

**Chapter 211: Shen Feng**

Zhang Ruochen shook his head. Even though he had strong Spiritual powers, at the most he could sense danger. He knew that he could not always trust his intuition.

Huang Yanchen entered the mountain spirit temple and resumed practicing.

Blackie built a fire and began to roast a savage beast he had scrounged up. The enticing aroma of meat began wafting from it.

The darkness grew and a cold breeze blew in from the mountains, fanning the fire to new heights.

The wind increased in strength and began to whistle as it blew by. At some point, flakes of snow began to fall. Soon, it began to snow harder and harder until the flakes as thick as goose down.

After half an hour, the entire mountain was buried under snow like a silver wrapped package. It was icy cold and the wind roared like a giant, mournful beast.

“Snowflake Eagle was left behind on the Fog-hidden Lake. We left in too much of a rush to bring him along.” Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged by the fire, speaking as if to himself.

Blackie held a giant piece of roast meat between his claws and talked as he ate. “Snowflake Eagle is a third level savage beast, after all. They possess a certain level of intelligence. If you didn’t return, he probably just flew back to Yunwu City.”

Huang Yanchen stopped practicing and opened a beautiful, jewel-blue eye. Her eyelashes fluttered and she stared at Blackie, who was munching away happily. “I’m amazed a cat knows so much,” she said. “Perhaps you are the best of the savage beasts?”

Blackie’s round eyes stared, and he replied, “What about the best? I am the King of Slaughter. I lost count of how many ‘bests’ I have eaten.”

Huang Yanchen looked at Blackie and only found him amusing. She didn’t believe him at all. “Blackie, did you roast that meat?”

“Naturally.” Blackie puffed out his chest and said proudly, “The Green Fire Deer tastes pretty good. Would you like a piece?”

“I’ll try some!” Huang Yanchen replied.

“Swish!”

Huang Yanchen crooked her finger and her Jade White Snow Dragon Sword flew from its scabbard and proceeded to slice off a kilogram of roasted meat, which landed in her hands.

Huang Yanchen’s sword had been confiscated by the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce, so Zhang Ruochen had lent her the Snow Dragon Sword to use.

Huang Yanchen had to admit, Blackie's roast was first rate. It tasted incredible. Even someone who didn't eat much meat, like Huang Yanchen, enjoyed it greatly.

Of course, Huang Yanchen ate a lot more gracefully than Blackie. She used two slender fingers to pick apart a piece of meat before placing it between her crystal lips. She chewed slowly and silently.

Suddenly, Blackie's ears twitched and he glanced towards the door. "Zhang Ruochen, you're not reincarnated from a crow are you?" he asked.

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen heard footsteps outside. The sound was very light. If Zhang Ruochen hadn't prepared for such a possibility, it was unlikely that he would have noticed anything over the sound of the wind and snow.

The footsteps came closer and closer. Someone had already entered the temple.

A young man, about 20 years old, walked in. He brushed the snow from his clothes and stared in surprise at the two humans and cat in front of him. "It has been snowing all night, and I have found nowhere to rest. I thought I would take shelter from the cold and the wind here. I didn't think I would find other people here. I am Shen Feng, an Internal Disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain. I hope I did not disturb you."

Huang Yanchen had gone on high alert immediately, but after hearing the man say he was a disciple of Yuntai Suzerain, she relaxed her guard and lowered the Snow Dragon Sword in her hand. "Shen Feng, I have heard of your name. You are ranked ninth in the Yuntai Suzerain, and you have already reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. I heard that you once battled a legendary warrior of the Heaven Realm and managed to last three attacks. Although you sustained heavy injuries and were defeated, you made your name through that one battle."

Shen Feng was quite a gentleman. He looked at Huang Yanchen with joy in his eyes. "You recognize me," he replied. "That honors me indeed. You look like a fairy, an angel come to earth. I didn't think I would meet such a beautiful woman here in a temple in the wild mountains. Perhaps this is fate?"

At any other time, if someone had spoken to her like this, Huang Yanchen would certainly have cut out his tongue.

However, Huang Yanchen felt rather proud. She glanced towards Zhang Ruochen and saw that he was still talking with Blackie about something and was not paying any attention to what Shen Feng had said.

She could not help but feel irritated, and she said, "Junior brother Chen, did you not see master Shen arriving? Master Shen is a master of the Yuntai Suzerain, and his cultivation is far above yours. Don't you want to greet him?"

Zhang Ruochen gently patted Blackie's head as if he had finished telling him something. Standing up, he gave Shen Feng a small salute and said, "Greetings, elder brother Shen. The Yuntai Suzerain and the Martial Market School are working together to defeat the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect now, so we can be considered brothers of the same family. Please feel at home. Have a seat."

"So you are both students of the Martial Market School."

Shen Feng smiled and made himself at home. He walked straight to Huang Yanchen, smiled, saluted, and sat down next to her.

He looked towards Zhang Ruochen and asked, "Junior brother Chen is an Internal student of the Martial Market School?"

Zhang Ruochen nodded, "Yes."

Shen Feng looked around and said, "You look like you are less than 20 years old. To be able to become an Internal student at such a young age is indeed an achievement. I am curious though, why do you wear a mask?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled, but did not answer Shen Feng's question. Rather he asked one of his own, "Since you are a strong warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm, why don't you have even a single mount?"

Shen Feng replied, "I do have a mount, but I have come to the Yunwu Commandery to defeat the heretics from the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. I didn't bring it when I left the suzerain."

"According to my knowledge, there are no towns within 300 miles of here. This is considered a waste land area of the Yunwu Commandery. There shouldn't be any heretics here from the black market for the Demonic Sect. How did you come to be here?" Zhang Ruochen continued to ask.

Shen Feng smiled and replied, "It is my first time here in the Yunwu Commandery, and I didn't know there were no towns around here. Otherwise, I wouldn't have needed to come here to rest."

Huang Yanchen felt that something wasn't right. She glared at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Junior brother Chen, master Shen is a master from the Yuntai Suzerain, why are you asking him all this? You don't think that he is an Evil Warrior from the black market, do you?"

"I think junior brother Chen suspects me. I guess I must prove my identity."

Shen Feng immediately took out a token and handed it to Huang Yanchen.

Yuntai Suzerain was carved on one side, while the other had Shen Feng engraved upon it. It was exactly like the waist tokens given to Internal students of the Yuntai Suzerain.

After Huang Yanchen ensured the authenticity of the token, she returned it to Shen Feng.

Zhang Ruochen replied quietly, "I was just asking casually."

Huang Yanchen's almond-shaped eyes glared at Zhang Ruochen again. "Junior brother Chen, you are too suspicious! Given master Shen's cultivation, he could defeat us easily. Why would he resort to such methods?"

"Thank you for your trust."

Shen Feng smiled. "What is your name, lady?" he asked.

Huang Yanchen was just about to say her name when Zhang Ruochen suddenly stood up and looked outside. He said, "People are coming!"

“Who is coming?” Huang Yanchen asked.

Zhang Ruochen closed his eyes and immersed his Genuine Qi into his ears and counted. He said, “15 kilometers away, there are at least 200 people approaching. Judging by their scents...they are Evil Warriors from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. If I am right, Hua Qingshan has caught up with us.”

Zhang Ruochen stared at Blackie and sent him a signal. Then he walked towards the outside of the temple.

Shen Feng watched Zhang Ruochen leave and a mocking gaze flashed through his eyes. He looked at Huang Yanchen and asked, “How could the people of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce follow you here?”

Huang Yanchen was not guarded against Shen Feng and her face was serious. She did not notice that Shen Feng had a silver needle protruding from his finger. She said, “They are here to capture me.”

“Actually, I am here to capture you as well.”

A strange smile appeared on Shen Feng’s face and his arm lunged forward. The silver needle glittered between his fingers and it was aimed directly at the center of Huang Yanchen’s forehead, as he wanted to seal her Qi sea.

Huang Yanchen’s expression changed dramatically. She did not expect Shen Feng to attack her at all.

Even if she tried to dodge, it would be too late.

Shen Feng’s smile widened as he saw success approaching.

Just before Shen Feng’s needle struck, a meow came from near his ear and a black shadow streaked by.

Blackie’s claws were sharper than knives, and they left three deep scratches on Shen Feng’s arm as they flashed through the air, severing the arteries and nerves.

If Shen Feng had not pulled his arm back quickly, he would have lost it!

“You...”

Shen Feng stared at the cat with fear in his heart. He was a warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm. Even if he was distracted, he couldn’t be hurt by a cat.

Blackie licked the fresh blood from his claws and said, “Don’t look at me like that. As the King of Slaughter, I consider it a failure that I didn’t manage to kill you in one strike.”

“What are you?”

Huang Yanchen retreated and drew out the Snow Dragon Sword. She assumed a defensive position and stared coldly at Shen Feng.

Shen Feng pulled back his right hand and recovered his calm expression.

He believed he only needed one hand to defeat Huang Yanchen at his level of cultivation.

As for that cat, it could only hurt him through stealthy attacks.

Shen Feng smiled. "It won't hurt to tell you. I am indeed the disciple of Yuntai Suzerain, Shen Feng. Of course, that is my public identity. My identity in the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce is the disciple of the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider."

Huang Yanchen was very angry, and her eyes were very cold. "How did you find our tracks?"

Shen Feng looked at Huang Yanchen like she was stupid. He smiled and said, "Your Majesty, did you think only the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce wants you dead?"

"There is another, even more powerful than the Young Lord, who is on his way here. If you fall into the hands of the Young Lord, at least you will survive. But if you fall into the other person's hand, death is the only possible path. If you clever, then you will calmly surrender now and not force me to act."

Chapter 212: Breaking through the Realm

Zhang Ruochen came in from outside. Holding the Abyss Ancient Sword in his hand, he said, "In that case, I should get rid of you before the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider arrives."

"You?"

Shen Feng quickly turned around, narrowed his eyes and said in a low voice, "I thought you left."

Zhang Ruochen responded, "I was just testing you. I can't believe you weren't able to control yourself and decided to attack. I also can't figure out how you were able to live in the Yuntai Suzerain for so long with such a bad temper."

"Haha!" Shen Feng laughed out loud and said, "I admit that I indeed underestimated you. However, do you really think that you can match me? If I'm not mistaken, you haven't even reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm, have you?"

"So what?" Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain quietly. Within a second, he had full control over the space of a hundred meters surrounding them.

Under the power of the Space Domain, Zhang Ruochen was able to observe every move of Shen Feng clearly, including his heartbeat and the speed of his breathing.

It didn't matter if his heart beat was slightly faster, Zhang Ruochen would be able to respond with a specific strategy beforehand.

When Zhang Ruochen reached the Black Realm he could fight warriors who were five realms higher than him. He was called the "Five-realm Fighting Genius".

By reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, it allowed him to increase one more realm than other warriors and he obtained the level of "Six-realm Fighting Genius".

In other words, he was able to cross six realms in total to confront a warrior who was at the Completion of the Earth Realm with his cultivation of the Initial Stage of the Earth Realm.

Of course, he could only cross six realms if he played all of his trump cards.

Without utilizing the power of the Time and Space Domain and the Heart Integrated into Sword, he could only cross five realms. That equaled him to a warrior at the Final State of the Earth Realm.

The martial cultivation of Shen Feng had already reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. In addition, he was a “One-realm Fighting Genius” and was able to fight warriors who were one realm higher.

That means that even if Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen worked together, under normal circumstances they wouldn’t be able to withstand five of his movements.

Right now, Shen Feng was injured. The meridians on his right hand had been destroyed by Blackie and he could only utilize 60% of his power.

Zhang Ruochen’s biggest advantage was that he possessed the power of the Space Domain. Once Shen Feng lowered his guard, he had a chance to kill him by quickly using the power of space.

In fact, Shen Feng couldn’t see both Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen at the same time. He stared at Zhang Ruochen and sneered, “I don’t believe that you’re merely an Internal student of the School of the Martial Market. What are you hiding?”

“What do you mean?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“If you’re not hiding any secrets, why did the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider warn me not to harm you and catch you alive?” Shen Feng said.

Zhang Ruochen furrowed his brow and suddenly understood what he meant.

“I assume the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider guessed that I possess the power of space. Yet he didn’t expose the secret to Shen Feng. Instead he demanded that he catch me.”

Zhang Ruochen’s ears moved slightly. When he heard that the Evil Warriors of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce were approaching, he knew that he was running out of time.

He didn’t want to waste any time. He glanced at Huang Yanchen and said, “Let’s do it!”

They attacked almost simultaneously and waived their swords towards Shen Feng.

“A Hundred to Wind.”

Huang Yanchen transformed the Genuine Qi in her body and exploded the power of the wind nature. It affected the Spiritual Qi floating in the air and started rotating it at high speed, eventually turning into a fierce wind.

The wind continued to rotate and transformed into a massive hundred-meter vortex. Shortly thereafter the entire temple was shattered by the wind and fell apart.

“Woo woo!”

