

There was another young lady aged 15 or 16 laughing at the opposite side of the lake about two hundred meters away. She giggled. "Haha! You two have been fooled! I'm here, the real princess."

"I'll accept the gift of the one who swims fastest and reaches me first."

"PHHHF!"

Without hesitation, Zuo Longlin jumped into the lake straight away. He splashed water all over the pavilion and swam towards the princess as fast as he could.

He had already lost to Zhang Ruochen once, he couldn't lose to him again.

However, Zhang Ruochen didn't jump into the water like Zuo Longlin had. He stood there at Mid-Lake Pavilion calmly. He had realized that neither the young woman standing in Mid-Lake Pavilion, nor the one on the opposite side of the bank was the real Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Apparently, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess made fun of them like they were fools.

A sense of antipathy appeared in Zhang Ruochen's mind, he didn't like the feeling of being tricked.

"Fine. I'm here to beg her for help, I shouldn't offend her." He tried his best to control the anger in his heart and left the Mid-Lake Pavilion for the real Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

The real Thirteenth Commandery Princess was surely enjoying the show from somewhere not far from the lake.

In the far tower, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, wearing a dress of pearls, was combing her hair. She pinned a golden hairpin into her luscious locks.

She looked towards the aqua lake and saw the two maidservants standing at Mid-Lake Pavilion and the edge of the shore making fools of the two princes. She was overjoyed.

A relatively beautiful maidservant stood behind the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and chuckled.

"Two princes from an inferior commandery want to marry Your Majesty. They are exactly like a toad trying to swallow a swan! They follow our orders and do what we ask them to do like idiots."

"They are drowned dogs! Haha!" The other maidservant laughed.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess let out a sound and stared at Mid-Lake Pavilion. She said, "Hey, look! That one didn't jump into the lake."

The two maidservants looked towards the lake and stared at Zhang Ruochen who was standing in Mid-Lake Pavilion. One of the maidservants said coldly, "He's got nerves not to obey Your Majesty!"

At the same time, they saw that the young man was staring at them from the Pavilion.

Standing at Mid-Lake Pavilion, Zhang Ruochen looked at the young woman who was sitting in the tower and confirmed that she was the real Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

“CLASH!”

He displayed Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon once again. He glided across the water, flew over the lake, and rushed towards the tower.

Zuo Longlin was still swimming towards the edge of the lake.

“Your Majesty, he is coming towards us! What should we do now?” One of the maidservants asked in panic.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess sat in her chair and said confidently, “Even if he knows I’m making fun of him, he can do nothing to me. Moreover, my tenth brother is guarding the tower downstairs, he won’t be able to come up.”

Zhang Ruochen had arrived at the tower and was about to climb up.

A young man, holding a folding fan, walked out from the door of the first level of the tower. He blocked Zhang Ruochen’s way, glanced at him and said, “Where does this bumpkin come from? You’re not supposed to come to this tower. Go away now!”

Zhang Ruochen frowned his eyebrows, restrained the anger in his heart, and responded calmly, “I’m here to see the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. Can you please inform her for me?”

“What is this? Do you think that you’re good enough to meet the Thirteenth Commandery Princess? If you don’t back down, I’ll break your legs and throw you out!” The young man said arrogantly, sweeping his sleeves to the side.

This arrogant young man was the Tenth Prince of Qianshui Commandery. Yet, rather than behaving as a prince, he acted like a little brat from a wealthy family.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t know that he was the Tenth Prince of Qianshui Commandery. He thought that he was a prince from another commandery, deliberately putting obstacles in his way and obstructing him from seeing the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Zhang Ruochen was already in a bad mood. He hadn’t expected there to be somebody blocking his way when he arrived at the tower. It annoyed him even more.

Zhang Ruochen became sterner and said, “What if I insist on seeing the Thirteenth Commandery Princess?”

The Tenth Prince let out a laugh. He stood with his legs apart, pointed at the ground between them and said, “Haha, of course, you can! If you crawl between my legs, I’ll let you see the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.”

“Don’t you think you’re being a bit ridiculous?” Zhang Ruochen asked with anger in his eyes.

“Haha! I like bullying you. What are you going to do about it?” The Tenth Prince rolled up his sleeves and exposed his arms. He lifted and pushed his palm to Zhang Ruochen’s head.

He wanted to press Zhang Ruochen down and force him to crawl between his legs.

Zhang Ruochen's eyes narrowed. He retreated a step back and avoided the Tenth Prince's palm.

He couldn't tolerate anymore.

He gripped the hilt and swung out his two-meter-long scabbard. He struck the Tenth Prince's chest and he flew back with a bang.

Zhang Ruochen hadn't wanted to cause any trouble. He had tried to control his anger, but the Tenth Prince had forced his hand.

Since he was now very angry, he dared him to do anything to fight back.

Since it had come to this, fists became the only language for communication.

"BOOM!"

The Tenth Prince gave a shout of pain and slammed into the door of the tower. The impact broke the door and he fell to the ground heavily.

"Such a disgraceful bastard! How dare you hit me... I need you to... ah..."

Zhang Ruochen ignored him and walked into the tower holding his scabbard.

The Tenth Prince screamed out again. With a bang, he flew out once again and crashed into the wall.

Within about 15 minutes the Tenth Prince of Qianshui Commandery was wounded heavily. Struggling, he crawled up to the top of the tower and hid behind the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. He scowled at Zhang Ruochen, his whole body shaking. "How dare you hit me? I want you to die in a horrible way. You're dead, kid!"

"BOOM!"

Zhang Ruochen stared coldly at the Tenth Prince. He activated his Genuine Qi, struck out a palm and broke one of the pillars of the tower. He claimed, "Die? I don't care. I would rather die with dignity than live in humiliation."

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was shocked when she saw that her brother had been beaten to a pulp. She quickly helped him up and asked, "Brother, what happened? Why have you been beaten?"

His entire face was swollen, and he sported two black eyes. "Sister, you have to take revenge for me! This bastard is outrageous. He dares to beat up the royal family of Qianshui Commandery. We have to purge his clan and destroy his entire family."

Hearing the conversation between the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince, Zhang Ruochen was startled. "This rich playboy is actually the Tenth Prince of Qianshui Commandery. Oh god... I'm done..."

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess stared at Zhang Ruochen thinking that the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery was over-presumptuous. She couldn't believe he dared to hit a member of the royal

family. She was extremely irritated. She said, "Take this crazy person away and lock him in the Celestial Prison."

The two young women who stood next to the Thirteenth Commandery Princess were her royal guards. They had relatively high cultivations for maidservants. Both were warriors at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm.

They both took out fourth-class Genuine Martial Arms and were ready to take Zhang Ruochen down.

Although Zhang Ruochen clearly knew that things had turned south, he didn't show any fear. He said modestly, "Your Majesty, please don't neglect the fact that the Tenth Prince is the one who humiliated me first and hence why I defended myself. Is it wrong to protect myself?"

"Right or wrong is not important. What matters is that you have wounded the prince of Qianshui Commandery," the Thirteenth Commandery Princess responded coldly. She wasn't going to bother being rational with Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen had come to meet the Thirteenth Commandery Princess under the order of Yunwu Commandery Prince. By marrying her, he hoped to ask for reinforcement for Yunwu Commandery.

However, when he found that the Thirteenth Commandery Princess was so irrational, he didn't want to talk to her anymore.

He handed over the gift, turned around and left the room.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen leave, the two female royal guards wanted to take him down. Yet, when they rushed in front of him, he quickly struck out his fingers and blocked their Meridians so that they stood still and couldn't move.

"I hope the Thirteenth Commandery Princess is a rational person." He stared coldly at the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Having finished speaking to the princess, he turned and walked out of the tower.

In Zhang Ruochen's eyes, the princes and princesses of Qianshui Commandery Prince were all ridiculous.

As he was walking downstairs, he saw that Zuo Longlin had finally swum to the edge of the shore. He sighed and walked towards the exit of the garden.

"Ehh! Why is he here?"

Led by a maidservant, Huang Yanchen arrived at the tower. She was surprised to see Zhang Ruochen leaving the tower. There was a confused expression on her beautiful face.

Since the Intermediate Relic Exploration Test was taking place in two months, Huang Yanchen wanted to elevate her cultivation as much as possible and therefore, she had returned to Qianshui Commandery. She wanted to ask Qianshui Commandery Prince to help her buy a drop of Holy Water so as to facilitate her Practice.

When she arrived back at Qianshui Commandery, she heard that her younger sister, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess was picking her Prince Consort and would have an arranged marriage.

Huang Yanchen had 36 older and younger sisters in total while the Thirteenth Commandery Princess was her only true sister from the same parents. She was her one and only biological sister in the entire family.

When she'd heard this news, she had been irritated and rushed into the Palace. She had scolded Qianshui Commandery Prince to his face and almost brought the Palace down.

Afterwards, she made her way to the manor and went to see the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

She never expected to see Zhang Ruochen when she arrived at the manor.

"Commandery Princess Yanchen, please follow me. The Thirteenth Commandery Princess is on the top floor of the tower." The arrogant maidservant who had tricked Zhang Ruochen and Zuo Longlin earlier behaved politely in front of Huang Yanchen. She bowed towards her the whole time and didn't dare to lift her head.

The maidservants certainly knew how powerful Commandery Princess Yanchen was. She was Qianshu Commandery Prince's favorite among all the princesses. Even though she criticized her father to his face, he didn't dare say a word and fight back.

Therefore, the maidservant acted carefully so as to avoid offending such an important person.

Huang Yanchen looked away and rubbed her snow-white chin gently. "Why was the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery here?"

"Of course he was here to arrange a marriage with the Thirteenth Princess," said the maidservant.

"An arranged marriage?"

Huang Yanchen was surprised and laughed out loud. "He came here to arrange a marriage with my thirteenth sister? Haha! What a joke!"

Chapter 142: The Competition Invitation

The maidservant was shocked. She didn't understand why Commandery Princess Yanchen laughed like it was some kind of joke. In her eyes, the Ninth Prince was just one of the many princes who wanted to arrange a marriage with the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Countless princes had come to Qianshui Commandery recently with only one intention. The maidservant no longer found it strange.

She had heard that Commandery Princess Yanchen was a superb woman, as cold as frost and looked down upon everyone. How could she be in such a good mood after seeing a prince from an inferior commandery?

She was confused and didn't understand.

When Huang Yanchen arrived at the top of the tower, she saw that there were two maidservants whose Meridians had been blocked as well as the Thirteenth Commandery Princess Huang Yanran and the Tenth Prince Huang Jing.

The cultivation of Huang Yanran and Huang Jing were not good enough compared to Zhang Ruochen and thus they were not able to set the maidservants loose.

“Bang! bang!”

Huang Yanchen released two of her fingers quickly and tapped on the glabella of the two maidservants.

Two strands of Genuine Qi flowed out from her fingertip and shattered the sealed Meridians in the maidservants’ body. They awoke slowly and recovered.

When they opened their eyes, they kneeled down towards Huang Yanchen immediately and said, “Maidservants greet Commandery Princess Yanchen.”

Huang Yanchen nodded and walked towards Huang Yanran and Huang Jing with her sapphire hair fluttering. She looked at Huang Jing’s wounds and sneered. “Little brother, did you get into trouble again?”

Looking at Huang Yanchen, the Tenth Prince Huang Jing pounced on her as fast as he could. He fell to his knees and grabbed Huang Yanchen’s legs. “Big sister, you’re finally back! The Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery has bullied me. He doesn’t have any respect for Qianshui Commandery and looks down on everybody. Look at all the wounds on my body, it’s all because of him! My dear sister, you have to get revenge for me!”

Huang Yanchen understood Zhang Ruochen well enough to know that he would not beat Huang Jing without a valid reason.

At the same time, she also clearly knew the personality of her tenth brother. Although she didn’t exactly know what happened, she could briefly guess.

“I can’t believe my tenth brother has irritated Zhang Ruochen. He must have done something worse enough to trigger him.” Huang Yanchen had never seen Zhang Ruochen getting angry that she fairly admired her tenth brother deep in her heart.

However, Huang Yanchen put on a displeased look and sneered. “Why was the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery being so disgraceful? Doesn’t he want to arrange a marriage with our sister?”

