

God Emperor 281

Chapter 281: This was What the World was Like

The Finger Breaking Magical Sword used by Yan Qingwu could also execute the Fingering Sword Breath, which was similar to Sword Ripple of Ten Channels.

However, the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels paid more attention to penetration and explosive power while the Finger Breaking Magical Sword was focused more on speed and images.

For a moment, the overwhelming Sword Breath flowed towards Zhang Ruochen, like a waterfall.

Zhang Ruochen's footwork shuttled back and forth as if he was shifting his body and transposing his shadow. He moved through the Sword Breath.

TCH!

One of the Sword Breaths broke his Defending Genuine Qi Shield and passed through under one of his arms. Fortunately, Zhang Ruochen dodged it in good time, otherwise, his body would have been pierced through by that Sword Breath.

Zhang Ruochen drew back and observed Yan Qingwu's fingering while finding her flaws.

Yan Qingwu's Finger Breaking Magical Sword was so well-practiced that no flaws could be found, which forced Zhang Ruochen to retreat ceaselessly.

Since there were no flaws, the only way was to destroy it by using force.

Soon Zhang Ruochen retreated back to the stone walls. Suddenly, he steadied his legs, regained his footing, and thrust his palm out.

"Nine-folds of the Elephant Power!"

He hit Yan Qingwu with seven handprints in succession, bursting forth with sevenfold power.

"Steadying Finger!"

Yan Qingwu only revealed the index and little finger of her right hand, an Icing-cold genuine Qi gushed out and struck against Zhang Ruochen's palm.

The struck clashed and once again the two separated.

Yan Qingwu's power was strangely powerful, it was only slightly weaker than Zhang Ruochen's.

Actually, it was not strange as Yan Qingwu's overall strength was originally above that of Zhang Ruochen's.

Her speed was much faster than Zhang Ruochen's, reaching 266 meters per second. What's more, her strongest power, of which was equal to 31.5 brute elephants, was just a little bit weaker than Zhang Ruochen.

As a result, they were neck and neck in the fight and couldn't hurt each other.

After an hour had passed, the two of them had exchanged more than 2,300 strikes yet they were still unable to determine a victor.

If they continued to fight, they could battle with each other for three days as long as there were no mistakes, without anyone winning or losing.

At last, Vessel Spirit of Earth Board said, "According to the testing rule of the Earth Board, if there is no victor within an hour, the Earth Board will assess your strength to decide the winner."

"In the light of your data, the Vessel Spirit of Earth Board decides that Zhang Ruochen is better and has succeeded in challenging Yan Qingwu."

Yan Qingwu refused to accept the result, and she asked, "Why? I'm clearly better than him. If the battle continued, I only have to rely on my thicker Genuine Qi and I will gradually be able to gain the upper hand."

"Yes, you're right. But Zhang Ruochen did not display all of his strength in his battle with you."

The Vessel Spirit of Earth Board continued, "Zhang Ruochen offered to give up his sword to fight against you with his fists after your sword was destroyed. You should know that Zhang Ruochen has mastered the Heart Integrated into Sword of Sword Realm. You would be defeated by him within 1,000 moves if he uses Heart Integrated into Sword."

Previously, when Zhang Ruochen fought against Wei Wuhen, he has already used Heart Integrated into Sword, which was recorded into the data by the Vessel Spirit of Earth Board.

"Heart Integrated into Sword?"

Yan Qingwu took a deep look at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Since it is so, then I'm sincerely convinced. Zhang Ruochen, I will remember your name. When I make progress, I'll challenge you here again."

With these words, the Spiritual Body of Yan Qingwu dispersed, melting into threads of spiritual Qi.

Zhang Ruochen walked out of the Testing Secret Room to find that Luo Shuihan had already finished three tests and was waiting outside.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Senior sister apprentice, how are your results?"

"Winning two and losing one," Luo Shuihan said.

The silver gowned Elder standing to the side looked at Luo Shuihan with shock, and said: "Although Luo Shuihan was defeated by the warrior who is ranked 3,000th, she won against the warriors ranked 3,700th and 3,300th of the Earth Board. There are only 78 warriors under twenty who rank within the 10,000 of the Earth Board, and she has become one of them."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Congratulations, Senior sister apprentice."

