

Invincible Conqueror Chapter 186-190

Chapter 186: Insolent!

Due to having too much battle qi drained from him and absorbed by the Thousand Beast Cauldron when refining the old man, Huang Xiaolong told Zhao Shu to rest while Yu Ming and Fei Hou dealt with Southern Hill Estate's matters.

Considering the accommodation matters were resolved, the next step would be moving the Huang Family over from the Luo Tong Kingdom.

At this time, in the main hall of a courtyard on the north section of Yao Manor, Yao Fei was pacing with a gloomy expression, uncertain emotions swirled in the depth of his eyes.

At the side of the great hall stood Yanggang and Pang Yu. Watching Yao Fei's expression, neither one of them dared to speak.

It was a long time later before Yanggang managed to muster up some courage, venturing cautiously, "Heartless Young Noble, could it be that Senior Zhang is already...?"

Yao Fei's body whipped around, his gaze was akin to deadly knives aiming at Yanggang, instantly shutting him up.

"Very well, both of you leave me for now. Later you still need to be present to receive the rewards." Yao Fei spoke out softly.

"Yes, Heartless Young Noble!" Yanggang and Pang Yu answered in unison and retreated.

Watching them leave, Yao Fei suddenly clapped once. In the void above, a black-clothed man shrouded in mysterious black fog emerged.

"Go find out what happened to Zhang Liang, why hasn't he come back yet?" Yao Fei's voice was low and solemn as he issued the order.

"Yes Young Noble!" The black-clothed man acknowledged respectfully and disappeared in a blur, not the slightest fluctuation in his coming or going.

When the black-clothed man left, Yao Fei sat down, his brows locked in a tight frown as he pondered. He knew what Yanggang was trying to imply earlier... Huang Xiaolong detected Zhang Liang's presence?"

"No." Yao Fei shook his head.

He clearly understood Zhang Liang's strength. Adding his martial spirit ability that gave him the ability to completely blend with the night's darkness, not a trace of breath could be detected. Not even the Xiantian realm expert by Huang Xiaolong's side could possibly detect Zhang Liang's presence.

Despite that, several hours passed. Why hadn't Zhang Liang returned?

Yao Fei sat in the main hall, waiting for the black-clothed man to return with his report.

Soon, the morning light lit up the sky.

Huang Xiaolong swallowed a Fire Dragon Pearl and spent the time adjusting his condition in the ancient battlefield before coming out again.

However, when he came to the great hall of the estate manor, he saw Zhao Shu waiting there for him. When he heard Zhao Shu requesting to come with him to Duanren Imperial Palace for the prize giving ceremony, Huang Xiaolong felt nonplussed, "You want to come with me to Duanren Imperial Palace?"

Zhao Shu nodded, "This Subordinate would feel more assured of Sovereign's safety this way. And also, there is an old acquaintance I want to see."

"Old acquaintance?" Huang Xiaolong was baffled; there was actually an old acquaintance of Zhao Shu in the Duanren Imperial Palace?

Although Huang Xiaolong was curious about this person's identity, he did not ask who this person was. Nodding his agreement, he said: "Okay, we will depart in a while."

At this time, the first one hundred place geniuses were making their way to the Duanren Imperial Palace from different directions to receive their rewards. Each person was allowed to bring one personal guard with them into the imperial palace.

Thus, Yu Ming and Fei Hou were left watching over Southern Hill Estate, making the necessary arrangements and preparations to move the Huang Family over to Duanren Imperial City while Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu stepped out of the estate, heading in the imperial palace's direction to accept his winnings.

It did not take long for Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu to reach the Duanren Imperial Palace's main entrance. Coincidentally, he ran into Cui Li who had arrived at about the same time as him. Following behind Cui Li was a beautiful older woman. Though she concentrated and hid her breaths fluctuations, Huang Xiaolong could tell she was a powerful character.

Huang Xiaolong and Cui Li's gazes met halfway, and in Cui Li's eyes, there was delight along with a faint trace of hesitation.

Huang Xiaolong merely nodded at her and continued walking onward with Zhao Shu through the imperial palace's doors.

The guards standing at both sides of the entrance recognized Huang Xiaolong in an instant, therefore no one stopped or questioned Huang Xiaolong's identity.

Cui Li stood on the same spot with a faint aggrieved expression that mingled with complication.

"He is that Huang Xiaolong?" The beautiful woman behind Cui Li asked.

Cui Li nodded, "Yes, Little Aunt, that's him."

"Not a bad young man. Unfortunately, he offended Heartless Young Noble." The beautiful woman spoke, "This Huang Xiaolong is indeed a rare talent, possessing superb talent twin martial spirits. But he doesn't realize the terrifying extent of how far and deep Heartless Young Noble's influence and power stretches. The Yao Family's forces behind Heartless Young Noble surpasses what he could ever imagine."

The beautiful woman shook her head in pity, "If I were him, I would not offend Heartless Young Noble."

"Little Aunt, let's go in." Cui Li tacitly changed the topic.

"Okay." She nodded.

Up front, Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu were being led in by two imperial palace guards, arriving at a big square within the palace grounds.

