

Liu Ning grabbed the golden sword handle from her waist and drew the three-meter-long Fish Scale Soft Sword out.

The sword radiance flashed and knocked all the silver needles from the ground.

“Ding! Ding!”

Zi Qian displayed a martial technique emphasizing speed. Her steps were as light as wind and she kept changing directions. She propelled needles at her constantly, turning them into wave after wave of needle rain.

Liu Ning frowned her eyebrows. She wanted to attack Zi Qian but was forced to retreat from the shower of needles. She had to keep swinging her sword in order to defend herself, which quickly consumed the Genuine Qi in her body.

There appeared to be a deadlock in the Coliseum.

“Is she a hedgehog? How can she hide so many needles in her sleeves?” Duanmu Xingling asked with a lopsided grin, looking at Zhang Ruochen.

He said, “How should I know?”

“Don’t you even know how she does it?” Duanmu Xingling was shocked. She thought that Zhang Ruochen was familiar with Zi Qian. He must know her secret.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and focused back on the Coliseum. He could tell by Zi Qian’s sword technique that she was not strong enough to defeat Liu Ning. She decided to use her Genuine Qi to release the needles instead.

If Liu Ning couldn’t break Zi Qian’s rain of silver needles, she would no doubt lose the fight.

As Zhang Ruochen expected, Liu Ning’s Genuine Qi after a short while had been greatly consumed. Zi Qian seized the opportunity to attack sneakily from behind.

By the time Liu Ning reacted, Zi Qian had already placed her sword on Liu Ning’s throat.

Challenge succeeded!

“Her speed of releasing the sword is absolutely spectacular! Without practicing a hundred thousand times, no one would be able to release a sword at such speed. Why does she seem like a killer who’s received professional training?” Duanmu Xingling squinted her eyes. She thought that the way Zi Qian released her sword was similar to the Hades Department.

Although Zi Qian had tried her best to hide it, she left a trace and Duanmu Xingling was keen enough to recognize it.

Zhang Ruochen shifted and said with a smile, "If she was an assassin, she would have killed me long ago!"

"That's true." Duanmu Xingling nodded.

Zi Qian's last sword movement had indeed been magnificent; no shadow or figure of the sword could be noticed. Only Warriors of Division Profound would perceive the track of her sword.

By defeating Liu Ning, Zi Qian naturally became the ninth master of the Western Campus.

Since Liu Ning had lost the fight, her ranking dropped one place and became 10th on the board.

Mo Qinglong dropped out of the top 10 and ranked 11th.

There were a number of warriors who went and challenged those who ranked top 10 on the board. Most of them wanted to challenge Zi Qian as people thought that she was the weakest among the top 10.

Yet, no one succeeded.

In fact, many people were stronger than Zi Qian but lost the fight without any clue why. By the time they could finally react, Zi Qian had already placed her sword on their throats and they didn't dare move an inch.

One of the senior sister apprentices of the Western Campus who ranked 17th had been defeated under Zi Qian's sword. As she left the Coliseum she was extremely irritated. She groaned and said, "How is this possible? My ability is no doubt stronger than her. Why did I still lose the fight?"

Only warriors of the Division Profound were able to tell how ferocious Zi Qian was.

First of all, speed was her biggest advantage. Her mysterious way of releasing swords always made it impossible for her opponents to defend against her.

Secondly, her vision and hearing abilities were far better than ordinary warriors. She could identify danger and hear the sound of her opponents' attack in advance. Therefore, she could pinpoint the most suitable tactic to display in the shortest period of time.

Thirdly, she had obtained substantially more fighting experience compared to most of the other students.

Zhang Ruochen nodded. Zi Qian also had a weakness. Her physical quality was considerably weaker than the top geniuses.

She had refined five drops of Half-Saint's Essence in these three months which completely covered her weakness. Her ability had also improved to a large extent.

Under the attention of the crowd, Zi Qian walked towards the Coliseum, standing on Zhang Ruochen's right. She crossed her arms over her chest like Duanmu Xingling and Zhang Ruochen, and asked, "Why don't you go challenge other warriors?"

"It's about time!"

Zhang Ruochen entered the Coliseum and exclaimed, "I want to challenge the warrior who ranked the seventh."

The student who ranked seventh in the Western Campus was called Sikong Shu.

He had been a freshman eight years ago and had reached the peak of the Completion of the Black Realm four years ago. He wanted to enter the Middle-Level Heritage and thus he hadn't broken through any realms since then.

Even if Zhang Ruochen challenged Ju Hailan who ranked fifth, with his current cultivation, there was a high chance he would win.

However, he wanted to keep a low-profile. He would be satisfied if he obtained the qualification to enter the middle-level heritage. There was no need for him to push himself into the spotlight.

Zhang Ruochen was playing safe by challenging the warrior who ranked the seventh.

Despite the fact that he wanted to be low-profile, it still caused a sensation among the crowd. He was a freshman and he had challenged Sikong Shu. Lots of people were eager to watch the fight and rushed towards the Coliseum.

"Do you think Zhang Ruochen will pass the challenge?" A student who had enrolled in the Western Campus last year and ranked top 50 asked.

Another student who had reached the Completion of the Black Realm said, "I didn't think he could succeed until Zi Qian fought. Zi Qian defeated Liu Ning who ranked eighth. And Zhang Ruochen's ability is above Zi Qian's. There's a chance that he'll defeat Sikong Shu!"

"That's right! The freshmen are gifted with fabulous talent. We can't distinguish their abilities just from their martial cultivations."

"The freshmen this year are indeed very powerful. They've only been at the School for three months and are now capable of defeating the top 10 masters of the Western Campus. As mature students who have practiced in the School for years, how can we endure?"

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More students had arrived at the Coliseum. Even the Deputy Headmaster of the other three Campuses and the Lord of the Western Campus had made their way here to watch the fight. They stood not far away and were able to overlook the entire Coliseum. Apparently, they were as excited as the crowd.

The more outstanding Zhang Ruochen's performance, the better for the School of the Martial Market.

Geniuses were always their most important resources.

Sikong Shu was born with a strong back and waist and his body was all muscle. Although he was only 25, he had a full beard.

He was holding a black metal stick in his hand. He stepped up and stood 10 steps away from Zhang Ruochen.

Boom!

He put the metal stick on the ground and let out a loud noise. The ground shook slightly.

Sikong Shu smiled and said, "Zhang Ruochen, I know your cultivation is strong and you are gifted with high talent. You've earned my respect by winning the No.1 freshman title for the Western Campus. However, you've over-estimated yourself challenging me, your elder brother! How certain are you that you can win over me?"

"100%," said Zhang Ruochen.

"100%? You are surely looking down on your elder brother, aren't you?" Sikong Shu looked annoyed.

Zhang Ruochen was neither conceited nor rash. He said, "Once a warrior has picked his opponent, he should be 100% confident in winning the fight. If you don't have enough confidence, you are already halfway to losing before the fight even begins."

"Well said. You either choose to fight with full confidence or decide not to fight."

Sikong Shu smiled mysteriously and said, "Yet, you've picked the wrong person, my brother. You will lose to your elder brother. Come on! Let me see how powerful the No.1 genius freshman of our Western Campus is."

Zhang Ruochen could feel that there was a strong force of power flowing from Sikong Shu's body. He didn't dare to underestimate him and acted more carefully.

Warriors capable of entering the top 10 of the Western Campus had all obtained certain outstanding power. Any carelessness could lead to a failure in the Coliseum.

Zhang Ruochen grasped the Flash Shinning Sword tightly. He transferred Pure Jade Genuine Qi into the sword and activated all 14 inscriptions.

There were four Inscriptions of Power Series, four Inscriptions of Ice Series, four Inscriptions of Electricity Series and two Inscriptions of Light Series.

This was the first time Zhang Ruochen had ever activated all the inscriptions on the Flash Shinning Sword. He reached the most powerful condition.

The Flash Shinning Sword had weighed 26.5 kilograms before. After activating the four Inscriptions of Power Series, the weight of the sword reached 226.5 kilograms.

Icing air, sword radiance and electric current were shooting up, down and around the sword. Strands of Sword Breath flowed around Zhang Ruochen's body as if he had integrated with it.

"Is this the Advanced Stage of the Sword Following the Heart Realm?"

When Sikong Shu realized that Zhang Ruochen had reached the Advanced Stage of Sword Following the Heart Realm, his countenance fell. He quickly activated his Genuine Qi and transferred it into the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick in his hand.

The Dark Star Cold Iron Stick was a Level Five Genuine Martial Arm. It was one class higher than Zhang Ruochen's Flash Shinning Sword.

There were altogether 21 inscriptions carved on the stick. 15 were the Inscription of Power Series and six were the Inscription of Ice Series.

The purer the inscription was, the more powerful the Genuine Martial Arms were.

There were only two types of inscriptions carved on the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick, which was classified as relatively pure. This Level Five Genuine Martial Arm was categorized as one of the top weapons.

If a warrior activated all 21 inscriptions, the weight of the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick could reach 804 kilograms. It was absolutely substantial. It seemed like it could crack the ground if it was placed on the floor.

Frosty icing air struck when Sikong Shu swung the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick with both hands. Snowflakes appeared in the Coliseum and a layer of white frost emerged on the ground. The temperature in the air started to drop.

It seemed like a random stick, yet it contained exquisite Martial Arts technique.

“That’s not a good sign! Sikong Shu has also been hiding his actual ability!” Duanmu Xingling started to worry about Zhang Ruochen. “Not only could he confront with Ju Hailan, he could even defeat him with the strength he has just shown.”

The Lord of the Western Campus shrank his eyes slightly, smiled pleasantly and said, “I didn’t expect that Sikong Shu practiced the ‘The Tai-e Ice Arts’ to the eighth-level! With his strength, he can surely confront with warriors who rank relatively low on the Profound Board.”

The Deputy Headmaster of the Southern Campus also laughed and said, “Congratulations on having another talented student who will become a warrior of Division Profound!”

“Ah! It is unfortunate for Zhang Ruochen. If Sikong Shu hasn’t broken through to the eighth-level of the ‘Tai-e Ice Arts’, he will still have a chance to win the fight. As for now, I guess the result has already been set.” The Deputy Headmaster of the Eastern Campus expressed his sympathy for Zhang Ruochen.

It seemed that he felt sorry for Zhang Ruochen but in fact, he was laughing grimly in his heart.

The appearance of Zhang Ruochen had lowered the ranking of the Eastern Campus to the third place this year. The Deputy Headmaster of the Eastern Campus hated him. When he saw that Zhang Ruochen was about to lose the challenge, he couldn’t cover his happiness.

The Lord of the Western campus put up a faint smile and said, “Well, it’s alright if he loses this challenge. He still gets one more chance to challenge other warriors.”

## Chapter 132: Strength of Warrior of Division Profound

Zhang Ruochen felt a large amount of pressure from Sikong Shu. He smiled at the irony. He had wanted to challenge a weaker warrior and stayed low-profile. Yet, he had once again set himself a trap. If he didn’t display his full power, he would lose the challenge.

He never expected that he had picked a top master who was even more powerful than Ju Hailan.

Undoubtedly, once warriors entered the Coliseum, they had to fight with all their effort no matter how strong the opponents were.

“My brother, let’s see if you can tolerate one stick from me!”

Sikong Shu roared as loud as he could as if his voice was a massive bell lighting up the entire Coliseum. He turned into a strong wind and dashed towards Zhang Ruochen. He thrust against the ground with the speed of a massive ape and stood in front of Zhang Ruochen within a second.

He lifted up the stick and swung towards Zhang Ruochen.

Icing air was blowing towards Zhang Ruochen. He lifted his head and saw a huge stick shadow compressing down like an ice mountain.

It should be noted, the stick weighed 804 kilograms. It could shatter a 10 thousand kilogram stone into powder.

Zhang Ruochen decided not to fight with him by force. He bent his legs slightly, shortened his body, and displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. He looked like he was walking in the air as he reached the rear of the Sikong Shu.

He took the initiative to attack and swung his sword behind Sikong Shu’s back.

“Haha!”

Sikong Shu laughed when it hit nothing but air. He quickly moved his muscular waist, aimed at his back and swung the stick backward.

He was not only tall and muscular but also had massive horrible power. His reaction speed was fast and he didn’t allow any chances for Zhang Ruochen to attack.

If Zi Qian had dared to challenge Sikong Shu, she would never have had a chance to win. It was likely that she would have been seriously injured in one strike.

As the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick was approaching, Zhang Ruochen didn’t have enough space to retreat, he could only fight back. He held his sword tightly with both hands, activated all the Genuine Qi in his body and unleashed the sword.