The wind howled and snowflakes flew across the entire sky. Some of the nearby trees had been uprooted by the power of the wind.

Activating “A Hundred to Wind” greatly consumed Huang Yanchen’s Genuine Qi. However, she had no choice but to help Zhang Ruochen with this method.

Shen Feng stood in the center of the vortex with his legs firmly on the ground. He could only stabilize his body by transferring his Genuine Qi into the ground beneath him.

He was extremely jealous that although his martial cultivation was far ahead of Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen, he wasn’t able to display the vision of heaven and earth because of his insufficient physical quality.

Warriors who were able to transform a vision of heaven and earth were basically the Three-realm Fighting Geniuses. Not a lot of Two-realm Fighting Geniuses would be able to do so. Those Two-realm Fighting Geniuses who were able to form a vision of heaven and earth would surely advance and become Three-realm Fighting Genius.

Huang Yanchen was a Two-realm Fighting Genius to begin with. Since she had elevated her physical quality, she was only one step away from being a Three-realm Fighting Genius. She was even able to cross three realms and fight warriors who possessed a higher realm.

“Redfire Halberd!”

Shen Feng took his fighting halberd from his back and grasped it tightly in his hand. He swung a circle with the halberd and thrust hard towards Huang Yanchen.

Redfire Halberd was a sixth-level Genuine Martial Arms. When Shen Feng transferred his powerful Genuine Qi to the halberd all 34 inscriptions were activated. A flame over 10 meters long appeared from the sword.

The only way he could take control of the fight was if he destroyed the vision of heaven and earth of the “Hundred to Wind”.

If he didn’t he would be suppressed by the power of the vision and wouldn’t be able to fully wield his abilities.

Zhang Ruochen couldn’t let Shen Feng win. The moment Shen Feng was about to attack, he slashed his Abyss Ancient Sword towards Shen Feng.

“Boom!”

The two of them clashed together in the fierce wind, and they flew back simultaneously.

Zhang Ruochen was shocked and whispered to himself “Such a powerful force!”

Zhang Ruochen had displayed his full power while swinging the sword. Yet he was only equal to Shen Feng and even had to retreat back one additional step.

Be careful, Shen Feng had been suppressed by the wind power. Also his right arm was disabled so he only confronted Zhang Ruochen with his left hand, which was holding the halberd.

When a right-handed warrior is forced to fight with their left hand, his fighting power will no doubt be greatly affected. He wasn’t able to perform most of the abstruse Martial Arts movements.

Shen Feng still gained the upper hand despite being in such poor condition. There was no doubt that Shen Feng possessed the capability to rank in the top 10 of the Yuntai Suzerain.

While Zhang Ruochen was shocked, Shen Feng was scared. He stared at Zhang Ruochen suspiciously and asked, "You haven't reached the Dawn State of the Earth Realm?"

He was suspicious of Zhang Ruochen's martial cultivation. Instead of reaching the Dawn State of the Earth Realm, he had already broken through to the Medium State of the Earth Realm. Otherwise he wouldn't have been able to withstand the move he just made.

"Save the trash talk."

Without hesitation, Zhang Ruochen exploded all the Genuine Qi in his body and drew the vision of heaven and earth. He yelled out loudly, "A Hundred to Fire!"

Wisps of Spiritual Fire appeared covering a hundred meters. Under the massive power of the wind, the Spiritual Fire had transformed into snakes, fire clouds and fire waves that surged along with the wind power.

The icy, cold and snowy night that had been before instantly began to heat up. The entire sky was illuminated as if there was an enormous fire floating over the mountain.

"One displays A Hundred to Wind while the other performs A Hundred to Fire. It's definitely a magnificent vision of heaven and earth." An elder of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce who was standing at the foot of the hill said with surprise.

The warrior who was able to display a vision of heaven and earth was one in a million. Such talent was very rare. Having a chance to encounter two of these talents in one night amazed the elder significantly.

The Young Lord of Poisonous Spider grasped the machete in one hand, smiled sneeringly and said, "Perhaps they will be a threat to me after another two years of practice. They are still too weak now, Shen Feng alone is strong enough to suppress them."

"Mr. Shen's cultivation is indeed powerful. Since he was able to attack, everything should be ok," said the elder.

The Young Lord of Poisonous Spider raised his eyebrows slightly and said, "Well, being cautious never did any harm. Block the area and prevent them from escaping!"

"Our people have surrounded the entire mountain as the young master said. They won't be able to escape."

The lord nodded. He looked at the vision of heaven and earth far away, furrowed his brow and said with annoyance, "What's Shen Feng doing?" "With his ability it should be easy for him to defeat two warriors at the Dawn State of the Earth Realm. Elder Xu, head to the mountain with two masters and give him a helping hand. I don't want the fight to last any longer. End it as quickly as you can."

The elder raced towards the mountain with two warriors of the Earth Realm.

"Wind-fire Fireflies!"



Shen Feng displayed a mid-class Spiritual Stage Martial technique. His Redfire Halberd glared brightly. It turned into a wisp of fast streamers and pierced towards Zhang Ruochen's chest.

They had been fighting for more than 20 moves by now. Shen Feng needed to end the fight as soon as possible and forced him to display his last resort.

He was irritated and annoyed and couldn't believe he had spent such a long time contending with a junior and hadn't yet defeated him.

Although the martial cultivation of the junior was incomparable with his, he was able to predict every move he made and ward off every attack.

When Shen Feng let his guard down, two of the junior's attacks pierced his body and left two wounds.

After facing Shen Feng's "Wind-fire Fireflies" move, Zhang Ruochen retreated backwards and didn't dare to fight him by force.

"Go to hell!"

Shen Feng clenched his teeth angrily. He wanted to kill Zhang Ruochen so much he completely forgot what the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider had told him.

Since he had to capture Zhang Ruochen alive, he held back when he released a palm which allowed Zhang Ruochen to attack him twice in a row.

He couldn't obey the Lord's order anymore and decided to kill Zhang Ruochen.

When the Redfire Halberd was about to pierce through Zhang Ruochen's chest, he had no choice but to use the power of space in order to escape from the attack.

Although he avoided injuring one of his vital organs, his forearm had been stabbed by the Redfire Halberd. The attack left a long, deep wound in his arm.

Shen Feng swayed his Redfire Halberd horizontally without giving Zhang Ruochen a second to catch his breath.

Zhang Ruochen could only defend himself by cross-blocking his sword.

"Boom!"

Zhang Ruochen couldn't take anymore and flew back over 10 meters, his chest pounded in pain. Finally he managed to stabilize his body and fell to the ground.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen was hurt, Shen Feng let out a snide noise. He chased behind him at 135 meters per second, placing him in front of Zhang Ruochen within a second.

Under the stimulation of such a significant crisis, Zhang Ruochen's potential exploded.

There was a slight sound that came from his glabella. It made his Qi sea shiver suddenly and expand 10 times larger. The Spiritual Qi in the earth and heaven converged endlessly towards him.

"I can't believe I've broken through to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm in the middle of the fight!" He was surprised and happy and wondered why he hadn't used the Heart Integrated into Sword to defeat Shen Feng from the beginning. Now he had a better technique to defeat him.

After breaking into a higher realm the firing mark on Zhang Ruochen's glabella had turned brighter, as if there was a flame embedded in it.

Chapter 213: Si Xingkong

"The weather is so bad, just snowing whenever it feels like it. Doesn't it know that I've hated cold weather ever since I was a child?" Chang Qiqi moaned while holding the fighting sword. He was walking in the frost and snow, the wisp of breath he exhaled turned into a long pillar of white smoke.

After getting rid of the man in black, he quickly followed the track that Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen had left behind.

After 500 kilometers he still couldn't see any sign of them.

"Junior fellow apprentice Chang, if you're cold, would you like a sip of the 'Burning Wine'?" A voice floated into Chang Qiqi's ears.

"Who is that?"

"Clash!" Chang Qiqi was shocked and immediately took out his fighting sword. His tiny eyes shaped like green peas looked around, trying to discover where the voice had come from.

"Look to the east. A hundred meters away there is a 2,000 meter high mountain. I'm standing on the hillside of that mountain." The sound continued.

Chang Qiqi lifted his head and looked to the east. Although the frost and snow impaired his vision, he could still see the mountain a hundred meters away.

"Sound drifting a hundred meters through the air, perhaps this is..."

Chang Qiqi's eyes widened and he displayed his Martial Arts technique. He transformed into a Shadow and rushed towards the mountain where the sound came from as fast as he could.

Chang Qiqi's realm of cultivation allowed him to go anywhere without leaving a trace.

Chang Qiqi arrived at the mountain in less than two hours. He stood in the middle of the snow and raised his head. He saw a man in his twenties, with disheveled hair and a wine gourd in his hand. He was laying on the branch of a massive tree, raising his head drinking.

The man was tall and handsome, with dark eyebrows and a straight nose. He looked elegant and unconventional.

When Chang Qiqi saw the man in the tree, he looked cheerful and saluted him with his hand slightly lifted, "Greetings, senior brother!"

The man who was laying on the tree branch was the No.1 master of the School of the Martial Market, Si Xingkong.

Si Xingkong had a smile on his face. He threw the wine gourd down towards Chang Qiqi and said, "I will be generous and offer you a drink. However, the Burning Wine is extremely expensive, so you are only allowed to take a sip."

Chang Qiqi picked the wine gourd up off the ground and felt excited. The wine a senior brother drank would not be just any ordinary wine.

Chang Qiqi didn't want to waste any of the wine so he swallowed hard after opening the wine gourd.

He regretted that instantly after taking a sip.

The Burning Wine was like a fire running through his body. He felt as though his blood was boiling.

"Senior brother... what are you drinking?"

Sweat poured out from his entire body. Whenever he spoke it felt like fire was coming out of his mouth.

Although it was a snowy day, the burning he felt caused him to take off all his clothes, the only thing he left on were his red underpants.

"Haha! That Burning Wine is made up of 39 Spiritual Doses with strong nature. Its efficacy and nature are even stronger than the Half-Saint's Essence, and thus it is extremely expensive. I only take three sips every day but you drank a whole mouthful. No wonder you feel as if you're on fire." Si Xingkong climbed down from the branch, stretched and then yawned. Seeing Chang Qiqi's reaction he felt guilty, but at the same time he found it amusing.

His guilt was not for how Chang Qiqi's body reacted to the wine, but more how expensive the wine was.

Yet, the red underpants that Chang Qiqi was wearing were quite funny.

"Let me help you!"

Si Xingkong thrust towards the ground and walked in the air. It looked like he was moving slow and yet, he stood in front of Chang Qiqi after only a second.

"Waaa!"

He pointed at Chang Qiqi's glabella and the Genuine Qi in his body poured out and entered Chang Qiqi's Qi sea.

At that moment the efficacy of the Burning Wine was fully refined and transformed into Chang Qiqi's cultivation.

Chang Qiqi's cultivation had broken through from the Medium State to the Final State of the Earth Realm instantly. His martial cultivation had been significantly elevated.

The efficacy had been refined with the help of Si Xingkong but not the effect of wine. Chang Qiqi looked drunk and he obviously didn't know that he was still only wearing underpants, not to mention that he had broken through to the Final State.

Although the efficacy of the Burning Wine was incredible, it alone wasn't enough to facilitate Chang Qiqi in breaking through to a higher realm. Before Chang Qiqi drank the wine he had reached the peak of the Medium State of the Earth Realm. With both the efficacy of the Burning Wine and the help of Si Xingkong, he had easily broken through to the next realm.

Chang Qiqi's tongue was numb. He was still drunk and said, "Senior brother, haven't you brought the Half-saint's Blood Book to fight with the Evil Warriors of the Tarantula Chamber of Commerce?"

Si Xingkong shook his head and sighed with his hair fluttering, "Forget about it. Hua Minggong has reached the Heaven Realm as well as obtained the Red Spider Vessel. It will not be easy to defeat him. But I don't need to worry about it now, the two myths of martial arts of the Qianshui Commandery are on their way to kill him."

Chang Qiqi asked, "Then why are you here, senior brother?"

Si Xingkong tapped his forehead, yelled and said, "Oh, right! I've been drinking and almost forget why I'm here. Let's go. We're going to meet the No.1 genius of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge."

"Zhang Tiangui?" Chang Qiqi was half asleep from the alcohol.

"Yes, that's him."

Si Xingkong took the wine gourd out of Chang Qiqi's hand. He carried it on his back and sniffed in the air. There was a faint smile on his face and he said, "I can already smell his breath."

Si Xingkong led the way. It seemed as though he was walking casually and yet Chang Qiqi almost fell behind even if he ran as fast as he could.

Chang Qiqi was panting heavily and said, "Senior brother, why are we going to meet Zhang Tiangui?"

Si Xingkong laughed and answered, "Someone asked me to do him a favor and block Zhang Tiangui tonight no matter what."

"Block him from what?" Chang Qiqi asked.

"I don't know." Si Xingkong responded.

"Then who asked you to block him?"

"Guess!"

"Oh, I can't."