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was annoyed. “Him?” she asked. “He knows nothing about being polite and how to follow the rules here. I would never marry a guy like him! I need to let our father know and imprison him and Yunwu Commandery Prince!”

Huang Yanchen nodded and smiled strangely. “You’re right. He was very impolite and deserves to be taught a lesson. Yet, it’ll be pointless locking him up. Since he wanted to marry you, why don’t you let him join the Sword Technique Conference the day after tomorrow? You can embarrass and humiliate him at the Conference. With your precious status, I’m sure other candidates will be more than happy to take care of him for you if you secretly release the information that he has annoyed you.”

“Okay, let’s do that, sister.” Since the Thirteenth Commandery Princess admired Huang Yanchen, she listened to her.

Something akin to happiness radiated from Huang Yanchen’s eyes. She realized that there was a scabbard on the table and asked, “Is that the gift from the Ninth Prince?”

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess responded with anger, "Cai Xia, throw it away, now! I feel so pissed off looking at it."

Huang Yanchen removed the scabbard and looked at the ice jade sword.

She held the sword in her hand and transferred Genuine Qi to it so as to feel the inscriptions carved on the sword.

"A seventh-class Genuine Martial Arms! Zhang Ruochen is very generous to give out such a valuable gift on a blind date!" Huang Yanchen re-sheathed the jade sword. "It's such a waste throwing it away! This sword works well with my physical quality. If you don't mind, I'll take it."

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When Zhang Ruochen left the manor, he let out a long sigh and smiled bitterly. "Well... I failed to ask for reinforcement for Qianshui Commandery."

He had meant to make the acquaintance of the Thirteenth Commandery Princess but instead he had offended her as well as the Tenth Prince.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen didn't regret doing it.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince were both too irrational. Zhang Ruochen accepted the fact that he had offended them.

"If I'm not mistaken, senior sister apprentice Huang is also one of the princesses of Qianshui Commandery. Perhaps I can ask her for help if things do not work out in the end."

However, unless Zhang Ruochen had no other alternatives, he would never ask Huang Yanchen for help. From his point of view, Huang Yanchen was even more irrational than the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince. Her emotions fluctuated wildly.

At this moment, Zuo Longlin walked out from the manor and glanced coldly at Zhang Ruochen like he was looking at a dead man. He shook his head and sighed. "Such an idiot! You've once again caused trouble for Yunwu Commandery! The Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince will not let you off easily! You'll see!"

Zuo Longlin already knew what had happened in the manor, that Zhang Ruochen had offended both the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince.

Zhang Ruochen didn't bother to acknowledge Zuo Longlin or to even glance at him.

Two servants of Minister's Mansion, each driving an ancient roan antelope carriage, arrived outside of the manor. They stopped in front of Zuo Longlin and Zhang Ruochen accordingly.

"Yunwu Commandery Prince and Fire Dragon Commandery Prince are expecting both of you at Minister's Mansion. May I ask both princes to get in the carriages, please?"

It took about an hour for Zhang Ruochen to arrive at Minister's Mansion.

Both Zhang Ruochen and Zuo Longlin walked through the door at the same time and entered the main hall, led by the elderly butler.

Minister Ning sat at the top of the main hall while Fire Dragon Commandery Prince and Yunwu Commandery Prince sat on either side.

When Fire Dragon Commandery Prince saw Zuo Longlin walking into the hall, he quickly asked, "Liner, how did things go when you met the Thirteenth Commandery Princess today?"

Zuo Longlin laughed. "Father, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess is a startlingly beautiful woman who has a pure heart. I admire her very much! The Thirteenth Commandery Princess also looks well upon me and has agreed for me to join the Sword Technique Conference which takes place the day after tomorrow."

Fire Dragon Commandery Prince was excited and asked, "Has the Thirteenth Commandery Princess given you the Competition Invitation?"

"Competition Invitation? What do you mean?" Zuo Longlin looked confused.

Fire Dragon Commandery Prince responded, "Once the Thirteenth Commandery Princess likes a prodigy, he will be given a Competition Invitation. You'll need the Competition Invitation in order to join the Sword Technique Conference."

"The Thirteenth Commandery Princess... didn't give me any Competition Invitation..." Zuo Longlin said with disappointment.

Minister Ning laughed and said, "Perhaps the Thirteenth Commandery Princess forgot to hand you the invitation. She'll probably send you one later."

Zuo Longlin also assumed that the Princess forgot to give him one. He let out a gentle sigh of relief.

Only Zhang Ruochen knew that Zuo Longlin didn't even get to meet the real Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

The reason he knew Zhang Ruochen had offended the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince was probably because he had been told by one of the maidservants.

However, Zhang Ruochen did not mention anything about what Zuo Longlin had been through back at the manor. If he did, he would embarrass him.

Then, Yunwu Commandery Prince looked at Zhang Ruochen and asked thoughtfully, "My ninth son, what does the Thirteenth Commandery Princess think about you?"

Zuo Longlin sneered before Zhang Ruochen even spoke. "Yunwu Commandery Prince, I suggest you take good care of the Ninth Prince. Not only did he kill Prince Huo Xing and bring Yunwu Commandery massive trouble, but he also offended the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince. Rumor has it he has beaten the Tenth Prince who is now seriously injured."

"What are you talking about?"

Yunwu Commandery Prince was shocked. He could not imagine Zhang Ruochen had gotten into further trouble. Cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

Even Minister Ning who always remained calm frowned his eyebrows. He stared sharply at Zuo Longlin and murmured, "Is everything you said real?"

Zuo Longlin bowed towards Minister Ning and saluted. He responded, "Longlin does not dare to lie in front of the Minister. Every word I said is true. I've heard that the Thirteenth Commandery Princess has demanded that the Ninth Prince and Yunwu Commandery Prince be locked in the Celestial Prison."

Fire Dragon Commandery Prince who sat aside released a sarcastic laugh. He lifted up the teacup gently, took a sip and said, "Yunwu Commandery Prince, you indeed have an outstanding son! Haha! He has no one to blame but himself!"

Minister Ning stood up suddenly. His gaze was frustrated as he said coldly, "Yunwu Commandery Prince, you should accompany the Ninth Prince to the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and ask for her forgiveness! If she gets irritated, I can do nothing to help."

Yunwu Commandery Prince stared at Zhang Ruochen and sighed. He clearly knew that Minister Ning had given up on them.

It was what it was.

Perhaps disaster was meant to happen to Yunwu Commandery and no one would be able to save them.

Yunwu Commandery Prince was looking down and felt very disappointed. Just as he stood up and was about to leave, a servant rushed into the hall with a silver invitation in his hand. "Minister, here is the Competition Invitation sent by the Thirteenth Commandery Princess."

Zuo Longlin looked surprised and excited. He assumed that it was for him.

Yunwu Commandery Prince's eyes gazed at the silver Competition Invitation in the servant's hand. He was frustrated. If only the Competition Invitation was for... sigh...

"Let's go, son."

Yunwu Commandery Prince led Zhang Ruochen towards the main door.

They had just exited the main door when they heard the loud laugh of Minister Ning. "Yunwu Commandery Prince, come back quickly! This Competition Invitation is for the Ninth Prince. The Thirteenth Commandery Princess hopes that he can attend the Sword Technique Conference held the day after tomorrow."

Both Yunwu Commandery Prince and Zhang Ruochen were completely shocked by the news.

When they returned to the hall, Minister Ning put a smile on his face and handed the Competition Invitation to Zhang Ruochen. He patted his shoulders and said joyfully, "Such a talented young man, no wonder you can win the love of the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. Of the inferior commanderies, you are the first prince to be given a Competition Invitation. I guess the Thirteenth Commandery Princess does look favorably upon you after all!"

"It's impossible... impossible..."

Zuo Longlin stared unwaveringly at the Competition Invitation in Zhang Ruochen's hand and said, "He offended the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, how can he still receive the Competition Invitation? The Thirteenth Commandery Princess must have mixed up our names, the invitation belongs to me!"

Saying this, Zuo Longlin walked quickly towards Zhang Ruochen, wanting to snatch the valuable Competition Invitation.

Minister Ning glared coldly at Zuo Longlin and spoke seriously, "That's enough! How dare you grab the invitation in front of me? Who am I to you?"

Zuo Longlin's face turned pale under Minister Ning's stare. He retreated three steps back and spat out a mouthful of blood after a loud bang.

He was able to heavily injure a warrior at the Completion of the Black Realm with only a gaze.

If it was not for the sake of Fire Dragon Commandery Prince face, Minister Ning could have killed Zuo Longlin with such gaze.

Chapter 143: The Sword Technique Conference

Fire Dragon Commandery Prince pulled Zuo Longlin down quickly and apologized. "My son is so impulsive. I hope you aren't offended or angry."

Minister Ning sneered and said, "Your Highness, you should discipline your son more, so as not to bring disaster upon Flame Dragon Commandery. Ning An, see them off."

An old housekeeper came out and lead them both out.

Minister Ning had Yunwu Commandery Prince and Zhang Ruochen stay, and they spoke for a long time. After the banquet, he had someone see them to the manor.

Back at the manor, Zhang Ruochen held the Competition Invitation in his hand and looked at the delicate script. Why did the Thirteenth Commandery Princess send this to him?

Zhang Ruochen put the invitation away and put it out of his mind. He went into the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and refined a drop of the Half-Saint's Essence before the Sword Technique Conference.

Two days later, he grabbed his invitation and attended the Conference at the Qianshui Commandery's palace.

The so-called "Sword Technique Conference" was actually an event where a Prince Consort was selected for the Thirteenth Princess. Only prodigies who were nominated by the Thirteenth Commandery Princess herself were eligible to participate.

Not even Yunwu Commandery Prince could enter the palace without an invitation.

This was an influential meeting of young masters. Top prodigies from all over the world gathered to fight and compare notes. But only the strongest of them would be able to marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

The Sword Technique Conference was held at Qianshui Royal Palace's Jinfeng Garden. It was guarded by 3,000 imperial guards and only those with a Competition Invitation could gain access.

Qianshui Royal Palace looked unusually magnificent with many splendid vermilion houses and hanging towers. Some of the large plazas surrounded powerful fourth level savage beasts, which were panting heavily and locked with thick iron chains.

Even the ordinary imperial guards who were guarding Jinfeng Court had cultivated to the Black Realm. They far surpassed the imperial guards of Yunwu Commandery.

1,000 imperial guards would be able to defeat an army of 100,000 soldiers.

A commander of the imperial guard, who was at the Final State of the Black Realm, blocked Zhang Ruochen's path and said, "Please show me your Competition Invitation."

He took the silver Competition Invitation out and showed it to him.

The commander of the imperial guard bowed respectfully and said, "Please come in, Prince."

When Zhang Ruochen walked into Jinfeng Court he saw that the garden contained many exotic herbs and exuded a pleasant scent. The Spiritual Qi in the air was very powerful, almost four times stronger than that of Yunwu Commandery's imperial palace.

Practicing in such an environment meant that their warriors would be able to increase their skill faster than others.

Above the pool of Jinfeng Court was an array, and a battle stage about 81 square meters was suspended above.

Many young prodigies had come to the pool area. Not just princes from other countries, but also young prodigies from big families or sects from Qianshui Commandery. They were all outstanding in their own right, along with being handsome.

All of the mediocre and less attractive warriors had already been excluded by the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen saw a familiar face. It was the School of the Martial Market's Eastern Campus' top master, Xun Guihai.

He actually attended the Sword Technique Conference!

Xun Guihai sat not far from the Thirteenth Commandery Princess in a brocade gown of the School of the Martial Market, looking very handsome. Everyone could see that she favored him because he was sitting so close to her.

In addition to Xun Guihai, there were three other young men sitting beside the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

These three young men exuded a powerful vigor, and each one of them was as strong as Xun Guihai.

Zhang Ruochen had a strange feeling when he entered Jinfeng Court. He had come to Qianshui Commandery for help, so why should he participate in this inexplicable Sword Technique Conference?

What was even stranger was all of the young prodigies from around the world that were gathered here.

Did everyone come here to seek assistance?

“My name is Chen Tianshu. Could you tell me your name?” asked a smiling young man about 17 or 18 years old who appeared beside Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen looked at Chen Tianshu and found him to be exceptionally handsome, even more so than Xun Guihai.

“Zhang Ruochen.” he said.