Boom!

The power of the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick was surprisingly extensive. When his sword bumped into the stick, he could feel that there was a power rushing from the sword as it struck towards him.

Fortunately, he had cultivated the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. When he was about to fall down, his legs thrust hard. His body fell on the ground steadily and stood at the edge of the platform.

“Such powerful force!” Zhang Ruochen’s fingers were in great pain. He felt as if his arms were about to be cut off.

He activated the Pure Jade Genuine Qi to circulate through his body in an effort to ease the pain in his arms.

When he saw that Zhang Ruochen had taken his stick force, Sikong Shu exposed an excitement in his eyes. He laughed and said, "You're really outstanding, my brother. You've earned my respect. If you practiced for another year and a half, I would lose poorly. But, with your current cultivation, you have no chance of defeating me."

After experiencing Sikong Shu's power, Zhang Ruochen stopped fighting him with force. He exposed the Time and Space Domain gradually and covered up the entire Coliseum.

"Eighteen Sticks of Sky-breaking!"

Sikong Shu wanted to gather all his power and defeat Zhang Ruochen in one strike. Therefore, he displayed a stick technique classified as a low-class Spiritual move.

He held the stick with his hands and swung it towards Zhang Ruochen as if he was destroying the entire troop of an army.

Sikong Shu had mastered the stick technique to the Intermediate Stage of Following the Heart. He carried an 804-kilogram stick as if he was holding a tree branch.

18 moves of stick technique, wave after wave, followed by even stronger power. It completely blocked Zhang Ruochen's space from all directions.

The strong wind let out a thunderous booming. Bang! Bang!

The students underneath were all nervous for Zhang Ruochen. If he was hit by the 1,608 kilogram metallic stick, all his bones would probably be shattered into powder.

"Zhang Ruochen has no way to go. He will definitely lose within 10 moves." Yuchi Tiancong sneered.

"Even if he loses, he is still an outstanding warrior. I'm guessing other students who ranked top 10 like Xue Qingchuan and Cai Chen couldn't even withstand this many moves from Sikong Shu. Zhang Ruochen definitely has the ability to strive into the top 10 of the Western Campus."

Just as everyone thought that Zhang Ruochen was about to lose the fight, the students surrounding the Coliseum suddenly shouted in excitement.

The crowd looked towards the Coliseum. Zhang Ruochen had jumped up three-meters high easily and escaped from Sikong Shu's attack.

"Ruochen, you can't escape from me!"

Sikong Shu laughed out loud. His body thrust up seven-meters and he reached Zhang Ruochen's head. He swung the stick hard with both hands.

Every warrior knew that if one jumped up in the air, he would have nowhere to leverage. Once he was attacked, there was nowhere to go.

Clash!

Zhang Ruochen's body had stopped at three meters above the ground. Surprisingly, he made his second step. He flew up three more meters and was six meters above the ground.

His body kept going upward. He was now nine meters above the ground.

He had achieved three jumps in mere seconds. It completely shocked the students in the Coliseum.

“This... What is this kind of martial technique?”

“Without leveraging any power, he managed to jump up in the air twice!”

An elder said, “He has made use of leveraged power — wind power. Yet, he hasn’t cultivated the martial technique enough to succeed. Otherwise, he would be able to reach the cloud with the help of the wind power.”

The elder was right. Zhang Ruochen had only cultivated the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to Small Success and could only jump up twice in the air.

If he had cultivated the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to Succeed, he would be able to jump nine times in the air and reach the cloud.

Zhang Ruochen was standing at nine meters above the ground, two meters higher than Sikong Shu.

He held his sword, displayed a cheeky smile, and said, “Elder brother, it’s your turn to take my sword.”

“Sacred Wave Sword!”

There was a sound like water waving in the air. Like layers of waves, the Sword Breath was rushing down toward Sikong Shu.

The reason Zhang Ruochen decided to use “Sacred Wave Sword” rather than other sword techniques was to take the occasion to borrow.

Borrow from what?

Sikong Shu was seven-meters away from the ground and about to fall down. Since he had obtained a high cultivation, he wouldn’t get injured if he fell down seven meters.

However, Zhang Ruochen had displayed the martial arts technique “Sacred Wave Sword”. It caused Sikong Shu to fall down at a much higher speed.

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Boom!

Sikong Shu’s legs touched the ground with such a powerful force that it made him bend his legs slightly. He almost fell and could barely sit on the ground from such force.

Crack! Crack!

The bones in Sikong Shu’s body were crackling. Fortunately, his reaction had been fast enough to retreat all the Genuine Qi back from the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick. This lightened his stick back to 108 kilograms.

Otherwise, he would have been unable to withstand such powerful plummet force.

“Sacred Plenilune Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen seized the chance. He swung his sword out towards Sikong Shu's neck before reaching the ground.

Sikong Shu retreated a step back, pivoted the Dark Star Cold Iron Stick and blocked his attack instantly.

Without activating its inscription, a Dark Star Cold Iron Stick was useless in defending against Zhang Ruochen.

Boom!

The Dark Star Cold Iron Stick fell from Sikong Shu's hand to the Coliseum.

Since Zhang Ruochen had created a great opportunity for himself, he kept attacking and didn't spare any chances for Sikong Shu to fight back.

Sikong Shu couldn't help but keep retreating back. There were more than ten sword scratches on his robe. In the end, he had reached the edge of the Coliseum.

"Blood Qi Condensing Soul!"

Sikong Shu's body displayed rich Spiritual Blood. A blood formation with a five-meter diameter condensed under his legs. The illusory image of a massive lion beast and a blood arms stick shadow appeared on his back.

Only warriors who had reached the Completion of the Black Realm were able to connect the Blood Beast, Blood Soldier, and Blood Wave together and form a Spiritual Blood scene. It was called the "Blood Qi Condensing Soul".

By exposing the power of the blood Meridians, Sikong Shu's fighting strength increased greatly. He waved his arm and struck out a fist.

The illusory image attacked towards Zhang Ruochen following Sikong Shu's fist.

"Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts!"

Zhang Ruochen also activated the power of the Blood Meridian and condensed a dragon and elephant shadow on his back.

He drove the sword out followed by the dragon and elephant shadow towards Sikong Shu.

This was a shocking scene. The dragon and elephant shadows shattered Sikong Shu's Spiritual Blood vision. It pushed him back and he rolled off the Coliseum.

"The Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts at the Dawn State of the Black Realm destroys the Blood Qi Condensing Soul at the Completion of the Black Realm. How is Zhang Ruochen's Blood Meridian so powerful?"

The three Deputy Headmasters and the Lord of the Western Campus watching from afar were absolutely shocked.

The Lord of the Western Campus even yelled and said, "Dragon and Elephant Meridians... He activated the Dragon and Elephant Meridians!"

“It is indeed the Dragon and Elephant Meridians. Sikong Shu has lost with dignity after such a high-standard fight,” said The Lord of the Southern Campus.

The Deputy Headmaster of the Northern Campus laughed and said, “Congratulations, Lord of Western Campus. There’s another Warrior of Division Profound in the Western Campus. This little kid has the potential to challenge the top 10 of the Profound Board.”

Other students didn’t understand the meaning of the Dragon and Elephant Meridians. Yet, they had clearly seen Zhang Ruochen condense the blood dragon and blood elephant. It was just the power of Martial Arts in their eyes.

The elder who stationed at the Coliseum was shocked. He announced, “Zhang Ruochen wins and rises to No.7 of the Western Campus.”

Although he ranked No.7, everyone could clearly tell that if Zhang Ruochen displayed his real power, he could make it into the top five.

Zhang Ruochen walked towards the Coliseum again as one of the students wanted to challenge him.

Students who ranked seventh onwards of the Western Campus wanted to challenge him. Yet, all failed to do so. Gradually, his ability was recognized and fewer and fewer students dared to challenge him.

It was getting dark.

12 fireballs had been lit in the drill ground of Western Campus in the dark night.

The brutal fights at the 10 Coliseum were still ongoing. Some won the challenges; others lost.

After he defeated eight warriors in a row, no one dared to challenge Zhang Ruochen.

“Zhang Ruochen!”

Duanmu Xingling stood at the edge of the drill ground of the Western Campus and waved at him mysteriously.

Zhang Ruochen walked towards her and asked, “Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, what’s the matter?”

“Shhhh! Lower your voice. Don’t let other people know!”

Duanmu Xingling put her finger to her lips and put on a silence hand gesture.

“Don’t make any noise. Follow me.”

Duanmu Xingling looked cautious as if she was a thief. She kept looking around and checking to see if anyone was following her before leading Zhang Ruochen to walk in the dark.

Chapter 133: Xun Guihai

Looking at Duanmu Yingling’s beautiful back, Zhang Ruochen was confused yet he followed behind her without making any noise.

Everywhere that Duanmu Xingling went she left a faint fragrance in the air.

Under the lead of Duanmu Xingling, they passed through a number of temples and arrived at the bottom of the cliff in Western Campus. Under the cliff, there was a waterside pavilion where a three-level attic was under construction. The environment was classic.

Looking at the three-level attic far away, Zhang Ruochen discovered a beautiful and familiar human shadow. He was shocked and asked, "Senior sister apprentice Huang! Why is she there?"

Zhang Ruochen turned around and looked at Duanmu Xingling.

"Let's wait and see!" Duanmu Xingling smiled charmingly.

Huang Yanchen was carrying her sword, standing at the top level of the attic. Her long sapphire hair rose in the wind and displayed an exceptional sense of freshness.

A handsome guy in his early twenties came to the bottom of the attic. He appeared to be talking to Huang Yanchen.

"That's him."

Zhang Ruochen recognized the guy from the attic. He had met this guy in the daytime. He was a master among the mature students of the Eastern Campus and had obtained a powerful cultivation.

Duanmu Xingling placed her soft hand on Zhang Ruochen's shoulder. She moved closer to him and murmured "Xun Guihai, the No.1 master of the Eastern Campus, ranked 14th on the Profound Board. Among the four campuses of the School of the Martial Market, only senior sister apprentice Luo is able to defeat him."

Zhang Ruochen touched his chin and smiled, "Why are they meeting here in the dark? Are they having a love affair?"

"How is it possible?"

Duanmu Xingling gave Zhang Ruochen a contemptuous look and said, "Xun Guihai is the Prince of the Da Qian Commandery, a medium level commandery where they have always wanted to arrange a marriage with Qianshui Commandery. They hope that they can dominate Eastern Nine Prefectures with the power of Qianshui Commandery."

"Moreover, Qian Shui Commandery also wants to arrange a marriage with Da Qian Commandery as well so as to strengthen the control towards Eastern Nine Prefectures."

Zhang Ruochen finally understood the situation. As if he was thinking about something, he said, "Can it be that Da Qian Commandery has picked senior sister apprentice Huang while Qianshui Commandery has picked Xun Guihai?"

"I think so."

Duanmu Xingling licked her lips lightly, stared at the man and woman from afar and displayed an expression of ready for a showtime.

Zhang Ruochen said, "But, earlier at the Coliseum they didn't look like they wanted to marry each other."

Duanmu Xingling laughed, "That is because Xun Guihai has just found out that Sister Chen is the Princess of Qianshui Commandery."

"How does he know?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Duanwu Xingling responded, "I told him."

"Why did you do that?"

Duanmu Xingling said, "If I don't tell him, we won't have any showtime! Moreover, if Xun Guihai did marry senior sister apprentice Huang, you'd have less troubles, wouldn't you?"

Zhang Ruochen was even more confused. He asked, "Me? Why?"

"You know what I mean!" Duanmu Xingling stared at Zhang Ruochen and did the silence gesture again all of a sudden. She said, "Stop talking. Let's listen to them."

Far away, Xun Guihai stood at the bottom of the attic wearing a white shirt. He looked handsome and elegant. He was carrying a golden box in his hand and said, "Princess Yanchen, I apologize if I offended you during the day. Please don't take it personally. Guihai comes here and wants to ask for your forgiveness. Here is a Red Pellet Pearl which is very precious. Please accept it."

Huang Yanchen stepped on the cornice of the attic and glanced at him. She said coldly, "We're not familiar with each other. Why do you apologize? If you really want to apologize, fight with me."

Xun Guihai laughed, "No need to fight. I'll make an announcement tomorrow saying I've beaten by you. You'll be No.14 of the Profound Board from now on."

"How dare you insult me?" Huang Yanchen didn't appreciate, and she turned even colder.

"I didn't mean it. What I meant is I'm willing to be a loser, in front of Princess Yanchen." Xun Guihai explained in courtesy.

