

## God Emperor 181

### Chapter 181: The Anger

“Well! You are really bold. I’m very impressed.” Lin Chenyu smirked as he sat back down.

Just then, a maid walked out of the third floor of the Sky-approaching Pavilion, stared at the lobby below and said aloud, “Young master, Commandery Princess Yanchen wants to meet you in the private room on the third floor.”

Suddenly, all the warriors in the sky-approaching pavilion went silent.

They were all staring at Zhang Ruochen. With a gloating smile, many of them wanted to see the look of panic on Zhang Ruochen’s face.

But to their disappointment, Zhang Ruochen was just momentarily stunned. His expression immediately returned to normal and he walked up the stairs to the third floor.

He was not really engaged in Huang Yanchen, so there was nothing to worry about.

Ximen Guanren stared at Zhang Ruochen who was walking up the stairs and he grinned suddenly, “Zhang Ruochen dares to compete for the best eating accompany beauty in front of Commandery Princess Yanchen. Just watch, Commandery Princess Yanchen certainly can’t tolerate him, and will break off the engagement today.”

“That is inevitable. He may even get a good spanking and get beaten to a wreck. Haha!” Hua Jiuhan laughed.

Even Liu Chengfeng and Zhang Shaochu looked worried. After all, Huang Yanchen was a famous devil. Zhang Ruochen was really behind the eight ball this time.

Zhang Ruochen opened the door to the private room. There were 12 people in the room and they were all staring at him.

There were seven men and five women, all of them good-looking and graceful. They were all peerless talents.

“Everyone’s cultivation is above the level of the Earth Realm.” Zhang Ruochen felt their breathing and could roughly tell their cultivation.

Indeed, birds of a feather flock together.

Huang Yanchen stared at Zhang Ruochen, her eyes were cold. She said, “Zhang Ruochen, the best eating accompany beauty is very beautiful, isn’t she?”

Since there were outsiders here, it was better for Zhang Ruochen to clear things up. So Huang Yanchen would not feel embarrassed in front of her friends.

Even if it was a fake engagement, they should still respect each other.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Senior Sister apprentice Huang, you misunderstand me! I am just helping my brother to aid the best eating accompany beauty, there is nothing else."

Xun Guihai laughed coldly and said, "Zhang Ruochen, it has come to this point. Is there any meaning to life again? You should kneel down and admit your mistake, otherwise, even if Commandery Princess Yanchen let you go, I, Xun Guihai, won't."

Zuo Lengxuan gave Zhang Ruochen a side-eye and said, "Not only that, I think he also needs to personally kill the best eating accompany beauty."

At this moment, two warriors clad in armor escorted the best eating accompany beauty to them.

Being pressed down with a great force, she knelt down on the ground with a muffled groan.

Zhang Ruochen felt a chill watching this, and he swept the room with a glance. His eyes rested on Huang Yanchen in the end and said, "Huang Yanchen, is this your idea as well?"

Huang Yanchen gave Xun Guihai and Zuo Lengxuan a severe look. She knew very well that Zhang Ruochen was more arrogant than anyone. Even if both of them forced Zhang Ruochen, there was no way he would kneel down.

They wanted to force Zhang Ruochen to completely join the opposing side of her.

However, Huang Yanchen was adored by many people since young and she never lowered her head to anyone. Now, facing Zhang Ruochen's question, would she lower her head?

Besides, it was all Zhang Ruochen's fault for making her lost face today, why would she yield?

Xun Guihai noticed Huang Yanchen's hesitation. He grabbed the chance, stood up instantly and said, "Zhang Ruochen, you see now that Commandery Princess Yanchen doesn't want to talk to you at all. Why don't you kill the best eating accompany beauty immediately, kneel down and admit your mistakes?"

Zhang Ruochen looked at Huang Yanchen disappointedly, flapped his sleeves and said, "No one can force me to get on my knees and admit a mistake, and no one can force me to kill someone either."

Then, Zhang Ruochen turned around and went out. He quickly extended two palms and sent the two warriors clad in armor flying into the air.

"Boom!"

Two warriors fell all the way down onto the first floor from the third floor.

Zhang Ruochen helped the best eating accompany beauty who was a half-peacock human to her feet and said, "Since I bought you, you are mine from now on. No one can kill you. Let's go!"

In the past, Zhang Ruochen believed that although Huang Yanchen was spoiled, at least she had a principle of doing things. But now, he was very disappointed in her and did not want to stay here anymore.

In fact, Zhang Ruochen regarded Huang Yanchen as a friend of his own. As a friend, she should know his conduct. If Zhang Ruochen wanted a woman, would he spend money to buy one?

Anyway, since they were friends, if they could not trust each other, there was no need to stay friends anymore!

Huang Yanchen felt a pang in her heart as she watched Zhang Ruochen leaving the place. It was an unprecedented feeling of pain. She felt as if a knife had pierced through her heart.

“Zhang Ruochen, do you still think you can leave the Sky-approaching Pavilion alive?”

Xun Guihai who was in a really good mood gave a loud laugh. He flew out of the room and caught up with Zhang Ruochen. He ran the genuine Qi to his fingertips and pointed at Zhang Ruochen’s back.

He wanted to kill Zhang Ruochen!

Having heard the sound of the wind behind him, Zhang Ruochen halted his steps instantly. He turned around and unleashed a five-palms strike. Five times of power broke out when all five palms were combined together.

“Nine-folds of the Elephant Power.”

Zhang Ruochen’s palms turned completely white, emitting dazzling light.

The force of their palms and fingers collided, and ripples of energy burst out of the fight between Zhang Ruochen and Xun Guihai.

“Boom!”

Xun Guihai flew backward and smashed the door of the private room. He spat out a mouthful of blood and fell down to the ground with his hair disheveled.

Zhang Ruochen only stumbled half a step backward before regaining his balance. He stared at Xun Guihai and said, “Do you think you can stop me? You’re such a fool.”

The fight between Zhang Ruochen and Xun Guihai just now was certainly witnessed by the warriors on the first and second floor.

Everyone was astonished and found it unbelievable.

“Xun Guihai was once the top student in the Eastern Campus. Now, he is at the level of the Earth realm and has become an internal student. His cultivation is unfathomable. How can he be defeated by Zhang Ruochen with one palm?”

“Is it true that Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation is only at the level of the Black Realm?”

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Not only the warriors on the first and second floor were shocked, but those in the private room were very much amazed as well.

They did not know the real strength of Zhang Ruochen, but they were clearly aware of Xun Guihai’s strength. His cultivation had almost reached the level of the mid-stage of the Earth realm and could totally compete with the warriors at the level of the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm.

But Zhang Ruochen defeated Xun Guihai with only one palm. That was too exaggerated.

“Could it be that Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation has reached the Earth Realm?” Many of them were making the same assumption.

Xun Guihai was furious. He did a kick up and shouted. “Zhang Ruochen, today, one shall stand and one shall fall.”

Xun Guihai spread his legs slightly apart and changed his standing posture into a horse stance. Lifting his head up, he took a deep breath and it expanded his abdomen.

The wave of Genuine Qi came rushing in, gathering at his abdomen.

“Whoosh.” Suddenly, Xun Guihai rushed out of the place at a speed as fast as lightning and flung himself in front of Zhang Ruochen in no time.

The Genuine Qi in his abdomen surged up to his arms, and he unleashed a big palm strike.

“Abdomen-through Palm!”

Abdomen-through palm was a martial technique in the mid-class of the spiritual stage.

“Nine-folds of the Elephant Power.”

Zhang Ruochen stood still in his original position with his arms extended out straight and unleashed five palms in a row. Combining the force of all five palms, he confronted the attack.

Chapter 182: Kong Xuan

Two powerful palms clashed together and a deafening sound erupted upon contact.

Ice power and power of thunderbolt poured out frantically from Zhang Ruochen’s palms and charged toward Xun Guihai in a peremptory manner.

The combined powers became five folds stronger.

“Boom!”

Xun Guihai was sent flying backward again. He crashed through the rails and landed on the first floor of Sky-approaching Pavilion. Smashing into a table, he fell miserably to the ground.

The surrounding warriors quickly stepped backward, retreating to a safe distance.

Zhang Ruochen took seven steps backward and released the palm power which he had received from Xun Guihai into the air. He managed to do so with ease.

“Let’s go!”

Zhang Ruochen took the best eating accompany beauty of half-peacock human with him, slowly walked down the stairs and never looked back. He was about to leave Sky-approaching Pavilion with Zhang Shaochu, Liu Chengfeng, and Zi Qian.

Those warriors in Sky-approaching Pavilion were all shocked.

If this was the first time Zhang Ruochen defeated Xun Guihai, it could have been an accident. They could not attribute his victory to his true strength.

However, this was the second time. Xun Guihai even unleashed his unique technique “Abdomen-through Palm”, but he was once again defeated by Zhang Ruochen.

The only explanation that could justify the reason for his failure was that Zhang Ruochen was indeed more powerful than Xun Guihai.

“With Xun Guihai’s current strength, even Yan Lixuan, No.1 of the Profound Board, is no match for him. Since Zhang Ruochen defeated Xun Guihai, doesn’t this mean that he is more powerful than Yan Lixuan?”

“The top prodigy of 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge, Zhang Tiangui, could only make it to the third of Profound Board when he reached the Black Realm. Is it possible that Zhang Ruochen is actually more talented than Zhang Tiangui?”

“Zhang Ruochen must have reached the Earth Realm. Otherwise, how could he be so powerful?”

On the second floor of Sky-approaching Pavilion stood a venerable Martial Arts predecessor who was staring at Zhang Ruochen. With a thoughtful expression, he said, “Zhang Ruochen hasn’t reached the Earth Realm as he hasn’t practiced Qi Sea.”

That Martial Arts predecessor unknowingly dropped a bombshell. His words immediately stirred up a huge uproar as all the warriors in Sky-approaching Pavilion broke into discussion.

Zhang Ruochen was powerful enough to be No.1 on the Profound Board, wasn’t it?

Such rare talent was hardly seen even in a hundred years in 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge.

“Even if Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation hasn’t reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, I would say he’s not far from it.” That Martial Arts predecessor casually dropped another bombshell.

“Boom!”

“The Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm?”

No one could stay calm after hearing that. They all turned to look at Zhang Ruochen again. The mockery in their eyes had been replaced by admiration and respect.

The Ultimate Realm had always been a myth since ancient times.

Had Zhang Ruochen really reached that legendary realm?

At this moment, everyone seemed to have forgotten about Zhang Ruochen’s competition with Ximen Guanren for the best eating accompany beauty. Instead of dwelling on that matter, they had switched their focus to Zhang Ruochen’s strength, discussing which level he was at.

Meanwhile, on the third floor, in the private room.

Every Young Genius looked somewhat absent-minded as they had not recovered from their shock.

It was not until this moment that they finally understood why Huang Yanchen would choose Zhang Ruochen. How many men in 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge could match up to his incredible talent?

Huang Yanchen certainly knew Zhang Ruochen's strength better than any of them. She knew that Zhang Ruochen had reached the Ultimate Realm when he was still in the Yellow Realm. There really was no one who could compare to him in 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge.

Chen Xier was gracefully standing next to Huang Yanchen like a beauty who had walked out of the canvas of a painting. Her beautiful eyes glittered as she watched Zhang Ruochen's departure. She smiled and said, "Cousin, I think with Zhang Ruochen's talent, he doesn't need to spend a huge sum of money to compete for the best eating accompany beauty. The competition between him and Ximen Guanren is probably due to their personal matter. He isn't really interested in that girl."

"So what?" Huang Yanchen's expression remained just as cold as ever. Her eyes staring intensely at Zhang Ruochen's receding figure.

Huang Yanchen knew that Zhang Ruochen was an honest person, and he would not lie deliberately. What Zhang Ruochen had said earlier should be the truth, that he bought the best eating accompany beauty for Zhang Shaochu.

But, Huang Yanchen could not just apologize to Zhang Ruochen in front of so many warriors. Her high pride would never allow herself to do that.

"When this matter is over, I will go and talk to him alone." Huang Yanchen thought to herself.

Seeing that Huang Yanchen did not chase after Zhang Ruochen, Chen Xier's eyes glowed with a strange light.

Chen Xier believed that it would be very difficult for her to find a fiance that could outshine Zhang Ruochen, so why not just stole from her cousin?