"If you can't, then that's fine." Si Xingkong laughed and said, "In fact, I've been longing to fight with him. He's been called the No.1 genius while I'm regarded as the No.1 master of the young generation of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. I've always wondered who is stronger of us!"

"I'm sure senior brother, that you are stronger than him!" Chang Qiqi said proudly.

"I don't know, there's always someone better than you in the world."

Si Xingkong glanced at Chang Qiqi and shook his head, "Why are you so slow? Let me help you!"

He grabbed Chang Qiqi's shoulders. "Clash!", they dashed out like a ghost shadow flashing in the snow. Chang Qiqi's scream was still floating in the air.

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Zhang Tiangui was sitting on a strange-looking carriage, flying three-feet above the ground at high speed.

The carriage was an eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms called "Flying shaft". It was a treasure found by Zhang Tiangui inside the Elementary Ruin. Once he embedded the Spiritual Crystal under the flying shaft, it was able to fly after the array was activated.

"According to the sign left by Shen Feng, I should be catching up to Commandery Princess Yanchen and the mysterious teenager soon." Luo Cheng who was sitting outside the flying shaft steering sneered, "If Chang Qiqi hadn't blocked my way, I would have taken both of them down and we would have had no need to bother a senior brother."

Zhang Tiangui sat cross-legged in the flying shaft and asked, "Is the mysterious teenager Zhang Ruochen?"

Luo Cheng shook his head gently and replied, "I don't know his identity, senior brother. He was wearing a mask and claimed that he was the Secret Disciple of the silver gowned Elder Hall Master in the School of the Martial Market."

"The Secret Disciple of the silver gowned Elder Hall Master?" Zhang Tiangui's eyes widened suddenly and displayed two dazzling lights in his pupils. He said, "I guess I'll have to figure out his real identity in person."

When the flying shaft reached the riverside, it suddenly stopped.

"What happened?" Zhang Tiangui sounded annoyed.

Luo Cheng replied with a serious voice, "Someone is stopping the flying shaft from going forward."

"Who dares to block my carriage?" Zhang Tiangui said with a low voice.

"He...he's Si Xingkong, the No.1 master of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge." Luo Cheng responded.

"Si Xingkong."

Zhang Tiangui grimaced, opened the curtain of the carriage and looked forward. He could see two men standing in front of the flying shaft. One was carrying a wine gourd while the other was only wearing red underpants.

The handsome man who was holding the wine gourd gazed at the flying shaft, laughed and said, "Brother Zhang, where are you rushing to in such freezing weather?"

It was difficult for Zhang Tiangui to tell why Si Xingkong was here. He put on a ferret cloak and walked down from the carriage. He saluted towards Si Xingkong and asked, "Brother Si, What brings you here?"

"Well, I've been waiting here for a while." Si Xingkong said open-heartedly, "I've heard that Brother Zhang is the disciple of the Head of Yuntai Suzerain a long time ago and that you've practiced the Six

Mysterious Martial Arts to the fifth level. I wanted to show my admiration and hope to learn from you by fighting.”

Having heard this, Zhang Tiangui narrowed his eyes and said, “I’m afraid I can’t fulfill your wish. I’m pretty tired today. But if brother Si really wants to fight, how about in the Yunwu City two weeks from now?”

Zhang Tiangui was extremely confident in his ability. After elevating his cultivation he couldn’t wait to defeat Si Xingkong. He could be called the genuine No.1 genius of the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. All he had to do was defeat Si Xingkong.

But not tonight. He was in a hurry to take care of Huang Yanchen and the mysterious teenager, who’s true identity was perhaps Zhang Ruochen. He had no time to waste fighting Si Xingkong.

The kick of the Burning Wine hadn’t yet worn off in Chang Qiqi’s body as he exclaimed, “Zhang Tiangui, my senior brother is the top genius of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge. He specifically waited for you in the snow just to fight you. It is embarrassing to waive us off so quickly!”

Si Xingkong added, “Zhang Tiangui, leaves without fighting... That’s not your style at all!”

Zhang Tiangui looked towards Si Xingkong, thought about the matter a little and said, “Fine. If brother Si insists, I’m happy to fight you. However, I have some other important matters to attend to so I’m afraid this can only be a quick battle. How about this, we decide the victory in 10 moves. What do you think?”

Si Xingkong squinted, stretched out one finger and shook gently, “10 moves? No, I think we can know who’s the winner in seven moves.”

Zhang Tiangui responded, “Brother Si is indeed full of confidence. Perhaps brother Si thinks the Six Mysterious Martial Arts I practiced only obtains six types of techniques and that I’ll be defeated in the seventh move?”

“Haha! No doubt the Six Mysterious Martial Arts is a broad and profound technique that involves six types of Qi in one body. It allows you to display various types of martial technique.” “Yet I would say, no matter how advanced your mastery with the martial technique is there are only six types of mysteries and their nature isn’t going to differ much. If I can withstand your six types of mysteries, then you will have nothing left to play and I will be victorious in the seventh move.”

#### **Chapter 214: Battle Between Masters**

“In that case, the next step is to learn Brother Si’s master tricks!”

Zhang Tiangui spread his arms wide open. When the Genuine Qi beneath his legs extended, he steadily flew high up. He descended into the lake 20 feet away and walked until he reached the center of the lake.

“Phew!”

The water in the lake surged outward and transformed into ice.

Shortly after, a massive, crystal clear iceberg appeared under Zhang Tiangui's feet and floated on the surface of the lake.

Zhang Tiangui stood at the highest point of the iceberg. He poured the Genuine Qi out of his body, blending himself into both the iceberg and the massive lake.

There was not one organism in his body that he could utilize with the colossal force of the lake to suppress his opponent who had entered the lake.

The real battle of a master involved not only the strength and power of the master himself, but also the use of the environment as well as the mastery of one's mind.

Chang Qiqi's heart was thumping in his chest. He looked at Zhang Tiangui, who was standing peacefully in the center of the lake. He felt scared, as if he was looking at a statue in a temple.

Under such circumstances, Zhang Tiangui had already destroyed Chang Qiqi's confidence without even fighting.

*"Is elder brother a match for Zhang Tiangui?"* Chang Qiqi suspected the true ability of his older brother for the very first time. He looked toward Si Xingkong and wondered how he was going to withstand the power of Zhang Tiangui.

"Haha! You are indeed the genius Zhang Tiangui that a lot of people admire." Si Xingkong opened the lid of the Burning Wine and drank it. Then, he stepped forward on the ground—hard.

"Bam!"

The ground underneath Si Xingkong's legs shattered and turned into a string of cracks. They spread toward the massive lake 20 feet away.

"Phhf!"

The crack in the ground was two-meters wide and 30 feet long, and it linked the lake together. Immediately, the water of the lake surged upward.

Not only did the crack tear up the ground, but it also destroyed the momentum of the lake that Zhang Tiangui had solidified.

"Bang!"

Si Xingkong's body collapsed as if drawing a bow. His extremities were shivering and a loud sound broke out from his body.

It was as if his body had transformed into an arrow that was shot from a bow. He flew toward the lake and directly attacked Zhang Tiangui.

The high-pitched sound he let out just now vibrated, causing pain in Chang Qiqi's and Luo Cheng's ears. They became dizzy and were mentally stunned.

"Thousand Hands of the War God!"

Zhang Tiangui stretched out his hand, activated his Genuine Qi, and turned his arm into an illusory image. It was at least 30 meters long and formed countless hand shadows, striking fists, and pointed fingers of force.

Si Xingkong laughed out loud and broke through the thousand hand shadow straight away.

He punched out a fist, which had a power that was as strong as a dragon-lion. He groaned, causing the lake to have turbulent waves.

Chang Qiqi stood at the shore, trying his best to open his eyes. However, his eyes were in such great pain that he could not clearly see any trace of Si Xingkong or Zhang Tiangui.

“Boom”

The iceberg shattered. The two human shadows separated at once, like two geese flying in the wind, falling gently in different directions of the lake.

“Bravo! You were able to break my thousand hand prints with just one move.” Zhang Tiangui stood above the water surface, where there was another iceberg solidified beneath his legs.

“Fight!”

Si Xingkong struck out his second fist and the waves of water in the entire lake had completely rolled up and dashed out again.

At first, there were only two shadows on the lake. Shortly after, four shadows appeared... In the end, countless shadows came into sight as if thousands of troops of soldiers and horses were brutally fighting on the lake.

Chang Qiqi and Luo Cheng had long been shaken and were incapable of handling such a powerful force.

“They have both cultivated to the Completion of the Earth Realm, so why is there such a big difference between them?” Luo Cheng was agitated and grasped his fingers tightly. He could have never imagined that they were capable of practicing their power to this height in the Heaven Realm.

The two human shadows on the lake separated again.

Up until this moment, Chang Qiqi and Luo Cheng, who were standing by the lake, realized that under the influence of the Genuine Qi of the two masters, the hundred-meter-long lake had completely frozen and transformed into an ice lake.

“Six movements have been completed. The next move will be the move that decides victory.”

Si Xingkong’s hair was disheveled. His momentum was magnificent and every inch of his skin had turned golden. He took a deep breath, and the Spiritual Qi that had spread one kilometer around him was completely and instantly absorbed and inhaled into his body.

Zhang Tiangui could feel the powerful momentum displayed on Si Xingkong’s body. Then, he drew a circle with his bare hands where six light beams emitted from his body. At the same time, it transformed into six types of Spiritual Stage martial techniques, including domination, strange, skillful, and extermination.



“Boom!”

Two streams of power crashed into each other that shattered the massive lake, which had been frozen to an ice lake, into fragments of Ice Crystals.

The entire ground lightly shook along with the ice lake.

Zhang Tiangui flew out and fell hard onto the lake. His body slid dozens of meters backward, which left a long track mark on the ground as his lower body had completely sunken into the soil.

“Pfft!”

A mouthful of blood was spat out from Zhang Tiangui’s mouth.

He looked a bit bleak. This was the first loss that he had ever encountered since he was small. He stared at Si Xingkong in the distance and said with difficulty, “I... I lost...”

Si Xingkong laughed and said, “Haha! I’ve consolidated in the Completion of the Earth Realm for three years while you have just freshly broken through to this realm. If I haven’t elevated to the Heaven Realm in three years, then I might not be a match for you at that time. Junior fellow apprentice Chang, let’s go.”

Looking at the dilapidated lake, Chang Qiqi was astonished, “Is it possible for a human to explode out such power?”

“Come on, let’s move!”

Si Xingkong tapped on Chang Qiqi’s shoulders lightly and signaled for him to go. They walked shoulder to shoulder and very quickly, disappearing in the frost and snow.

Chang Qiqi gazed at Si Xingkong with admiration and said, “Senior brother, you’re absolutely amazing! With your ability, I guess you are able to kill martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm with your bare hands. The so-called top genius was vulnerable and has been knocked off by you.”

“Pfft!”

Suddenly, Si Xingkong spat out a mouthful of blood before swallowing the wine down his throat.

“Senior brother... senior brother, what’s wrong with you?” Chang Qiqi immediately held Si Xingkong, looking concerned. He did not realize that his senior brother was injured as well.

Si Xingkong’s countenance turned pale. He wiped the blood from the corner his mouth and put up a faint smile. He said, “I’m fine. It’s just a small injury. I just didn’t expect that Zhang Tiangui was so powerful. I’m sure that if I can’t break through to the Heaven Realm in a year, I won’t be strong enough to defeat him.”

“How powerful is Zhang Tiangui?” Chang Qiqi asked.

Si Xingkong responded, “I’m a Three-and-a-half-realm Fighting Genius, and yet, Zhang Tiangui has become a Four-realm Fighting Genius. I’m able to defeat him this time just because of my fundamental ability of Martial Arts. You know that we only fought for seven moves, but I used all of my power in each

of the moves. It was indeed so severe that, if I hadn't been cautious, he would have seized the chance and defeated me."

"I can't believe that Zhang Tiangui is a Four-realm Fighting Genius!"

Chang Qiqi said, "Even predecessor Luo Xu was only a Four-and-a-half-realm Fighting Genius when he was at the peak of his Martial Arts cultivation."

"Otherwise, he wouldn't be called the top genius of the 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge." Si Xingkong looked serious and said, "With the talent that Zhang Tiangui displayed, he would be able to draw with predecessor Luo Xu, and can become a Four-and-a-half-realm Fighting Genius if he has any fortuitous encounters."

Chang Qiqi asked, "Does it mean that none in the younger generation of the 36 commanderies in the entire Omen Ridge will be a match for Zhang Tiangui one year from now?"

"It's uncertain." Si Xingkong smiled, saying, "There are numerous geniuses in the School of the Martial Market as both Luo Shuihan and Zhang Ruochen are also Four-realm Fighting Geniuses. I'm sure that they will be able to confront Zhang Tiangui in the future. Moreover, who knows if I'll have fortuitous encounters and become one of the Four-realm Fighting Geniuses? Although the chances are pretty slim..."