Luo Shuihan looked indifferent. She took a meaningful look at Zhang Ruochen and said, "I'm far behind you."

The silver gowned Elder was kind of surprised. "Is Luo Shuihan really far behind Zhang Ruochen?"

The two strongest warriors in Omen Ridge — “Si Xingkong” and “Zhang Tiangui”, were only ranked about 5,000th on the Earth Board, they lagged far behind Luo Shuihan.

Even if Zhang Ruochen was great, how powerful he could be?

After all, Zhang Ruochen was under twenty.

Lei Jing, standing beside Zhang Chenruo, could not wait to ask, “Zhang Ruochen, did you succeed in your second test?”

Lei Jing was the only one to know that Zhang Ruochen wanted to challenge the warrior ranked 100 of Earth Board, so he knew the importance of this fight.

If Zhang Ruochen made it, he could be listed among the top 100 of Earth Board, he would have the right to be written into the next installment of Eastern Region Report and become one of the outstanding younger generation, drawing the full attention of schools.

Zhang Ruochen stayed calm and nodded his head.

Lei Jing was mad with joy. He laughed and swung his sleeves, saying, “Elder Xi and Luo Shuihan, could you leave first? I have something to discuss with Zhang Ruochen.”

“Zhang Ruochen’s rank must be very high on the Earth Board to make Master Lei, who is almost 100 years of age, forget himself. Maybe he has already entered the top 1,000 of the Earth Board.” The silver gowned Elder thought.

He made a bow toward Lei Jing and then left the test house of the Earth Board.

Luo Shuihan also left.

Lei Jing said, “Zhang Ruochen, I knew I had made the right choice with you. It’s Omen Ridge’s fortune that such a young hero like you was born here. A long time ago, when Omen Ridge was invaded by savage beasts and ruled by Four-wing Earth Dragons, it was a primitive wild. The history of people here in its real sense is only five hundred years.”

“500 years, it seems like a long time, but it’s just an instant compared with the whole history of Kunlun’s Field. Therefore, Omen Ridge is still an abandoned field, a remote place, a tiny area that is not worth mentioning.”

Zhang Ruochen did not know why Lei Jing was telling him this, but he still listened carefully and then said, “Though the history of Omen Ridge is only five-hundred years, it has produced countless heroes and even saints, such as predecessor Luo Xu.”

” You’re right.”

Lei Jing nodded and his eyes revealed his anticipation. He said, “Predecessor Luo Xu is the only saint in the history of Omen Ridge and the strongest warrior to emerge from Omen Ridge. Many people would still know nothing about Omen Ridge if not for his influence.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, ” Are you an indigenous monk of Omen Ridge?”

Lei Jing answered, "I can be considered one! When I was young, I was an orphan. Later, an elder of the School of the Martial Market took a fancy to me and brought me to the School of the Martial Market to practice. Because of my outstanding talent, I not only entered the Internal Academy but also the Saint Academy."

"It is a pity that there is too much competition for the Saint Academy with too many geniuses. I'm just a pauper from a small place. How could I be a match against those successors from Half-Saint or Saint families?"

"I was in the Saint Academy for just one year. Later, I was gravely injured by a successor from a Saint family and thrown out from there because I had offended him. Haha!"

Speaking of this, Lei Jing couldn't help smiling bitterly, "It is so ridiculous that I was thrown out from the Saint Academy at that time. To be honest, after all these years, this is the first time to I have told another person this. It was truly a bitter experience. But there was no other way, at the time, I was no match for others in terms of strength and family background, so I could only suffer being bullied by others."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What happened after that?"

"I could not stay at the Saint Academy anymore after I offended them. What's more, I also felt ashamed that I was beaten like a dog, I didn't have the face to stay in the Saint Academy anymore. After that, I entered the Martial Market Bank. Later, I accidentally broke through the four realms of Martial Arts into the Fish-dragon Realm, and became one of the top masters."

Although Lei Jing spoke easily, Zhang Ruochen knew well how difficult it was to break through to the Fish-dragon Realm, even he himself in the last lifetime could not do it.

