

Chapter 251: Here Comes A Strong Enemy

Zhang Ruochen did not stop for a moment after he left the Hugestone City. He was ready to get back to the Devil Martial City as fast as possible.

“The Royal Family of Square Commandery and the headquarter of Poisonous Spider Club would know I’ve taken the account book away and send many masters to kill me. I should get back to the Devil Martial City before they catch up with me.”

He hurried on with his journey as if he was a ghost-like shadow skimming over the vast snowfield, leaving only a harsh sound of the wind blowing through.

Han Qiu had also practiced a mysterious skill that made her body as light as swallows, easily moving across the snowfield without leaving a single trace. She followed Zhang Ruochen closely behind and said, “My friend, if I’m not mistaken, you should be the young master who recently rose to fame, Chen Ruo, aren’t you?”

Hearing Han Qiu’s sound, Zhang Ruochen frowned and cast a glance at her. He said coldly, “Don’t follow me.”

Zhang Ruochen had been watching her for a while and treated her as a potential enemy as she was a close friend of Zhang Tiangui.

However, Han Qiu knew nothing about it. She simply thought that this mysterious teenager was weird and difficult to get along with.

“You didn’t deny it, which means you really are Chen Ruo.”

Smiling, Han Qiu continued to add on, “The School of the Martial Market and Yuntai Suzerain are on good terms all along. Since we have had a pleasant cooperation in the black market, could you allow me to take a look at that account book?”

Zhang Ruochen did not want to talk to her. He gathered the Genuine Qi in his body to his feet, completely wrapping up his legs with Spiritual Fire.

His speed had greatly doubled.

So did Han Qiu. She sped up, caught up with him again and asked, “Is it true that I will die if I were to take Saint’s Light Pill and continue to practice after reaching the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm? Or you’re just trying to scare me?”

“You are annoying! Don’t follow me anymore, otherwise, I won’t go easy on you.” Zhang Ruochen could not help but feel a bit annoyed.

Han Qiu gazed at Zhang Ruochen with a feeling of frustration. She was the daughter of the Master of Yuntai Suzerain and a startling beauty as well. She did not expect him to give her the cold shoulder when she took the initiative to befriend him.

Up until now, no man dared to use such a tone to talk to her. Even Zhang Tiangui, the first genius in the 36 commanderies of the Omen Ridge, took every means to please her.

“If you want to get rid of me, then I must follow you.”

She decided to challenge Zhang Ruochen. She followed him closely, keeping her pace at the same speed as him.

As night closed in, Zhang Ruochen stopped his journey.

Both Han Qiu and Zhang Ruochen looked weary after a one-day journey. The long journey had consumed a great amount of Genuine Qi, and thus, they had to stop and take a rest.

“WHOOSH!”

Zhang Ruochen waved his arm, drawing a line in the snow.

He looked at Han Qiu and said, “I’m warning you, I will not go easy on you if you cross this line.”

Zhang Ruochen took a Blood Pill and sat down cross-legged once he finished his sentence. He held two Spiritual Crystals in hands, absorbing Spiritual Qi from the Crystals, in order to restore his Genuine Qi.

Han Qiu refused to obey him. She puffed out her chest and said defiantly, “Our cultivation is more or less on the same level. What can you do to me, even if I cross this line?”

Nevertheless, she did not cross the line as she did not want to challenge his bottom line. She also took out two Spiritual Crystal, pinching them in hands and began to practice.

The feathery snowflakes kept falling down onto the ground and the snow began to accumulate. Only two hours later, the accumulated snow had reached Zhang Ruochen’s waist.

Another two hours had passed, the thick mantle of snow had now reached Zhang Ruochen’s chest.

His shoulders, arms, legs, and head were completely covered by the accumulated snow. It was hard to notice that there was a man sitting cross-legged in the snow.

Suddenly, rumblings rang out in the sky above. The Red Spider Vessel, like an iron mountain, flew over the dark sky, heading toward the direction of Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu.

On the top of the Red Spider Vessel stood more than ten warriors in purple robes, who were looking for Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu.

Han Qiu stopped her practice as soon as she heard the sound echoed from above. Her body could not help but move a little.

“Don’t move! It’s the Poisonous Spider Club. They have caught up with us. We shouldn’t underestimate their power. It is far beyond our resistance.”

Zhang Ruochen’s voice reached her ears.

Actually, Zhang Ruochen had considered driving a Red Spider Vessel to return to the Devil Martial City. But eventually, he dropped the idea as it would be easy to be spotted by the top masters of Poisonous Spider Club and Square Commandery.

Of course, Han Qiu had also heard of the Red Spider Vessel. Feeling a little nervous, she asked, "What can we do now?"

"We're now covered in snow and ice. They won't notice us as long as we hold our breath," said Zhang Ruochen. He closed his eyes again and reabsorbed all his Genuine Qi to be kept in his body. Then, he became motionless as if he was turned into a rock.

A moment later, the Red Spider Vessel flew away, disappearing into the sky.

"BOOM!"

Han Qiu flew out from the huge pile of snow into the midair like a beautiful fairy. When she landed on the ground, she looked at Zhang Ruochen who was on the opposite side of the line and said, "Those Evil Warriors had left, shall we leave too?"

Zhang Ruochen came out from the snow and said, "Don't use 'we', I don't really know you."

"But you were the one who started using it. So I followed you," said Han Qiu.

"That was because I was afraid you'd get me into trouble once you're found." Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment and continued, "Why are you following me?"

Han Qiu's expression became serious and said, "Okay! Let's get straight to the point. The account book you obtained in the black market has the transaction records between the Royal Family of Poisonous Spider Club and Square Commandery. If you send it back to the School of the Martial Market, the situation will be unfavorable for Yuntai Suzerain."

"So you killed Army-guarding Marquis in order to prove that Yuntai Suzerain is innocent?" Zhang Ruochen said.

"Is it not enough?" Han Qiu replied.

Zhang Ruochen said, "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear. Why do you have to deliberately explain anything? According to the Martial Market Bank's intelligence system, if it really has nothing to do with Yuntai Suzerain, none of you will be involved in this affair."

Han Qiu shook her head and said, "What if there is someone in the Martial Market Bank who wanted to frame us? So, it's better for me to follow you to the Devil Martial City so that you can bring me to the top management of the School of the Martial Market. Then, I will explain to them in person."

"Aren't you afraid that Yuntai Suzerain is really involved in it? If Yuntai Suzerain really intends to cooperate with the black market, there's no way they will tell you," Zhang Ruochen said.

Han Qiu replied firmly, "Yuntai Suzerain is the overlord of Omen Ridge. There is no need for us to take the risk to cooperate with the black market. How about we do a deal, Chen Ruo?" "I will escort you back to the Devil Martial City. Once we are back in the City, you can take me to the top management of the School of the Martial Market."

Smiling, Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "It is safer for me if you don't follow me."

Han Qiu gritted her teeth angrily and replied, "As a strong fighter on the Earth Board, how could I hinder you? Furthermore, I have sent a message to Yuntai Suzerain with my 'Signal Flare'. They will dispatch masters to come to our aid very soon."

"You have a Signal Flare with you?" Zhang Ruochen's expression turned gloomy in an instant. He had a bad feeling about this.

However, Han Qiu did not notice the change in his expression. Instead, she said complacently, "The Signal Flare is expensive, but with my status, it's only natural that I carry one with me. It allows me to send a message back to Suzerain calling for help at a crucial time."

The Signal Flare was a treasure which was made from "light" message-sending inscription and could send out messages as fast as possible. Most of the Signal Flares are one-off.

Certainly, it was very difficult to refine a Signal Flare and that was why it was invaluable. Even the Heaven-Realm warriors could not afford it.

Han Qiu had misunderstood Zhang Ruochen. He was not amazed by the Signal Flare she was carrying, but for an entirely different reason. He asked angrily, "Did you mark our position when you sent messages back to Yuntai Suzerain?"

Han Qiu smiled and said, "I have left our Yuntai Suzerain special marks throughout the journey. They will catch up with us as soon as they see these marks."

Feeling a strong sense of impending crisis, Zhang Ruochen said, "Is there any Royal Family member of Square Commandery in the top management of Yuntai Suzerain?"

"A couple of..."

Han Qiu's expression also changed instantly. She said, "Are you worried that they will leave the Yuntai Suzerain and come to kill us?"

"They must be already on the way!" Zhang Ruochen sighed.

This matter would determine the survival of Square Commandery, there was no way they could just stand by and watch.

They must have planned to kill Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu on their way to the Devil Martial City.

And Han Qiu was looking for even more troubles by leaving marks on the road.

"We must leave here now, otherwise, they will catch up with us," Zhang Ruochen said with a serious expression. However, just when he moved a step, he suddenly heard something. He felt a sensation of imminent danger, and it was approaching them rapidly.

Shortly after, a wind rose up and rustling sounds echoed throughout the entire snowfield. A hoarse voice rang out from the wind, "It's pity you have just realized it. It's too late for you to leave now!"

The dissociated Spiritual Qi in the air was gathered and took shape into two tremendous wind blades. Carrying a devastating power that could slice through everything in the path, they swung toward Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu.

Standing in the snow, Zhang Ruochen felt a surge of sharp Qi billow coming in from his front, blowing the thick snow off the ground. Zhang Ruochen could not see anything except a vast expanse of white.

“SWISH!”

The wind slashed through Zhang Ruochen’s Genuine Qi cover, and his clothes were ripped and torn.

Here came the strong enemy! Zhang Ruochen gripped the Abyss Ancient Sword tightly and rotated the Genuine Qi in his body. A nine-meter diameter Blood Wave appeared under his feet with a loud noise and began to rotate rapidly.

“SWISH-”

The Abyss Ancient Sword turned into a bright full moon, swung toward the two huge wind blades as they closed in.

“BOOM!” It sent Zhang Ruochen flying backward.

He could not withstand that overwhelming power.

As that happened, Zhang Ruochen immediately infused all his Genuine Qi into the Ice-fire Kylin Armour.

Inscriptions in the armor had been activated, letting out the Kylin’s roar in a low tone. An illusory image of the Ice-fire Kylin wrapped tightly around him.

“BOOM!”

One of the wind blades came slashing down on him and sent him flying dozens of feet away, crashing into the deep snows.

Another one attacked Han Qiu in a similar way. She groaned and spit out a mouthful of blood as she fell down heavily onto the ground, leaving behind a big ten-meter diameter gaping hole.

“Bam!”

Taking that hole as the center, the accumulated snow within the radius of tens of feet had been blown away. It formed an arc of Qi billow which flapped on a row of coniferous pines nearby. At that moment, all the trees had completely frozen up.

Chapter 252: Commandery Princess Zhenling

A tall, lean Elder wearing a grey gown walked through the blizzard. He had an aquiline nose, deep eyes and long grey hair parted down the middle that flowed down to the ground.

Strong wind power flowed around him, giving off a swishing sound that split the air.

A closer look quickly revealed that there was nothing under the Grey Gowned Elder’s robe. The elder had no legs; wind power alone kept him floating three feet off the ground.

His control over wind power had reached a superb and perfect Realm.

Han Qiu crawled out of the sunken pit and breathed heavily. There were more than ten bloody wounds on her body, but luckily they were all non-fatal flesh wounds.

“SWISH!”

The Ancient White Jade Sword fell from 30 meters in the air and returned to her hand.

Han Qiu gripped her sword and stood, a murderous look in her eyes. “Master Huo,” she said in a deep voice, “are you going to kill me?”

The Grey Gowned Elder was called Huo Jingcheng. He was the presbyter of Yuntai Suzerain as well as the Royal Family member of the Square Commandery. His cultivation had reached the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Back when Huo Jingcheng was in the Earth Realm, he was a twofold genius whose fighting capabilities spanned two Realms.

After his breakthrough into the Heaven Realm, a group of people had broken his legs. This incident cut off the Meridians of his lower body, which restricted his blood flow and reduced his power.

Despite this, his present fighting abilities still allowed him to surpass the limits of his Realms.

Huo Jingcheng smiled mercilessly. “For the safety of the Square Commandery, you and Zhang Ruochen must die. I’m sorry about this, Qiu’er, but I have no choice.”

“Zhang Ruochen? Who is he?” Han Qiu asked, giving him a perplexed look.

Huo Jingcheng sneered. “Don’t play the fool,” he said. “If you don’t hand over that account book right now, I’ll make you wish you could die.”

“I’m curious,” Han Qiu said. “Why did you decide to secretly collaborate with the Black Market, even though the Yuntai Suzerain treated the Square Commandery with kindness and generosity?”

Huo Jingcheng sneered. “Treating us kindly and generously? The Yuntai Suzerain extorts more than half of its resources, money and labor force from the Western Nine Prefectures. We send a great number of Practice resources and silver coins to Yuntai Suzerain, and what has the Square Commandery got to show for it? At least, our cooperation with the Black Market benefits us a lot since we trade as equals.”