This square may look dwarfed compared to the Duanren Square that was right across from Duanren Imperial Palace's main entrance, but with the capacity to accommodate thirty to forty thousand people it was by no means small in size. The two imperial palace guards led Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu to the front of the square where most of the other geniuses had arrived, including Yanggang, Pang Yu, and Dai Shanni.

When the gathered top one hundred geniuses saw Huang Xiaolong, most subconsciously took a step back, making a path for him as they looked at him with awe, Yanggang and Pang Yu were the same.

Noting Yanggang and Pang Yu's reaction and expression, Huang Xiaolong remained aloof, stood in place, and waited for the ceremony to begin.

After Huang Xiaolong, Cui Li subsequently arrived and stood in wait not too far from Huang Xiaolong, her pretty eyes gazing at the back of his silhouette.

A short while after Cui Li, a small commotion rustled through the crowd.

"Xie Puti!"

"It's Xie Puti, he's here!"

Huang Xiaolong looked over and saw Xie Puti clad in fire-red battle gear, walking over. Behind him was an elderly person that had the same fire-red battle gear on.

Just as the first time Huang Xiaolong saw Xie Puti at the battle arena in Duanren Square, Xie Puti walked in with a domineering aura, proud and confident as if he had not lost to Huang Xiaolong the day before.

Xie Puti walked towards Huang Xiaolong.

Watching this, Pang Yu and Yanggang were gloating inside, waiting for a good show. And just when Yanggang and Pang Yu thought Xie Puti was going to fight with Huang Xiaolong, Xie Puti suddenly

smiled, "I accept yesterday's defeat with no equivocation!" He even extended his hand out to Huang Xiaolong.

Everyone was agape at the scene. Jaws dropped, nearly touching the ground.

Huang Xiaolong's eyes met Yanggang and Pang Yu's, and then he extended his own hand out, clasping Xie Puti's hand in a handshake.

Perhaps this is what they called no concord without discord.

In Huang Xiaolong's view, both of them were the same kind of people. Xie Puti exuded dominance, pride, and confidence but deep in Huang Xiaolong's core, he too was the same—domineering, arrogant, proud, and confident. And as his strength continued to grow stronger, these qualities would reveal themselves.

Both of them appreciate the same qualities in the other.

At this time, a sonorous clapping sound echoed in the square.

Everyone was jolted out from their daze and looked over. Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian were promenading towards them, escorted by a group of imperial palace guards.

Huang Xiaolong and Xie Puti retrieved their hands.

"Greeting His Highness Second Imperial Prince!" Huang Xiaolong and Xie Puti both saluted.

The elderly person behind Xie Puti also followed suit and saluted Duan Wuhen, as did everyone else except for one person—Zhao Shu who was standing behind Huang Xiaolong.

"Insolent!" A general behind Duan Wuhen could not tolerate Zhao Shu's lack of manners and chastised him for it.

Chapter 187: So, the Little Monkey Has Grown Up

The same general took a step forward wanting to force Zhao Shu to kneel down in salute. Duan Wuhen raised a hand to block him, "Leave it."

Duan Wuhen's taciturn manner made it hard to tell if he was upset regarding the matter.

"Yes, Second Imperial Highness!" The general respectfully answered and retreated to one side.

Watching this scene, Yanggang was secretly pleased. Although Duan Wuhen did not say anything, Yanggang was certain that inwardly, the Second Prince must have felt a tad upset with Huang Xiaolong

This Huang Xiaolong doesn't even know how to educate a lowly servant properly, he's really running out of luck!

Pang Yu and those jealous of Huang Xiaolong were also elated at Huang Xiaolong's impending predicament.

Duan Wuhen came to the front of the group. Taking a look at the present crowd, he let out a placid laugh, "Congratulations to everyone here for winning the top one hundred places in this year's Imperial City Battle. From now on, each and every one of you are a student of Duanren Institute!"

Duan Wuhen's words incited different reactions from different people, but the majority of the geniuses had excitement written over their faces.

Duanren Institute, the most prominent academy in the entire Duanren Empire!

Entering Duanren Institute was the highest glory one could receive in the hearts of the Duanren Empire's people.

Next, Duan Wuhen signaled Cheng Jian to start giving out the prizes without wasting any more time on nonsense.

The prize giving was divided into three sections:

The first section was for numbers eleven to one hundred.

The second section was for second to tenth place.

And the third section was the prize for first place!

There were ninety people in the first section, taking the longest time. It wasn't until one hour later when the first section of prize giving ended. The next section consisted of Xie Puti, Yanggang, Pang Yu, and the rest.

After the second to tenth place was done, it was finally Huang Xiaolong's turn. And Huang Xiaolong's rewards were personally handed over by Duan Wuhen himself whereas Xie Puti and the rest of the ninety-eight people were all handled by Cheng Jian. Huang Xiaolong's prize was solely given out by Duan Wuhen.

In the eyes of people like Yanggang, being presented with the rewards by Duan Wuhen was a great honor.

Duan Wuhen passed a spatial ring that contained twenty pieces of grade one spirit stones and two high Grade Six Spirit Dans to Huang Xiaolong.

In Luo Tong Kingdom, the King was probably the only person who had the capability to own a spatial ring, but here in Duanren Empire it was not that extraordinary or rare.