Si Xingkong stood up straight and said, "With Zhang Tiangui's condition of being injured, I guess he will need more than three months to fully recover even with the help of healing Pills. We will be safe along the way to Yunwu City and deal with the masters of the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. It's said that the Lady Saint of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect appeared in Yunwu City. It's a good chance for us to fight with her. I wonder if she or Zhang Tiangui will be stronger?"

"Senior brother, are you sure you still want to fight against someone else with your injuries...?" Chang Qiqi asked with concern.

"My injury isn't too bad. I'll be fine with just drinking Burning Wine. What? Don't you believe me? I can easily grab you and run at a high speed. Fancy taking a ride?"

Chang Qiqi shook his head and indicated that he did not believe him.

Si Xingkong grabbed Chang Qiqi's shoulders and "Clash!", they dashed out through the air where Chang Qiqi screamed out loud again.

200 miles away, Zhang Ruochen had just broken through to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

"Have you broken into a higher realm?"

Shen Feng, who was standing 10 steps away, looked shocked. He could not have imagined that his opponent could break through to another realm in the middle of the fight.

He was positive that even if Zhang Ruochen had broken through his current realm, he was still strong enough to defeat him.

"Wind and fire connection!"

Shen Feng looked determined and was confident in his cultivation. He lowered down the Redfire Halberd in his hand and was ready to display his second movement.

Out of expectation, he borrowed the power of “A Hundred to Fire” and “A Hundred to Wind” that Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen had displayed respectively, and rotated his Redfire Halberd in the air. When the wind power and fire power blended together, it pierced toward Zhang Ruochen.

Rather than escaping, Zhang Ruochen held his sword single-handedly and shook his arm. The Abyss Ancient Sword wandered on the Redfire Halberd and completely dissolved the power of the halberd. Then, he swung his sword onto Shen Feng’s left wrist.

*“How is it possible that he could greatly increase his speed after breaking through to another realm?”* Shen Feng’s countenance changed immediately. If Zhang Ruochen were to chop off his left wrist, he would be easily caught.

Shen Feng had no choice but to let go of the Redfire Halberd as he quickly retreated backward.

Zhang Ruochen did not give him a chance to escape. Instead, he slashed his sword at Shen Feng’s legs.

“Pfft!”

Blood splashed all over the ground.

Both of Shen Feng’s legs had been chopped off and he fell into the blood pit. He let out a wretched scream and still did not understand how Zhang Ruochen had become so strong in such a short period of time.

At the very beginning, the reason that Shen Feng was able to suppress Zhang Ruochen was that his speed had reached 135 meters per second, while Zhang Ruochen was still at 115 meters per second.

No matter how advanced and outstanding Zhang Ruochen’s sword technique was, the difference in speed between them was so great that Zhang Ruochen was in no way a match for Shen Feng.

But by breaking through to a high realm, Zhang Ruochen’s speed had reached 140 meters per second, which was even faster than Shen Feng’s. Therefore, he could easily defeat Shen Feng with his mastery of sword techniques.

Shen Feng had completely lost his fighting power after his legs were chopped off.

In order to maintain the vision of “A Hundred to Wind”, Huang Yanchen’s Genuine Qi had been greatly consumed. Looking at Zhang Ruochen, who had just destroyed Shen Feng, she instantly pulled back her Genuine Qi. Her sweat was dripping down and she had almost lost her breath. She exclaimed, “Zhang Ruochen, we have to leave now!”

“I’m afraid that it’s not going to be easy for us to leave...”

10 feet away in the snow, three human shadows flew up. They all held their long swords and attacked toward Zhang Ruochen.

All three of them possessed a cultivation in the Earth Realm and had an extremely high speed. Besides, they were only 10 feet away from Zhang Ruochen, so they were able to easily rush behind him in a second and pierce a sword through his back.

Chapter 215: The False God Body

“Clash!”

By displaying his successful Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, Zhang Ruochen spun around and divided himself into nine illusory images. All of them swung their swords and chopped down toward the three Evil Warriors.

It looked as if Zhang Ruochen was split into nine petals that fell down in nine directions.

Nine sword techniques were performed at the same time and hit the three warriors who were rushing toward Zhang Ruochen.

“Boom!”

Then the three Evil Warriors at the Earth Realm level were attacked and flew out with a loud scream.

“Bang!” Two of them fell to the ground with a loud thump and were dead immediately with their necks cut off. And the blood continued to flow out from their necks. Practice had proven that they could not even withstand one move from Zhang Ruochen.

The other man was an elder named Elder Xu. His cultivation had reached the Final State of the Earth Realm. Though his response was quicker than the other two and he escaped from having his neck cut, he had still gotten badly wounded.

On his chest, there was a long trail of blood that had been cut by the Abyss Ancient Sword, which had almost cut his body in half.

There was a look of horror in Elder Xu’s eyes. He endured the great pain in his chest and let out a long shout.

That sound was like a loud signal.

“Swish!”

The Evil Warriors under the mountain all came out and dashed toward the mountaintop with their fast speed, completely surrounding Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen.

Hua Qingshan, who took the lead and walked in front of the procession, said with a smile, “Your Majesty, I hope you are well.”

Huang Yanchen answered, “Hua Qingshan, how dare you be so arrogant! Don’t you know that if you annoy my father, he could give an order to destroy the entire Poisonous Spider Club?”

Hua Qingshan said without fear, “The Qianshui Commandery does have strong national power with its numerous masters. Even 10 Poisonous Spider Clubs could not contend with one Qianshui Commandery.

However, the Poisonous Spider Club is part of the Black Market. Your Majesty, are you sure your commandery could wipe out the Black Market?"

Shen Feng, who was lying down in a pool of blood, stared at Hua Qingshan and said in a weak voice, "Young master... help... help me..."

With both of his legs having been cut off, Shen Feng lost half of his martial cultivation. Even if he were to recover from his injury, he would still be a disabled person.

Hua Qingshan glanced at Shen Feng with a cold flash in his eye. "To my surprise, you defeated Shen Feng! It seems that I have underestimated you guys. But, I have set an ambush on all sides. I'm afraid that you can't escape, even if you could fly."

"Well, not necessarily."

Zhang Ruochen looked at Blackie and said, "Now, we can only depend on you."

Blackie forced a smile and prepared to shapeshift. With a succession of cracking sounds in his body, Blackie motivated all of his bones and flesh and swelled to four meters tall, just like a giant black tiger.

Two protrusions raised up from his back and spread out, turning into two black wings over 10 meters long.

This was the first time for Huang Yanchen to discover that Blackie could shapeshift and was astounded by his transformation ability.

Of course, she was only surprised at that initial moment. Then, she immediately flew onto Blackie's back.

"Let's go, Blackie!"

Zhang Ruochen turned over and flew up onto Blackie's back as well, nestling up to Huang Yanchen. After all, due to this emergency situation, neither of them felt anything different.

"Meow!"

Blackie flapped his wings and turned into a black shadow, rushing toward the snowy night sky.

Hua Qingshan's face turned white because he never expected that Zhang Ruochen could fly away. His face was slightly twisted as he shouted, "Release the God-killing Arrow!"

In each of the four directions with the mountaintop as the center, a God-killing Crossbow was placed.

The crossbow mechanism of each God-killing Crossbow had to be operated and opened by two warriors of the Black Realm simultaneously.

Hua Qingshan knew that Zhang Ruochen could control the power of space and that a normal Thunder Arrow and a Carriage Breaking Arrow could not hurt him at all. Only by using God-killing Arrows could his power of space be destroyed.

The speed and impact of a God-killing Arrow were far superior to an average arrow. Even though Zhang Ruochen could warp space, he might not be able to dodge a God-killing Arrow.

Originally, the four God-killing Crossbows were prepared just in case, but now, they were being put to actual use.

“Phfff!”

Four God-killing Arrows flew up into the sky, with each of them being 10 meters long. Each arrow shaft was as thick as a wine glass and its arrowhead was just like a huge flame.

There was a shrill burst of wind that pierced through the air.

Seen from a long distance, it looked like four flints were flying from the bottom of the earth, dragging a long tail behind them, and shooting at that fast flying black cat.

“God-killing Arrows! Their power is 10 times stronger than Carriage Breaking Arrows and they’re mainly used to fight against Martial Arts masters. Plenty of God-killing Arrows could even kill martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm.” Huang Yanchen became nervous again upon seeing those four fireballs behind them.

Actually, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen could enter into the internal space of Time and Space Spinel. If they did so, Blackie could shrink his body and avoid the God-killing Arrows much easier.

But if Zhang Ruochen were to do that, the Time and Space Spinel would be exposed.

And from then on, Zhang Ruochen would have no more cards.

But, Zhang Ruochen finally decided to release the Space Domain and use the power of space warps to change the paths of the God-killing Arrows.

“It’s just four God-killing Arrows, how can that beat me?! Don’t use the Space Domain, Zhang Ruochen. Leave it to me.”

Blackie was quite confident. As a wisp of lightning appeared in his body, Blackie improved his flying speed. Sometimes, he flew straight; sometimes, he dived sharply; and sometimes, he huddled up. And finally, Blackie did elude the four God-killing Arrows.

There was a puzzled look in Huang Yanchen’s beautiful eyes. With both of her hands tightly holding onto Blackie’s long hair, she was very excited as she said, “This cat is not a normal savage beast. How about selling him to me, Zhang Ruochen?”

“No!”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and shook his head.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen had some unusual feelings and looked behind him. His relaxed mood became heavy once again. “Young Lord of Poisonous Spider has caught up!”

“What?”

Huang Yanchen looked behind and found that Young Lord of Poisonous Spider had grown a pair of light wings on his back and flew in the void space. Unexpectedly, his speed was even faster than Blackie’s.

“He used the medium-level Wings of Wind, which could break out a speed of 200 meters per second. Damn it! That must be the one that I had owned.” Huang Yanchen was very annoyed and gave a hard blow on Blackie’s back.

One medium-level Wings of Wind cost 5,000 merit points, which were worth more than 5,000,000 silver coins.

Even Huang Yanchen exchanged for only one Wings of Wind.

When she was locked up in the Poisonous Spider Club, her Wings of Wind was taken away.

Zhang Ruochen frowned slightly and said, “You had a medium-level Wings of Wind and you were still caught by the Poisonous Spider Club?”

“Those Evil Warriors are very insidious and used a Combined Attack to catch me. I could not escape from their array even with the help of the medium-level Wings of Wind,” Huang Yanchen answered.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider got closer, within a hundred feet, and said with a proud smile, “You can’t run away. You will soon be captured.”

“Waaa!”

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider flung his arm and a machete flew out, chopping toward Blackie flying ahead.

Instantly, Zhang Ruochen stood up on Blackie’s back and swung his sword. That machete was chopped apart and flew away.

“I have to try my utmost today!”

With one hand grasping the hilt, Zhang Ruochen used the other hand to hold the sword body, as a flame-shaped mark appeared between his brows. In his Qi Sea, the glaring lights emitted from the Heart of the Sword linked up with the Abyss Ancient Sword.

Under the control of the Heart of the Sword, the Abyss Ancient Sword was suspended directly in midair.

Huang Yanchen, who was sitting on Blackie’s back, and Young Lord of Poisonous Spider chasing behind were astounded by what they saw.

“Heart Integrated into Sword!” Young Lord of Poisonous Spider exclaimed.

In the legends, only a Half-Saint could perform the Heart Integrated into Sword. That was why Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was so amazed.

“Chop!”

With a slight flick of his fingers, the Abyss Ancient Sword flew out and turned into a white flash, chopping toward Young Lord of Poisonous Spider.

Young Lord of Poisonous Spider withdrew his machete and resisted his attack.

Fending off the Abyss Ancient Sword, Zhang Ruochen held his index finger and middle finger together and formed a sword skill. He removed his Abyss Ancient Sword again and chopped toward Hua Qingshan flying from another direction.

“Bang! Bang!”

In just a second, Zhang Ruochen chopped with his sword 10 times in a row, forcing Young Lord of Poisonous Spider to be greatly flustered.

“Although my speed can reach 200 meters per second with the Wings of Wind, my capabilities would become very weak. Since Zhang Ruochen has arrived at the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword and can use his sword to kill any enemy, continuing to battle is not a good thing for me.”

If they were on the ground, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider had enough confidence to defeat Zhang Ruochen.

Even if he were to use the Heart Integrated into Sword, it could not stop him.

But when flying in the air, Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was at a disadvantage and could hardly win because Zhang Ruochen had grasped the Heart Integrated into Sword.

Although Young Lord of Poisonous Spider was unwilling to give up, he stopped and suspended himself in midair, scowling at that black cat flying further and further away.

“He’s not catching up.” Zhang Ruochen gave a long sigh of relief and withdrew his Abyss Ancient Sword.

Sitting cross-legged on Blackie’s back, Zhang Ruochen gripped two Spiritual Crystals and began to restore his Genuine Qi.

After all, continuous fighting did consume much Genuine Qi and Zhang Ruochen could not keep fighting at all.