Han Qiu was annoyed by his words. “How could you have cultivated to the Heaven Realm and become a superbly strong Martial Artist without the help of the Yuntai Suzerain?” she asked. “If the Yuntai Suzerain hadn’t helped defend you against the savage beasts in Omen Ridge, I fear those beasts would have ruined the whole Square Commandery. Your civilization would have been destroyed and reduced to another barren wilderness.”

“Cut the cr**p; who has the account book?” Huo Jingcheng asked.

“Whoever has it, you won’t be able to take it from them,” Han Qiu replied.

“Swish!”

A fierce gust of wind blew as Huo Jingcheng moved as quickly as the speed of sound. His flight stirred vibrations in the surrounding Spiritual Qi of the universe.

Han Qiu saw Huo Jing Cheng, who stood more than ten meters away, blur across that distance and appear before her in a single moment. He reached out with two hands clenched into claws, seeking to seize Han Qiu by her throat.

“Reverse the Universe.”

The Genuine Qi inside Han Qiu’s body poured out like a flood. Her skin took on the hue of divine, translucent jade, shining with light that glared like the burning sun.

Suddenly, she leapt over Huo Jingcheng’s head with a swishing sound and struck towards his head.

Hands seizing only empty air, Huo Jingcheng looked up towards the sky the moment he felt the fluctuation of Genuine Qi. He raised a clenched fist towards the sky and roared, “Mountain-crashing Tiger Fist!”

“BOOM!”

The ground cracked beneath Huo Jingcheng’s feet as the strong power of his palm blasted him back down. His Genuine Qi spread in all directions.

Huo Jingcheng grinned hideously: “Is that the Holy Universe Reaching Skill? Such a pity you lack the experience to use it.”

“Bam!”

Huo Jingcheng’s body shrank and sank directly into the ground, leaving a deep hole in the earth.

Han Qiu withdrew her palm and fell back to the ground, staring down at the hole. Suddenly, fluctuations of Genuine Qi appeared behind her.

Her expression changed. Before she could turn, she felt the strong power of a fist rushing towards her back.

Huo Jingcheng sprang up from the ground behind her and struck Han Qiu’s back.

In that moment, Han Qiu infused the jade bead on her wrist with Genuine Qi. The inscription emerged from the jade bead and condensed into a two-meter long Light Shield behind her back.

Ripples spread along the Light Shield in circles as Huo Jingcheng struck it with a loud “Boom”.

The Light Shield impeded the power of his fist. As a result, Han Qiu was flung forwards without suffering any injury.

“Body-protecting jade bead!”

Huo Jingcheng sneered: “How many of my fists can you withstand, I wonder?”

Huo Jingcheng rushed in again, wind blades gathering around his fists as he punched.

Han Qiu was very anxious; she could not compete against Huo Jingcheng with her present cultivation.

Though she had reached the “Three-and-a-half Realm”, there was a three-realm gap between the Completion of the Earth Realm and the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Generally she could compete against warriors from the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, but she definitively didn't stand a chance against strong ones like Huo Jingcheng.

Han Qiu defended herself against Huo Jingcheng's attacks while looking towards where Zhang Ruochen was.

She realized that Zhang Ruochen had vanished from the spot where he fell.

"Could it be... that he has escaped?" Han Qiu felt completely helpless and annoyed. Thought they were unfamiliar with each other, she had helped him once with the Black Market.

Did this guy abandon her to escape on his own? How unexpectedly selfish!

What am I supposed to do now?

"My body-protecting jade bead can only shield me against three attacks; just two shields remain. Considering the power of Huo Jingcheng, I cannot fight back against him or seize the opportunity to escape even with my Supreme Universe and Dark Domain techniques."

"Bang!"

After exchanging seven blows with Huo Jingcheng, Han Qiu was forced to use her body-protecting jade bead again.

Knowing that Zhang Ruochen has escaped, Han Qiu immediately used a movement technique to dart off into the distance at top speed.

Huo Jingcheng, who could move as fast as sound, caught up with her and sneered: "Qiu'er, I might consider letting you go if you give me the account book and the secrets of the Supreme Universe."

"You must be dreaming."

Han Qiu thought for a moment before speaking. "You're completely focused on chasing me," she said. "Aren't you worried that the account book might be with another person?"

"Heh!" Huo Jingcheng laughed, "Do you think that I was the only one sent to kill you two? It is impossible for Zhang Ruochen to escape."

Han Qiu was surprised. "He keeps mentioning the name Zhang Ruochen," she thought to herself. "Could it be that the mysterious teenager is not called Chen Ruo but is actually Zhang Ruochen, the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery? Or could they be one and the same?"

Before Han Qiu could think more on this, Huo Jingcheng launched another attack.

Han Qiu had no choice but to activate her Dark Domain technique to defend herself against Huo Jingcheng's attacks.

The physical quality of the dark nature had always been a secret all her own. Now, though, self-preservation was much more important than keeping the secret.

Elsewhere, Zhang Ruochen was knocked into the air by the wind blade unleashed by Huo Jingcheng; in the wake of this attack, his Ice-fire Kylin Armour had grown ragged and his sixth-level Genuine Martial Arms armor had been destroyed.

The wind blade had left small wounds on Zhang Ruochen's body.

As he readied himself to get back up in order to cooperate with Han Qiu and defeat Huo Jingcheng, Metal Claws suddenly burst from the ground and seized his arms.

"What the hell?"

Suddenly, a strong power retracted the Metal Claws, hauling Zhang Ruochen more than ten meters beneath the earth.

Zhang Ruochen was lost in the dark. His face was covered with soil and stones. His eyes saw nothing. He felt like the Metal Claws were hauling him into an abyss...

"The Abyss Ancient Sword!"

The Abyss Ancient Sword immediately flew out to cut the Metal Claws.

As soon as the the Abyss Ancient Sword moved, the Metal Claws holding Zhang Ruochen's arms disappeared.

When Zhang Ruochen got free, he kicked at the ground and attempted to rush back up to the surface.

In that moment, a strong surge of power rushed from the surface towards Zhang Ruochen, seemingly intended to shatter his head. Zhang Ruochen defended himself by counterattacking with a blast of palm power.

"Bang!"

Due to the impact of the power, Zhang Ruochen was blasted down and buried deeper.

From underground, Zhang Ruochen heard the voice of a woman above him: "If you don't hand over that account book, you will be buried underground forever, little boy."

Another Martial Arts master!

Zhang Ruochen's present martial cultivation would keep him from being asphyxiated even if he stayed underground for a whole day.

"I'm afraid you're not strong enough to bury me alive."

From more than ten meters underground, Zhang Ruochen released his Space Domain to expand the space around him.

The space around him gradually expanded. After a while, his Space Domain broke through the ground with a loud noise.

Still cocooned within the Space Domain, Zhang Ruochen flew into the sky and then landed back on the ground.

An ugly woman in her fifties stood far away from him, a woman with a stocky body, dark skin and legs stouter than a bucket. She brandished two metal chains linked to the ends of Metal Claws.

These were the Metal Claws that had previously dragged Zhang Ruochen more than ten meters below the surface.

The ugly woman was completely to perceive the Space Domain and was thus surprised. "What martial technique did you use?" she asked.

"A martial technique you will never learn."

Zhang Ruochen continued: "Are you a warrior from the Square Commandery?"

"I am the Commandery Princess Zhenling from Square Commandery," the ugly woman who was as stocky as the buffalo proudly proclaimed.

"It's incredible to know that a commandery princess can look as ugly as you," Zhang Ruochen sardonically said.

Provoked by Zhang Ruochen's words, Commandery Princess Zhenling instantly became annoyed. She suddenly waved her stout arms and sent the Metal Claws hurtling towards Zhang Ruochen.

Frankly, the martial cultivation of the Commandery Princess Zhenling was far beyond the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm in terms of power.

The two Metal Claws attacked Zhang Ruochen without pause. In a unique display of martial arts, 36 claws manifested and tried to wrap themselves all the way around him.

But the sword techniques performed by Zhang Ruochen had reached quite a high level; they firmly protected him from the attacks of the two Metal Claws.

Commandery Princess Zhenling seemed to recognized Zhang Ruochen's mature sword technique. Even she couldn't defeat him in a contest of nimble martial techniques.

Therefore, she changed her strategy to launching brutal attacks, hoping to wear down Zhang Ruochen with raw power.

Then Commandery Princess Zhenling withdrew her metal claws and pounded them against her chest, creating the sound of clashing metal. "King Kong Savage Beasts' Body," she shouted.

Chapter 253: King Kong Savage Beasts' Body

The King Kong Savage Beasts' Body is a low-class type of Spiritual martial technique widespread among many warriors. By constantly drinking savage beasts' blood, a warrior can refine their body to improve their martial techniques.

Upon practicing to the peak of the realm, a warrior can even obtain power beyond the mid-class martial techniques from the Spiritual Stage.

Commandery Princess Zhenling has already practiced to the peak realm of the “King Kong Savage Beasts’ Body”. Her physical strength had long since surpassed that of a fourth-level savage beast.

“Boom!”

Commandery Princess Zhenling’s complexion turned gold. A golden spot of light—the radiance of her Qi sea—appeared between her brow.

A horrible feeling of martial power emanated from her body. She rushed forward in an instant, crushing holes in the ground beneath her feet as she moved.

“Golden Flame Fist.”

Commandery Princess Zhenling punched the Abyss Ancient Sword, making Zhang Ruochen rapidly back away.

Zhang Ruochen felt the Genuine Qi in his body churn. His arms were wracked with extreme pain, as if he had been struck by a mountain made of iron. He slid a few dozen meters back before regaining his footing. “A woman can practice to the realm realm of the King Kong Savage Beasts’ Body. How incredible!”

The power behind that single blow was strong enough to give Zhang Ruochen heavy internal injuries.

In that moment, Commandery Princess Zhenling punched Zhang Ruochen in the face again with a huge golden fist before Zhang Ruochen could come up with a counter.

This punch was much stronger than the previous one.

The razor-sharp wind around her fist slammed painfully into Zhang Ruochen’s face. It felt like his skin was being cut open.

Zhang Ruochen immediately used the power of space warping to avoid the golden-hued fist. He lowered his body and stabbed at Commandery Princess Zhenling, to her great astonishment.

“SWISH!”

With a single motion, Zhang Ruochen launched a surprise attack as fast as the speed of light. In the blink of an eye, he plunged his sword into the body of Commandery Princess Zhenling.

Commandery Princess Zhenling was quite sensitive; after all, she was strong in the Heaven Realm. She instantly retreated when Zhang Ruochen stabbed her.

The Commandery Princess flew 100 meters away from Zhang Ruochen before standing firmly again.

She felt a faint pain in her chest.

Drops of blood poured from her golden skin, dyeing her clothes red.

Luckily for her, Commandery Princess Zhenling’s quick reflexes allowed her to dart away from Zhang Ruochen’s sword, which had pierced her body half an inch deep. If she hadn’t been able to react in the blink of an eye, she would have died by his sword.

Thinking on this, Commandery Princess Zhenling broke into a cold sweat. She no longer held Zhang Ruochen in contempt. She looked up at Zhang Ruochen with caution and said: "I've heard that your sword technique is pretty good. Today I truly believe it. No wonder you're able to defeat the disciples of a Half-Saint. I'm curious; how were you able to avoid my fist? It seemed like you were warping space..."

Were it not for the space warping, she would have killed Zhang Ruochen with her fist for sure.

"That's because I can control space." Zhang Ruochen said indifferently.

"Huh? Even the great Saints can't control space."

Commandery Princess Zhenling did not believe Zhang Ruochen at all. She clenched both her hands into fists and prepared to attack Zhang Ruochen again.

"Ahh... Help..."

It was then that she felt pain from the chest that threw her genuine Qi into disorder. Blood gushed forth from her wound.

Zhang Ruochen seemed to realize that there was something wrong with Commandery Princess Zhenling. "I've broken through your protection with my sword," he said. "I would counsel you to stop using the King Kong Savage Beasts' Body and leave now. Otherwise, your body will be disintegrated."

"You talk big! You think you can scare me?"

Commandery Princess Zhenling bore down and continued to force Genuine Qi to flow through her body.

Her body was like a balloon which has been pricked by a needle. The small wound on the chest grew bigger and bigger as she channeled genuine Qi, causing blood to erupt like a spout.

As Commandery Princess Zhenling started withdrawing her genuine Qi in reaction to the pain, Zhang Ruochen attacked her. A sword flashed before her eyes.

Sword Breath sharp as a light shuttle stabbed towards her throat.

Commandery Princess Zhenling's expression shifted. Calling on energy from every meridian in her body, she thrust her palm out and struck the flat body of the Abyss Ancient Sword.

"Swoosh!"

Zhang Ruochen twisted his wrist, turning the flat of the Abyss Ancient Sword away and presenting the edge of the blade.

