

God Emperor 221

Chapter 221: Not Huang Li

The Coliseum of the Martial Market had closed after the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect alliance destroyed the Martial Market Bank industries in Yunwu Commandery.

The Coliseum of the Martial Market had reopened half a month ago.

However, fewer warriors than before came to fight in the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

The Coliseum of the Martial Market had only recently regained its previous level of liveliness and bustling crowds.

“Do we really need to watch this fight? It’s obvious who will win,” Huang Yanchen asked.

She sat on the top floor of a tower at the periphery of the Martial Market Coliseum, watching the central space of the Coliseum through an open window.

It was the perfect spot to watch the battle!

A gray-haired old woman and a stooped old man stood behind Huang Yanchen, both of them as still as two stone sculptures.

The Qianshui Commandery Prince had dispatched these two martial arts legends to Yunwu Commandery in order to deal with the Poisonous Spider Club. These two specialists, both more than a hundred years old, were known as the “The Xuan-Ji Duo”.

The old woman was called “Fengxuan”, while the old man was “Songji”.

Since the Evil Warriors of the Poisonous Spider Club had all gone into hiding, they would not be easily found anytime soon. For this reason, the Xuan-Ji Duo was temporarily escorting Huang Yanchen for her own protection.

Knowing Zhang Ruochen’s strength, Huang Yanchen naturally thought that he would win this battle for sure. However, there was a huge gap in fighting strength between Zhang Ruochen and the other warriors.

One of them had cultivated to the Completion the Black Realm, while the other had reached the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

Despite Zhang Ruochen’s peerless talent, defeating Huang Li would be no simple task.

“The School of the Martial Market has joined forces with the Yuntai Suzerain to deal with the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. Why, then, has internal strife arisen between them?”

“You haven’t heard? They say this current strife is related to Commandery Princess Yanchen.”

“How is the Commandery Princess related to this?”

“When Chen Ruo rescued Commandery Princess Yanchen from her imprisonment in Earth Blaze City, Zhang Ruochen, the Ninth Prince, was nowhere to be seen. Having heard about this incident and how Zhang Ruochen did not dare to break into Earth Blaze City, Huang Li, the disciple from Yuntai Suzerain, called the Ninth Prince a coward unworthy of Princess Yanchen. Enraged by this disciple’s criticism, Zhang Ruochen vowed to clear his good name by challenging him to a duel to the death.”

“The Ninth Prince is being too impetuous. He has only cultivated to the Black Realm; how will he be able to match an enemy from the Earth Realm?”

“The Ninth Prince was backed into a corner. These rumors about Chen Ruo and Commandery Princess Yanchen have spread far and wide across the commanderies and the facts of the incident twisted into lies and slander. If the Ninth Prince doesn’t stand up for himself, how can he keep his foothold in the world of Martial Arts?”

“Indeed.”

...

Rumors spread among the warriors in the Coliseum of the Martial Market. Some were talking about Commandery Princess Yanchen and Chen Ruo, some were discussing Duanmu Xingling and Chen Ruo, and others were wondering whether Zhang Ruochen or Chen Ruo was stronger.

Disciples from the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market gathered in the Coliseum of the Martial Market as well. You could cut the hostility between these two factions with a knife.

The Yuntai Suzerain disciples, led by Zhang Tiangui and Han Qiu, numbered forty, half of which were internal disciples from the Earth Realm.

Si Xingkong and Chen Xier led the disciples of the Martial Market School. They had a few more disciples than the Yuntai Suzerain, most of whom were also internal students.

“Though I don’t know what actually happened, our kind-hearted junior apprentice Zhang was enraged beyond belief. Damn that Huang Li!”

Chen Xier knew Zhang Ruochen’s disposition well; he would never challenge Huang Li to a death match if Huang Li hadn’t crossed a line.

Si Xingkong, his hair disheveled, laughed as he dangled a wine gourd in his hand. “I’m afraid that the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect set this trap to drive a wedge between our schools,” he said. “They benefit for as long as the School of the Martial Market and Yuntai Suzerain are divided by internal strife.”

“Elder brother, ” Chang Qiqi said, “do you think the Evil Warriors of the Black Market and Moon Worship Demonic Sect will show up today?”

“Hard to say!”

Si Xingkong swallowed a mouthful of wine from his gourd and squinted. “If I was one of the seniors from the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, I would definitively launch an attack,” he said with a chuckle. “That way, I could damage the Yuntai Suzerain and the Martial Market School by hurting

their young geniuses. Junior fellow apprentice Chang,” he said, “go remind our junior sister and fellow apprentices to stay vigilant. There may well be a fierce battle today.”

Chang Qiqi was somewhat shocked. “Do you want me to inform the Yuntai Suzerain?” he asked. “We are a united front, after all...”

“That won’t be necessary!” Si Xingkong said, smiling and shaking his head. “Zhang Tiangui is no fool; he definitively has plans of his own, so we don’t need to worry about him. I am, however, interested in that junior fellow apprentice. I’m not sure whether he can defeat Huang Li.”

Chen Xier knew that Zhang Ruochen had already broken through into the Earth Realm and become an internal disciple. “When Huang Li picked a fight with junior fellow apprentice Zhang, he sealed his fate,” she said, smiling slightly.

A loud clamour rose from the Coliseum of the Martial Market. Huang Li stepped onto the arena platform ahead of Zhang Ruochen.

Chen Xier’s brow furrowed. She searched for Zhang Ruochen among the crowd in the Coliseum of the Martial Market but failed to find him. “What’s going on with junior fellow apprentice Zhang? Where has he gone?” she asked. “Did something happen?”

“No! Something’s wrong!” Xi Xingkong said, spitting out the words.

“What’s wrong?” Chen Xier asked.

Si Xingkong’s eyes were firmly fixed on Huang Li as he entered the Coliseum. “There’s something...strange about Huang Li,” he said, shaking his head. “I’m not sure what. Hopefully I’m just being a worrywart!”

Chen Xier also glanced down at Huang Li, a person he had spared little thought for. As young warriors from Devil Martial City, they were both familiar with each other.

Though Huang Li had made great strides in his cultivation, he still hadn’t acquired enough power to be notable.

Not long after, Zhang Ruochen and the Ninth Commandery Princess rode their battle beast into the Martial Market Coliseum under the protection of the imperial guards.

A riot of sound washed over the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

Zhang Ruochen’s sharp eyes swept across the Coliseum of the Martial Market, focusing on the direction where his associates from the Martial Market School stood. He nodded to them before signing the Life and Death Contract. Step by step, he ascended to the arena platform and stopped in front of Huang Li.

“BOOM!”

A shield array gradually shimmered into existence, forming a spherical barrier of light around the edge of the arena.

Under the protection of the light shield, the warriors watching the battle would not be harmed by the power the two warriors would unleash.

At the same time, the Inscription Array would prevent warriors outside the arena from interfering with the battle.

The Inscription Array would not disappear until one of the two fighters gave in.

Huang Li wielded a Bluedragon Broadsword about three meters long and wore a scarlet five-class Genuine Martial Armament suit of armor. He glared at Zhang Ruochen with keen, sparkling eyes.

Without saying a word or giving his opponent time to prepare, he suddenly swung his broadsword at Zhang Ruochen.

“SWOOSH!”

Huang Li gripped his broadsword with both hands, each finger curled around the hilt. As he strode steadily forward, he activated all the inscriptions on his Bluedragon Broadsword using his Genuine Qi, calling forth a mighty knife energy.

Light erupted from the blade, stretching three meters up into the sky.

Zhang Ruochen was still finding his footing when he collided head-on with the surging blade-wind. Radiant blue light filled every corner of his vision, carrying with it a deadly aura of murderous intent.

“Something is wrong with Huang Li!”

Zhang Ruochen felt ill at ease. Something about Huang Li’s presence felt strange; for that matter, why was Huang Li attacking so eagerly?

Zhang Ruochen had little time to think about this. He immediately responded, stepping left to escape Huang Li’s attack.

Huang Li’s broadsword techniques were subtle and uncanny. He pursued Zhang Ruochen with a grim resolve and swung his broadsword towards Zhang Ruochen again.

“How did Huang Li’s broadsword techniques become so subtle?”

Zhang Ruochen felt he had previously underestimated Huang Li. Judging by the broadsword technique he was displaying, he had at least reached the Advanced-Stage Realm of the ‘Follow your Heart’ broadsword movement .

Though the cultivation Huang Li displayed remained at the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm, his broadsword techniques were astonishing. Few warriors in the Earth Realm could reach such a realm.

For the time being, Zhang Ruochen decided not to reveal all of his strength. Suppressing his cultivation to just below the Earth Realm, Zhang Ruochen made a probing attack.

“Dragon and Elephant Return to Earth!”

Zhang Ruochen planted his feet and channeled all the power of his physical body and Genuine Qi through the center of his palms. Suddenly, his palm rushed towards the blade of the Bluedragon Broadsword.

The power of the Dragon and Elephant Prajñā Palm was not to be trifled; after all, its strength rivaled the mid-class martial techniques of the Spiritual Stage.

The roar of dragons and howl of elephants emanated from Zhang Ruochen's palms.

"Bang!"

A wicked light flashed in Huang Li's eyes. The corner of his mouth turned up. A vibration traveled up his arms and into the Bluedragon Broadsword, which began to give off a piercing cry.

Zhang Ruochen felt a strong power pouring off the Bluedragon Broadsword that shocked his arms numb and sent his body hurling back.

Huang Li withdrew as well, taking nine steps back before he managed to regain his footing.

Han Qiu of the Yuntai Suzerain could not conceal his surprise. "How could Huang Li's broadsword techniques become so powerful?" he asked.

The disciples from the Yuntai Suzerain who stood on the sidelines shook their heads in astonishment. They had never seen Huang Li perform broadsword techniques of this power.

Since he hadn't performed outstandingly in the internal school of the Yuntai Suzerain, he was only seen as an ordinary genius.

If his broadsword technique had grown powerful enough for him to fight battles two realms beyond his level, he should have long since attained the rank of second-class genius, if not half a rank higher. He could not have reached such a level without drawing the attention of other warriors.

Han Qiu stared at Zhang Tiangui, wondering what kinds of secrets he had hidden from her.

Zhang Tiangui, his expression grim, shook his head. "I'm as much in the dark as you are," he said to Han Qiu. "Huang Li may well have concealed his true cultivation up until now."

He really didn't know what was going on. He had noticed something abnormal about Huang Li, but he did not want to discuss it in detail. Instead, he fixed his gaze on the two people fighting each other in the Coliseum.

The higher Huang Li's cultivation was, the better he could discern Zhang Ruochen's true strength.

"No wonder that you're ranked first in the Western Campus; you can even withstand an attack from my broadsword. But how about this attack – 'Broadsword Slaughters the Saint'?"

Laughter escaped from Huang Li's lips. He twirled his broadsword around in his hands like a windmill, generating a huge vortex ten meters in diameter. The howling wind from the broadsword swirled around his body, generating numerous broadsword shadows.

The broadsword shadows then drew together, radiating a harsh, dark blue light that fell on Zhang Ruochen's head.

This attack was at least three times stronger than the previous one in both speed and power.

The howling of dragons seemed to echo through the air.

Zhang Ruochen's pupils consticted. He stared intently at Huang Li's broadsword wind. The clues finally came together in his mind: "You are not Huang Li!"

Despite all the effort his opponent had invested in masking his features, Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power was mighty enough for him to notice the inconsistencies. Huang Li's bones and muscles, as well as his meridians, had changed.

Chapter 222: The Young Master of the Hades Department

Many of the Martial Arts masters heard Zhang Ruochen's words through the clamour of the Martial Market Coliseum and became aware of Huang Li's abnormalities.

"That's not Huang Li in the Coliseum?"

"How can that be? He looks just like Huang Li. There's no way he could be a fake."

"Zhang Ruochen's only saying because he's no match for Huang Li," a disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain said with a snort. "Pay no attention to his excuses; that is Huang Li. I'm familiar with all my fellow elder brothers and would never confuse him with someone else."

Even as all the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain continued to insist the man in the Coliseum was Huang Li, the strength he exhibited grew more and more powerful. Soon, he had grown beyond even the reach of a second-class genius.

"What shall we do, elder brother?" Chang Qiqi said with alarm. "Huang Li should not be this strong. If this duel goes on, junior fellow apprentice Zhang will certainly die."

When all was said and done, Zhang Ruochen was the top genius at the School of the Martial Market. If he died in the Coliseum of the Martial Market at the hands of the Yuntai Suzerain, the Martial Market School would suffer a heavy loss.

"They both signed the Life and Death Contract to guarantee their duel would be fair," Zuo Lengxuan said coldly, standing off to the side. "If we interfere in their battle without any evidence of tampering, we will become a worldwide laughingstock. The Coliseum of the Martial Market is the property of the Martial Market Bank, after all; we cannot idly break our own rules."

Chang Qiqi glared at him. "Aren't you a disciple of the School of the Martial Market, Zuo Lengxuan?" he asked. "What if this turns out to be a plot by the Yuntai Suzerain to murder junior fellow apprentice Zhang in our own Coliseum?"

"As far as I know, the man on the battlefield is Huang Li," Zuo Lengxuan replied. "I have seen Huang Li before and know his appearance well. There's no way he could be an imposter."

The fight on the battlefield grew more and more furious, while Huang Li appeared to grow more and more powerful. Before long, his cultivation even surpassed that of warriors from the Mid Stage of the Earth Realm.