Lei Jing must have worked hard with endless amounts of blood and sweat to grow in his humiliation. To strive endlessly to break into the Realm to truly become one of the best.

Lei Jing said with a smile, "When I broke through to the Fish-dragon Realm, the successor of the powerful family in the Saint Academy who had thrown me out in the past was stuck in the Heaven Realm. Well, now that I've made great progress, of course I will come back, right? So I beat him up badly on a dark and stormy night. I gave him a bloody nose, stripped his clothes and pants from him, and hung him above the great doors of the Saint Academy. Haha!"

Zhang Ruochen broke into a laugh too and said, "Hall Master, you finally took revenge for yourself."

Lei Jing didn't laugh anymore and, rolling his eyes, he said, "Indeed I did take revenge, but I also offended that Saint family. If it had not been for my master's protection I would have been killed by them. Even so, I was expelled by the Saint Academy again. I left the divine land of the Eastern Region and came back to Omen Ridge. Time flies. It has been fifty years since then!"

"When I was expelled from the Saint Academy for the second time, I swore that I would raise a first-class talent of Omen Ridge even if I had to come back here. I want him to enter the Saint Academy and totally break the situation where the successors of Saint families rule over the Saint Academy. I want them to know that a common man can become a noble."

Zhang Ruochen understood how Lei Jing felt. The common disciples and the successors from Saint families have been on opposite sides for a long time. The successors always had an advantage in terms of practice resources and cultivation conditions, heavily suppressing the common disciples. Those disciples even could not raise their heads.

Taking Omen Ridge as the example, most of the strongest among the young generation came from princes and princesses of commanderies or successors of big families. Few common disciples could become a top warrior.

Therefore, no matter how the world changed, the dominators of Kunlun's Field were always those successors from rich and powerful families.

For a warrior without background and strength to become a strong warrior, to become a Saint, it was as difficult as ascending to the heavens.

In fact, in those Half-Saint and Saint families' minds, princes and princesses from the 36 commanderies of Omen Ridge were like local tyrants in the countryside. They were no different from common disciples.

What could the common disciples do?

This was what the world was like. They could only fight against it.

Chapter 282: Ice Snow Lotus

"At the time, the students of the Saint Academy were all laughing at me, judging me as a madcap and ignorant idiot. They said even though Luo Xu entered the Saint Academy 200 years ago, there wouldn't be another Luo Xu from a small place like Omen Ridge, for at least 200 years."

"In the beginning, I didn't believe them. I had just managed to cultivate a conqueror who could punch their teeth through the back of their arrogant skulls."

"Unfortunately, the more I hoped, the greater my disappointment was."

"Over the past five decades, only a handful of highly-talented young men emerged in the Omen Ridge. A couple of them were even more outstanding than Si Xingkong and Zhang Tiangui. However, they were inferior compared to the brilliant figures from the Saint Academy. Two of them entered the Saint Academy and I told both of them not to tell others that they were my disciples."

Zhang Ruochen said, "You were worried that they might be oppressed by your enemies?"

Lei Jing nodded. "Like a small pebble tossed into the vast ocean, an unimpressive student would have little effect on the Saint Academy, let alone bring big storms. It's good enough for my two disciples to be able to protect themselves there."

"Later, as they got older, they were no longer as impulsive as before and even lost their passion with time. Eventually I wondered if I met a genius and sent him to the Saint Academy, would it be good to tell others that he was my disciple? Would it be harmful to him?"

“At this point, my last passion ran out. 50 years had passed, would anyone remember? Moreover, for warriors from a small place like the Omen Ridge, they were doomed to be inferior to descendants of the Half-Saint or Saint families.”

“But when you appeared I began to have hope again.”

“With your talents you could be the best in the Saint Academy. If you one day exert great influence in the Saint Academy, I can return and wave it in my old classmates’ noses. I can proudly tell them I’ve made it!”

“Is that what you want me to do?” Asked Zhang Ruochen.

“Don’t you want to?” Said Lei Jing.

“Your enemies must be big shots. Don’t you worry they might one day retaliate against me?” Said Zhang Ruochen.

Lei Jing understood Zhang Ruochen’s words and feelings.

He had already prepared for Zhang Ruochen’s rejection.