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The best eating accompany beauty was worth four million silver coins, and yet Zhang Ruochen only had about one million silver coins. Luckily, he could exchange practice resources for silver coins in Tianyue Tower.

Zhang Ruochen took out one million silver coins, together with six drops of Half-Saint's essence and paid it to the Tianyue Tower. Then, he took the best eating accompany beauty and left the place.

One drop of Half-Saint's essence was equal to 500,000 silver coins.

Being the No.1 in Western Campus, Zhang Ruochen could receive 10 drops of Half-Saint's Essence once per quarter. Now, he still had 14 drops left.

Zhang Shaochu felt very guilty and said, "Ninth brother, I'm sorry. I don't know asking for a favor will cause such a big misunderstanding between you and Commandery Princess Yanchen. I'll go and tell her the truth. Even if she wants me to kneel before her and beg for forgiveness, I must clear things up."

Zhang Ruochen began to calm down after leaving Tianyue Tower. Returning to his usual calm, he said, "Brother, you don't have to blame yourself. It's my fault too. As for Commandery Princess Yanchen, I

think there is no need to explain anything. If she still wants to be friends with me, she will come to me. By then, I will tell her the whole story.”

Zhang Shaochu still felt somewhat uneasy, thinking that he had made a big mistake.

If his father knew that he had ruined the relationship between his ninth brother and Commandery Princess Yanchen, he would never spare him.

Zhang Ruochen took a glance at the best eating accompany beauty and asked, “What’s your name?”

The best eating accompany beauty had been looking at Zhang Ruochen with an adoring gaze ever since they left Tianyue Tower. Her beautiful eyes glowed with admiration and praise.

Judging by appearance alone, her face and figure were no less than those of Zi Qian and Huang Yanchen. She had a delicate and gentle kind of beauty, reminiscent of a frail girl.

She lowered her head and said gently, “Master, my name is Kong Xuan.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, “From now on, you are with my brother...”

“No!” Zhang Shaochu immediately shook his head and implored, saying, “Brother, you mustn’t pass her to me. I’m begging you! If our father finds out about this, he will surely kill her and punish me harshly.”

If Zhang Shaochu bought the best eating accompany beauty without a fuss, he would gladly take her in.

But now, everyone knew that the best eating accompany beauty was the cause of the contradiction between Commandery Princess Yanchen and Zhang Ruochen. The news would soon reach the Yunwu City in Yunwu Commandery, and Yunwu Commandery Prince would be the first person to learn about this.

If Yunwu Commandery Prince knew that Zhang Shaochu was behind this, he would surely sentence Kong Xuan to death, and then punish Zhang Shaochu heavily.

“This truly is a very tricky matter!”

Zhang Ruochen understood Zhang Shaochu’s concern. He thought for a moment before turning to look at Kong Xuan again. Then, he took out the indenture, torn it into pieces, and said, “Kong Xuan, you are free! You can leave now!”

Kong Xuan immediately dropped to her knees in terror. Shaking her head, she said fearfully, “Master, I beg you not to send me away. Even if I’m free now, I can’t escape the Devil Martial city. I will soon be captured by them and sold to Tianyue Tower again, or worse, to Black Market.”

It was indeed difficult for a beautiful woman like her to obtain real freedom without a powerful strength or a solid background.

Being sold to Tianyue Tower was a relatively good ending.

If she was sold to the black market, that would be a real tragedy.

Zhang Ruochen was in a bit of a dilemma too. He could not send her back to Tianyue Tower.

“Well then, you’ll follow me and be my maid for the time being.” Zhang Ruochen said.

Kong Xuan wept with joy and said, "Thank you very much, master. Thank you very much, master."

"Get up!" Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Chengfen's face was riddled with worry. He said urgently, "Elder brother, Xun Guihai had tasted defeat at your hands. He surely can't bear the disgrace and of course, he won't be convinced of his loss. I'm afraid he will make a desperate attempt and send a killer to assassinate you."

Zhang Shaochu nodded his head and said, "Lin Chenyu, Lin Ningshan, and the Lins have always looked down on you. Now that you've risen to prominence, they certainly won't sit by."

Zhang Ruochen said, "You have a point. Well then, I'll stay in Devil Martial City for now. As long as I'm here, they couldn't brazenly kill me."

Zhang Ruochen was the top genius in Western Campus of the School of the Martial Market. Who would dare to do that?

"It is easy to dodge an open spear thrust, but difficult to guard against an arrow in the dark. Elder brother, I suggest that you can stay in my father's mansion. Who dares to make a move under his nose?" Liu Chengfeng said.

"All right! I guess I will have to bother predecessor Liu for a while." Zhang Ruochen replied.

Liu Chengfeng said with a beaming smile, "You saved my father's life. He will be very happy if you go to his house and stay temporarily with him."

Guided by Liu Chengfeng, Zhang Ruochen and the others headed to the mansion of Liu Chuanshen.

After getting too much publicity at Tianyue Tower, he knew he would surely get a lot of resentment.

Zhang Ruochen had already decided that if his cultivation did not reach the Earth Realm, he would not leave Devil Martial City.

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As Xun Guihai walked out of the Tianyue Tower, his internal organs began to burn, intensifying the pain. He felt very aggrieved.

Being a top genius since youth, he was highly sought after by countless people. But today, he was defeated by an external student of the school and was thoroughly discredited.

How could he face other people in the future?

"Zhang Ruochen, I swear on my life, I'm gonna kill you!" Xun Guihai howled without a care for his image.

A warrior rushed from afar, knelt one knee in front of Xun Guihai, and said, "Master, Zhang Ruochen is going to Liu Chuanshen's mansion."

"Does he really think that if he hides in Liu Chuanshen's mansion, I can't do anything to him?"

Xun Guihai's face twisted into a furious scowl. He continued saying, "Tell my father to transfer 20 million silver coins to me immediately. I'll offer a big reward to anyone who can bring me Zhang Ruochen's head. As long as he's alive, I'll never have my day."



## Chapter 183: The Human Mansion

Since Liu Chuanshen was the myth of martial art of the Heaven Realm, as well as a silver gowned elder of the School of the Martial Market, he owned his mansion in Devil Martial city.

His mansion was as big as a castle, covering an area of two hundred acres. He recruited 800 soldiers and employed over 200 servants.

Only warriors of the Heaven Realm were able to enjoy such prestige.

Being martial arts legends of the Heaven Realm, all he needed to do was spread the word, and countless warriors would rush to work for him as soldiers or servants.

A warrior who had cultivated to the Heaven Realm would enjoy a superior status after entering Martial World. No one dared to offend them.

Moreover, soldiers who guarded the Heaven Realm warriors' mansion would probably be offered a chance to learn the practical skills of the superior level of martial technique, or even received guidance from the Heaven Realm warriors.

Liu Chuanshen only needed to recruit 800 soldiers due to the geographic location of Devil Martial City.

In Yunwu County, some of the celestial paratroopers can establish a city by themselves and recruit tens of thousands of soldiers to become a dominant player. Some of the warriors of the Heaven Realm in the Yunwu Commandery were capable of building their own city. They would recruit their own soldiers and become the dominator in the region.

"If I become a warrior of the Heaven Realm I want to build a castle, recruit 3,000 soldiers, and have 800 beautiful women at my side. It's going to be a magnificent way to wake up in the morning. Killer sword in hand, getting drunk, and lying in the laps of a beautiful woman," Zhang Shaochu said with a proud tone.

Liu Chengfeng laughed. "The Heaven Realm is the utmost realm of Martial Arts. Every single one of the warriors of the Heaven realm is called myths of the Martial Arts. It's very difficult to reach the Heaven Realm, even with my talent I only have a 20% chance of breaking through."

Zhang Shaochu felt as though cold water and been poured over him, and he lost all confidence. He cried and said, "That means that I'll never reach the Heaven Realm..."

Kong Xuan stood behind Zhang Ruochen and felt a sense of longing. Her eyes glittered as she thought, "Warriors of the Heaven Realm are the top masters in the Martial Arts Realm. Will I ever become one of them?"

She knew that she didn't have a chance of reaching the Heaven Realm. With her cultivation speed, it would be astounding if she ever reached the Earth Realm.

Liu Chuanshen had been told that Zhang Ruochen had arrived. He quickly welcomed him in person with a group of servants following behind him.

Liu Chuanshen's laugh was loud and clear. He shouted from afar. "The Ninth Prince, how are you doing?"

The servants stared at Zhang Ruochen with curiosity. They were confused, why would their master, with such a prestigious status, personally welcome a youngster?

Liu Chengfeng whispered in Liu Chuanshen's ears.

Liu Chuanshen nodded slightly and said, "Ninth Prince, please make yourself at home. No one dares cause me any trouble here in Devil Martial City."

"Thank you very much, Master Liu," Zhang Ruochen said.

Liu Chuanshen gazed at him and said, "Thank you? You're the major nurturing genius of the School of the Martial Market. Since I'm the silver gowned Elder of the School, I have the responsibility of keeping you safe from people who want to kill you. In fact, I should be the one who is thanking you and the Fourth Prince for saving me. Without you, I'd be dead at the hands of the heretics of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. I'm organizing a welcoming dinner for you two tonight. You can stay here as long as you want. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you need anything during your stay!"

Liu Chuanshen was being gracious towards Zhang Ruochen not only because he saved his life, but also the talent he displayed. Liu Chuanshen believed that Zhang Ruochen's achievements would definitely top him.

Maybe one day he would have to ask Zhang Ruochen for help. Who knew?

After the welcoming dinner, Liu Chengfeng led Zhang Ruochen, Zi Qian, Kong Xuan, and Zhang Shaochu to their bedrooms.

After nightfall, Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian were talking in the manor.

"Junior Sister apprentice Zi, I'm so sorry that I've dragged you into this situation. I'm afraid you can't return to Western campus anytime soon," Zhang Ruochen said regretfully.

Zi Qian grabbed her sword, stood upright and said while staring at Zhang Ruochen, "Well, I guess you'll have to make it up to me!"

He was slightly shocked and asked, "Make it up to you?"

She nodded seriously and said, "Because of you, both Lin Chenyu and Xun Guihai hate me now. You have to make up for that!"

He chuckled. "Haha! I see! So what do you want?"

Zi Qian seemed well-prepared. She responded. "I want to learn your martial technique the shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. If I acquire this martial technique, I'll at least be able to protect myself from people who want to kill me. But I'm not sure if you're willing to teach me."

"I suppose you want to learn this martial technique just to make it easier for you to kill people!" Zhang Ruochen said seriously, "I can teach you the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, but you have to promise me that you will never use it to kill anyone. You can only perform it to save yourself."

Zhang Ruochen had always wanted Zi Qian to stop being a killer.

There was a sense of happiness on Zi Qian's cold face. "Deal! I promise you I won't kill innocent people."

Zhang Ruochen taught Zi Qian the secret of Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon without withholding anything.

As for the steps of the shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, it was impossible to show her on paper. He would have to teach her step by step later on.

After accompanying her back to her room, Zhang Ruochen noticed that Kong Xuan was walking in his direction.

She was indeed a beautiful woman with creamy skin and a slim, tiny figure. She was also born with a pair of colorful wings on her back. The tiny woman was holding a bronze salver with a pot of tea and two teacups on it.

Kong Xuan put down the salver on the stone table. She stretched out her slender fingers, poured a cup of tea and placed it in front of Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen didn't drink it. Instead, he stared at Kong Xuan and asked, "You're of the half-peacock human clan, I guess you've probably heard of the Peacock Mountain Village?"

Kong Xuan looked shocked and said, "For your information Mister, the Peacock Mountain Village is the most powerful party of the half-peacock humans. They had been the dominant party of the half-peacock humans from the Late Antiquity until the Queen ascended the throne, and built the first central empire 500 years ago. Peacock Mountain Village refused to be ruled by Empress and since then they have been suppressed by the first central Empire. In the end, the entire village was destroyed."

"After the destruction of the Peacock Mountain Village the status of the half-peacock human clan had greatly diminished, we were attacked by other human power. They specifically captured the women of the half-peacock humans and forced them to be maidservants. They would be sold for a high price and became toys in bed for the human warriors."

Kong Xuan was upset.

She was one of the unfortunate ones.

Women of the half-peacock humans were all beautiful and elegant. It's no wonder they were sought after by the warriors. Once any of them were caught, the warrior could sell them for a few hundred thousand silver coins.

A woman who was as pretty as Kong Xuan was worth more than one million silver coins.