Each new sword stroke of his was stronger than the last.

More people began to worry for Zhang Ruochen. However, due to the obstructive rules of the Coliseum of the Martial Market, they dared not recklessly help him.

What was Zhang Ruochen to do?

“Tch!”

Broadsword light streaked across Zhang Ruochen’s chest. His martial robe was sliced open, exposing the Ice-fire Kylin Armor beneath. The tip of the broadsword lightly scraped his armor and sent sparks flying everywhere.

Zhang Ruochen immediately fell back and glanced down at his chest. “Your cultivation has reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. Who are you, really?” he asked in a gruff tone.

“You can perceive my cultivation?” Huang Li said, taken somewhat aback.

Huang Li thought he had concealed himself perfectly. Even martial arts legends from the Heaven Realm could not perceive his true cultivation and Realm.

Little did he know that Zhang Ruochen’s Spiritual Power and vision surpassed even the martial arts legends of the Heaven Realm. It was child’s play for Zhang Ruochen to pierce his facade and sense his true cultivation.

Zhang Ruochen sensed that Huang Li had a strength that rivaled the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider. Besides Zhang Tiangui and Han Qiu, no one among the younger generation of the Yuntai Suzerain could match his might.

Was he an evil master from the Black Market or Moon Worship Demonic Sect?

After a short lull in the combat, Huang Li launched another series of attacks against Zhang Ruochen, each strike stronger than the previous one.

Zi Qian stood among the disciples of the School of the Martial Market, her gaze fixed on Huang Li. She bit down on her lip and hesitated. After a while, she seemed to reach a tough decision.

“That man is not Huang Li,” she said, a determined look in her eyes. “He’s probably a killer from the Hades Department. Top killers from the Hades Department can practice a martial technique called ‘Silkworm Butterfly Skill’, which allows them to change their figure and appearance.”

Chen Xier suddenly stood and stared firmly at Zi Qian. “You just called ‘Huang Li’ a killer from the Hades Department,” she said. “Do you have any evidence?”

Zuo Lengxuan glared at Zi Qian. “Ridiculous,” he said. “If the Hades Department had this so called appearance-changing martial arts technique, we would know about it. How would you, a mere external disciple, know something we don’t? Silkworm Butterfly Skill? I’ve never heard of such a thing.”

“There’s a reason you’ve never heard about this technique; only the top assassins of the Hades Department have access to the Silkworm Butterfly Skill. The essence of this skill lies in transforming into a butterfly or reverting into a silkworm. The silkworm and butterfly share the same origin but take on different forms. Once you master the Silkworm Butterfly Skill, you can casually shift around your skeletons, muscles, and meridians to transform into whomever you please. I am certain the Huang Li on

the battlefield is actually Zi Yinyang, the young master of the Hades Department. He's the only person among the younger generation of the Hades Department who has practiced the Silkworm Butterfly Skill."

The moment Zi Qian revealed the existence of Zi Yinyang, the top killer in the Hades Department, she was prepared to have her identity exposed. She was even prepared to die, here in the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

But she had no choice. Only revealing the truth would convince the others that the man on the battlefield was not Huang Li. If she did not do this, Zhang Ruochen may well die in the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

Zi Qian continued speaking: "Elder brother, senior sister apprentice Chen; please believe me! The Huang Li on the battlefield must be Zi Yinyang. He intends to murder Zhang Ruochen in the Coliseum so that he can collect a massive bounty and stir up conflict between the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market in a single stroke!"

Si Xingkong and Chen Xier met each other's eyes and nodded in unison.

Si Xingkong rushed into the Coliseum arena and yelled in a loud voice: "Please deactivate the Coliseum array! That man on the field is not Huang Li, but one of the top assassins from the Hades Department."

As Si Xingkong entered the Coliseum arena, Chen Xier stared intently at Zi Qian. "Keep an eye on her," she told two of her internal disciples. "Don't let her escape."

Chen Xier was a very clever woman. How could she not be suspicious about Zi Qian, an external disciple who displayed such familiarity with the Hades Department?

Whatever Zi Qian's reasons were for revealing the secret of the Silkworm Butterfly Skill, Chen Xier would not let her leave.

Atop the arena platform, Huang Li glanced towards the edge of the arena and noticed Si Xingkong standing there. He smiled coldly: "They've already found me out? Now that the cat's out of the bag, I must kill Zhang Ruochen before they take down the array."

Huang Li stared at Zhang Ruochen, a cruel, murderous look in his eyes. The aura emanating from his body grew ten times stronger. His skin turned coarse and chapped, his figure grew least three meters taller, his arms thickened, and his face became even harsher.

The appearance of "Huang Li" morphed wildly as he became a completely different person.

At that moment, the disciples of the School of the Martial Market finally trusted Zi Qian's words.

"Zhang Ruochen, ranked thirty-seventh on the Board of Bounty Hunters; I, the young master, shall claim your head!" "Huang Li" said, laughing gleefully as he swung his Bluedragon Broadsword towards Zhang Ruochen.

This slash was much, much stronger than the previous attacks!

If Zhang Ruochen had truly only cultivated to the Completion of the Black Realm, he could do nothing but die.

Off the battlefield, some people recognized him and cried out in astonishment: "He's one of the top seven masters among the younger generation of the Black Market, the Young Lord of the Hades Department. He is Zi Yinyang."

"It really is Zi Yinyang. D*mn it!"

Huang Yanchen stared down at the arena, anxious for Zhang Ruochen's safety. "Hurry and rescue Zhang Ruochen, Fengxuan," she promptly told her bodyguard. "Don't let Zi Yinyang kill him."

The gray-haired old lady behind Huan Yanchen immediately rushed out to the scene. Unfathomable strength burst from her old, stooped body as she punched the Inscription Array surrounding the arena platform.

A sonorous voice arose from the crowd, a voice like distant thunder that made the earth shake: "This is a battle between the younger generations. As an old generation master, why do you interfere?"

In that moment, a man in black emerged from the shadows in the blink of an eye, face hidden behind a ghastly-looking mask. Standing on the edge of the fighting stage, he threw his palms forward.

"Boom!"

The strikes of these two martial arts legends from the Heaven Realm collided, violent waves of Genuine Qi radiating from the point of impact.

Countless young warriors within the Coliseum of the Martial Market were lifted by this powerful breeze, scattered and tossed back into the walls.

The man in black wearing the ghost mask blew Feng Xuan away with a single strike. Afterwards, he cackled and amplified his voice by channeling Genuine Qi. "Warriors of the Black Market," he said loudly. "It is time to act. Exterminate the young disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market!"

"Boom!"

Upon hearing the words of the man in black, the Black Market warriors hidden among the crowd immediately launched their attack, striking out at the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market.

Fengxuan slid to a halt thirty meters away from the battlefield. She stared at the man in black. "Who are you?" she asked hoarsely.

The man in black clasped his hands behind his back, body radiating a bitter cold Qi. He laughed behind his ghost mask. "I am the new master of the Black Market," he proclaimed, "newly appointed to handle the affairs of our black market in the Yunwu Commandery. Call your Songji down here! You're no match for me alone, and I'd like to witness the power of the Xuan-Ji Duo for myself!"

"This old lady's more than enough to deal with the likes of you!"

Fengxuan darted to the side, her body moving with a speed that exceeded even sound. In the blink of an eye she rushed towards the Black Market Master and struck at him with her fist.

Who would have thought a lady as old as her could emit such powerful strength?

“The space is too cramped. Let’s fight somewhere more open!”

“Boom!”

The Master of the Black Market stamped down on the ground with the sole of his foot. He exploded upwards like a cannonball, soaring over the roof before flying out of the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

Fengxuan immediately pursued him using a footwork technique.

The Black Market had assigned as many masters as they could to this operation. Though they had only sent three martial arts legends from the Heaven Realm, their evil masters from the Earth Realm and Black Realm swarmed beyond counting.

Si Xingkong fought against a Heaven Realm assassin from the Hades Department, a battle that had already moved far outside the Martial Market Coliseum. If not for the loud, earsplitting sounds of their blows, you wouldn’t even know they were still fighting.

Fights between martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm were astonishing lethal, far more so than the battles between warriors of the Earth Realm. Only warriors as powerful as Si Xingkong could stand up to the martial arts legends of the Heaven Realm.

The commander-in-chief of the Poisonous Spider Club, Hua Minggong, had also shown up in the Coliseum of the Martial Market, desiring to capture Huang Yanchen once more. This time, however, Songji, Huang Yanchen’s escort, stood in his way.

“If you dare to harm our Commandery Princess this day, Hua Minggong, I will kill you,” Songji said.

“There are many masters from the Black Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect around us,” Huang Minggong said with a laugh. “Do you really think you can fight them all?”

Songji and Hua Minggong, two masters of the Heaven Realm, began their battle. In just a moment of hand-to-hand combat, they had burst through one of the walls and rushed outside.

The Martial Market descended into chaotic warfare, drowned in the flash and ringing of cold steel.

Though the Coliseum array had been deactivated, Zi Yinyang still continued his assault on Zhang Ruochen. He chased after Zhang Ruochen, swinging his broadsword continuously in an effort to take Zhang Ruochen’s life.

Zi Yinyang’s martial cultivation was almost comparable to that of Hua Qingshan, the Young Lord of Poisonous Spiders. However, Zi Yinyang was more adept at assassin skills than Hua Qingshan. Each of his attacks was a killing blow, leaving Zhang Ruochen with no margin of error for survival.

Zhang Ruochen released his Space Domain and continued to employ his Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, forming nine phantom images he used to repeatedly evade Zi Yinyang’s strikes.

“Nine-fold Elephant Power!”

Zhang Ruochen hurled forth five palm strikes in rapid succession, overlapping all five of his palm prints to create an eruption of power five times stronger than that of an individual strike.

“Bam!”

Zi Yinyang blocked with the flat of his sword. He felt an earth-shattering power pouring from Zhang Ruochen’s palms that shook the Bluedragon Broadsword in his hands and sent it flying out of his grip.

The Bluedragon Broadsword flew over thirty meters away and stuck into the ground point first. The broadsword blade still hummed like a bell, emitting an ear-piercing ring.

Zi Yinyang stumbled ten steps back before managing to regain his footing. He stared at Zhang Ruochen in astonishment. “Such a powerful palm technique,” he said. “You’re hiding your real strength as well, aren’t you?”

Off in the distance, Zhang Tiangui also observed Zhang Ruochen’s palm technique. A slightly cold expression crept across his face. “So it is Zhang Ruochen,” he thought.

Chapter 223: Life and Death

After forcing Zi Yinyang to retreat, Zhang Ruochen immediately infused Genuine Qi into his legs and leapt over three meters into the air. He landed above the observation platform and took the height advantage.

In so doing, he would be able to react in time to any of Zi Yinyang’s attacks.

Zhang Ruochen’s gaze swept around the Coliseum of the Martial Market and saw warriors all fighting their hardest. Dozens of bodies already littered the floor.

Most of the bodies were evil warriors from the black market or the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. There were some fallen members of the Martial Market School and the Yuntai Suzerain; they lay in the blood moaning pitifully.

The black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect had prepared well for this battle. Although there were many masters among those who came from the Martial Market School and the Yuntai Suzerain, they still sustained heavy losses.

Sweeping his gaze across the scene, Zhang Ruochen saw that the Ninth Commandery Princess was in dire circumstances, surrounded by seven evil warriors.

The seven evil warriors were all masters. Under their combined attack, the Ninth Commandery Princess had already sustained three wounds and fresh blood stained her clothes.

“SWISH!”

Zhang Ruochen moved at his fastest speed of 140 meters per second and flashed down to stand in-front of the Ninth Commandery Princess.

“Dragon Shape and Elephant Shadow!”

Countless shadow fists flew out in one attack.

His Genuine Qi surged out and created lines of dragon and elephant shadow which flashed in the void space.

“Snap!”

The sound of bone breaking rang out loudly.

All seven of the evil warriors let out desperate cries. Blood spewed from their mouths and they all flew back, landing a dozen meters away before succumbing.

The Ninth Commandery Princess finally released a breath and asked, “Ninth brother, what do we do now?”

“Don’t worry. Yunwu City’s army are sure to come as fast as they can given the immensity of the situation. The warriors of the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect will soon retreat.” Zhang Ruochen replied.

The Ninth Commandery Princess pursed her lips. Watching the increasing brutality of the evil warriors, she felt she wouldn’t be able to last until the Yunwu City army arrived.

Zhang Ruochen took out the War Map Luo Shuihan had given him and shoved it at the Ninth Commandery Princess, “Infuse your Genuine Qi into the War Map and you’ll be able to immediately summon Leopard-headed Blood Bats to help you. They should be enough to hold out against an attack from a normal warrior of the Earth Realm.”

After some thought, Zhang Ruochen was still worried. He took out the Wings of Wind and handed it to the Ninth Commandery Princess.

“Zhang Ruochen, I will be your opponent today. I am determined to take your head this time.”

Zi Yinyang’s Genuine Qi was rich and thick, and it contained great power. Having sliced through three students of the Martial Market School in a row, he rushed out of the crowd towards Zhang Ruochen. In his hand was a bloody Fish Intestine Sword and it was aimed right at Zhang Ruochen’s throat.

Zhang Ruochen struck with one fist against the Ninth Commandery Princess’ chest and pushed her back dozens of meters.

“Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon!”

Zhang Ruochen’s body split into nine and became nine shadows.