Just now, Zhang Ruochen was on the verge of the exhaustion of Genuine Qi. Even if he were to force himself to pretend, Hua Qingshan would discover it if he chased him for even a moment.

But for the great power of the Heart Integrated into Sword, which had frightened away Hua Qingshan, they could not have escaped. Hua Qingshan had never seen such a Sword Defending Technique before.

Huang Yanchen looked at Zhang Ruochen and bit her lips slightly. She stopped her question upon seeing that Zhang Ruochen was practicing.

She also consumed a great amount of Genuine Qi and started operating exercises to restore her Genuine Qi.

After an hour, Zhang Ruochen recovered 30% of the Genuine Qi in his body. He opened his eyes, looking quite dignified.

“Hua Qingshan is so strong and hard to deal with, and the situation in Yunwu City is so disruptive. I’m afraid that it’s hard to survive without powerful cultivation.



“Hua Qingshan is a Three-realm Fighting Genius, whose cultivation has reached the Final State of the Earth Realm. I must break into the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm as early as possible so I can contend with him more confidently. But how can I reach the desired level at the fastest speed?”

Zhang Ruochen was deeply thinking about this while practicing.

Suddenly, an idea came into his mind. He thought of one ancient secret spell, the False God Body.

Zhang Ruochen’s eyes lit up. “The next month is the Ceremony of Worship. Maybe I can use that secret spell to despoil the Sacrifice Power. Then, I can break into the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm more easily. Maybe I can even reach the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.”

A warrior who practiced that secret spell could condense the False God Body with his own Martial Soul.

At the time of sacrifice, the warrior could release his False God Body and capture the Sacrifice Power.

Of course, that ancient secret spell was quite difficult to practice and required the aid of one kind of special Spiritual Dose.

If that Spiritual Dose could be found, Zhang Ruochen still had the chance to accomplish the False God Body in a short time.

### **Chapter 216: Duanmu’s Tricks**

For the next two days, there were no more dangerous situations. Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen reached Yunwu City safely.

Before entering the city, Zhang Ruochen separated from Huang Yanchen rather than going with her.

Many people knew that Huang Yanchen had been rescued by a young man in a mask. If they entered the city together, his identity would be exposed.

After entering the city, Zhang Ruochen didn’t go back to the palace right away. Instead, he hung out in the city to check out the situation.

If he came back to Yunwu City with Huang Yanchen on the same day, he would be suspected. Such being the case, he had to stay another two days in Yunwu City with the identity of Chen Ruo.

In two days, he could resume his identity as Zhang Ruochen.

Wearing a metal mask, Zhang Ruochen ordered a superior room in the hotel near the Martial Market.

He opened the windows and looked down at the street below. On the bustling and rustling street, half of the pedestrians were warriors, either bringing soldiers with them or riding on huge savage beasts.

Previously, it had been nearly impossible to see Martial Arts masters on the streets of Yunwu City. But this time when he came back, he could see masters of the Earth Realm pass by at intervals.

“Yunwu City is no doubt a place where masters are gathering now.”

“Maybe I can find God Habitat Grass in the Martial Market.”

God Habitat Grass was a kind of spiritual dose that was rarely seen. It could help Zhang Ruochen with his practice of the Body of the False God.

Zhang Ruochen was not sure whether he could find it in Yunwu City or not. He could only try.

If he couldn't find it, it would be understandable. If that was the case, he would give up his practice of the Body of the False God. There would be other ways to improve his martial cultivation.

Since the Martial Market Bank had been destroyed by the Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect, great changes at the Martial Market had taken place.

At least half of the industries in the Martial Market had belonged to the Martial Market Bank before.

But now, the owner of the Martial Market had been replaced. It still remained the most prosperous place in Yunwu City. Enveloped by flourishment it controlled the city's economic lifeline.

Walking along one of the streets in the Pill Market, Zhang Ruochen was clapped on the shoulder by a delicate hand. A wind of fragrance blew behind him. The charming and pleasing sound of laughter was heard, "How are you, my junior fellow apprentice?"

Zhang Ruochen was not that surprised. He turned to Duanmu Xingling and said, "Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, how did you recognize me?"

With a lovely smile, she glanced at Blackie not far from them.

Then she pretended to complain. She jabbed a slim finger heavily into Zhang Ruochen's chest. She said, "You didn't come to greet me when you came back to Yunwu City. Without Blackie, I wouldn't have even known you were back!"

Looking around, Zhang Ruochen laughed and whispered to her, "I'm now Chen Ruo, the secret disciple of the Hall Master of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall. Don't tell others, senior sister apprentice!"

"It was you who killed Iron Hunchback, the Hall Owner of Black Tiger Hall, broke into the Earth Blaze City, and rescued senior sister apprentice Yanchen?" Duanmu Xingling asked blinking her eyes with an excited expression.

Zhang Ruochen was slightly astonished, "You already knew?"

"Of course!"

She licked her red lips lightly and showed an enchanting expression, "These days, the news has spread through almost the entire martial arts circle of Yunwu City. It's said that you killed Iron Hunchback in just one strike, suppressed the Black Tiger Hall, went back and forth on your own seven times to the Earth Blaze City, killed eight hundred Evil Warriors and rescued Commandery Princess Yanchen in the end."

"Now almost everyone knows that there's a top genius in the School of the Martial Market. Some of the legends about you are hard to imagine, even for me."

Speechless, Zhang Ruochen asked, "Are there any other legends about me?"

Duanmu Xingling cupped her chin in her hand and said with a smile, "It's said that you have the two physical qualities of ice and fire and also the ability of two visions of heaven and earth, 'A Hundred to

Snow' and 'A Hundred to Fire'. Moreover, you're said to have reached Heart Integrated into Sword and able to fly swords like a young Sword Fairy. You're unbeatable now."

Zhang Ruochen laughed and said, "That's exaggerating!"

"I feel it's exaggerated as well!" She raised her black and delicate eyebrows and observed him carefully, as if checking him from head to toe.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Senior sister apprentice Duanmu...why are you staring at me like this?"

"I thought the legends about you were false before I saw you. But now I'm just thinking that the legends may be true." Duanmu Xingling pouted with a curious expression in her eyes.

"Some are true, some false. You'll figure it out some day." He found it funny but annoying.

She nodded her head and rolled her eyes, "Now that you've rescued senior sister apprentice Yanchen successfully, you must have touched her cold heart. She must have a crush on you. Why are you alone now? Where is she?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "I cannot expose my identity. So we separated from each other before stepping into the city gate."

"Then you're in a terrible situation now!" Duanmu Xingling sighed and shook her head, staring at him with sympathy.

"Why?"

She replied, "Because now you have a rival in love."

"A rival in love?" Zhang Ruochen was speechless. Then he burst into laughter, "I don't know. Since when do I have such a rival in love?"

Duanmu Xingling said, "You are your own rival in love."

He didn't know what to say.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen still looked puzzled, Duanmu Xingling continued, "All the warriors in Yunwu City understand that Chen Ruo, the top genius of the School of the Martial Market, rescued Commandery Princess Yanchen from the Earth Blaze City by a hair's breath. Stories like this are always told widely and pleasantly. People noted that when Commandery Princess Yanchen was in danger, the Ninth Prince disappeared, while Chen Ruo went to rescue her. Genuine stories between heroes and beauties should be like this."

"So this is what you mean by a rival in love." Zhang Ruochen shook his head with a smile, "Let it be. I don't care."

Duanmu Xingling said, "You don't care, but the Yunwu Commandery Prince cares, and your mom, Concubine Lin. What's more, the dignity of Qianshui Commandery. Won't the Qianshui Commandery Prince care?"

"Even if they know the truth, others don't. When Commandery Princess Yanchen is mentioned, people will think of the genius, Chen Ruo, not the Ninth Prince, Zhang Ruochen. They'll say that Commandery

Princess Yanchen and Chen Ruo were born to be together, and only the two could be called a hero and a beauty. What will people say about you if you appear as Zhang Ruochen?”

Zhang Ruochen became more and more serious. It seemed that he had thought things to be too simple.

He could thoroughly ignore the warriors gossip. His mom, however, could not. The Commandery Prince, and the Yunwu and Qianshui Commandery Princes could not ignore it either. The comments would harm their dignity.

Seeing that he was lost in thought, Duanmu Xingling laughed and said to him, “If you don’t have a solution, I can give you a hand.”

Zhang Ruochen raised his head with happiness and stared at her. He happened to look at her big bright eyes, “Do you have a solution, senior sister apprentice Duanmu?”

“Of course.”

Standing straight with full breasts, Duanmu Xingling smiled in satisfaction, “If the genius Chen Ruo had a beautiful and lovely girlfriend already, people wouldn’t think too much. They’d only feel that he rescued the Commandery Princess Yanchen because they are from the same campus. And if his girlfriend is a good friend of the Commandery Princess, things will be even easier to handle.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly and asked, “You mean you’re the so-called ‘beautiful and lovely girlfriend’? Is that okay?...It could have a bad influence on your dignity.”

Duanmu Xingling sighed and said, “You’re my best male friend. Sister Yanchen is my best female friend. If I don’t help you, who will?”

“Ah! And if you really think you owe me, I’ll be glad to accept some Spatial Rings, my junior fellow apprentice. After all, once our love story is told to all, the young geniuses who are pursuing me will certainly give up.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “I understand your good will. How about this? The Spatial Rings will be of no use to you at all, but serendipity will. I’ll send it to you.”

“What serendipity?” Duanmu Xingling asked with curiosity.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “You’ll understand it in a year. At most two years.”

What Zhang Ruochen was talking about was naturally the Dragon Palace under Tongming River. He could bring Duanmu Xingling with him then.

“So I have to forget it!” She crossed her hands in front of her chest, with a seemingly angry look.

Zhang Ruochen knew that she was not really angry and said to her, “If there’s nothing else, I’ll go buy a spiritual dose. Farewell, senior sister apprentice Duanmu.”

Duanmu Xingling said excitedly, “You’re going to buy a spiritual dose? What a coincidence! I know a shopkeeper who sells spiritual doses. His grocery is at the crossroad not far from here. Since we’re acquaintances, he’ll give you a fifty-percent discount.”

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment and said, “Alright! Let’s go.”

A bright light flashed in Duanmu Xingling's eyes. She stretched out her snow-white hands and hooked Zhang Ruochen's arms. Her slim and soft figure swung against him in an intimate manner.

A pale fragrance from her body wafted into Zhang Ruochen's nose.

He was astonished. He stopped his movement immediately, "What are you doing, senior sister apprentice Duanmu?"

"Now that I'm your girlfriend, I must pretend to be close to you. It'll be better if everyone knows our relationship." Duanmu Xingling said lovingly in a soft voice. It seemed that her voice could soften anyone's heart.

Zhang Ruochen said with a forced smile, "But we don't have to act deliberately like this."

"If we don't act deliberately, how can the warriors following you figure out our relationship?" she asked.

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen knew that from the moment he had entered into Yunwu City, more than one group of people had been following him secretly. Even at this moment, many were still hiding about and observing his actions.

It was predictable that the intimate way Duanmu Xingling acted would soon be news for all parties.

## **Chapter 217: God Habitat Grass**

Following Duanmu Xingling, Zhang Ruochen arrived at the gate of Qingxuan Pavilion.

Raising his head and looking upward, Zhang Ruochen was astonished. He smiled and asked, "You know the shopkeeper here, senior sister apprentice Duanmu?"

"Of course...You know him as well?" Duanmu Xingling was a bit surprised. She opened her eyes wide and round, with astonishment.

Zhang Ruochen naturally felt the change in her facial expression and made a detailed inquiry, "Are you surprised?"

"No!" She shook her head and said, "The real host of Qingxuan Pavilion is my aunt. I'm just curious, if you know the shopkeeper here, how come my aunt has never mentioned you before?"

"Your aunt is the charming host" Thinking of the gorgeous host, he looked at Duanmu Xingling again and felt even more incredible.

She forced a smile to hide her anxiety. She said, "You already know my aunt. That's good!"

Mo Hanlin, the shopkeeper of Qingxuan Pavilion, saw Duanmu Xingling and a young man in a metal mask come in. He was a little surprised by the intimate interaction between them but adjusted his composure quickly. He cupped his hands and bowed to them, "I sincerely greet you, Ms. Duanmu."

"Thank you, Mo." Duanmu Xingling smiled.

Mo Hanlin looked at Zhang Ruochen and asked puzzledly, "Who is he, Ms. Duanmu?"

Duanmu Xingling answered, "Chen Ruo, the secret disciple of the Hall Master of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall in the School of the Martial Market. He has become a celebrity in all commanderies. And also, he is my boyfriend."

Even though Mo Hanlin was well-cultivated, he was largely surprised hearing these words. With his heart almost jumping out, he groaned inwardly, "*What is she doing, my young child?*"

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Mo Hanlin. He felt like at least six pairs of eyes were staring at him.

It was quite unusual for them to all stare at him with vigilance, sharpness and hostility.

*"Things are not that simple in Qing Xuan Pavilion. There may hide secrets."* Zhang Ruochen thought in his mind. But he didn't ask instantly. Instead, he wore a calm expression.