Huang Yanchen responded arrogantly, "Xun Guihai, I know your intention in coming here. But I won't agree to the arranged marriage. If your Da Qian Commandery wants to arrange a marriage with our Qianshui Commandery, go marry my sisters. I have 36 sisters in total. Pick the one you like."

"Swish!"

When Huang Yanchen finished speaking, she stretched out her arms and walked into the wind. She turned to a beautiful shadow and flew to the top of the Vermilion far away. Her human shadow disappeared in the dark.

Xun Guihai was still standing in the attic. He put up a smile and whispered, "Huang Yanchen, since you're the princess of the Qianshui Commandery, I have to marry you! Moreover, other princesses are not even one-tenth of you. How could they compare with you?!"

Xun Guihai left carrying the golden box.

Duanmu Xingling gasped and said with regret. "Ah! I thought there would be a show. So disappointing!"

Zhang Ruochen said, "No one could handle a woman like senior sister apprentice Huang. If Xun Guihai does marry her, he will be absolutely regretful. Whoever marries her is in bad luck. Well, let's go back."

Duanmu Xingling replied, "You're wrong! Xun Guihai will do anything to ask for the marriage with the Qianshui Commandery Prince. Plus, he has a very high chance of succeeding."

"Why?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Duanmu Xingling explained, "First, Xun Guihai is indeed an outstanding warrior who ranks 14th on the Profound Board. It has already made it hard for numerous geniuses to catch up."

"Second, although Da Qian Commandery is a medium level commandery, there is an elder of Half-Saint. Given the power of the Half-Saint elder, Qianshui Commandery Prince would probably agree to arrange the marriage between Xun Guihai and sister Chen."

"They have a Half-Saint in the Da Qian Commandery?" Zhang Ruochen was shocked to hear this.

Duanmu Xingling said, "They indeed have a Half-Saint and he is Xun Guihai's ancestor. The Half-Saint doesn't stay at the Da Qian Commandery. He has gone to the Human Coliseum far away. He has already been there for 60 years. It's believed that he has descended."

"Having such a deterrent of the Half-Saint, the Da Qian Commandery enjoys an extremely superior status in the Omen Ridge. Their national strength ranks first among the 36 commanderies."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Anyway, it's none of our businesses. It's senior sister apprentice Huang's matter to take care of. We have to go back. The quarterly assessment should've finished."

The quarterly assessment lasted until mid-night.

Mo Qinglong had defeated Cai Chen in his second challenge and became No.8 of Western Campus.

Sikong Shu defeated Ju Hailan and became No. 6 of Western Campus.

Ju Hailan dropped one place and ranked seventh.

Since Zhang Ruochen had defeated Sikong Shu earlier, he became No.5 of Western Campus.

The final top 10 of Western Campus were: Luo Shuihan, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, Tuo Muzi, Zhang Ruochen, Sikong Shu, Ju Hailan, Mo Qinglong, Cai Chen, and Zi Qian accordingly.

All 10 of them would represent the School of the Martial Market and join the exploration examination in the Middle-Level Heritage in two months' time.

At the same time, they would be given two drops of Half-Saint's Essence every quarter as encouragement for being the top 10 masters of Western Campus.

This was also the day Western Campus distributed the Half-Saint's Essence. Therefore, Zhang Ruochen received two drops of Half-Saint's Essence.

Together with the Half-Saint's Essence that Zi Qian had bought for him, he had accumulated 27 drops of Half-Saint's Essence in total.

After the quarterly assessment, Zhang Ruochen returned to Dragon Martial Temple and stayed at Black No.1.

The Intermediate Relic Exploration Test would take place in two months. The time to practice was very limited. The higher the cultivation the 10 of them had, the greater chance they would have of surviving in the Middle-Level Heritage.

Although the Middle-Level Heritage was a place filled with luck, it was relatively dangerous at the same time. Even warriors of Division Profound who entered the Heritage without being cautious, would probably meet their death inside.

Zhang Ruochen was distraught and couldn't calm himself down during these two days practicing in the Time and Space Spinel. Whenever he thought of his mother in the Yunwu Commandery, he would become extremely worried.

"No... I'll destroy myself if I keep practicing with such nervousness. I have to go back to the Yunwu Commandery. It would be an ideal situation if I could take my mother to the School of the Martial Market." Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and released a long gasp.

He whispered to himself, "I'm not sure if the war between the Square Commandery and the Yunwu Commandery has started yet?"

"Blackie, go back to the Yunwu Commandery with me!" Zhang Ruochen was extremely worried about his mother. Nothing was more important than taking care of his family. He decided to pay a visit back to his home.

Although he didn't have enough time to practice for the Middle-Level Heritage Exploration Test, he couldn't leave his mother in such a dangerous situation.

"Okay! Give me two hours. I need to borrow some more books from the Library Court." Blackie turned into a black shadow and flew towards to court.

"I want to go see my fourth brother. Find me in his dormitory when you finish."

Zhang Ruochen walked out of Dragon Martial Temple, informed Duanmu Xingling that he needed to go back to his commandery and headed to Zhang Shaochu's dormitory.

When Duanmu Xingling heard that Zhang Ruochen was going back to the Yunwu Commandery, she looked worried. Yet, she merely nodded and didn't say a word. She reminded Zhang Ruochen to come back as soon as possible and not to miss the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test being held in two months.

Zhang Shaochu closed the door immediately when he saw Zhang Ruochen. A look of concern covered his face. He asked, "My ninth brother, did you kill Prince Huo Xing?"

Zhang Ruochen looked calm. He sat on the chair, poured water into a cup, took a sip and asked, "What happened?"

Zhang Shaochu was like a meat mountain sitting opposite Zhang Ruochen. He said seriously, "Of course, this is an important matter. Square Commandery has already declared war on Yunwu Commandery!"

"I've received the latest news. Square Commandery has attacked the 12 cities on the border of our commandery, killed a hundred thousand our soldiers and captured more than three million of our people. They have all become slaves of Square Commandery. Ah! I really want to fight for my commandery on the battlefield! This is unacceptable!"

Zhang Ruochen looked confused and asked, "I thought they were starting the war at the beginning of next year?"

Zhang Shaochu responded, "This was a trick in order to distract the generals of our commandery.

"In fact, they started attacking our commandery at night 10 days ago. Since their army sneak attacked us, three cities at the border of our commandery all fell within a night. When our soldiers reported the tragedy to Yunwu City, everyone in Royal Palace was frightened."

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#### Chapter 134: The Upheaval

Zhang Shaochu continued, "Yunwu Commandery itself is a mess right now. Queen and the minister suggest turning you in to appease Square Commandery. But, the commanders and generals suggest fighting them to the death."

"Even the large-scale family and Suzerain feel insecure now. They believe it is you who committed a fatal offense that brought a catastrophe to Yunwu Commandery. But, they have all been fooled. Square Commandery wanted to annex us ages ago. The death of Prince Huo Xing was only an excuse. Oh!"

"My ninth brother, the situation isn't favorable to you. You should stay on the Western Campus and never return."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "No, that I can not do. I'm going back."

"No, you can't," said Zhang Shaochu. "You will become a target the moment you reach Yunwu City. Everyone will turn against you, they might even chop your head off and send it to Square Commandery, for appeasement."

With a determined look, Zhang Ruochen stood up and said, "I must go back. I can't imagine how much pressure my mother is suffering in the palace alone."

Zhang Shaochu fell silent. Then, he clenched his fist, looking like he had just made a big decision. He said, "My ninth brother, I will go back with you. If the war is inevitable, I shall fight with you."

"Very well! Let's go!" said Zhang Ruochen.

When they stepped out of the dormitory, they found that Blackie was already waiting outside.

Sitting on the Two-headed Blood Lion, Blackie glanced at Zhang Shaochu and asked, "Will you come back, fatty?"

Hearing an even fatter cat calling him fatty, Zhang Shaochu was not happy at all. He tried his best to stare back at Blackie and said, "Who's a fatty?"

“You. So what?” Blackie stood up and rubbed its paws, displaying a fierce look.

“My ninth brother, your cat does not have any manners.” Not to be outdone, Zhang Shaochu also showed an aggressive look and took out his Death Scythe. It looked like the fight was unavoidable.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t want to waste any more time. He said, “Come on, you two! We have to return to Yunwu City now.”

Blackie and Zhang Shaochu split up immediately, instead, they fixed each other with a hostile glare.

Zhang Ruochen got on the Two-headed Blood Lion and said, “It will take two days and two nights from the Western Campus to reach Yunwu City. I’ll be practicing in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel during the time. Blackie, call me if anything happens.”

Zhang Shaochu was leading a second level inferior savage beast out for riding. As he emerged from the Savage Beast Palace, he accidentally heard Zhang Ruochen’s words. He asked in surprise, “What is a Time and Space Spinel?”

Before the sound of his voice had died away, Zhang Ruochen suddenly vanished into thin air.

There was only a spinel with a chain left on the Two-headed Blood Lion’s back.

“What was that?”

Zhang Shaochu was startled and cried out loud.

“Don’t fuss.”

Blackie glared at Zhang Shaochu with contempt. Then it picked up the Time and Space Spinel and hung it around its neck.

Zhang Shaochu was still suffering from shock and he continued searching for Zhang Ruochen as he asked, “Where is my brother?”

Blackie was impatient and piloted the Two-headed Blood Lion, waveringly, towards the school’s gate as it replied, “Why do you bother so much? Just shut your mouth and follow me. Everything will be fine!”

Zhang Shaochu was half in doubt. But, he still got on his savage beast, a Sabre-tooth Lightning Tiger, and followed up.

Zhang Ruochen raced against the clock to practice. He spent six days and refined two drops of the Half-Saint’s Essence, to improve his cultivation inside the internal space of Time and Space Spinel.

It wasn’t easy to reach the Final State of the Black Realm. Even if he refined all 27 drops of the Half-Saint’s Essence, he probably wouldn’t break through to it.

But, of course, if he refined all 27 drops, his physical quality would improve significantly, which would greatly help him reach the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

“Bang! Bang!”

Zhang Ruochen started to practice his palm technique. He practiced the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm again and again. Through the practices, he allowed the efficacy of the Half-Saint's Essence to completely infuse his body.

After practicing for a day and a night, Zhang Ruochen's body was covered in sweat. The efficacy of the Half-Saint's Essence had been completely infused.

"We are going back to Yunwu City." Zhang Ruochen thought it had almost done, so he stopped practicing and walked out of the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

With a sharp "Whoosh" and a blink of white light, Zhang Ruochen suddenly appeared on the Two-headed Blood Lion.

Zhang Shaochu was riding his Sabre-tooth Lightning Tiger alongside, when he suddenly saw Zhang Ruochen appear. He was so shocked that he almost fell off and he asked with great surprise, "My ninth brother! Where have you been these last two days?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "I secluded myself for refining."

"Secluded? Where?" Zhang Shaochu looked around, searching for the place, but he found nothing.

Seeing that Zhang Shaochu didn't realize the secret of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen decided not to tell him. It wasn't necessary for Zhang Shaochu to know too much.

Zhang Ruochen pointed at the big belly of the Two-headed Blood Lion, and replied vaguely with a smile, "I have been staying in there. Of course, you can't see me."

"Really!?"

A delighted expression was on Zhang Shaochu's round face. He said excitedly, "When I was a child, I heard that some prodigies were able to get into a savage beasts' belly to practice. They would absorb the beasts' blood for nutrition and, in this way, their cultivations was improved profoundly. Are you one of these prodigies, my ninth brother?"

Ha! He actually believed it!

Zhang Ruochen nodded and answered, "Yes. I accidentally found an ancient book in a cave. And, I learned this from that book."

"Can you teach me?" said Zhang Shaochu eagerly, staring at Zhang Ruochen with a look of expectation.

"Er... Maybe later..." Zhang Ruochen quickly dismissed the subject. He looked ahead and asked, "Where are we now? How far is it to Yunwu City?"

Zhang Shaochu replied, "We are now at Mount Tianyue. We are 200 miles away from Yunwu City, after crossing the mountain."

Zhang Ruochen had heard about Mount Tianyue before. It was an important defensive barrier to the west of Yunwu City. Mount Tianyue covered about 300 miles of the surrounding area, and its barren hills, turbulent rivers, savage beasts, and dangerous terrain made it easy to hold but hard to attack.

Three hundred years ago, Yunwu Commandery had built a gate into Mount Tian Yue, the Tian Yue Gate.

After three hundred years of improvements, the walls of the Tian Yue Gate were even stronger than the Yunwu City's. There were a large number of arrays and one hundred and twenty thousand soldiers on it. It could defend against the savage beasts and ensure the safety of Yunwu City, which had a very important strategic significance.

