong senses.

"Xu Wudao, you spread rumors, misled the world, and cheated what was originally my reward. Shouldn't we settle this score?"

Sensing the grudge from Xu Wudao, Ye Fan suddenly took a step forward, looking straight into his eyes!

“You...”

Xu Wudao was extremely aggrieved, with a gleaming ferocity in his eyes. He wished to eat Ye Fan alive, but knowing that Master Yan was present, he could do nothing, having to deeply bury his hatred in the heart and turn his gaze elsewhere.

“Don’t say I’m using Master Yan to bully you. How about a fair duel between us, with life and death left to destiny? Do you dare to accept?”

Ye Fan’s assurance of his triumph drove Xu Wudao mad. In extreme rage, he wanted to immediately agree to a fair duel with Ye Fan!

But thinking about how Ye Fan managed to link and defeat old-line strong people like Jiang Yurong, he realized that even in single combat, he had no chance, so he held back his fury once again, extremely aggrieved.

“I did not intentionally fabricate rumors about you dying in the Forbidden Land. When Anton and I left the altar, the entire altar collapsed. I thought that without the altar, no one could come out again, so I said that.”

Aggrieved, Xu Wudao began to explain himself, trying to salvage a bit of dignity.

"If you don't believe, you can ask Anton. He was present at the time and knows the truth. It was not our intention to deceive and cheat the Hidden God List reward..."

"I only need one hand. Do you dare to accept?" Ye Fan interrupted coldly.

"You've crossed the line!"

Xu Wudao completely tore off his mask, exclaiming in rage, "Do you really think you are invincible? Fine, I accept the challenge. I want to see how you defeat me with just one hand!"

"This fool is courting disaster. Ye Zi is clearly enraging him. With Ye Zi's strength, even with one hand, he can utterly crush this guy who has eyes on the top of his head."

Lv Zhan chuckled weirdly, knowing Ye Fan's strength too well. Even with one hand, Xu Wudao stood no chance against him.

"It's hard to say! Xu Wudao, being considered an unparalleled genius and one coming out successfully from the Forbidden Land, is no ordinary person. Although Ye Zi's power is immense, wanting to defeat him with one hand may face some hurdles!"

Ye Hei looked at the matter more realistically compared to Lv Zhan. Lv Zhan was typically carefree, indifferent to everything, while Ye Hei understood that it might not be so easy for Ye Fan to defeat Xu Wudao with one hand!

The representatives from the Five Great Families were shocked, having witnessed how Ye Fan blasted Jiang Yurong in the air. It was evident that Ye Fan was about to unleash revenge.

However, they also expected that as powerful as Ye Fan was, restricting himself to one hand limited his performance considerably. Defeating Xu Wudao, who was also at the Mid-level War God Realm, seemed not that easy.

Xu Tianqi opened his mouth, his expression shifting several times, but ultimately said nothing and did not prevent Xu Wudao from accepting the challenge.

He knew that, as a Cultivator, the Mental Realm is most crucial, and one must not have any psychological shadows. Otherwise, it will severely impact future cultivation, possibly even causing Xu Wudao's cultivation to stagnate thereafter.

To prevent Xu Wudao from harboring heart demons that would hinder his future practice, Xu Tianqi decided to allow Xu Wudao to give his all.

Otherwise, even if he stopped Xu Wudao this time, it would hugely affect his future cultivation, making it a loss.

Besides, he didn't believe Ye Fan could defeat Xu Wudao with only one hand. After all, Xu Wudao was the unparalleled genius he personally trained, nurtured as a future Savior, not someone who could be beaten by a one-handed Ye Fan.

Let the show begin!

In an instant, Ye Fan and Xu Wudao were the only ones left confronting each other on the open ground, with fierce battle intent surging between them!

“Wudao, go for it!”

“Wudao, kill him!”

The Xu Family members cheered and encouraged Xu Wudao, their shouts like tidal waves, reverberating throughout the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

Lv Zhan and the others naturally did not want to be outdone, cheering for Ye Fan. Although they were far outnumbered by the Xu Family, it was better than nothing.

“Ye Fan, you must win!”

Su Liuli didn’t say much, but her words carried weight. In Ye Fan’s heart, her status was now on par with Chu Ji.

“Are you ready?”

Xu Wudao took a deep breath, adjusting himself to his best state. His cultivation near the Cold Pond had significantly progressed his mental realm, allowing him to instantly let go of everything, focusing only on Ye Fan as his opponent!