Zhang Ruochen sighed slightly as he thought about his previous life 800 years ago. At that time there were 300 half-human clans, all of which were ruled by Emperor Ming. Half-peacock humans were one of them.

One of Zhang Ruochen's cousins was the granddaughter of the master of Peacock Mountain Village. The relationship between Zhang Ruochen, Princess Chi Yao, and herself was extremely close back then.

“I wonder if she is still alive.”

If she was, she was probably 800 years old by now.

“I can’t believe how brutal Empress Chi Yao has turned out to be. She even cleaned the clan of the Peacock Mountain Village!”

Zhang Ruochen pursed his lips, his fingers lightly tapping the table as if he was thinking about something.

He lifted his head and continued asking Kong Xuan, “What’s the class of your Sacred Mark?”

“A fourth-class Sacred Mark,” Kong Xuan answered.

Zhang Ruochen responded, “Your class of the sacred mark can only be classified as a medium level. Of course, that doesn’t imply or represent the potential of any warrior. In history, some of the warriors who obtained the First-Class Sacred Mark, the lowest level of the mark, have practiced to a Saint.”

He continued, “What exercises are you practicing?”

“The exercise I’m practicing is called ‘Black Wind Hearing the Wave Technique’, the mid-class of Human Stage. I have opened up nine meridians at the moment.” She replied.

He shook his head and said, “only having nine Meridians opened at the Dawn state of the yellow realm will indeed affect your cultivation of Martial Arts. I can teach you the top exercises of the half-peacock human. However, you have to swear that you’re not going to pass this exercise on, nor tell anyone you’ve learned how to practice it. Are you willing to keep your promise?”

Chapter 184: Peacock Canon

If you didn’t have a powerful background as a warrior, then you simply weren’t able to obtain a superior practical skill or enjoy a steady flow of practice resources.

Without these two qualities, the chance of becoming a superior warrior was relatively low, even if you had a great deal of talent.

Kong Xuan now had a decent chance of becoming a better warrior, and she would surely fight for it.

She was a clever girl, she swore to keep her promise right away rather than question Zhang Ruochen why he knew the exercises of the half-peacock humans.

She was frustrated after giving her word. “Mister, do you really possess the practical skills of my clan?” she asked.

In her mind, even if Zhang Ruochen did know the exercises, they would only be Low-Class of Spiritual at most.

Even for the Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery the top practice skills were the Innate Skills, a Mid-Class of Spiritual Stage.

The exercises of Low-Class of Spiritual was indeed incredibly enough for Kong Xuan. If he didn't pass them onto her she would never have a chance to practice such technique.

Zhang Ruochen responded. "If you continue to practice the Black Wind Hearing the Wave Technique you will only be able to open up 12 Meridians, even if you reach the Completion of the Yellow Realm. The fewer Meridians in your body the slower the speed of cultivation will be, or even stop altogether. Warriors who only acquire a few Meridians will automatically be put in an unfavorable position when fighting with others. The speed at which you transfer Genuine Qi won't be as good as your opponent."

Zhang Ruochen was able to defeat warriors who were realms higher than him not only because had he reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm, but because he practiced Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emyrean, which opened up 36 Meridians within his body.

His speed of transferring the Genuine Qi was far ahead of other warriors in the same realm. The power he was able to wield would naturally be larger.

He continued, "Since you're at the Dawn State of the Yellow Realm, the Meridians in your body haven't gotten into shape yet. You can switch to other exercises in order to open up more Meridians. The exercises I'm going to pass on to you are called Peacock Canon. I only have the first four practice skills, which will allow you to cultivate to the Heaven Realm. Whether or not you wish to learn them, is completely up to you."

"Peacock Canon?" Kong Xuan was so shocked her expression changed. She held her breath and gazed at Zhang Ruochen in disbelief.

"Peacock Canon" was one of the top two exercises of Peacock Mountain Village. It was as brilliant as the "Feather Emerging Classics". Only geniuses of the linear posterity of Peacock Mountain Village would have the chance to practice it.

Zhang Ruochen ignored her surprise and continued, "By practicing Peacock Canon, you can stimulate the peacock Blood Meridian inside your body to a great extent. If you can practice it to the fourth level and reach the Heaven Realm, you will be able to transform into a genuine peacock. You will be able to fly high in the sky as well as lodging in the earth, provoking the wind and breathing fire. Your fighting force would outshine ordinary human warriors in the Heaven Realm."

She couldn't believe how generous he was being. Clear tears were falling from her beautiful eyes. She kneeled down on the ground, saluted Zhang Ruochen and said, "Thank you, master."

"Why do you call me master? Mister will be fine!" Zhang Ruochen corrected her.

He could never understand how touched and excited she felt.

After she had been caught by the human warriors, she had been sold to one family after another. During this brutal period of her life, she encountered a lot of people who just wanted to use her. Everyone had seen her as a product rather than a person. She got used to the fact that no one was truly being nice to her.

Therefore after Zhang Ruochen bought her she called him "mister", without much politeness. Just like she used to call her previous buyers.

However, after getting to know Zhang Ruochen for a while, she realized that he was completely different from those who bought her in the past. Not only was he talented, but he also destroyed the contract of bondage and set her free. Not only that, he wanted to teach her advanced practice skills.

Everything Zhang Ruochen did for her had affected her deeply and won her admiration, hence she kneeled and called him “master”.

She thought that she could see a light at the end of the tunnel, and one day become a strong warrior if she followed such a powerful master.

She shook her head stubbornly and said, “Master is like a father to me, giving me a brand new life. I can’t be impolite to you.”

Zhang Ruochen responded. “If you insist on calling me master, I will not teach you ‘Peacock Canon’.”

Kong Xuan felt slightly anxious. She gently bit her lip, had a determined look on her face and exclaimed. “Well, then I’m not going to learn Peacock Canon. But I’m still calling you ‘master’.”

Zhang Ruochen was impressed and completely changed his opinion of her. He didn’t expect her to be so stubborn. He responded. “Fine! If you insist.”

“Well get up! Let’s teach you the practice of the first level of ‘Peacock Canon’.”

He took out a pen from the space bracelet and quickly wrote down the formula for the first level of ‘Peacock Canon’, 874 words in total.

Kong Xuan stared at the space bracelet on Zhang Ruochen’s wrist. Her eyes were glittering while her voice was as soft as a lark. “Master, is that a Space Treasure?”

He smiled slightly and said, “If you want, I can give you one.”

She shook her head immediately. She kneeled down with fear and said, “Servant doesn’t dare...”

“Why do you kneel again?” He was annoyed and said, “It’s just a space treasure of storage. I’ll give you one when you reach a certain realm. Come on, get up!”

After he had written down the key of practicing the first level of ‘Peacock Canon’, he passed it to Kong Xuan. She memorized it right away before Zhang Ruochen burnt the paper to ashes.

“Why don’t you go and start practicing? You’ll need to transform the exercises to ‘Peacock Canon’ as soon as possible,” he said.

Her tiny waist bent slightly and saluted Zhang Ruochen before she left.

“It’s such a pity that my fourth brother has already reached the Black Realm, and his martial cultivation is solid. His physical quality has already been shaped. Otherwise, I could have taught him other practice skills.”

Once the cultivation of a warrior had reached the Black Realm, they were no longer able to open new Meridians. If they insist on practicing other exercises, it might not benefit them at all.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head slightly and entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

Blackie was fixing the fundamental inscription carved on the Abyss Ancient Sword inside internal space.

If he could reconnect the 66 fundamental inscriptions, the Abyss Ancient Sword would be restored as a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms. Zhang Ruochen couldn't wait to hold the Abyss Ancient Sword again.

"The efficacy of Half-Saint's Essence isn't significant to me anymore. I should leave the remaining 14 drops for my fourth brother and Kong Xuan."

That didn't imply that Half-Saint's Essence was completely ineffective on him. It was still beneficial to him when he broke through to the Heaven Realm.

He just had a better choice now over Half-Saint's Essence, thus he considered that its efficacy wasn't strong enough for him anymore.

It could be said that the cultivation resources Zhang Ruochen utilized were superior to that of most of the large-scale families and geniuses of the Suzerains. He never worried about wasting resources. Hence it was understandable why his speed of cultivation was exceptionally fast.

Zhang Ruochen took out an emerald jade bottle and placed it on the palm of his hand.

"Waaa!"

His palm sent out a strand of Genuine Qi and shook the lid of the bottle, causing a wisp of white mist to strike out.

A Saint Sprout with four long leaves shone in brilliant splendor within the mist.

This was the only drop of Sacred Liquid that Zhang Ruochen possessed. It was purer than Saint Power of Half-Saint's Essence, and the efficacy was much more powerful.

Perhaps if he swallowed the drop, it would further elevate his physical quality.

Chapter 185: Heart Integrated into Sword

Since Zhang Ruochen had already reached the peak of the Completion of the Black Realm, he did not take Sacred Liquid in order to break through to the next realm. Instead, he used the Liquid to refine the Saint Power in his body.

"Boom!"

Sacred Liquid entered his body as if he had swallowed a bomb, and exploded within his body.

Qi Lake, Meridians, and Blood Meridian in his body were instantly filled up with Saint Power. The force of it pushed outwards as if it was going to burst his body.

Wisps of Saint Power surged out from his pores and turned into white Saint rivers, flying around him.

He tried his best to control Genuine Qi in his body. He transferred Vessel of Spirit to his body and stimulated Martial Soul.

Martial Soul was like the illusory image of a soul. It floated above his head and looked exactly like him.

The Martial Soul was also breathing heavily as it absorbed Saint Power, enriching itself.

Saint Power is considered as the best nutrition for the Martial Soul.

With Zhang Ruochen's current cultivation he wasn't able to fully absorb the whole drop of Sacred Liquid on his own. That is why he released the Martial Soul and let it absorb the Saint Power as well.

The power of the Saint Power in Sacred Liquid caused his Qi Lake to expand. The amount of Saint Power contained within the Qi Lake grew larger and larger.

Normally a warrior's Qi Lake only expanded when he broke through to a new realm.

Within 15 minutes the capacity of his Qi Lake had doubled in size, and it was still expanding.

Twice the size... three times the size...

After the entire day had passed, his Qi Lake finally stopped expanding after becoming seven times larger than it was before.

Since his Qi Lake had expanded, it also meant that his cultivation had been elevated.

If not for the fact that Zhang Ruochen had not drawn the Chord of Gods, he would have thought that he had already reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

He calmed himself down and continued refining the Saint Power of Sacred Liquid so that it could blend into his bones, muscles, five internal organs, Meridians, and Blood Meridian. Every inch of his skin glowed with a white light, his body looked as though it had turned into the Saint Light.

One month later Zhang Ruochen had fully refined the Saint Power of Sacred Liquid. It had combined with the Genuine Qi in his body perfectly.

"My realm has been elevated! At my current ability, I should be able to move at the speed of 80 meters per second. If I practice the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to the Succeed, my speed should still have room for improvement. Perhaps I can reach 81 meters per second."

The Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon was a martial technique of a Superior class of the Spiritual Stage. It was impossible to practice to the Succeed in a day or two, it required long and consistent practice.

"Zhang Ruochen, I've finished connecting the 66 fundamental inscriptions in the Abyss Ancient Sword, and it has reached the ninth-level of Genuine Martial Arms." Blackie carried the four-foot broken sword over to him.

"This is amazing, Blackie!" Zhang Ruochen was exceptionally happy.

He grabbed the handle of the Abyss Ancient Sword and walked out of the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and arrived in a large garden.

Standing in the middle of the garden he held the familiar sword carefully. It felt like a member of his family had returned to him.

A warm current rushed through his body.

The sword and Zhang Ruochen had combined together like the Blood Meridian.



“Clang!”

The Abyss Ancient Sword let out a roaring sound and shivered slightly as if it had come back to life.

He closed his eyes and enjoyed the moment to its fullest. Eventually, he slowly let go of the sword handle.

But the Abyss Ancient Sword did not fall to the ground, it remained floating an inch off the ground.

Blackie was standing far away, his eyes widened and his fur stood on end. “Heart Integrated into Sword!” He yelled.

“Fly!”

Zhang Ruochen spat out a word.

The Abyss Ancient Sword flew out quickly, leaving a long shadow behind it. Within a second it had pierced through the wings of a mosquito hundreds of meters away.

“Swish!”

The Sword retreated back speedily and landed in Zhang Ruochen’s hand.