Most of the large families' core members in Duanren Empire usually had a spatial ring.

When Huang Xiaolong received the spatial ring containing twenty pieces of grade one spirit stones and two high Grade Six Spirit Dans, Duan Wuhen smiled, “Huang Xiaolong, I hope you will be able to break into Saint realm one day and become our Duanren Empire’s Protector!”

Huang Xiaolong was taken aback but nodded just the same.

Duanren Empire’s Protector!

Huang Xiaolong knew these were perfunctory words, but Huang Xiaolong was sanguine of his chances to break into the Saint realm and this day was not too far away!

At this point, Cheng Jian came to the front and announced the ceremonies conclusion, leaving them to disperse from the palace square.

Everyone acceded respectfully and made their exit.

But just as Huang Xiaolong was about to leave, Duan Wuhen spoke up, “Huang Xiaolong, stay back for a while, my Imperial Father wants to see you.”

This stunned everyone present.

Duanren Emperor actually wanted to see Huang Xiaolong!

By this point, even Xie Puti could not help feeling a tinge of envy burgeoning into slight jealousy. Duanren Emperor was the person who founded Duanren Empire, the paramount existence in the hearts of Duanren Empire’s subjects. This eminent figure had summoned Huang Xiaolong!

None of the previous Imperial City Battle champions had such honor and glory!

A tumult of emotions swirled within Yanggang and the rest.

Before leaving, Cui Li’s eyes took a final look at Huang Xiaolong’s silhouette.

Duan Wuhen waited until Xie Puti, Cui Li, and the others disappeared from view before speaking again: “Huang Xiaolong, come with me.” Without waiting for a reply, Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian turned around and led in the front, leaving Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu to follow on their own accord out of Righteous Square.

The Duanren Imperial Palace covered a huge area. They passed by many great halls, big and small squares, and corridors the entire way before Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian stopped in front of a cavernous palace structure.

A troop of imperial palace guards were lined along the front perimeter.

Duan Wuhen, Cheng Jian, Huang Xiaolong, and Zhao Shu entered.

They continued onward, passing through four other smaller courtyards before coming to an enormous grand hall.

On the other far end of the grand hall sat a middle-aged man wearing a brilliant yellow dragon robe. In the center of this middle-aged man's eyebrows was an imprint of a broken blade talismanic pattern. He was none other than Duanren Emperor!

Entering the grand hall, Cheng Jiang and Duan Wuhen hastened forward to pay their respects but they suddenly saw Duanren Emperor shoot onto his feet with unseen joy on his face, hopping off the throne and coming down in just a few quick steps.

Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian were stupefied.

Duanren Emperor walked towards Duan Wuhen's group instead?

"Imperial Father!" Duan Wuhen walked up and called out. But, it was as if Duanren Emperor did not see him at all. Before the shocked eyes of Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian, Duanren Emperor walked passed them as he headed straight to Zhao Shu who was standing behind Huang Xiaolong. In the throes of excitement, he ventured courteously, "Is it Mister Zhao?"

Mister Zhao?!!

Both Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian's eyeballs nearly fell out of their sockets, looks of indescribable disbelief evident on their faces.

What did Duanren Emperor refer to the guard behind Huang Xiaolong as? Mister Zhao?

Mister!

This time, even Huang Xiaolong was greatly stunned and surprised.

A thought flashed like lightning in Huang Xiaolong's brain. Could the old acquaintance Zhao Shu mentioned earlier be Duanren Emperor?!

It was the Duanren Emperor himself!

Things moved so quickly that Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian were still struggling to register what had just happened. Zhao Shu smiled at Duanren Emperor, "Not bad, the little monkey that year has finally grown up. One thousand years has passed and not only have you broken through to the Saint realm, but you also built a big empire!"

Little monkey?!

Finally grew up?!

Listening to Zhao Shu's pet name for Duanren Emperor, Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian nearly stumbled on the spot with their knees barely supporting them.

Whereas Duanren Emperor had an embarrassed expression as he said, "Just a small Duanren Empire, Mister Zhao is joking."

Zhao Shu nodded and then he stated, "This is my Young Lord." His thumb pointed at Huang Xiaolong.

"Young Lord?!" Duanren Emperor appeared dazed and confused as he stared at Huang Xiaolong. Then, astonishment sprung forth in his heart for he clearly knew Zhao Shu's identity. More than one thousand years ago, and before he broke into the Saint realm, Zhao Shu had already been a warrior in the Saint realm.

"Imperial Father, this is Young Bro Huang Xiaolong!" At this juncture, Duan Wuhen swiftly stepped up. Suppressing the waves of shock in his heart, he gave a brief introduction to Duanren Emperor.

Duan Wuhen's way of referring to Huang Xiaolong took an upturn.

But in the next moment, Duanren Emperor looked at Huang Xiaolong and laughed amiably, "So, it's this year's Imperial City Battle champion, Young Noble Huang."

Young Noble Huang! Duanren Emperor used honorifics!

Drops of cold sweat appeared on Duan Wuhen's forehead. Was he too rude in referring to Huang Xiaolong as 'Young Bro'? As for Cheng Jian, he had already turned into a wooden statue carving, unable to process anything at all.