The Abyss Ancient Sword was so sharp that Commandery Princess Zhenling's palm was split from middle finger to forefinger when her hand struck the sword.

"My hand!"

A heartrending cry issued from her mouth. Commandery Princess Zhenling immediately sealed the blood meridian on her right arm to prevent the loss of blood.

Her right arm was totally disabled.

Zhang Ruochen obviously couldn't miss such a chance. He launched an assault of sword swings once again, calling up a tide of Sword Breath.

"CRASH!"

The Sword Breath surged up and made a wave-like sound.

Commandery Princess Zhenling used her left hand to deploy the metal claws from her arms and fend off the strokes of Zhang Ruochen's sword techniques.

At the same time, she kept retreating, trying to find a chance to escape.

With her defenses pierced and arm disabled by Zhang Ruochen, Commandery Princess Zhenling could barely exert half of her force and skills.

If she could not run away in time, she would be killed by Zhang Ruochen.

It truly was advantageous for Commandery Princess Zhenling to keep the fighting long-distance using her Metal Claws.

But now, fighting only three steps apart, she couldn't bring the power of her Metal Claws into play at all against the subtle sword techniques of Zhang Ruochen.

"Bang!"

The Abyss Ancient Sword cut the chain of metal claws into two halves with a single stab. The two metal claws flew out of Commandery Princess Zhenling's grasp and landed in the snowfield.

"Damnit! I'm a martial arts legends of Mid Stage in the Heaven Realm. How can I be defeated by you, a junior of the Earth Realm?"

Commandery Princess Zhenling roared in anger and struck the ground with with a single blow. A pillar of Fierce Genuine Qi blasted upward from the point of impact, lashing out at Zhang Ruochen.

The ground shook violently.

Zhang Ruochen only had time to feel a strong power brimming beneath his feet; then his body went flying.

At this moment, he instantly put his Heart Integrated into Sword Realm to good use as he swung the Abyss Ancient Sword.

"Whoosh!"

Like a shaft of light, the Abyss Ancient Sword flew across the 33-meter gap and sank into Commandery Princess Zhenling's chest.

Strong Sword Breath flared from the body of the sword, cleaving Commandery Princess Zhenling into two halves that flew apart in two different directions.

The Abyss Ancient Sword flew around in the air and returned to Zhang Ruochen's hand.

"Ugh!"

Zhang Ruochen leaned on his sword, a trail of blood dripping from his mouth. He seemed to be seriously injured.

Zhang Ruochen had actually taken quite the beating when Commandery Princess Zhenling first punched him with her King Kong Savage Beasts' Body.

Luckily, Zhang Ruochen had managed to break the King Kong Savage Beasts' Body of Commandery Princess Zhenling using the power of space warps and his excellent sword technique. Without those advantages, the odds of his survival would have been quite slim.

"Masters of the Heaven Realm aren't easy to deal with. If I hadn't practiced the Space Domain, I wouldn't stand a chance of defeating strong Heaven Realm warriors like her."

It was incredible for a warrior of the Dawn State in the Earth Realm to kill a martial arts legend from the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm, since the gap of the martial cultivation between them was too big. But Zhang Ruochen had done it!

Over 200 miles away from where Zhang Ruochen had fought with Commandery Princess Zhenling, Huo Jingcheng had caught Han Qiu.

Huo Jingcheng and Commandery Princess Zhenling had chosen their opponents before they entered the fray. Huo Jingcheng chose Han Qiu and Commandery Princess Zhenling chose Zhang Ruochen.

After defeating Han Qiu and Zhang Ruochen, they planned to reunite in this location.

"Why hasn't Zhenling come yet? Did something go wrong?" Huo Jingcheng said, floating in the air like a grim ghost as he looked off into the distance.

Han Qiu, her meridians completely sealed by Huo Jingcheng, had been propped up under an ancient tree with a trunk one-meter in diameter. She could not even twitch.

Beside her, a Blue-scaled Snake more than ten-meters long writhed around the trunk. With cyan scales and the thickness of a finger, this snake resembled a vine from afar.

Han Qiu turned a fearful glance towards the Blue-scaled Snake and spoke carefully: "Uncle Huo, you'd better go take a look. My friend may have already killed Aunt Zhenling."

"Impossible."

Huo Jingcheng turned and cast a ferocious stare her way. "Zhenling is beyond me," he said with a sneer. "How could Zhang Ruochen oppose her?"

"Are you sure he's actually Zhang Ruochen?" Han Qiu said with a laugh.

"You really don't know his identity?"

"I'm not familiar with Zhang Ruochen; of course I don't know who he actually is."

Huo Jingcheng gave Han Qiu a doubtful look. "Zhang Ruochen killed Hua Minggong and the Young Lord of Poisonous Spider, right in the middle of his Poisonous Spider Club in Lin'an County Town," he said.

"He also stole a Red Spider Vessel and killed Mu Qing." He killed three martial arts legends in a single day, each of them top-ranked masters. After leaving Lin'an County Town, he sped to Hugestone City,

where you two killed the Army-guarding Marquis and took the account book from Mu Qing's mansion. Is any of this wrong?"

"No wonder he knows about the account book in the secret underground room of Mu Qing's mansion. He has already killed Mu Qing."

Light dawned on Han Qiu. She hid her feelings of immense shock behind a peaceful-looking expression. "Since you know he can kill three legendary martial arts masters in one day, is it really that impossible for him to kill Commandery Princess Zhenling?" she said with a laugh.

Hearing Han Qiu's words, the countenance of Huo Jingcheng grew rather heavy. Was Zhang Ruochen really strong enough to stand up to Zhenling?

Han Qiu went on: "I really don't have the account book, Uncle Huo. If Zhang Ruochen has killed Commandery Princess Zhenling and fled to Devil Martial City, it's already too late for you to do anything about it!"

"Pah! Little girl, do you think you can escape by sending me on a wild goose chase? Don't be stupid! Even if I leave, my Blue-scaled Snake will keep an eye on you."

Huo Jingcheng gave an order to his Blue-scaled Snake. "If she tries to escape, don't hesitate to kill her," he said in a grim tone.

The Blue-scaled Snake writhing around the trunk hissed, scarlet tongue fluttering past its lips. Its triangular head gave a slight nod.

Huo Jingcheng immediately flew toward the field where Commandery Princess Zhenling was embroiled in battle with Zhang Ruochen.

Chapter 254: The Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy

Han Qiu felt great relief after seeing Huo Jingcheng walk away. Glancing at the Blue-scaled Snake twined around the tree nearby, she closed her eyes and began to manipulate the dark Genuine Qi within her body to unlock Huo Jingcheng's seal.

"Gosh! Huo Jingcheng used the Cloud-sealing Palm of Great Mercy to seal off all my meridians. It will take at least 6 hours for me to unlock the seal even if I could slowly corrode his blocking power with my dark Genuine Qi. Huo Jingcheng will be back by the time I've finished." Han Qiu was a little anxious.

"What should I do right now?"

Han Qiu had no illusions about why Huo Jingcheng hadn't killed her right away; it was because he wanted to grill her about the methodology needed to practice the Holy Universe Reaching Skills.

After all, Huo Jingcheng's patience had limits. If he couldn't get his answers, he would definitely kill her without hesitation to spare himself future troubles.

"I must unlock it anyway."

A determined look appeared in Han Qiu's eyes; even if she injured herself in the process, she had to escape before Huo Jingcheng came back.

Standing on top of a hill a few hundred meters away from Han Qiu, Zhang Ruochen used space power and warped the surrounding spatial layers to hide himself.

After seeing Huo Jingcheng leave, he hastened towards the location of Han Qiu.

When Zhang Ruochen drew within 33 meters of Han Qiu, the Blue-scaled Snake twined around the trunk seemed to sense something unusual. It looked up suddenly and lashed its tail towards Zhang Ruochen like a whip.

"Clap!"

The tail of the Blue-scaled Snake sparkled with a thud and unmistakably struck something right before Zhang Ruochen.

"It's senses are keener than the average Heaven Realm warrior; no wonder it is a fourth-level savage beast."

Now aware that he could not sneak attack the creature, Zhang Ruochen dissolved the power of his space warps and reappeared. He drew his Abyss Ancient Sword and chopped down at the snake tail.

"SWISH!"

Pulling back its tail quickly, the Blue-scaled Snake turned into a green light, wriggling rapidly on the ground towards Zhang Ruochen's legs.

As an inferior savage beast of the fourth level, the Blue-scaled Snake not only had a swiftness comparable to warriors of the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm but also strong power that rivaled warriors of the Completion of the Earth Realm. It was classified as just a weaker kind of fourth-level savage beast.

However, its teeth were extremely poisonous. Even one bite from it would instantly kill a medium-level savage beast of the fourth level.

"Hiss!"

Twin sharp fangs bared, the Blue-scaled Snake glared at Zhang Ruochen with sanguineous eyes and tried to bite his shank.

Since he could move as fast as the Blue-scaled Snake, Zhang Ruochen chose not to evade, but instead immediately displayed a defensive sword technique.

Countless streams of Sword Breath condensed into a big bell-like barrier of Sword Breath which spun around rapidly.

"Bang! Bang!"

The Blue-scaled Snake kept bumping into the big bell of Sword Breath; no matter how many times it smashed into the bell, it failed to breach the barrier due to a deficit of power.

Standing inside the big bell of Sword Breath, Zhang Ruochen kept observing the attack trajectories of the Blue-scaled Snake.

After a while, a thin smile crept across his mouth. "I see," Zhang Ruochen said.

The Blue-scaled Snake moved at staggering speeds, which made it more difficult for Zhang Ruochen to launch a fatal attack with his excellent sword technique.

However, warriors with rich fighting experience would discover that the Blue-scaled Snake also had its weakness.

Their weakness lay in their head.

Every time the Blue-scaled Snake made an attack, its head would become a little sluggish.

"Bang!"

Zhang Ruochen stabbed at the Blue-scaled Snake through the Sword Bell and pierced its head, pinning it to the ground with perfect accuracy.

Zhang Ruochen strode towards Han Qiu. "I'll help you unseal yourself," he said.

"No!" Han Qiu hastily said. "Huo Jingcheng used the Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy to seal me. Only he knows the seal sequence. If someone else tries to force a release, it will cause my Genuine Qi to flow in reverse and kill me instantly."

The Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy included 36 techniques which could be arranged into thousands of different seals.

By rearranging the sequences of each technique, a completely new seal would be formed. If someone used the wrong sequence in the unlocking process, the sealed person would surely kick the bucket.

"Really? I've also learned the Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy. Maybe I can figure out the correct order of his technique."

Standing before Han Qiu, Zhang Ruochen looked at this woman of startling beauty and hesitated for a moment. "Please forgive my offense," he said.

Upon saying this, he pressed his palm above Han Qiu's head and soon found the wisdom vein there. His hand descended to the back of her ear, face and neck, and kept going down. Afterwards, he grasped the spirit-breaking vessels in her breast and the Sacred Meridian in her back.

Han Qiu had never been touched this way by any man before. "What... what are you doing?" She shouted, blushing.

"I'm exploring your Meridians! It's the only way to know which technique Huo Jingcheng used on you," Zhang Ruochen said.

His palm moved from her thigh to her ankle.

Every time he explored a Meridian, Zhang Ruochen would inject a thread of Genuine Qi into that Meridian to probe its seal.

Everytime he did this, Han Qiu would feel a sense of numbness, as if there was a warm current entering her body. It was a feeling that was indescribably comfortable.

Watching as Zhang Ruochen kneaded different parts of her body, Han Qiu was both annoyed and mortified. She glared at Zhang Ruochen while her body went stiff and her cheeks turned red like rosy clouds.

“Ok, finished!”

After checking the Meridians on her sole, Zhang Ruochen stood up and condensed Genuine Qi at the tip of his index finger.

Han Qiu became a little nervous. She looked at Zhang Ruochen: “Hey... Wait a minute. Are you sure you can unlock the Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy?”

“Bang!”

Zhang Ruochen glanced towards at Han Qiu and quickly jabbed 36 times in succession.

By the time she saw the 36 jabs, he had already completed his motions. His fingers had moved so quickly they had formed 36 phantoms before Han Qiu’s eyes.

A moment later, Zhang Ruochen had withdrawn his fingers.

“Mmm!”

A muffled noise burst from Han Qiu’s mouth. The Genuine Qi in Qi sea on her glabella seemed to vent outward and immediately stream into all the Meridians in her body.

After regaining her strength, Han Qiu got an angry look on her face and tried to slap Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen dodged and grasped her hands. “What are you doing?” he asked in a deep voice.

Since she had just recovered her cultivation, she was far from her peak; Han Qiu couldn’t resist being grabbed by Zhang Ruochen due to this lack of power.

“Let me go!”

Han Qiu got furious. “You are the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery, Zhang Ruochen!” She shouted. “As a respected figure in society, you deliberately molested me while I was sealed by Huo Jingcheng. How can you call yourself a warrior?”