Chen Tianshu seemed very friendly. He stared at the Thirteenth Commandery Princess in the distance, laughed, and said, “Do you also want to win the Sword Technique Conference and win her heart?”

“Ah?” Zhang Ruochen hesitated slightly.

“What did he mean, to win her heart?”

Chen Tianshu continued, “Look at these people. They all want to show their amazing talent and capture the Thirteenth Commandery Princess’ heart. But what they don’t know is that they are all just for show. Only the four sitting over there have any true hope, ‘Xun Guihai’ of Daqian Commandery, ‘Tuoba Linsu’ of Longchuan Commandery, ‘Liu Xin’ a student of Left Prime Minister, and ‘Qing Chibai’ the disciple of a Half-Saint.”

“Wait... what did you say? The best person in the Sword Technique Conference can also capture the heart of the Thirteenth Commandery Princess?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“Didn’t you know?” Chen Tianshu said in amazement. “The Sword Technique Conference is to help select the Prince Consort for the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.”

He was speechless.

Chen Tianshu looked at the expression on Zhang Ruochen’s face. Suddenly realizing something, he said, “No wonder you are just standing at the back, you don’t even know the true purpose of the Sword Technique Conference. We cannot compete with those four young prodigies anyway, just stand here and enjoy the show!”

“I understand!”

Zhang Ruochen recalled the words of Yunwu Commandery Prince and finally understood what was going on.

Yunwu Commandery Prince actually wanted him to marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. As long as Yunwu Commandery and Qianshui Commandery had an arranged marriage, Square Commandery would naturally no longer dare attack Yunwu Commandery.

Zhang Ruochen, however, didn’t like the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and even found her to be obnoxious. It would be impossible to marry her.

Besides, Chen Tianshu was right. It would be hard to compete with them anyway. He might as well stay and watch. It was rare for so many young prodigies from all over the world to be gathered in one place.

In addition to the young prodigies, there were a number of commandery princesses and aristocratic daughters from Qianshui Commandery who were participating in the Sword Technique Conference.

If they happened to favor any of the young prodigies, they could take the initiative and show their fancy.

Every show of power would be an attempt to gain the favor of one of the prodigies, even if it required a marriage to establish the relationship.

This was the way of survival in big families and sects!

At the same time, prodigies also needed to rely on the cultivation resources provided by these great forces to be truly powerful.

It could be said that they were mutually beneficial. Marriage was the simplest and most direct way to establish a relationship.

Not far from Jinfeng Court there was a Flying Pavilion.

It looked like a giant loft suspended in the air. In fact, it was a ninth-order Genuine Martial Arm.

The surface was covered in Array Inscriptions, and it was invisible even as it was suspended in the air above the Jinfeng Court.

Qianshui Commandery Prince and many beautiful concubines all were standing above the Flying Pavilion, looking towards Jinfeng Court.

The Ten Powerful Ministers of Qianshui Commandery were also in the Flying Pavilion. One of them was Minister Ning.

The Ten Powerful Ministers represented the top ten forces of Qianshui Commandery. They were second only to the royal family in terms of power. Each force was individually much stronger than a medium level commandery.

Qianshui Commandery Prince looked about 40 years old. He had a beard, a crown, and a golden robe on, and his body exuded an aura of royalty. "Left Prime Minister, who do you think will win and marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess in this Sword Technique Conference?"

Left Prime Minister of Qianshui Commandery, one of the top ten powerful ministers, appeared hale and hearty as if blessed by the heavens. He laughed and said, "Liu Xin, my disciple, only 22 years old, has reached the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm. He has practiced the sword comprehension realm to the Sword Following the Heart's Advanced Stage. He may be able to win."

Major General laughed and said, "The talent of Liu Xin is indeed very high, but unfortunately he is much older than the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. I feel that Qing Chibai has a much greater chance. He is only 20 years old and has already broken through to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. He is also Half-Saint Blood Space's own disciple, his understanding of sword comprehension is unfathomable."

Right Prime Minister who was sitting not far away, laughed and said, "Liu Xin and Qing Chibai are both incredible young prodigies from Qianshui Commandery. I feel that since Your Majesty sent invitations to hundreds of surrounding countries, we should give those princes from medium level commanderies and inferior commanderies a chance."

“For example, Xun Guihai from Daqian Commandery. Although only at the Completion of the Black Realm, he is 14th on the ‘Profound Board’. He is definitely a prodigy with great potential.”

...

Ten Powerful Ministers all strongly recommended those of the younger generation who had a relationship with them until their faces were red.

Qianshui Commandery Prince saw that Minister Ning was silent. He laughed and said, “Minister Ning, they all have someone in the younger generation to attend the Sword Technique Conference. The Ning family is also one of the top families of Qianshui Commandery, didn’t you send a prodigy to participate?”

Minister Ning smiled and said, “There are a few natural prodigies among the younger generation of Ning indeed, but unfortunately they aren’t comparable to Liu Xin, Qing Chibai, and Xun Guihai. I chose not to allow them to participate. It would have been shameful.”

Minister Ning turned around and added, “However, I also recommend a prodigy to Your Majesty. He is neither a disciple of a Half-Saint nor a successor to the great forces. His cultivation is not of the Earth Realm, but he is still a top prodigy.”

Qianshui Commandery Prince looked intrigued. He laughed and asked, “Minister Ning, to whom are you referring?”

“His name is Zhang Ruochen. He is the prince of an inferior commandery, Yunwu Commandery. He is 17-years old this year, and his martial cultivation is at the Medium State of the Black Realm...”

Minister Ning hadn’t finished when Major General Gongsun Lin, who was sitting alongside him, laughed and said, “Too common, much too common. There are hundreds of prodigies like him in our Qianshui Commandery.”

Minister Ning smiled and said, “Major General please listen to what I have to say, then you can tell me if he is too common. Zhang Ruochen activated his Sacred Mark at the age of 16, and he has been practicing for less than a year.”

The smiles of the other nine ministers completely disappeared.

Chapter 144: To Defeat with One Single Sword

Minister Ning continued, “His talent for Spiritual Power is surprising. According to Yunwu Commandery Prince his Spiritual Power has reached level 29.”

“Only 16 years old and his Spiritual Power has reached level 29?”

Those present were all top masters, but even they were shocked to hear that.

Minister Ning was just as surprised as they were when he first heard it.

Qianshui Commandery Prince nodded and spoke highly of Zhang Ruochen. “He is a Genius who may become a Half-Saint in the future if he is cultivated well.”

“Then we can expect a good performance at this Sword Technique Conference!” Minister Ning laughed.

...

Jinfeng Court.

Two masters at the Completion of the Black Realm went onto the battle stage and began to fight.

Instead of Genuine Qi, they only used their swordsmanship in the battle.

The Sword Technique Conference only tests the swordsmanship of warriors rather than their cultivation.

The two masters demonstrated wonderful sword technique and powerful Division Profound strengths.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was watching, but she was bored.

In her mind the best warrior in the Sword Technique Conference must be one of the four warriors Xun Guihai, Liu Xin, Tuoba Linsu, or Qing Chibai.

One of those four would become her Prince Consort. The other geniuses were mediocre at best compared to them.

That’s why she felt bored watching other warriors fight.

She noticed Zhang Ruochen among the crowd and thought cruelly. “He dares to take part in the Sword Technique Conference? That’s perfect. It’s time to get rid of him.”

The duel between the two masters on the battle stage finally came to an end.

Zhu Yi defeated Luo Kong and won the battle.

Looking at Zhu Yi, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess stood up and smiled brightly. “Mr. Zhu, you are indeed the most gifted prince of Golden Dream Commandery. Your sword technique is excellent and I admire you greatly.”

Zhu Yi was both flattered and surprised. He quickly bowed to her.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess looked towards Zhang Ruochen and continued, “Unfortunately, you are not stronger than Yunwu Commandery’s Ninth Prince. I heard that his sword technique is even more brilliant than that of the Earth Realm warriors, while his cultivation has only reached the Medium State of the Black Realm. “In fact, he said to me that among all of the genius’ here today, if he said he was second best that no one would dare say they were the best.”

“Boom!”

The whole Jinfeng Court broke into an uproar.

The young warriors who were allowed to enter Jinfeng Court were all top masters.

The Ninth Prince dares to declare himself the best?

How arrogant!

All the young geniuses became irritated and wanted to not only defeat the Ninth Prince but humiliate him as well.

“An inferior commandery prince should not be so arrogant!”

“Even a disciple of a Half-Saint wouldn’t dare say his sword technique is the best in the world. If I find out who he is, I’ll show him who is the true sword technique master.”

“His view has been narrowed by living in an inferior commandery. The best warrior in an inferior commandery will have difficulty ranking in the top 1000 of Qianshui Commandery.”

...

Standing next to Zhang Ruochen, Chen Tianshu laughed. “If the words she said are true, then the Ninth Prince must be a strange person. He angered everyone today. Brother Zhang, what do you think?”

Zhang Ruochen didn’t seem to hear Chen Tianshu at all. Finally, he realized why the Thirteenth Commandery Princess sent him a Competition Invitation.

She was extremely vicious!

There were two ways to kill people: kill them with wooden sticks or by overpraise. Obviously, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess planned to destroy him by overpraise.

Superficially she was praising him. However, she was making everybody dislike him.

He shouldn’t stay there any longer. Zhang Ruochen was ready to leave.

Of course, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess wouldn’t let him leave so easily. When she saw him attempt to leave she said loudly, “Ninth Prince, where are you going? You’re trying to stage a coup, aren’t you? Why are you so eager to leave?”

Everyone looked at Zhang Ruochen.

He stood at the back and was the only one who was about to leave. That made him very easy to spot when everybody turned face to him.

Somebody rushed toward Zhang Ruochen and stopped him.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t want to provoke the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and asked calmly, “Your Highness, are you sure you’re telling the truth?”

She hummed coldly. “Do you mean that I have wronged you? The Tenth Brother was also present, and he clearly heard the conversation.”

The Tenth Prince’s wound had healed. He stood up and said, “It is true, he did display his sword technique and claimed to be the best swordsman in the world. All other geniuses were below him. Ninth Prince, do you deny it now?”

Realizing that arguing was useless, Zhang Ruochen didn’t say anything else.

The Young Geniuses in Jinfeng Court all looked at Zhang Ruochen coldly. The Princesses and the noblewomen sitting in the attic laughed at him.

Only Chen Tianshu figured out that he had offended the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and the Tenth Prince somehow, causing them to seek revenge and humiliate him in the eyes of the Young Genius'.

Standing on the battle stage, Zhu Yi sneered. "Ninth Prince, I heard that you are the best swordsman around. Will you fight me?"

The crowd burst into laughter again.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess stood upright and looked at Zhang Ruochen arrogantly as if she was saying, "This is the last time you offend me and I will not only punish you but also ruin your reputation."

Zhu Yi continued, "Ninth Prince, do you despise me and deem me unworthy to fight?"

"Fine! Since you want to do this, let's begin," Zhang Ruochen said coldly and walked towards the battle stage.

He didn't want to start trouble by taking part in the Sword Technique Conference, but she had forced his hand.

Zhang Ruochen was anything but a coward.

He walked to the bottom of the battle stage, flew into the array and landed on the battle stage.

Zhu Yi didn't actually expect Zhang Ruochen to fight him. When he saw Zhang Ruochen standing in front of him on the battle stage, he began to explain the rules of the battle. "In the Sword Technique Conference we only compare sword fighting skills rather than cultivation. Understand?"

Zhu Yi regarded Zhang Ruochen as a fool who didn't know the rules.

Zhang Ruochen didn't say anything. He only pulled out his Flash Shining Sword from his sleeve with a dazzling light coming from the sword scabbard.

Zhang Ruochen grasped the sword and asked, "Are we fighting or not?"

Zhu Yi gazed at him coldly and quickly pulled out his sword.

He dashed out hard and took six steps in a row. Every step followed an abstruse rule, confusing other warriors.

People could tell Zhu Yi had reached a high level by his pace. He was equal to the average Warrior of Division Profound.

Zhang Ruochen however, stood still and didn't move an inch.

"Whew!"

Zhu Yi moved left and stabbed out with his sword. Even without Genuine Qi there were still three flowers displayed on the sword, signifying his brilliant sword technique.

In a second the sword was thrusting towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen quickly stabbed towards him.