"Duanren Emperor is too polite." Huang Xiaolong quickly replied.

"No, no, no, Young Noble Huang can call me by my given name in the future. Just call me Duan Ren." Duanren Emperor insisted.

Cold sweat burst forth from Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian's body like a gurgling spring.

"This...!" Huang Xiaolong looked over at Zhao Shu, this series of changes happened too quickly, and truth be told, Huang Xiaolong was feeling a little too dumbfounded to react with his usual nonchalance. It had not occurred to him that Zhao Shu's 'old acquaintance' could possibly be Duanren Emperor himself, and that the big man would treat him so respectfully!

It was Duanren Emperor who summoned Huang Xiaolong, yet why did the situation seem reversed?

Chapter 188: The Connection Between Zhao Shu and Duan Ren

Noticing Huang Xiaolong looking over at him, Zhao Shu nodded slightly, indicating that he should directly call Duanren Emperor by his name in the future.

Huang Xiaolong could not help but smile wryly inside as he imaged the scene where he called Duanren Emperor by his given name in public. The envisioned reactions already made him feel helpless and gave him a headache.

In the end, Huang Xiaolong nodded in silence.

Duanren Emperor was delighted that Huang Xiaolong acquiesced. Smiling, he turned to Zhao Shu and said respectfully, "If Duan Ren knew Mister Zhao had come to Duanren Empire, Duan Ren would have gone out to welcome you in advance. Now, it would appear Duan Ren was presumptuous to summon Mister Zhao into the imperial palace. This mistake really makes Duan Ren feel ill at ease." Saying he was ill at ease were honest words, and better yet, he was even trembling in his dragon robe.

Zhao Shu waved his hand in a blasé manner, "It's nothing. The Young Lord and I will be staying in Duanren Empire for a period of time. While we are here, you can come look for me if you have any questions related to your cultivation."

Duanren Emperor's face lit up, with utmost respect and solemnity, he said: "Then Duan Ren shall be indebted to Mister Zhao's favor." Recently, he indeed ran into a few stumbling blocks in his cultivation and was helplessly struggling for some guidance.

Half an hour later, Duanren Emperor saw Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu out of the palace grand hall. In actual fact, Duanren Emperor wanted to escort Zhao Shu and Huang Xiaolong all the way back to Southern Hill Estate. Huang Xiaolong discouraged his intention for it ran the risk of bringing unwanted attention. Thus, he managed to persuade Duanren Emperor that only escorting them to immediately outside the grand hall sufficed. Even so, jaws dropped to the ground when the guards who were lined up along the way saw their majestic Duanren Emperor sending Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu off. The grounds were littered with shocked eyes.

After respectfully escorting Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu out, Duanren Emperor turned back and said to Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian, "Both of you send Young Noble Huang and Mister Zhao back to Southern Hill Estate on my behalf."

"Yes, Imperial Father!"

"Yes, Imperial Highness!"

Both Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian immediately replied with utmost respect.

Despite that, when the four of them reached the imperial palace's main entrance, Huang Xiaolong stopped Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian at the steps. Seeing Huang Xiaolong's insistence, neither of them wished to refute and thus, they relented. Afterwards, when both Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu's figure disappeared from view, both of them returned to the previous palace grand hall to report.

Duanren Emperor observed the two people standing below the dais, "You two must be feeling curious about Mister Zhao's identity, am I right?"

"Imperial Father, that Mister Zhao is... ?" Duan Wuhen took a step forward, cautiously inquiring.

"Mister Zhao was a good friend of my Master." Duanren Emperor spoke in a slow and seemingly distant voice as he looked ahead, falling into reminiscence. "About a thousand years ago when I was still a Xiantian warrior, Mister Zhao was already a Saint realm master."

Shock suddenly plastered itself all over Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian's faces.

Already a Saint realm master more than one thousand years ago! While Duanren Emperor was just a Xiantian realm warrior at that point of time.

It seemed like a long time later when Duan Wuhen spoke again, "Imperial Father, then Master Ancestor is now...?" He had never heard his Imperial Father talk about Master Ancestor.

"Master has fallen. One thousand years ago, he was besieged by enemies. At that time, Mister Zhao rushed over and rescued me. If it wasn't for Mister Zhao, I'd have died just as Master had that year!" Duanren Emperor sighed, "Looking out for Master's interest, Mister Zhao took good care of me after he saved me, guiding my cultivation over the span of a dozen years. More than a thousand years has passed so fast!"

Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian exchanged a look.

Such a thing happened!

If that was true, then Mister Zhao was not only Imperial Father's elder, he was also Imperial Father's savior! On top of that, he was also half a teacher!

No wonder Imperial Father treated Mister Zhao with abundant respect and was overjoyed when they met! Duan Wuhen thought to himself.

"Your Highness, what is Mister Zhao's level of strength?" Cheng Jian questioned carefully.

"Unfathomable!" Duanren Emperor answered with a dignified tone, "He's at least a Saint realm Seventh Order master!"

Saint realm Seventh Order!

And it was an 'at least' at that!

A film of cold sweat appeared on Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian's forehead.