Ye Fan nodded calmly, squinting as he said, "I don't even need to prepare to deal with you. Bring it on!"

"Arrogant!"

Xu Wudao shouted loudly, raising his hand to slash out a palm.

Great Void Slash!

Xu Wudao's move was none other than the Xu Family's absolute technique!

The void rippled, and a hand blade formed of Gang Qi sliced fiercely towards Ye Fan's face, emanating a terrifying energy fluctuation.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan met it with a punch, not even bothering to use Azure Sky Overlord Blood, directly using Blood Gang to face the Great Void Slash!

Boom——

A loud noise resounded, with Gang Qi shooting in all directions.

Compressing Gang Qi is not something everyone knows how to do; this move taught to Ye Fan by a high-level War God realm mutant beast was undoubtedly the most practical.

The compressed Gang Qi formed into a punch ray with immense explosive power, directly dispersing the Great Void Slash midair.

The residual power did not wane, and the punch ray fiercely shot towards Xu Wudao's chest!

Xu Wudao was startled, spreading his hands, and a black big spear appeared in his grasp. The spear's tip transformed into a flurry of spear shadows, with each tip shaking out a vortex-shaped Gang Qi Vortex, shooting towards Ye Fan.

This was the Xu Family's trump card technique. Xu Wudao barely hesitated before using a killing move, causing some discontent among the Xu Family, thinking he was making a mountain out of a molehill by exposing his trump card too early.

However——

Only Xu Wudao himself knew that Ye Fan's strength was beyond common sense. He could only seize the initiative with the strongest attack from the start, relying on Ye Fan's promise to only use one hand, to slay him as quickly as possible.

"Good timing!"

Ye Fan shouted loudly, flicking his fingers, sending beams of compressed Finger Beams to meet the spear shadows from Xu Wudao.

Then, he moved his body, charging towards Xu Wudao.

Xu Wudao also shouted, wielding his spear to attack Ye Fan.

In his mind, no matter how strong Ye Fan was, he was at a disadvantage by only being able to use one hand. The spear aimed from the start at Ye Fan's left side, a place his right hand had difficulty protecting.

In the blink of an eye, the two clashed together. Ye Fan's entire body emitted a faint Golden Light, exerting his physical strength to the maximum. His body sidestepped, and in the midst of the numerous spear shadows, he grabbed the True Destiny Prince, causing the myriad spear shadows to vanish instantly.

Xu Wudao was shocked, hurriedly urging Gang Qi along the spear's body to attack Ye Fan while desperately trying to retrieve the big spear from Ye Fan's grip!

"Hmph!"

Ye Fan snorted coldly, the surging Gang Qi instantly dispersing the Gang Qi Xu Wudao sent over, domineeringly rushing into his body!

Xu Wudao was alarmed, quickly letting go. He felt that competing with Ye Fan in Gang Qi could very likely be directly killed by his shock.

"Lay down for me!"

Ye Fan shouted, wielding the spear with one hand, using it like a stick, and fiercely smacking Xu Wudao's back, directly sending him flying!

Chapter 990: The Perfect Balance of Wisdom and Courage

Ye Fan clashed with Xu Wudao single-handedly, forcefully snatching Xu Wudao's black big spear and sending Xu Wudao flying away.

In an instant.

The scene was silent; no one had anticipated such an outcome. Even Lv Zhan, who thought he had a good grasp of Ye Fan's strength, couldn't have foreseen it, let alone anyone else.

The only person not showing a surprised expression was Su Liuli, who truly understood Ye Fan's strength.

Ye Fan did not pursue the victory, instead standing holding the spear in one hand, like a war god.

Three moves!

In just three moves, Ye Fan single-handedly sent Xu Wudao flying. Such a record stunned everyone.

After being swept away by Ye Fan's spear, Xu Wudao hatefully slammed into the ground, spat out a mouthful of blood, and directly passed out.

Not only was he seriously injured, with his spine broken by Ye Fan's sweep, but more importantly, the result left him so angry he could not accept it, forcing himself to faint to avoid facing it.

Xu Tianqi looked as if he had swallowed a fly during a meal, his face darkening to the extreme.

Clearly, even he hadn't expected Xu Wudao to be so disastrously defeated.

The entire Xu Family was silent as cicadas in winter, those who were originally cheering for Xu Wudao now gave off meaningless croaking sounds from their throats, like ducks being strangled.

“Hiss~”

The representatives of the Five Great Families felt a chill from their bones, looking at Ye Fan in disbelief, as if trying to see through him.