When Zhu Yi's sword neared Zhang Ruochen's chest, his sword was already on Zhu Yi's neck.

Zhu Yi felt a chill on his throat as if it was blocked by an icing cold. He was petrified and dared not move at all.

His sword was three inches from Zhang Ruochen while Zhang Ruochen's sword had pierced the skin of his throat, leaving a small blood stain.

If he moved even a little, the sword would pierce his throat.

Zhu Yi quivered in a cold sweat and said, "Kill... killing is forbidden in the S... Sword Tech... Technique Con... Conference."

"Clash!"

Zhang Ruochen looked at him and said, "You lost!"

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen withdrew his sword, Zhu Yi gave a long sigh of relief. He felt as if he was going to faint.

Every Young Genius watching was shocked.

The genius who had previously been defeated by Zhu Yi shouted, "He defeated Zhu Yi with only a single attack. He is exceedingly talented!"

Only warriors who had fought Zhu Yi knew how powerful he was. Yet he was still easily defeated by Zhang Ruochen.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was also surprised and said, "This a*shole has some real skills!"

Tuoba Linsu stared at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Good sword technique! It is light and the Sword Comprehension is profound without being messy. I'd like to have a try."

Tuoba Linsu, a first master of the young generation of Longchuan Commandery, had the martial cultivation of the Earth Realm.

That was why he was sitting next to the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Chapter 145: Golden Jade Leaf

Tuoba Linsu looked just 20 years old with bronzed skin, a tall body, and an angular face. He was wearing a robe refined from the skin of a third-level savage beast and demonstrated an overbearing masculinity.

When he stood up, a man who was wearing a gold and purple robe walked out from the crowd. He turned into a purple shadow and leaped onto the battle stage.

He looked towards Tuoba Linsu, bowed slightly with his hand lifted and said, "Prince Tuoba, this man has killed my younger brother. Would you mind allowing me to fight him?"

Tuoba Linsu said, "Since there is hatred between you two, of course. You may fight him first! If you defeat him, that means he is not worth fighting me."

Tuoba Linsu spoke calmly, although people could sense his arrogance.

Warriors like Tuoba Linsu, the God's favored one, were arrogant. Yet he was uniquely charming as he owned it.

The man in the gold and purple robe stared at Zhang Ruochen, looked cold-blooded and said, "Zhang Ruochen, you killed my brother. Today I'm going to avenge him."

Looking at the man in front of him, Zhang Ruochen felt familiar to him. "Who is your brother?" He asked.

"Huo Xing!" The man answered.

"So you're Prince Huo Xing's brother." Zhang Ruochen replied.

"My name is Huo Ming." He stared at Zhang Ruochen and murmured, "Killing is forbidden in the Sword Technique Conference. We can, however, commit suicide. Do you dare fight me and stake your life? If I win, you apologize to my brother by committing suicide. If you win, I will kill myself."

The 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge had all joined this event. Square Commandery Prince picked Prince Huo Ming, his most outstanding son who also wanted to marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

It seemed conspicuous that Huo Ming had come up with this idea on his own, but he had.

He could tell that the Thirteenth Commandery Princess hated Zhang Ruochen.

If he could force Zhang Ruochen to commit suicide, he would please and impress the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

Second, he wanted to display his love and loyalty in front of the crowd by being willing to sacrifice himself in order to avenge his brother.

Finally, and most importantly, he knew that Zhang Ruochen's martial cultivation had only reached the Medium State of the Black Realm. He should be no match for him.

As long as he could defeat Zhang Ruochen, he would gain significantly from this plan.

Huo Ming looked towards the Thirteenth Commandery Princess and saw that she was intrigued.

"I was right! Zhang Ruochen must have offended the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. That's why she is trying to kill him by overpraising him. If I can defeat him, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess will surely take notice." Huo Ming was complacent.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "Why should I fight you and stake my life?"

Huo Ming responded coldly, "You killed my brother. It is only fair and reasonable for me to seek revenge. Haven't you claimed that you have the best sword technique? Are you scared?"

"You are being completely irrational," said Zhang Ruochen.

In his mind, it was stupid to fight with your life at stake.

You don't gamble with your life.

If they bet their lives, the values should be equal. Zhang Ruochen considered his life to be much more valuable than Huo Ming's.

So he turned around and got off the battle stage. He didn't see the point of talking to people like Huo Ming.

He had already been forced to fight against Zhu Yi. Now he had calmed down and didn't want to be in the spotlight anymore. He was ready to leave.

Huo Ming looked at Zhang Ruochen's back with a distorted expression. He would not allow him to leave so easily.

"You have already stepped onto the battle stage, you are not allowed to leave."

Huo Ming jumped off the ground and flew seven meters up into the air. He held his sword with both hands and swayed it towards Zhang Ruochen's back.

Huo Ming was able to jump seven meters high purely with the strength of his own body, he was very powerful.

Even without the help of Genuine Qi, the power of his attack was strong enough to split a thick steel bar.

Having heard the wind behind him, Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and stopped walking. He turned around at lightning speed and took a step forward.

He timed his counterattack very accurately as if there were eyes in the back of his neck. He almost touched the sword in Huo Ming's hand.

There was panic in Huo Ming's eyes as Zhang Ruochen swept his sword towards him and struck his abdomen.

"Boom!"

Huo Ming flew back 10 meters and fell off the battle stage.

He made a large splash as he fell into the pool below.

Although the pain in his belly was terrible, Huo Ming's body was intact without any puncture wounds.

Zhang Ruochen's attack was even more incredible than the strike that defeated Zhu Yi.

Everyone watching saw that he swung at Huo Ming's stomach and pushed him off the battle stage. Surprisingly Huo Ming wasn't injured.

When the Thirteenth Commandery Princess saw what Zhang Ruochen had done, she thought that Huo Ming would die. She was ready to send her guards to arrest him.

She was astonished when she saw Huo Ming get up out of the pool.

"How is he still alive?"

She clearly saw that he wasn't wearing any armor, only a plain cloth shirt. Zhang Ruochen's blade was sharpened as well.

Qing Chibai, a disciple of a Half-Saint, explained what had just happened. "Zhang Ruochen didn't strike Huo Ming with the edge of his blade, but he slapped him away with the side of it. Since he moved so quickly only a few people could tell what had actually happened."

"Huo Ming has a very high attainment in swordsmanship, even higher than many Earth Realm warriors. Yet he was defeated by a single attack of the Ninth Prince. Interesting! I would like to challenge him," said Liu Xin, a student of Left Prime Minister.

On the second floor, a slim hand raised the lace curtain of an elegance hall and threw a jade leaf in the shape of a palm onto the battle stage.

Zhang Ruochen looked at the jade leaf and then looked towards the elegance hall.

He was a little confused. *"What does this mean?"*

Many young geniuses standing below the Coliseum looked envious when they gazed at the jade leaf fluttering on the battle stage.

Zhang Ruochen glanced at the leaf which was made of pure green jade. The fine lines of the leaf were embedded with golden silk. There were words carved on the edge of the leaf:

"Ning Yuyuan, Minister's Mansion."

"What does that mean?"

Zhang Ruochen walked towards the leaf to retrieve it.

A voice came from the crowd. "Brother Zhang, you should think twice before picking up the leaf. You will accept her proposal if you do so. Then you'll have to marry her."

Zhang Ruochen pulled back his hand immediately and looked in the direction from where the voice was coming from.

The person who had warned him was a relatively handsome guy with a tiny mole on his glabella. Zhang Ruochen remembered his name, he was called Chen Tianshu.

Chen Tianshu laughed and continued, "The owner of that Golden Jade Leaf is Minister Ning's seventh generation granddaughter. She is 15 years old and it's said that she is pretty. If you pick it up you will be the son-in-law of Minister's Mansion. Not only can you receive support from Minister's Mansion but also marry a beautiful woman. How incredible!"

It's as difficult to climb up into the sky as it is to marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. After all, she is one of a kind.

So why did those Young Geniuses come all this way knowing it would be extremely competitive?

The reason was that even if they were unable to marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, they still had the opportunity to win the favor of other princesses or aristocratic daughters through their performance.

The aim of the Sword Technique Conference was to select suitable warriors for the nobility of Qianshui Commandery.

Zhang Ruochen smiled bitterly and looked towards the second floor of Jinfeng Court where a slender figure stood behind the curtain. She was fairly nervous and didn't know whether he would pick it up or not.

Huang Yanchen stood on the third floor and gazed at Zhang Ruochen coldly as if she was saying, "Rogue, if you pick it up, I will cut off your hands."

Finally, he chose not to pick the leaf up and stepped off the battle stage.

It was not his intention to enter the battle stage and impress everyone. Now he just wanted to leave.

Tuoba Linsu stood up and flew to the battle stage blocking Zhang Ruochen's path. He said, "Although your sword technique is brilliant, there is a flaw. It lacks masculine domineering."

Tuoba Linsu, a top talent among the young generation, was on equal terms with Xun Guihai, Liu Xin, and Qing Chibai. He was also ranked among the top 20 of the Profound Board before he broke through to the Earth Realm.

He had a special understanding of sword technique.

The sword technique that he practiced was masculine, overbearing, and brave.

Zhang Ruochen stopped and laughed. "There is no such thing as a perfect sword technique."

When Tuoba Linsu realized that Zhang Ruochen had no intention of fighting him, he provoked him and said, "I can defeat you within 10 strikes."

Zhang Ruochen realized that Tuoba Linsu was goading him on purpose, but he kept calm and responded, "Do I really have to fight?"

Tuoba Linsu took out his black sword. It was two meters long and one palm wide. Even without activating the inscription in the sword, it weighed 120 kgs.

He touched his black sword with love in his eyes and said, "This sword is called 'Dao Shan', a seventh-class Genuine Martial Arms. There are altogether 42 strength inscriptions carved on the sword. If all the inscriptions are activated, the weight will increase to 2,220 kgs. It's my favorite sword. If you can defeat me, I'll give it to you."

Chapter 146: The Broken Sword

With the Mountain Toppling Sword in hand, Tuoba Linsu displayed no lack of vigour, as if turning into an inaccessible mountain.

No flaw could be found on him.

Zhang Ruochen felt the change in Tuoba Linsu, and a will to fight rose in his heart. His blood started boiling.

Finally, a true sword master!

Zhang Ruochen said, "My name is Zhang Ruochen. What is yours?"

"Tuoba Linsu." Tuoba Linsu understood that Zhang Ruochen had agreed to compete with him.

They stood only five steps apart, pressing their hands to their hilts and gearing up for the fight.

Neither of them made the first move. They observed each other quietly, trying to find flaws.

The young prodigies beside the battle stage all started to discuss amongst themselves.

"Prince Tuoba is the top master among the young generation in Longchuan Commandery. It is said that none of the young warriors in the whole Longchuan Commandery can block even one of his attacks. He really gives a face to that little daredevil from Yunwu Commandery by fighting him in person," said one teenage prodigy.

"But that daredevil is indeed powerful. He has defeated both Zhu Yi and Huo Ming. Otherwise, he would not be qualified to compete against Prince Tuoba."

"Did you hear what Prince Tuoba just said? He promised to defeat him with less than 10 moves!"

"I think he can do it in three."

"Tuoba Linsu's sword techniques are extremely powerful. It's hard to block any of his moves."

...

"You are indeed a great master; you show no flaws at all. Very well, then. I'll force you to show your flaws!"

All of a sudden, two dazzling lights burst out of Tuoba Linsu's eyes.

His bones and muscles moved quickly and made a loud crackling sound.

Instead of using any fancy steps, Tuoba Linsu simply strode towards Zhang Ruochen. It looked like he was in slow motion, but in just a second, he was right in front of Zhang Ruochen.

"Waaa!"

120 kgs of Mountain Toppling Sword slashed towards Zhang Ruochen like a door.

Tuoba Linsu did not use Genuine Qi, but sparks of fire appeared on the sword edge, turning his weapon into a sword of flame.

This was not a complicated movement, but Zhang Ruochen found it impossible to escape.

Zhang Ruochen stood firmly and tried to use skill to overcome power. With a twitch of his arm, the Flash Shining Sword met the huge black sword like a dexterous snake, angling its power in another direction.

The light in Tuoba Linsu's eyes shifted. He laughed and said, "Good!"

"Clash!"