There were only so many Saint realm experts even if you combed the entire Duanren Empire with a fine-tooth comb. Most of them would be at the early stages of Saint realm, with probably only two or three at mid-Saint realm stages. As for Saint realm Seventh Order and above, Duan Wuhen searched his memories but, as far as he knew there was none!

People at Saint realm Seventh Order and above were undeniably super old monsters among old monsters!

These were definitely existences Duan Wuhen could only revere. Suddenly recalling the scene at the Righteous Square, when a general in Duan Wuhen's camp barked at Mister Zhao for not saluting him, Duan Wuhen's knees started to shake a little.

If Mister Zhao was angered earlier, didn't that mean he wouldn't have been able to protect his little life no matter how hard he tried?!

Duanren Emperor noticed his son's strange behavior, hence asked, "Hen, what's the matter?"

Duan Wuhen dared not hide the matter, immediately recounted what happened at Righteous Square to his Imperial Father.

Hearing the cause and reason, Duanren Emperor's face became icy, "For those that offend Mister Zhao, death! Behead that general!"

"Behead?!" Both Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian blanked for a moment. That general was a famous Duanren Empire General.

"Didn't you hear what I've said?!" Duanren Emperor exuded a strong pressure as his voice grew stern.

"Understood, Imperial Father!" Duan Wuhen's heart tightened and answered without further hesitation.

"I will apologize to Mister Zhao later." Duanren Emperor added.

Hearing this, both Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian cast their heads down, not daring to breathe as they tried to reduce their presence.

"Imperial Father, then what about Huang Xiaolong?" Seconds later, Duan Wuhen could not resist asking.

"You must refer to him as Young Noble Huang!" Duanren Emperor snapped at his son.

Duan Wuhen's heart jumped up to his throat as he complied with his Imperial Father's order.

"I'm not clear on what Young Noble Huang is trying to accomplish either. If Mister Zhao wants to tell us, he will." Duanren Emperor said, "As for Young Noble Huang's identity, do not act on your own accord to investigate or make baseless assumptions, understand?"

Their two heads nodded like obedient children.

"Okay, you're excused." Duanren Emperor cautioned again, "Bear in mind, do not let any information slip regarding Huang Xiaolong and Mister Zhao!"

Acknowledging Duanren Emperor's warning, Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian saluted respectfully and withdrew from the grand hall.

Both walked out from the grand hall until finally leaving the palace structure. After that, Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian continued walking for a long time in silence. Neither spoke a word until they realized they had come to the imperial palace's main entrance.

"Second Imperial Prince," Cheng Jian spoke first, "This minister shall take his leave!"

“En, you return first.” Duan Wuhen nodded, his thoughts were a bit muddled at the moment. The events from today gave him so much of a shock that he needed some time alone to think things over.

By this time, Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu had returned to Southern Hill Estate.

Back in Southern Hill Estate, Huang Xiaolong also had many doubts and questions.

Understanding Huang Xiaolong’s confusion, Zhao Shu explained: “Sovereign, back in the day, Duan Ren’s Master and I were good friends.” Zhao Shu then recounted the events of that year to Huang Xiaolong. First explaining Duanren Emperor’s Master being surrounded by enemies, then after that when he arrived and rescued Duan Ren from danger.

Huang Xiaolong’s reaction was similar to that of Duan Wuhen and Cheng Jian. He finally understood the connection Zhao Shu had with Duanren Emperor.

When they entered the great hall, Yu Ming and Fei Hou were seen patiently waiting. Looking towards Huang Xiaolong and Zhao Shu, Yu Ming and Fei Hou greeted them respectfully. Huang Xiaolong did not forget to ask about the progress around arranging the Huang Family’s migration to the Imperial City.

Once he was finished listening to Yu Ming and Fei Hou’s report, Huang Xiaolong excused all three of them, initiated the God Binding Ring, and entered the ancient battlefield.

In the ancient battlefield, Huang Xiaolong took the Grade Seven Spirit Dan refined from the black-clad old man out of the Asura Ring.

Chapter 189: Duanren Institute Term Begins!

There were about twenty days or so before Duanren Institute’s new term began. Huang Xiaolong planned to swallow the Grade Seven Spirit Dan as well as the two high Grade Six Spirit Dans from the Imperial City Battle’s reward and cultivate to enhance his strength a little bit more before the term started.

Without hesitation, Huang Xiaolong threw the grade seven, little round pellet into his mouth. An abundant source of battle qi essence instantly rushed into Huang Xiaolong’s meridians and Qi Sea. He swiftly ran Asura Tactics to refine and absorb them.

As Huang Xiaolong refined this grade seven pellet, the Black and Blue Dragon emerged, hovering above him and devouring spiritual energy while cultivating as well.

Once Huang Xiaolong had broken into the Xiantian realm, his martial spirits condensed into solid entities, they could fight and cultivate too.

Not only that, but in the last two days Huang Xiaolong had noticed it was possible for his twin dragon martial spirits to connect to the ancient Dragon Realm, absorbing ancient true dragon qi!

While the Black and Blue Dragon cultivated in the void above Huang Xiaolong, absorbing energy into their bodies, a golden reddish colored energy was seen rolling out from above. This was the aforementioned qi of a true dragon from ancient times!