Zhang Ruochen squinted. “How do you know all that?” he asked.

Han Qiu clenched her white teeth and rolled her eyes. “Do I look like a goofball to you? Even if you were trying to unlock the Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy, did you really need to touch and pinch my body so freely? You... you truly are a shameless loser!”

“Let me rephrase: how did you know my identity?” Zhang Ruochen asked coldly.

Dazed for a second, Han Qiu answered instantly: “So you really are the little brother of Zhang Tiangui! Zhang Ruochen, I thought you were a genius without peer in this generation who might transcend your

brother to become the next prime genius of Omen Ridge. I never expected you to be such a despicable and shameless man!”

“Were it not for your aid in the Black Market, I wouldn’t have bothered to rush back and save you,” Han Qiu continued.

Zhang Ruochen released her wrist, no longer interested in arguing with her. He walked over to the dead Blue-scaled Snake with the Abyss Ancient Sword in his hand.

He carefully used his sword to cut the skin of Blue-scaled Snake and dig out a poisonous snake gall the size of a snake’s eye.

Noticing the serious looking on his face, Han Qiu subdued her anger and calmed down. She walked over with her arms across her chest. “What are you planning to do with this snake gall?” she asked sourly.

“The venom of a Blue-scaled Snake can kill warriors of the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. I dug it out in case it might be useful in the future.” Zhang Ruochen pocketed the snake gall, stood up and glanced at Han Qiu. After a moment of contemplating, he spoke: “I am sorry for my earlier offences.”

Han Qiu stared at Zhang Ruochen before replying: “I’m the one who should be apologizing. Thank you for coming back to save me. You really are a loyal friend.”

Han Qiu actually did understand how hard it was to unlock the Clouds-sealing Palm of Great Mercy; she also understood that Zhang Ruochen was actually exploring her Meridians and not actually molesting her back then.

But she still felt unbearably angry. After all, no other man besides her father had even laid a finger on her all her life. Zhang Ruochen, however, had pinched her whole body.

Because of this, she still felt annoyed even though she knew that Zhang Ruochen was helping her; she could only regain her mental balance after rebuking him.

To her surprise, Zhang Ruochen had apologized, which removed her exasperation and triggered a different emotion. She felt like she was truly being too unreasonable.

Han Qiu licked her lips nervously. She spoke in a low voice: “We... we had better leave here as soon as possible! Otherwise, we will get into big trouble when Huo Jingcheng comes back!”

Zhang Ruochen had been planning to do the same thing in light of his seriously injured body. “Let’s split up and go our separate ways,” he said.

Then he displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, stepped into the void space and took nine steps. Moments later he landed ten miles away.

As he moved, Zhang Ruochen heard the sound of wind from behind. He looked back and saw Han Qiu catching up to him.

Zhang Ruochen was constantly on guard against Han Qiu, so the sight of her catching up roused his impatience. “Why are you following me all the way?”

“I’m not trying to follow you, but Huo Jingcheng is coming! I cannot oppose him due to my injuries. If we joined forces, I think we might be able to defeat him,” Han Qiu replied.

In the distance, a raging hurricane of swirling black mud and dust rose right behind Han Qiu, giving off a noise just like the roar of a giant beast.

In the midst of that hurricane stood a figure who spoke with a shrill voice: “I won’t let you go this time! I only waited to see how you guys would flee.”

Chapter 255: The Sixth Level Array

Han Qiu’s speed was faster than Zhang Ruochen’s and thus, she caught up with him immediately.

“We won’t be a match for Huo Jingcheng even if we work together. I have already been injured by the Commandery Princess Zhenling severely when I fought against her. I might be even more injured than you.” said Zhang Ruochen.

“Then what should we do?”

“Let’s run away! Or if we have to, we will have to fight him to the death.”

Although Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu’s speeds were very fast, Huo Jingcheng was still faster and was coming closer and closer.

“Phhhf!”

Huo Jingcheng flew in a hurricane. Swinging his arms, another two wind blades appeared.

They couldn’t resist the wind blade’s power at their present state.

They tumbled to the ground and narrowly escaped Huo Jingcheng’s attack.

When they ran out of the forest, they saw thick fog in the air, mutilated ramparts, and dilapidated streets as well as some human and savage beasts’ bones.

“What’s going on? What is this place?” asked Zhang Ruochen.

Han Qiu said happily, “I know it! This is the ‘White Fog Ancient City’, an Elementary Ruin, where it is said that a White Fog Half-Saint lived. However, long time has passed and it has become a ruin. I, with the disciples of Yuntai Suzerain, have practiced here before. Since we have escaped to here, we are saved!”

“An Elementary Ruin is perhaps a challenge for a warrior of the Black Realm or the Earth Realm, but to a warrior in the Heaven Realm, it isn’t dangerous at all. You really think an Elementary Ruin can stop Huo Jingcheng?” said Zhang Ruochen.

Han Qiu said, “I remember that there is an underground palace in White Fog Ancient City which may help us. Follow me, Zhang Ruochen.”

Chasing behind Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu, Huo Jingcheng threw wind blades one after one, shattering the wrecked buildings in White Fog Ancient City into pieces.

“Up!” Huo Jingcheng roared.

A strong wind power uprooted the street, and pieces of stones fell onto Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu.

Unleashing Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, Zhang Ruochen turned into a flying-dragon illusory image and dodged the stones easily.

“Puff!”

Unfortunately, Han Qiu wasn't strong enough. She was struck by two huge stones, she spat out some fresh blood and was sent flying backward.

Zhang Ruochen moved his body quickly and caught Han Qiu in his arms. Together they tumbled down and ran towards the gate of the underground palace.

They were followed by Huo Jingcheng closely who also tried to get into the gate.

“Boom!”

Luckily the stone gate closed and shut Huo Jingcheng outside.

The stone gate was made of hard emery ferrite sandstone around 50 meters high. Even a Heaven Realm warrior couldn't destroy the door easily.

“Bang! Bang!”

Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu, who was in Zhang Ruochen's arms, tumbled down the stone stairs to the bottom of underground palace.

Zhang Ruochen had already been injured earlier, with this fall, it was like his whole body had fallen apart. He lay on the ground without moving and breathed heavily.

It was a close call, they had narrowly escaped being caught by Huo Jingcheng.

Hugged by Zhang Ruochen, Han Qiu pressed down on his body without moving and almost fell into a coma because of her internal injuries.

She just lay in Zhang Ruochen arms with her arms around his neck and said in a low voice, “Than...thanks...”

Now they were at zero distance and was intimate.

Zhang Ruochen could feel Han Qiu's soft bosom and sniffed a little at the faint fragrance which immediately woke him up. He touched Han Qiu's back and pushed Han Qiu away gently.

Zhang Ruochen sat up with difficulty, picked out a light nature Spiritual Crystal and then injected his Genuine Qi into it.

The Spiritual Crystal lit up the whole underground palace by its bright light.

The underground palace was vast and looked like an underground Martial arts field with a height of 120 meters, a length of 200 meters, and a breadth of 80 meters.

There were many array-like lines engraved on the wall.

Han Qiu had also already sat up. Her face was pale and she said to Zhang Ruochen, "Thank you for rescuing me."

Zhang Ruochen stared at her with curiosity and said, "Haven't you thanked me already?"

"Have I?" Han Qiu's face turned hot. She was afraid Zhang Ruochen wouldn't let what happened just now go and added, "I totally forgot what has happened!"

"Never mind. Take care of your injuries! The defense strategy here may be ineffective and that stone gate won't block Huo Jingcheng for long time."

Just as he finished, a loud crash came from the direction of the stone gate, which shook down dust from the underground palace's roof.

"Bam!"

"Bam!"

...

It was Huo Jingcheng who was banging on the stone gate with wind blades that left deep marks on the door.

The stone gate shook every second.

Both Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu took healing Pills and started to heal themselves.

One hour later, Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and then stood up. He walked to the door, hearing loud sounds from outside, a deep worry appeared in his eyes.

Having already treated his injuries for an hour, Zhang Ruochen's injury had probably recovered by about 10 percent, but if he wanted to be completely healed it would still take at least two days.

This stone gate couldn't hold out for four hours let alone two days.

Peeking at the array lines on the stone wall, Zhang Ruochen thought deeply for a moment and walked towards it.

At the same time, Han Qiu opened her eyes and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Given our current condition, there will be no chance to run if the stone gate is broken by Huo Jingcheng, and we will die here."

He put his head in his hands and gazed at the lines on the stone wall. He touched the stone wall softly with one finger and said, "If I can repair this Inscription of Array and restart it, even someone who is stronger than Huo Jingcheng won't be able to break in."

Han Qiu shook her head and said, "It's useless. The array here, which is very profound, was carved by White Fog Half-Saint. Once, an array master of Yuntai Suzerain studied it for three months but failed."

"Though I am not a master, I have read many books about array and have done some research in this field so that maybe I can repair part of these inscriptions of Array," said Zhang Ruochen.

“You are over-confident. Do you think you can figure out this array in an hour which many masters couldn’t even understand?”

“The array masters of Yuntai Suzerain are Fourth Class at most. Have they read Fifth Class or Sixth Class array books?”

“Have you?” asked Han Qiu.

“If I’m right the Inscription of Array on the wall is a sixth-level array,” said Zhang Ruochen with a smile.

In Kunlun’s Field, Array Master was a respected position.

A city or a Suzerain without the protection of an array was open to being attacked by savage beasts and could even be wiped out.

So, every city would have a Defender Array, furthermore, it would require at least a Third-class Array Master to be able to create a Defender Array.

For instance, the arrangement of Yunwu City’s Defender Array was supervised by a fourth class Array Master, which had the power to kill a myth of martial arts of the Heaven Realm.

In the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge, a Fourth-Class Array Master already stood at the top.

Han Qiu never imagined the sixth level array which Zhang Ruochen described.

Even the Internal Academy of the School of the Martial Market in Devil Martial City, didn’t possess a sixth level array book let alone Yuntai Suzerain.

Han Qiu gazed at Zhang Ruochen with amazement and asked, “That array master of Yuntai Suzerain also thought this was a sixth level Inscription of Array. So you are really proficient in Inscription of Array?”

“I’m not proficient in it but have read some books about it,” said Zhang Ruochen seriously.

The complexity of a sixth level array could not even be imagined by ordinary warriors. To be able to understand an array fully, a Sixth-Level Array Master would have to have as much information as a volume of books.

In other words, an array equaled a book.

If a sixth level array book came out, it would be snapped up by Array Masters because their attainments would be elevated to a higher level by perceiving some new knowledge.

However, according to Zhang Ruochen, he seemed to have read many books about the sixth level array. That was what Han Qiu was amazed at.

What would Han Qiu think if she knew Zhang Ruochen had read seventh-class, even eighth-class, books?

“How confident are you in arranging a sixth level array?” asked Han Qiu.

“A sixth level array?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "I can't arrange a sixth level array with my understanding of array. But I still have an opportunity to repair this sixth level array, even repairing one-tenth is enough to stop Huo Jingcheng."

Picking out an inscription pen, Zhang Ruochen started to repair it with his own knowledge.

The sixth level array's inscription was complicated, abstruse and delicate, which tested Array Masters' Spiritual Power. Even a very little fault would render it useless.

The Sixth-Level Array Master were also people Zhang Ruochen had to look up to.

Their Spiritual Power was above level 40.

They could communicate with birds and animals, and even get messages from thousand miles away by their Spiritual Power.

It was a big challenge for Zhang Ruochen to repair the sixth level array.

Without touching the complex inscriptions, Zhang Ruochen only repaired some simple ones cautiously and intently.

Chapter 256: Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array

Holding the inscription pen, Zhang Ruochen continuously poured his Genuine Qi into it. His mind was empty as his Spiritual Power was completely immersed in the world of the sixth level array's inscription.

"BOOM!"

Loud rumbling sounds resounded from outside as the attacks raged on. The whole underground palace shook violently.

Han Qiu was standing nervously beside Zhang Ruochen. She did not dare to make a sound, afraid that she would interrupt him.

Almost two hours had passed before Zhang Ruochen finally put away his inscription pen. Only then he realized that he was soaking wet from sweat.

Zhang Ruochen heaved a long sigh of relief. He then retrieved Spiritual Crystals from the Spatial Ring one after another. He inserted these Spiritual Crystals into the small pits of the stone wall.

The pits on the wall was completely filled after being embedded with a total of 864 Spiritual Crystals.

"Now, this the final move. It's sink or swim." Zhang Ruochen placed his palm on the stone wall and poured his Genuine Qi into the Inscription of Array.

The Genuine Qi flowed along the Inscription of Array, activating the 864 Spiritual Crystals on its way. Those Spiritual Crystals were constantly twinkling, almost as if hundreds of bright stars themselves were embedded in the stone wall.

"SWISH-"

Line after line, intersecting one another, suddenly appeared on the stone wall. The lines were as dense as a spider web, forming a Defensive Array.