Tuoba Linsu's reaction speed was very fast. He immediately slashed again. He swung his sword with large movements, but each strike was controlled and precise.

"Boom!"

They clashed directly. Zhang Ruochen's arm went numb from the contact, and he fell backwards to the edge of the battle stage.

Warriors were not allowed to use their Genuine Qi in the Sword Technique Conference, because it was a contest of sword skill.

But the warriors with a higher cultivation often had stronger physical power, and they were also faster than the warriors in other inferior Realms. Naturally, they dominated the other warriors.

Zhang Ruochen looked at his Flash Shining Sword and found a little crack on it.

Tuoba Linsu's Mountain Toppling Sword was a seventh level Genuine Martial Arm. The Flash Shining Sword, which was a fourth level Genuine Martial Arm, could not compete with it in either materials or sharpness.

Tuoba Linsu realized the unfairness. "I'll change my sword!"

"There's no need!"

With Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon pace, Zhang Ruochen dashed to Tuoba Linsu in no time. "Now, take this!"

It was so fast!

Tuoba Linsu was dazzled. Just then, a sword shadow came over his head. He felt the sword wind and a sense of stabbing pain on his head.

"Wham!"

Tuoba Linsu leaned his head back, held his sword with both hands, and stabbed into the air.

Zhang Ruochen twisted his body to avoid the sword tip. He landed behind Tuoba Linsu and cried, "Sacred Guiding Sword!"

The Flash Shining Sword chopped down in a vertical line, directly towards Tuoba Linsu's back.

Tuoba Linsu did not turn around. Instead, he stabbed back with his sword, like an iron shield blocking Zhang Ruochen's attack.

"PHEW!"

The two swords clashed together. Sparks shot into the air.

"Army Breaking Strike!"

Tuoba Linsu suddenly turned around, planted his legs, and slashed horizontally.

It was a movement in the mid-class of the Spiritual Stage. Tuoba Linsu had refined it through dozens of campaigns and thousands of killings.

One blow had enough power to sweep aside thousands of enemies.

Now, because of their close proximity, the powerful attack forced Zhang Ruochen to block.

This was why Tuoba Linsu was a master. He knew that Zhang Ruochen's advantage was his speed, so he gave Zhang Ruochen no chance to escape, forcing Zhang Ruochen to face him directly.

"Slap!"

The two swords clashed with an ear-piercing "CRACK!"

The Flash Shining Sword broke, and the tip spun away.

The one meter sword had shrunk to a half meter.

But Zhang Ruochen did not panic. Instead, he stayed calm. He kicked against the ground and pushed himself backwards just in time to escape from Tuoba Linsu's next strike.

"Good! Prince Tuoba is indeed the top master among the young generation in Longchuan Commandery! He broke the daredevil's sword in only eight movements!"

"How dare he call himself the Greatest Warrior in the World? To Prince Tuoba, he's barely worth battling."

Tuoba Linsu's eyes went cold. He cast a stern glance at the two men and said, "He didn't lose. His sword broke only because it is of lower grade. Zhang Ruochen, I can lend you another sword to finish our battle."

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "Who told you I can't fight with a broken sword? Prince Tuoba, we are not done yet. I think I found the flaw in your swordplay."

"Your sword technique is very virile, but also very hard to link together. You don't have a complement after each movement.

"While it seems like your sword technique is unstoppable, when I counter-attack in between your techniques, you will definitely lose."

Tuoba Linsu stayed calm and said, "So, do you mean that you can defeat me within two sword strokes?"

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Pretty much!"

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess pouted. "Hmph! That's a big boast for someone with a broken sword!" she said.

Tuoba Linsu became more serious than ever before. He held his sword with both hands and cried, "Mountains and Rivers Breaking Sword!"

"WHOOSH!"

The sparks of fire on the blade turned into a wave of fire aimed squarely at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen leapt from the ground and stepped on Tuoba Linsu's sword, pushing it towards the ground a little bit.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen threw his broken sword at Tuoba Linsu.

“Boom!”

Tuoba Linsu quickly redirected his slash to hit the broken sword away.

As he brought up his sword to attack Zhang Ruochen, a strong wind blew from his side.

Zhang Ruochen used the edge of his hand like a sword and struck Tuoba Linsu’s neck. Tuoba Linsu fell to the ground with a heavy sound.

“Boom!”

Tuoba Linsu’s huge body collapsed on the ground. His neck would have been broken if Zhang Ruochen had not shown mercy.

Zhang Ruochen appeared unruffled. He picked up his broken sword and said, “A sword in the heart is more powerful than a sword in hand.”

“You... are... so powerful...”

Tuoba Linsu rubbed his neck. Although he still felt dazed, he managed to stand up. He handed his Mountain Toppling Sword to Zhang Ruochen and said, “I lost! I’ll keep my promise and give this sword to you.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled. He replied, “A gentleman does not take what other people love.”

Although Tuoba Linsu loved the Mountain Toppling Sword very much, he could not lose his honor. He insisted. “If you don’t take my sword today, everyone will see me as a cheater who goes back on his word.”

His personality was just as straightforward as his sword technique.

“Okay! I’ll take it!”

After a moment’s thought, Zhang Ruochen took the Mountain Toppling Sword. Then, he handed it back to Tuoba Linsu and said, “Now, I give this sword to you.”

Tuoba Linsu was astonished. He smiled and took the sword. “Zhang Ruochen, thank you for your sword. I will send you another sword. I give you my word.”

Tuoba Linsu walked around the battle stage. Many aristocratic daughters began throwing their Golden Jade Leaves onto the battle stage from the second floor of Jinfeng Court.

There were over 10 Golden Jade Leaves!

“Zhuo Yanwu from Right Prime Minister’s Mansion.”

“Sikong Yaner from General’s Mansion.”

“Zhao Xuan from Grand Tutor’s Mansion.”

...

Seeing the Golden Jade Leaves falling down like rain, other young genius went mad with jealousy.

They should have let Zhang Ruochen go when he wanted to leave. Now, he has defeated three masters in a row, including Tuoba Linsu. Many aristocratic daughters favored him.

All he needed to do was pick up a Golden Jade Leaf randomly, and he would have strong backer from now on. It was the chance of a lifetime!

“Damn it! He was pretty powerful!” The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was a little upset, feeling a sense of miscalculation. “What if he really gets first place? Am I really going to have to marry him?”

Standing beside the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, Liu Xin noticed her discontentment with Zhang Ruochen. He smiled and said, “Your Highness, I can defeat him. I was just wondering if you have any other requests. For example, breaking his legs or eliminating his cultivation.”

Liu Xin was a student of Right Prime Minister. He had been ordered by Right Prime Minister to place first in the Sword Technique Conference and marry the Thirteenth Commandery Princess.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess glanced at Liu Xin, and said happily, “That’s too much. All you need to do is greatly humiliate that asshole. I’ll offer you ample reward.”

“I will never let you down.”

Liu Xin stared at Zhang Ruochen on the battle stage and narrowed his eyes.

Chapter 147: Student of the Left Prime Minister

Liu Xin released such a martial technique that Genuine Qi worked inside his body, and as if it was a shell, bounced him more than 50 meters high.

“Boom!”

Liu Xin fell onto the battle stage, a huge boom below his feet shaking the stage heavily.

A wave of his Genuine Qi flew towards all directions under his feet.

Liu slightly posed a fist-and-palm gesture and laughed, “Such an honor to meet you, Peerless Swordsman. I was just wondering whether I would have the chance to learn from you. Would you accept my challenge?”

Zhang Ruochen naturally distinguished a whiff of sarcasm from Liu Xin’s words. He said, “I’m not the Peerless Swordsman. You met the wrong person.”

Finishing these words, Zhang Ruochen fled off the 18-meter-high battle stage. His toes slightly touched the surface of the pond, like a dragonfly skimming the surface of the water. He fell onto the bank, as light as a swallow.

Zhang Ruochen had never thought about winning first position at the Sword Technique Conference, let alone marrying the Thirteenth Commandery Princess. At that time, he just planned to leave rather than pushing himself forward.

On seeing Zhang Ruochen went away, Liu Xin was enraged by his refusal to fight with him. He said with his eyes full of coldness, "Zhang Ruochen, your victory over Tuoba Linsu was nothing but fortune. You know that you cannot always win. You escape because you are afraid of being defeated, right?"

"Both victory and loss are common. What am I afraid of? I just dislike dealing with someone unreasonable," Zhang Ruochen argued.

Liu Xin became even angrier and said, "Who are you saying is unreasonable? You call your sword technique First. I just want to learn from you, and then you call this being unreasonable? Who on earth is unreasonable?"

The Sword Technique Conference really frustrated Zhang Ruochen. He even did not want to stay for another second.

Having been defeated by Zhang Ruochen made hatred flame within Huo Ming. Thus, when he saw Zhang Ruochen going to leave, he stopped him at once.

"Zhang Ruochen, if you stay and have a fight with Liu Xin, I can beg my dad to withdraw our army and not attack the Yunwu Commandery anymore," Huo Ming said.

Huo Ming had just been defeated by Zhang Ruochen off the battle stage, making him like a drowning dog, very degrading, so Huo had been seeking for the opportunity to take a revenge on Zhang. At that time, he had a chance to get revenge himself on Zhang by relying on Liu's power.

He would definitely not let such an opportunity go.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Are you serious?"

Huo Ming sneered at him and said, "Humph! I'm the prince. You worry about me cheating you?"

Young Geniuses from dozens of commanderies were present at that time. If Huo Ming cheated Zhang Ruochen, he would certainly be despised by the people.

The actual reason why Zhang Ruochen came to the Sword Technique Conference was to ask for reinforcements and prevent the forthcoming disaster in the Yunwu Commandery.

If the Square Commandery withdrew its army positively, that would be great.

Zhang Ruochen then said, "Alright! I accept Liu Xin's challenge."

The corner of Huo's mouth curved up, giving him a facial expression of insidiousness. He arched his hands slightly towards Liu Xin on the battle stage and said, "Liu Xin, the Peerless Swordsman Zhang Ruochen, has accepted the competition with you."

"Thank you for your persuading, or I cannot learn from the unprecedented sword technique of the Peerless Swordsman." Liu Xin smiled as well.

Zhang Ruochen ignored their echoing each other and came back to the battle stage. He said, "Huo Ming, don't forget our agreement."

Huo Ming replied, "Sure. Once you step onto the stage, I will certainly persuade my dad to withdraw the army whether you win or lose."

All of a sudden, it occurred to Zhang Ruochen that Huo Ming just said he will “persuade” his dad, while the Square Commandery, of course, could refuse his persuasion and go on to attack the Yunwu Commandery.

“It looks as if Huo Ming is a silly man, but he is cunning in reality. How sophisticated Huo is!” Zhang Ruochen thought in his mind.

Although he distinguished the trap in Huo Ming’s words, Zhang Ruochen was on the battle stage already. If he came off at that time, he would be ridiculed.

“Zhang Ruochen, if you defeat Liu Yan, I will lead my army from the Longchuan Commandery to aid the Yunwu Commandery,” said Tuoba Linsu, who stared at Huo Ming with disdain.

“Thank you, Prince Tuoba!” Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Xin stood extraordinarily on the center of the battle stage, holding his sword in his hands. He stared at Zhang Ruochen in front of him and asked aggressively, “Real sword techniques can only be released through Genuine Qi. Do you dare to have a real fight with me?”

“What do you mean?” asked Zhang Ruochen.

Liu Xin answered confidently, “My cultivation has reached to the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm. I can control my realm to the Medium Stage when fighting with you. I’m wondering if you have enough courage?”

After the three previous battles, Liu Xin realized that Zhang Ruochen had made great achievements on sword techniques. Even Liu Xin himself did not have enough confidence in defeating Zhang Ruochen.

That was why he proposed a fight with Zhang Ruochen in the same realm since there would be a higher percentage for him to win the battle this way.

Zhang Ruochen figured out his real meaning and laughed. “You think your real power cannot be released without Genuine Qi?”

“Exactly,” said Xue Bingsheng.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, “If you fight with me in the same realm, I’m afraid you cannot bear my attack even once. You should think about it clearly!”

Within the same realm, Zhang Ruochen could even defeat Luo Xu, let alone Liu Xin.