Lei Jing took a long breath and sighed, “You have the option to refuse me. After all, there is no benefit for you at all, it may even lead to your death.”

After 50 years, Lei Jing’s way of thinking had changed considerably. He was no longer obstinate and radical.

There were so many things to consider now that he was an old man!

Lei Jing took out a jade box from his clothes. He handed it to Zhang Ruochen. “This box contains a 500-year-old Ice Snow Lotus. It can help you break through to the Final State of the Earth Realm. If you do enter the Saint Academy in the future, the competition will be cruel. So practice diligently.”

Finishing his words, he rose to leave.

“Wait a minute!”

Holding the jade box in hands, Zhang Ruochen said, “I owe you a favor. I promised to pay you back and I have no reason not to!”

Lei Jing’s eyes lit up. “So you’ve decided to be my disciple? And to enter the Saint Academy with this identity? Aren’t you afraid of hostility from the Saint Families?”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and replied, “The Saint families and the poor have been antagonistic toward each other since ancient times. A prince though I am, disciples from the Saint families treat me, an inferior commandery’s prince, as a low and poor person. I don’t think they would treat me well if I were not your disciple.”

Lei Jing laughed loudly and clasped his hands on Zhang Ruochen’s shoulders. “Don’t worry. With your talents, when you enter the Saint Academy people will pay attention to you. The Saint family descendants won’t dare to mess with you.”

“Do you know why I said I would only admit you as my disciple if you reached the top 100 of the Earth Board?”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “Because only the top 100 of the Earth Board can be taken seriously by the top managers of the Saint Academy. So that I can be safe.”

“That’s right.”

Lei Jing said, “But I wasn’t expecting you to have the ability not only to leap to the top 100 of the Earth Board but also the top 10! You are very promising.”

“You should refine the Ice Snow Lotus and break through the realm first rather than conduct the third test.”

Once Zhang Ruochen broke the Realm, his power would advance greatly. He would achieve more than merely entering the top 100 of the Earth Board.

Zhang Ruochen opened the jade box slowly. An Icing cold air wafted out of the box, and immediately the surrounding temperature dropped.

Inside, a jade-like crystal snow lotus gave off a faint herbal scent.

“It is a 500-year-old Ice Snow Lotus with five petals.”

Zhang Ruochen gave a happy look and put one petal into his mouth.

Like a thin Ice Crystal, the instant he put it into his mouth, the petal melted and turned into a stream of ice that flowed down to his belly.

Ice Snow Lotus’s potency was strong. It filled all of Zhang Ruochen’s Meridians quickly and froze his Genuine Qi.

He immediately sat on the floor with his legs crossed. He brought his palms together above his head. He silently chanted the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Empyrean in his heart. Spiritual Fire Genuine Qi ran slowly through his body.

Generally speaking, a 500-year-old Ice Snow Lotus could help a Completion warrior of the Earth Realm advance quickly to the Heaven Realm.

Yet Zhang Ruochen, a more talented warrior, needed more resources to help break through the realm.

It was the right time to break into the Final State of the Earth Realm with the Ice Snow Lotus.

It took him two hours to refine one petal’s potency completely.

10 hours and five petals later.

His Genuine Qi swelled to the utmost extent.

Plumes of Spiritual Qi like thin snakes flowing throughout his body were visible to the naked eye.

He swallowed a lotus seed picked from the ground and prepared himself for the last spurt.

"I never imagined he would need so many resources to break through the Final State of the Earth Realm! No common warrior can compare to him."

Lei Jing had thought five petals would be enough, yet the actuality was beyond his expectation.

An Ice Snow Lotus' seed was still not enough to break the realm, he needed more.

"It's crunch time for him!"

Lei Jing took out a drop of Sacred Liquid.

Like a dazzling star, the Sacred Liquid suspended just above the tip of his fingertip.

Lei Jing pointed it to Zhang Ruochen's glabella.

The Sacred Mark emerging on his glabella quickly absorbed the liquid.

BAM!

The Qi Sea in his glabella extended 17 times with a soft thudding sound.

Finally, he'd reached the Final State of the Earth Realm.