Zi Yinyang immediately changed his attack and swung his sword quickly back and forth to make dozens of sword shadows.

Each sword stroke seemed to slide passed Zhang Ruochen’s body. If Zhang Ruochen hadn’t Practiced Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to perfection, he would probably have been sliced to pieces by now.

“Junior brother apprentice Zhang, let me help you.”

Chang Qiqi let out a long cry and sliced towards Zi Yinyang with a two handed attack.

Chang Qiqi's martial cultivation had reached the Final State of the Earth Realm, and he was also a great prodigy. Below the Heaven Realm, he was among the best. A normal warrior at the Completion of the Earth Realm would not be able to beat him.

Having attacked with all his strength, even Zi Yinyang had to dodge the attack. He quickly retreated one step to avoid the sharp sword.

"Bam!"

Chang Qiqi's attack struck the ground and left a long scar. Around the scar there were tiny cracks and lines.

"Stay out of it."

Zi Yinyang's eyes became serious and he struck out again.

"What elegance."

The Fish Intestine Sword spun quickly and emitted an ear-piercing cry.

"PFFFT!"

Although Chang Qiqi's martial cultivation was very high, he was unable to avoid the strike from Zi Yinyang. The sword went through his body, with the tip exiting through his back.

"Uh..."

Chang Qiqi's body shook with pain and blood dripped continuously from the corner of his mouth.

Zi Yinyang was more skillful with a long sword than with a broadsword, and although Chang Qiqi's cultivation was high, it would have been difficult for him to avoid such a strike.

"Elder Brother Chang!"

Zhang Ruochen let out a roar and immediately rushed over. His index and middle fingers were extended together to a point and he struck at Zi Yinyang's right arm.

"You came right on time, I can send both of you off together."

Zi Yinyang pulled out his sword and scattered fresh blood on the ground. A blast of cold air surged from his hands and covered the tip of the sword in a layer of icy blood crystals.

In Zi Yinyang's opinion, although Zhang Ruochen's martial cultivation was not as advanced as Chang Qiqi's, he was far ahead in terms of tactics and speed in combat.

And so he considered Zhang Ruochen the more dangerous enemy and did not dare to underestimate him.

Once Zhang Ruochen was only five steps away, Zi Yinyang moved like lightning and struck with his sword towards the center of Zhang Ruochen's forehead.

Being a top assassin, Zi Yinyang knew all about taking advantage of the situation.

Only strike at the most optimal moment, and strike to kill.

This one strike was sure to take Zhang Ruochen's life!

Just as Zi Yinyang's strike was about to reach Zhang Ruochen, space warped a little, and the point of the sword sliced past Zhang Ruochen's left cheek.

"Damn it!"

Zi Yinyang's face changed and he moved to change his strike, however, Zhang Ruochen struck his chest first.

Given Zhang Ruochen's current strength, he could punch through half a meter of iron with one finger.

"BOOM!"

Zi Yinyang's armor glowed red, and when Zhang Ruochen's finger struck against the armor, there was a loud noise and ripples of energy flowed out.

"He actually blocked it?"

Zhang Ruochen didn't want to give Zi Yinyang a moment of respite. Genuine Qi surged through the 36 Meridians in his body and he switched his finger to a palm before striking against Zi Yinyang's chest.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

He fired off 12 strikes in rapid succession.

Zi Yinyang retreated with each strike.

With the last strike, Zi Yinyang flew back.

Zi Yinyang's cultivation was very solid. He sustained 12 hits from Zhang Ruochen and was still able to steady himself. Landing on the ground, he put a hand over his chest and spat out a mouthful of blood.

All the veins in his body stood out in sharp relief, his eyes were red, yet his battle lust became even stronger. In a cold voice he said, "What was the martial technique you used? If it weren't for the fact the sword tip went crooked, you would be dead right now."

Zhang Ruochen stood opposite him with a shallow cut on his cheek which dripped with warm blood.

He cursed silently. Just now he had used all his strength in the 12 strikes, even his arm ached, yet he was still unable to crush Zi Yinyang.

He was living up to the reputation of being one of the top seven young prodigies in the black market. His strength was incredible.

Zi Yinyang was alert now. Even if Zhang Ruochen used the space power again, it might not be effective.

How was he to do battle now?

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Chang Qiqi and saw that he was only heavily injured. He hadn't yet died from that strike. However, his injuries were grievous and if not attended to quickly by a doctor he could easily die.

"SWISH!"

Zhang Ruochen flew in and hoisted Chang Qiqi onto his back before flying out again. Passing through the giant hole above the Coliseum of the Martial Market, he landed on top of it.

The Coliseum of the Martial Market was 80 meters tall. Standing on top of it, much of Yunwu City was visible.

“Given the height of the Coliseum in addition to the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, I should be five kilometers away when I land. That should be enough to escape the sealed area the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has created.”

When his Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon was at Small Success, Zhang Ruochen could cover have 500 meters in nine steps.

Now that his Shadow of the Wind Dragon had reached perfection, he was even more powerful.

Zhang Ruochen carried Chang Qiqi on his back. All of the Genuine Qi in his body surged and created a gust of Genuine Qi wind.

“Awoo!”

Zhang Ruochen rushed out. The Genuine Qi around him took on the shape of a dragon flying through the void space. Each time he took a step, that dragon would move forward hundreds of meters.

Zi Yinyang followed Zhang Ruochen to the top of the Coliseum. Glancing at the retreating figure of Zhang Ruochen he said, “He has a powerful technique.”

Without pause, Zi Yinyang pushed off from the wall and rushed to the ground. Looking in the direction Zhang Ruochen had gone in, he ran at a speed of 180 meters per second to quickly catch up.

“Bam!”

After nine steps, Zhang Ruochen landed on the ground. His feet shattered the stones, and penetrated the ground up to his knees.

The royal palace was not far from his current position.

He would be safe as long as he made it to the palace. It wasn't like Zi Yinyang would be able to slaughter his way in.

However, just as Zhang Ruochen was about to head out, his steps froze as his gaze alighted on the Young Lord of the Poisonous Spider, Hua Qingshan.

“Haha! I have waited a long time for you!”

The Young Lord of Poisonous Spiders held a machete in his hands and the ghost of a smile hovered over his lips, “Just as I thought, you are the mysterious prodigy Chen Ruo. You didn't let me down, your majesty.”

Zhang Ruochen stood in the middle of the street and his gaze was sharp, “I don't even know what you're talking about!”

“You know perfectly well what I’m talking about.” the Young Lord smiled, “Right now, you have two paths. One, you go with me, and you have a chance of survival.”

“Two, you can wait until Zi Yinyang catches up. At that time, you will die for sure. Think carefully before you decide.”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “I have never liked walking a path someone else has chosen for me.”

The Young Lord’s face darkened, “Then death is your only option.”

A long howl came from behind.

Zi Yinyang had caught up. He landed on top of an ancient building behind Zhang Ruochen. Hefting his bloody sword, he stood ramrod straight and looked like a life-stealing Asura.

“Qing Huashan, Zhang Ruochen’s life is mine!” Zi Yinyang said coldly.

The Young Lord smiled and said, “It is only a head, if you want it then naturally I will not quibble with you. However, Zhang Ruochen is very cunning. Although he has only just broken into the Earth Realm, he has many tricks up his sleeve. Brother Zi, you should be careful!”

The Young Lord flew up and landed on the tallest nearby structure. He appeared to be only observing, but he was in a position to monitor the situation. Regardless of which direction Zhang Ruochen fled, he would be able to catch up and kill him quickly.

Under the gaze of two master warriors, Zhang Ruochen’s chances of escaping were very slim.

Furthermore, Zhang Ruochen sensed, with Space Domain, that there were nearly a hundred evil warriors waiting in ambush in the surrounding hundreds of meters. All his escape routes were firmly sealed.

Zhang Ruochen had twice escaped from the Young Lord’s hands, and this had taught him plenty of caution. This time, he was determined to succeed and had left nothing to chance.

“He just broke into the Earth Realm?”

Zi Yinyang was doubtful. After all, the power Zhang Ruochen displayed earlier was stronger than many warriors at the Completion of the Earth Realm. How could he have just broken into the Earth Realm?

The Young Lord laughed, “I had someone look into his background. At least four months ago, he was still at the Completion of the Black Realm.”

“Then he must die today.”

The gaze Zi Yinyang trained on Zhang Ruochen grew even colder and heavier.

Chapter 224: The Mysterious Master

Zi Yinyang and the Young Lord’s presence was too powerful. All the Spiritual Qi in the air was absorbed by them. It was like two martial arts legends standing at either end of the street.

The street was 60 meters wide, yet there was not a passerby to be seen. The doors to the stores on both sides of the street were closed tight. Only Zhang Ruochen, carrying Chang Qiqi, were standing on their own in the middle of the street.

“Junior...brother...apprentice...Zhang, don’t mind me. Put me down and...go..., otherwise...you...you won’t escape...” Chang Qiqi was sprawled against Zhang Ruochen’s back. His voice was weak and very pained.

“Whether we leave or stay, we do it together.”

Zhang Ruochen’s brow was furrowed, and his gaze became more determined than ever before. He had never considered escaping on his own.

They were very close to the royal palace. If a fight broke out, warriors from the palace would be able to arrive very quickly.

So they were not completely without a chance of survival.

Zhang Ruochen placed Chang Qiqi on the ground and took out a healing Pill. Feeding it to Chang Qiqi, he said, “Elder brother Chang, let’s get you healed. I promise I will take you out of here alive.”

Chang Qiqi sat on the ground. The blood had left his face and he didn’t even have the strength to talk. He could only shake his head gently at Zhang Ruochen.

If only Zhang Ruochen would leave him here, then he would have a chance to escape.

But if Zhang Ruochen stayed here, it would mean certain death.

Zhang Ruochen stood up again and stared in the direction of Zi Yinyang, “You are the young master of Hades Department?”

“Correct.” Zi Yinyang replied.

Zhang Ruochen continued, “Given your cultivation, you should be able to kill me easily. Yet, I have escaped you again and again, do you know why?”

“If you are hoping to drag out time and wait for someone to rescue you, then you’re sorely mistaken. The Chief of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect has already headed towards the royal palace to personally deal with the Yunwu Commandery Prince. The Yunwu Commandery Prince is too concerned with protecting himself right now.” Zi Yinyang said.

Zhang Ruochen appeared to be very calm and said, “Since you don’t want to know the reason, then never mind. Pretend I never said anything.”

Zi Yinyang’s gaze became suspicious, and after a moment he said, “Fine! I’ll give you one last chance to speak!”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “Whether it is your broadsword or your sword, there is a giant flaw in your technique.”

“What flaw?” Zi Yinyang asked.

Zhang Ruochen smiled lightly, but appeared to have no intention of saying anything.

The Young Lord said coldly, "Elder brother Zi, stop wasting words with him. He only wants to rattle you, so that you are weaker in battle. The so-called flaw is only a lie he made up."

"I almost fell for your trap. I think it would be best if you shut up forever." Zi Yinyang said.

It has to be said, Zi Yinyang did feel a bit rattled just before. He really did think there was a flaw in his technique. After all, given his cultivation, it is a little strange he needed to spend such much effort to kill a warrior who just entered the Earth Realm.

After some thought, he realized that there was no technique under heaven that was completely flawless. Just like how there would never be a completely perfect person.

"Waaa!"

Zi Yinyang flew down from the ancient building and shot three beams of light from his sword in succession.

Two of them flew towards Zhang Ruochen while the other flew towards Chang Qiqi.

Zhang Ruochen snatched up Chang Qiqi's broadsword and took a quick step forward. With one swing of the broadsword, he scattered the light that flew towards Chang Qiqi.

"PUFFT!"

However, Zhang Ruochen was struck by one of the light beams. Luckily the Ice-fire Kylin Armor blocked it. He only took two steps back to dissipate the power of the strike.

"Zi Yinyang, you're considered one of the young masters of the black market. If you're so good, why don't you come after me, instead of using an injured warrior to control me?" Zhang Ruochen said.

Zi Yinyang retorted, "For an assassin, as long as it kills the person, any method can be used."

Zi Yinyang attacked Chang Qiqi again.

Zhang Ruochen immediately stepped in-front of Chang Qiqi and swung down with both hands on the hilt.

"You don't know what's good for you!" Zi Yinyang sneered coldly.

"PFFFT!"

The Fish Intestine Sword pierced through Zhang Ruochen's left shoulder, while at the same moment, the broadsword in Zhang Ruochen's hand sliced towards Zi Yinyang's neck.

Zi Yinyang furrowed his forehead and prepared to withdraw the Fish Intestine Sword, however, he found that Zhang Ruochen's shoulder muscles had clamped around the Fish Intestine Sword and he was unable to pull it out.

Clearly, Zhang Ruochen had purposely shown his flaw to draw him into stabbing his left shoulder.

"You're crazy!" Zi Yinyang said coldly.

Zhang Ruochen was ready to fight with his life, but Zi Yinyang did not expect to die with Zhang Ruochen.

In this situation, Zi Yinyang had to give up the Fish Intestine Sword and quickly side-step two paces to avoid the blow Zhang Ruochen aimed at his neck.

Zi Yinyang felt rather dejected. Zhang Ruochen was the first person to hurt him in a fight, as well as the first to force him to give up his sword. Most importantly, Zhang Ruochen's martial cultivation was far lower than his.

As one of the seven young masters in the black market, Zi Yinyang had lost a lot of face by being forced to such a state by a teenager.