Liu Xin could feel nothing but humiliation. He smiled coldly at Zhang Ruochen and said, “How arrogant you are! If you can really defeat me in a single attack, I will cut my hands with my sword.”

“If you want to cut your hands, I will by no means stop you,” Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Xin glared at the broken sword in Zhang Ruochen’s hands and said, “I don’t want to win the battle by unfair means. Change the sword first!”

“No need to change the sword to beat you,” Zhang Ruochen said.

So arrogant!

Liu Xin controlled his cultivation to the Medium State of the Black Realm. The Genuine Qi worked rapidly inside his body and then was immersed into his long sword.

“Swish!”

Through his fast gait, Liu Xin released a low-class martial technique of the Spiritual. He was so fast that five shadows were presented around him. At the same time, he waved his sword toward Zhang Ruochen.

Even though Liu Xin controlled his realm to the Medium State of the Black Realm, he was still a master of the Earth Realm. The martial technique he practiced was rather magnificent.

Besides, he did make great achievements on sword techniques, which had reached to the Advanced Stage Realm of Sword Following the Mind.

Taking merely sword techniques into account, Liu Xin was even more skillful than Tuoba Linsu.

Despite having seen the Five Flapping Shadows, Zhang Ruochen remained still. Furthermore, he closed his eyes.

“Whew!”

Zhang Ruochen moved one step slightly toward his left, by which he escaped from the attack of the first shadow. Then he moved another two steps toward the right so as to get rid of the second shadow, following which he moved a step backward in case of being attacked by the sword of the third shadow. Finally, he tilted his body back to be free from the sword attack by the fourth shadow.

Looking off the stage, Liu Xin presented five shadows. His sword moved in such a rapid way and struck in such a consecutive manner that each attack from him was rather implausible.

By contrast, Zhang Ruochen did not adopt his sword but presented nine shadows. Moreover, he did not open his eyes but still avoided all of Liu Xin’s attacks.

Over 10 shadows on the battle stage moved so fast that it was hard to figure out which one was Liu Xin’s real body and which one was Zhang Ruochen’s.

Even the ever-arrogant Thirteenth Commandery Princess was surprised and felt a great shock in her mind.

Qing Chibai, the disciple of a Half-Saint, shook his head slightly and said, “Liu Xin was so wrong that he thought he could defeat Zhang Ruochen within the same realm. However, in the same realm, Zhang is much more powerful than him. Beating him is as easy as beating an ant.”

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess thought it was kind of suspect and said, “Before Liu Xin broke through the Earth Realm, he was a master ranking 18th on the Profound Board. Within the same realm, how can he perform so much worse than that pumpkin from the Yunwu Commandery?”

Sitting to the side without speaking, Xun Guihai laughed and said, “You may not know, Your Majesty. Zhang Ruochen ranked first among the disciples of the School of the Martial Market in Omen Ridge. It is said that his Spiritual Power has reached the 29th level. Even in the whole history of Kunlun’s Field, he is a top 10 genius in Spiritual Power.”

Hearing these words, the Thirteenth Commandery Princess was deeply impressed.

Qing Chibai said, "Even though Zhang Ruochen is not a Peerless Swordsman, few people in the same realm as him can defeat him."

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess was a bit anxious and demonstrated a frustrated face. She said, "What should we do? If he wins the Sword Technique Conference, then I must marry him! I don't want to marry him."

Xun Guihai smiled, "Don't worry, Your Majesty. Qing Chibai is the disciple of a Half-Saint. It is said that he has practiced his sword comprehension to the Peak Realm of Sword Following the Mind. If Qing Chibai fights with Zhang Ruochen, it's no hard thing for Qing Chibai to beat him."

Qing Chibai laughed and said, "When I was in the Medium State of the Black Realm, my sword comprehension had only reached to the Advanced Stage Realm of Sword Following the Mind. And my speed was slower than Zhang Ruochen's. At that time, I could by no means beat him. However, if I control my realm to the Medium State of the Black Realm, it is still an unequal fight between us two, although I can defeat him."

Qing Chibai's cultivation was in the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. Something would remain unchanged even if he controlled the realm to the Medium State of the Black Realm.

For example, in his present realm, his breakthrough in Qi Lake, in which the storage of Genuine Qi was thousands and millions of times richer than that of Zhang Ruochen, it was unnecessary for Qing Chibai to worry about the consumption of Genuine Qi even though he controlled his realm to the Medium State of the Black Realm.

Besides, the physical quality of warriors in the Earth Realm was also much more powerful than that of those in the Black Realm.

Therefore, Qing Chibai would still have a large edge over Zhang Ruochen even if he controlled his cultivation to the Medium State of the Black Realm.

Although Liu Xin's cultivation also reached to the Earth Realm, his achievements made on sword techniques were still incomparable to Qing Chibai's.

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess said, "Qing Chibai, I command you to beat that bumpkin from the Yunwu Commandery. If you don't help me, then I have to go to that remote Yunwu Commandery."

If she had to choose between Qing Chibai and Zhang Ruochen, the Thirteenth Commandery would surely choose the former.

Qing Chibai forced a smile and was resigned to say, "If Liu Xin loses, I will be glad to have a fight with Zhang Ruochen."

Qing Chibai also got to know that Zhang Ruochen was a powerful rival. No matter how many advantages he had, it was by no means so easy to beat Zhang Ruochen.

Chapter 148: The Disciple of a Half-Saint

“Perhaps having a fight with him can strengthen my sword technique.”

Qing Chibai looked in the direction of the battle stage, only to find that Liu Xin was thoroughly repressed by Zhang Ruochen, let alone able to touch Zhang Ruochen’s clothes.

“He is such a master of sword techniques.” Qing Chibai’s desire to fight against Zhang Ruochen became even stronger.

“Boom!”

Eventually, Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and struck the stomach of Liu Xin. Strong power embedded in his sword shocked Liu Xin off of the battle stage.

Since the broken sword had lost its sharp tip, Liu Xin was not heavily injured. However, he felt so embarrassed at that time.

If he was defeated by Qing Chibai just now, he would have by no means complained about it. But it was a prince from an inferior commandery who had beaten him, which was absolutely a heavy strike to him. He would rather die than be humiliated like that.

With a dull look in his eyes, Liu Xin grumbled, “He used a broken sword. How can I lose... lose like this...”

All of the people saw clearly that Liu Xin failed to touch Zhang Ruochen’s body from the very beginning. If Zhang Ruochen really wanted to defeat him, perhaps only one strike was enough.

Liu Xin hid amidst the crowd with his tail between his legs, fearing that Zhang Ruochen would see him and force him to cut his hands. If his hands were cut, his practice in the future would be definitely influenced.

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen saw Liu Xin in the crowd. He slightly shook his head and did not want to force him. After all, Liu Xin was a student of Left Prime Minister.

If Zhang Ruochen really forced him to cut his hands, then he would make Left Prime Minister lose face. Left Prime Minister would certainly take revenge, which was not good for Yunwu Commandery.

Having experienced what had happened on this day, Liu Xin would be laughed at by Qianshui Commandery. Zhang Ruochen did not feel like pouring oil on the flames.

Now nobody at the Sword Technique Conference dared to laugh at Zhang Ruochen anymore. None of them would feel it ridiculous if Zhang Ruochen claimed himself to be Peerless Swordsman. Instead, they would only regard him as a confident man, who had every reason to be proud of himself.

Huo Ming was shocked as well. He stared at Zhang Ruochen on the battle stage, feeling as if he was smacked in the face by Zhang Ruochen.

“Phhhf!”

The aristocratic daughters on the second floor of Jinfeng Court threw out pieces of Golden Jade Leaves. The leaves drifted profusely and disorderly onto the battle stage.

Another two pieces of Golden Jade Leaves were thrown out from the third floor of Jinfeng Court. One must have known that those watching the battle on the third floor were all commandery princesses of Qianshui Commandery.

Unexpectedly, two commandery princesses showed their love for Zhang Ruochen.

At the same time, a burst of laughter was heard. It was from Qianshui Commandery Prince, who had been hiding in the void space of the Flying Pavilion. He said, "Minister Ning, you have just mentioned Zhang Ruochen. He is such a young hero as expected. He could defeat Tuoba Linsu and Liu Xin even with a broken sword."

Minister Ning laughed and said, "Zhang Ruochen is indeed extraordinary. But compared with your Majesty, he could still not reach you. I remember that when in Donghai Holy City, Your Majesty defeated the geniuses from all commanderies with your sword. No one could match Your Majesty even today."

Hearing what Minister Ning had said, Qianshui Commandery Prince felt quite joyful. Thinking of his young age, he laughed and said, "Don't forget, Minister Ning, that Zhang Ruochen used a broken sword. He was unbeatable even with a broken sword. I could not reach him at my young age."

Ten powerful ministers were so cunning that they heard something unusual.

It looked like the Commandery Prince had a mind of cherishing this genius, ready to take Zhang Ruochen as his son-in-law.

Minister Ning naturally grasped what Qianshui Commandery Prince meant and thought, *"It looks like the Commandery Prince appreciates Zhang Ruochen very much. Zhang Ruochen will certainly have a promising future. I should make my relationship closer with Yunwu Commandery. As for Square Commandery, I'm going to give some pressure."*

Gongsun Lin, Major General, smiled and said, "Today at the Sword Technique Conference, Zhang Ruochen has defeated geniuses from all commanderies with a broken sword. Soon after, his story will definitely spread to all the commanderies."

Left Prime Minister said, "Zhang Ruochen has one last battle to win to have his story told around all the commanderies. If he is defeated by Qing Chibai, the honor he won before will be transferred to Qing Chibai."

Minister Ning slightly frowned and said, "Qing Chibai is the disciple of a Half-Saint. And his cultivation has reached the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. What's more, the realm of his sword comprehension has reached the Peak of Sword Following the Heart. He can be called the most blessed one in the hundred-year history of Qianshui Commandery. If Zhang Ruochen is defeated by him, it's nothing humiliating."

Another powerful minister said, "In the Medium State of the Black Realm, Qing Chibai may be a bit weaker than Zhang Ruochen. But now, even if Qing Chibai controls his realm to the medium state of the Black Realm, he will be far stronger than Zhang Ruochen. It's doomed to be an unfair battle if the two have a fight. The victory belongs to Qing Chibai!

"If Qing Chibai controls his cultivation to the Dawn State of the Black Realm, the two are comparable to each other. But if Qing Chibai does so, it will be unfair to him. As the disciple of a Half-Saint, he doesn't want to lose. Moreover, he cannot lose."

“If only Zhang Ruochen withstands 10 strikes from Qing Chibai, there must be a place for him to be one of the Young Geniuses of today.”

...

People in Jinfeng Court did not know that the big figures in Qianshui Commandery were watching the newly-arising Young geniuses from all commanderies as well.

For those big figures, each top genius had the potential to be the peerless dominator in the future. It was no harm for them to have a close relationship with them in advance.

Zhang Ruochen stood on the battle stage, not eager to leave, as he knew that there would certainly be stopped by someone if he left.

He could not go until he was defeated.

In that case, he decided to defeat all the people who were not yet convinced. By then, he could naturally leave leisurely.

“Who is going to challenge me then?” Zhang Ruochen held the broken sword. His eyes glanced all the young geniuses of the battle stage.

Upon looking straight into Zhang Ruochen’s eyes, all the young geniuses lowered their head down.

“Me!”

Qing Chibai stood up and took the surcoat off of his shoulders. Showing his tidy and clean black robe, he walked toward the battle stage with a black battle sword in his hands.

The black Genuine Qi stirred below his feet, forming a Genuine Qi cloud.

Each step he moved forward was followed by a Genuine Qi cloud, lifting him onto the battle stage.

Seeing Qing Chibai’s movements, the crowd burst into a surprising cry: “Isn’t... isn’t it the legendary martial technique ‘Meteoric Rise’?”

“It is indeed that martial technique. It’s said that it is the superior-class martial technique of the Spiritual Stage. Qing Chibai may practice to the Acme soon.”

“Qing Chibai finally goes onto the battle stage. He represents the first one among the young generation in Qianshui Commandery. Now that he is going to have the battle, he can easily defeat the Ninth Prince from Yunwu Commandery.”

...