“Haha! I’ve finally reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword! Abyss, from now on you are going to be my partner throughout my Martial Arts journey!”

Zhang Ruochen had long been unable to break into the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword. He had not expected to succeed so quickly after remastering the Abyss Ancient Sword.

He held the four-foot broken sword in his hand, closed his eyes and felt a sword shadow as small as a grain of rice inside his Qi Lake in his glabella.

That was called the “Heart of the Sword”. It only happened when warriors broke through to the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword.

The reason why Zhang Ruochen was able to break through to the Heart Integrated into Sword in the Black Realm, was that he had reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword once before in his previous life. Therefore he could easily return to that Realm in this life.

If other warriors reached the Intermediate Stage of the Sword Following the Mind in the Black Realm, they were considered relatively outstanding. The Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword had been seen as a myth by most warriors.

By reaching the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword, warriors were able to perform the Heart of the Sword. They could control the fighting sword and kill from hundreds of meters away.

However, Zhang Ruochen’s current cultivation was still fairly low. His Genuine Qi was not dense enough to master the sword. He could only control his sword within a hundred meters at most.

After breaking through to the Realm, Zhang Ruochen felt that his aura had also undergone a change. Just standing there his presence could be felt, like that of a young sword master.

If Zhang Ruochen were to attack, he could break the spirit of a warrior of the Yellow Realm, sending them running at a glance.

“It has been 10 days in the outside world. I guess Kong Xuan is still practicing the exercises.”

Zhang Ruochen went to Zhang Shaochu’s bedroom first and handed him seven drops of Half-Saint’s Essence. He then headed to Zi Qian’s bedroom.

Zi Qian was practicing the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and had already reached the Realm of Beginner level.

Speed had always been her forte, so it didn’t take her long to practice a new technique.

She moved through the nine paces so quickly she seemed like a shadow. In an instant she appeared in front of Zhang Ruochen.

“Clash!”

Without any warning a streak of icy sword light struck out from her sleeves and pierced towards Zhang Ruochen’s neck.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t move his feet at all. Instead he simply moved his neck and easily avoided the Fish Intestine Sword in Zi Qian’s sleeve.

“Swish!”

Zi Qian then struck out 18 times in a row leaving 18 streaks of sword shadows behind. Again Zhang Ruochen got away easily, the 18 swords did not even touch his clothes.

Zi Qian sheathed the sword in her sleeves. She bit her lip and asked with confusion, “Are you sure you didn’t break through to the Earth Realm?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head.

After coming out from the Chikong Secret Mansion, Zi Qian had received a large number of cultivation resources. Her cultivation and physical quality had been greatly improved. However she could feel that there was still a huge gap between Zhang Ruochen and herself, which made her feel discouraged.

Zhang Ruochen looked at her as if he could read her mind. He said, “To be honest, you’re a very outstanding warrior. If you challenge the Profound Board, I’m sure you’ll be able to make it into the top 800. After two more years of practice it will be an easy task for you to enter the top 100.”

“But I’m still way behind you!” She responded sadly.

“Your major problem is that the exercises you’re practicing aren’t sophisticated enough. The number of Meridians opened in your body aren’t enough either. That is why you can’t compare yourself to me,” he said.

There were altogether 17 Meridians inside Zi Qian’s body, which was very outstanding compared to other warriors. Yet the gap between herself and Zhang Ruochen was still immense.

“Does that mean that warriors who possess fewer Meridians in their bodies are weaker than those who obtain more Meridians?” She asked.

“No.” Zhang Ruochen responded, “The potential in a warrior is boundless. Nothing will determine the fate of a warrior. Let’s just say those who have more Meridians in their body enjoy an advantage. Right now I have a small advantage over you, that’s all.”

After giving her guidance and helping to correct the problems in her steps, Zhang Ruochen left her to practise on her own.

Zi Qian was determined to practice the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to the Small Success before she went to the Coliseum of the Martial Market. She wanted to break straight into the top 500.

Liu Chengfeng yelled and stopped Zhang Ruochen from a distance. He ran towards him and said, “Senior brother, someone wants to see you.”

“Who?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“Yan Lixuan, the No.1 on the Profound Board,” Liu Chengfeng said with excitement.

Zhang Ruochen frowned slightly and asked with curiosity, “Why does he want to see me?”

“Senior brother, don’t you know that when you were in seclusion the fight between you and Xun Guihai spread all over Devil Martial City? People have claimed that you possess the ability of the No.1 of the Profound Board. Yan Lixuan obviously felt threatened and wants to challenge you,” He responded.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “Why does he want to challenge me? He is already the No.1 on the Profound Board, even if he defeats me it won’t make him any more famous. On the contrary, if he lost he would damage his reputation.”

Liu Chengfeng chuckled, “Well, no one knows what he is actually thinking. Perhaps he’s been ranked first for too long and wants someone to defeat him.”

Zhang Ruochen thought for a while. He nodded slightly, “That could be true.”

With his current realm he wasn’t interested in dealing with warriors like Yan Lixuan. He did not want to meet him. However, since Yan Lixuan visited him in person as a junior, he felt he should see him out of respect.

Being the No.1 on the Profound Board Yan Lixuan was surely outstanding to a certain extent. Perhaps he would surprise Zhang Ruochen with what he possessed.

Yan Lixuan was an elderly man over 60 years old, and wore a plain cotton robe. Although he looked old and his face was full of wrinkles, his hair was black and not a single grey hair could be seen.

His arms were thick and his stature was tall and strong. Although he stood there casually, he gave off a sense that he was at one with the environment. No flaw could be found.

“The peak of Following the Mind.”

Zhang Ruochen could tell Yan Lixuan’s level of cultivation the moment he saw him.

He had indeed obtained both true skill and genuine knowledge about Martial Arts, and he deserved to be the No.1 on the Profound Board.

Although he had been practicing Martial Arts for a few decades, his cultivation remained at the Completion of the Black Realm. His mastery of martial technique however, was at a much higher level than most of the warriors in the Heaven Realm.

If he broke through to the Earth Realm he would only be one step away from becoming the master of the Earth Realm. There was a significant chance he could reach the Heaven Realm soon.

When Yan Lixuan saw Zhang Ruochen his eyes brightened. He saluted with both hands slightly lifted and smiled, "I thought I was the only one capable of reaching the peak of Following the Mind among all the warriors of the Black Realm. I can't believe you have broken through to such a Realm. You're definitely going to have a bright future, kid."

Zhang Ruochen intentionally disguised the fact that he had already reached the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword. That is why Yan Lixuan only thought that he had reached the peak of Following the Mind.

"I am curious, why don't you break through to the Earth Realm? With your ability it shouldn't be difficult for you," he asked.

Yan Lixuan's gaze dimmed. He responded, "To be honest there's a block in my Martial Arts pathway. I have a heart knot I can't untie, so I can never break through to any other Realms."

The heart knot in a warrior was something miserable that affected both the Heart State and their cultivation.

If a warrior did something wicked that he felt guilty about, a heart knot would appear. That caused their cultivation to stagnate.

Or if a warrior made a promise and went back on his word. That would also cause a heart knot to be created.

It was also considered a heart knot when a warrior made a huge mistake that resulted in a terrible tragedy, leaving a strong sense of guilt in their heart.

There were countless types of heart knots.

Some of them could be easily untied, but some could not. Some did not have much impact on Martial Arts cultivation, and others had an enormous impact.

Seemingly, the type of heart knot that bothered Yan Lixuan was a massive one. If he cannot untie the heart knot and break through to a higher realm, his Martial Arts career could be over.

### **Chapter 186: Boundless Sword Techique**

With his hands on his hips, Yan Lixuan stared at Zhang Ruochen and laughed. "The moment I saw you, I had a feeling that you were the one who could untie the knot in my heart."

“Oh?”

Zhang Ruochen said, “How can I help you?”

“If I am defeated by you, maybe the knot in my heart can be untied.” said Yan Lixuan.

In fact, he wanted to be defeated!

Zhang Ruochen had no idea what the knot in Yan Lixuan’s heart was and he didn’t ask. He believed that if Yan Lixuan wanted to tell him, Yan Lixuan would do so. But if Yan Lixuan didn’t want to say, he wouldn’t say, even if Zhang Ruochen asked.

“Since it is so, then I must defeat you and help you untie the knot in your heart.” said Zhang Ruochen.

“But it’s not easy to defeat me. Perhaps you will be the one who loses, and I will be disappointed.”

Yan Lixuan walked away to the side, picked up a one foot long green leaf and pinched it between two fingers.

“Waaa!”

A wisp of golden Genuine Qi poured out of his fingers.

The soft leaf suddenly became as sharp as a blade.

Yan Lixuan’s energy changed sharply as well. His hair was like steel needles and his eyelashes were like swords.

A purring sound vibrated in the air. It was like an invisible sword flying around his body.

“Rustle!”

Zhang Ruochen raised his arms slowly. The leaves on the ground flew up into his hands, forming a sword. The seventy-two leaves continued swirling under the control of his Genuine Qi.

Yan Lixuan squinted his eyes, and with a look of surprise he said, “Well done!”

The words had barely faded when Yan Lixuan suddenly dashed away like an arrow, reaching a speed of seventy-two meters per second.

The leaf formed a curve in the air like a sword, pointed right at Zhang Ruochen’s heart.

In the very moment before Yan Lixuan took a stab, Zhang Ruochen slashed his sword at Yan Lixuan’s neck.

Yan Lixuan paled slightly and took three quick steps to the right.

“He made his move after but reached me quicker! Is his Realm of Sword Comprehension even higher than mine?”

Yan Lixuan chose not to hide his true power anymore. He cried out, “Blood Qi Condensing Soul!”

A huge, nine-meter long Blood Wave materialized beneath him, an illusory image of a giant tiger appeared behind him, and a four-foot long Blood Sword floated above him.

With the power of the Blood Meridian, Yan Lixuan's power and speed reached a new height.

"Prajna Boundlessness!"

Yan Lixuan's intensity improved greatly. He performed a sword technique from the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage, the Boundless Sword Technique.

Prajna Boundlessness was the first move of Boundless Sword Technique.

The leaf in Yan Lixuan's hand threw off a wisp of golden light, resembling a golden sun. With an extraordinary sense of power, it crashed towards Zhang Ruochen.

The sword technique from the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage was so powerful that it was incomparable to the sword technique from the lower-class of Spiritual Stage.

"I cannot fight recklessly with him. I can only win by using wisdom." Zhang Ruochen thought to himself.

"Sacred Wave Sword!"

The Leaf Sword in Zhang Ruochen's hand suddenly broke up into seventy-two leaves.

Each leaf was a small sword.

The Sword Breath counteracted Yan Lixuan's sword technique in rolling waves, and eventually defused it completely.

"Waaa!"

After defusing Yan Lixuan's sword technique, the 72 leaves formed into a sword again and returned, suspended in Zhang Ruochen's hand.

"Zhang Ruochen, I spent 14 years practicing Boundless Sword Technique. You are the first one in the Black Realm to block it." laughed Yan Lixuan happily.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Others say that your fastest speed is 72 meters per second. But your speed just now was 76 meters per second. Did you hide your true power before?"

"I could ask the same of you."

Yan Lixuan laughed and attacked again. He said, "There are eight movements in my Boundless Sword Technique. If you can block them all, I will give in immediately."

"The second movement is Boundless Universe!"

Yan Lixuan's body went leaping through the air. His moves of both body and sword were treacherous. Nobody could be sure from which direction he would attack next.

Zhang Ruochen turned his body and slashed out.

But it didn't strike Yan Lixuan.

Yan Lixuan stabbed at Zhang Ruochen's head and split his body in two.

But Yan Lixuan wasn't pleased by this. Rather, he paled remarkably. It turned out that he had only stabbed the illusory image left by Zhang Ruochen, who himself was nowhere to be found.

"Boundless Shield!"

Yan Lixuan immediately performed a defensive sword technique. The Sword Breaths formed a huge shadow shield and blocked his front.

"Boom!"

Zhang Ruochen waved his Leaf Sword and slashed at the shadow shield.

They both stepped back at the same time.

After a second, they clashed once more.

"Boundless Killing!"

"Boundless Light!"

...

Thousands of Sword Breaths formed a vortex around Yan Lixuan, increasing their energy around the top.

Yan Lixuan performed the last movement. He cried, "Boundless Samsara!"