Even though the road was dangerously steep, Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu were both riding second-level savage beasts. Therefore, they could still keep up the pace.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen's ear moved slightly. He then looked to the bushes nearby and asked in a low voice, "Who's there?"

"Clash!"

Zhang Ruochen drew out his Flash Shinning Sword and was posed for defense.

A man covered in blood climbed out from the bushes. He staggered and fell in front of the Two-headed Blood Lion. "Help... Help me..." The man implored.

He fainted away right after saying these words.

Zhang Shaochu was cautious about the man and he said, "My ninth brother, be careful. It could be a trap."

Zhang Ruochen jumped off the Two-headed Blood Lion and walked to the man covered in blood. He felt a little uncomfortable when he saw the man's wounds.

There must have been over thirty cuts on him, and one of his arms had been chopped off. But, the most severe wound was on his head. His skull had been hacked, the crushed bones were protruding and could be seen clearly. His head itself had been almost cut in half.

Fortunately, his strong cultivation and outstanding Body of Martial Arts helped him to survive.

Other warriors would have died from wounds so severe.

Zhang Ruochen brushed the man's wild hair to the side and a familiar face appeared.

Upon seeing this face, Zhang Ruochen's countenance fell and he cried, "How could it be?"

Zhang Shaochu reached over and looked at the middle-aged man lying on the ground. He said, "I think he looks a little bit like Liu Chengfeng."

"That's because he is Liu Chengfeng's father, Liu Chuanshen, Manager of the Martial Market Bank in Yunwu Commandery," said Zhang Ruochen seriously.

"What?"

Zhang Shaochu was so frightened that he even fell to the ground. He breathlessly said, "It is said that Liu Chuanshen is a legend of the Heaven Realm! He is a real master with extraordinary strength! You can even say he is the top warrior in Yunwu Commandery! Who could hurt him this severely?"

Zhang Ruochen also looked grave, knowing this was not a trivial matter. After carefully examining the wounds, he said, "If I've gotten it right, Liu Chuanshen must have encountered a bunch of warriors in the

Earth Realm. What's more, there must be another extremely strong warrior in the Heaven Realm, and this warrior must have chopped off his arm."

Zhang Ruochen took out a bottle of recovery pills and immediately fed ten pills to Liu Chuanshen, but they didn't seem to have an effect.

Zhang Ruochen's pills were all second-class and they were very effective for warriors in the Black Realm, however, it might not be effective for a Martial Arts legend in the Heaven Realm.

The physical quality of the warriors in the Heaven Realm was strong and mere blood and Genuine Qi was enough to heal any common wounds. But, once they were badly wounded, common pills were not effective at all.

Zhang Shaochu asked, "Who would dare to attack the Manager of the Martial Market Bank? Are they not afraid of offending the Martial Market Bank?"

"I'm afraid that there might be an upheaval in Yunwu City." Zhang Ruochen felt a gloomy foreboding.

"Boom!"

Just then, the loud and clear sound of iron heels' came from the road ahead.

An awful foreboding atmosphere could be felt, even from a distance. Whole flocks of birds flew away, disappearing into the clouds.

Zhang Ruochen quickly sent Liu Chuanshen into the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel. Then, he jumped back onto the Two-headed Blood Lion and gave a glance to Zhang Shaochu, telling him with his eyes to stay calm.

Who are they? How dare they try to kill the Manager of the Martial Market Bank?

Chapter 135: The Fierce Battle on the Road

Zhang Shaochu was so astonished that he tried to look for Liu Chuanshen all over, but he found nothing at all.

Perhaps his ninth brother had put him in the belly of the Two-headed Blood Lion?

Zhang Shaochu stared at the Two-headed Blood Lion's belly and then looked at Zhang Ruochen, finding that he was quite composed. He made up his mind to request that his ninth brother impart him with the secret skill, when they returned to Yunwu City.

"Clip-clop!"

The sound of iron heels hitting the ground grew closer.

Soon after, a group of men in black rushed toward Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu. They wore golden masks and rode on tall antelope-horses.

There were 21 people. All of them were masters of Martial Arts and they carried bows, crossbows, and swords on their back.

There was blood on their bodies. The golden masks on their faces seemed extremely grisly. They all stared at Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu.

In an instant, the atmosphere on the road became somber and desolate.

Among them stood a tall man in black who glared at both Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu. He said in a cold voice, "Who are you? Why are you here?"

Zhang Shaochu seemed to fear nothing. He straightened his back and looked down the man in black. Loftily, he said, "since it was my family who built this way, why shouldn't I be here?"

The leader of the men in black asked coldly, "Have you seen a severely injured middle-aged man?"

"No." Zhang Ruochen responded calmly.

Zhang Ruochen could feel the strong aura on him, an aura that was similar to General Hong Ye.

The cultivation of the man in black was likely to be in the Earth Realm.

If they were hunting Liu Chuanshen, then he'd better not bother them.

After looking at Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu from head to toe, the leader of the men in black waved to his followers and said, "Let's go."

Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu both sighed slightly with relief.

At this moment, one of the men in black shouted, "Chief, there's blood on the ground."

The leader immediately looked down, finding that there was fresh blood on the ground. He gazed coldly at Zhang Ruochen.

"Fight!"

Since the matter had been brought to light, Zhang Ruochen acted decisively. He wielded the Flash Shinning Sword towards the one with the highest cultivation.

Zhang Shaochu instantly took out his Death Scythe and rushed toward the men in black. He seemed corpulent yet moved very swiftly.

He killed three people in a row.

"It's really troublesome!" Tearing a piece of paper out of the book, Blackie grasped it with its claws and infused Genuine Qi into it.

A gentle light glowed on the surface of the paper.

"Pfft!"

The paper, sharper than a knife, flew out and cut the head of a man at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm right off.

Zhang Ruochen exploded his strongest power. He pulled out his arms and with the sword in hand slashed the leader's head.

“You are really good at hiding your strength, kid. Where did you hide that injured man?” The leader took a purple knife from his back and successfully blocked Zhang Ruochen’s attack as he put his knife before him.

BOOM!

His horse couldn’t withstand the strong power. With four broken legs, it wailed and fell off the cliff.

Seeing that the man had blocked his attack, Zhang Ruochen narrowed his eyes and said, “You really are a master of the Earth Realm. In Yunwu Commandery, warriors like you would have a well-known title. Who are you?”

BOOM!

Zhang Ruochen again executed another sword cut. With the power of the Inscription of Ice Series, the sword carried cold air. It moved toward the leader, frosting his clothes.

The leader moved three steps backward. He stared at Zhang Ruochen with surprise.

He wouldn’t have expected that a teenager would have such strong power, no weaker than himself.

After all, he possessed this cultivation after practicing for more than 40 years.

How old was the boy?

“Little boy, who are you indeed?” The man in black used the strength of his wrists, and gave out a stream of dense Genuine Qi from his body, knocking Zhang Ruochen back.

Zhang Ruochen secretly released his Space Domain and covered the man in it. He asked, “why do you want to kill Liu Chuanshen?”

“You really did rescue him. Ahem, little boy, you’re in trouble now! You’d better hand him to me and I’ll let you die decently.” The man said, standing by the cliff with a knife in his hands.

“If I’m right, you’re at the Initial Stage of the Earth Real,” Zhang Ruochen said.

In Yunwu Commandery, possessing the cultivation of the Earth Realm could absolutely be regarded as a formidable Martial Arts Master which could build his family or a Suzerain. If he was in the army, he could be a general.

The man laughed, “Are you scared?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “You can’t kill me with your cultivation.”

“How conceited you are! A master of the Earth Realm can’t kill you? Who do you think you are? A Warrior of Division Profound?” the man asked.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t respond further. He activated all 14 inscriptions carved on the Flash Shinning Sword, displayed his footwork and attacked the man.

“Sacred Guiding Sword! ”

He wielded his sword and made a seven-meter Sword Breath, leaving a long sword path on the ground.

The man wasn't expecting Zhang Ruochen to stay and fight, instead he attacked him actively.

"Good!"

The leader grasped the purple knife and activated the inscriptions on it with his Genuine Qi. Streams of purple light appeared on the blade.

"Boom!"

He broke the Sword Breath with just one move.

He trod three steps forward and left three deep footprints on the ground. When he stepped out his last step, he flew upward and slashed toward Zhang Ruochen.

His knife contained the power of thunderbolts. Streams of light appeared in the air around him and gathered to the blade.

Zhang Ruochen couldn't retreat because there was a cliff behind him.

"Sacred Plenilune Sword!"

The Flash Shinning Sword drew a circle in the air. With bright sword light, the sword circle suspended over Zhang Ruochen, looking like a moon.

His sword collided violently with the purple knife. The loud sound spread out and echoed in the mountains for a long time.

"Crash!"

The stone under his feet shattered. Rubble crashed down the cliff and fell into the steep abyss.

"Swish!"

The man quickly changed his move and turned 360 degrees in midair, executing three moves in an instant.

Every move was extremely powerful with the power of thunderbolts in it. Even a rock wall could be smashed to bits.

Zhang Ruochen could only defend. He executed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and flew swiftly on the narrow mountain pass, trying his best to avoid face to face attack.

"Master of the Earth Realm is really powerful. I can combat with a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm now, but it's hard for me to defeat them!" Zhang Ruochen thought secretly.

Luckily, the speed between Zhang Ruochen and the man was nearly the same. If it was Sikong Shu who fought against the man, he would probably be defeated in ten moves.

"How strange it is! The boy hasn't been defeated yet and we've fought for over 50 moves, could it be possible that he's a Warrior of Division Profound?" The man felt that things had gone wrong and eventually realized that this boy was not to be trifled with.

He was not a warrior of the Earth Realm. Yet, his combat forces were no weaker than a warrior of the Earth Realm.

Only warriors of the Division Profound had such ability.

There were only 18 Warriors of Division Profound in the whole Yunwu Commandery and the youngest one was 35 years old.

To be a Warrior of Division Profound in his teens? How gifted he was.

“Triple Magic Sword.”

The man executed a low-class Spiritual broadsword technique. His momentum was greatly increased, and the knife move became three shadows when it was slashed out. Moreover, the purple knife in his hand slashed toward Zhang Ruochen’s neck.

The martial technique of the Spiritual Stage displayed by a warrior of the Earth Realm was absolutely impressive. It was beyond comparison with a warrior of the Black Realm.

Before the knife energy slashed Zhang Ruochen’s body, his clothes were torn by the invisible power, leaving several gashes.

“Sacred Wind and Rain Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen suddenly flew upward and exploded the Sword Comprehension at the peak of Sword Following the Mind. His sword was moving on the blade of the purple knife and stabbed toward the man’s heart.

The man’s countenance changed greatly. He exclaimed, “The Advanced Stage of Sword Following the Mind? No, it’s the peak level of Sword Following the Mind. How could it be?”

Generally speaking, even among myths of martial arts of the Heaven Realm, only a very few of them could practice to the peak level of Sword Following the Mind.

It could be said that this boy was a monster, who had practiced the sword technique to such a realm, when he was at the Black Realm.

Zhang Ruochen hadn’t shown his real strength beforehand. He had maintained the Intermediate Stage of Sword Following the Mind when he executed the sword technique.

He would not expose his ace in the hole unless there was no other way.

Since he had exposed it, the man must die.

The man decisively abandoned the purple knife, hoping to avoid Zhang Ruochen’s killing blow.

But he still underestimated the power, when sword movements at the peak level of Sword Following the Mind had carried. He had moved backward half a step and the Flash Shinning Sword had already stabbed into his heart.

“Tch!”

The point of the sword thrust out from the man’s back, leaving blood falling down to the ground.

Looking at the sword that had pierced his heart, the man felt the coldness of the sword. He clenched his teeth and shouted, "Then, let's perish together!"

Gathering all his strength, the man rushed to Zhang Ruochen, trying to push him off the cliff.

Zhang Ruochen's facial expression altered slightly. He hadn't expected that a warrior of the Earth Realm would have such tenacious vitality. Even with his heart pierced, he still had the strength to fight back.

"Ninth brother!" Zhang Shaochu's face became serious and he rushed toward the cliff immediately.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen transformed to an illusory image. He flew upward from the cliff and landed on the ground firmly with his bloody sword in hand.

Zhang Ruochen let out a long sigh of relief. He said, "It was too dangerous. Luckily, I practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. Otherwise, I would have died with him. I can't be so careless in the future."

Thinking about the martial technique that Zhang Ruochen had displayed on the Challenging Platform with such amazing speed, Zhang Shaochu secretly thought in his heart, "That should be the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. I have to find an opportunity and ask him to teach me. As long as I learn that martial technique which focuses on speed, it will be hard for warriors of the Earth Realm to kill me."