True dragon qi gushed down from the void, half was absorbed by the twin dragons and the other half was transferred into Huang Xiaolong's body, refined and absorbed.

True dragon qi was one of the top grade innate spiritual energies formed in this world. It could be said to have the same grade as the netherworld spiritual energy from the underworld and was perhaps even higher by a small margin.

As the true dragon qi entered Huang Xiaolong and spread to every part of his body, Huang Xiaolong could detect significant changes. Whether it was his flesh or meridians, bones and tendons, or even his internal organs, everything was strengthening rapidly at a visible rate.

The netherworld spiritual energy was also gushing down from the void simultaneously, being absorbed and refined by Huang Xiaolong.

As Huang Xiaolong continued to absorb more and more true dragon qi, it transformed into true dragon battle qi, coexisting in Huang Xiaolong's meridians and Qi Sea with the netherworld battle qi.

Huang Xiaolong's meridians and Qi Sea once again expanded in size.

If Huang Xiaolong's meridians before stepping into the Xiantian realm were akin to a small creek of water, then his current meridians were like a creek that had expanded ten times into a big river. It was the same with his Qi Sea, expanding more than ten times the size it was before.

The moment he succeeded in breaking through to the Xiantian realm, the gas-like battle qi had fully converted into liquid form. The energy contained in one drop of battle qi easily surpassed one hundred cubic feet of gaseous battle qi by several-fold.

The three of them: Huang Xiaolong, Black Dragon and Blue Dragon, continued to absorb energy, refine it, and cultivate.

Time flowed by, one day passed. Then two days passed.

In the blink of an eye, half a month had gone by. It took that much time for Huang Xiaolong to fully refine the grade seven pellet.

During the course of that half month, Huang Xiaolong was initially close to breaking through to mid-Xiantian First Order strength. But with the aid of the grade seven pellet, he then had successive breakthroughs into mid-Xiantian First Order, peak mid-Xiantian First Order, and finally, late-Xiantian First Order!

Late-Xiantian First Order!

The grade seven pellet was refined from a Xiantian Eighth Order expert. In short, it could be said Huang Xiaolong devoured a Xiantian Eighth Order warrior.

Still, Huang Xiaolong was disappointed. He expected that he would at least reach peak late-Xiantian First Order after refining that grade seven pellet.

However in the next moment Huang Xiaolong shook his head wryly, feeling that he was too greedy. How long had it been since he had broken into the Xiantian realm? No more than two months! If it was someone else, it would probably take them ten years, maybe even longer.

Taking a deep breath, Huang Xiaolong adjusted his mood and took out the two high Grade Six Spirit Dans rewarded from the Imperial City Battle competition. He popped both of them into his mouth at once.

Even so, the combined energy from these two pellets was considerably weaker than that single grade seven pellet.

Night turned to day and day into night. Ten days came and went by the time Huang Xiaolong had finished refining the two high Grade Six Spirit Dans.

Yet, Huang Xiaolong remained at late Xiantian First Order even after consuming the pills, unable to succeed in breaking through to the peak late-Xiantian First Order stage.

Although Grade Six and Seven Spirit Dan were very rare and valuable, as well as beneficial towards one's increase in battle qi and cultivation, there were limits to its advantages. Otherwise, wouldn't younger generations of those superfamilies be swallowing Grade Five and Grade Six Spirit Dan's to enhance themselves endlessly?

The various disciples and geniuses that enhanced their cultivation by relying heavily on taking a large number of spirit pellets forsook a solid foundation. Moreover, every stage of battle qi breakthrough was difficult. Most of these superfamilies geniuses were stuck at peak late-Xiantian First Order or peak late-Xiantian Second Order, unable to step into the Third Order for the longest time. This was mainly due to their weak foundation.

As he ended his meditation session, Huang Xiaolong counted to himself. There were two more days until the start of the new term at Duanren Institute. Thus he did not exit the ancient battlefield. Once again, Huang Xiaolong continued his attempt to cultivate Asura Tactics and the Body Metamorphose Scripture simultaneously.

Another two days passed amidst Huang Xiaolong's attempt.

Running both techniques together was much smoother for Huang Xiaolong than before. If things continued to progress in this manner, it wouldn't take long before he could fully run them at the same time unimpeded.

Satisfied, Huang Xiaolong exited the ancient battlefield.

Outside of the ancient battlefield dimensional space, the sky began to brighten as the sun slowly rose on the horizon.

Huang Xiaolong strode towards the estate manor's great hall, instructing one of the slave servants to call Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, and Fei Hou to the great hall.

Moments later, the three of them arrived at the great hall. Huang Xiaolong motioned them to sit after their greetings.

When all four of them were seated, Huang Xiaolong asked Fei Hou about the progress of the Huang Family's migration to Duanren Imperial City.

"Sovereign, members of the Huang Family are already on the way to the Imperial City, passing the Baolong Kingdom. But with their speed, they will need a few more months before arriving in Duanren Imperial City." Fei Hou replied respectfully. "They are being escorted by Senior Brother Haotian and a group of Marshal Mansion's guards. Their safety is in good hands."