Zhang Ruochen stood firm in the face of the fierce Sword Breaths, like a small boat in huge waves. He said simply, "It's time to finish this!"

"CLASH!"

Zhang Ruochen burst out at a speed of eighty meters per second and he slashed like a white rainbow through the void of space. He defused all of Yan Lixuan's movements

When Zhang Ruochen stopped, he had already crossed more than ten feet of ground. The Leaf Sword punctured Yan Lixuan's chest.

13 leaves raked across his chest and were then suspended behind him by blood.

But these leaves had punctured only the skin and flesh rather than the five internal organs under Zhang Ruochen's control. So Yan Lixuan wasn't badly hurt.

Yan Lixuan was petrified. He stood on the ground, looking at the leaves. He smiled bitterly and said, "I lost! I lost with the first movement!"

Zhang Ruochen withdrew the Genuine Qi. The Leaf Sword dissolved into mere leaves which fell softly to the ground.

"I wanted to see how powerful the sword technique in the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage is. But unfortunately, it is not as powerful as I imagined." said Zhang Ruochen.

Yan Lixuan replied, "I thought I would be unrivaled in this Realm when I mastered Boundless Sword Technique. But just now, I realized that the sword technique which I have been practicing, is too weak. I

shouldn't have used this sword technique at that time. If I hadn't done that, Xin Lian wouldn't have died. This is retribution."

Zhang Ruochen realized that maybe the knot in his heart had something to do with Boundless Sword Techique.

A warrior in the Black Realm who was able to master a sword technique in the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage was indeed inconceivable.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen noticed that the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth was moving quickly towards Yan Lixuan.

"Boom!"

The Spiritual Qi around Yan Lixuan shook fiercely and poured into his glabella like waves.

After a while, Yan Lixuan opened his eyes again and with a look of relief, bowed to Zhang Ruochen. He said, "I have learned a lot from today's defeat. If I reach the Heaven Realm someday, I will definitely return today's favor."

After saying this, Yan Lixuan left gracefully.

Immediately, the knot in his heart was untied, his shackle was broken and he reached the Earth Realm.

"Elder brother! Why did Yan Lixuan leave? Who won the fight?" Liu Chengfeng rushed inside and asked curiously.

"It doesn't matter."

Zhang Ruochen thought for a while and asked, "Is the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market in Devil Martial City?"

"What are you going to do at the Internal Academy? Do you know how many people want to kill you now? Rumor has it that some people would pay a sky-high price for your head. The reward is 14 million 700 thousand silver coins! You rank 37th on the Board of the Bounty Hunter on the black market, and your price is even as high as some warriors of the Heaven Realm," said Liu Chengfeng apprehensively.

The Board of Bounty Hunter was a board given out by the black market. The higher one's price, the higher one's ranking.

For example, Xun Guihai was not the only one who wanted to kill Zhang Ruochen. Many other forces wanted him dead as well.

The total price offered by all these forces would be the price of Zhang Ruochen's head.

Only the warriors worth over one million silver coins could be listed on the Board of the Bounty Hunter.

Zhang Ruochen was a little surprised and asked, "Since when did my price become so high? I remember my price was only a little more than one million silver coins, and I could just barely be listed on the Board of the Bounty Hunter."



Liu Chengfeng replied, "That's because you were so brilliant in the battle with Xun Guihai, and some people even believe that you are in the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm. Your talent is a threat to many people, so naturally there are a lot of people who want to kill you. They don't want you to fully develop, but they don't dare kill you openly. Therefore, hiring killers from the black market to kill you is the only way. That money keeps adding up, so your price becomes higher and higher."

Zhang Ruochen touched his jaw lightly and said, "If my price really reaches 14 million 700 thousand silver coins, some warriors in the Heaven Realm must come. It won't be safe even if I live in your father's place. The safest place is the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market.

"What's more, if I want to succeed in practicing Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon as well, I must go there."

Zhang Ruochen wouldn't succeed in practicing Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon even if he stayed in Liu Chuanshen's place for a year. What he needed was an external force. So going to the Internal Academy was a must for Zhang Ruochen because there was a place for him to practice.

Liu Chengfeng replied, "Then, I'll ask my father to escort you in person."

"Don't bother. Tell me the location and I can go there on my own." Zhang Ruochen smiled mysteriously.

"Stop joking around! If you were assassinated on your way to the Internal Academy, I couldn't face the consequences!" replied Liu Chengfeng anxiously.

"I'm not joking. It's easy for me to escape from the killers. While I'm away, my fourth brother, junior sister apprentice Zi and Kong Xuan will stay here. Those killers want me but not them, so perhaps they will be safe." said Zhang Ruochen seriously.

Other warriors couldn't enter the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market without being noticed. But Zhang Ruochen could, because he had the Time and Space Spinel.

Chapter 187: Chen Xier

The external students could also use their tokens to get into the Internal Academy.

But that was only under the premise that they would not disturb the order of the Internal Academy. They were also not permitted to attend lectures given by the presbyters of the Heaven Realm, nor did they have the privilege of entering the Pavilion of Book Collection to read practice books.

These were the rules that must not be violated!

It was midday and the sun was bright.

A fist-sized black cat swaggered into the Internal Academy and came to a relatively quiet place.

It looked just like an ordinary cat, so no one paid attention to it.

Blackie's gaze cautiously swept across its surroundings. Pausing its step, it said in a soft voice, "Zhang Ruochen, you can come out now!"

A white halo appeared on The Time and Space Spinel hung around its neck.

A ball of white light shot out of the spinel following a sharp noise. It landed on the ground and turned into a young man in white.

Of course, the young man was none other than Zhang Ruochen.

“Looks like I managed to sneak in without anyone noticing!”

Zhang Ruochen glanced around the place with a hint of smile played across his lips. Then, he took a deep breath.

The Spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the region started to flow toward him and gathered at the Qi Lake in his glabella.

“The Internal Academy is true to its name. Compared to the Western Campus, the Spiritual Qi here is three times stronger.”

Zhang Ruochen’s eyes were filled with excitement. He was hoping to break through the Earth Realm as soon as possible and become an internal student.

In fact, he could reach the Earth Realm right away if he wanted to. But his goal was the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm. So, he had to suppress his desire for reaching higher realms.

“Even the weakest student in the Internal Academy has reached the Earth Realm. Anyone who goes out from here will be considered a top warrior in the Martial World. And of course, every force will try to draw them over.”

Those who could become Internal students of the School of the Martial Market were all first-class geniuses. Almost every one of them could fight with warriors from a higher realm.

There were also some students like Xun Guihai who could even fight against warriors who were two realms higher.

For those warriors from Yunwu Commandery, the Internal Academy was regarded as the Holy Land of martial arts. Everyone was looking forward to getting into this cradle of martial arts.

Zhang Ruochen obviously came to the Internal Academy with a purpose. He headed straight for Mount Saint Crossing.

Mount Saint Crossing was one of the most important practice spots in the Internal Academy. There was a Spiritual Crystal Mine in the mountain. It was where the rich Spiritual Qi came from.

In other words, the Spiritual Crystal Mine was the foundation of the School of the Martial Market.

In Mount Saint Crossing, there were dozens of Secret Rooms for practice.

Every single Secret Room was different; some were “Blazed Flame Secret Room” and some were “Ice Secret Room”. There were also “Thunder Secret Room” and “Secret Room in Hell”.

Zhang Ruochen came to Mount Saint Crossing because he wanted to use the "Hurricane Secret Room". The special environment of the Secret Room would help speed up his practice of Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon.

"This is Mount Saint Crossing! Off limits to all unauthorized personnel!"

Zhang Ruochen made his way to Mount Saint Crossing's gate. He was about to enter the mountain when two imposing internal students stepped out, blocking his way from both sides.

One of them named Huo Sheng, who was about 30 years old and had a goatee. With an air of superiority, he took a quick glance at Zhang Ruochen and asked, "Who are you?"

There were not many internal students in the School of the Martial Market. Almost every student was known by everyone.

They naturally would not allow Zhang Ruochen to enter Mount Saint Crossing since they had never seen him before.

Zhang Ruochen took out his token and answered, "I am an external student of the School of the Martial Market."

"An external student?"

They looked at Zhang Ruochen with a scrutinizing glance from head to toes before replying coldly, "This is not where you should be. Leave now, or we'll make you leave."

The two internal students, Huo Sheng and Zhao Minggong, were both in the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. In other words, they were both masters of Martial Arts, and naturally, they would hold an external student of the Black Realm in contempt.

Zhang Ruochen put the token away and said patiently, "As far as I know, external students also have the right to enter Mount Saint Crossing for practice. So why won't you let me in?"

The two internal students burst into laughter.

Zhao Minggong replied, "Yes, we do have this rule. But only the external students who rank top three in the four campuses have the right you mentioned. If you are one of them, we can let you in right away. If you are not, you will be treated as a troublemaker and will be shown no mercy. The School of the Martial Market won't punish us even if we kill you."

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was just a young man under the age of 20, of course, they would not believe he would be one of the top three geniuses in the four campuses.

At that moment, a graceful lady walked out from the Mount Saint Crossing.

She said from afar, "You two are a little too ignorant. Don't you know that he is the No.1 genius of the Western Campus?"

That lady's voice caught the two internal students off-guard. They quickly turned around and saluted to her. "Greetings, senior sister apprentice Chen!" they said in unison.

Zhang Ruochen did not expect anyone here would know him. Looking at that lady, he could not help but feel a little stunned by her beauty.

She was extremely beautiful. Her long royal blue hair hung down to her waist like a waterfall. A small, delicate white bell was tied to her bun, making a crisp and melodious sound as she walked.

She was tall and slender. Her long and slim legs were partially visible under her dress. In fact, Huang Yanchen and her looked very much alike but with completely different auras. She exuded a hint of tenderness, giving off a feminine aura.

Zhang Ruochen thought she looked familiar, but he did not remember exactly where he had seen her before.

While Zhang Ruochen was staring at her, Chen Xier was also staring back at Zhang Ruochen.

Chen Xier walked toward Zhang Ruochen and faintly smiled at him before asking, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, are you going into Mount Saint Crossing for practice?"

It was true that Chen Xier was very beautiful, but Zhang Ruochen had encountered countless beautiful women like her, so he remained just as calm as usual.

"I would like to use one of the Secret Rooms to practice a martial technique."

After saying that, Zhang Ruochen added on, asking, "Have we ever met each other before?"

Chen Xier rolled her eyes and complained, "A prominent man like you tends to be forgetful. We have met each other at Tianyue Tower not long ago. Don't you remember?"

Chen Xier's voice was as pleasing as a lark's, which others could not help but be intoxicated by it. It was a pleasure just to listen to her voice.

Zhang Ruochen suddenly remembered that they did meet at Tianyue Tower. She was sitting right beside Huang Yanchen on that day.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "How should I address you, aenior sister apprentice?"

Chen Xier's eyes squinted as she smilingly said, "My name is Chen Xier, and I'm Commandery Princess Yanchen's cousin. In fact, I ought to call you my cousin-in-law."

From a distance, a hint of jealousy surfaced in the eyes of the two internal students as they watched Zhang Ruochen and Chen Xier happily talking to each other.

In the Devil Martial City, there were Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge and Ten Beauties of the Omen Ridge.

Chen Xier was one of the Ten Beauties of the Omen Ridge. Many internal students regard her as the woman of their dreams, hoping they would get to marry her one day.

But most of the time, even the masters among the internal students could not have a free talk with her. How could an external student chat with her for so long?

It was only natural that Huo Sheng and Zhao Minggong would feel that it was unfair to them.

“He is just an external student! What’s the big deal about that?” said Huo Sheng in a low voice.

Chen Xier laughed and said, “Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, you must spend your merits in order to enter Mount Saint Crossing. That’ll be a hundred points per entry. How many merits do you have now?”

Zhang Ruochen was a little surprised to hear that. He said, “What? I need to spend my merits in order to practice in the Mount Saint Crossing?”

Zhang Ruochen had already spent all his merits before entering the Chikong Secret Mansion. Now he had nothing left.

Chen Xier could tell that he was in a dilemma. She grinned, revealing her pearly white teeth as she said, “If you don’t have enough merits, you can use mine. I can lend you some!”

“Thank you, but no. I’ll buy some with silver coins now.” Zhang Ruochen did not want to owe her a favor.

Buying merit points with silver coins was the most uneconomical way.

Generally speaking, one merit was equivalent to 1,000 silver coins.