Chapter 136: The Rain is Coming

"Where and what did these men in black come from?" asked Zhang Shaochu.

Zhang Ruochen looked up towards the Mountain Path where 20 men in black had all been killed. The air was filled with the stench of blood.

"Did you leave anyone alive?" Zhang Ruochen frowned slightly.

Zhang Shaochu let out a sigh and said, "We intended to leave one survivor, but he committed suicide by taking poison."

The power of Zhang Shaochu alone was not enough to kill 20 men in black, who possessed strong cultivation, and 13 of them were killed by Blackie.

Looking at the dead bodies on the ground, Zhang Shaochu couldn't help but tremble. When he looked at Blackie again, he showed more respect for it.

He thought that the cat was formidable enough to be as powerful as the ninth brother.

"Let's search their bodies and see if we can find any clues," said Zhang Ruochen.

Quickly, Zhang Shaochu searched the 20 dead bodies, trying to find some clues.

Zhang Ruochen picked up the long purple handled sword on the ground and poured power into it. He searched for a while and said, "It is a fifth-level Genuine Martial Arms with 22 inscriptions worth 100,000 silver coins. Well! Not bad!"

He stored it in the Spatial Ring.

“Ninth brother, aside from the weapons and healing Pills, there was nothing on their bodies to identify them.” Zhang Shaochu had searched out over 10 bottles of healing pills and a great number of soldiers’ weapons and crossbows of Genuine Martial Arms level.

“These pills and crossbows are probably worth over 100,000 silver coins.” Zhang Ruochen cleared up the pills and weapons into the Spatial Ring.

This time, Zhang Shaochu witnessed all these things clearly being put into the ring.

He thought that he was dazzling. He rubbed his eyes and found that all the Pills and weapons had indeed disappeared.

“A spatial treasure?” Zhang Shaochu asked in surprise.

“My Fourth brother, when your cultivation reaches the Earth Realm, I can give you a space treasure as a gift.” Zhang Ruochen said gravely, “But for now, you need to keep it a secret for me.”

Zhang Shaochu clearly knew the value of the spatial treasure. He immediately beat his chest and said, “I promise you, my ninth brother. Even if I am threatened with death, I won’t tell anyone.”

Afterwards, he smiled and said, “Ninth brother, will you really give me a spatial treasure when I reach the Earth Stage Realm?”

“If your cultivation reaches the Earth Stage Realm, you will become one of the top masters and own the capability to protect yourself. By that time, I can certainly give you a spatial treasure!” he answered.

“Let’s put this aside for now. We have to leave right now. I’m suspicious that there are other masters hunting Liu Chuanshen in order to kill him.”

Both of them rode on the savage beast at their the fastest speed, heading for Tianyueguan Pass.

“We have to arrive at the Tianyueguan Pass before dark. Once we enter the Pass, we can arrange part of the troops to escort us back to Yunwu City,” said Zhang Shaochu.

Shortly after they left, another two troops of men in black rushed to the pass.

“There was an intense fight an hour ago, the Chief Qing Feng and 20 disciples were wiped out.” A wizened man in black stood on the cliff and said in an aged voice, “We need to report this to the leader Chief at once.”

“Is it possible that the masters of the Martial Market Bank have rushed to Yunwu Commandery to save Liu Chuanshen?” A young man in black asked.

“Shouldn’t be the masters of the Martial Market Bank, they would need more time to get here.”

After observing the traces on the ground carefully, the elderly man said, “Look! The two people who saved Liu Chuanshen are riding on second-level savage beasts. Judging by this footprint, they are heading to the Tianyueguan Pass.”

“They are going to Tianyueguan Pass?”

“That’s right,” The elderly said. “Let’s catch up with them. Perhaps we can intercept them halfway.”

“They are biting the hook going to Tianyueguan Pass!”

Two troops of men in black dashed towards Tianyueguan Pass at the same time.

Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu were both princes. The moment they entered Tianyueguan Pass, they went straight to the Duke’s Mansion.

Then, Zhang Shaochu went to the military camp, dispatching 5,000 elite troops to protect the Duke’s entire mansion.

All the commands were made by Zhang Ruochen. They could never underestimate the tremendous power of the enemies. After all, Martial Arts master of the Heaven Realm had been badly beaten.

The General who stationed at Tianyueguan Pass was named Chen Yuchan. He was one of the top three powerful forces in the army of Yunwu Commandery and was loyal to Yunwu Commandery Prince.

Although Chen Yu-chan’s cultivation had not yet reached the Heaven Realm, he owned an eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms, which allowed him to possess the power of warriors in the Heaven Realm.

Most importantly, Tianyueguan Pass was set with the array to protect the city. Once the array was opened, no one including the strongest of the Heaven Realm could escape from being killed.

Instead of telling Chen Yuchan about the reasons for hiding in Duke’s Mansion, Zhang Ruochen just let him reinforce the defense. There might be a bloody battle in the Tianyueguan Pass tonight.

Chen Yuchan was a cautious person. He had heard about the achievements of the Ninth Prince before. Therefore, he thought that it was the masters of the Square Commandery who were hunting down the Ninth Prince.

Hence, he asked people to send a message back to Yunwu City, hoping Yunwu Commandery Prince would send the Martial Arts masters to escort the Ninth Prince and the Fourth Prince.

At the same time, one of the mansions in Tianyueguan Pass was as bright as daytime.

Led by a maidservant, the man in black, who was wearing a golden mask, entered the house and stopped outside of a pavilion.

When the man in black took off the mask, an old face was revealed. If Zhang Ruochen was here, he would probably recognize that he was Mo Hanlin, the shopkeeper of Qingxuan Pavilion.

With a seven-stringed plucked instrument placed in front of her, Qin Ya sat in the center of the pavilion, playing. She struck up a beautiful tune.

Instead of interrupting her, Mo Hanlin waited outside the pavilion quietly.

After just one melody, the music lingered in the air long after the performance had ended.

Qin Ya gently wiped her fingers with a white silk and asked casually, “Did Liu Chuanshen die?”

Her voice was very soft, low and attractive to other people.

Mo Hanlin replied, “Distinguished Chief, Liu Chuanshen... has been saved.”

Qin Ya laughed and said, "Oh, who dared to save the people the Moon Worship Demonic Sect wants to kill?"

Mo Hanlin replied, "If the news is true, Liu Chuanshen should have been saved by the Ninth Prince and the Fourth Prince. They are in the Duke's Mansion at Tianyueguan Pass right now."

"Which Ninth Prince?" Qin Ya showed a little interest in the words with her eyebrows raised.

Mo Hanlin knew that the Chief was fairly interested in Zhang Ruochen, so he replied truthfully, "Zhang Ruochen. Chief Qing Feng and 20 disciples were wiped out during the conflict with Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu."

When Qin Ya heard that the masters of the branch gang had been wiped out, she was not agitated at all. Instead, she smiled and said, "Aha! Zhang Ruochen has indeed lived up to my expectations. Within a year, he has possessed the power to kill warriors of the Earth Realm."

"According to news from the School of the Martial Market, Zhang Ruochen not only won first place in the Four Campus New Student's Martial Competition but he also became the top Spiritual Power genius in the history of The School of the Martial Market. It was said that even Luo Xu, in the same Realm, was unable to defeat him."

Mo Hanlin was quite surprised at both Zhang Ruochen's talents and the Chief's great attention to Zhang Ruochen's development.

"Do we need to kill him in advance or should we try to persuade him to join us?" Mo Hanlin asked.

Qin Ya stood up and walked to one side of the pavilion. She looked up to the sky and said, "Lady Saint is quite interested in him and has sent me a message to protect him."

"Since it is the command from the Lady Saint, we'd better not offend him. Furthermore, even though he returned to Yunwu Commandery, the situation could never be changed." Mo Hanlin meditated for a while and said, "If so, do we still need to kill Liu Chuanshen? It will be a recipe for disaster, if we do not kill him. He is a master of the Heaven Realm."

Qin Ya replied, "Anyway, we have secretly merged more than half of the industries in the Martial Market and control over half of Yunwu Commandery's finance. Let's leave the final phase to those from the black market! What's more, it is difficult to deal with Chen Yuchan. He owns the Induced Air Pearls. It is not necessary for us to take a risk."

Mo Hanlin agreed nodding his head, "Let's stand by and play it by ear. Nothing will improve if there is a lose-lose situation between Black Market and the guards of Tianyueguan Pass."

...

Duke's Mansion, Tianyueguan Pass.

In order to help Liu Chuanshen heal, Zhang Ruochen sent people to buy the "Black Pill", a fourth-level healing Pill which cost him 600,000 silver coins.

After he took the Black Pill, Liu Chuanshen's injury started healing at a visible speed and quickly formed a scab. Even his broken arm grew new skin quickly.

Shortly after, Liu Chuanshen woke up but was still weak.

Compared to the external injury, the internal injury was relatively hard to heal.

A familiar feeling occurred to Liu Chuanshen when he saw the figure of a young man standing with his back to him. Thus, he asked in a weak voice, "Excuse me, can you tell me why I am here?"

Zhang Ruochen walked to him at once. "Manager Liu, you're finally awake! Who were those hunting you down?" he asked.

Liu Chuanshen was neither able to laugh nor cry when he recognized that Zhang Ruochen had saved him. He sighed and said, "It is the Ninth Prince that saved me. I would have never imagined several months ago that you would one day be my savior."

Liu Chuanshen looked very tired. Since he was a master of Martial Arts in the Heaven Realm and had great cultivation, he managed to get out of bed, even with the serious injury.

After operating Genuine Qi for one circulation inside his body, Liu Chuanshen felt much better in his mental state. Then, the solemn imposing manner of Martial Arts appeared on Liu Chuanshen, intensifying the atmosphere of the whole room.

Liu Chuanshen sighed and said, "Almost all the industries of the Martial Market Bank in Yunwu Commandery have been ruined. More than ten thousand important members of the Martial Market Bank have been killed, over 3,800 shops have been merged, and all the mines, pastures and Banks have been robbed. It was a heavy loss for us. At present, the Martial Market Bank has completely lost control over Yunwu Commandery's economy. And the foundation we had laid during the past hundreds of years disappeared overnight. I am the guilty person who should be responsible for this!"

Chapter 137: The No. 1 Figure from the Military, Wan Chengchong

Zhang Ruochen could briefly guess at what had happened in the Martial Market Bank, but he still felt thrilled when he heard from Liu Chuanshen. He said, "The Martial Market Bank has operated for such a long time with the support of the official strength in Yunwu Commandery. Who has the power to remove all of the industries from the Martial Market Bank overnight?"

Liu Chuanshen said wistfully, "The opponents have surely planned this for a long time. They were just waiting for the right moment."

"Was it the black market?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Liu Chuanshen nodded and said, "Besides the black market, there is another force that hides behind the black market. They are the ones, who got the real benefits from this cleanup of the Martial Market Bank. Although the black market had seized some of the industries they only received 20% of it."

"A force even greater than the black market, is it... the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Liu Chuanshen said, "Yes, it is the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. It has mobilized the masters from all of the gang branches in Yunwu Commandery in order to launch this battle. Moreover, I suspect that they

have also arranged a large number of masters from other commanderies and hence why the Martial Market Bank couldn't fight back at all."

"The Martial Market Bank and the official power have always maintained a cooperative relationship. Why didn't the official power step up and help to suppress the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?" Zhang Ruocheng asked confused.

Liu Chuanshen shook his head, gave a wry smile, and said, "After Square Commandery declared war on the Yunwu Commandery, they took down twelve cities of Yunwu Commandery and killed an army of a hundred thousand soldiers within 10 days. Everyone feels insecure and is thrown into confusion in the Royal Palace of Yunwu Commandery. Who would still have the energy to mobilize the military to aid the Martial Market Bank? The Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect noticed this, therefore, they decided to attack the Martial Market Bank catching them off guard."

Zhang Ruochen comforted him and said, "Don't lose faith, Manager! No one could stop them with both the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect working together, it's not your fault!"

"Anyhow, Liu must thank the Ninth Prince for saving my life, if you need me in the future, just let me know. Liu will pay back your kindness today." Liu Chuanshen tingled and continued, "Is the Ninth prince going back to Yunwu City?"

"Yes." Zhang Ruochen replied.

Liu Chuanshen shook his head and said, "Please do not go back. Yunwu Commandery is precarious with constant controversy in the hall now. There are armies from Square Commandery stationed outside and the covetous black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect inside."