Zhang Ruochen also did not feel well as he had been injured severely.

As the Fish Intestine Sword had pierced his left shoulder, it brought Sword Breath into Zhang Ruochen's body. With the wound as the center, there was a large patch of Meridians and Blood Meridians that had been shattered; there was no feeling, and everything was numb.

Bearing the pain, Zhang Ruochen pulled the Fish Intestine Sword from his left shoulder. He continued to stand ramrod straight as he stared at Zi Yinyang and said, "Do you think I'm better with a broadsword, or a sword?"

"Even if your sword technique is better, you still can't escape your death today."

Zi Yinyang's fingers curled into claws and using marvelous footwork, like a blast of wind, he rushed to Zhang Ruochen.

His hand-claw was sharper than iron. His five fingers were completely encased in Icy Genuine Qi to create five piercing icicles.

The air around Zi Yinyang was affected by his Genuine Qi and snow began to fall. The snowflakes became bigger and bigger in an increasingly larger area, and the temperature turned frigid.

Zi Yinyang's physical quality was also able to invite a vision of heaven and earth.

"SWISH!"

Zhang Ruochen demonstrated the full power of being in the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword and in that brief moment he attacked with 12 sword techniques. It was so powerful that Zi Yinyang was not able to move forward at all.

"Stop!" A loud cry came.

From far away, a graceful shadow was rushing towards them from a small alley.

She wore all black clothing and a veil covered her face. Her figure was lithe and small, and a wisp of white Genuine Qi flowed around her. Altogether, it was a hazy and beautiful illusion, but her true form could not be seen at all.

Seeing this woman appear, Zi Yinyang immediately stopped and retreated to a distance. In a cold voice he demanded, "Who are you? Who dares to tell me to stop killing someone?"

The veiled woman laughed proudly, with a hint of disdain, "Never mind you, I would dare to order the Chief of the Hades Department to stop, and what's more, he would have to stop."

"That's a big claim."

Zi Yinyang's eyes narrowed and suddenly dashed towards the veiled woman at a speed of 180 meters per second. In a flash he had disappeared from where he stood and was stretching out a claw to attack the veiled woman.

"SWISH!"

Zi Yinyang was momentarily blinded and, suddenly, the woman disappeared.

This wasn't good.

Zi Yinyang immediately spun around and struck out towards the right with both his hands.

"Bam!"

From the right, the woman struck once and sent Zi Yinyang flying a dozen meters.

Yet she stood where she was, not a hair was moving.

"How is this possible?" Zi Yinyang felt the Genuine Qi in his body roiling. His arms felt like they had been broken, even moving a single finger sent bone-splitting pain down both his arms.

Among the younger generation, Zi Yinyang had always considered himself one of the top prodigies. He had never before tasted defeat.

Who on earth was this woman?

How could she so easily break the cultivation he had been so proud of?

The Young Lord of Poisonous Spiders saw that the situation was not good, and immediately came down to stand to the left of the woman, cornering her with Zi Yinyang.

"Lady, it is not a good idea to meddle in the affairs of the black market. I suggest you stop earlier than later." The Young Lord said coldly while playing with his bronze machete.

Among those present, only the Young Lord knew that Zhang Ruochen had the power to control space, so naturally he would not allow someone else to rescue Zhang Ruochen.

"What if I don't withdraw?" The woman's voice was gentle, but also gave the sense of being very floaty. It was impossible to tell her real age from her voice.

The Young Lord and Zi Yinyang met each other's eyes briefly and attacked together.

This time, they held nothing back and attacked with all their strength.

After healing himself with Genuine Qi, Zi Yinyang's injured arms had recovered. Not only had they not been weakened, they were now even stronger.

It was very clear that he had not used all his strength when battling with Zhang Ruochen earlier.

“Bang! Bang!”

In a moment, Zi Yinyang and the Young Lord both spat out a mouthful of blood and flew backwards together before landing on the ground.

Covered in dust and dirt, they pushed themselves up from the ground and appeared extremely pathetic. They stared in shock at the woman standing in the middle of the street.

“You...you are a warrior of the Heaven Realm?” The Young Lord asked.

The woman laughed, “Such ignorance! It doesn’t take a warrior of the Heaven Realm to deal with the likes of you, warriors on the Earth Board are sufficient.”

Zi Yinyang clasped his hand over his chest and blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. He shook his head and said, “Among the younger generation in the 36 commanderies, there are only two woman on the Earth Board. You are definitely not one of them.”

“However, I am the third.” The veiled woman stated.

Zi Yinyang replied, “Given your strength, you’re probably ranked very high on the Earth Board.”

The Young Lord spoke, “Ah, indeed there are always better things, and stronger people. Today, we admit our defeat. We are satisfied to have been defeated by you. But, will you leave a name so that we may know who we lost to?”

“Haha! You couldn’t even withstand one of my attacks, and you want to know my name? I have already given the black market plenty of face by not killing you.” The woman laughed coldly.

“When I break into the Completion of the Earth Realm, I will definitely challenge you again.” The Young Lord was extremely bitter about his defeat and threw down the challenge. Collecting the evil warriors from the Poisonous Spider Club, he quickly slipped away.

Even if all the evil warriors from the Poisonous Spider Club attacked, they would not be able to capture Zhang Ruochen with the veiled woman there. They might even be completely destroyed by her.

The power of the veiled lady was terrifying and unfathomable. The Young Lord thought that even when he reached the Completion of the Earth Round he might not be able to withstand more than 10 of her attacks.

Zi Yinyang’s gaze swung towards Zhang Ruochen’s direction and landed on the sword in his hand, “Within three months, I will personally come to retrieve the Fish Intestine Sword.”

Having said that, Zi Yinyang turned and left.

Only Zhang Ruochen and the veiled lady remained on the street, along with the unconscious Chang Qiqi.

Their gazes met, but they did not speak.

Chapter 225: Weapon of Thunderbolt

Zhang Ruochen was so badly injured that he had to sit down.

Although Zi Yinyang and Young Lord of Poisonous Spider were both repelled by the mysterious woman who suddenly showed up, Zhang Ruochen didn't down his guard. He held the Fish Intestine Sword single-handedly and said, "Great cultivation! Perhaps even Si Xingkong, the top one of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge, can't compete with you. Who are you?"

"Hehe!"

The slim woman with a veil chuckled. She was enchanting, with a soft smile, and her voice was like a magic bell, so alluring that it could affect the human mind.

She just wore a layer of cyan chiffon and her perfect skin was partly hidden and partly visible inside it. Her breasts and hips were perky, yet her waist was outlined in a thin curve. Part of her jade-white legs and flawless beautiful feet peeked out from under her dress.

Within her laughter was the 'Power of Charmful Voice'.

This power meant that her voice could charm others and bring about illusions in their minds.

If a warrior's Spiritual Power was not strong enough, the moment he heard her laughter, he would become confused and disoriented and, caught up in her illusions, would show all sorts of ugly behaviors.

Once he was lost, he would have no chance to survive.

But the allure of her voice was useless against Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen had a strong will and Spiritual Power. He said mildly with clear eyes, "Do you believe that I'll make your power of charming voice backfire if you dare to use it again?"

The laughter stopped. The woman with a veil glared at Zhang Ruochen and said softly, "I've heard of your great Spiritual Power which is the top of the disciples of the School of the Martial Market. If my Spiritual Power is weaker than you, it's possible that my power of charming voice will backfire. But I don't think you'll return kindness with ingratitude, after all, you owe me for saving your life. Don't you ever think of how to repay me?"

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Why did you save me?"

The woman smiled, "Because I want to recruit you."

"Into the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

"You know I am one of them?" Now it was her turn to be surprised.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You just used the power of charming voice. Who else could use this martial technique except for women from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect?"

"Interesting! I didn't expect that you knew so much. I underestimated you before."

The woman laughed, "Now that you know I am from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect and your life is still in my hands, what is your choice then? Join us or die?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and shook his head.

The woman walked towards Zhang Ruochen and said with a cold voice, "Zhang Ruochen, I admire your talent and it's useful to us. That's why I want to spare your life. Don't refuse a toast only to drink a forfeit."

"You think you've got me?" Zhang Ruochen was still calm and showed no trace of panic.

The siren girl almost laughed in her exasperation, "Your injury is so serious that you could barely stand still. Do you have the strength to fight again?"

"I can try." Zhang Ruochen answered.

"Don't you realize that even if Zi Yinyang and Young Lord of Poisonous Spider teamed up, they would not rival me? Do you still want to fight against me?"

"Why not?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

She looked into Zhang Ruochen's eyes and found that he was not joking.

How impressive!

Did he have a card up his sleeve?

"Fine. I'll take this opportunity to find out how many secrets he's hiding."

The siren moved her body more than 10 meters to the side at a ghost-like speed. She stretched out an arm and spread out her palm to emit rays of white Genuine Qi to form a half-foot fly-cutter.

The Genuine Qi of a normal warrior of the Earth Realm was too impure to form weapons.

Only warriors on the Earth Board could use their pure and profound Genuine Qi to form weapons imbued with incredible power.

Besides, Genuine Qi-formed weapons were much easier to control. They could kill people without being noticed and disappear into a whisp of Genuine Qi at any time.

The Genuine Qi-formed fly-cutter seemed quite unreal. It was only a shadow floating above her elegant snow-white palm.

"SWISH!"

With a twist of her fingers, the fly-cutter shot at Zhang Ruochen like a white flash.

Zhang Ruochen sat on the ground with his legs crossed. He closed his eyes tightly and a light beam burst out of his body. In the beam, there was a Martial Soul which looked exactly the same as Zhang Ruochen floating above his head.

Only if absolutely necessary, would Zhang Ruochen use the power of the Martial Soul.

He just used a little power of the Martial Soul when he practiced the Space Domain before. He had never activated the Martial Soul to show its form suspended outside of his body and control the Spiritual Qi in the world.

Now he had no choice but to use the Martial Soul's power to survive.

“Weapon of thunderbolt!”

The Martial Soul floating over Zhang Ruochen’s head seemed like an illusory image of a god. Its hands made all kinds of gestures without a stop to gather Spiritual Qi within the space of hundreds of meters around.

Manipulated by the Martial Soul, the Spiritual Qi there changed into threads of purple lightning.

Countless lightning gathered together to form a weapon of thunderbolt and it thrust toward the woman.

“Bam!”

The Genuine Qi-formed fly-cutter was smashed into white smoke almost in the blink of an eye.

The weapon of thunderbolt was extremely powerful. After destroying the fly-cutter, its force didn’t diminish and the bundle of piercing purple light continued flying toward the woman.

The siren let out a holler and stepped back immediately. In the meanwhile, she produced five Genuine Qi-formed shields, in an attempt to block the weapon of thunderbolt.

But the penetrating force of the weapon of thunderbolt was so strong that it broke the shields in a moment and cleaved at the woman’s white neck.

“SWISH!”

The woman was fast enough to make a narrow escape by turning herself into a shadow.

Then, she jumped to the top of an ancient building near the street like an elegant woman gracefully dancing and didn’t dare approach Zhang Ruochen.

She touched the veil with her jade-like fingers and realized that her veil was shorter than before. It had been cut off by the weapon of thunderbolt.

It was lucky that only the veil got cut. If her movement had been any slower, it would have been her neck that was cut.

So awesome!

The siren was scared. When she stared at Zhang Ruochen, who was sitting in the middle of the street with his legs crossed, she had the odd feeling that Zhang Ruochen was the center of the universe and everything was circling around him.

“You have mastered the Martial Soul?” Looking at the illusory image of the Martial Soul, she felt it unbelievable.

Other warriors’ Spiritual Power were not strong enough to see Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Soul.

Yet the siren’s Spiritual Power was above level 20. Naturally, she could see other warriors’ Martial Souls.

How could a warrior of the Earth Realm produce a Martial Soul?

Normally, only warriors of the Heaven Realm could nourish their own souls with Genuine Qi to increase their power, which could become a Martial Soul once it reached a certain level of power.

Only by using a Martial Soul could the Spiritual Qi of the world be controlled.

The more powerful the Martial Soul, the more Spiritual Qi it can control.

Zhang Ruochen had been a warrior of the Completion of the Heaven Realm before. If his Genuine Qi has been adequate, with such powerful Martial Soul, he would have killed the siren with that strike.

Zhang Ruochen raised his glance, staring at the elegant siren, " Since you already know that I've mastered Martial Soul, I can't let you leave alive."

Zhang Ruochen closed his eyes to control the Martial Soul with his strong Spiritual Power.

The Spiritual Qi gathered around the Martial Soul again to form a weapon of thunderbolt once more.

"Pfft!"

This time, the weapon of thunderbolt contained more power than the last, covering the entire street in rays of quivering lightning.

The woman's expression changed and she turned around to escape immediately. After several flashes, she had completely disappeared.

A pleasant, floating voice came from the void space, "Zhang Ruochen, we'll meet again. I will fight you once I master Martial Soul."

Seeing that the siren had fled, Zhang Ruochen let out a long sigh. The thunderbolt that had been gathered burst apart with a crash, disintegrating into a lightning storm and spread out uncontrollably in all directions.

"Bam!"

A huge crater emitting black smoke appeared in the ground.

"Uh..."

The Martial Soul flew back into Zhang Ruochen's body automatically. His face was as white as paper and a trickle of blood flowed from the corner of his mouth.

"It's lucky the siren was scared away, otherwise I don't dare imagine the consequences."