The Spiritual Qi which had been drifting throughout his body was attracted by the power. It rushed into his glabella and the Qi Sea.

After a moment, Zhang Ruochen stood up again and stretched his body, feeling himself full of energy. Now he could beat a Heaven Realm warrior.

It was awesome!

"Thank you for your help, Master!" Zhang Ruochen took a bow.

In fact, what Lei Jing could teach Zhang Ruochen was rather limited. Yet he still deserved Zhang Ruochen's gratitude for lending help.

Although he hadn't taught Zhang Ruochen anything, he had treated him as his disciple.

Lei Jing smiled. "Do you need to test your power and speed again?"

"No. I can see my present ability clearly." Zhang Ruochen replied.

Lei Jing asked, "Which rank did you manage to challenge in the third test?"

"The 100th." Replied Zhang Ruochen.

Lei Jing was slightly shocked. "Didn't you defeat her in the second test?"

"Yes. But I want to try again to compare how many strikes it takes me." Said Zhang Ruochen.

"Well! That's your decision!" Lei Jing replied.

Again, Zhang Ruochen entered the Secret Test Room where he met Yan Qingwu, 100th on the Earth Board.

With a battle sword in hand, Yan Qingwu walked out from the stone wall. She gazed at Zhang Ruochen. "It's you again? Why?"

"We didn't finish the last battle. Naturally I am here to challenge you again." He said.

Yan Qingwu gave a cool eye. "Okay! I hadn't expected you to possess such advanced skills in the last competition. You chopped off my combat sword. I won't let that happen again. I don't think the Heart Integrated into Sword Realm is flawless."

Warriors who entered the top 100 of the Earth Board were unbeatable kings in their own territories.

Yan Qingwu had not been defeated since she was a little girl.

She had confidence in her ability, even facing a warrior who had reached the Heart Integrated into Sword.

Lifting an arm, Yan Qingwu performed her first technique with the sword. This technique often confused people. They didn't know whether she was about to attack or defend.

After the last battle, they had developed a deep understanding of each other. They chose techniques leisurely this time.

Chapter 283: The Secret Worry

What Yan Qingwu was best at was sword technique, because Zhang Ruochen had unexpectedly broken her sword early it meant she was unable to demonstrate her superior sword technique.

The second time they fought, she decided not to meet Zhang Ruochen head to head, instead, she decided to use her advantage of speed.

"Let's start!"

Zhang Ruochen held the Abyss Ancient Sword and executed his opening posture. Standing like a pine tree, silently and unmoving, giving one a sense of unfathomableness.

"Wind and fire connection!"

Yan Qingwu unleashed a sword technique of Spiritual Stage's Superior class. She planned to actively test Zhang Ruochen, forcing him to reveal his flaws.

Yan Qingwu's sword moved closer and closer to Zhang Ruochen, it looked like her sword was about to pierce his heart.

All of a sudden, Zhang Ruochen swung his sword, the sword breath fell like a waterfall and chopped towards Yan Qingwu.

Bam! Bam!

Yan Qingwu flew out and fell to the ground, cut in half by Zhang Ruochen.

The sword in her hand also was broken in two.

“So I only need a single attack.”

Zhang Ruochen didn't look at Yan Qingwu's Spiritual Body but resheathed the Abyss Ancient Sword and walked out of the Secret Room.

After reaching the Earth Realm's Final State, Zhang Ruochen could attack with a speed of 90 meters per second, much more quickly than Yan Qingwu. In terms of speed, Yan Qingwu had no advantage at all.

Moreover, the Abyss Ancient Sword was very sharp, so Zhang Ruochen killed Yan Qingwu, who ranked in the top 100 on the Earth Board, with only a single attack.

At this moment, on the top of the Testing Palace, Lei Jing sat with a young looking old man and happened to see what happened just now.

Zhang Ruochen's strike was so wonderful and was nearly perfect.

“Heart Integrated into Sword, without any flaws.”

The old sighed, “Marvelous, I never thought that there would be such a talented young man in the Omen Ridge. If this news was sent back to the headquarters, even the senior executive of the school and Bank will notice him.”

Lei Jing shook his head and said, “Don't tell the headquarters this news for now.”

“Why?” asked the elder.