But one had to spend 2,000 silver coins to buy one merit.

Therefore, under normal circumstances, nobody would use silver coins to buy merits. It was really a bad bargain!

Chen Xier nodded her head and said, “Actually, there is another way. You can use your belongings to exchange merits, and it will be relatively cheaper. For example, you can get 200 merits with one drop of Half-Saint’s Essence.”

Zhang Ruochen’s eyes instantly lit up upon hearing that. Exchanging belongings for merits seemed like a good idea.

“Since I have nothing else to do, I can show you to the Merit Tower.” Chen Xier suggested and said.

“Thank you so much.”

Zhang Ruochen thought to himself while sighing inwardly, “Although Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen are cousins, her personality is much better than Huang Yanchen’s. She is so helpful!”

It was really rare for a girl to have a nice appearance and personality at the same time.

Zhang Ruochen and Chen Xier walked side by side toward the Merit Tower. They happily chatted along the way, realizing that they had a lot in common.

...

“Is senior sister apprentice Chen taking an external student to the Merit Tower in person?” Huo Sheng was petrified, finding it hard to believe.

Chen Xier was the daughter of the School of the Martial Market’s chief master. She had always held her head high. Even the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge were nothing to her.

But today, she was walking and laughing shoulder to shoulder with an external student. This sight was truly shocking for Huo Sheng and Zhao Minggong.

Zhao Minggong grew even more jealous. He sneered and said, "A fool who doesn't know where he stands! In the School of the Martial Market, there are countless geniuses who are chasing senior sister apprentice Chen. He doesn't even have a chance! Should we tell senior brother apprentice Zuo?"

"Yes! Let's tell senior brother apprentice Zuo about this. He will teach him a lesson." Huo Sheng said, sneering as well.

"All the internal students know that senior brother apprentice Zuo is pursuing senior sister apprentice Chen. If we tell him about this, with his temper, he will definitely tear that external student into pieces. Haha!" said Zhao Minggong.

Huo Sheng stayed and continued to guard the gate of Mount Saint Crossing.

Zhao Minggong left Mount Saint Crossing and rushed to Zuo Lengxuan's practice room. He could not wait to tell Zuo Lengxuan about this matter.

#### Chapter 188: A Groundless Disaster

"Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, now warriors in the whole Devil Martial City are all saying that you've reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm. I really admire people like you who are extraordinary geniuses. When I was in the Black Realm, I could only rank twelfth on the Profound Board. It's really far from the Ultimate Realm."

Chen Xier had a good personality. She was a cheerful and talkative person, her smile never left her face.

Her blue pupils were sparkling with dazzling light, as if they were a pair of gems. The small bell pinned on her bun made regular and melodious sounds as she walked.

Walking alongside her would make the other person feel as if his cheeks were being caressed by a gentle spring breeze.

Zhang Ruochen said, "It's just a rumor. Reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm is no easy feat."

Chen Xier nodded gently in agreement. She also did not believe that Zhang Ruochen could reach the Ultimate Realm, but she would never say it aloud.

Keeping the sweet smile on her face, she said, "In the Black Realm, if your top speed surpasses 75 meters per second, your name will be recorded in the history of the School of the Martial Market. Judging from Junior Brother Zhang's innate talent, even if you haven't reached the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, you're still qualified to be recorded in the history. Am I right?"

Chen Xier beat around the bush, trying to find out Zhang Ruochen's current top speed.

No matter what kind of martial art it was, if it was fast enough, then it would be invincible.

Of course, there were some exceptions. In most cases, the faster the warrior, the stronger he would be.

Had Zhang Ruochen surpassed 75 meters per second?

The No.1 genius in 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, Zhang Tiangui, had only achieved 73 meters per second as his best record in the Black Realm. From Chen Xier's point of view, Zhang Ruochen was almost on par with Zhang Tiangui in terms of talent. It was unlikely for him to beat Zhang Tiangui's speed, reaching 75 meters per second.

Zhang Ruochen pretended that he did not understand her implication. There was no way he could tell her that his top speed had already reached 80 meters per second.

If Chen Xier were to know about this, she would be completely flabbergasted.

After all, in the whole Late Antiquity, there were only nine people who could reach the speed of 80 meters per second in the Black Realm.

It can be said that Zhang Ruochen was the tenth person to have such speed in 10,000 years.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen did not reply, Chen Xier asked again, "I'm very curious about one thing. Now that junior fellow apprentice has already reached the Peak of the Completion of the Black Realm, why don't you proceed to the Earth Realm?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "It's may not a good thing to break through the Martial Arts Realms so fast. I want to take some time to settle down and refine my Genuine Qi so that my foundation will become more solid. It's not too late to break through the Earth Realm by then."

"I see. That's how it is." Chen Xier nodded her head gently. Then, she added on with a bright smile, saying, "With junior brother apprentice Zhang's talent, you indeed should further solidify your foundation and try to break through the Heaven Realm before 30 years old."

At some point during their conversation, the two had arrived at the Merit Tower.

Zhang Ruochen spent three drops of Half-Saint's Essence in exchange for 600 merits.

When he walked out of the Merit Tower, he noticed that Chen Xier had stayed behind and was waiting outside for him.

As for Blackie, it had gone missing.

Zhang Ruochen did not worry about Blackie. It was pretty smart compared to an ordinary savage beast. He believed it would do just fine even in the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market.

Chen Xier did not ask Zhang Ruochen how many merits were exchanged, but instead, she said, "Junior brother apprentice Zhang, as you already know, every time you enter the Secret Room to practice, you need to spend 100 points. You can use the room for half a month. Also, if Huo Sheng and Zhao Minggong dare to find fault with you again, you can come to me. I'll help you to kick their ass."

"Thank you so much, senior sister apprentice Chen!" Zhang Ruochen said, immediately expressed his gratitude.

Obviously, Zhang Ruochen would not actually go to Chen Xier. After all, they were just strangers who had met by chance. In fact, they had only met twice. They could hardly be labeled as friends.

With a beaming smile on her face, she said, "Since you're my cousin-in-law, there's no need to be so polite. Anyway, I have things to attend to, so I'll leave first. Let's meet again some other time."

Staring at Chen Xier's graceful figure that was gradually disappearing from his sight, a gloomy feeling loomed over Zhang Ruochen.

At first, he had a good impression of Chen Xier. She was very beautiful, but at the same time, she was also amiable and approachable. However, through the course of their conversation, he found that Chen Xier might have approached him with an ulterior motive.

It was as if she was being enveloped in a dense mist, and no one could see her true nature.

"Did she really approach me on purpose?"

"How could it be? She's the daughter of the Great Palace Master, and her cultivation is already at the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. It's quite impossible that she would approach an external student of the school on purpose."

Zhang Ruochen lightly shook his head, feeling that he was simply overthinking it. As someone who was regarded as God's favored daughter, very few people could get into her sight. There was no way she would set her sight on a prince from an inferior commandery.

It simply could not be due to Huang Yanchen. Now that Chen Xier had known that he had fallen out with Huang Yanchen, how could she still be so kind to him? After all, they were cousins.

However, among all the women he had seen so far, it could be said that Chen Xier was indeed one of the women with the best personality. Not only did she have a profound background, she was also very kind and helpful. Her eloquence and elegance were in stark contrast to the capriciousness of other noble ladies.

On the contrary, Huang Yanchen did not resemble Chen Xier in any way. She was arrogant and headstrong, and often acted freely without the slightest scruples. Anyone who dared to offend her was digging his own grave.

While Zhang Ruochen was secretly comparing Huang Yanchen to Chen Xier, three internal students dressed in robes walked up to him. One of them was Zhao Minggong, who was responsible for guarding the gate of Mount Saint Crossing.

As soon as Zhao Minggong saw Zhang Ruochen, his face twisted into a cruel expression like a hawk. He pointed a finger at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Senior brother apprentice Zuo, he's the external student that I've told you about."

Standing at the forefront was Zuo Lengxuan. He walked up to Zhang Ruochen and stopped 10 steps before him. His eyes carried an icing air as he said, "I thought who it is! Turns out it's the No.1 genius of the Western Campus, Zhang Ruochen, who is basking in the limelight recently."

Zhao Minggong felt a little surprised and asked, "Senior brother Zuo, do you know him?"

"How could I not know him? He's the fiancé of Commandery Princess Yanchen!" Zuo Lengxuan sneered and said coldly.



Zhao Minggong's face immediately darkened.

He simply assumed that Zhang Ruochen was just an external student of the school. He certainly did not expect that he would be the fiancé of Commandery Princess Yanchen.

Oh, no! This was really bad.

Commandery Princess Yanchen was known to be extremely ruthless. She was even given the title of "Devil" by the students in the Western Campus. If he offended her, he would only end up suffering in the School of the Martial Market.

Besides, Commandery Princess Yanchen and Chen Xier were cousins.

It seemed that there was nothing wrong for the fiancé of Commandery Princess Yanchen and Chen Xier to be seen walking together. After all, they would be relatives in the future.

The more he thought about it, the more frightened he felt. He wanted to slap himself in the face. How could he do such stupid things?

Zuo Lengxuan felt somewhat confused too. He was wondering why Chen Xier and Zhang Ruochen were seen together.

He was at Tianyue Tower too when the incident happened. Therefore, he clearly knew that the relationship between Zhang Ruochen and Commandery Princess Yanchen had turned sour when he bid for the best eating accompany. Since Chen Xier was Huang Yanchen's cousin, she should be hating him too.

There was only one plausible explanation for this. Zhang Ruochen must be the root of the problem.

"Zhang Ruochen, are you trying to impress junior sister apprentice Chen after you've fallen out with Commandery Princess Yanchen? I'm warning you, you'd better leave her alone." Zuo Lengxuan said.

From the way he saw it, Commandery Princess Yanchen must have already broken off her engagement with Zhang Ruochen. Zhang Ruochen had no choice but to seek shelter from someone else, so he tried hard to please Chen Xier.

Zhang Ruochen said, "So what if I get close to senior sister apprentice Chen? It's none of your business! Also, who are you? Do we know each other?"

Zuo Lengxuan was so enraged by Zhang Ruochen's reply. He was a Martial Arts master who ranked in the top 50 in the School of the Martial Market. He was quite famous in the Devil Martial City too. How could Zhang Ruochen not recognize him?

He had a feeling that Zhang Ruochen was deliberately humiliating him.

Before Zuo Lengxuan could take any action, Yue Qianfan, who was standing behind him, decided to step out. With a disapproving look on his face, he said, "Zhang Ruochen, you're too arrogant! Senior brother apprentice Zuo was a well-known figure in the School of the Martial Market. As a disciple of the school, how could you not know him?"

"I'm sorry. I really haven't heard of senior brother apprentice Zuo's name." Zhang Ruochen refused to continue to bicker with them. He quickly left the place and headed off in the direction of Mount Saint Crossing.

His priority was to succeed in his practice of the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. Nothing else really mattered to him.

Once he achieved that, even if he encountered warriors who were at the Completion of the Earth Realm, he could still escape alive.

Zuo Lengxuan's fingers were clenched into a fist. If he could put away his status and reputation, he would surely teach Zhang Ruochen a lesson.

After all, he was one of the top 50 masters in the School of the Martial Market. If the news that he picked on an external student had spread out, it would greatly damage his reputation. Worst of all, he would be despised by Chen Xier as well.

However, he did not plan to let this slide. Turning around, he quickly exchanged a glance with Yue Qianfan.

Yue Qianfan naturally understood what he meant. Giving a quick nod, he then rushed toward Zhang Ruochen and blocked his way. He smiled sinisterly and said, "I've heard that junior brother apprentice Zhang is a once-in-a-lifetime genius. Even Xun Guihai was defeated in your hands. Do you mind exchanging some Martial Arts techniques with me?"

Before Zhang Ruochen could respond, Yue Qianfan leaped into action and slammed his fist toward Zhang Ruochen's abdomen.

Obviously, he did not come here to exchange techniques with Zhang Ruochen, but to teach him a lesson.

His fist was glowing. A powerful Qi billow surged forth ferociously, rolling in waves toward Zhang Ruochen.

"Waaa!"

The white robe on Zhang Ruochen fluttered when the fierce fist wind came sweeping over him. His body flew backward like a fallen leaf that was blown away by the wind.

Zhang Ruochen quickly took control of the center of his body mass and raised his hands high above his head as to regain his balance. He controlled Yue Qianfan's fist wind and slowly descended to the ground.