Although the Martial Soul was controlled by Spiritual Power, Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul was different from warriors of the Heaven Realm.

Now, if he was to control the Martial Soul, he must connect to the Vessel of Spirit and provide it with Genuine Qi. Only then could he mobilize it.

The first use of the weapon of thunderbolt had almost consumed all his Genuine Qi.

As for the second one, Zhang Ruochen was forcing himself to produce one even bigger than the first.

Had the siren not run away, Zhang Ruochen's second thunderbolt might have killed her, but it probably would have taken his life as well.

"Only when I use it in the Heaven Realm can I control the Martial Soul with my Spiritual Power instead of my Genuine Qi."

"The siren actually survived my attack with the weapon of thunderbolt. She really has great martial cultivation. Maybe she could count as the top rank in the young generation of the heresy."

Zhang Ruochen took a pill to heal his wound and rest for a while. Feeling somewhat refreshed, he stood up again.

He picked up a piece of light cyan chiffon from the ground, put it to his nose and sniffed it, "Butterfly Incense... doesn't senior sister apprentice Duanmu like butterfly incense?"

The light cyan chiffon was cut from that woman, so naturally, it had her scent.

Chapter 226: A Brutal Fight

Butterfly Incense was a superior class herb extracted from the Butterfly Flower.

It was extremely expensive. One gram of the incense was worth 100,000 silver coins.

Many of the female warriors who practiced Martial Arts liked Butterfly Incense not only for its long-lasting smell but also its calming power.

The odor would last an entire month each time they applied it. Bathing would do nothing to wash away the fragrance.

After applying Butterfly Incense, a warriors' breaths would be completely concealed. Other warriors would not be able to detect them. Like Zhang Ruochen now. He could only smell the odor of Butterfly Incense on the scarf rather than the actual breath of the female heresy.

Aside from Duanmu Xingling, there were countless female warriors who liked Butterfly Incense. It would be impetuous for Zhang Ruochen to assume the female heresy was Duanmu Xingling.

BOOM!

The ground shook and the horses groaned.

Under the leadership of the well-built imperial guard deputy general, a group of soldiers clad in black armor rushed from both sides of the street, surrounding the area in a circle. They stopped in front of Zhang Ruochen.

The imperial guard deputy general jumped down from the back of his savage beast, kneeled down on one leg and said, "I'm deeply sorry, Your Highness. We are late."

With Zhang Ruochen's martial cultivation, none of the imperial guards dared to be impolite in front of him. The deputy generals needed to be aware of their manners, they kneeled down and saluted.

The treatment of a genius prince and a crap prince was completely different in the world of Martial Arts.

Zhang Ruochen put away the scarf. He stared at the deputy general and asked, "What's happening in the Royal Palace now?"

The imperial guard responded, "The Evil Warriors of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect have all retreated. Your Majesty has full control over the situation. The imperial guards in Yunwu City are all on their way to catch the Evil Warriors."

Hearing that his father had taken back control of the Palace, Zhang Ruochen nodded and asked, "Has the Ninth Commandery Princess returned to the Palace yet?"

"That I don't know, Your Highness."

The imperial guard was scared of making him angry. He added, "Commander Wan has rushed to the Martial Market Coliseum in person. I'm sure the Ninth Commandery Princess will be safe."

"In this case, please accompany me back to the Palace!" Although Zhang Ruochen was eager to go to the Coliseum right away, his condition didn't allow him to protect himself or save anyone. Therefore, it was a wise decision to return to the Royal Palace.

Moreover, Chang Qiqi was badly injured and had fainted. He needed medical treatment immediately.

Two imperial guards lifted him up. They followed the troop of the imperial guards and returned to the Royal Palace.

When they arrived at the Palace, Zhang Ruochen ordered the servant to send for the best Pill master in the Palace to treat Chang Qiqi personally.

He had been waiting for the Pill master to confirm that Chang Qiqi's condition had stabilized. He went to the Jade Palace exhausted.

When Concubine Lin saw the wounds on her son's face and left shoulder, she was shocked. Tears fell down from her eyes.

Zhang Ruochen comforted her instantly. He told her that once a warrior decided to go with Martial Arts, injuries and wounds were an inevitable part of the way.

Shortly after, the Ninth Commandery Princess returned to the Palace safely under the escort of the imperial guards.

The major targets of the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect were the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain and students of the School of the Martial Market. The Ninth Commandery Princess being attacked was a fish in the wrong net. Luckily, she hadn't encountered a severe attack.

Anyhow, it wasn't hard for the Ninth Commandery Princess to protect herself. She had the help of the War Map and the Wings of Wind.

She heard that Zhang Ruochen had already arrived at the Palace and rushed to the Jade Palace instantly. When she saw him, she grabbed him tight and cried out loud. Her head drilled into his arms.

It was understandable for a ten year old princess to be scared to death after experiencing such tragic fights. If she hadn't been a warrior of the Black Realm, she would have collapsed.

Zhang Ruochen touched her head gently the way a brother would and said, "The Martial Arts road is indeed very brutal. You're going to encounter more and more dangerous situations like the one you've just seen. It's not going to be as peaceful as the Palace."

The Ninth Commandery Princess nodded. Sobbing, she said, "I know. But this was the first time I've seen so many people being killed. There were hundreds of dead bodies all piled together...their blood turned the whole area into a giant blood pool. I'm still frightened just thinking about it..." "I wouldn't have been able to crawl out from the dead bodies if you hadn't given me the War Map. I'm afraid...I would have been torn to pieces by the Evil Warriors. Just like my Third and Sixth Brother." ..

Zhang Ruochen's whole body shook. "What? The Third Prince and the Sixth Prince are dead?"

The Ninth Commandery Princess replied, "I saw my Sixth brother being slashed in half by one of the Evil Warriors, his blood almost splashed onto my body. As for my third brother, he was slain to death by three Evil Warriors. His body was badly mutilated."

Both the Third Prince and the Sixth Prince had gone to the Martial Market Coliseum just to see Zhang Ruochen be humiliated. No one could imagine that they had been killed in the Coliseum while Zhang Ruochen had escaped.

Zhang Ruochen sighed slightly and continued to comfort the Ninth Commandery Princess. After accompanying her back to her room, he entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel to start healing.

He didn't want to know how severe the fight had been while he was healing.

This was the brutality of the Martial Arts field. The strong lived while the weak died.

Zhang Ruochen wasn't surprised that the Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery had been killed. It was as if the powerful Ming Dynasty had been conquered.

Warriors who possessed strong ability had a higher chance of living.

After healing for nine days straight in the internal space of the Spinel, the condition of his injury could finally be recovered. The scar on his face had also disappeared under the efficacy of the pills and Genuine Qi.

After encountering such a life and death battle, it seemed as if his cultivation had elevated to a certain level. He was one step closer to reaching the Advanced Stage of the Earth Realm.

When a human being was forced into a hopeless circumstance, they could always find a way to stimulate their potential, thereby increasing their speed of breaking through realms.

Zhang Ruochen visited Chang Qiqi as soon as he left the internal space of the Spinel.

Although Chang Qiqi was seriously injured, his powerful physical quality allowed him to recover 20-30% after these few days of healing. At least he could walk now.

"Thank you for saving me, junior fellow apprentice Zhang. I won't forget how much you've helped me!" Chang Qiqi knelt down and saluted when he saw Zhang Ruochen.

He held Chang Qiqi and said, "We're brothers from the same School. Of course, I needed to save you!"

Chang Qiqi was grateful. He would be dead if Zhang Ruochen hadn't insisted on carrying him away. He had even ignored his own safety.

He sighed, "I've heard that we, the School of the Martial Market have suffered a massive loss this time. 13 internal students and 27 external students are dead. This is only the number of bodies found. There are 24 students missing, either already dead or held captive."

Zhang Ruochen responded, "The ability of the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect are indeed powerful. I guess they dispatched evil masters from the nearby commanderies to Yunwu City. Yet, the School only sent the young students to deal with them, how could we not lose?"

Chang Qiqi nodded and said, "I guess the School didn't realize how brutal the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect would be. They even mobilized five senior myths of martial arts of the Heaven Realm to fight against us. With this loss, I'm afraid the School will have to change its tactics and send at least a few silver gowned Elders to guard at the Yunwu Commandery."

Zhang Ruochen responded, "I'm sure that both the black market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect have also suffered great loss."

"Indeed. Rumor has it that at least a thousand Evil Warriors are dead while more than a thousand of them have been locked in the Celestial Prison."

He clenched his fists tight and said, "But, how could the lives of the Evil Warriors compare to the students of the School of the Martial Market?"

"A random external student obtains the talent of breaking through to the Earth Realm. An internal student possesses not less than 30% chance to reach the Heaven Realm."

"It could be said that a hundred Evil Warriors together is still incomparable to one of the external students' lives."

Zhang Ruochen patted his shoulders and said, "Don't worry! The senior warriors of the School will definitely counter-attack after such a loss."

Chang Qiqi calmed himself down and nodded. Suddenly, he looked as if he had thought of something. He asked, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, I've heard that you and Zi Qian are close friends?"

Zhang Ruochen was surprised. But he didn't expose any facial expression. "What happened?"

He replied, "When you were fighting with Zi Yinyang in the Coliseum, it was junior sister apprentice Zi who discovered Zi Yinyang's identity and informed senior brother and junior sister apprentice Chen Xier. Chen Xier suspects that she is one of the spies sent from the Hades Department, and thus locked her up. She might put her to death!"

"Killing without letting them go" had always been the way the School dealt with spies.

In order to save Zhang Ruochen, Zi Qian must have said something she shouldn't have said and caused Chen Xier's suspicions.

That sounded bad!

Anyhow, Chen Xier suspected Zi Qian's identity because of him. Zhang Ruochen would have to get her out no matter what. He couldn't let her die without doing anything.

Zhang Ruochen said, "I see. I guess it's probably a misunderstanding between both of them. Elder brother Chang, do you know where she is being held?"

Chang Qiqi shook his head and said, "I'm not sure. However, the School has only three secret strongholds in Yunwu City. I know you and Chen Xier are pretty close. You should go talk to her. I think she will let her go after listening to you."

Chang Qiqi told him the location of the three secret strongholds as well as the secret way of contacting students of the School of the Martial Market.

Since Chang Qiqi's injury was too heavy, he had to rest. He was unable to accompany Zhang Ruochen to help Zi Qian. So, Zhang Ruochen left the Palace on his own.

The situation of the Yunwu City remained complicated. Thus Zhang Ruochen didn't leave the Palace as the Ninth Prince flagrant. Rather, he wore a metal mask and left without a trace in the middle of the night.

He knew that Zi Qian's real identity was an assassin of the Hades Department. He didn't dare to meet Chen Xier right away.

If she found out that Zhang Ruochen wanted to save a killer of the Hades Department...

What would she think?

It would not help the situation if she also suspected that Zhang Ruochen was one of the spies of the black market.

Although their relationship was pretty good, they hadn't reached that certain level of trust.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen decided to go meet Duanmu Xingling to learn more about the situation of the School in Yunwu City before planning anything.

It was going to be very dangerous saving a spy of the black market in the hands of disciples from the same School.

If Zhang Ruochen wasn't cautious, he would bring upon his own death. The Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery would also be affected.

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Chapter 227: The Volley Manor

When Duanmu Xingling saw Zhang Ruochen, she was exceptionally excited. She said with a beautiful smile on her face and a pair of round and bright glittering eyes, "Zhang Ruochen, guess what good news I've brought to you!"

“With the situation of the Yunwu City, is it possible to have any good news?” Zhang Ruochen responded emotionlessly in the metal mask.

Duanmu Xingling rolled her eyes, took out a wooden box from the space bracelet and handed it to Zhang Ruochen.

“What’s that?” Asked Zhang Ruochen.

Duanmu Xingling lifted her chin, exposed her long and slender neck and said with pride, “Open it and take a look!”

After hesitating for a second, Zhang Ruochen opened the wooden box.

“SWISH...”

A strong whiff of an icy smell was released.

That smell contained a strong power of corrosion. It swallowed Zhang Ruochen’s fingers within a second.

The skin on his right hand all turned black at once.

Yet, Zhang Ruochen wasn’t scared; instead, he looked joyful. He closed the wooden box, and at the same time, activated his Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi, refining the toxic in his body.

“It’s Godhabitat Grass! Where did you find it, senior sister apprentice Duanmu?” Zhang Ruochen asked with little excitement.

The toxicity of the Godhabitat Grass was absolutely strong. It only took a small amount of the toxin drilled into Zhang Ruochen’s body for him to be able to refine with the help of Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi.

If he swallowed all the Godhabitat Grass into his stomach at once, not even the gods could save him.

Duanmu Xingling responded casually and said, “I asked a friend to find them in the Qianshui Commandery and send them back to the Yunwu City while traveling day and night. Well, It’s just a small gift, and you don’t need to keep thinking about it. Of course, Godhabitat Grass is rare as well as carrying an absolute strong toxicity. My friend could only find three of the grass, and I wonder if that’s enough for you?”

“Sure, It’s more than enough! Anyway, thank you so much, senior sister apprentice Duanmu!” Zhang Ruochen lifted his arms slightly and thanked Duanmu Xingling whole-heartedly.

In fact, the distance between Qianshui Commandery and the Yunwu Commandery was more than 100,000 kilometers. If she wanted to send the Godhabitat Grass within three days, she had to use a fourth-level savage bird and rush at the highest speed in order to make it on time.