Lei Jing laughed and said, “Zhang Ruochen just reached the Earth Realm. In the eyes of Half-Saints and Saints, he is just a kid and they can kill him easily. Be mindful, the School of the Martial Market is not all of one mind. Once, the news was spread out, Zhang Ruochen might be in danger. The fewer people know, the better for him.”

The elder nodded and said, “That's to say, we need to hide Zhang Ruochen's test result? So that the news will not get back to headquarters.”

Lei Jing nodded and answered, “Instead of not spreading the news, we are not spreading all of the news. If people knew that Zhang Ruochen, who just reached the Earth Realm's Final State killed a master ranked top 100 on the Earth Board with only a single attack, it is certain to cause a huge sensation. It might even attract masters from the cult and the Black Market who will stop at nothing to kill him.”

“But if Zhang Ruochen at the cultivation of the Earth Realm's Final State is able to almost defeat the master who ranked 100th on the Earth Board, his talent was excellent but would not be strong enough to frighten the cult and Black Market. By that time, even if there were masters who try to kill him, I can help him.”

The elder said, “I understand! If Zhang Ruochen, with a cultivation at the Earth Realm's Final State is able to nearly defeat the master who ranked 100th on the Earth Board, even he breaks through the Earth Realm's Completion, he will only rank in the top 20 on the Earth Board. His power won't be incredible. After all, every few years, the top 20 on the Earth Board would change.”

It was only a difference in the Realm, but it was a concept of two levels.

Lei Jing and the elder only used another way to hide part of Zhang Ruochen power and talent.

Lei Jing said, "After all, Zhang Ruochen is just a prince of an inferior commandery. If he wants to reach a higher Realm and get the best training, he must have a great many of practice resources. My help is limited, so he must show part of his talent to draw the School's attention. Only in this way, can the School give him more resources and help him."

The elder said, "Since that is so, I will make it public that Zhang Ruo has reached the Earth Realm's Final State, meanwhile, we will only report the real test results of the first and second test to headquarters."

"Thank you so much." Lei Jing bowed to the elder.

The elder laughed and said, "We both work for the Martial Market Bank. I don't want our talent killed before he has fully developed. I'm going to send today's test result and combat projection to the Vessel Spirit Deity of the Earth Board now."

The elder was not a real human being but a doppelganger of the Vessel Spirit of the Earth Board.

After the test results were sent out, Lei Jing left and visited Zhang Ruochen again.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen, Lei Jing felt pleased and laughed, "Ruochen, there is one thing I didn't consult with you in advance, maybe it is a little rash."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What is it?"

Lei Jing told Zhang Ruochen the decision he and the doppelganger had made.

After that, Zhang Ruochen frowned and said, "The result has been sent back to the headquarters?"

Seeing Zhang Ruochen's worried look, Lei Jing said, "Don't worry, showing part of your talent is a good thing that can draw the attention of the high-level people in the School and give you more practice resources. If it really attracts some strong warriors to kill you, I'll ensure your safety."

Zhang Ruochen wasn't afraid of being assassinated by a master at all, he was worried about another thing.

In the second test, Zhang Ruochen and Yan Qingwu mentioned Chi Yao and some things about her practice which were all an absolute secret.

Zhang Ruochen wasn't afraid that the high-level personnel of the School of the Martial Market knew what he said in the second test, after all, in these people's eyes, he was talking nonsense, so they wouldn't think too much of it.

Zhang Ruochen was worried that Chi Yao would hear the news.

If she then remembers "Zhang Ruochen" this name, for sure she won't think it was a coincidence.

Once Chi Yao knew that he didn't die, Zhang Ruochen could do nothing but die given Chi Yao's current invincible power and cultivation.

“What I said was very offensive, so the top personnel of School of the Martial Market may keep it in confidence. After all, I’m a student of the School of the Martial Market. So it is very unlikely that my words will travel into Chi Yao’s ears, it is almost impossible.”

Zhang Ruochen exhaled a long breath and tried to stay relaxed.

I needn’t scare myself. 800 years have passed, no one would remember a man called Zhang Ruochen 800 years ago. Chi Yao may have already forgotten me.”