However—

No matter how they looked, they all felt Ye Fan was shrouded in a layer of mist, giving them the feeling of observing flowers in the fog, unable to perceive his depths.

In terms of realm, Ye Fan was just at the Mid-level War God Realm, and definitely hadn't broken through for long. Yet this same person not only killed Jiang Yurong, a High-level War God, but also defeated the peerless genius Xu Wudao in three moves single-handedly. How monstrous must one be to achieve this?

Lv Yuan and others couldn't help but sigh, realizing the current cultivation world was already the realm of the young. This generation of young people was growing too fast, surpassing their own era by many times.

Lv Zhan and others secretly vowed to cultivate diligently, striving not to fall too far behind Ye Fan; otherwise, they feared they wouldn't even qualify to be his comrade in arms.

During the Qing bang competition, they weren't too far from Ye Fan, but in this short period, Ye Fan had already left them far behind.

Xu Changsheng and others quickly lifted Xu Wudao, checked his pulse and examined his injuries.

"Move him out! What an embarrassing sight!"

Xu Tianqi shouted angrily, and Xu Changsheng and others quickly took Xu Wudao away; victory and defeat were already decided, there was no need to stay here and embarrass themselves further.

"Yan, are you satisfied now?"

Xu Tianqi almost spat these words through gritted teeth, mad with hatred yet helpless, nearly going insane with frustration.

"This is all your own doing, blame no one else. Today it ends here. In the future, if I find any faction bullying Ye Fan by size or taking revenge on him, don't blame me for being ruthless. I will act on my words!" Yan glared at Xu Tianqi and the other Five Great Families' representatives, his voice echoing in the sky.

Intimidation!

At this moment, Yan, who had half a foot in the legendary realm, knew that the Six Great Ancient Forces all hated Ye Fan, so he forcefully intimidated to prevent Ye Fan from being schemed against.

Kadoom!

The forceful words of Yan echoed in their ears, causing Xu Tianqi and the other Five Great Forces' representatives to tremble inwardly, then fill with frustration and unwillingness in their hearts.

If, in the past, Xu Tianqi and the other five ancient forces' helmsmen could still contend with Yan, then, after Yan took that step, they all lost the qualification to contend.

That small step is a miracle in the modern cultivation world!

Seeing no one dared to respond on the scene, Yan stopped wasting words, taking Ye Fan and the others away, leaving the Xu Family members and the Five Great Forces' representatives looking at each other in dismay.

...

"Ye Zi, the saying 'harboring a tiger breeds calamity,' you shouldn't be unaware of it! With your strength, killing Xu Wudao would be child's play, and you said before that life and death were up to fate. Why didn't you kill him?" About a hundred miles out from the Xu Family, Lv Zhan caught up from behind and asked Ye Fan softly.

Upon hearing his question, not only Lv Zhan, but also Ye Hei, Wu Zi, and Xiao Selang craned their necks and pricked up their ears to listen, and even Lv Yuan and Cang Bo were very curious.

Everyone knew, under those circumstances, if Ye Fan wanted to kill Xu Wudao, he just needed to make a move, or even without moving, a mere mind attack could cripple him, but Ye Fan didn't do so, leaving them all particularly puzzled!

Lv Zhan was right, harboring a tiger breeds calamity, and Xu Wudao was definitely not someone not to hold grudges. Leaving behind an enemy who constantly remembers you is never a good thing.

Looking at their curious glances, Ye Fan smiled bitterly. This truth is actually very simple, but if he doesn't point it out, no one might think of the reason behind it.

By now, they had left the Xu Family for over a hundred li and didn't worry about being overheard. The surrounding area for dozens of li was uninhabited, covered with vast mountains and forests.

As they walked, Ye Fan explained to them: "The reason is simple, I didn't want to make Master Yan too embarrassed."

"You should know that it was thanks to Master Yan that we managed to reclaim the Essence Stone successfully. Moreover, Master Yan used this opportunity to intimidate the other five great families, making them hesitant to retaliate against me."

"But all of this is based on not pushing the limits too far. We can't drive the six great forces, including the Xu Family, to a dead end, or else no one can guarantee they won't take desperate measures and risk everything!"

Upon hearing Ye Fan's explanation, everyone gradually understood the rationale behind it and couldn't help but admire how Ye Fan remained clear-headed, with keen insight and judgment under such circumstances.