"Since the Yunwu Commandery Prince is in Yunwu City, there's no chaos, for now. Yet, if anything happens to the Yunwu Commandery Prince... forgive my rudeness, which is when the Yunwu Commandery will be destroyed."

"Imagine, if Yunwu Commandery is extinguished, wouldn't it be suicidal to return to Yunwu City,? Come back to the School of the Martial Market with me! It is impossible for them to take down the School of the Martial Market no matter how rampant Square Commandery, black market, and Moon Worship Demonic Sect are."

Zhang Ruochen thought of his mother, the Ninth Commandery Princess and his father who was familiar and unfamiliar, at the same time. There was a firm look in his eyes as he said, "Manager Liu needn't persuade me, I must go back to Yunwu City. I'll have to go back, no matter how dangerous it is. I can't leave my family there."

Liu Chuanshen stopped persuading him and said, "Be careful of the Queen and the minister when you are back at Yunwu City. They have always wanted to get rid of you. Moreover, they control half of the power in the city where many large-scale family and Suzerains are dependent on them."

"Thank you for reminding me." Zhang Ruochen then asked, "Manager Liu, what's your plan?"

Liu Chuanshen sighed again and said, "These industries in Yunwu Commandery have been completely lost under my operation and caused heavy losses to the Bank. I have to return back to Devil Martial City to accept the punishment."

At this moment, a loud noise came from the Duke's Mansion.

Zhang Ruochen and Liu Chuanshen exchanged a look, stopping the conversation, and walking outside.

There was a loud roar. It was as if all the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth was being emptied, in a just moment and the ground trembled.

In the Duke's Mansion, strands of the inscription from the Array were activated. They intertwined into a large net and rose up into the air.

The Manor's Protection tactical formation had opened!

Chen Yuchan, the Major General of the Tian Yue Gate, personally presided over a large tactical formation of five thousand elite soldiers and had fierce clashes with the men in black who that tried to break into the Duke's Mansion.

Liu Chuanshen heard the sound from the outside and stayed calm, asking, "The Ninth Prince, where is this place?"

"The General's Mansion in Tian Yue Gate." Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Chuanshen nodded his head gently, "It turned out to be the Tian Yue Gate. With the ability of Chen Yuchan and the Defender Array, it should be able to block the attack from the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Yunwu City will surely be alerted if a war breaks out in Tian Yue Gate. The masters of Yunwu City will be able to arrive within two hours. Therefore, the crisis in Tian Yue Gate will be solved as long as Chen Yuchan can hold them off for two hours."

"You're right!"

Liu Chuanshen looked at Zhang Ruochen with a very appreciative look and said, "It's right act that you chose to come to Tian Yue Gate because that is the only way out. How nice would it be if you were my son?"

"Liu Chengfeng is also a prodigy, his achievements will be great in the future." Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Chuanshen shook his head and said, "His ability is not even one-tenth of yours."

Zhang Ruochen looked at the giant array suspended above his head and nodded lightly, "There's no need to open the Defender Array, just the Manor Protection Array. It should be able to ward off people from the black market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect."

The Defender Array consumed a considerable number of Spiritual Crystals and hence it couldn't be opened easily.

Every time when the Defender Array in Tian Yue Gate was opened, at least 10 thousand Spiritual Crystals had to be consumed, which was worth 10 million silver coins.

So, the Defender Array wouldn't be opened unless it was an absolute crisis.

Even if just the Manor Protection Array was opened to protect the Duke's Mansion, five hundred Spiritual Crystals would be consumed.

Since the Manor Protection Array has been opened, the soldiers outside should be able to ward off the evil people from the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect without the help of Zhang Ruochen.

Two hours later, all the men in black who came to attack the Duke's Mansion were all defeated, just left hundreds of dead warriors, littering the streets.

Five thousand soldiers who guarded outside the Duke's Mansion also suffered heavy casualties. Almost a thousand people died and more than two thousand people were heavily injured, which was a tragedy.

Liu Chuanshen watched the backs of the men in black as they retreated. His eyes dilated and he wore a puzzled look, as he said, "That's strange! Why was it only the heretics of the black market that attacked the Duke's Mansion, but not the masters of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?"

"The masters of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect didn't attack us?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Liu Chuanshen nodded his head and said, "If the masters of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect also attacked the Duke's Mansion, the Manor Protection Array may not have been strong enough to ward off them."

Zhang Ruochen meditated for a moment and said, "Although the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect work together to fight the Martial Market Bank, they are not the same kind of people, after all. Now that the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has benefited from it, perhaps they just stand by and watch the black market and us have an internecine war."

"That is possible."

Liu Chuanshen thought for a moment and said, "The Chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect who is stationed in the Yunwu Commandery must be a relentless person. None of the people I sent to investigate her came back alive. I haven't found out her real identity yet. I only know that the person is probably a woman. If you fight with her in the future, you have to be extremely careful."

The sound of rapid footsteps broke out.

Chen Yuchan and Zhang Shaochu walked toward Zhang Ruochen. There was a big bald fellow with a huge pair of elephant ears that walked up to them.

That big bald fellow was over 8 and 1/2 feet tall, wearing a golden armor, which made him look like a giant tower. A long cloak draped behind him and his body emitted the powerful smell of Martial Arts, wielding a green battleaxe in his hand.

Even Chen Yuchan and Zhang Shaochu also appeared to be very respectful around that big bald fellow. They even walked behind him carefully.

Chen Yuchan provided introductions, "Your Highness Ninth Prince, may I introduce you to Wan Chengzhong, the commander of the imperial guards of Yunwu City."

Zhang Ruochen had heard of the designation of Wan Chengzhong who was the No.1 figure in the military of Yunwu Commandery. He was known as powerful enough to carry mountains and was identified as a myth of Martial Arts with the ability of the Heaven Realm.

The figure like Wan Chengzhong wouldn't serve as a commander of imperial guards in this inferior commandery at first. He was willing to commit to this position as he owed Yunwu Commandery Prince his life, ever since he was young. Therefore, he agreed to help Yunwu Commandery Prince to command Yunwu City for 40 years.

Wan Chengzhong was reclusive all the time and rarely asked about imperial guards.

Until recently, the great change took place in Yunwu Commandery. Yunwu Commandery Prince then asked him to come out and guard Yunwu City.

Wan Chengzhong had a pair of sharp eyes and looked Zhang Ruochen over from head to toe. He complimented Zhang Ruochen more once Zhang Ruochen remained calm in front of him.

"You're indeed a genius. No wonder Your Majesty asked me to pick you up personally. Your talent should not be belittled by the Seventh Prince." Wan Chengzhong said.

Wan Chengzhong wasn't a pure human but instead, from the Elephant-Human clan. There was not only the blood of a human flowing inside of his body, but also the blood of a brute elephant.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "When are we going back to Yunwu City?"

"Tomorrow."

Wan Chengzhong paused and said coolly, "I have something to take care of tonight. Since the Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect led such an outbreak in Yunwu City and completely ignored me as the commander of the imperial guards, they should pay the cost."

"Now, the masters of the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect are gathering around at the Tian Yue Gate, it's time to handle them. Chen Yuchan, open the array to protect the city, I will clean up these heretics from the black market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect."

Chen Yuchan furrowed his eyebrows slightly and said, "Grand Commander, it will cost another 10 thousand Spiritual Crystals to open the Defender Array again..."

Wan Chengzhong gave Chen Yuchan a straight look and said, "I will pay for it. Open the array for protecting the city. I will handle the rest."

When Chen Yuchan and Wan Chengzhong were gone, the Defender Array in the Tian Yue Gate was opened again.

"Boom!"

The entire gate of the city was shaking, a huge round array plate was suspended in the sky, over three hundred feet in the air, rotating slowly, covering the entire Tian Yue Gate.

The violent vibrations from the Tian Yue Gate made the surrounding mountains shake as if the whole world was shivering.

Beams of light rushed up from the ground, one by one, and connected with the array plate in the sky.

Within a second, the dark sky had been completely illuminated by the light of the array and it was shining as bright as the daytime.

#### Chapter 138: The Battle in The Heaven Realm

The Defender Array had been activated. It was comprised of several bright rays that were embedded in the ground. Each ray had caused a huge crater with a diameter of more than 32 feet around.

The area surrounding the craters had been torn apart, forming large messy cracks.

Anyone that had been hit by a descending ray had died instantly, becoming a blood fog, including the warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm.

Inside the Tianyueguan Pass, countless evil masters were killed by the array in just 15 minutes. Their screams rose one after another.

“Boom!”

The legend of Martial Arts of the Heaven Realm, from the Black Market, rushed out of a courtyard. He flew to the gate of the Tian Yue Gate like a black streak of light.

The legend was incredibly fast. Friction from speeding through the air caused flames to appear on his body, making the wind whistle.

“Still trying to escape?” Chen Yuchan stood in the center of the Defender Array and manipulated its power with just a flick of his wrist. With that small motion, he transferred the power of the array to attack the Myth of Martial Arts.

A giant lightning ball, with a diameter of three feet, fell from the Defender Array and attacked the man at high speed.

“Howl!”

The myth of martial arts let out a howl and it spread across the whole Tian Yue Gate.

Nearly a thousand defenders were knocked over by his sound wave and they passed out with their ears bleeding.

This was followed by another cacophonous sound.

The lightning ball fell from the sky, smashing into thousands of tiny streams at his feet.

The ground was now covered with a white lightning and it looked as if thousands of white snakes were writhing around in a 165-foot radius.

“Snap!”

A huge tree became charred and burned black in less than a minute. It fell to the ground and disintegrated into a pile of black ashes.

When he rushed to the gate, the martial arts legend found that Wan Chengchong had waited there with his battle-ax in his hand.

“Wan Chengzhong, how dare you be the enemy of the black market?” The myth of the black market challenged. He was tall and thin and his arms and legs were slender, like four bamboo sticks.

The Myth was pissed, he didn’t think that Wan Chengchong would have had the nerve to activate the Defender Array and fight against the masters from the Black Market.

“Boom!”

Wan Chengchong laid down his heavy battle-ax and held its haft in one hand, “Mo Han, I don’t care what you normally do. That is the only reason you were able to live to this day. However, now that Yunwu Commandery is at stake, you’re choosing to cause trouble and disturb the order of Yunwu City. I can’t spare your life any longer.”

“Tough talk! Dare you say those without the force of the Defender Array?” The myth of the black market said coldly.

Wan Chengzhong said with a deep voice, “I can kill you without the aid of the Defender Array.”

Mo Han’s eyes darkened. He took out a black sword, a Seventh Level Genuine Martial Arm, and wielded it in his hand.

The black sword was 2 meters long. Its surface was covered with sprays of red blood.

There were 48 inscriptions inside the sword and all of them were Inscriptions of the Dark Series.

“Boom!”

Mo Han thrust the sword into the ground and roared, “Complete Darkness!”

A cold dark power emitted from the sword, spreading in all the directions, creeping like octopus tentacles.

Moments later, centered at Mo Han, with a radius of 50 meters, the whole space became utter darkness.

From a distance, it looked like a giant black 165-foot sphere floating at the gate.

The black sphere emitted a biting, Icing air that was frosting the ground. The houses near it, and the gate afar were also covered with Ice Crystals.

“Boom!”

The black sphere started rolling towards Wan Chengchong.

Wan Chengchong snorted and picked up his ax. His whole body emitted blinding golden lights and his pupils appeared to be on fire.

“Break!”

Suddenly, he jumped up and swung his ax down to cleave the sphere.

The ax sank into the sphere's surface and the sphere began to shake uncontrollably.

With a clamorous boom, the sphere was split in half by the ax.

"Bam!"

Wan Chengchong landed on the ground behind Mo Han, leaving two deep footprints on the slate. The golden light that had surrounded him began to gradually disappear.

The street had been torn apart, leaving a 330-foot wide crack. The slates had been shattered into stone chips and the buildings lining the street had collapsed into ruins.

The power from this single ax movement had been devastating.

"Slap!"

Mo Han's body had been split in two and the pieces fell in opposite directions.

All that remained was a red puddle of blood, cooling on the ground.

A Myth of Martial Arts of the Heaven Realm had just fallen at the Tian Yue Gate.

...

Liu Chuanshen and Zhang Ruochen stood at the top of the Duke's Mansion observation tower to watch the battle taking place at the gate from afar.

"No wonder Wan Chengchong is the No.1 from the army of Yunwu Commandery. He was able to slay the head of the Black Market, Mo Han, with just one swing of his ax. It's marvelous." Liu Chuanshen said in admiration while gently stroking his beard.