“We did it! We did it!” Zhang Ruochen laughed heartily.

Han Qiu was thrilled. She could not help but gaze upon Zhang Ruochen with more admiration than ever. “Zhang Ruochen, you did a terrific job! This is something that even the array masters from the Yuntai Suzerain couldn’t achieve. But you did it!”

“It’s really nothing. I’ve only repaired about 6% to 7% of the sixth level array. But it should be enough to block Huo Jingcheng! Now we can focus on recuperation. We’ll slowly come up with a solution to deal with Huo Jingcheng after recovery.” Zhang Ruochen smiled and said.

Han Qiu sneaked a quick glance at the ring on Zhang Ruochen’s finger.

“He took out hundreds of Spiritual Crystals from that ring. It must be a Space Treasure.” Han Qiu thought to herself.

After hesitating for a moment, she had decided not to ask about the ring. After all, it was Zhang Ruochen’s secret. If she took the liberty to ask, Zhang Ruochen might misunderstand her, thinking that she was greedy for that Space Treasure.

As expected, Huo Jingcheng could not barge in under the protection of the array.

After two days, Zhang Ruochen had finally fully recovered.

The wounds on his body were completely healed, leaving only faint scars.

The Genuine Qi in his Qi sea had also restored to its optimal state. Not only that, it was somehow even stronger than before.

After the recent series of battles, Zhang Ruochen noticed that the Sacrifice Power inside him had completely fused with his Genuine Qi. Unknowingly, he had reached the Peak of the Dawn State of the Earth Realm.

It’s really amazing how the Sacrifice Power can be fused so quickly in the midst of battles. I’ll merge the power through battling again when I get to absorb the Sacrifice Power next time.

Zhang Ruochen took a glance at Han Qiu, and he soon realized that she was still recovering from her injuries.

Her injuries were more serious than Zhang Ruochen’s, so it was natural for her to take a few more days to heal.

Another day had passed, and Han Qiu had fully recovered. The moment she opened her eyes, bright lights could be seen shining within her dark pupils, radiating off a strong spirit pressure of Martial Arts.

As she withdrew the Genuine Qi back into her body, the lights in her eyes also disappeared, returning to normal.

She turned her attention to Zhang Ruochen and saw that he was carving something on the ground.

So she walked over and stood behind him, glancing down at the ground.

A mysterious Yin-Yang Eight Trigrams was carved on the ground, surrounded by rows and rows of tiny text.

Two little figures with swords could be seen battling in the Trigrams.

“What’s this...”

Taking a deep breath, Han Qiu awakened her Sword Comprehension Realm. She converged her Spiritual Power before fixing her gaze on the Trigrams again. This time, she found that the two little figures seemed to have come alive, levitating off the ground. They kept swinging their swords, exchanging moves and taking steps. Even their sword techniques were skilled and ingenious.

The Yin-Yang Eight Trigrams kept revolving as if it was alive.

“Sword Comprehension Maneuver!”

Han Qiu exclaimed in surprise and said, “Oh! You have attained such a high realm! I suppose you are not far from Heart Integrated into Sword?”

Heart Integrated into Sword was the legendary realm of sword technique.

Han Qiu’s attainments on sword technique had far surpassed that of her peers ever since she was a child. Even her father believed that she had the potential of becoming a Saint. She was known as the most outstanding sword genius in Yuntai Suzerain in the last 100 years.

Even when she lost to Zhang Ruochen, she thought that he was just slightly better than her. If she worked harder, she could definitely surpass him.

It was only now that she realized the difference in the realm of sword technique between Zhang Ruochen and her was too vast.

Ignoring the look of surprise on Han Qiu’s face, Zhang Ruochen pointed to the Trigrams on the ground and said, “This is a Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array. Only two highly accomplished warriors in terms of sword technique can unleash its full power. We are both at the peak of Sword Following the Mind. So, if we can perform this array, we can definitely kill Huo Jingcheng.”

“Are you asking me to learn this now?”

Han Qiu frowned and said, “This array is very complicated. I probably need a year or so to fully master it.”

Even at a glance, Han Qiu was able to tell that the array was indeed profound and mysterious.

Zhang Ruochen replied, “You don’t need to fully master it. As long as you can perform one-tenth of its power, we can easily defeat Huo Jingcheng. I’ll give you three days. Judging from your talent, that should be enough!”

Han Qiu turned to look at Zhang Ruochen, her expression one of slight confusion. She said, “We also have some joint arrays in Yuntai Suzerain. But a minimum of three people are needed to perform the arrays. On top of that, they also need the help of the array jade stone to bring their full power into play.”

“Don’t tell me that you want to defeat Huo Jingcheng with a sword array that can only unleash one-tenth of its power? And without the help of the array jade stone?”

Zhang Ruochen answered, “The role of the array jade stone is to merge the Genuine Qi of the embattle warriors through the Inscription of Array. But the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array doesn’t need the Inscription of Array. Instead, it uses the Sword Comprehension between the two warriors to merge their power together.”

“I see,” replied Han Qiu.

Any other warriors could not comprehend the mysticism of Sword Comprehension Connection. However, Han Qiu had attained a high cultivation in sword technique. It was no surprise that she immediately understood when Zhang Ruochen had only briefly mentioned about it.

Zhang Ruochen continued to explain the mysticism of Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array to Han Qiu, hoping that she could master the array as soon as possible.

“The Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array takes human as its base, the heaven and earth as its compass, and Yin-Yang’s mysticism as its power. If two warriors cooperate perfectly and reach the Sword Comprehension Connection, they can arouse the Spiritual Qi from heaven and earth. The power of human is limited, but the power of heaven and earth transcends everything. As long as we can arouse the Spiritual Qi from heaven and earth, nothing is beyond the realm of possibility.”

“When setting the array, you and I are the Yin and Yang in the array respectively. Yang moves, and Ying moves along; Yang stops, and Yin stops along.”

“The array is paired with 18 sword movements, namely Nine Yin Sword and Nine Yang Sword. As for other moves, we’ll have to adapt to the situation and act accordingly. I believe that with your talent, you can practice the Nine Yin Sword to the Beginner Level in three days.”

With her arms folded across her chest, Han Qiu raised her eyebrows and said, “Don’t underestimate me! With my talent, I can easily reach the Beginner Level in just one day. Three days are more than enough for me to practice the Nine Yin Sword to the level of Small Success.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at her and said, “The Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array is no easy feat, otherwise, it won’t be known as the most powerful twosome sword array. Back then, Chi Yao and I...”

Speaking of this, Zhang Ruochen suddenly stopped mid-sentence. He smiled bitterly to himself before continued saying, “I’ve carved the moves of the Nine Yin Sword here. You can start practicing now! As for how much you can perceive the techniques, it depends on your comprehension ability. Ask me if you have any question.”

Zhang Ruochen walked to the other side of the underground palace as soon as he finished his sentence and began his practice of the Nine Yang Sword.

Han Qiu stared fixedly at him for a while and said, “What an odd person!”

Han Qiu’s comprehension ability was indeed very strong, which exceeded Zhang Ruochen’s expectation. It only took her two and a half days to reach the Beginner Level of the Nine Yin Sword.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen was a huge factor behind this. Not only did he patiently guide her along the way, he also pointed out the mistakes she did over the course of her practice. Not keeping everything to himself, he selflessly taught her the tricks of the Nine Yin Sword.

After reaching the Beginner Level of the Nine Yin Sword, only then Han Qiu had begun to really understand the profoundness of the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.

Even without performing the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array, the Nine Yin Sword itself was already much more brilliant and powerful than other sword techniques in the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage.

Even in Yuntai Suzerain, there was only one sword technique in the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage, and it was incomplete. That sword technique was regarded the strongest in Yuntai Suzerain. However, it was nothing compared to the Nine Yin Sword.

Earlier, when Zhang Ruochen first told her that the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array was the strongest twosome array, she snorted at it. But now, she totally agreed with him.

Yuntai Suzerain's so-called powerful arrays were totally insignificant in front of the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.

Han Qiu said, "It took me nearly three days to reach the Beginner Level of the Nine Yin Sword. I guess it might take me a month or longer to reach the Small Success. If other warriors were to practice this, they probably can't reach the Beginner Level even after a year."

Zhang Ruochen said, "You've only reached the Beginner Level. At this point, it's still unknown whether we can cooperate well and perform the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array."

"Is it really that hard?" asked Han Qiu.

"Try it and you'll know!"

Zhang Ruochen took out the Abyss Ancient Sword and stood inside the circle that he had drawn earlier. The moment he waved his sword, his aura completely changed.

His back was so straight and his gazes were so sharp that he looked like a young Sword God.

Standing in another circle 10 feet away from Zhang Ruochen, Han Qiu pointed to Zhang Ruochen with the Ancient White Jade Sword. Her aura was also completely different from earlier. Paired with her outstanding appearance, she resembled a beautiful Sword Fairy.

They did not make any move, and yet, faint waves of Sword Breath had already appeared around them.

"Move!"

Zhang Ruochen uttered one word and took seven steps rightward. Each step was exactly one foot long.

When Zhang Ruochen took his first step, Han Qiu also immediately moved along.

"SWISH!"

As sword masters, the two of them moved at high speed in the array, performing sword techniques one after another.

It was as if there were 18 figures in the array, and each figure was performing different sword techniques.

Chapter 257: The Tacit Understanding

“Stop!”

The two of them immediately stopped in their tracks amidst Zhang Ruochen’s order.

The nine shadows on the left superimposed on each other, forming Zhang Ruochen’s body.

Similarly, the nine shadows on the right superimposed on each other and formed Han Qiu’s body.

Han Qiu was still immersed in the intricacies of the array. And thus, she was very confused when Zhang Ruochen called for a stop. She asked, “Why did we stop? Didn’t we do that perfectly?”

“Perfect?”

Zhang Ruochen said, “You think that is perfect? We had no tacit understanding at all. The eighteen shadows’ sword techniques were completely disjointed, and our Sword Comprehension couldn’t connect as well. We failed to perform the true form of the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array, let alone arouse the heaven and earth’s Spiritual Qi.”

Feeling a bit annoyed, Han Qiu said, “Am I the one to blame for not having a tacit understanding? You’ve never thought of me as your friend and are always on guard. How can we build a tacit understanding when you carry such attitude?”

“I’m very curious to know why you are so hostile to me? I’ve never done anything to you. Instead, I’ve always tried to be friendly.”

Zhang Ruochen was silent for a moment, and then he said, “If I really do have such hostility toward you, I wouldn’t have saved you in the first place.”

“Then why? Is it because of... Zhang Tiangui?” asked Han Qiu.

Not denying her statement, Zhang Ruochen replied, “Yes. Clever as you are, you must have noticed that Zhang Tiangui and I are already as incompatible as fire is to water. Our fight is inevitable. How can I let my guard down when you’re his junior sister apprentice?”

Han Qiu said, sighing, “I noticed that something was wrong between you two when we were in Yunwu City. But I didn’t know it was so serious.”

Perhaps Zhang Tiangui has done something wrong. But overall, he is a good person. Not only is he talented and honest, he also treats everyone nicely. If there really is a tension between you two, I can act as an intermediary and resolve it for you. After all, you are brothers.”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "There are some things that are better left unsaid. One day, you'll understand. There is no such thing as brothers in the Royal Family. Well, this is our personal matter. You needn't worry about this!"

Han Qiu stared fixedly at Zhang Ruochen's eyes as if she wanted to read his mind. She thought to herself, "Maybe Zhang Tiangui had done something awful to Zhang Ruochen? Was it so awful that there's no room for reconciliation?"

As far as she was concerned, Zhang Tiangui was a nice person. At least there was not anything she disliked about him. Instead, there were a lot of things that she could learn from him.

But, Zhang Ruochen's words had planted a seed of doubt in Han Qiu's heart. She decided that after returning to the Devil Martial City, she would send someone to investigate Zhang Tiangui thoroughly.

In fact, her father, the Master of the Yuntai Suzerain, intended to marry her off to Zhang Tiangui.

If Zhang Tiangui was really a bastard who could even plot against his own brother, there was no way she would agree to marry him.

Although she just met Zhang Ruochen, she did not think he was someone who would slander others for no reason.

Han Qiu asked, confused, "If you can't trust me, why did you teach me the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array?"

"I only taught you the Nine Yin Sword. Without the Nine Yang Sword, you can't set the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array at all."

Zhang Ruochen paused for a second before continued saying, "And, after the recent events, I'm convinced that you are a pretty trustworthy person."

"You should have trusted me earlier!" Han Qiu raised her eyebrows and retorted. She soon added and said, "If you've trusted me more, we wouldn't be caught in such a difficult position!"

"Let's keep practicing! We must strengthen our tacit understanding as quickly as possible. I'm afraid the Poisonous Spider Club and Square Commandery might send more masters if we drag on for too long. If that happens, we would end up in an even more unfavorable position." Zhang Ruochen said.