Huang Xiaolong nodded. Then, he looked over towards Yu Ming, "Yu Ming, I must trouble you to rush over and join up with them." Despite the fact that Marshal Haotian and the Mansion guards were with his family, Huang Xiaolong was not reassured.

"Yes, Sovereign!" Yu Ming acknowledged the order with the usual respect.

"What's the situation on Yao Fei's side?" Huang Xiaolong continued.

Fei Hou laughed as he answered, "Yao Fei is still looking for that black-clad old man."

Zhao Shu added, "If he knew that old man was already 'eaten' by Sovereign, he'd surely vomit blood."

Zhao Shu's comment triggered a burst of laughter.

Huang Xiaolong stood up and said, "Today's the start of Duanren Institute's new term. I'm going over to have a look."

"Sovereign, I shall go with you." Zhao Shu stood up and stated.

Huang Xiaolong shook his head: "No need."

There wouldn't be any big danger within the Duanren Institute's grounds. Furthermore, Huang Xiaolong didn't wish to rely on Zhao Shu's protection all the time.

Hearing this, Zhao Shu no longer said anything.

Hence, Zhao Shu and Fei Hou stayed behind in Southern Hill Estate to handle the Nine Tripod Commerce's shift to the Imperial City while Yu Ming set off to meet up with the Huang Family group so as to ensure they arrived safely in Duanren Empire.

Exiting Southern Hill Estate, Huang Xiaolong made his way to Duanren Institute by himself.

Duanren Institute was located in the center of Duanren Imperial City. Because he was walking, Huang Xiaolong took a little over an hour to arrive at the Institute.

When he reached the main gates of the Institute, a sea of people were already waiting there. After all, it was the first day.

Duanren Institute was Duanren Empire's top academy. Herein gathered the most talented geniuses from over one thousand of Duanren Empire's fealty kingdoms. Each person from these kingdoms was an extraordinary talent.

"Huang Xiaolong!" Just as Huang Xiaolong arrived at Duanren Institute's square, a happy voice called his name.

Chapter 190: New Students Signing In

Huang Xiaolong turned around to look at the person who called his name and when he saw the other party, he was stunned: "Chen Cheng!"

Chen Cheng... Luo Tong Kingdom Cosmic Star Academy's Chen Cheng!

Many years ago when Huang Xiaolong first enrolled into Cosmic Star Academy, he met Chen Cheng when they entered the Dragon Flame Valley as a group to cultivate and he won the first year student's champion title. That year, the student who won Cosmic Star Academy's overall champion title was Chen Cheng!

Chen Cheng went on to represent Cosmic Star Academy and Luo Tong Kingdom to participate in the Imperial City Battle. In the midst of the competition, he broke through into the Xiantian realm and by a stroke of luck, he succeeded to clinch a spot within the top one hundred places, thus becoming a student of Duanren Institute.

Chen Cheng's success that year in achieving a place within the top one hundred during the Imperial City Battle and becoming Duanren Institute's student had turned him into a big sensation in the Luo Tong Kingdom.

Huang Xiaolong never expected to run into Chen Cheng on the first day at the Institute. Seeing Chen Cheng, Huang Xiaolong was genuinely happy. Since both of them were people from Luo Tong Kingdom, and students of the same Cosmic Star Academy, there was a nostalgic feeling of encountering a long-lost friend or running into a familiar face far from home.

"Xiaolong, it's really you!" Chen Cheng walked up, one hand reaching out to pat Huang Xiaolong's shoulder as he laughed heartily. His thrill and excitement even drove him to give Huang Xiaolong a bear hug.

Releasing Huang Xiaolong, Chen Cheng grinned and said, "It's been eight years since we last met, you kid... you're taller than me now!"

Although it had been eight years since they last met, and Huang Xiaolong's appearance changed considerably, Chen Cheng could still recognize him. Of course, when he caught the first glimpse of Huang Xiaolong, he wasn't sure in the beginning.

But now it was confirmed!

Huang Xiaolong responded with a playful punch to Chen Cheng's shoulder, "You have become more robust too!"

Eight years had elapsed and Chen Cheng was more muscular than he used to be. However, in the past, Huang Xiaolong used to be a head shorter than him. But now, Huang Xiaolong was actually half a head taller than Chen Cheng.

"I heard you won first place in this year's Imperial City Battle?" Chen Cheng sighed out of admiration, "Even that Xiantian Second Order Xie Puti lost to you! Perhaps I wouldn't even be able to take a hit from you now!"

Despite entering Duanren Institute eight years earlier than Huang Xiaolong, Chen Cheng was only at mid-Xiantian First Order. Based on strength, Chen Cheng was slightly weaker than Bai Shou who was thrown out of the stage with one move from Huang Xiaolong during the Imperial City Battle.

Therefore when Chen Cheng claimed he could not take one blow from Huang Xiaolong, he was not speaking words of modesty.

Huang Xiaolong and Chen Cheng chatted, most of the topics were related to Cosmic Star Academy.

The Academy was a memory they both shared.

At the mention of Cosmic Star Academy, words seemed to flow endlessly between them.