"That one swing contained all of Wan Chengchong's power and if he hadn't been able to break Mo Han's sphere, he would have lost," Zhang Ruochen replied.

Liu Chuanshen nodded, "I'm just curious. Since the head of the Black Market showed up, why didn't the Chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?"

...

There was a white chariot parked outside the Tian Yue Gate. It was gorgeous, elegant, and it looked like a perfect piece of art.

There were a lot of men in black gathered not far from the chariot.

Qin Ya stepped out of the chariot onto the wet meadow. With her slender arms, shapely legs, thin waist, soft breasts, and sensuous hips, people found her fascinating and charming.

When Qin Ya appeared, the men in black, with golden masks, all lowered their heads, not daring to look at her directly.

"Just as you had expected, they activated the Defender Array of the Tian Yue Gate. Under its dome of power, the masters from the Black Market had no chance of survival," Mo Hanlin said.

Qin Ya smiled gracefully then she said, in her alluring voice, "Chen Yuchan wouldn't have had the courage. Wan Chengchong must've arrived at the Tian Yue Gate. This would be his way of doing things and Mo Han is certainly dead."

The head of a branch gang knelt down before Qin Ya before asking, "Chief, what should we do now?"

"We shall seize the Black Market's properties in Yunwu Commandery, as many as possible before its new head arrives. Within 10 days, the Moon Worship Sect will control 70% of the Martial Market Bank and the Black Market's properties. This will give them complete control of the city's economic lifelines."

Qin Ya returned to her elegant chariot after giving her order.

The white chariot was pulled by 18 lightening rabbits and it travelled on the tips of the grass like the Moon Fairy's magic chariot, as it journeyed to Yunwu City.

...

Last night had been a night of slaughter for the people of the Tian Yue Gate. Countless masters from the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect were slain and their dead bodies had been piled into a macabre mountain outside the gate.

Although the Moon Worship Demonic Sect evacuated a lot of its disciples in advance, there were still many who didn't make it and their bodies would permanently remain at the Tian Yue Gate.

The next morning, Wan Chengchong quickly escorted Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu to Yunwu City.

Last night, Liu Chuanshen snuck out of the Duke's Mansion, leaving behind only a note to inform Zhang Ruochen that he had left for Devil Martial City to admit his error and receive punishment.

Warriors of the Heaven Realm could leave without a trace even when they were badly injured.

Zhang Shaochu sat on the back of the saber-toothed thunder tiger as he said, "Ninth brother, now that their leader is dead, will we be able to root out the rest of the Black Market?"

Zhang Ruochen grinned, "The Black Market's history in this realm goes back even further than Yunwu Commandery. Its roots of power run deeper than our Royal Family in Yunwu Commandery. Only one leader has died and they will surely send another, it won't be so easy to root it out."

Zhang Shaochu said, "For many years the Martial Market Bank also operated in Yunwu Commandery and it was still eliminated by the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect."

Zhang Ruochen thought for a while, eyeing the front, and replied, "It's true that the obvious properties of Martial Market Bank were seized, yet it has hidden properties. Its power in the Yunwu Commandery hasn't disappeared.

"All we can say for sure is that the Martial Market Bank only has a little influence left in Yunwu Commandery now. It is going to take a hundred years of development for it to regain its original power."

Wan Chengchong led an elite troop of 1000 people to escort Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu to the center. Wan Chengchong didn't say a word the whole trip and no one could tell what he was thinking.

Four hours later, Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu entered Yunwu City and hurried directly to the palace.

They would first meet with the Yunwu Commandery Prince.

The three of them entered the Throne Hall.

Being a warrior of the Heaven Realm, he still saluted Yunwu Commandery Prince before saying, "Your Majesty, I have escorted the Fourth Prince and the Ninth Prince to Yunwu City safely." Wan Chengchong highly respected Yunwu Commandery Prince.

Yunwu Commandery Prince was sitting solemnly above them as he said, "Chengchong, you're too polite. You don't need to salute me from now on."

Wan Chengchong stood upright and said, "Your Majesty, I killed Mo Han, the head of the Black Market. However, the Chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect escaped. Should I go and hunt her down?"

Yunwu Commandery Prince shook his head, "No. The power of the Black Market and Martial Market Bank have disintegrated, while the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has full control of the economic lifelines in Yunwu Commandery. Last night the balance was broken down. If we start the battle against the Moon Worship Demonic Sect now, our foundation will be badly damaged, even if we win."

The official force of the Yunwu Commandery was almost tied down by the Square Commandery's army. How would they have the energy to handle the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, which had only grown in influence?

Yunwu Commandery Prince then looked at Zhang Ruochen, revealing a little smile, "My son, I was told that you became the No.1 freshman from the Western Campus. What Realm are you at with your cultivation now?"

"I'm at the Medium State of the Black Realm," Zhang Ruochen said honestly.

Zhang Shaochu was standing next to him and he immediately responded, "Father, maybe you haven't heard, but ninth brother isn't only the No.1 freshman from Western Campus, he is No.1 out of all Four Campuses."

Chapter 139: Asking for Help

Zhang Shaochu continued, "In the quarterly assessment recently, he had an edge over others and ranked the fifth in Western Campus."

"What's even more impressive is that he is also the No.1 Spiritual Power genius, the most powerful in all of the history of the School of the Martial Market. All the presbyters believe that if he practices his Spiritual Power, whole-heartedly, there is a 50% chance of him becoming a Spiritual Power Saint."

Yunwu Commandery Prince knew some of the things he said, while others things were new to him.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince squinted his eyes in surprise. "I've heard that only warriors as powerful as the Warriors of the Division Profound can rank in the top five of the Western Campus. My son, are you as powerful as a Warrior of the Division Profound?" he asked.

Zhang Ruochen said, "No one knows. There is no guarantee without achieving ten winning streaks in the Coliseum of the Martial Market."

Seeing Zhang Ruochen being so calm and mature, Yunwu Commandery Prince suddenly thought of something. So, he said, "Square Commandery is now fighting us with thousands of troops and millions of soldiers. Over 10 days, we have lost twelve cities. Right now, all of the warriors in Yunwu Commandery said that you are the one who killed Prince Huo Xing, and thus brought us this catastrophe. What do you say to that?"

"My dear king, if you want to hand me over to Square Commandery, to appease them, I will obey. Or, if you want me to fight on the battlefield with them, I will obey. I bear the responsibility since it is my fault," Zhang Ruochen replied.

Zhang Ruochen knew it wouldn't make any difference, so he didn't explain why he killed Prince Huo Xing.

When Zhang Rouchen called him "Your Majesty", Yunwu Commandery Prince's countenance fell and he realized that Zhang Ruochen still bore grudges.

"My dear king" and "my dear father" were similar two-word phrases, but there was an unbridgeable gap between them.

Yunwu Commandery Prince replied, "Even if Yunwu Commandery is doomed, I will never hand over my own son to Square Commandery. I know that your martial cultivation is strong, but it's not strong enough to change the current situation. So, I won't let you fight on the battlefield, either."

"However, since you are the one who brought trouble to Yunwu Commandery, there will be a consequence and you must do something for your Commandery. As for the details, I will tell you tomorrow. For now, go see your mother, she misses you dearly."

Zhang Ruochen and Zhang Shaochu left, leaving only Yunwu Commandery Prince and Wan Chengzhong in the Palace.

While facing Wan Chengzhong, Yunwu Commandery Prince let out a long sigh, "Chengzhong, I plan to take my son to Qianshui Commandery and ask for help tomorrow. I will come back as soon as possible, but while I'm away, please take care of Yunwu Commandery for me!"

Wan Chengzhong said, "Don't go Your Majesty! Only you can govern Yunwu Commandery! You have to stay and I will take the Ninth Prince to Qianshui Commandery."

Yunwu Commandery Prince shook his head and said, "Qianshui Commandery is a superior class commandery, which is a hundred times stronger than us. In Qianshui Commandery Prince's eyes, Yunwu Commandery is inferior. If I go there in person, there is a chance they will refuse to see me. If you go there is no chance they will hear you."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince appeared to be a little upset as he continued, "The Square Commandery is incredibly powerful and we can not defend ourselves alone. The only way we will survive is by asking for help from the Qianshui Commandery."

"I learned that the Thirteenth Commandery Princess of Qianshui Commandery is 16 years old now, and Qianshui Commandery Prince wants to pick a genius as her Prince Consort."

"The news has spread to all of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. Every commandery wants to arrange a marriage with Qianshui Commandery in order to get its powerful support. This is our only chance and even if it is only a slim one, I will still try my best."

Wan Chengzhong had a realization and he asked, "Your Majesty, are you taking the Ninth Prince on a blind date at Qianshui Commandery?"

Yunwu Commandery Prince nodded and said, "He should be the top warrior among the young generation in Qianshui Commandery. If the Thirteenth Commandery Princess takes a fancy to him, we will be relatives by marriage. The crisis we are facing now will be solved easily."

"Actually, my seventh son would be the most ideal. If he would go with me, I think we would have higher chances. Perhaps... Well... Nevermind."

Not long ago, Yunwu Commandery Prince sent a letter to the Seventh Prince, hoping that he would represent Yunwu Commandery and go on a blind date with the Thirteenth Commandery Princess."

"Unfortunately, the Seventh Prince replied that it was his ninth brother that caused the problems for Yunwu Commandery and it was he who should bear the responsibility. Besides, he also refuses to return to Yunwu City."

Although the Yunwu Commandery Prince had eight sons (the Eighth Prince passed away), only the Seventh Prince and the Ninth Prince were talented enough to be considered geniuses.

Other princes were not qualified to go on a blind date with a superior class commandery princess and they would likely embarrass themselves making the request.

After considering the situation, Yunwu Commandery Prince believed that Zhang Ruochen was the most suitable son. He was around the same age as the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, plus, he's also a top genius. He would be worthy of her love.

Wan Chengzhong asked with doubt, "Your Majesty, why didn't you tell the Ninth Prince just now?"

The Yunwu Commandery Prince smiled and replied, "I know him well enough to know that he won't agree if asked directly to go on a blind date. He also is the reason for our troubles, so it is up to him to do something to remedy it."

After spending time with his mother and staying one night, Zhang Ruochen followed Yunwu Commandery Prince to Qianshui Commandery that following day.

Zhang Ruochen still didn't know the real reason for the trip to Qianshui Commandery, he just thought they were going to ask for reinforcement.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince rode a Golden-feathered Eagle, a Fourth-level Savage Beast.

The Golden-feathered Eagle was kept in the Golden Eagle Palace and it ate 20 savage beasts a day. It was over 160 feet long with each feather weighing over 220 pounds. Its body looked like it had been cast in gold and shone with a dazzling brilliance.

In those days, Yunwu Commandery Prince and Wan Chengchong worked together for half a year to subdue it.

The Golden-feathered Eagle's top-speed almost reaches the speed of sound.

It flew at its average speed of 650 feet per second, to reduce the waste of its Genuine Qi, which was still extraordinarily fast. This was much faster than most of the warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm.

There were 25 people going to Qianshui Commandery, including Yunwu Commandery Prince.

Other than Zhang Ruochen, there were four generals in the Earth Realm and 20 warriors in the Completion of the Black Realm.

The 20 warriors were all clad in the armor of the fourth-class Genuine Martial Arms and they were carrying 20 treasure boxes.

The boxes contained Spiritual Crystals, Genuine Martial Arms and some precious medicinal materials.

Everyone was sitting on the back of the Golden-feather Eagle, which flew in the void space hundreds of feet high, heading east.

After flying for a day and a night and crossing thousands of miles, they finally reached the Qianshui Commandery.

After flying for another half a day, they finally arrived at Qianshui City.

Qianshui City was very lofty, their walls were higher than most mountains and ancient buildings were scattered all over the city.

Yunwu city was just a remote little town, compared with Qianshui City.

After entering the city, Yunwu Commandery Prince took Zhang Ruochen straight to a manor that belonged to Yunwu Commandery. The manor had more than a dozen guards.

After setting down the treasures, Yunwu Commandery Prince took Zhang Ruochen to visit a high official of Qianshui Commandery and they intended to go through the back door.

The official was a powerful minister of Qianshui Commandery who enjoyed his significant influence.

Yunwu Commandery had sent a lot of silver coin and Spiritual Crystals over the years to procure their protection.

Zhang Ruochen was a little confused and asked, "Why don't we send the gifts directly to Qianshui Commandery Prince and ask for his help?"

Yunwu Commandery Prince answered, "The Qianshui Commandery is superior to us. We are no better than a speck of dust in Qianshui Commandery Prince's eyes. It's impossible to meet with him without any pull. Do you even know who Minister Ning is?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head.