"Right!"

They diligently practiced the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array. Every day, they would spend about 20 hours on it.

The more time they spent together, the better they knew each other. Their tacit understanding had also grown stronger over time.

Finally, on the sixth day, they succeeded.

Wiping away the sweat from her forehead, Han Qiu looked at Zhang Ruochen and said happily, "We finally did it! With our Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array, we can take even two Huo Jingchengs down! Let's go get them now!"

On the contrary, Zhang Ruochen was still as calm as ever. He said, "Yes, it's about time!"

"BOOM!"

The stone gate of the underground palace slowly swung open.

Huo Jingcheng snapped his eyes open the moment Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu stepped out of the underground palace.

Lips twisted into a sneer, Huo Jingcheng said, "You finally come out! I thought you guys are going to hide in there forever."

Holding the Ancient White Jade Sword, Han Qiu stretched lazily, showing off her perfect curves. She smiled and said, "We wouldn't come out if we don't have absolute confidence."

"Oh? Did you break into the Heaven Realm?"

Huo Jingcheng immediately became wary. If Han Qiu really reached the Heaven Realm, then he should be the one who fled for his life.

Laughing lightly, Han Qiu said, "We don't need to reach the Heaven Realm. The Earth Realm is more than enough to kill you."

"Haha!"

Huo Jingcheng burst out laughing and said, "Do you really think that you can be my opponent now that you have recovered and are working together?"

"Yes." Han Qiu replied firmly.

Zhang Ruochen gave an order and said, "Embattle!"

"SWISH!"

Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu dashed out at the same time and stopped on either side of Huo Jingcheng. They raised their swords and pointed to Huo Jingcheng who was standing in the center.

"Even if you embattled, you still can't beat me! Angry Wind Animal Shadow!"

Huo Jingcheng raised his arms high above his head while summoning his Genuine Qi. The Genuine Qi that had surged out from his body aroused the Spiritual Qi from the heaven and earth, forming a huge storm vortex.

Shrill howls rang out through the air.

Under the control of Huo Jingcheng's Genuine Qi, the vortex turned into a gigantic animal shadow. The ten-foot long, translucent shadow ferociously charged toward Zhang Ruochen.

"SWISH!"

Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu sprang into motion at the same time. The two shadows turned into eighteen in just a second.

A bright Sword Breath circle was formed on top of the eighteen shadows. It almost looked like a Tai Chi Eight Trigrams itself was hovering in the air above the shadows while spinning.

“BANG!”

Zhang Ruochen fiercely slashed down his sword and chopped the animal shadow in two, sparing nothing.

“What?”

Frightened, Huo Jingcheng suddenly turned pale in the face. He wondered why Zhang Ruochen suddenly became so powerful.

He was about to attack Zhang Ruochen again when suddenly, he heard a sharp noise behind him.

“Take this!”

Body as light as a fairy with a sword, Han Xiu performed Watching Moon in the Clouds, one of the moves of the Nine Yin Sword, and aimed straight at Huo Jingcheng’s back.

“TCH!”

Waves and waves of Inscriptions of Light Series flowed on the body of the Ancient White Jade Sword. It sent a three-meter-long sword light shooting out from the sword. The sword light cut through Huo Jingcheng’s robe, slicing a wound open on his back.

Huo Jingcheng felt a sharp pain in his back and immediately thrust forward. Enraged, he yelled, “I refuse to believe that I can’t break your array!”

Huo Jingcheng suddenly turned around and threw a punch at Han Qiu.

Just when he thought that his palm power was about to reach Han Qiu, Zhang Ruochen once again attacked from behind.

Feeling the breath of a flame closing in on his back, Huo Jingcheng had no choice but to withdraw his hand. Immediately after, he waved his arm to form a wind blade and unleashed a backhand swing.

Huo Jingcheng thought that he had forced Zhang Ruochen into retreat when suddenly, a sword shadow slashed toward the left of his head, cutting a strand of his hair off.

Huo Jingcheng’s face fell. It was only now that he realized how powerful the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array was.

From the way he saw it, he was not fighting against two people, but against eighteen people.

Every shadow’s movement might become a real attack at any time, catching him off guard.

Han Qiu’s laughter could be heard ringing out while she kept changing her position in the array. She said, “Uncle apprentice Huo, how do you like our array? Would you like to give us some advice?”

“It’s nothing but an array. It’s just cheap trick by kids in front of true power,” said Huo Jingcheng coldly.

“Then, we’ll play no more tricks!”

Han Qiu looked over at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen nodded at her in return.

They fully unleashed their sword techniques, showing the true strength of the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array.

“Shadow-catching In Wind!”

“Pull Chestnut out of Fire!”

The size of the Yin-Yang Two Forms Sword Array started to shrink. Four meters, three meters, two meters...

The smaller the size, the more concentrated the attack became.

At last, the array became only less than half-a-meter long.

Trapped in the array, Huo Jingcheng could do nothing but fend off the attacks like a cornered animal. His high cultivation was of no avail, and he simply received more and more wounds on his body over time.

“PUFF!”

Zhang Ruochen slashed horizontally at Huo Jingcheng’s neck. Huo Jingcheng’s Celestial Bodyshield was broken and his head was cut off.

“BOOM!”

After losing its head, Huo Jingcheng’s body could no longer control the wind and thus fell to the ground feebly.

“It’s finally over!”

Han Qiu withdrew the Ancient White Jade Sword and said with a hint of regret, “Actually, our cooperation is still lacking. If our tacit understanding is better, it would have been easier to kill Huo Jingcheng.”

Looking at the body on the ground, Zhang Ruochen’s face showed no trace of joy. He said, “Let’s go! Let’s leave as soon as possible.”

“Okay!”

Han Qiu nodded.

Not long after Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu left, an old man with a violet gold crown flew into the White Fog Ancient City on a Three-footed Firecrow. He then stopped right above the underground palace.

He jumped off Three-footed Firecrow and walked over to Huo Jingcheng’s body. Almost immediately, his eyes lit up, and he murmured to himself, saying, “They actually killed Commandery Princess Zhenling and Huo Jingcheng! They are indeed something!”

He sniffed the air for a second and said, “The blood is still fresh. It should be less than six hours after he died.”

He then took a glance at the ground, and soon he found the traces left behind by Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu as they fled.

He leaped onto the back of Three-footed Firecrow and chased in their direction.

Chapter 258: The Dead City

Day and night, Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu hurried on with their journey at top speed. The next day at noon, they finally arrived at the boundary of the Omen Ridge.

There were majestic mountain ranges stretching out along the horizon, covered with dense jungle. Although there were hardly any people around, huge and fierce savage beasts could be seen very often.

“We are only half a day’s walk to the Devil Martial City. I think we are safe now.”

Han Qiu heaved a long sigh of relief. Laughing, she said, “I remember there’s a small town nearby called ‘Yueji City’, which belongs to the Yuntai Suzerain. We can take a good rest there. Perhaps someone from the Yuntai Suzerain and the School of the Martial Market has arrived at the city and is waiting for us.”

After pondering for a bit, Zhang Ruochen replied, “Well, it’d be great if that’s the case. But we must be careful. Let’s do a bit of investigating first before we enter the city.”

10 days had passed, and the news must have reached the School of the Martial Market.

The School of the Martial Market would surely send warriors over to receive Zhang Ruochen. After all, with his talent, he deserved extra protection by the School of the Martial Market.

And yet, when they arrived at the Yueji City, they noticed that something very strange was going on.

The gate was wide open, and not a single person could be seen anywhere.

Although the Yueji City was only a small city, it was not at all bleak. Every year, thousands of warriors who ventured into the Omen Ridge would be lodging in this city to refill pills and trade savage beasts’ bodies.

But today was different. There was no one in sight. Like a dead city, the place seemed to be devoid of life.

Zhang Ruochen sniffed the air and immediately smelled the rotting stench that came from the city hundred meters away.

“Why is it so quiet? Don’t tell me that the Evil Warriors from the Poisonous Spider Club have already taken over the city?” asked Han Qiu confusedly.

“No. They would never do something so obvious.”

It looked like Zhang Ruochen had something in mind, so he walked right up to the gate.

After a moment of hesitation, Han Qiu quickly chased after him.

Upon entering the Yueji City, they discovered that the entire city had indeed become a dead city. There was not a single living person could be found on the street.

That was because they were all dead.

Numerous bodies lay scattered on the ground. Some of them were hung on the roof, and some of them were cut in half...

It looked like that they had been dead for a day or two. These shriveled bodies were completely drained of blood. The rotting stench in the air was so nauseous that it made people wanted to throw up.

Although it was daytime, the sight was still too horrible to watch. It was as if the city was a gruesome living hell.

"The whole... city! What happened?"

Even a warrior with psychological quality as good as Han Qiu was rattled by the sight. Her face turned pale, and her heart was pounding with fear.

"Was this done by a ghost?"

Frightened, Han Qiu leaned closer to Zhang Ruochen while gripping the handle of her sword nervously.

Zhang Ruochen looked completely calm as he walked up to one of the bodies. He crouched down and took a close look at the two holes on the neck.

Zhang Ruochen's pupils constricted. He said, "I knew it was her."

Han Qiu asked, "Who?"

Zhang Ruochen stood up and said, "Have you ever heard that the masters of the School of the Martial Market are fighting against a vampire now?"

"Well, yes. It is said that the School of the Martial Market sent 10 masters in the Heaven Realm, but she still got away."

Suddenly, Han Qiu thought of something. She said, surprised, "So it was her who sucked them dry? But there were at least 10 thousand warriors in Yueji City. I don't think she could do this on her own."

"Perhaps she has succeeded in cultivating the Blood Spirits."

Zhang Ruochen said thoughtfully, "With the help of the Blood Spirits and her own power, it wouldn't be that difficult for her to suck away all the blood from the city. I wonder how powerful she has become after absorbing so much human blood."

Han Qiu turned to look at Zhang Ruochen in surprise. "You seem to know that vampire very well!" said Han Qiu, looking somewhat confused.

"Of course! I've met her before, and I know where she came from." replied Zhang Ruochen.

Han Qiu felt a bit shaken upon hearing those words. She asked curiously, "Then what is her origin?"

"Now is not the time to discuss that vampire. We are in trouble again!"

Zhang Ruochen stared off in the direction of the city wall.

“BUZZ!”

A swarm of colorful bees flew over the walls of Yueji City. Their eyes, sparkled with lights of wisdom, were staring at Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu.

Their fist-sized bodies were 100 times larger than normal bees.

Their wings were more than half a meter long, and they have a sharp poisonous sting on their tails.

At first glance, it looked like a group of colorful birds flying in mid-air. There were over 100 of them.

“The Swift Bees!” said Zhang Ruochen.

Looking at the huge bees, Han Qiu said, “Being able to control so many Swift Bees at the same time, he must be the master among the Beast Trainers. As far as I know, there is a mysterious man called ‘Ling Xiansu’ working for the Square Commandery Prince. He was a Beast-training Master. Maybe that’s him?”

“It must be!” said Zhang Ruochen.

The Swift Bees were first level superior class savage beast with average attack power. They were mainly used to track down enemies, conduct a field survey and deliver messages.

An inferior Beast Trainer could only raise one or several Swift Bees.

Considering that this person could send hundreds of Swift Bees at the same time, he must be someone who had reached the master level.

The power of a Beast-training Master was more terrifying than a normal warrior in the Heaven Realm. He could easily destroy a city.

A Beast-training Master was as powerful as hundreds of thousands of soldiers. He would be the most destructive person on the battlefield.

After discovering Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu, those Swift Bees immediately flew out of Yueji City to notify the Beast-training Master.

Han Qiu said, “Let’s run away before that Beast-training Master arrives!”

“Run? Where to?”

Zhang Ruochen said calmly, “What makes a Beast Trainer powerful? It’s his ability to control savage beasts to attack other warriors. The walls, houses, and arrays in Yueji City can serve as barriers to block off savage beasts. It gives us a chance to fight back. If we run into the Omen Ridge, we’ll be at a grave disadvantage when the savage beasts besiege and intercept us.”

Han Qiu asked, “Does that mean that we should stay in Yueji City and fight with the Beast-training Master?”

“We can’t stand up to the power of a Beast-training Master! All we can do is try to stall for time, hoping that the masters from the School of the Martial Market and Yuntai Suzerain can be here as soon as possible,” said Zhang Ruochen.

Han Qiu finally understood Zhang Ruochen’s idea. Staying here in Yueji City would be easier for the masters from the School of the Martial Market and Yuntai Suzerain to find them.

If they fled into the mountains, they had to face the constant attacks from savage beasts, and the masters might also find it difficult to rescue them.

Zhang Ruochen began to check the resources available in his Storage Ring and took out one after another.

45 Thunder Pearls.

10 bottles of Third-class healing pills with 10 pills each. Among them, there were healing pills and Genuine Qi recovering pills, as well as power transient increasing pills.