"I haven't been back once in these eight years. I wonder how much has changed in the Academy?" Chen Cheng lamented, "I really want to go back and have a look around." Not just the academy, he hadn't even seen his family during that time frame either. He wondered if they were doing well.

"The next time I go back to the Luo Tong Kingdom, let's go together." Huang Xiaolong said.

"Really?" Chen Cheng laughed, "Great, it's a promise!" Next, his tone changed, "You came today to report to the institute right? Come on, I'll bring you there."

With that, Chen Cheng led Huang Xiaolong towards the new students' sign in area.

Cutting across the Institute square, Chen Cheng pointed out some building structures and introduced them to Huang Xiaolong as they passed by.

Not long after Duanren Empire was founded, Duanren Institute was built. It had quite a long history spanning over a thousand years, which showed in many of the building structures that exuded a vicissitude of time.

When they passed by the Institute's Hall of Fame, Chen Cheng pointed to the five statues erected at the center of the hall and introduced them one by one to Huang Xiaolong.

All five were warriors that broke into the Saint realm after graduating from Duanren Institute.

When Chen Cheng came to the middle statue, an expression of fanaticism and worship took over, "This is our Duanren Institute's most legendary student, Senior Xie Ke!"

"Senior Xie Ke broke through the Saint realm within three hundred years of cultivation!"

Huang Xiaolong was greatly shocked.

Three hundred years to breakthrough Saint realm!

Chen Cheng nudged him, "Shocked right?" Saying this, Chen Cheng suddenly lowered his voice to a whisper, "Senior Xie Ke is the Xie Family's Ancestor!"

Xie Family's Ancestor!

Huang Xiaolong's eyes rounded in surprise. Didn't that mean this Xie Ke was Xie Puti's ancestor?

"According to rumors, the Xie Family was established by Senior Xie Ke." Chen Cheng added in his barely audible voice.

Huang Xiaolong's eyes narrowed. Eight hundred years ago!

This Xie Family only began eight hundred years ago yet in that short span of time, it had grown big enough to rival a two thousand year heritage Yao Family. It would appear that one must not underestimate this Xie Ke.

If there was an opportunity, Huang Xiaolong hoped to meet Xie Ke.

Half an hour later, the two of them reached the new students sign in area.

The building where new students reported was similar to all of the other buildings, exuding an atmosphere and style of an age long passed. A lively scene was currently taking place, many people were already there by the time Huang Xiaolong and Chen Cheng walked in. Apart from the new students, there were many old students there as well. Huang Xiaolong raised his head and saw three characters written in ancient calligraphy hanging at the top of the building structure: Wind Facing Hall.

Leading up to Wind Facing Hall were a dozen or so stone steps.

As they walked up the steps, Chen Cheng explained to Huang Xiaolong that other than being where new students reported, Wind Facing Hall was also the place where the students accepted tasks and collected rewards.

Only then did Huang Xiaolong understand why there were so many older students entering and exiting the hall. It seemed they came to accept tasks or collect rewards.

Both of them entered the hall after climbing to the top of the steps.

The door entrance was quite grand, reaching twenty zhang. As they stepped inside, a majestic scene swept into their vision. From the outside, Wind Facing Hall did not look big, but once inside, the great hall appeared enormous and spacious.

Though it still lost in size when compared to the Duanren Square opposite the Duanren Imperial Palace, the difference was almost negligible.

Still, a ten-minute walk from the entrance was needed before a person could reach the place where new students signed in.

When the Institute teacher in charge of the reporting location heard Huang Xiaolong say his name, the teacher displayed an exaggerated expression of shock: "You're Huang Xiaolong!"

By now, Huang Xiaolong's name had spread throughout the entire Duanren Institute.

Of the several hundred thousand students and teachers in Duanren Institute, there wasn't a single individual who wasn't aware of the person possessing superb twin martial spirits—Huang Xiaolong!

"That's right." Huang Xiaolong nodded.

After receiving affirmation from Huang Xiaolong, the teacher scrutinized Huang Xiaolong's appearance once over from head to toe before chuckling, "So you are Huang Xiaolong. Looks like what that little lass Sisi said about you was correct."

"Sisi?" There was a trace of confusion in Huang Xiaolong's eyes.

The Institute teacher laughed, "She's my daughter. She went to spectate this year's Imperial City Battle and when she came back she couldn't stop praising you, saying you're super cool!"

Super cool!

Huang Xiaolong was stumped, leaving him smiling wryly, whereas Chen Cheng next to him broke out in a fit of laughter.

"This is the Institute's gold badge and robe." The Institute teacher proceeded to take out a set of robes and a golden badge and passed them to Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong put everything into the Asura Ring after receiving them.

Following that, the teacher briefly explained the Institute's regulations and gave him an extremely thick book. Other than the Institute's regulations, the thousand plus kingdoms under the Duanren Empire were also written down and described in detail.

From their conversation, Huang Xiaolong got to know the name of this teacher that was in charge of handling new reporting students. His name was Lin Yang.

When Huang Xiaolong and Chen Cheng stepped out from the great hall, Heartless Young Noble also happened to be walking up the stone stairs with a large group of people trailing behind him, which included Yanggang and Pang Yu.