Seeing that everyone had grasped some understanding, Ye Fan continued: "If I recklessly killed Xu Wudao, it would undoubtedly create an unending vendetta with the Xu Family. Without hope, the Xu Family would surely retaliate frantically. By then, Master Yan might not be able to intimidate them either."

Lv Zhan and others couldn't help but nod silently.

The energy released by desperate people is astonishing. They also know that if the Xu Family truly went all out against Ye Fan, Ye Fan might not be safe unless he stayed close to Yan.

"When the moon is full, it begins to wane; when things reach an extreme, they will begin to reverse. If I don't leave them some hope, the six great ancient forces might hit the roof and act recklessly. By that time, not only would I face various dangers, but Master Yan's command of the War God Alliance and the global cultivation world would also become exceedingly difficult!"

Ye Fan looked at Lv Zhan and others and continued: "Besides, you all might suffer as well—given their nature, they likely won't spare anyone related to me!"

"Whew~"

Hearing Ye Fan's words once again, everyone couldn't help but break into a cold sweat, then let out a deep breath.

By this point, everyone was thoroughly impressed with Ye Fan's sharp observation skills and precise judgment, his understanding of the situation was impeccable, considering all aspects.

At the same time, they also greatly appreciated the painstaking efforts of Yan for Ye Fan, but Ye Fan did not disappoint his good intentions, his meticulous thinking was admirable.

After listening to Ye Fan's explanation, Yan felt greatly relieved and valued Ye Fan even more.

After all, only with both wisdom and courage can one bear the banner of humanity's cultivation world in the future!

"Brother Xuanji, you've taught a good disciple!"

Yan said to his good friend in his heart, deeply admiring Chu Xuanji's unique vision.

"Master Yan, after this battle, I have deep feelings, and I want to take Zhan'er back to seclusion to digest the insights from this experience. Now that Ye Fan has gradually matured, our Zhan'er cannot fall too far behind. We'll take our leave. If there's anything, just say it, and we'll go through fire and water without hesitation!"

After dispelling doubts, Lv Yuan, Ye Feng, Wu Shan, and Cang Bo all proposed their farewells to Yan. This experience made them feel a deep crisis. Although their successors had a good relationship with Ye Fan, the disparity in strength was still significant, so they needed to improve their strength as soon as possible!

Yan did not try to retain them; he understood their intentions, walking over, he patted the shoulders of Lv Zhan and Ye Hei, Wu Zi, Xiao Selang, and others, encouraging them: "Work hard, the future cultivation world will belong to you youngsters, don't let Xiao Fan leave you too far behind."

Lv Zhan, filled with excitement, clenched his fist tightly and said: "Rest assured, Master Yan, we will train desperately and, in the future, fight alongside Ye Zi."

Ye Hei and Wu Zi, Xiao Selang, and others were also incredibly excited. Being encouraged by Master Yan, a double-banner top ranker standing at the pinnacle of the global cultivation world, was a great encouragement and honor for them.

Lv Yuan and the others knew that Yan's words were also meant for them. With the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi becoming more abundant and incidents of mutant beasts attacking humans frequenting worldwide, no human cultivator can shirk the responsibility of dealing with mutant beasts.

"A thousand miles of long-term friendships must come to an end eventually; everyone, please!"

With these words, Lv Yuan cupped his hands toward Yan and, taking his grandson Lv Zhan with him, walked down one of the paths, soon becoming two small black dots disappearing into the distance.

Killing Emperor Ye Feng and Cang Bo, Wu Shan, and others also took their leave, and in the blink of an eye, only Ye Fan, Yan, Su Liuli, and Chu Ji were left.

“You come back to headquarters with me, I still have questions to ask you!”

With these words, Yan stepped on Gang Qi, soaring into the sky, and flew toward the Yanhuang Organization headquarters.

Without a word, Ye Fan activated his mind, and the Golden Feather Wings expanded instantly. With a leap, he jumped onto it, and Chu Ji and Su Liuli naturally jumped on as well.

The Gang Qi circulated, instantly injecting from his feet into the Golden Feather Wings beneath him. The Golden Feather Wings flashed brilliantly like lightning, chasing after Yan in the direction he flew.

Though carrying two people, the speed of the Golden Feather Wings was unaffected, very quickly catching up with Yan flying gracefully ahead, side by side toward the Yanhuang Organization headquarters.

After an unknown period of time, Ye Fan and the others landed together at the Yanhuang Organization headquarters.

Yan instructed someone to take Su Liuli and Chu Ji to rest and took Ye Fan to his office alone.

He wanted to talk with Ye Fan privately!