"Minister Ning is one of the 10 most powerful officials in Qianshui Commandery. What's more, he is also the leader of the Nings, a five-class family. Even the Nings are much more powerful than the Square Commandery, which is a medium level commandery," Yunwu Commandery Prince answered.

"A family that was stronger than a medium level commandery! The Ning's are indeed very powerful."

"If the Ning's wanted to destroy Yunwu Commandery, they wouldn't even need to do it in person. All they would need to do is to give an order, and the inferior commanderies around us would work together to wipe us out and partition our land."

Zhang Ruochen's face stiffened as he asked, "So, this is why we send Minister Ning Spiritual Crystals and treasures every year?"

The Yunwu Commandery Prince laughed and said, "Not only us, but, all of the 36 commanderies from the Omen Ridge have their backers in the Qianshui Commandery. For example, the backer of the Square Commandery is the Right Prime Minister of the Qianshui Commandery. Without his acquiescence, the Square Commandery wouldn't dare to attack us."

It was never easy to keep a commandery stable and only with the help of a backer could it hope to achieve long-term peace.

Shortly after, Yunwu Commandery Prince and Zhang Ruochen arrived at an enormous manor.

An old butler, in an indigo gown, walked out of the gate and said with a smile, "Yunwu Commandery Prince, long time no see."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince didn't put on airs. He made a slight bow with hands and smiled, "Butler Ning, nice to see you."

While they were talking, Yunwu Commandery Prince took out an exquisite golden box and handed it to the old butler.

The old butler took it and opened. After he took a closer look, his smile became warmer.

"Is Minister Ning at home now?" Yunwu Commandery Prince asked in a low voice.

"Minister Ning is meeting with Flame Dragon Commandery Prince now. You can wait in the wing-room and Minister Ning will see you in a minute."

Hearing this, the Yunwu Commandery Prince squinted his eyes. He sighed inwardly. "It seems that every commandery wants to arrange a marriage with the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. The competition must be fierce. What should I do?"

Chapter 140: Minister Ning

10 soldiers at the Completion of the Black Realm carried five boxes of treasure and brought them into the Minister's Mansion.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince and Zhang Ruochen had arrived at the side hall. They waited patiently for Minister Ning to receive them.

About an hour later, an elderly butler came into the hall and whispered to the Yunwu Commandery Prince in low voice.

He nodded, stood up, and spoke to Zhang Ruochen, "Son, I'm going to meet Minister Ning. Wait for me here and don't wander around."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince made his entrance into the grand hall of the Minister's Mansion together with 10 soldiers clad in armor, who were carrying the five boxes of treasure earlier.

Although it was just a hall in the Minister's Mansion, it was taller and bigger than the Palace of the Yunwu Commandery. The floor was covered with jade stone and supported by 36 thick copper pillars. Two rows of pretty maidservants were seen standing next to the pillars.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince greeted Minister Ning from afar. Smiling, he clasped his hands in greeting and said, "Greetings to the Minister. Here are some gifts prepared by the Yunwu Commandery. I hope the Minister will like them."

Minister Ning, who was sitting in a purple golden armchair, was an elderly with gray hair dressed in a purple gown. Holding a jade teacup, he replied with a faint smile, "I know you'll visit me within these few days! Looks like you've made some progress with your cultivation, kid."

As someone who was at the old age of 137, Minister Ning's cultivation had reached an unfathomable level. Even the Yunwu Commandery Prince could only be regarded as a junior in front of him.

Although Minister Ning had signs of aging, his eyes were as bright as a striking pair of stars. It was as if his eyes could penetrate souls, he easily saw through the Yunwu Commandery Prince's cultivation level.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince knew he could not afford to make any mistakes in front of Minister Ning. He hurriedly replied, "Compared to the Minister, my cultivation simply isn't worth mentioning!"

Sitting in the honored seat, Minister Ning's sturdy figure exuded a majestic aura that resembled the vast ocean. He smiled and said, "Take a seat first and we'll talk. I've just met the Commandery Prince of Flame Dragon Commandery. He also wanted to arrange a marriage with Qianshui Commandery."

He continued saying, "The prince of Flame Dragon Commandery is an outstanding warrior with great talent. At the age of 19, he has already reached the Completion of the Black Realm. Obviously, he has a great chance to successfully challenge the Warriors of Division Profound. The Commandery Prince had asked me to arrange a meeting between his son and the Thirteenth Commandery Princess privately, which I've already promised him."

Upon hearing the news, the Yunwu Commandery Prince's brow furrowed slightly in response. He said, "Minister, the reason why I'm here..."

Minister Ning laughed and said, "I understand. You're also planning to ask for the same thing, aren't you? If you're here with the Seventh Prince, there's a high possibility for the arranged marriage to

happen. But, I've been told that you've brought the Ninth Prince instead of the Seventh Prince. I'm afraid the chance of success will be much lower."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince said, "The talent of our Ninth Prince is more or less the same as the Seventh Prince. Give him some time, and he'll surely become a Warrior of Division Profound."

Minister Ning shook his head and sighed. He said, "You don't understand how competitive this is. Almost every Commandery Prince of 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge is here at the Qianshui City with their most outstanding princes. Not to mention the princes from other commanderies. Every major family within Qianshui Commandery also wants to arrange a marriage with the Royal Family. They have all sent their most extraordinary warriors, hoping to win the heart of the Thirteenth Commandery Princess."

If you have come to Qianshui Commandery with the Seventh Prince, he certainly has a chance. After all, the Seventh Prince is the pride of 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. No one from the young generation is comparable to him in Qianshui Commandery. I guess he at least would have a 30% chance of success. As for the Ninth Prince, the chance of him getting noticed by Thirteenth Commandery Princess should be less than 1%."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince was dejected as he knew that Minister Ning was telling the truth. It indeed was a fierce competition. It was mainly because the Thirteenth Commandery Princess was exceptionally beautiful and was also highly talented. On top of that, she was the daughter of the Qianshui Commandery Prince, and thus every prince wanted to marry her.

The Qianshui Commandery Prince had 37 daughters in total, and yet, there were not many princesses that could be as outstanding as the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Minister Ning looked over at the five boxes that the Yunwu Commandery Prince had prepared for him. After a moment of thought, he said, "Yunwu Commandery Prince, since we're good old friends, I'll try my best to help you. The Thirteenth Commandery Princess would like to meet the outstanding warriors who came to the Qianshui City prior to the Sword Technique Conference. If she finds them acceptable, only then they will be given a chance to join the Conference. The most talented prodigy who performs well in the Conference will then become her Prince Consort."

What I can do is to arrange the Ninth Prince to meet the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. As for the rest, it all depends on whether the Ninth Prince can get through to her."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince was glad to hear this. He quickly said, "Thank you so much, Minister. I truly appreciate your help."

Minister Ning laughed and said, "Don't celebrate yet. The Thirteenth Commandery Princess has a very high standard. It's better if the Ninth Prince can bring a valuable gift to her. If she likes the gift, the chance of her accepting him will be higher. After all, first impressions are always important."

"There's one more thing I need to tell you. Since both of you are already in Qianshui Commandery, the Ninth Prince should keep a low-profile. It's probably best if he can temporarily drop the title of 'prince' so as to avoid offending the princes of Qianshui Commandery."

"I'll remind him of all these details." The Yunwu Commandery Prince responded.

After pondering for a while, Minister Ning added on and said, "It's getting late. I'll arrange the meeting with the Thirteenth Commandery Princess for tomorrow morning. Don't be late."

The Yunwu Commandery Prince left the five boxes of treasure in the Minister's Mansion. Then, he returned to the manor with Zhang Ruochen and the 10 guards.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince told Zhang Ruochen to meet him in his room alone. He took out a two-meter-long casket and placed it in front of Zhang Ruochen. He said, "There's an ancient seventh-class Genuine Martial Arms in the casket. Bring it to the Thirteenth Commandery Princess tomorrow. Remember, we are here to seek for their help. You must try to win the Princess' favor. If she's pleased, perhaps our commandery's crisis will be resolved."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "I'll try my best."

He picked up the scabbard and left the room.

Sitting under the light, the Yunwu Commandery Prince let out a long sigh.

In fact, he did not have high hopes for Zhang Ruochen. But, as long as there was a glimmer of hope, he would try to strive for it. He could not just sit there and do nothing.

The next day, under the lead of the elderly butler of the Minister's Mansion, Zhang Ruochen arrived at an elegant manor.

Other than Zhang Ruochen, Zuo Longlin of the Flame Dragon Commandery could also be seen waiting outside the manor. Obviously, he was also here for the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Zuo Longlin was holding a one-square-foot glazed casket in his hands. He was a handsome youth in his twenties. His martial cultivation was also fairly strong, reaching the Completion of the Black Realm.

He puffed out his chest proudly as if he was superior to everyone. He took a quick glance at Zhang Ruochen and said, "You're the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery?"

Holding the scabbard, Zhang Ruochen replied, "Yes."

"Rumor has it that Square Commandery has declared a war and defeated Yunwu Commandery. And thus, you have no choice but to arrange a marriage with the Thirteenth Commandery Princess." Zuo Longlin said, sneering in disdain.

As far as he was concerned, Zhang Ruochen was just a prince from a commandery which was about to be destroyed. Of course, he would not take him seriously.

Even so, Zhang Ruochen showed no signs of displeasure. He said in a neutral tone, "This is our Yunwu Commandery's domestic affair. Don't you worry about us."

Zuo Longlin chuckled and did not say a word.

Shortly after, a maidservant who was wearing a green dress walked out from the manor. She took a quick glance at both Zhang Ruochen and Zuo Longlin before asking, "Are you Prince Longlin of Flame Dragon Commandery and the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery?"

"Yes, I am." Zuo Longlin and Zhang Ruochen said in unison.

“The Thirteenth Commandery Princess is ready to see you, you can come in now.” The maidservant said arrogantly.

Zuo Longlin and Zhang Ruochen quickly followed behind the maidservant.

They had passed through corridors and arrived at a garden planted with different types of herbs. There was a lake in the middle of the garden.

At this moment, a beautiful young woman about 15 or 16 years old was sitting in the pavilion in the middle of the lake. She laughed when she saw Zuo Longlin and Zhang Ruochen standing on the lakeshore and said, “Whoever reaches the center of the lake first, I’ll first take a look at his gift.”

Zuo Longlin sneaked a glance at Zhang Ruochen and revealed a confident smile.

Speed was his biggest advantage. It would not make any sense if he was slower than a warrior at the Medium State of the Black Realm.

“Clash!”

Zuo Longlin leaped up into the air from the lakeshore and landed in a wooden canoe in the lake.

Driven by his Genuine Qi, the wooden canoe sailed toward the pavilion as fast as a flying dragon.

Even if the warrior had reached the Completion of the Black Realm, he could not walk on water. He must borrow the help of other objects.

Back then, Zhang Ruochen and Luo Shuihan once walked on the surface of the water in the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph. It was not actual water, but instead, it was the Spiritual Determination of a Half-Saint in order to refine a warrior’s Spiritual Power.

In the past, Zhang Ruochen could not walk on water as well.

Since he had practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, he could now cross over the lake to the pavilion without the help of any external objects.

He had practiced the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to the Small Success. Taking nine steps in the air would be equivalent to one kilometer in distance.

Now, Zhang Ruochen was only two hundred meters away from the Mid-Lake Pavilion.

“Whew!”

He activated all the Genuine Qi in his body and converged it toward his legs. His body dashed forward, curving into an arc which allowed him to take steps over 20 meters long.

When Zhang Ruochen landed on the surface of the lake, his soles tread lightly on the water. Using the power of the wind on the surface of the lake, he leaped into the air again.

He dashed 30-meters forward on the second step, 40-meters on the third step...

When Zhang Ruochen took the third step, he had completely surpassed Zuo Longlin.

Zuo Longlin stood on the canoe and was left dumbstruck after seeing Zhang Ruochen jumping around on the lake with ease, "He... how can he walk on the water? How... "

Even the beautiful young woman waiting in the Mid-Lake Pavilion was stunned by Zhang Ruochen's skill. She stared at Zhang Ruochen who was flying on the water surface and wondered how he did that.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen took the fifth step. Body as light as a leaf, he gently landed outside the Mid-Lake Pavilion. He said, "Your Majesty, this is my gift to you. I hope you like it."

Shortly after, Zuo Longlin also arrived at the lakeshore. He handed over the glazed box with both hands and said, "Your Majesty, please accept my gift."

Upon seeing this, the young woman who stood in the pavilion gently blinked her eyes, revealing an eccentric smile.

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