Qing Chibai stepped onto the battle stage, with a free and easy look. He stared at Zhang Ruochen and laughed. “I’m Qing Chibai. I actually don’t want to have a fight at the Sword Technique Conference. However, seeing your outstanding sword technique, I admire you so much that I want to have a competition with you so that I can learn from you. You have won four battles consecutively. And your Genuine Qi must have been greatly consumed. I’ll have a battle with you half an hour after you have a rest.”

Zhang Ruochen knew that Qing Chibai was a powerful rival. He was not that arrogant to believe that he could win.

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head and sat on the ground with his legs crossed. He began to regain his Genuine Qi.

About 15 minutes later, Zhang Ruochen recovered to his peak condition. He stood up, stared at Qing Chibai and said, "How are you going to have a fight with me?"

Qing Chibai said, "My realm of Sword Comprehension has reached the Peak realm of Sword Following the Heart. If we only compete over sword techniques, you will have no edge. So let's fight in accordance with the previous rule. I will control my cultivation to the Medium State of the Black Realm so that we can have a fight within the same realm."

Zhang Ruochen replied, "OK! I agree."

At that moment, Xun Guihai, who had been sitting near the Thirteenth Commandery Princess, stood up and smiled, "I have a proposal. But I was just wondering whether you would like to listen or not."

Qing Chibai looked at Xun Guihai and laughed. "What's your proposal? Feel free to say it."

Xun Guihai said, "The battle stage is only nine meters wide. For those warriors in the medium state of the Black Realm, it seems to be too small. "You are both top masters in sword techniques. Your battle must be pretty exciting. Why not enlarge the battlefield to Jinfeng Court? That will be better for your performance of sword techniques."

The Thirteenth Commandery Princess knew that Qing Chibai was rather powerful in movement, which enabled him an edge over Zhang Ruochen. Thus she agreed at once. She said, "What Xun Guihai said is right. The space of the battlefield is quite limited. Your battlefield will be Jinfeng Court. You don't have to limit it to the battle stage."

Qing Chibai looked at Zhang Ruochen and said, "What do you think, Ninth Prince?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "Now that you have already decided, I naturally agree with it."

Qing Chibai stared at the broken sword in Zhang Ruochen's hands and said, "Ninth Prince, you'd better change the sword!"

Zhang Ruochen slightly smiled and said, "I've gotten used to my own sword. If I change the sword temporarily, I cannot exert all my strength."

"Then let it be!"

Qing Chibai looked easy and calm. He lifted his arms and the black battle sword drew an arc in the void space. One of his hands held the handle of the sword, and the other held the tip.

Genuine Qi poured out from his fingertips. His fingers seemed to be covered in a layer of blue light.

"Snap!"

The fourth-class battle sword, which was at the level of Genuine Martial Arms, was broken by Qing Chibai's Genuine Qi, turning it into a broken sword as well.

Qing Chibai waved his hands and threw out the broken sword tip. It then fell into the pond below the battle stage.

People all looked at Qing Chibai with admiration of his frankness and forthrightness. Only Zhang Ruochen himself knew that Qing Chibai had already prepared to break his sword before he went onto the battle stage. And that was why he just brought a fourth-class battle sword on the level of Genuine Martial Arms.

If he beat Zhang Ruochen with a flawless sword, no one would acknowledge his power.

Instead, if he beat Zhang Ruochen with a broken sword, he would win not only the battle but also fame.

Fame was also important to a genius.

Zhang Ruochen cleared out all his distracting thoughts. He stared firmly at Qing Chibai, entering into a bright realm where he was thoroughly separated from the outside.

Chapter 149: Swallow Sword Technique

There were only seven steps between the two people that had been mutually confronting each other. No one attacked first.

The one who attacked first would certainly reveal his flaw first.

At the moment, they did not even blink their eyes but stared straight into each other's eyes.

Only a distance of seven steps, who would dare to blink?

The moment you blinked, you had lost!

This was a fight between masters and no subtle mistake could be committed. It was not simply a sword competition, but also the competition of Spiritual Power, volition, and patience.

Having confronted for an hour, they were still motionless.

Gradually, Qing Chibai's eyes began to sour, and his eyelids also jumped slightly.

In contrast, Zhang Ruochen was still as stable as Mount Tai, like a peaceful ancient wall. He was motionless without any changes.

Zhang Ruochen opened up his eye vessels in which he could infiltrate Genuine Qi into his eyes directly. Surely, he could persist longer than Qing Chibai.

"I can't wait any longer, if it goes on like this, it will be bad for me." Qing Chibai held his sword tightly.

"Swish!"

Without any indication, Qing Chibai suddenly took a step forward, spreading Genuine Qi into the meridians of his legs and stimulated his speed to the fastest extent.

Before the crowds reacted, the sword had pierced through Zhang Ruochen's body.

However, Zhang Ruochen's body faded gradually and completely disappeared in the end.

It turned out that Qing Chibai only stabbed on the illusory image of Zhang Ruochen, not his real body.

In the moment when Qing Chibai stabbed at him, Zhang Ruochen jumped up to the sky in advance. He swayed his sword toward Qing Chibai at a faster speed.

When Qing Chibai pierced the air, he immediately changed the direction of his sword and swung it upward.

"Boom!"

Two broken swords crashed together and a large splashed out

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen unleashed his left hand. He displayed the move "Dragon in the Sky" and hit Qing Chibai's chest.

Only by cultivating Spiritual Power above level 20 could accomplish the multitask, making one hand use a sword while the other hand used a palm without affecting each other.

"Cloud Breaking Fist!"

Qing Chibai also stretched his left hand forward and shot out his fist that caused vibration in the air around his fist.

"Boom!"

They separated at the same time.

Within a second, the two clashed again and continued to fight.

"Water Dragon Pearls!"

Qing Chibai displayed a low-class sword technique of the Spiritual. Driven by Genuine Qi, the sword waved swiftly into a shadow of a faint dragon. The air surrounding it broke out with the sound of a surging tide.

The Sword Breath joined together and became a giant dragon, surging towards Zhang Ruochen.

Qing Chibai also rushed out with his sword edged rotating to form sword circle that looked as if they were spat out dragon balls.

A series of eight sword circle gathered together to form a wonderful sword technique.

Under the attack of the Sword Breath Dragon and the eight sword circle, Zhang Ruochen could only passively defend and kept stepping back.

Finally, Zhang Ruochen retreated to the edge of the battle stage. He thrust onto the ground and spread his arms out. His body was light as a swallow, so he flew back and fell into the pool below.

"Where to go!"

Qing Chibai pinched the combat sword in one hand and placed his other hand behind his back as he stepped onto the edge of the battle stage. He flew out and overtook Zhang Ruochen.

At that time, Zhang Ruochen displayed Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon where his falling body had stopped momentarily. Unexpectedly, he dashed upward to a height of three meters where above Qing Chibai.

“Sacred Plenilune Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen held the sword with both hands and infiltrated Genuine Qi into the sword completely. It condensed a huge bright sword circle, then split down toward Qing Chibai.

“Good bodily movement !”

Qing Chibai shouted a good call. Both his hands went upward. By the power of the recoil, his body fell down quickly and he reached the pool below the battle stage.

If it was another warrior, he would certainly have fallen into the water.

Yet, the instant that Qing Chubai was falling into the water, a mass of blue clouds appeared below his feet and supported his body.

His feet just sank a little as if he was walking on the ground and he flew away.

“Boom!”

As Qing Chibai dodged, Zhang Ruochen cut downward and split the position that Qing Chibai had just stood in. The surface of the water broke and produced a large splash.

Zhang Ruochen stepped on the waves and flew with the wind. His body movement was so elegant that he looked like a teenaged sword fairy, walking on the water and in pursuit of Qing Chibai rapidly.

“Meteoric Rise” of Qing Chibai was indeed a very powerful martial technique, but its speed was not as good as “Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon”. Quickly, Zhang Ruochen caught up with him.

“Sacred Wave Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen’s body rotated rapidly from his head to his toes. Water in the pool rolled up and formed waves of water. Driven by the Sword Breath, the waves surged toward Qing Chibai.

Seeing that he was about to be rolled into the pool by the water waves, Qing Chibai suddenly stopped and turned around. He chopped his sword straight down and spoke a word: “Break!”

“Boom!”

A Sword Breath more than 10 meters long broke the waves of water and cut toward Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochent tiptoed on the water like a flying dragon, soaring to more than 30 meters high. Then he fell to the top of a willow, which was beside the pool, stepping on the leaves, while his body did not fall.

“Qing Chibai is indeed the most outstanding person in the thousands of years of Qianshui Commandery. When he reaches the Medium State of the Black Realm, it’s estimated that he would be at the same level of Luo Xu. Although he tried his best to compress his cultivation to the Medium State of the Black Realm, actually his true cultivation is in the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. Whether it’s his degree of refining Genuine Qi, the strength of his constitution, or his sophistication of martial arts, he is far from

comparable to those who are extremely skilled in the Medium State of the Black Realm,” Zhang Ruochen thought.

In other words, although Qing Chibai had now suppressed his cultivation to the Medium State of the Black Realm, his current ability could easily defeat him at the Medium State of the Black Realm six years ago.

If Zhang Ruochen regarded him as a warrior of the Medium State of the Black Realm, he would have been totally wrong.

“Originally, I thought Qing Chibai would take the absolute advantage and defeat Zhang Ruochen within a few movements. But I didn’t expect that they will fight neck and neck.” Tuoba Linsu was not reconciled after being defeated by Zhang Ruochen. Yet, seeing the fight between Zhang Ruochen and Qing Chibai, he was convinced.

Liu Xin’s face was quite fiendish. He said angrily, “How could he be so strong? Qing Chibai has indeed practiced the realm of Sword Comprehension to the Peak realm of Sword Following the Heart.”

Tuoba Linsu sneered and said, “Can’t you see that Zhang Ruochen has also practiced the realm of Sword Comprehension to the Peak Realm of Sword Following the Heart?”

“What?”

Liu Xin had been thinking how brutal Zhang Ruochen would be defeated instead of observing his fight with Qing Chibai. Therefore, he did not notice that the realm of Zhang Ruochen’s sword techniques was comparable to Qing Chibai.

Xun Guihai said, “If Zhang Ruochen didn’t practice the sword technique Sword Following the Heart to the Peak, he would have been defeated by Qing Chibai.”

He was only 17 years old and was able to practice Sword Following the Heart to the peak when he just reached the Medium State of the Black Realm. His talent was indeed incredible!

In fact, Xun Guihai was also jealous of Zhang Ruochen, but the purpose of his trip was Commandery Princess Yanchen, who was more beautiful, more outstanding, and was attached a great importance by Qianshui Commandery Prince, rather than the Thirteenth Commandery. He and Zhang Ruochen did not have a conflict of interest, so Xun Guihai did not react as radically as Liu Xin.

“This bastard... I cannot believe he hides his ability of reaching the Peak of Sword Following the Heart. How much power is he still hiding?” Huang Yanchen kept her eyes wide open. There was an urge to fight with him and force Zhang Ruochen to show all of his ability.

Huang Yanchen had just practiced her Sword Comprehension to the Advanced Stage of Sword Following the Heart a few days ago.

Therefore, she was happy for a long time, and yet, she was struck by Zhang Ruochen again.

“With the ability of Qing Chibai, he should be able to make Zhang Ruochen show his true ability.” Huang Yanchen turned her mouth up slightly and exposed a row of snow-white teeth.

Qing Chibai stood on the water solidly. His clothes were greener than the pool water, and his long hair fluttered without any wind.

Even if he was just standing still, there were invisible Sword Breaths around his body, which sent out a sound of “Shua, Shua!” If someone dared to walk within five steps of the area around his body, he would have been shattered by invisible Sword Breaths.

This was the Peak of Sword Following the Heart!

In ordinary people’s opinions, Qing Chibai, at that moment, had no differences from a sword god in the legends.

Qing Chibai was a person who cherished his reputation. As a disciple of a Half-Saint, he needed to be excellent and do his best to defeat Zhang Ruochen in the shortest time.

Zhang Ruochen did not have such a burden like Qing Chibai had, but he also wanted to win. He wanted to break through to a higher realm from this battle between Qing Chibai and himself.

That realm was known as “Heart Integrated into Sword”.

Qing Chibai just reached the peak of Sword Following the Heart, and he still had a long way to go to reach Heart Integrated into Sword.