Duanmu Xingling glanced at Zhang Ruochen, and said in a shy voice, "Feel free to tell Mo if you want to buy any spiritual doses. If you cannot find it here, you won't find it anywhere."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Have you ever heard of God Habitat Grass?"

Mo Hanlin frowned and shook his head, "I have run Qingxuan Pavilion for decades and seen over a thousand types of medicines and pills. I've also read many medicinal books. But I've never heard of God Habitat Grass. I'm sorry to disappoint you, Mr. Chen."

Zhang Ruochen had already prepared for this mentally. He hadn't brought much hope. So he nodded his head slightly and smiled, "I was just curious. Since there is no God Habitat Grass, let's go!"

Duanmu Xingling was quite clear that it must be something important for Zhang Ruochen to come here to buy the God Habitat Grass. It was nonsense to "just be curious".

Zhang Ruochen was sent out of Qingxuan Pavilion. Duanmu Xingling asked him, "Why are you looking for the God Habitat Grass?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "Just a kind of dispensable medicine. It doesn't matter if I cannot find it."

"Then what are you going to do? The situation in Yunwu City is quite complicated now. All parties have come here. Even though all the troops of Yunwu Commandery have been sent out, I'm afraid the situation cannot be stabilized. Moreover, you're a hit on the Board of Bounty Hunter. Many people want to kill you now. Once you pick up your identity as Zhang Ruochen, it will be dangerous even if you stay in the palace." Duanmu Xingling said.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "That's why I'm going to find the God Habitat Grass and break through my realm. Only in this way can I protect myself. You should watch out as well, senior sister. You are a disciple of the School of the Martial Market. Evil Warriors from the Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect will deal with you as well."

Duanmu Xingling said, "I live in my aunt's home. Ordinary Evil Warriors could never break in. So I'm safe. Do you want to live in my aunt's home as well?"

"Well...forget it! I'm now Chen Ruo, not Zhang Ruochen on the Board of Bounty Hunter. Not many enemies want to kill me now." Thinking of the fascinating host, Zhang Ruochen felt a bit uncomfortable.

If he lived in the host's home, wouldn't he have to take precautions against her?

Duanmu Xingling saw the expression on Zhang Ruochen's face. She guessed some of his thoughts and stopped embarrassing him. She said, "If you come into dangerous conditions, you can always come to my aunts for help. You know that my aunt is also a figure in Yunwu City."

Zhang Ruochen nodded with smile. Looking at the horizontal inscribed board hung on Qingxuan Pavilion one last time, he immersed himself in thought and then left the Martial Market.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen had walked away from the Martial Market, Duanmu Xingling left Qingxuan Pavilion as well. She hurried to Qin Ya's mansion.

"When did you meet Zhang Ruochen? Why did you never mention him before?" Duanmu Xingling sat in front of Qin Ya, with an expression of anger.

Qin Ya gave a charming smile, her eyes as bright as clear water. She said, "Is he the Ninth Prince? Two years ago, I met him several times and was quite impressed by him. It is widely acknowledged that in Yunwu Commandery, the Seventh Prince, Zhang Tiangui, was the first genius. Nobody could beat him. But from my perspective, the talent of the Ninth Prince, Zhang Ruochen, is comparable to that of Zhang Tiangui. Why do you mention him so abruptly?"

"I've just met him!" Duanmu Xingling replied.

Hearing these words, Qin Ya stopped serving tea for Duanmu Xingling and said, "It was reported that you went to Qingxuan Pavilion with Chen Ruo and called yourself his girlfriend. Is Chen Ruo actually Zhang Ruochen?"

Duanmu Xingling didn't lie but nodded her head.

Qin Ya became serious and said, "As your aunt, I must remind you, Xingling, that every three years an outstanding girl in Kunlun's Field will be chosen by the Sect to be cultivated into the Saintness. This girl will not only obtain great power and rights, but also rich resources to practice. But there are also restraints for the Saintness."

"Once you become the Saintness, you can only marry the Saint and serve him for your whole lifetime. This is your destiny."

"You can play tricks as you did just now, because your mission at present is to spy in the School of the Martial Market. Few people know your identity. And here in the thirty-six commanderies of the Omen Ridge, the disciples are all my followers. They dare not spread your real identity."

"But if you make the situation troublesome in the future, the Dark Messengers will report it to the Altar. Then you and Zhang Ruochen will both be in great danger."

Putting her head in her hands, Duanmu Xingling said, "As the Saintness, I must marry the hundred-year-old man? Then can I give up being the Saintness?"

Qin Ya shook her head and said, "Once you're chosen to be the Saintness, you cannot choose your destiny on your own. Although every three years there is a Saintness chosen by the Sect, once she gets married, she won't be the Saintness anymore. That's why there are only twelve Saintnesses in the entire

Sect. Each Saintness is in a very important position in the Sect, as they represent the younger generation of the Sect. Even the Chiefs of the commanderies should obey her order.”

“If you want to control your own destiny, you must learn from the superior Saintness, Ling Feiyu, who practiced to the realm of Saint by herself.”

“If you are more advantageous than the Saints, the Sect Master naturally won’t force you to marry them.”

Duanmu Xingling’s eyes sparked and she asked, “Really?”

Qin Ya answered, “It’s too early to celebrate. If you are not gifted enough, you will have to marry the Saint before you practice to the realm of the Saint. The Moon Worship Demonic Sect has been established for so many years, how many of the Saintnesses do you know that can choose their own destinies?”

Duanmu Xingling promised Qin Ya, “Don’t worry. I will try my best to practice. Although the chance is slim, I’ll strive to become a Saint.”

Qin Ya nodded her head and smiled with her eyes squinting, “You come to me only to talk about this?”

“Indeed, there is one more thing.”

Duanmu Xingling asked, “Have you ever heard of God Habitat Grass?”

“God Habitat Grass!”

Qin Ya stood up suddenly. She thought for a while and asked, “Why do you ask about it?”

“You have heard about it!” Duanmu Xingling couldn’t help but become cheerful, with excitement showing on her delicate face.

Qin Ya nodded her head and said, “In the Eastern Region, there is a superior-level heritage of the middle age, the God Habitat Valley. In Kunlun’s Field, only in the God Habitat valley can one find the God Habitat Grass.”

“It is said that the God Habitat Grass is a kind of fatal poisonous grass. The poison extracted from God Habitat Grass can even poison a Half-Saint to death.”

“Xingling, tell me the truth. Why are you looking for God Habitat Grass?”

Duanmu Xingling was much delighted and said, “Stop asking me! I just want to know whether I can get the God Habitat Grass by using the power of the Sect.”

“Sure,” Qin Ya answered.

Duanmu Xingling asked, “How soon can it be sent to Yunwu Commandery?”

Qin Ya frowned slightly. She wrinkled her eyebrows and said, “If you dispatch someone to pick God Habitat Grass in the God Habitat Valley, it will take at least two months to fetch the Grass. But on the other hand, it is also a kind of fatal poison used to deal with the warriors of Martial Arts. Yunwu



Commandery is an inferior commandery where God Habitat Grass cannot be found. However, Qianshui Commandery is a superior commandery that may have some stored.”

“You just need to make a secret order to the Chief of Qianshui Commandery using your identity as a Saintness. People there will naturally look for the God Habitat Grass at the fastest speed. Qianshui Commandery is near Yunwu Commandery. If they are fast enough, there will be a reply within three days.”

“I will go to make the order.” Duanmu Xingling moved her body quickly. She turned into a shadow, flew over the pavilion and the surface of water, leaving only her lovely laughter in the air.

“Things are not going well.” Qin Ya stood up with a charming figure. She stared at the way in which Duanmu Xingling left with a worried look.

### **Chapter 218: Brothers Met**

Once back at the inn, Zhang Ruochen entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel to begin his practice.

Even if he wanted to stay in the Yunwu City as Chen Ruo for a few days, he still had to use the time wisely. Those few days could not be wasted.

*“Since I can’t find the Godhabitat Grass, I can only refine the Three Leaf Holy Clover. I must grab the chance to raise my cultivation to the level of Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm as fast as possible.”*

Three Leaf Holy Clovers could only live in a place where Half-Saint fell. It could improve a warrior’s physical quality and cultivation for it absorbed Half-Saint’s power all year round.

Now, Zhang Ruochen had 53 pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover left. As long as he managed to refine them all, there might still be hope for him to reach the level of Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm within a short period of time.

According to Zhang Ruochen’s calculation, at least four months would be needed if he wanted to do so and turned those into his own power.

For other warriors in the Earth Realm, breaking through a realm within four months was considered to be very fast. But, it was still too slow for Zhang Ruochen right now.

*“Even if I were to borrow the power of Time and Space Spinel, the four months will only be shortened to one and half month.”*

Zhang Ruochen knew very well about his current situation. One and a half month was not a long time, but not a short time either. The situation was constantly changing. Who knew what would happen next?

There was no other way. He could only work hard to improve his martial cultivation as much as possible.

Zhang Ruochen separated three pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover from the rest and put them in another jade casket. He planned to bring it back to the palace and give them to Ninth Commandery Princess.

The efficacy of Three Leaf Holy Clover was not so obvious right now for Zhang Ruochen. But Ninth Commandery Princess's cultivation was in the Black Realm, even a single piece of Three Leaf Holy Clover was priceless for her. It could refine her Body of Martial Arts and expand her Qi Lake.

Zhang Ruochen refined four pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover in six days within the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel. His martial cultivation did not improve significantly, but it was stronger and purer than before.

"Only 53 pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover can help me to break through my Realm. When my cultivation reaches the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm, I'm afraid the Three Leaf Holy Clover will be of no use to me at all."

Martial Arts Practice was something that should be done step by step while advancing gradually.

But Zhang Ruochen took another way, and that was to use the most expensive practice resource to level up his cultivation as fast as possible.

In the meantime, he was also using the Pill and Saint Power to refine his physical quality, strengthen his body and expand his Qi sea. It could be said that Zhang Ruochen had invested heavily in terms of improving his physical quality.

It was not advisable for others to use this method at all.

First, the consumption of practice resources was a large sum.

For instance, the 53 pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover were worthy of 15 million silver coins, but Zhang Ruochen only used them to reach the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm.

Even Huang Yanchen with a strong family background could not afford to consume resources in this way.

Second, Zhang Ruochen had practiced the Martial Soul. Not only did he have powerful Spiritual Power, his understanding of Martial Arts had also reached the level of Completion of Heaven Realm. So, he could refine practice resource with no hesitation to break through the Realm as fast as possible.

This was Zhang Ruochen's greatest advantage.

Other warriors would have possessed by the Devil if they practiced like this.

Practicing Martial Arts was like pouring water into the wooden barrel. Other warriors not only had to fill the barrel with water but also add wood board constantly so that the barrel would become taller and hold more water.

But, Zhang Ruochen had already gotten a wooden barrel, except that the water inside had been poured out by others. So, even if he needed to start all over again, he would only need to fill the barrel with water. He did not have to worry about the barrel's volume.

In other words, before Zhang Ruochen reached the Completion of Heaven Realm, his practice would go well without any hindrance.

*"I should go back to the palace!"*

Zhang Ruochen took off his metal mask and put on a robe specially made for the internal students of the School of the Martial Market. He hired a carriage and went straight to the palace.

“The Ninth Prince has returned!”

“The Ninth Prince has returned!”

...

The news of Zhang Ruochen’s return soon spread throughout the palace.

Zhang Ruochen first went to the Jade Palace to pay a formal visit to Concubine Lin.

The maidservants’ eyes were all glowing with awe and admiration when they saw Zhang Ruochen. They immediately knelt down and saluted to him with great respect.

When a mother and a son met, they always inquired after each other’s well-being. Concubine Lin held Zhang Ruochen’s hands and did not let go for a long time. She cried and said, “Chen-er... It’s good to come back. It’s good to come back.”

“I should have taken more time off to come back and visit you.” Looking at Concubine Lin, Zhang Ruochen finally felt the warmth of family deep within his heart.

Zhang Ruochen showed extraordinary talent in the School of the Martial Market. He was also engaged to Commandery Princess Yanchen of the Qianshui Commandery. Concubine Lin, too, had gradually risen to a higher status in the palace. She could receive some valuable medicines that were only used by warriors to refine their bodies every month.

Over the past year, Concubine Lin’s complexion had gotten a lot better. It looked like she was ten years younger.

“It’s a pity that you haven’t opened the Sacred Mark, otherwise, I could give you some practice resources,” Zhang Ruochen said.

Concubine Lin gently touched Zhang Ruochen’s head and grinned. She said, “Practice resource is expensive. Just keep it for yourself. As long as you can become a Martial Arts master, I’m happy.”

A sweet voice echoed from the outside, “Brother, since you are back in the palace, why don’t you come and... Concubine Lin, you are here too...”

Ninth Commandery Princess Zhang Yuxi hastily barged into the room. Upon seeing Concubine Lin, she was somewhat stunned at first but a grin soon broke out on her face. Then she became docile and saluted to Concubine Lin respectfully.