Two bottles of Fourth Class healing pills with five pills each.

Seven attacking War Maps.

Two defensive Formation Flags. Five attacking Formation Flags.

...

Looking at Zhang Ruochen who took out a lot of resources from his Storage Ring, Han Qiu was completely dumbstruck.

The 45 Thunder Pearls alone were worth more than 10 million silver coins and capable of destroying tens of thousands of armies.

On top of that, there were also pills, War Maps and Formation Flags. All these treasures added up to at least 30 million silver coins.

She was a daughter of Yuntai Suzerain as well as a genius. But compared with Zhang Ruochen, she was wretchedly poor.

Han Qiu picked up one of the War Maps and unrolled it.

A figure of Purple-horned Beast, third-level superior class savage beast, appeared on the map. According to the instructions on the map, if the map was activated, it would summon 10 Purple-horned Beasts to help the warrior.

This War Map alone would cost over two million silver coins.

“How do you have so many treasures?” asked Han Qiu.

These treasures were taken from the warehouse of the Red Spider Vessel. They were once the expensive items ready to be auctioned by the Poisonous Spider Club.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen did not tell her the source of these treasures. He said, "We need an array to fend off the attacks from savage beasts. I noticed that the defensive array of Yueji City is somehow damaged. Even if it is fixed, its power will be reduced."

"There's only one way now. I'll combine its defensive array with my seven sets of Formation Flags to form a new Defender Array. You should go and put up the Formation Flags on the wall first."

Among the seven sets of Formation Flags, there were two defensive Formation Flags and five attacking Formation Flags.

The Glimmer Skull Formation required the least Formation Flags which were 24, whereas the Armies and Beasts Formation required the most Formation Flags which were 81.

A Formation Flag's flagpole was made of bronze and it was about seven feet long each. The Array Master would equip the flagpole with a Spiritual Crystal to sustain its power. At the same time, they wove the flag with spun gold and carved the Inscription Array on it. Then, they connected it with the flagpole.

As long as the Formation Flags were installed on the ground according to the specified pattern, the array could be easily activated with the warriors' Genuine Qi.

Among the seven arrays, even the cheapest Glimmer Skull Formation would be priced at three million silver coins at the Poisonous Spider Club's Auction House, which was equivalent to the total assets of an eighth-class family.

Not only did Zhang Ruochen need to set the seven arrays ready, he also had to connect the seven arrays with Yueji City's Defender Array in order to unleash the full power of the array.

At that time, even if Yueji City was not totally impregnable, at the very least, it could withstand a tough fight with the Beast-training Master.

Han Qiu turned into a swift illusory figure and flew over the city wall. She installed the Formation Flags on the wall, and began to set the array.

Installing the Formation Flags did not require any skills. Any warriors could do it.

Even though Han Qiu knew that the upcoming battle would be more ominous rather than propitious, she did not seem scared at all. Instead, she was very excited and looked forward to it.

Chapter 259: Beast-training Master

When Han Qiu was setting the array, Zhang Ruochen took out all 172 swords from his Storage Ring.

"I can wield 172 swords at the same time if I use Sword Defending Technique. When fighting multiples savage beasts, at the very least, I can still use this technique to inflict serious damage on them. Of course, that would mean exposing my Heart Integrated into Sword Realm. Is Han Qiu really trustworthy?"

After pondering for a while, Zhang Ruochen put the 172 swords back into the Storage Ring and decided to keep his Heart Integrated into Sword Realm as a secret.

After meeting Chi Yao and Chen Xier, he had gained an even deeper understanding of not to judge a book its cover. Although he had nothing against Han Qiu, he still thought that he ought to keep some secrets to himself and not to show his hand to others.

It was never wrong to leave himself a way out.

Zhang Ruochen began to inspect the Defender Array in Yueji City. Upon closer inspection, he found that its Array Eye was located within the altar.

In Kunlun's Field, every city including the village had its own altar.

The altar of Yueji City was seven meters tall and covered a wide area.

Under the altar was a Sacred Pool carved with various lines.

Zhang Ruochen pushed open the stone gate of the altar and arrived at the Sacred Pool. To his surprise, the Sacred Pool was full of blood. Bubbles continuously emerged from the surface of the blood pool, emanating a reek of blood.

"How could there be so much blood here?" Han Qiu walked through the gate and stood next to Zhang Ruochen. Her face ashen as she stared at the blood pool that was boiling and churning in front of her.

She had done setting up the seven arrays by installing two Formation Flags of defense strategy and five Formation Flags of attacking array on the city wall.

Zhang Ruochen said, "If I'm not mistaken, the blood here belongs to those warriors in the Yueji City. The Blood Spirit sucked them dry and stored their blood in the Sacred Pool, waiting for the vampire to come here and consume the blood."

Han Xiu asked in astonishment, "You're saying that the vampire might come to Yueji City at any time for the blood in the Sacred Pool?"

"I suppose so," said Zhang Ruochen, nodding his head.

Feeling a headache coming on, she said, "It's already very difficult for us to deal with a Beast-training Master. But now, there is another vampire to worry about..."

Zhang Ruochen stared thoughtfully at the blood in the Sacred Pool for a moment before a smile crept onto his face. He said, "It's not necessarily a bad thing for us. Perhaps we can make use of these blood and perform a sacrifice to break through our realm."

"Breaking through the realm, with a sacrifice?" Han Qiu asked.

"That's right."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "But we still need some savage beasts to serve as oblation and more blood to open the Door of Heaven. This could be the only chance for us to defeat the Beast-training Master. Only by breaking through the realm will we be able to match up to him in the battle."

Staring quizzically at Zhang Ruochen, Han Qiu nodded her head and said, "Alright! I'll trust you once!"

With that, Zhang Ruochen handed a pack of resources to Han Qiu, including 20 Thunder Pearls, two bottles of healing pill, two bottles of Huiqi Pill, two bottles of Taiyu Pill and three War Maps.

He said solemnly, "I have restored the Defender Array. Now, I'm giving this resource to you. I really hope that we can break through the realm with a sacrifice. Otherwise, Yueji City may become our burial ground."

Han Qiu gladly accepted the resources. She grinned and revealed a mouthful of white teeth as she said, "How can we not defeat a Beast-training Master based on our full preparation? As for whether we can make the breakthrough, it isn't our main concern."

Looking at Han Qiu's radiant smile, Zhang Ruochen felt a bit more at ease. He smiled and said, "You're right. Let's prepare to fight."

Just then, a rumbling sound could be heard from beyond the city wall. It was so loud that the ground began to shake.

"Here they come!"

Zhang Ruochen lifted the Abyss Ancient Sword and suddenly jumped 70 meters high up into the air, landing on top of the city wall. He stood there, looking off into the distance.

In the distance, the dust was blowing. A pitch-black group of savage beasts flocked toward Yueji City.

Thousands of savage beasts rushed in like a flood, in a completely overwhelming manner.

It was easily predictable that the Yueji City with low walls and buildings would be wiped out in an instant without the protection of the array.

"Awoo!"

A Fourth-level savage beast "Fire-cloud Wolf" was leading the way at the front.

It was seven meters tall, with crimson flames covering its body. Deafening howls continued to echo out as the beast sped forward. It looked like a crimson fire cloud from a distance.

The snow began to melt, and the ground was burned to scorched earth wherever it passed. Some rocks were even melted into crimson lava.

In another direction, there was a 50-meter-long Cyan Python leading a group of Ophidian savage beasts to the leg of Yueji City.

Cyan Python had fleshy wings on the back and a brawny body thicker than the bucket and a fiendish head raised as tall as the city wall. Its eyes, as big as lanterns, were staring coldly at the two fragile humans on the city wall.

Besides the ground, the sky was also full of savage birds hovering in the air above Yueji City. They seemed to be waiting for the Beast Trainer's commands.

"Howl!"

“Awoo!”

...

The roars of savage beasts rose and fell, spreading over hundreds of miles.

Warriors of weaker cultivation might have fainted from fright once they saw the scene.

Even Han Qiu and Zhang Ruochen, who were battle-seasoned, felt an unprecedented pressure. Their bodies tensed up in preparation to take action.

“The number of savage beasts has exceeded 10,000, and it is still increasing. It’s equivalent to an endless tide of beasts. Without the Defender Array, even a city of an inferior commandery may not be able to resist the attacks from so many savage beasts. Is this the power of a Beast-training Master?”

Han Qiu rubbed his hands together and said solemnly, “You’re right, Zhang Ruochen. If we were surrounded by these savage beasts in the woods, we wouldn’t even survive one attack. We’ll be dead before we know it.”

Looking at the herd of savage beasts outside the city, Zhang Ruochen said, “There are five Fourth-level savage beasts including Fire-cloud Wolf, Cyan-winged Red Python, Four-armed Fierce Ape, Iron-armoured Black Bear and Lion-head Ox King. Also, there are two Fourth-level savage beasts, namely Dragon-eagle and Cloud-swallowing Sparrow. On top of that, there are some other savage beasts from Third-level and Second-level, as well as First-level. The Defender Array and the seven Formation Flags aren’t expected to last long.”

The battle prowess of a Fourth-level savage beast and a Fourth-level savage bird was comparable to a warrior in the Heaven Realm.

The Fourth-level savage beasts and birds added up to seven beasts in total. Judging from the number of beasts, anyone could tell that the Beast-training Master did not belittle Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu. Instead, he took them seriously, and thus, he had summoned almost all savage beasts within thousands of miles around.

An elderly man with a gold purple crown riding a three-head fire crow came from a distance. Hovering in the air, he fixed his gaze on Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu who was standing on top of the city wall. With a faint smile on his aging face, he said, “Zhang Ruochen, you’d better give me the account book! Don’t tell me that you’re still thinking to resist me under such circumstances?”

Looking as calm as usual, Zhang Ruochen gathered his Genuine Qi and said, “Are you Ling Xiansu, the Beast-training Master from Square Commandery?” His voice echoed out in all directions, loud and clear.

“Yes. It’s me.” The elderly man with a gold purple crown replied.

Zhang Ruochen said, “How about we make a deal?”

“What’s the deal?” Ling Xiansu asked.

Zhang Ruochen said, “In your case, there is no room for you to improve your beast-training skill if you continue to stay in Square Commandery. But if you cooperate with me, I can promise you that you’ll make great progress and reach a higher realm.”

Ling Xiansu laughed out loud and said, "I've lived over 100 years old, and this is the first time I've heard such ridiculous speech. You, a kid no more than 20 years old, want to cooperate with me. What a joke! Do you think you qualify?"

Sighing, Zhang Ruochen said, "Rejecting my offer will be the most stupid decision you ever made in your life."

"In Square Commandery, I am treated as the minister, only second to the king. I have both the money and resources, and I've earned the respect of hundreds of thousands of people. What can you do for me? You are just a prince from an inferior commandery. Do you think that I'm willing to give up everything in a medium-level commandery and serve for an inferior commandery?" Ling Xiansu said, sneering.

At this point, Ling Xiansu had lost his patience with Zhang Ruochen. His expression turned somber, and he said, "I will give you a chance to live if you hand over the account book and abolish your cultivation within the time for burning an incense stick. Otherwise, you will be crushed to pieces under the onslaught of savage beasts."

Before Han Qiu could even answer, Zhang Ruochen abruptly said, "The time for burning an incense stick is simply too short. We need two hours to consider it."

They needed to stall for as much time as possible.

The longer time they had, the more beneficial the situation was for them.

Ling Xiansu replied, "Two hours are too long. I can only give you up to an hour."

"Alright! We'll discuss it now. After one hour, we'll give you an answer." Zhang Ruochen said in a clear voice.

From the way Ling Xiansu saw it, Zhang Ruochen and Han Qiu were going to die anyway. It couldn't be better if they chose to surrender and hand over the account book.

An hour had passed very quickly.

Ling Xiansu asked, "My juniors, have you made the decision?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "Predecessor, could we ask for another one hour? After all, it's a matter of life and death, which makes us very hesitant."

"Is it fun to stall for time? I have given you one hour, but you didn't cherish it. If so, don't blame me for not showing you mercy."

Ling Xiansu took out a purple crystal ball and infused his Genuine Qi into it.

The ball lit up, and began to emit a purple light. It was as if a purple moon was hanging in midair, casting its light down onto the ground of hundreds of miles around.

"SWISH!"

Meanwhile, Zhang Ruochen infused his Genuine Qi into the Array Eye, activating the Defender Array in Yueji City.

Immediately, all 36 Formation Flags on the wall lit up at the same time, and 36 beams of light could be seen shooting up into the sky.

The 36 beams of light then joined together to form a semicircular light screen, enveloping the whole Yueji City in the array.

Upon seeing this scene, the savage beasts under the city wall were all riled up and began howling. They madly attacked the Defense Strategy in full force.