Now, Zhang Ruochen owed her a favor.

It seemed like teamwork since Zhang Ruochen didn’t ask Duanmu Xingling how she could send the Godhabitat Grass to the Yunwu City in three days, and she didn’t ask him why he wanted the Godhabitat Grass.

She narrowed her eyes, smiled and asked, "By the way, has something happened for you to come?"

"I'm not going to hide it. Yes, there's an issue."

Zhang Ruochen put the Godhabitat Grass into his Storage Ring and said, "I wanted to know the situation of some disciples of the School in the Yunwu City."

"Is that it?" Duanmu Xingling put on a smile that didn't look like a smile.

He laughed and replied, "I'm not someone who is complicated anyway!"

Then Duanmu Xingling responded, "The School of the Martial Market suffered a massive loss in the fight at the Coliseum of the Martial Market. Ten genius students were killed brutally. Some of them have been caught and locked up somewhere else. There are three strongholds of the School in the Yunwu City, and Zi Qian is locked up in the dungeon of the Volley Manor. If Chen Xier found out that she is the assassin of the Hades Department, she would definitely kill her right away."

Zhang Ruochen stared into Duanmu Xingling's eyes, coughed and said, "Errr...how did you know I came to find you because of Zi Qian?"

Duanmu Xingling covered her mouth and chuckled, "You're so close to her, and she exposed her identity because of you. It's not hard to discover the special relationship between you two. Knowing she's been locked up, you'll no doubt go and save her. Did I surprise you by getting the correct answer?"

She continued, "Well, I'm curious, how far have you two gone?"

"We are pure, pure friends, not like what you think..." Zhang Ruochen shut his mouth when he realized that he leaked some news out. He really wanted to slap himself in the face.

"Haha! Got you, Zhang Ruochen. She is indeed an assassin of the Hades Department! You got nerves to be friends with killers of the Hades Department. Aren't you scared that if sister Chen knew it, she would go crazy?" Duanmu Xingling laughed out loud.

Zhang Ruochen had to admit that he underestimated Duanmu Xingling's intelligence. He never believed the phrase "women with plumped chests are stupid".

He looked serious and said, "Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, this is not as simple as you think. Please, please don't spread this news."

"Don't you worry! Do you really think I'll sell you out given our relationship?"

Duanmu Xingling put away her smile. She touched her chin with two fingers and said, "Actually, I can even offer you some help if you're going to save her."

...

Every large-scale family and Suzerain in the Yunwu City owned their own individual manor.

The Volley Manor covered an area of 120 acres which was neither too big nor too small. It was one of the secret strongholds of the School in the Yunwu City.

Since it was a special period of time, the Volley Manor was highly secured and all array had been opened. It was even impossible for a Heaven Realm warrior to sneak in without a trace.

When Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling were approaching the Volley Manor, the royal guard who was stationed at the manor discovered them.

“This manor is private property. Who are you two?”

Before the royal guard even finished, both of them took out the token of the School of the Martial Market at the same time.

Looking at the token they were holding, the royal guard instantly kneeled down on one leg and saluted. Then he invited them into the Volley Manor with courtesy.

Many students looked surprised when Duanmu Xingling and Zhang Ruochen walked into the Volley Manor.

Especially when they saw the mysterious Zhang Ruochen. A lot of students were curious about him, and they all rushed towards him and wanted to meet the genius youngster who saved the Commandery Princess Yanchen in the Earth Blaze City.

“He’s Zhang Ruochen, the Secret Disciple of the silver gowned Elder Hall Master. Why is he wearing a mask?” One of the external students, who gazed at Zhang Ruochen walking shoulder to shoulder with Duanmu Xingling, revealed a sense of envy as well as admiration.

“Since Elder brother Zhang is the Secret Disciple, it’s normal if he’s kind of mysterious. Moreover, we are definitely incomparable to his superior identity.”

Another student cried and said, “I can’t believe senior sister apprentice Duanmu is elder brother Zhang’s girlfriend...I’m hopeless now!”

“Such a beautiful woman like senior sister apprentice Duanmu, surely only the Young Genius like elder brother Zhang is worth being her boyfriend. You ain’t got any chance to steal sister Duanwu from brother Zhang.”

After entering the Volley Manor, Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling didn’t take any action. Instead, they settled down under the arrangement of the housekeeper.

In order to save Zi Qian, every step had to be planned. They couldn’t just fight.

“I’ll go take a look at the security of the dungeon. If possible, we’d better get her out tomorrow night,” said Zhang Ruochen.

Duanmu Xingling shook her head and said, “It’s easy to save her from the dungeon, but it’s hard to get her out of the Volley Manor. We need a perfect plan instead of just rushing to save her.”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “Don’t worry, I know how to get her out of the manor!”

When Zhang Ruochen finished speaking, he opened the window. After checking that no one was guarding his room, he jumped out of the window and transformed into an illusory image, dashing in the middle of the night.

The entrance of the dungeon was located on the mountain in the center of the lake. If he wanted to reach the dungeon, he would need to fly over the lake without a trace and open the door of the dungeon.

Yet, getting through the security of the Volley Manor wasn't as easy as it sounded.

The surface of the lake probably had the Inscription of Array set up.

Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain and sensed that there were three powerful breaths hiding at the lakeside.

Luckily, he possessed the Space Domain; otherwise, he wouldn't be able to discover the three Martial Arts masters hiding at the corner.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen heard a light step coming. He held his breath immediately and hid on the tree branch.

The sound of footsteps got closer.

With the faint light, Zhang Ruochen could see a pretty woman with a sexy figure come to the lake.

It was Chen Xier.

She stopped and flicked her finger slightly.

An elderly walked out from the dark and saluted Chen Xier with his arms slightly lifted, "Greetings, Miss Chen."

Chen Xier nodded and asked, "Did anyone approach the fake mountain in the center of the lake?"

The elderly responded, "Don't you worry. With three of us stationed here, even a mosquito couldn't fly into the mountain, let alone a human being."

Chen Xier nodded and continued, "Presbyter Xue has checked her blood and found that her Blood Meridian contains Saint Power, which is the Posterity of the Saint. If she really is the spy of the Hades Department, she isn't just an ordinary assassin."

"I guess the news that she's being locked up has probably spread. The master of the Hades Department would definitely come to save her, and you guys have to be cautious. Don't let anyone rescue her!"

The elderly sneered, "Since the School sustained a great loss, the black market and the Evil Warriors will also need to pay a price. Don't you worry, Miss Chen, no matter how many Evil Warriors the black market have sent to save her, death would be their only way out."

Chen Xier said, "I need to go see her. Keep hiding, you guys, and don't expose yourself."

She took out a palm-sized iron ship and put it in her palm.

The tiny iron ship was a seventh-level Genuine Martial Arms.

Under the surge of her Genuine Qi, the tiny iron ship turned into a three-meter-long little boat.

Riding on the little boat, Chen Xier sailed towards the fake mountain in the center of the lake.

At the same time, the Inscription of Array set up in the lake had been fully opened.

“It’s a good chance!”

Zhang Ruochen hid under the Space Domain and displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. He flew over the void space and reached the top of the fake mountain.

Since Chen Xier was heading to the fake mountain, the three elderly guards who were hiding in the lake didn’t recognize the weak current of Genuine Qi, appearing over the lake.

She reached the fake mountain and walked into a dark road.

“Greetings, Miss Chen.”

The two warriors who were guarding the dungeon kneeled down instantly and saluted Chen Xier.

“Open the stone gate.” Chen Xier said coldly without looking at any of them.

The two warriors both took out a key, put it into the keyhole which activated the Inscription of Array carved on the stone gate.

“BOOM!”

The thick stone gate eventually opened and revealed a long ladder linking to the underground.

A breeze of Icing air blew out from the stone gate.

The stone gate was so dark that he couldn’t see the bottom of the ladder.

Zhang Ruochen, who was following Chen Xier, glanced at the two warriors and recognized their cultivation levels.

Both of them possessed the cultivation at the Final State of the Earth Realm.

After the great loss of the School, the Martial Market Bank and the School of the Martial Market had indeed dispatched the Martial Arts masters to the Yunwu City.

The two warriors who were stationed at the dungeon were over 50 years old. Obviously, they were not students of the School, but rather warriors of the Martial Market Bank.

The School of the Martial Market was a base where the Martial Market Bank fostered geniuses. However, not all warriors of the Martial Market Bank came from the School. The Bank would also spend a large sum of the money to attract warriors from other commanderies.

Yet, the warriors who came from other places would only get a few chances to become the senior officials of the Bank. Moreover, their status was not as high as students of the School, so they couldn’t get access to all of the cultivation resources. They were seen only as the outsiders of the Martial Market Bank.

Chapter 228: A Man with Two Faces

The dungeon was extremely deep and quiet, emitting a strong Icing air. If an ordinary person entered such a cold dungeon, they would freeze.

The distance between the ground and the bottom of the dungeon was 50 meters. The Inscription of Array had been carved into the stone wall, making it impossible for anyone to enter the dungeon from the underground.

Zi Qian sat cross-legged on the two-meter-high metal cage. Her slender arms and legs were tied with an iron chain, and a golden inscription mark was floating on the chain and handle.

Anyone who touched the iron chain, even slightly, would trigger the golden inscription mark, causing it to transform into an electric current and bounce the person away.

Chen Xier stood outside the metal cage, looking at Zi Qian who had been locked up and said, "There's Blood Meridian of a Saint found in your body. You're definitely not an ordinary assassin."

Zi Qian kept her eyes closed. She placed her hands on her knees as if she didn't understand what Chen Xier was talking about.

Zhang Ruochen, who had followed Chen Xier, entered the dungeon. He felt heartache when he saw Zi Qian locked up in the metal cage.

Furthermore, he was irritated that Chen Xier had locked Zi Qian in a cage only for suspecting that she was a killer of the Hades Department. It was an overly harsh punishment for Chen Xier to lock her in such a dark and cold dungeon.

If she had confirmed that Zi Qian was the spy sent by the Hades Department, what Chen Xier did, made complete sense. However, she hadn't found any clue that she was one of the killers of the Hades Department, and anyhow, they were both sisters from the same School.

Then, Chen Xier took out a sharp broken sword. She walked in front of Zi Qian, sneered with her red lips and said, "It's said that the relationship between you and Zhang Ruochen is pretty good?"

Zi Qian, who sat cross-legged in the metal cage, gradually opened her eyes. She stared at Chen Xier, who was standing outside the cage, and responded in a weak voice, "Zhang Ruochen and I...are only normal brother and sister."

"Haha! You finally speak!"

Chen Xier let out a laugh with her soft voice and her chest pumping up and down. As her eyes became fierce, she sneered, "If you and Zhang Ruochen are just brother and sister, why did you save him, given that you might expose your real identity? Tell me! Is Zhang Ruochen one of the spies of the black market?"

"No." Zi Qian closed her eyes again and stopped talking.

"BOOM!"

Chen Xier shifted her sight. She grabbed Zi Qian's left wrist, which was tied to the iron chain, and dragged her over. Her face was tightly stuck to the metal cage.

The short sword in her hands moved to Zi Qian's face. Chen Xier laughed, "If you don't tell me the truth, I'll cut your face open and you'll make you disfigured. Then, I'll imprison you in the Chikong Secret Mansion, and you'll never be able to see the outside world again."

The golden inscription mark, carved on the iron chain, kept drilling into Zi Qian's body like wisps of golden thunder.

Even though Zi Qian was an assassin who had been through all sorts of brutal training, she was in great pain at this moment because of the spasm that was passing through her body. She clenched her teeth, shivering and said, "I...What I said is true...Zhang Ruochen...has indeed...no relation to the black market..."

The golden light shined on Chen Xier's beautiful face and displayed her aesthetic outline. Her beautiful features were perfectly flawless.

Yet, Zhang Ruochen didn't find her pretty, but rather evil and cunning. It was as if she were a different person than the goddess image that she displayed.

He sighed with disappointment.

Hearing the sigh, Chen Xier's countenance changed. She asked, "Who is this?"

When Chen Xier was about to turn around, a palm wind hit her neck suddenly. She blacked out and fell to the ground.

Zi Qian, who was still in the cage, became nervous. She stared at the black shadow who had just knocked Chen Xier out while wearing a metal mask and asked, "Who are you?"

When the black shadow came closer, she saw a familiar face.

As Zhang Ruochen took off his metal mask, Zi Qian was able to recognize him.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen didn't make her seem happy but even more anxious. She lowered her voice and asked, "Why are you here? If warriors of the School of the Martial Market found you here, they would think you're also one of the spies of the black market."

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I'm here to save you!"

"I don't need you to save me. You should leave now!" said Zi Qian.

He was quite shocked and asked, "Do you think I can't save you?"

Zi Qian looked coldly and said, "How can you not understand? There's a reason people of the School of the Martial Market locked me up here. They are baiting the people from the black market to come save me. Not to mention, they have probably set up traps all outside the manor. I don't see any chance for us to escape."

"Anyway, you're not like me. You're the prince of the Yunwu Commandery with family and friends all around you. If the School suspects you as one of the spies of the black market, the entire Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery would be affected."

Seeing Zhang Ruochen was still there, Zi Qian said in a low voice, "Besides...we're just friends. You don't to take such a big risk for me..."

"Waaa!"

Before Zi Qian finished speaking, Zhang Ruochen took out his Abyss Ancient Sword and swayed downwards.