Zhang Ruochen gently patted Concubine Lin’s hands and said, “Mother, I have something to talk with ninth sister, I will come back later and have dinner with you.”

Concubine Lin nodded with a smile and said, “Go ahead!”

Zhang Ruochen pulled Ninth Commandery Princess along and walked out of the Jade Palace. He smiled faintly, “Sister, how is your practice of Tianhe Scripture going? Do you have anything that you don’t understand?”

Tianhe Scripture was handed down from Zhang Ruochen to Ninth Commandery Princess. As one of the exercises of the inferior class at the ghost level, it definitely belonged to the top exercise of attacking in 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge.

Ninth Commandery Princess lifted her chin and said proudly, "I have reached the second level, the advanced Stage of the Black Realm. Half a year later, when the School of the Martial Market starts their enrollment, I will enroll as a student. In due time, we will both be the students of the School of the Martial Market. So I will have to address you as an elder brother. Hehe!"

"Only reaching the Advanced Stage in the Black Realm..."

Zhang Ruochen frowned slightly and said, "Lin Ningshan has reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm, which is one realm higher than you. You are certainly no match for her in the Year-end Assessment."

"How can that be compared? Lin Ningshan has enrolled in Martial Arts sacred place, Yuntai Suzerain. It is only natural for her martial cultivation to advance by leaps and bounds." Ninth Commandery Princess grimaced, looking slightly displeased.

Zhang Ruochen said, "But what you are practicing is the exercise of the inferior class at the ghost level. It is much better than hers. Tell me, what exactly is going on?"

In response, Ninth Commandery Princess stuck her tongue out and said, "Is this how you talk to your sister? Well, alright, I'll tell the truth. Actually, I wanted to be the top one on the Yellow Board, so, I stayed in the Yellow Realm for more than half a year."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Have you made it to the top?"

"Of course, I opened 22 Meridians. If I didn't, that would be so humiliating!" Ninth Commandery Princess replied with a smile.

Even the Seventh Prince Zhang Tiangui who was known as the first genius of 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge had only opened 23 meridians. She only had one meridian less than Zhang Tiangui which she was naturally very proud of.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "The Seventh Prince and your exercises both belong to inferior class at the ghost level. The Seventh Prince's Six Mysterious Martial Arts is not as good as the Jade River Heavenly Script, but you have one meridian less than him. There is nothing to be proud of."

Furious, Ninth Commandery Princess put her hands on her hips, eyes widened into a glare and said, "Seventh Brother is the top genius in 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, how could I compare with him? Even if I have the same number of the Meridians, it is still impossible for me to be his opponent."

It was true that Zhang Tiangui's talent was indeed much better than Ninth Commandery Princess and Zhang Ruochen. But being born in Yunwu Commandery meant he could not get the top exercises, so he had only made it this far.

Zhang Ruochen really could not get angry at Ninth Commandery Princess when he saw her expression. He said, "Remember, in the future, try your best to compete for a spot on the Board. If you can't, then give it up. There is no need to delay your cultivation practice for this." "Staying in the Yellow Realm for a

little while longer will do you no harm. I won't blame you anymore. You shouldn't be so capricious in the future."

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen took out a jade casket, passed it to Ninth Commandery Princess, and said, "There are a total of three pieces of Three Leaf Holy Clover in it. If you can refine them all, I promise your physical quality will be improved significantly. Although it still can't compare with the Seventh Prince and my cultivation at the same period, it can at least reach the level two or even level two and a half."

"What level two? Two and a half?" Ninth Commandery Princess said.

Zhang Ruochen said, "When you enter the School of the Martial Market, you will certainly understand."

The sound of footsteps could be heard from afar. Having sensed that, Zhang Ruochen immediately turned to look at the garden gate.

A handsome, high-spirited man dressed in a golden robe in his 20s walked through the gate. He had thick eyebrows and sharp facial features. He walked at a steady pace, emanating the aura of a noble person.

Walking beside him was a graceful woman. She looked like she was in her 20s too. She was slim and had snow-white skin with long black hair. Her smile was like a spring breeze. She should be easy to spot in a crowd, as she would stand head and shoulders above the others.

The two of them were walking in the garden with a large crowd following behind. Among which were the Third Prince, the Fifth Prince, the Sixth Prince, Lin Chenyu, Lin Ningshan whom Zhang Ruochen knew, and there were also some warriors that he did not know.

They went along all the way, laughing and talking casually or discussing politics. There were also some flatteries in between.

"Your Highness, you are indeed insightful. Those evil scoundrels from the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect will soon be wiped out by the School of the Martial Market and the Yuntai Suzerain."

"Since you are back, no one will dare to behave atrociously in Yunwu City."

...

The handsome man in golden robe suddenly stopped walking and looked at Zhang Ruochen and Ninth Commandery Princess, who stood in the middle of the garden. At first glance, it was almost like two young lovers in a private meeting.

Ninth Commandery Princess obviously feared the man in the golden robe. She went up at once, saluted to him and said, "Brother, Xuyi is here."

"So he is the Seventh Prince, Zhang Tianguai." Zhang Ruochen narrowed his eyes and shot a look at the man in the golden robe.

Today, it was the first time that Zhang Ruochen met the long-rumored Seventh Prince.

## Chapter 219: Aggressive

The beautiful woman standing next to Zhang Tiangui took a glance at Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess, and said with a smile, "It turns out to be two lovers meeting in the garden. Looks like we came without warning and interrupted them."

The Sixth Prince let out a cold snort, bowed to that beautiful woman, and said, "Miss Han Qiu, they are not lovers, but brother and sister, the Ninth Commandery Princess and the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery."

Han Qiu, the daughter of the Master of Yuntai Suzerain, was also one of the ten beauties in Omen Ridge. Not only did she have a pretty face, she also had a great talent.

This time, Han Qiu only came to visit the palace because of Zhang Tiangui's personal invitation.

In Yuntai Suzerain, Zhang Tiangui and Han Qiu were known as the golden couple. Many thought they would definitely be together in the future, and become the next pillar of Yuntai Suzerain.

"The Ninth Prince." A look of surprise could be seen in Han Qiu's beautiful eyes. She peered at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Is he that genius, the Ninth Prince?"

"Miss Han Qiu, yes, he is." The Sixth Prince bowed to Han Qiu with his face almost touching the ground. With a hint of flattery, he said, "Although the ninth brother is a genius, but compared with Miss Han Qiu and the seventh brother, there is still a large gap."

As a prince, he saluted to others like a servant.

Seeing the way the Sixth Prince acted, the Ninth Commandery Princess felt very disgusted.

Han Qiu smiled and said, "It is said that the Ninth Prince is the top one in Western Campus of the School of the Martial Market. He still stands out amongst others though he could not compare to the eldest brother. Yunwu Commandery has two talented princes at the same time, it's easy to imagine its rise in the future."

In Han Qiu's eyes, Zhang Tiangui deserved to be the top one in 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge. Even if Zhang Ruochen's performance was outstanding, he could not beat Zhang Tiangui.

This was the first time Zhang Tiangui met Zhang Ruochen and he was a bit surprised too.

He had actually met this ninth brother for a few times, but none left a deep impression on him. He only remembered that he looked ill all the time, and always trailed behind Lin Ningshan as he really liked her.

He never thought that just after a few years, the once sickly ninth brother had grown up. He was handsome, full of spirit and had an unparalleled charisma. There were no signs of illness anymore.

"Zhang Ruochen, since you have met the Seventh Brother and Miss Han Qiu, shouldn't you come and salute to them? Do you really think that you have great cultivation, then you can look down on elders?" the Third Prince scolded harshly.

He was defeated in the hands of Zhang Ruochen and his heart was full of resentment. But he could not do anything to Zhang Ruochen. So, he could only suppress Zhang Ruochen's arrogance with the help from Zhang Tiangui and Han Qiu indirectly.

Zhang Ruochen walked over, cupped his hand and said, "Brother, Miss Han Qiu, if there is nothing else, I'm leaving!"

Zhang Ruochen had no good feelings about Zhang Tiangui.

Knowing well that his ninth brother liked Lin Ningshan, he agreed to the engagement with Lin Ningshan and was ready to receive her as his concubine. Zhang Ruochen was not willing to make friends with such person. Calling him Brother was already a great respect for him.

Moreover, Lin Chenyu went to the black market to hire a killer to assassinate Zhang Ruochen. Zhang Ruochen suspected that Zhang Tiangui was behind this assassination. After all, Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu had no direct conflict of interest. There was simply no need for Lin Chenyu to spend so much money killing him.

"Ninth brother, why are you hurrying to leave? We are blood brothers and haven't met for years. You are leaving right after we meet, how disappointing is that?" Zhang Tiangui smiled, shot a glance at Lin Ningshan who was standing behind and said, "Ningshan, you should talk to the ninth brother. I remember he listened to you well when he was young."

Lin Ningshan gently tapped her lips, looked at Zhang Tiangui with slight awe and sighed inwardly. She walked out and said, "Cousin, all the princes and Young Geniuses in Yuntai Suzerain gather here talking about how to deal with the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. You are a student of the School of the Martial Market, and also the eldest brother in the Western Campus. Don't you want to join the discussion?"

Zhang Ruochen had just broken through into the Earth Realm one month ago. The news had yet to be spread out. Everyone only thought that his cultivation was just at the stage of the Completion of the Black Realm and he was still an external student. Lin Ningshan could not have possibly known that Zhang Ruochen had already reached the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

Before Zhang Ruochen could reply, the Third Prince said with a smile, "Right, ninth brother, the heretics in the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect did all kinds of evil things and they should be eradicated as soon as possible." I heard that not long ago your fiancée, the Commandery Princess Yanchen had been captured by the Evil Warrior of the black market and was locked away in the Earth Blaze City. A top talent from the School of the Martial Market broke into the Earth Blaze City and rescued her. I wonder where they are now?"

The Sixth Prince said, "I'm curious too. The Commandery Princess Yanchen was caught and the entire Yunwu Commandery was agog with rumors. Everyone knew about it. Where were you hiding at that time?"

"What do you mean by where he was hiding? Sixth brother, your words are too mean." the Ninth Commandery Princess said angrily.

The Fifth Prince, too, stepped out and said, "Ninth Sister, you are wrong. It is true that Commandery Princess Yanchen is ninth brother's fiancée. But the genius Chen Ruo risked his life to break into Earth Blaze City and narrowly escaped death before he rescued Commandery Princess Yanchen. Seventh brother also rushed to the Earth Blaze City and wanted to help Ninth brother to rescue her when he heard the news."

"But ninth brother, where were you at that moment? I think you were too scared to break into the Earth Blaze City, so you hid away. A man like that is not even qualified to help carry Chen Ruo's shoes. I think it's better for him to break off the engagement with Commandery Princess sooner, so Chen Ruo and Commandery Princess Yanchen can be together. Don't waste Commandery Princess Yanchen's time."

The Fifth Prince's words were straightforward and too close to the bone. Obviously, he did not care about the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain who were also there.

It was conceivable that these remarks from today would soon spread out and become a joke material for the warriors in Yunwu City to mock Zhang Ruochen.

Knowing that this came from the Fifth Prince who was his blood brother, it was enough to make Zhang Ruochen lose all his standing and reputation.

The disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain stood at the back and jeered in a low voice. Strange gleams appeared in their eyes as they looked at Zhang Ruochen.

The Ninth Commandery Princess was furious. If Zhang Ruochen had not stopped her, she would have gone and beaten the Fifth Prince, the Third Prince, and the Sixth Prince up.

Zhang Tiangui's cultivation was so powerful that even the martial arts legends of the Heaven Realm were not his opponent. Zhang Ruochen did not want to involve the Ninth Commandery Princess in this mess so as not to harm her.

It was not easy for Zhang Tiangui to deal with Zhang Ruochen. But if he wanted to harm the Ninth Commandery Princess, he only needed to use some means, and the Ninth Commandery Princess would die quietly.

Zhang Ruochen stepped forward calmly and said, "Fifth brother, how did you know that I haven't been to the Earth Blaze City?"

The Fifth Prince curled his lip and said with a sneer, "Have you been to the Earth Blaze City? How come I know nothing about it?"

"Your cultivation is too low and you are not familiar with the Martial World, of course, it is only natural that you don't know a lot of things."

The Fifth Prince's expression suddenly flickered.

Zhang Ruochen said, "After I was back in the Yunwu City, I have met with elder brother Chen Ruo. He is with senior sister apprentice Duanmu now. As for the Commandery Princess Yanchen, she should have gone back to the Yunwu City too. Fifth brother, you are not qualified to judge our matters in the School of the Martial Market."



The Fifth Prince felt a little bit angry and said, "Ninth Brother, you can't talk to your brother like this. I admit that my cultivation is inferior to yours. But you are too arrogant! Do you really think that you are already invincible among the younger generation?"

The Fifth Prince obviously wanted to drag those disciples in Yuntai Suzerain into this and used them to suppress Zhang Ruochen.