A Four-armed Fierce Ape, as tall as a giant, was carrying a stone tray weighing hundreds of thousands of kilograms and launched its attack toward the city wall of Yueji City.

“Bang”! Under the assault of the stone tray, the light of 36 Formation Flags turned dimmer. The array’s light screen had dented inward as if it were to break.

A Cloud-swallowing Sparrow of the Fourth-level Savage Beast was flying in the sky and absorbed all Spiritual Qi within tens of miles around it in a single breath.

It transformed the overwhelming amount of Spiritual Qi in its belly into the power of thunderbolt.

Cloud-swallowing Sparrow opened its huge crimson beak and spat out a beam of light. A lightning as thick as the opening of a bowl descended from the sky, hitting the top of the defense strategy.

Suddenly, the entire Yueji City seemed to be completely covered by the thunderbolt.

If warriors in Yueji City were still alive, without protection from the array, half of them would have been killed with a single blow from Cloud-swallowing Sparrow.

That was how terrifying the Fourth-level savage beasts were.

Among the human warriors, only the martial arts legends in the Heaven Realm could contend with Fourth-level savage beasts.

“Han Qiu, activate the Eight-dragon Wind-fire Formation. We need to first take out the savage birds hovering above the city.” As soon as Zhang Ruochen finished his sentence, he carried the Abyss Ancient Sword and dashed toward the city gate.

Han Qiu shouted and said, “What are you doing?”

“These Fourth-level savage beasts launched such powerful attack. Two defense strategies and the Defender Array will be broken through before nightfall if this continues. And thus, I must get rid of one of them before dark. I’ll leave the control of the array to you. All the Spiritual Crystals needed are inside the arrow tower. Get ready to assist me whenever needed.”

“SWISH!”

Zhang Ruochen leaped into the air and hopped out of the array’s light screen.

Chapter 260: A Four-armed Fierce Ape

A giant savage beast rushed toward Zhang Ruochen and completely covered Zhang Ruochen the moment he rushed out of the array.

“Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts!”

The Spiritual Blood inside Zhang Ruochen’s body poured out from his pores, transformed into beams of crimson aerial fog and formed illusory images of a giant sacred elephant and dragon behind his back.

“Awool!”

The elephant and dragon started to roar, which formed fluctuation of raging forces and sound waves.

The illusory images of the elephant and dragon rushed toward the herd of savage beasts at the same time.

Dozens of savage beasts crashed down in a bloody mess at the same time.

Eleven of them were shaken to death and the other savage beasts were badly injured with broken legs or injured bones.

“Swish!”

Zhang Ruochen took out a space bracelet and took the 11 dead savage beasts into it as quickly as possible.

The internal space of the storage bracelet was filled immediately.

“The internal space is still too small. I need to make a new storage bracelet with more space when I have time.”

Zhang Ruochen put the full storage bracelet away, took another storage bracelet out and placed it on his wrist in preparation.

After all was in order, Zhang Ruochen rushed forward to kill the Four-armed Fierce Ape.

The Four-armed Fierce Ape and Iron-armoured Black Bear had the strongest power among the five Fourth-level savage beasts and were the greatest threats to the defense strategy.

Only if they were killed would defense strategy be able to stay up longer.

“Boom!”

Under the urging of Hang Qiu the first attacking array, the “Eight-dragon Wind-fire Formation” was activated. The light from 54 Formation Flags connected together to form a giant firestorm array.

Four Gigantic Fire Dragons and four Gigantic Storm Dragons of more than 100 meters each rushed out from the giant firestorm array.

“Attack!”

The first Gigantic Fire Dragon flew up from the city and soared up into the sky to attack the flying savage birds.

More than ten giant savage birds were killed in only one attack and fell down from the sky.

“Attack!”

The first Gigantic Storm Dragon flew from the city, directly towards the Cloud-swallowing Sparrow, a Fourth-level Savage Beast, and crashed into it.

Then the Gigantic Storm Dragon’s body split into hundreds of wind blades and completely covered the Cloud-swallowing Sparrow.

The Cloud-swallowing Sparrow received more than ten wounds from the wind blade, large patches of blood and feathers began to rain down. Immediately, it flew away from the sky of Yueji City and hid among the clouds. It did not dare to rashly approach Yueji City.

Even for a fourth-level savage beast, they did not dare to lightly challenge the might of the array.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen had already rushed toward the front of the Four-armed Fierce Ape. He killed more than ten savage beasts along the way and filled another space bracelet.

When the Four-armed Fierce Ape found the fragile human behind itself, the ape opened its eyes as wide as a washbasin. Then the ape roared, showing its huge teeth.

“Howl!”

The large roar formed a whirlwind that brought with it the stench of fish and blew up the sand and stones on the ground.

The Four-armed Fierce Ape held a huge stone tray, which was like a small hill, in his hand and threw it at Zhang Ruochen’s head.

Kicking off with the balls of his feet, Zhang Ruochen jumped seven meters high, slightly borrowing strength while in the air he moved several meters towards the right to avoid the stone tray and swung the sword toward the neck of Four-armed Fierce Ape.

The Four-armed Fierce Ape waved its arms and struck out its palm toward Zhang Ruochen’s chest.

His fist was as big as Zhang Ruochen’s body.

The Four-armed Fierce Ape was an inferior savage beast.

Its power was strong enough to rip apart warriors in the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm. Thus, when it struck out with a fist, Zhang Ruochen did not dare to meet it head-on.

When Zhang Ruochen felt the fist moving toward him, he drew back his bodily movements, held his sword with both of his hands and chopped it down on the Four-armed Fierce Ape’s fist.

“Break!”

His hands rose as the sword fell, the Abyss Ancient Sword splintered the armor of Four-armed Fierce Ape and cut a chunk of meat from its arm.

The moment the Four-armed Fierce Ape was injured, it realized that the human before him was not something to be lightly provoked. It raised the stone tray and immediately stepped back.

Actually, the Four-armed Fierce Ape's strongest power was its defensive power, which was even able to shake seventh-level Genuine Martial Arms.

Unfortunately, the Abyss Ancient Sword in Zhang Ruochen's hands was a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms.

It was even sharper than a Holy Weapon.

The Abyss Ancient Sword was perhaps even able to damage the legendary dragon scale of the brute dragon, let alone the defenses of the Four-armed Fierce Ape.

"Although the power of the Four-armed Fierce Ape is much stronger than me, its reaction speed is slow and it has little intelligence. Thus, the sharpness of the Abyss Ancient Sword should be able to kill it."

Zhang Ruochen performed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon, transformed into several shadows with mysterious steps and attacked Four-armed Fierce Ape.

If he was able to kill a Four-armed Fierce Ape, the blood of a fourth-level savage beast was enough to help the sacrifice rise to a higher level.

Ling Xiansu sat on the back of a three-head fire crow and saw Zhang Ruochen attacking the Four-armed Fierce Ape. She immediately gave an order to the Fire-cloud Wolf to attack Zhang Ruochen at once.

"Awoo!"

A piece of fire cloud transformed by Genuine Qi fire gushed out from Fire-cloud Wolf's body and rushed toward Zhang Ruochen at its fastest speed.

Zhang Ruochen realized the danger when he took a glance in the direction of the Fire-cloud Wolf.

It was already difficult for Zhang Ruochen to fight against a single Four-armed Fierce Ape. Thus, another Fire-cloud Wolf's attack was certain to defeat him.

What's more, considering the speed of Fire-cloud Wolf, it may be impossible for Zhang Ruochen to escape back to Yueji City.

"I have no choice but to fight to the death! If I'm unable to kill the Four-armed Fierce Ape, it will be harder for me to defeat it the next time."

Zhang Ruochen released the Space Domain immediately, covering hundreds of square meters around, including the Four-armed Fierce Ape.

"Sacred Plenilune Sword."

Zhang Ruochen bounced up from the ground and bent his body into a bow shape with all his bones joined together. Then he held the hilt of the sword and chopped toward the head of the Four-armed Fierce Ape with the strength of his wrist.

The weight of the Abyss Ancient Sword was more than 500 kilograms after activating the inscriptions on it. Thus, it was possible to imagine the power of the sword.

Meanwhile, the body of the Four-armed Fierce Ape emitted a “pop” sound. Its two giant arms in front struck at the same time and punched towards Zhang Ruochen’s chest.

Ling Xiansu looked at him from a distance and put on a smile, “Too young and too naive. I can’t believe he thought that he was able to stand against a Four-armed Fierce Ape! Naive!”

If someone only observed the trail of the Four-armed Fierce Ape’s fist, they would think that Zhang Ruochen was going to be hit by the giant fist.

Warriors of the Heaven Realm were unable to stand against the punch of a Four-armed Fierce Ape. Zhang Ruochen’s cultivation had just reached the Earth Realm. Thus, he would probably be punched into a bloody mess!

However, Ling Xiansu’s jaw dropped in the next moment. She saw that Zhang Ruochen had chopped off the head of the Four-armed Fierce Ape and her entire person jumped up. She shouted, “How could it be?”

Just now, she witnessed the Four-armed Fierce Ape punching toward Zhang Ruochen but its giant fists suddenly stopped for a while.

Zhang Ruochen seized the chance when the Four-armed Fierce Ape stopped. He jumped up, cut down on the head of the Four-armed Fierce Ape and split the giant head into halves from the glabella.

“Pfft!”

The Four-armed Fierce Ape became more berserk with its head split open and suddenly punched dozens of times.

The Four-armed Fierce Ape was in its death throes, each fist was striking out randomly yet each strike was more powerful than the last.

One of its fists landed on Zhang Ruochen and the force threw him out hard.

Zhang Ruochen stuck the Abyss Ancient Sword in the ground to steady his body but he realized that his left scapula had moved due to the punch and felt a burning ache radiating out from his left shoulder.

“Boom!”

After a moment, the Four-armed Fierce Ape finally died. His body leaned back and it fell heavily to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen half knelt against the pain from his left shoulder and let out a long sigh when he saw that the Four-armed Fierce Ape was as dead as a doornail.

Despite the perilous situation, it was worthwhile to finally kill Four-armed Fierce Ape despite receiving some injuries.

The Fire-cloud Wolf in the distance was furiously indignant with its fur standing like sticks of flaming steel needles.

Its throat had turned crimson like the lava surging inside its stomach.

Suddenly, the Fire-cloud Wolf opened its bloody mouth and spat out a fireball three meters in diameter towards Zhang Ruochen.

“Oh no!”

Zhang Ruochen rolled over and stood up with a shout, “Sacred Bell Sword!”

Although the power of the Fire-cloud Wolf was weaker than the Four-armed Fierce Ape, the former one’s speed and wisdom surpassed the latter’s. Thus, the Fire-cloud Wolf was much more terrifying than the Four-armed Fierce Ape.

Even warriors in the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm would be killed if they met the Fire-cloud Wolf.

“Swish!”

Zhang Ruochen waved the sword in one hand and performed the sword technique quickly and intensively to form a huge Bell Sword.

“Boom!”

When the fireball landed on the Bell Sword, it knocked the Bell Sword out directly.

Naturally, inside the Bell Sword, Zhang Ruochen, was also been thrown out in a parabola shape. He knocked heavily into the wall with a bang.

After clashing with the Bell Sword, the fireball three meters in diameter exploded at once and turned the surroundings into a sea of flames.

Hundreds of miles around the explosion were covered by burning fire.

“Zhang Ruochen!”

Standing on the wall, Han Qiu was extremely worried about Zhang Ruochen as she stared at the sea of fire.

With her palm pressed on the array inscription, Han Qiu immersed the Genuine Qi in to control the Eight-dragon Wind-fire Formation. Then a Gigantic Storm Dragon was lured into charging at the Fire-cloud Wolf.

Where the Gigantic Storm Dragon passed all the Inferior Stage savage beast were killed by the wind blade, leaving the ground stained with their blood.

The Fire-cloud Wolf was also afraid to fight against the Gigantic Storm Dragon directly. So it stepped back to stay away from the dragon.

“Bang!”

All of a sudden, a figure surrounded by fire rushed out of the sea of fire and charged at the body of the Four-armed Fierce Ape.

After taking the body of the Four-armed Fierce Ape into the Storage Ring, Zhang Ruochen immediately rushed back because he would be safe as long as he was back in the array!

Naturally, the Fire-cloud Wolf was completely infuriated when it saw Zhang Ruochen's figure. It did not believe that the fragile human was still alive.

The speed of the Fire-cloud Wolf had reached the speed of sound. In seemingly just a moment, it charged to Zhang Ruochen's back. Reaching out with a sharp claw it swiped down at Zhang Ruochen's head.

Two Thunder Pearls thrown out by Zhang Ruochen transformed into two streaks of lightning and struck at the Fire-cloud Wolf.

"Clap!"

Two loud bangs rang out.

The Two Thunder Pearls exploded at the same time, transforming into two streaks of thunderbolts. Then dozens of lines of lightning condensed and struck at the Fire-cloud Wolf at the same time.