"He can dodge my punch at such a close distance. It's no wonder that he can defeat Xun Guihai. He does have some skills." Yue Qianfan's punch did not hit him the first time, so he immediately made a second punch.

His fist was as hard as a metal stone. Cracking sounds echoed out as his fist flew past the air.

Yue Qianfan's martial cultivation had reached the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm. The Genuine Qi in his body was rich and refined. It came forth endlessly like the water flowing in great rivers.

Judging from his strength, he could totally compete with masters at the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. He was more powerful than Xun Guihai, who had just become an internal disciple.

Zhang Ruochen did not want to fight head-on with Yue Qianfan. He displayed his footwork by side-stepping and successfully dodged Yue Qianfan's full-power blow.

"How many punches do you think you can dodge? How dare you compete with a warrior at the Earth Realm in terms of speed! You're courting death!"

Yue Qianfan sneered while twisting and turning his body to speed up. Dashing forward at full speed, he caught up with Zhang Ruochen in an instant. At the same time, he stretched out his five fingers and formed a palm print, slashing toward Zhang Ruochen's neck.

Yue Qianfan's top speed was 85 meters per second. If his opponent were some other warriors at the Completion of the Black Realm, they would be completely crushed in his hands before they could react in time.

Just when Yue Qianfan thought that he was about to succeed with this attack...

Zhang Ruochen's figure suddenly split up and transformed into nine figures, darting in nine different directions. Right after that, these nine figures turned around and charged toward Yue Qianfan in the reverse direction.

Zhang Ruochen was no pushover either. Thus, he decided to strike back, knowing that the other party would not back off.

Since you want to fight, let's see whose fist is stronger!

At that moment, Chen Xier was standing on a tall tower with her hands clasped behind her back. She had been watching the battle between Yue Qianfan and Zhang Ruochen from a distance. She exclaimed in surprise at the very sight of Zhang Ruochen, bursting into motion at full speed.

Chen Xier had known that Zuo Lengxuan would come here, and thus, she left early on purpose. However, she had not gone far. She had been paying close attention to Zhang Ruochen from the side. She wanted to know what would he do to solve the crisis.

Little did she know she would have an unexpected discovery.

Zhang Ruochen's burst of speed that she witnessed earlier really surprised her.

Chapter 189: Four-realm Fighting Genius

"The speed that Zhang Ruochen demonstrated earlier was at least 76 meters per second." Chen Xier's eyes immediately lit up with excitement. Her long and curling eyelashes slightly trembled.

If he could achieve such a high speed in the Black Realm, what would happen once he broke into the Earth Realm?

"I didn't expect my elder cousin to have such an outstanding fiancé. Judging from Zhang Ruochen's talent, perhaps he can reach the Heaven Realm before turning 30."

“If so, he might have the opportunity to become a Half-Saint.”

Chen Xier gently pressed her lips together and revealed a cunning smile. She said, “My elder cousin, don’t blame me for being too greedy. I can’t help it. My brother-in-law is too outstanding. Hehe!”

She had already made up her mind to steal Zhang Ruochen from Huang Yanchen.

Not to mention that Huang Yanchen was having a misunderstanding with Zhang Ruochen now. This was definitely the best opportunity.

Within moments, Zhang Ruochen and Yue Qianfan had already exchanged more than 10 moves in a row. Their fist technique and palm technique were all incredibly fast, and their speed was equally matched. It was a close race.

Yue Qianfan’s fist technique was tough and fierce. Every blow had the power of crushing a stone. The wind carried by his fist could chop down a big tree, whose trunk was as thick as the opening of a bowl in 10 meters away.

Judging from Zhang Ruochen’s current state of cultivation, if he was hit by Yue Qianfan’s fist, even if he did not die, he would still suffer serious injuries.

“Spirit Conquering Mountains and Rivers!”

Yue Qianfan unleashed “Qi Holding Palm”, a low-class of Spiritual fist technique. It made his arm resembled a dragon. His Genuine Qi surged out from his fist and hit Zhang Ruochen in the face.

“Dragon and Elephant Nine-fold!”

Zhang Ruochen simply had no way to dodge it. He could only fight head on.

Unleashing five palms, the five palm prints of Zhang Ruochen overlapped and merged together to release five times the power. It collided head on with Yue Qianfan’s fist technique.

“Boom!”

Both Zhang Ruochen and Yue Qianfan were sent flying backward by the great force at the same time.

Yue Qianfan could only feel the burning sensation that came from his arm. Half of his body went numb, even the Genuine Qi in his body could not flow smoothly.

“How could a warrior of the Black Realm be so powerful?”

Normally, fighting with someone who was one realm higher was considered quite a feat. The warrior could be regarded as the “One-realm Fighting Genius”.

In the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market, there were some warriors who could fight with people from two realms higher, such as Xun Guihai and Chen Xier. Geniuses like them were known as the “Two-realm Fighting Genius”.

Warriors who could fight with people from three realms higher were extremely rare. Only the “Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge” could do that, and they were given the title of “Three-realm Fighting Genius”.

In most cases, the Three-realm Fighting Genius would get into the top 10 of the Profound Board when they reached the Black Realm.

For example, Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling were basically between the levels of Two-realm Fighting Genius and Three-realm Fighting Genius. If they were lucky enough, there would be an opportunity for them to become Three-realm Fighting Genius.

But Zhang Ruochen was fighting against people who were four realms higher than him. Could it be possible that his talent had surpassed the “Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge”, reaching the level of “Four-realm Fighting Genius”?

Zuo Lengxuan who was standing and watching closely from the side was pretty shocked too. He had never expected that Zhang Ruochen could get this far in the battle.

According to his speculation, with Yue Qianfan’s cultivation, he could totally beat Zhang Ruochen within three moves.

“Zhang Ruochen is really powerful. He must be a Three-realm Fighting Genius, or perhaps, reaching the level of a Four-realm Fighting Genius. Damn! Could it be that junior sister apprentice Chen fancied him for his talent and potential, and thus, she chose to stay close to him?”

Feeling threatened, a strong sense of crisis arose in Zuo Lengxuan’s heart. If they were not in the School of the Martial Market, he would have killed Zhang Ruochen to spare himself any future troubles.

“I refuse to believe that he’d be so powerful.”

Clenching his teeth, Yue Qianfan summoned all his Genuine Qi to swirl around him, forming a huge vortex of Genuine Qi.

“Shocking the World!”

The moment Yue Qianfan struck out a fist, the Genuine Qi vortex surged forward as well.

A huge shadow of the fist appeared in the vortex, letting out a roar that echoed like a behemoth’s howling.

Zhang Ruochen did not want to drag on the fight with Yue Qianfan any longer. He stretched out his arms, and tons of fallen leaves on the ground flew up to float around him.

Surrounded by Genuine Qi, the leaves became extremely sharp. They began to rotate at a high speed.

“Break!”

The moment Zhang Ruochen shoved his palms forward, hundreds of thousands of leaves immediately flew toward Yue Qianfan like flying raindrops.

“Boom!”

The shadow of the fist was broken.

The vortex swirling around Yue Qianfan was shattered in a flash.

Those leaves pierced into his body, leaving dozens of bloody gashes. The powerful impact sent him flying off to the side and landed on the ground tens of meters away.

Yue Qianfan's body trembled violently from the extreme pain, and he let out a miserable shriek.

"How dare you to injure an internal student? Zhang Ruochen, you really have some balls. I'll destroy your cultivation!"

Zuo Lengxuan finally found an excuse to take action. He flashed into motion at his top speed and then stabbed his finger toward the Sacred Meridian on Zhang Ruochen's back.

If his Sacred Meridian was shattered, then his cultivation would be completely ruined. He would not be able to practice anymore.

Zhang Ruochen felt a sensation of unprecedented crisis. The Qi that streamed from Zuo Lengxuan's fingertip seemed powerful enough to pierce through his body.

"Such a terrifying power!" A cold sweat broke out on Zhang Ruochen's back. He quickly increased his speed to the limit.

Zuo Lengxuan's martial cultivation had reached the Final State of the Earth Realm. On top of that, he was a One-realm Fighting Genius. Even an ordinary warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm could not be his opponent.

In an instant, his finger had reached Zhang Ruochen's back.

Anyone could tell the outcome of a fight between a warrior at the Final State of the Earth Realm and a warrior at the Completion of the Black Realm. It was a predictable battle with no suspense.

"Haha! Zhang Ruochen, once your martial cultivation is destroyed, junior sister apprentice Chen surely won't spare you another glance!"

Zuo Lengxuan was very confident in his own attack. He could easily crush an external student of the school at the Completion of the Black Realm with one finger.

Just when Zhang Ruochen's Sacred Meridian was about to be shattered by Zuo Lengxuan, suddenly, the air behind him transformed into a water curtain with ripples.

The space was distorted.

Zuo Lengxuan's finger slightly shifted in direction, and ended up hitting Zhang Ruochen's left shoulder.

"Puff!"

Zhang Ruochen immediately felt a sharp pain on his left shoulder. Not long after, blood could be seen gushing out from the wound. The blood hole was the result of Zuo Lengxuan's powerful air carried by his finger.

Zhang Ruochen clenched his teeth and flew forward, retreating to a distance of 10 feet away from Zuo Lengxuan.

“That was close! Luckily, I’ve used the Space Domain to direct his finger away from the vital part. Otherwise, a single move from him is enough to make me lose all my cultivation.”

Zhang Ruochen glared at Zuo Lengxuan with a cold look and said, “Junior brother apprentice Zuo, aren’t you a well-known figure in the Internal Academy? How can you pick a fight with me, an external student of the school?”

Zuo Lengxuan withdrew his finger and felt quite surprised. His finger attack should have made Zhang Ruochen lose his cultivation. How did he escape from that?

“Perhaps he had practiced some kind of martial techniques that could shift his form and position.”

He did not believe that Zhang Ruochen could distort space. So, he did not think of the possibility at all.

He said, “Zhang Ruochen, you’ve hurt an internal student, which is akin to committing a fratricide. Shouldn’t that be enough of a reason for me to take action and destroy your cultivation?”

Just when Zuo Lengxuan was ready to make his next move, the beautiful shadow of Chen Xier could be seen coming from a distance. She shouted at Zuo Lengxuan and said, “Zuo Lengxuan, you’re an internal disciple, don’t you feel ashamed for attacking an external student of the school?”

Upon seeing Chen Xier, Zuo Lengxuan could do nothing but to withdraw his Genuine Qi. He replied, “Junior sister apprentice Chen, it was Zhang Ruochen who had injured junior fellow apprentice Yue first. I have no choice but to teach him a lesson.”

Chen Xier flew to Zhang Ruochen’s side and stopped there. She straightened her back and said in a cold voice, “Yue Qianfan is at the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm while Zhang Ruochen is just an external student of the school. How can he hurt Yue Qianfan? Besides, even if Zhang Ruochen did hurt him, he can’t blame anyone but himself for being weak. Being defeated by an external student, he’d made us lose our faces as an internal disciple. How embarrassing is that!”

The fact that Chen Xier was defending Zhang Ruochen had truly enraged Zuo Lengxuan. He clenched his fists, wanting to tear Zhang Ruochen into pieces.

But, he had to restrain himself. He gritted his teeth and said, “You’re absolutely right, Junior sister apprentice Chen. I’m too reckless this time. Let’s go!”

With that, Zhao Minggong helped the severely injured Yue Qianfan to his feet, followed Zuo Lengxuan and left the place.

After they had left, Chen Xier immediately supported Zhang Ruochen by the arm. She said with a voice filled with concern, “Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, are you alright?”

“It’s just a minor injury. Not a big deal.” Zhang Ruochen smiled and shook his head. Then, he added on and said, “Senior sister apprentice Chen, didn’t you leave for something? Why did you come back?”

“I heard that Zuo Lengxuan wanted to pick a fight with you, so I came back right away. I’m afraid that he’ll do something bad to you. Luckily, I’ve arrived just in time. I can’t imagine what will happen if I’m late.” Chen Xier said.

“Thank you again, senior sister apprentice Chen. I owe you a favor for this.” Zhang Ruochen said.

If Chen Xier did not come back in time, Zhang Ruochen was absolutely no match for Zuo Lengxuan with his current state of cultivation. His chance of escape was very slim as well.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen did have a way to keep himself alive. He could hide in the Time and Space Spinel if necessary. However, that was his last resort. He did not want to expose his Time and Space Spinel.