The iron chain that weighed a thousand kilograms broke into two part and dropped to the ground.

Then, Zhang Ruochen swayed four times in a row on Zi Qian's wrists and ankles, cutting off the four iron chains that tied her to the metal cage.

He grabbed Zi Qian from the cage and said, "I've already saved you and have no way to go back now."

Zi Qian was too weak to resist lying in Zhang Ruochen's arms. She could only stare at Zhang Ruochen fixedly with a pair of beautiful eyes, expressing an angry but happy look.

Zhang Ruochen put her on the ground and flicked a pointed finger at her glabella, which caused a powerful Genuine Qi to surge through her body and unseal her blocked Meridians.

After her Meridians were untied, the dense Genuine Qi fully filled up the Meridians in her body. Shortly after, Zi Qian was full of energy and had recovered all her power.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Let's go! It's time to leave!"

Zi Qian's face was blushed. She pulled Zhang Ruochen's sleeves and asked, "How are we going to get out?"

He answered, "I have a way to conceal ourselves, and I'm 70% sure that the guards outside won't be able to see us."

Looking at Chen Xier, who was lying on the ground, Zi Qian said, "Perhaps I have a better idea!"

"What idea? Tell me."

Zi Qian responded, "I've secretly learned 'Silkworm Butterfly Skill' in the Hades Department. Though I haven't reached the realm of success, I'm still able to change my appearance in a simple way. Anyway, it's getting dark now, and I guess the warriors who are stationed at the dungeon wouldn't dare to look at Chen Xier in detail. Once I change my look to hers, I'll be able to escape easily."

Zhang Ruochen also glanced at Chen Xier on the ground, for whom he had lost respect, and said, "That could work!"

He turned around and waited for a short while.

Zi Qian took off all Chen Xier's clothes and wore them herself. Then, she helped Chen Xier into her clothes.

After getting changed, Zi Qian locked her into the metal cage and tied her with four iron chains.

She picked up the short sword on the floor, stared at the metal cage and said, "Chen Xier's head is worth quite a lot on the 'Board of Bounty Hunter'. Shall we kill her and share the rewards?"

Zhang Ruochen frowned his eyebrows slightly and said, "Well, I'm still a student of the School of the Martial Market, and I won't let you kill people from the same School."

In Chen Xier's point of view, she was correct.

Zhang Ruochen was disappointed in Chen Xier because he felt that she was two-faced. She pretended to be perfect in front of him, but at the same time, she had just revealed her brutal nature behind his back.

He disliked women like her.

However, it was another matter that Zi Qian wanted to kill her. Surely Zhang Ruochen had to stop her from killing people.

"Fine! I'll let her stay alive for now."

Zi Qian put away the short sword and displayed the "Silkworm Butterfly Skill," changing her face muscles and outline. She even amended her body figure and looked exactly alike to Chen Xier. Others wouldn't be able to tell the bug.

"Silkworm Butterfly Skill allows me to change my outlook but not the physical quality nor the nature of Genuine Qi." Zi Qian spoke with a voice that sounded exactly like Chen Xier.

It was to say that Zi Qian was indeed a qualified assassin, able to duplicate Chen Xier's elegance. When she walked out from the dungeon, the two warriors didn't notice any bugs.

Zhang Ruochen utilized the power of the Space Domain and distorted the space as if he had gone transparent. He walked next to Zi Qian and whispered, "Warriors of the School will soon find out that Chen Xier has been locked up in the cage instead of you. You need to escape from the Volley Manor tonight."

Zi Qian nodded.

Riding in the little boat across the lake, Zi Qian didn't encounter any obstacles and walked directly to the exit of the Volley Manor.

"Greetings, Miss Chen."

The warriors stationed at the Volley Manor all kneeled and saluted Zi Qian.

"Open the door, we're going out," Zi Qian demanded to the warriors.

The warriors didn't dare to question "Chen Xier's" order and opened the door and array immediately. They released "Chen Xier".

When "Chen Xier" was walking out the door, Zuo Lengxuan followed behind her. He looked at her back from far away and wondered, "Where is junior sister apprentice Chen going at such a late hour?"

He meditated for a second and decided to chase after her.

Seeing that Zi Qian had already left the Volley Manor, Zhang Ruochen didn't follow her. However, he hadn't expected someone like Zuo Lengxuan to suddenly appear out of nowhere.

Zuo Lengxuan had been chasing Chen Xier, and therefore, when he saw her leaving the Volley Manor so late at night, he followed her with a curiosity that was completely understandable.

However, that was not the real Chen Xier but actually Zi Qian.

If Zuo Lengxuan found out that she wasn't the real "Chen Xier", the consequence would be unimaginable.

Zhang Ruochen was worried about her. He concealed his body again and followed both of them.

After leaving the Volley Manor, Zi Qian displayed her technique. She dashed towards the dark and escaped at her fastest speed. She just wanted to leave the Volley Manor as fast as she could.

However, she felt like there was someone following her.

When she arrived at a relatively quiet area, she stopped and sighed, "Zhang Ruochen, I've already escaped and will be safe. You don't have to keep following me."

Zi Qian thought that the person following her was Zhang Ruochen. Therefore, she didn't speak as Chen Xier; instead, she used her real voice.

"CLIP-CLOP!"

The sound of footsteps rang out.

Zuo Lengxuan walked out from the jungle, looking at "Chen Xier" at a distance with hesitation and asked, "You're not junior sister apprentice Chen. Who are you? What's your relationship with Zhang Ruochen?"

Listening to Zuo Lengxuan's voice, Zi Qian's countenance changed, and she turned around instantly. She only knew that he wasn't Zhang Ruochen but an internal student.

Zi Qian had a faint impression towards Zuo Lengxuan. He was one of the top 50 masters of the Internal Academy, and they had met once or twice before.

She was completely shocked with despair. She hadn't expected to expose her identity after escaping from the manor. Perhaps she failed the mission of escaping tonight?

Chapter 229: Zi Brother and Sister

Before Zi Qian could react with the corresponding strategy, Zuo Lengxuan laughed out loud. He dashed forward, pointing one finger at her glabella.

The air on Zuo Lengxuan's finger swept forward. Zi Qian was astonished. She felt that the bitterly cold wind had frosted her to numb. The light before her shined in all directions. It glared so intensely that she couldn't open her eyes.

The cultivation between the two was widely different. Without waiting, Zuo Lengxuan sealed Zi Qian's Qi sea with one attack.

BOOM!

Zi Qian screamed and fell to the ground.

Her body twisted. But she pulled out her dagger and pointed to Zuo Lengxuan, who was 3 meters away.

He wore a contemptuous smile as he walked towards her. He said, "I looked down on you before, when you could operate your Genuine Qi, never mind now. Even though you're a Warrior of Division Profound, you can't withstand a single blow from me. I advise you not to strike a stone with an egg."

He gazed at her unbridled. There was no denying that Zi Qian now looked very much like Chen Xier. Not only did she have the breathtaking beauty, but also the grandeur and elegant temperament.

Once upon a time, Zuo Lengxuan had fantasized about the present scene repeatedly. But he simply could not be rude to Chen Xier. He could only suppress the evil thoughts in his mind.

Nevertheless, the woman before him was different. She was not noble like Chen Xier. Besides, there was not even a soul here. The evil thoughts he was suppressing in his mind inflated and finally burst out.

Zi Qian found that there was something wrong with Zuo Lengxuan's expression. With desperation showing in her eyes, she wielded the dagger purposefully toward her neck without hesitation. She felt like she wanted to take her own life.

At this moment, a blast of dark wind struck the dagger and sent it flying.

"Who's there?"

Zuo Lengxuan was stunned. He looked in the direction the wind had come from.

Zhang Ruochen came out from the darkness wearing a metal mask on his face. He didn't even look at Zuo Lengxuan. Instead he stared at Zi Qian. "I'm lucky I caught up to you. Are you hurt?"

She shook her head.

Seeing him, Zi Qian finally sighed with relief. She felt she had someone to rely on and no longer needed to worry about Zuo Lengxuan.

However, Zuo Lengxuan was nervous now. He gazed at the mysterious teenager who had appeared suddenly and asked, "Are you... Chen Ruo?"

"You could say that!" Zhang Ruochen responded.

Zuo Lengxuan knew that Chen Ruo's cultivation was very strong. He didn't dare to provoke him. He said prudently and carefully, "Junior Brother Chen, I believe that she is not Junior Sister Xier. Do not be fooled by her!"

Zhang Ruochen said, "Of course, I know that she's not Chen Xier."

Zuo Lengxuan narrowed his eyes and asked, "Then, who is she?"

"Hades Department Assassin, Zi Qian." Zhang Ruochen said frankly. "Don't you know that the Silkworm Butterfly Skill of the Hades Department can change a person's appearance?"

Zuo Lengxuan's face grew paler. He couldn't help clenching his fists and operating all the Genuine Qi in his body. He said, "If you know that she's the Hades Department's Assassin, why are you still helping her? Are you one of the heretics from the Hades Department too?"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "People like you will never understand the relationship between her and me."

"Haha! You just want to sleep with her because of her beauty. Why do you make it sound so lofty?" Zuo Lengxuan snorted coldly.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Whatever you think."

Zuo Lengxuan knew clearly that he was no match for Chen Ruo. He stepped two steps backwards and said, "Since she's the woman that Junior Brother Chen wants, I'm not going to interfere. I'll pretend that I haven't seen anything tonight. Now, excuse me, please!"

"Now that I've told you all this, you still want to leave?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Zuo Lengxuan's eyes became cold. He responded, "Chen Ruo, could it be that you want to kill and silence me? You should know that even though your cultivation is a little bit stronger than mine, it's far from enough for you to kill me. I don't have anything against you. We don't need to have a life and death battle, do we?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "Who says that I have no grievance or enmity towards you? Perhaps you've forgotten that you nearly made me lose all my martial cultivation in the School of the Martial Market. Can't this be regarded as deep hatred?"

Zuo Lengxuan frowned slightly and scanned his brain. The realization suddenly hit him and his countenance changed. He said, "I get it! You're..."

SWISH!

Zhang Ruochen didn't give him the chance to speak. He moved his feet and transformed into a flowing light that pierced through Zuo Lengxuan's body.

Zuo Lengxuan's right hand still pointed forwards, but his body was frozen. He stood still as streams of blood flowed out endlessly from a bloody hole in his forehead.

BOOM!

His body fell to the ground heavily.

Zhang Ruochen stood with his back to Zi Qian. He stared into the darkness with sharp eyes and asked, "Brother Zi. Since you're here, why don't you show yourself?"

Shortly after, came a sneer from the dark.

"You're worthy of being a Secret Disciple. I'm surprised you could find my breath." Zi Yinyang came out from the dark. He stood upright and wore a black robe with a black fighting sword at his side.

Zhang Ruochen had already discovered Zi Yinyang's presence before killing Zuo Lengxuan. This was why he didn't let Zuo Lengxuan say his name out loud.

If Zi Yinyang knew that Chen Ruo was actually Zhang Ruochen, they would be fighting each other now.

Seeing Zi Yinyang, Zi Qian's countenance became unnatural. She tried to avoid him.

Since he had shown up, Zi Qian would definitely not be in danger.

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Zi Yinyang and walked out into the darkness.

Zi Yinyang stared at the departing figure of "Chen Ruo" with killing intent in his eyes. But he wasn't sure if he could kill him, so he didn't take action. He could only let him go.

Zi Yinyang watched Zi Qian until "Chen Ruo" disappeared completely. He said coldly, "How dare you not salute when you see your brother? Do you think I'm going to take you to the Law Enforcement Hall and hand you to the law enforcement presbyter for punishment?"

Zi Qian changed to her original appearance. She gazed at Zi Yinyang with cold eyes and said, "I know how to get to the Law Enforcement Hall. You don't need to take me. I'll go right now."

"Stop!" Zi Yinyang said seriously. There was a chill to his voice.

Zi Qian stopped and said, "Zi Yinyang, what other advice do you have?"

"Is this the way you talk to your brother?" Staring at her figure, Zi Yinyang no longer had the heart to be tough on her. Softening his voice, he said, "Do you think that I don't know you exposed your identity in order to save Zhang Ruochen? I failed to kill him because of you." ..

"So what?" Zi Qian said.

Zi Yinyang said, "Father sent you to the School of the Martial Market to conduct an important task. But you exposed yourself because of a man. If he knew it, he would definitely kill you."

Zi Qian laughed and said, "He has never seen me as his daughter and never gives me any resources to practice. The martial cultivation I possess now is all due to my own efforts. Zi Yinyang, I'm telling you, if I had as many resources to practice as you, I would be way stronger than you."

"Are you thinking of betraying the Hades Department?" Zi Yinyang asked.

Zi Qian was silent for a moment. Then she responded, "It's none of your business. I'll report to the Law Enforcement Hall when I return to the Hades Department."

Zi Yinyang said, "You don't need to go to the Law Enforcement Hall! I've shouldered all your duty for you. Father has a new task for you. If you can finish it, you can make amends for your fault with good deeds and you will still have the chance to practice in the 'Black Market First-Class Hall'."

"The Black Market First-Class Hall!" Zi Qian was surprised.

Zi Yinyang nodded his head. "Father has seen all your efforts in the School of the Martial Market. He hopes you can strive for top 10 of the Profound Board in the Black Realm. You should know that he loves you."

Zi Qian sneered and said, "He has so many daughters. If I hadn't shown my extraordinary practice talent in the School of the Martial Market, would he even notice me? I won't go back to the Hades Department until I've reached the Heaven Realm. You can tell me my new task now."