Zhang Ruochen was in the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword in his last lifetime. Therefore, it was relatively easier for him to reach the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword than Qing Chibai. At that moment, Zhang Ruochen’s sword realm was only one step away from Heart Integrated into Sword.

Zhang Ruochen’s realm was higher than Qing Chibai’s Peak of Sword Following the Heart.

Of course, Qing Chibai possessed a number of advantages that Zhang Ruochen was lacking, which caused the fight to go neck and neck.

“If I use the Time and Space Domain, then I’ll have an 80% chance to defeat him.”

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment seriously. He shook his head again and decided it better not to expose the power of the Time and Space Domain.

Those big men of Qianshui Commandery must have certainly been paying attention to this fight in secret.

Other master cards could be exposed, but the Time and Space Domain was Zhang Ruochen’s biggest card, so it absolutely could not be exposed.

“Swallows Taking Water!”

After a brief confrontation, Qing Chibai moved first as if he was a swallow flying on the water. His cyan combat sword looked like a swallow’s tail that kept shaking, then it formed sword shadows.

The martial technique in the mid-class of the Spiritual Stage, Swallow Sword Technique.

Zhang Ruochen did not practice sword techniques in the mid-class of the Spiritual Stage, so he had to continue using the low-class of Spiritual, Sacred Sword Skill, to fight.

“Sacred Breaking Plum Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen flew from the top of the willow, and stabbed, then shattered all of the Sword Breaths of Qing Chibai.

Qing Chibai did not panic at all. He changed tactics immediately: “Swallows Returning to Nest!”

His cyan fighting sword pierced Zhang Ruochen’s heart.

Spotting the sharp Sword Breath, Zhang Ruochen stepped back quickly, but his sleeves were crushed, making a sound of “Rip, Rip!”.

His white sleeves were shattered into pieces by the Sword Breaths and fell into the water.

Qing Chibai took the advantage and pursued him, and the sword in hand was like a flying swallow. He quickly stabbed towards Zhang Ruochen’s neck.

Chapter 150: The Decisive Battle on the Top of the Palace

Zhang Ruochen was almost defeated by Qing Chibai, but suddenly, he burst out the power of Blood Meridian. Wisps of red Spiritual Blood surged out, forming a thick flake of blood cloud.

It was Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts.

“Howl!”

A low roar of the divine dragon and brute elephant came through the blood fog.

Behind Zhang Ruochen, wisps of Spiritual Blood tangled together forming two bloody shadows of a dragon and an elephant.

The bloody dragon was over 10 meters long with seven claws and towering horns. The outlines of its scales, horns, and claws could be seen clearer and clearer. The shadow of the Blood Elephant was magnificent and miraculous like a mountain that propped up heaven and earth.

Supported by the power of Blood Meridian, Zhang Ruochen’s physical power grew stronger although he was still weaker than Qing Chibai in the Earth Realm.

“Boom!”

At the last moment, Zhang Ruochen blocked Qing Chibai’s exquisite sword movement.

With the power of Blood Meridian, Zhang Ruochen started to strike back.

“Sacred Wind and Rain Sword!”

It looked as if Zhang Ruochen became one with the dragon and the elephant. Waving his combat sword and stepping footwork, he presented nine shadows in a row.

A huge vortex of sword breath showed up around his body forming a fierce sword wind.

Qing Chibai also burst out the power of Blood Meridian, and an illusory image of a Peacock Blood Beast appeared behind him. The Peacock Blood Beast was over six meters long with each of the blood feathers seen clearly. It was just like the incarnation of the Mahamayuri, the god of savage beasts in the ancient times.

Resorting to the power of Blood Meridian, Qing Chibai performed the strongest movement of Swallow Sword Technique.

“Swallow No Tear!”

With his Medium State power within the Black Realm, Qing Chibai couldn't have performed this movement. However, with the power of Blood Meridian, he forced himself to perform it.

“Boom!”

Two swords clashed again, making a deafening metal sound.

The young geniuses in the distance could hardly see Zhang Ruochen and Qing Chibai's figures at all. What they could see was only a strong clash between the illusory images of the Blood Beasts and the Peacock Blood Beast. Waves were forming on the lake.

A sharp moan of the peacock was heard piercing everyone's eardrum.

Fortunately, all the audience here were young masters. If there were warriors with weaker cultivation, they may have already been fainted by the sound wave.

Qing Chibai's sword technique was in the mid-class of the Spiritual Stage. With stronger power and more exquisite change, it had an edge over Zhang Ruochen's. Zhang Ruochen had a higher level in the realm, and his Blood Beasts had stronger power.

Neither of them was in an advantageous position in that clash.

Zhang Ruochen's illusory image of the Blood Beasts nearly tore up Qing Chibai's illusory image of the Peacock Blood Beast.

In Jinfeng Court, a voice cried in surprise, “Oh my! Their Blood Beasts are so miraculous! Ordinary young geniuses can't even block one movement from them!”

“It's not a secret in Qianshui Commandery that Qing Chibai could burst out a Peacock Blood Beast. It almost shocked the whole commandery at that time. According to his master, he has the talent to become a saint.”

“But Zhang Ruochen's Blood Beast is even more miraculous! Both the divine dragon and the brute elephant are overlords on the land. What's more, he burst the two Blood Beasts out at the same time. I'm afraid his power of Blood Meridian is stronger than Qing Chibai's.”

“They both have the talent to become saints,” said Tuoba Linsu.

Liu Xin hummed coldly and said, “It's too early to say so! Many geniuses were outstanding at the very beginning. Others thought they could become saints one day, but they became weak later on. Some

failed to break through a certain bottleneck in their whole lives, and some went slower and slower in their practice and eventually stopped. There are too many of them.”

Some around him nodded. Liu Xin was correct. It was too early to predict their future now.

After the clash, Zhang Ruochen landed again on the top of the willow beside the lake, standing there without effort as if he was floating.

He picked up his broken sword and looked at it carefully. He found that there were many cracks in it. It looked like the sword might break into pieces anytime.

Qing Chibai’s broken sword faced the same problem as Zhang Ruochen’s.

The clash was so powerful that the combat swords were almost shaken into pieces!

Qing Chibai found himself in the hardest battle since he debuted.

He stared at the blood shadows of the dragon and elephant behind Zhang Ruochen without any fear. Instead, he had a strong sense of war intent.

“Waaa!”

Standing on the surface of the lake, he held his hand up to the same height and released his Genuine Qi and Sword Comprehension.

The water in the lake started to surge.

Drops of water flow from the lake were around Qing Chibai. These hundreds of drops kept rotating.

“Condense!”

Qing Chibai’s Genuine Qi had the nature of Icing cold. After saying the word, hundreds of drops condensed into a white ice sword immediately. Each of them was about an inch long, completely parceled by Genuine Qi.

Seeing this, many young geniuses were astonished into speechlessness.

Only warriors with high cultivation could understand that when one reached the Peak of Sword Following the Heart, even a flower, a blade of grass, or a drop of water could condense into a sword.

At the same time, as Zhang Ruochen on the willow top raised his arms, all the green leaves on the tree fell down and flew around his body making the sharp metal sounds of swords.

“Phhhf!”

Zhang Ruochen waved his broken sword and pointed it towards Qing Chibai. The countless green leaves, covered in Genuine Qi, flew to Qing Chibai like a shower of green sword rain.

“Clap! Clap!”

At the same time, Qing Chibai ordered the small Icing cold swords to fly towards Zhang Ruochen. The icing cold swords clashed with the willow leaves swords.

After several rounds of clashes, the small Icing cold swords and the willow leaves swords disappeared at the same time.

“Chop!”

Zhang Ruochen flew behind the willow leaves swords, standing on the leaves. When the leaves disappeared, he condensed all of his Genuine Qi and slashed fiercely.

Qing Chibai, slightly astonished, stepped back immediately.

Crash!

The front of Qing Chibai’s robe was torn open. The blue robe turned into a cardigan.

Fortunately, he stepped back in time, or Zhang Ruochen would hurt him badly.

Zhang Ruochen continued his victorious pursuit, leaving no rest for Qing Chibai.

“Sacred Breaking Plum Sword!”

“Sacred Plenilune Sword!”

“Sacred Wind and Rain Sword!”

...

Zhang Ruochen performed eighteen techniques in a row, looking like eighteen shadows. The whole process was smooth in movement and superior in Sword Comprehension. The sword light almost covered Qing Chibai completely.

Each sword technique was followed by the next without any pause endangering Qing Chibai many times.

Four more cuts appeared on his robe.

One of these cuts injured his skin, leaving a clear blood stain on his body.

Qing Chibai was in an embarrassing position now. He gave a serious look and cried, “Song of the Forever Coldness!”

Song of the Forever coldness, the sword technique in the superior class of the Spiritual Stage.

Qing Chibai had been practicing for three years, but he could only reach the level of small success.

With his cultivation in the Medium State of the Black Realm, he couldn’t have performed the power of Song of the Forever coldness. However, supported by the power of Blood Meridian and the peak realm of Sword Following the Heart, Qing Chibai performed thirty percent of its power.

Even thirty percent of its power blocked Zhang Ruochen’s attack easily. What’s more, it left a cut on Zhang Ruochen’s arm.

After blocking Zhang Ruochen’s attack, Qing Chibai turned around and leaped backward. He bounced with his tiptoe on the lake and landed on the battle stage again.

The battle stage was a higher place, while the lake was a lower place.

People on the higher place could easily block the attack from the lower place.

In other words, occupying the battle stage was equal to win the battle. No matter how Zhang Ruochen attacked him from the lower place, Qing Chibai could easily block it.

As the old Chinese motto said, one must win with good timing, good geographical convenience, and good human relations.

Now, Qing Chibai had good geographical convenience. He could both defend and attack. It seemed that the success belonged to him without a doubt.

“Now, it’s hard for Zhang Ruochen to win! But it’s good enough to force Qing Chibai to go back to the higher place for defense.”

“No matter Zhang Ruochen wins or not today, he will definitely be famous and become a top genius that can stand shoulder to shoulder with Qing Chibai.”

Liu Xin stared at Zhang Ruochen and sneered. “Now, what can you do next?”

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At this moment, Zhang Ruochen suddenly moved!

Zhang Ruochen didn’t attack Qing Chibai on the battle stage. Instead, he performed Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. He stepped into the void space and flew to Jinfeng Court in the distance.

Tuoba Linsu figured out Zhang Ruochen’s intention. He said, “The battle stage is 18 meters high, but Jinfeng Court is 83 meters high, four times higher than the battle stage. If Zhang Ruochen can land on the third floor of Jinfeng Court, he will be the one who can occupy the higher place.”

For other warriors, it was almost impossible to get on the Jinfeng Court, but for Zhang Ruochen, who had practiced Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, it was not that hard.

Realizing Zhang Ruochen’s intention, Qing Chibai performed Meteoric Rise and flew towards the top of Jinfeng Court hurriedly when Zhang Ruochen took the third step.

After the ninth step, Zhang Ruochen landed on the rooftop of Jinfeng Court. He stepped on the glazed tiles as if he were a young Sword Fairy from heaven.

Qing Chibai was one step later to land on the rooftop. Zhang Ruochen waved his arm, and a bunch of sword light of seven meters long slashed towards Qing Chibai’s legs.

Qing Chibai stayed calm. He chose not to counter with Zhang Ruochen directly. He sank his body and landed on the fourth floor of Jinfeng Court.

After a moment, a loud boom came from the top of the court. Qing Chibai dashed through the glazed tiles and flew into the 10-meter air. He held the sword in his hands and slashed for 13 times.

Zhang Ruochen standing steadily on the rooftop, slashed 13 times as well. He shook Qing Chibai’s Sword breath into pieces completely.

“Crash!”

Piles of glazed tiles were broken by the Sword Breath and fell off the roof.

They both stood on the rooftop of over 80 meters high. The shadows crossed and the swords clashed, keeping making ear-piercing sounds.

“Are they going to have a decisive battle on the top of Yunwu City?”

Young geniuses below all upturned their necks and looked upward.

Not only them but also the warriors in the whole place could see the battle on the rooftop. The battle caused a big sensation.

“Boom!”

The swords in their hands clashed again.

The two broken swords crashed into pieces at the same time, turning into iron pieces and flying towards all directions.

Seeing iron pieces flying towards himself, Qing Chibai quickly threw away his bare sword handles and moved backward immediately to escape them.