Chen Xier was very pleased. If Zhang Ruochen owed her a favor, there was no way for him to escape from her in the future.

Taking out a small jade bottle, Chen Xier poured out a cyan-colored pill and picked up the pill with two slender white fingers. She said, "This is a Fourth Class healing pill, known as Muscle Growing Pill. You have to take it now."

"Fourth Class healing pill..." Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "My injury is not that serious. It's a waste to take a Fourth Class healing pill. I have other healing pills with me."

A Fourth Class healing pill worth more than 100,000 silver coins. This was not a small sum of money. Zhang Ruochen did not want to owe her another favor.

Chen Xier glared at him with her almond eyes. With a hint of displeasure, she said, "Isn't junior fellow apprentice going to practice in the Mount Saint Crossing? You'd better recover from your injury as fast as you can. If you take this Muscle Growing Pill, you'll recover in two hours."

Since she put it that way, Zhang Ruochen could not refuse anymore. He laughed bitterly and said, "Alright! I'll take it on my own!"

Shaking her head, Chen Xier brought the pill to Zhang Ruochen's lips. She wanted to feed Zhang Ruochen herself.

Zhang Ruochen had never been previously treated with such care and concern, let alone having someone who would take the initiative to feed him pills. In the end, he still took the pill that was held by Chen Xier's fingers. Then, he stood there and quickly refined the pill with his eyes closed.

Meanwhile, in the distance, behind a maple.

"This is bad! Huang Yanchen's cousin apparently wants to claim Zhang Ruochen as her own. Stealing her elder cousin's fiancé, that woman is really something." Blackie said.

Duanmu Xingling rushed over at her top speed. Seeing the intimacy between Zhang Ruochen and Chen Xier, she slightly frowned and said, "With Zhang Ruochen's talent, it's not surprised to see many girls having a crush on him. However, Chen Xier is the daughter of the Palace Master, and thus, her status is way higher than the rest of us. She obviously has better choices. Why does she pursue him instead?"

"There's only one possibility. That is to say, she wants to take Huang Yanchen's fiancé away on purpose." Blackie laughed and continued to say, "If I were Zhang Ruochen, I'll accept her. It'd be silly to reject something that is sent straight to my doorstep."

Blackie had a good relationship with Duanmu Xingling. Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was in danger, it immediately informed Duanmu Xingling. Therefore, they witnessed the scene from earlier.



“You’re just a cat. Why do you have such disgusting thoughts?” Duanmu Xingling rolled her eyes. She grabbed Blackie by its ears and dragged it away, heading to the secret palace where Huang Yanchen practiced.

She thought it was necessary to tell Huang Yanchen. After all, she hated Chen Xier a lot too.

### **Chapter 190: The Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Room**

No wonder the Muscle Growing Pill was a Fourth Class healing Pill; it contained strong essences of Spiritual Blood and nature.

As Zhang Ruochen refined the Pill Spirit, the wound on his left shoulder began to heal visibly.

Within two hours, the wound had completely healed.

After his wound had healed, he separated from Chen Xier and headed towards the Mount Saint Crossing.

“With my current strength, without revealing the Heart Integrated into Sword or the Space Domain, I could challenge a warrior at the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. Perhaps I could even defeat them.”

“However, if I ran into a superior of Zuo Lengxuan’s level, I’d have no chance at all, not even if I played all my trump cards. The difference in cultivation realms is too large.”

Zhang Ruochen was eager to reach the Earth Realm, but he had no choice but to suppress his cultivation and try to break into the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

Furthermore, Zhang Ruochen wanted not only to attempt the Ultimate Realm but more importantly, he wanted to consolidate his foundations in this realm.

“Zuo Lengxuan obviously won’t give up. If he comes after me again, how am I going to deal with it?” Zhang Ruochen frowned deeply. He was under extreme pressure.

He arrived at Mount Saint Crossing again. The guards Huo Sheng and Zhang Minggong did not dare block the way; they quickly allowed him to enter the mountain.

Even Yue Qianfan had been defeated by him. Both of the guards were only warriors at the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. They were definitely not capable of challenging him. Furthermore, Zhang Ruochen had Chen Xier’s support. They didn’t dare to offend him.

It was only after Zhang Ruochen had walked some distance away that Zhao Minggong and Huo Sheng began to discuss him in hushed tones.

“Is it true? Did he really defeat Yue Qianfan?” Huo Sheng hadn’t personally witnessed the battle and was still a little skeptical.

Zhao Minggong replied in a low voice, “Of course it’s true. I saw it myself. Zhang Ruochen is not someone to mess with. He hasn’t even broken into the Earth Realm yet and he’s already this powerful. He’ll be even more terrifying when he does.”

Huo Sheng laughed coldly, "So what if he's powerful? If senior sister apprentice Chen hadn't stood up for him, he would have already had his cultivation destroyed by senior brother apprentice Zuo. He can escape once, but can he escape twice?"

"Anyway, Zhang Ruochen is lucky. Not only is he engaged to Commandery Princess Yanchen, he also has the favor of senior sister apprentice Chen." Zhao Minggong said with envy, "Internal students like us barely warrant a glance from them."

Huo Sheng sneered coldly. "Do you really think that this is a good thing for him? How many people in the Omen Ridge chase after the Commandery Princess Yanchen and senior sister apprentice Chen? How many people can he defeat? Just watch, Zhang Ruochen won't last long!"

...

At Mount Saint Crossing, there were a total of six Hurricane Secret Practicing Rooms. Three of them were Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Rooms and were specifically for warriors who had reached the Earth Realm.

The other three were Heaven Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Rooms and were for warriors who had reached the Heaven Realm.

When Zhang Ruochen arrived at the Secret Practice Rooms, there was one empty Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Room.

The person guarding the rooms was a silver robed elder. He sat cross-legged on the ground and appeared to be practicing. Only when Zhang Ruochen roused him did he slowly open his eyes.

"You're not an Internal student?" The elder looked at Zhang Ruochen deeply with a gaze that pierced like a needle.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I am an Outer Palace student of the Western Campus."

The elder shook his head gently. "If your cultivation has not reached the Earth Realm, it can very dangerous to enter the Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Room. You should consider this carefully."

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Since I dare to come to Mount Saint Crossing, I have considered this thoroughly."

Zhang Ruochen needed to quickly practice Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to succeed to the next level. No matter how dangerous it was, he had to enter the room to practice.

The elder had seen far too many Outer Palace students enter the Secret Practicing Rooms full of confidence, only to emerge immediately covered in wounds.

These people wouldn't accept defeat until death looked them in the face!

The elder did not attempt to reason further with Zhang Ruochen. He took out a transparent sensing pearl and gave it to him. "Remember two things. First, if it gets too difficult in the Practicing Room, break the sensing pearl immediately. Don't try to be tough, this is a matter of life and death."

“Second, it costs 100 merits per visit to open the Secret Practicing Room. You can stay inside for up to a fortnight at most, however, if you are only inside for a minute and cannot go on and come out, the merits will not be returned. Are you ready?”

“Yes, I’m ready!”

Zhang Ruochen accepted the sensing pearl from the elder. He approached the entrance of the Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Room and waited for the doors to open.

“BOOM!”

The huge stone gate slowly swung open.

Behind the stone gate, there was a door of light connecting the ground to the roof.

Above the door of light, lines of Inscription of Array rippled like water.

“WAAA!”

Zhang Ruochen stepped inside. His body was immediately enveloped by the light door and he entered into the dark Secret Room.

It was a vast sphere-shaped room, approximately 50 meters in diameter.

The surrounding stone walls were as strong as iron. They were inlaid with a mosaic of Spiritual Crystals which glittered like stars in the night sky.

Aside from this, there was nothing else in the Secret Practicing Room.

Lines of inscription suddenly lit up on the stone walls, linking the Spiritual Crystals together and creating a completely sealed array.

“PHFFF!”

A wind strong enough to flatten mountains and seas surged out from the stone walls with an ear-shattering howl.

The formerly peaceful room instantly transformed into ravaging hurricanes and raging wind, strong enough to tear a person apart.

Although Zhang Ruochen had prepared beforehand, he was still blown across the room by the raging wind. He slammed into the stone wall opposite with a crash.

His internal organs shook, and he was in tremendous pain. It felt like he had been split open. Fortunately, he was strong enough to handle it, otherwise, that one hit would have wounded him tremendously.

“This is indeed an Earth Stage Practicing Room. If a warrior at the Completion of the Black Realm was in here, he would be seriously injured right now.”

Before he could react, the stone wall behind him released a mighty gust of wind sending him flying again.

At the same time, strong wind came out from other directions. He was like a leaf being blown about; he could not control his movements at all. The wind soon slammed him against another wall.

“BOOM!”

“BOOM!”

...

In the relentless frenzy of the raging winds, only a minute had passed. And yet, Zhang Ruochen had slammed against the stone wall 43 times.

Sometimes his back hit the walls, sometimes it was his face, other times it was his head... Under endless attacks, he finally became injured. He spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Am I going to leave the Practicing Room like this? No! This is not happening!”

He clenched his teeth and fought to remain focused.

As the next gust of wind came along, he quickly analyzed the strength and direction of the wind. He executed Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and took the nine footwork within the wind, hoping to fight against it.

“BOOM!”

Zhang Ruochen could only withstand it for two seconds before he was blown out again. His right shoulder slammed into the stone wall and his hand went numb. A wave of intense pain surged from his shoulder. It felt like the bone had been broken.

Persistence!

Once again, he was being blown by the wind, but he worked hard to control his center of gravity. He executed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon and fought against the wind from all directions.

Outside the Practicing Room, the silver gowned Elder stared at the door. His eyes revealed a hint of amusement. “The kid isn’t bad. He’s managed to last a whole minute. That’s already better than many of the internal students. I wonder how long he will last.”

Most of the internal students lasted less than a minute before escaping the Secret Practicing Rooms with severe injuries.

Even some of the Internal students at the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm couldn’t last a full minute when they first entered the Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Rooms.

The silver gowned Elder had thought Zhang Ruochen was overly arrogant, but now he looked forward to seeing what he could accomplish.

In the second minute, Zhang Ruochen’s body was only slammed against the stone wall 37 times. It was an improvement.

He gradually adapted to the environment inside the Secret Practicing Room. Although he continued to get slammed into the walls, it was less frequent.

Two hours passed very quickly. The raging wind in the Secret Practicing Room suddenly stopped, and Zhang Ruochen fell to the floor with a crash.

There was not an inch of uninjured skin on his body. Even his bones were broken in three places.

“Finally. It’s been two hours.”

He endured the pain and pushed himself up to sit cross-legged on the floor.

He retrieved a healing Pill from inside his jade space bracelet.

He was racing against the clock to refine and absorb the Pill so he could heal his injuries.

The wind of the array within the Practicing Room was not continuous. After being activated for two hours, it stopped for two hours.

This two hours of respite was very important. It could be used to heal injuries as well as review the fruit of practicing.

“Even though it’s only been two hours, I’ve improved greatly. In the beginning, I hit the stone wall 43 times in one minute. By the end, I was only hitting the wall 27 times per minute.”

He estimated that if he could control himself and conquer the wind of the Earth Stage Hurricane Secret Practicing Room, his Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon would reach the level of succeed.

To perfectly conquer the power of the wind did not simply mean being able to avoid the attacks. It meant being able to move within the Secret Practicing Room naturally, or even using the wind to his advantage, to add it to his own power.

“He’s been inside for two hours!” The silver gowned Elder outside was extremely shocked. He was also a little worried that perhaps Zhang Ruochen had died inside the room.

After all, an Outer Palace student shouldn’t have lasted so long inside.

Even the Internal students had to be at least a warrior at the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm to be able to stay inside the Secret Practicing Rooms for more than two hours.

He had given Zhang Ruochen a sensing pearl which he could break instantly to deactivate the array inside, however, sometimes warriors didn’t have time to break the sensing pearls.

Once this happened, a warrior inside the Practicing Room was bound to die.

The silver gowned Elder was worried. He opened the giant stone doors and looked towards the door of light inside.

There was an image of the Practicing Room on the door of light.

He saw Zhang Ruochen sitting cross-legged in the center of the Room. His whole body was enveloped in Genuine Qi and he was healing himself.

Seeing this, the silver gowned Elder rubbed his eyes and once again looked to the door. “Is he really an Outer Palace student?”