Zi Yinyang stared at Zi Qian. Then he took a jade bottle out from his bosom and passed it to her. "This is a reward from father, a drop of Holy Water. It can help you to improve your physical quality," he said.

Zi Qian took the Holy Water without a trace of politeness.

Zi Yinyang opened his lips and told Zi Qian her new task. Soon after, he turned away and disappeared like a ghost.

...

The next day, warriors of the School of the Martial Market finally found Chen Xier imprisoned in the dungeon.

After she was released, she immediately dispatched all the warriors in the Volley Manor, in an effort to recapture Zi Qian.

Unfortunately, the warriors didn't find Zi Qian. Instead they found Zuo Lengxuan's corpse.

At noon, Zhang Ruochen and Duanmu Xingling left the Volley Manor without anyone noticing. No one would suspect them.

"With the dungeon so tightly guarded, how did you save Zi Qian? And how did you manage to imprison Chen Xier?" Duanmu Xingling asked with curiosity.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "I can't tell you."

"If you don't tell me, I'll go and tell Chen Xier, and ask her to capture you. Since she loves you so much, maybe she'll foster you as her gigolo and ask you to serve her every night...perhaps that's too good for you. After all, she's one of the top 10 beauties in the Omen Ridge. Many men long to be her gigolo day and night." Duanmu Xingling's bright eyes twinkled.

Knowing that Duanmu Xingling was joking, Zhang Ruochen didn't take it seriously. He said, "Senior Sister Duanmu, we should bid farewell here! I'll leave for the imperial palace!"

Duanmu Xingling pursed her lips up and squinted at Zhang Ruochen. Then she said, "You call me Senior Sister, yet you never invite me to your palace. I hate you, Zhang Ruochen!"

She left with her chin up.

Zhang Ruochen looked at this lovely girl. A smile showed on his face again. He thought of the three blades of Godhabitat Grass that she had sent him.

"I have 25 days before the beginning of the Ceremony of Worship. I must succeed in practicing the Body of the False God before then."

The situation in the imperial palace was unpredictable and the only way to protect himself was to enhance his strength constantly.

Zhang Ruochen returned to the imperial palace instantly and entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel again to begin his practice.

Chapter 230: Regret

Godhabitat Grass was a unique type of grass that contained high toxicity.

The toxin refined from a blade of Godhabitat Grass was strong enough to poison 10 myths of martial arts in the Heaven Realm.

If there was enough toxin and its refinement was pure, it could even poison a Half-Saint if it was refined as a God Habitat Poisonous Pill.

Of course, it required at least a hundred blades of Godhabitat Grass to refine one God Habitat Poisonous Pill. What was more, only level-six alchemist could refine it successfully.

Though Godhabitat Grass was highly toxic, it was a necessary supplementary medicine to practice the Body of the False God.

“For flesh and blood, Godhabitat Grass is a highly toxic substance. But for the Martial Soul, it’s harmless. If the Martial Soul absorbs the efficacy of the Godhabitat Grass and I assist it with a special secret skill, it will manifest a holy illusion.”

Zhang Ruochen opened the wooden case where the Godhabitat Grass was stored carefully.

Wisps of black toxic gas swirled out from the wooden case and pervaded the whole internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

Fortunately, Zhang Ruochen was prepared for this. He transferred the power of the Space Domain and controlled the flow direction of the toxic gas, preventing it from approaching his body.

A white light beam shot out from the top of Zhang Ruochen’s head.

The light spots in the light beam condensed into a Martial Soul and floated in midair.

Under Zhang Ruochen’s control, a drop of Half-Saint’s Blood, bright as a small red sun, flew out from the jade bottle in front of him. It emitted tremendous breath and quickly fused with the Martial Soul.

After infusing the Half-Saint’s Blood, the Martial Soul became slightly compact and condensed. It began to slowly absorb the gas that the Godhabitat Grass emitted.

“It would be better to utilize Half-Saint’s Light to practice the Body of the False God.”

“But since there’s no Half-Saint’s Light, I have to use Half-Saint’s Blood as a substitute.”

He had obtained 64 drops of Half-Saint’s Blood in total from the Chikong Secret Mansion. He had already used one drop, so now he had 63 left.

He could successfully practice the Body of the False God with 63 drops of Half-Saint’s Blood and the power of Godhabitat Grass.

Half-Saint's Blood and Godhabitat Grass were quite precious and priceless. Using them up made his heartache. But as Zhang Rouchen thought about how he could absorb the power of sacrifice unbridled and enjoy treatment as a god once he successfully practiced the Body of the False God, he felt extremely excited.

No one would be able to see through his Body of the False God. Except a Half-Saint.

But how many Half-Saints did the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge have?

Even if there were a few Half-Saints, they rarely showed up given their status.

Zhang Ruochen knew more clearly than others how horrible the power of a Half-Saint was. They could kill a warrior of the Heaven Realm with only a gaze.

The Heaven Realm was the peak of Martial Arts and could be regarded as a myth among warriors.

But Half-Saints were beyond the Martial Arts. They had broken the limitation of human beings and their longevity was way beyond normal mankind.

A day and a night passed. The drop of Half-Saint's Blood was absorbed completely by the Martial Soul and infused with it.

Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul seemed to be a little stronger and emitted faint holy breath.

WAAA!

The second drop of Half-Saint's Blood flew out from the jade bottle and transformed into a dragon-shaped Spiritual Blood droplet. It looked like the surface of the Martial Soul was covered with a dragon-shaped armor as it continued to absorb the breath that the Godhabitat Grass emitted.

Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged on the ground. He knitted gestures with both his hands and infused Genuine Qi into the Vessel of Spirit constantly to supply the Genuine Qi that the Martial Soul needed.

Time passed day by day. In the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen had absolutely no idea how much time had elapsed.

There were only two days left before the Winter Solstice Ceremony of Worship. Heavy snow fell down from the sky. The colorful and lively imperial palace had turned into a snow city overnight.

The Lin Family, the eighth-class family in the Yunwu Commandery was encountering a large joyous event.

Its number one master, Lin Jingye, had broken through to the Heaven Realm. This was a big event in the Martial Arts world of the Yunwu Commandery. Numerous people came to the Lin's Mansion to congratulate.

It should be noted, altogether there were only 14 warriors of the Heaven Realm in the whole Yunwu Commandery whose names could be called out. Every one of them was extremely powerful, and their presence had a mythical quality.

After the birth of a warrior of the Heaven Realm, the Lin Family's status in the Yunwu Commandery immediately rose. They even had a say in the court.

They were hosting a family meeting in their mansion.

Lin Jingye, who was over 70 years old but looked as if he was 50, sat in the top-most position and emitted a formidable, imposing dignified manner.

The powerful Genuine Qi wave of a warrior of the Heaven Realm suppressed the air throughout the room. It was as if the air had solidified and couldn't circulate, frightening everyone.

Powerful people like Lin Fengxian, Lin Enbo, Lin Xizhao and so on all sat below. Lin Chenyu, Lin Ningshan, and other young geniuses joined the meeting as well.

As the current leader of the Lin Family, Lin Fengxian stood up and spoke first. He said, "Since my father has broken through to the Heaven Realm, our family will become a seventh-class family aboveboard. By becoming a seventh-class family we will increase our influence tenfold."

Lin Chenyu was the No.1 master in the young generation of the Lin Family. He sneered and said, "For the Lin Family to become a seventh-class family, a catalyst is needed."

"What kind of catalyst?" Lin Fengxian asked.

Lin Chenyu responded, "We must get the support of the Royal Family if we want to be a seventh-class family. Ningshan is already 16 years old and it's time to finish the engagement we made two years ago. As long as she marries the Seventh Prince, the Lin Family's status in the Yunwu Commandery will increase. At that time, we will naturally become a seventh-class family."

Lin Fengxian frowned slightly. He hadn't expected Lin Chenyu to bring this up.

Two years ago, he had been all for the engagement between the Seventh Prince and Lin Ningshan.

But afterwards, he had heard that the real woman the Seventh Prince wanted to marry was Han Qiu, the daughter of the Head of Yuntai Suzerain. Even if Lin Ningshan married the Seventh Prince, she could only be a concubine. She would have a low status.

Han Qiu definitely did not have a low status. The Royal Family of the Yunwu Commandery wouldn't dare to bother her, let alone the Lin family. If Lin Ningshan served the same husband, could she live a good life?

After all, Lin Fengxian was Lin Ningshan's father. He didn't want to push his daughter into the flame.

Lin Ningshan already had an engagement with the Seventh Prince and it was time to marry her as was scheduled. Perhaps it was too late to break off the engagement!

But perhaps now, the birth of a myth of martial arts at the Heaven Realm in the Lin Family would cause a favorable turn.

Lin Fengxian instantly cupped one hand in the other to Lin Jingye who sat above and said, "Father, maybe it isn't beneficial for Ningshan to marry the Seventh Prince. Perhaps it will bring us disaster."

Lin Jingye snorted and said, "I told you, you shouldn't have done in the first place, but you didn't believe me. Do you regret it now? If Ningshan and Chen-er were to come together, how nice that would be...Ah!"

Lin Ningshan, who sat below naturally heard Lin Jingye mention Zhang Ruochen. Her eyes glimmered faintly but dimmed quickly.

She knew that she had no possibility of getting together with Zhang Ruochen. Even if Zhang Ruochen gave her a chance, Commandery Princess Yanchen would not.

The Lin Family didn't dare to offend Han Qiu. Let alone Commandery Princess Yanchen.

She could only blame herself for not knowing how to cherish the opportunity.

If she lost it, she lost it.

Lin Jingye thought for a while, gazing at Lin Ningshan. He said, "Ningshan, do you want to marry the Seventh Prince?"

Lin Ningshan pursed her lips and shook her head slightly.

In just two years, Lin Ningshan had met many outstanding women who were more extraordinary than her in the Yuntai Suzerain, and she no longer had pride. She had gradually become mature and rational.

Lin Jingye said, "Alright! I'll go to the imperial palace in person for you and the future of the whole Lin Family. Since it's us who hoped to arrange the marriage in the beginning, and now we want to break off the engagement, you'd better be prepared mentally. There is not a high chance for success."

Lin Ningshan felt happy and thought secretly, "My grandfather is a myth of martial arts of the Heaven Realm now. Even the Yunwu Commandery Prince will show him respect. Perhaps there's a possibility to stop this engagement."

Lin Jingye went to the imperial palace that very day. After visiting the Yunwu Commandery Prince and the Queen, he began to discuss the marriage between the Seventh Prince and Lin Ningshan with them.

He put forward the idea of breaking off the engagement. The reason was that Lin Ningshan didn't deserve the Seventh Prince, and she didn't want to affect his prospects.

The Yunwu Commandery Prince was extremely angry. He rejected Lin Jingye's suggestion on the spot.

A marriage of the Royal Family was not as easy to break off as they had thought.

Lin Jingye knew that it was impossible to terminate the engagement. Then, he thought of another method and made a detour to visit Concubine Lin.

Lin Jingye was Concubine Lin's father. He definitely had the right to see her.

He wanted to see Zhang Ruochen first, but hearing that he was secluding himself for refining, he didn't go bother him. He had some words with Concubine Lin and told her the awkward situation the Lin Family was now facing.

As he was leaving the imperial palace, the Queen and the Seventh Prince were also discussing this matter in a Secret Room.

The Queen sneered and said, "Lin Jingye really has the nerve! He just broke through to the Heaven Realm and is starting to think that he's invincible. How dare he put forward the idea of breaking off an engagement! Does he think an engagement with the Royal Family is a trifling matter?"

Zhang Tiangui sat opposite the Queen and said, "Mother, you've misunderstood Lin Jingye."

"Have I?" The Queen asked with surprise.

Zhang Tiangui said, "Any intelligent person can see that I'll be together with Han Qiu. She's the daughter of the Head of Yuntai Suzerain. Even a hundred Lin Ningshans aren't a patch on one of her fingers. If Lin Jingye is clever, he doesn't dare to marry his granddaughter to me. Compared to her life, the extermination of Lin Family is more important."

The Queen finally understood. She said, "My dear son, how sure are you that you will get Han Qiu?"

With a confident smile, Zhang Tiangui said, "One hundred percent."

The Queen said, "In order to avoid new problems from cropping up unexpectedly, we'd better break off this engagement and let go of the Lin Family."

Zhang Tiangui also knew clearly the green-eyed envy of a woman. Han Qiu was a woman too. How could she not get jealous?

If the Yunwu Commandery was powerful enough, his concubinage was just a small matter.

But the influence of the Yunwu Commandery didn't match up with the Yuntai Suzerain at all. If he dared to have concubines casually, it indeed went against him to pursue Han Qiu.

Zhang Tiangui's eyes became colder. He said, "From my point of view, Lin Ningshan is a menial woman. She is dispensable for us, but not for Zhang Ruochen. Perhaps we can use her to deal with him."

The Queen nodded her head in agreement. She said, "Zhang Ruochen has made a lot of progress. In just two years he reached the Earth Realm. It's said that a master like Zi Yinyang can't kill him either. If we let him go, I'm afraid he'll become a threat to you."

Scorn showed in Zhang Tiangui's eyes. He laughed and said, "I won't give him any chance to grow, Mother. You just wait and see. After the Ceremony of Worship, there will be no more Zhang Ruochen in the Yunwu Commandery."