After all, it was not easy to carry the title of invincible in the younger generation. Even Zhang Tiangui did not dare to boast himself like that, but The Fifth Prince deliberately put the name on Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen was not originally planning to argue about the things in the past. But he did not expect them to push things over the edge, even a mud man had a temper too. Besides, Zhang Ruochen was no mud man to be manipulated by others.

Moreover, the Fifth Prince's remark was a devastating criticism. Once it was out in the open, it would put Zhang Ruochen at a disadvantage.

"The Fifth Prince, if you talk nonsense again, I will not spare you easily." Zhang Ruochen's eyes gave off an icing air and were sharp like swords.

Meeting Zhang Ruochen's eyes, the Fifth Prince's eyes hurt as if they were stabbed by a needle. Everything went pitch black in his head and he almost fainted.

Zhang Tiangui put one of his hands on the shoulders of the Fifth Prince and infused a stream of Genuine Qi into his body. At the same time, he gave Zhang Ruochen a look of reproach and said, "Ninth brother, after all, Fifth brother is our elder brother, even if he offends you with his remarks, you shouldn't be so cruel to him. His cultivation is just at the Completion of the Yellow Realm. How can he withstand your power? If you really want to vent your anger, you can take it out on me. I will not fight back."

"Eldest brother, what are you saying? You are already wounded, let the junior fellow apprentice take this for you."

A disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain stepped out, stood in front of Zhang Ruochen and said with such great conviction, "The Ninth Prince, if you are really angry because of the things happened to Commandery Princess Yanchen, you can take it out on me, please don't make things difficult for the eldest brother."

Looking at those hypocrites, Ninth Commandery Princess's body was trembling with rage. If Zhang Ruochen did hurt him, what would they say?

They would definitely say that Zhang Ruochen was furious over the things between Commandery Princess Yanchen and Chen Ruo. Not only did he hurt his own elder brother, but also the disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain who came to stop the fight.

The Third Prince, the Fifth Prince, and the Sixth prince could surely do such act of twisting the truth.

"Ninth brother, don't stop me, let me teach them a lesson," Ninth Commandery Princess said.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head. He clearly knew that Zhang Tiangui did that on purpose to test him.

Obviously, Zhang Tiangui had started to doubt him, and even suspected that he really was Chen Ruo.

Even if Ninth Commandery Princess stepped in to stop Zhang Tiangui now, he would certainly find another chance to test him again.

If that was the case, there was no need to involve the Ninth Commandery Princess in this.

## **Chapter 220: Arranging the Duel**

Since they disregarded Zhang Ruochen's feelings, he had no intention of continuing to exchange sly insinuations with them. He would tear into them with blunt, honest words.

Zhang Ruochen stared at the disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain, the smile on his face belying the cold look in his eyes. "You're nothing but an outsider," he said. "You have no business prying into our internal affairs."

"You..."

The disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain was at a loss for words.

"Don't take it personally, Ninth brother," Zhang Tiangui said. "Huang Li just wanted to address the differences between you both. As the eldest brother on the Western Campus, you should be more gracious towards your fellow elder."

The disciple named Huang Li snorted in a cold tone. "I've heard much about the Ninth Prince's talent," he said. "With his extraordinary swordsmanship, he's earned the right to be cold and arrogant. I visited this palace as a disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain to offer heartfelt words of counsel, only for the Ninth Prince to give me a tongue-lashing. I cannot swallow this humiliation, and I refuse to let others think that the Yuntai Suzerain fears the School of the Martial Market. For these reasons, I now formally challenge the Ninth Prince."

Zhang Tiangui glanced at Huang Li with satisfaction. Huang Li had said exactly what he wanted to hear.

Now then, how would Zhang Ruochen react?

The moment Zhang Ruochen agreed to duel Huang Li, he would be checkmated.

If Zhang Ruochen won the duel, everyone would gossip about his intolerance. He would be the man who vented his anger on a palace guest who only wished to offer him well-intentioned advice concerning Commandery Princess Yanchen.

If he lost, everyone would call the so-called eldest brother of the Western Campus a paper tiger, a weakling whose bark was bigger than his bite.

Either way, Zhang Tiangui's victory was guaranteed; he could ruthlessly crush and humiliate Zhang Ruochen in a single blow, while also using this as an opportunity to verify his suspicions about the Ninth Prince.

You could call this wonderful scheme an act of 'killing two birds with one stone'.

Naturally, Zhang Ruochen knew all about Huang Li's intentions.

“How about it? Does the so-called eldest brother of the Western Campus dare to accept my challenge?”

Noting Zhang Ruochen’s silence, Huang Li continued to provoke him. “I expected the Fifth Prince to be at a loss for words, but I never thought the royal Ninth Prince would be such a coward,” he said with a smile. “Perhaps you hid yourself away because you were too scared to enter Earth Blaze City.”

“Fine, then!” Zhang Ruochen said. “How can I decline such an insistently offered challenge? I have one condition, though.”

“Name your condition,” Huang Li, happy that he had finally enraged Zhang Ruochen.

“The Royal Palace is not a suitable place for this fight,” Zhang Ruochen said. “We should host it outdoors. I heard that the Coliseum of the Martial Market has recently been renovated and re-opened. We shall hold our duel there three days from now...if you still have the courage to follow through on your challenge.”

“The Coliseum of the Martial Market...” Huang Li exclaimed, glancing towards Zhang Tiangui.

When you entered the Coliseum of the Martial Market to fight, you had to sign a Life and Death Contract.

Huang Li had only cultivated to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. He was not sure whether he could defeat Zhang Ruochen; what if Zhang Ruochen revealed hidden strength and killed him in the Coliseum of the Martial Market?

“Ninth brother, you two are only crossing blades!” Zhang Tiangui said. “There’s no need to take this to the Coliseum of the Martial Market.”

“You are wrong, seventh brother,” Zhang Ruochen said. “This is no ordinary spar. Brother Huang’s words have made this a quarrel between the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market, with both their reputations on the line. Since Brother Huang issued this challenge himself, this duel should be a fair fight on equal ground so that there will be no doubt about the legitimacy of his defeat. Isn’t that so, Brother Huang?”

Huang Li glanced at Zhang Tiangui again. Zhang Tiangui nodded his head. “Fine!” Huang Li said in agreement. “I accept the Ninth Prince’s terms. Three days from now, we shall fight in the Coliseum of the Martial Market.”

“If you have no more business, I will leave now,” Zhang Ruochen said.

The Ninth Commandery Princess departed with Zhang Ruochen.

After arriving at the Jade Palace, the Ninth Commandery Princess smiled. “You made me nervous for a moment,” she said. “I was so afraid you would fall into their trap. Luckily, you were clever enough to see through their scheme and turn it back on them. On that note, ninth brother, how powerful is Huang Li? What are your chances of winning?”

“Huang Li has cultivated to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm and is a master of well-honed martial arts,” Zhang Ruochen said.

“What? His cultivation has reached the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm? What should we do?” The Ninth Commandery Princess said, her voice filled with tension. “Ninth brother, why did you accept his challenge if you knew about his cultivation? What if...?”

“Since I know his cultivation,” Zhang Ruochen said with a smile, “I’m sure I can defeat him...or kill him.”

Ninth Commandery Princess felt a surge of relief that she hid behind a cold gaze. “They’ve gone too far today,” she said. “If we don’t deter them, who knows how they will try to slander you in the future.”

“Don’t take this small matter too seriously. Keep practicing hard and continue down your own path.” Zhang Ruochen said, patting the Ninth Commandery Princess on her shoulder before walking inside the palace.

The Ninth Commandery Princess was invited to come dine with Concubine Lin, while Zhang Ruochen entered the Time and Space Spinel to continue refining the Three Leaf Holy Clover.

Time was precious, and he had to seize every minute and second he could to practice.

...

Zhang Tiangui residence in the palace was brightly lit.

“Eldest brother, what should I do if Zhang Ruochen has reached the Earth Realm and tries to kill me in the Coliseum of the Martial Market?” Huang Li asked anxiously.

If Zhang Ruochen had only cultivated to the Completion of the Black Realm, Huang Li was confident he could compete with Zhang Ruochen.

But what if he had reached the Earth Realm?

Zhang Tiangui looked completely calm. “What are you worried about?” he asked Huang Li lightly. “You are a peerless genius who has cultivated to the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm. Even if you are no match for him, it should be easy enough for you to escape the battle. Am I wrong?”

“No. It’s just...”

Huang Li was still worried. After all, Zhang Ruochen had managed to defeat Xun Guihai. If they were going to fight to the death, Huang Li had good reason to fear Zhang Ruochen.

When Huang Li uttered all his provocations, he never thought Zhang Ruochen would actually dare to kill him.

A decisive battle in the Coliseum of the Martial Market was something else entirely.

Zhang Tiangui took out a bronze medal and passed it to Huang Li. “This is a Formation Shield refined by an array master,” he said. “You only need to infuse your Genuine Qi into the Formation Shield to activate its inscription; the energy will condense into an array shield which will block blows for you. If Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation has truly reached the Earth Realm, using this Formation Shield will save your life.”

“Thank you very much, elder brother!” Huang Li said, heart overflowing with happiness. He knelt on the ground and kowtowed to Zhang Tiangui before accepting the bronze medal.

Now that Huang Li had the Formation Shield, he no longer feared Zhang Ruochen.

“Leave me!” Zhang Tiangui said with a wave of his hand.

Once Huang Li left, Zhang Tiangui clutched a hand to his chest. A stinging pain rippled through his innards.

“Damn! I never thought Si Xingkong’s cultivation would be so powerful. He defeated me even though I’ve already reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. It’s a pity I only practiced the Six Mysterious Martial Arts. If I practiced the most powerful exercises of the Yuntai Suzerain — the Holy Universe Reaching Skills — Si Xingkong wouldn’t stand a chance!”

Zhang Tiangui slammed his fist down on the desk. With a creaking sound, the rosewood desk was reduced to a fine powder.

Although the Six Mysterious Martial Arts were inferior class exercises from the ghost level, they were not complete exercises and couldn’t be compared to the Holy Universe Reaching Skills.

Among the young generation of the entire Yuntai Suzerain, only Han Qiu, the daughter of the Master, practiced the Holy Universe Reaching Skills. To gain the Holy Universe Reaching Skills, Zhang Tiangui had to first reach Han Qiu.

Although he couldn’t practice other exercises right now, this warrior would gain the opportunity to do so after he surpassed the Completion of the Heaven Realm.

Then he could pursue other exercises and extend himself into other realms of practice.

Zhang Tiangui was determined to seize the Holy Universe Reaching Skills, all for the sake of his future plans. His objective was not merely to become a martial arts legend; he wished to exceed the status of martial arts legend and reach the legendary Sacred Realm.

Luckily, Han Qiu currently had fond feelings for him. One could say that she and her Holy Universe Reaching Skills would be easy meat for Zhang Tiangui.

“The Qianshui Commandery supported the marriage between Zhang Ruochen and Commandery Princess Yanchen. I have to win over Han Qiu and gain support from the Yuntai Suzerain. With my superior talent over Zhang Ruochen, the title of Elder Prince would be good as mine.”

Zhang Tiangui took a deep breath. Six hues of light gushed from his body as he started healing.

...

Nine days passed in the Time and Space Spinel.

Over these last nine days, Zhang Ruochen spent a mere four days refining two sprigs of Three Leaf Holy Clover and practiced the Dragon and Elephant Prajñā Palm for the remaining five days.

Zhang Ruochen sought to leave at least 20,000 palm prints with his strikes every day.

By practicing this palm technique, he not only trained his palms, but also refined his body and stirred up his blood. Once he finished his refinement, he infused all the efficacy of the Three Leaf Holy Clover into his body.

Once the nine days passed, Zhang Ruochen clearly felt that his cultivation had greatly improved and that his physical quality had strengthened a bit. Even the speed of his palm strikes had quickened.

“With the Dragon and Elephant Nine-fold, I could overlay five palm prints together to create a burst of strength five times as powerful. If I concentrated five bursts of strength into a single palm strike with my current cultivation, how powerful would that strike be?”

Because Zhang Ruochen had assumed the identity of Chen Ruo when he went to Earth Blaze City, he had not used the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm then.

As Zhang Ruochen, he could now use it as he pleased.

“Three days have passed on the outside. It’s time to go to the Coliseum of the Martial Market. I may as well test my palm technique on Huang Li; since Zhang Tiangui wants to test me with Huang Li, I shouldn’t leave him unsatisfied.”

Zhang Ruochen exited the internal space of the Spinel, immediately left the palace and went to the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

News about the upcoming duel between Zhang Ruochen and Huang Li had spread all over Yunwu City and caused quite a stir, thanks to the efforts of certain busybodies.

There were even whispered rumors that the duel between these two people had something to do with Commandery Princess Yanchen. Perhaps the extremely beautiful Commandery Princess Yanchen would make an appearance at the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

Those warriors were filled with anticipation for this fight.