Ten years were long enough to forget a lot of things, a lot of people, let alone 800 years.

800 years was too long!

Seeing Zhang Ruochen’s worried look, Lei Jing asked, “What are you worrying about?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and answered, “Nothing!”

Having thought for a while, Zhang Ruochen said, “Can you enter my ranking in three months, the next time the Earth Board is updated?”

“You want to postpone three months?”

Zhang Ruochen said, “Once the news that I ranked as the 100th on the Earth Board is spread out, it will certainly cause an uproar. By that time, there would be many warriors who will try to kill me. So I need three months to strengthen my cultivation as a way to deal with these brutal challenges.”

Lei Jing thought slightly and said, “It’s good for you to delay. I’ll do it! You just need to focus on your practice and be careful to not delay your martial progress.”

After returning back to the Practice Mansion, Zhang Ruochen still felt nervous and kept thinking about what he said in the Secret Room and what will happen if Chi Yao found out about what he said.

Sitting in the Practice Secret Room, Zhang Ruochen felt hot like a furnace. His skin was red and his shirt was soaked through with sweat.

“No, I must go crazy, if I practice in my current state.”

Zhang Ruochen furrowed his brows tightly. His face was pale and even his lips were dry and cracked. All the Meridians in his body were slightly bulging and they appeared rather fierce.

Kong Xuan walked into the secret room and saw Zhang Ruochen’s abnormality, asking, “Master, what’s wrong with you?”

“Nothing!”

Zhang Ruochen retracted his Genuine Qi and kept calm. He stared at Kong Xuan and said calmly, “Were you not perceiving the Sword Comprehension, why did you come in?”

“A girl outside said she is here on senior sister apprentice Luo’s orders to invite you to visit senior sister apprentice Luo’s practice mansion.” Kong Xuan said.

“Right, I promised senior sister disciple Luo that I would talk about Martial Arts with her, I nearly forget about this!”

Zhang Ruochen rubbed his temples and forgot Chi Yao and the Earth Board temporarily. He said, "Kong Xuan, you stay here and perceive Sword Comprehension."

Outside the Practice mansion stood a girl around 16, with a slender body and beautiful face, whose temperament was very similar to Luo Shuihan's.

Her martial cultivation had reached to the Black Realm's Dawn State. She was a talented young girl of the branch of the Luo clan, called Luo Xinyao.

Luo Xinyao was more talented than many of the students of the external School, and so she had the right to enter the Internal Academy.

Waiting for a while, Luo Xinyao got impatient as she didn't see Zhang Ruochen and she said angrily, "He is just an internal disciple, why is he so arrogant. Senior sister disciple Luo has actively offered an invite, yet you dare to act arrogant. So many warriors want to see senior sister disciple Luo, who does he think he is?"

Although Luo Xinyao was a branch of the Luo clan she was also a clansman of a Saint family. So she naturally looked down up the warriors of the Omen Ridge.

She didn't understand why did senior sister disciple Luo attached so much importance to Zhang Ruochen and invited him to talk about the Martial Arts.

Chapter 284: Holy Eyes of Golden Light

In Luo Xinyao's opinion, there were countless geniuses, much more outstanding than Zhang Ruochen in the Eastern Region. Many of them were descendants of the Saint Families. Senior sister disciple Luo had shown no special treatment during their visits.

Could a young warrior from Omen Ridge be better in Martial Arts than one of the Saint Families' successors?

Just when Luo Xinyao was about to leave, a squeaking sound came from behind.

It was Zhang Ruochen, walking outside. He looked at Luo Xinyao.

Luo Xinyao had originally despised him. However, when his eyes fixated on her body, she felt an incomparable Martial Arts momentum surge through her like a violent storm.

"Boom!"

She felt like she was falling into an ice cave. The skin all over her body hurt as if she was being acupuncture. She relieved this great pressure by backing up three steps.

She was unexpectedly frightened by Zhang Ruochen's gaze.

She exposed a look of fear, being afraid that he had heard what she said and that her words might have infuriated him. She bowed to him. Trembling, she said, "I...I am senior sister disciple Luo's...maid, Luo Xinyao. Greetings, elder brother Zhang."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Are you a School of the Martial Market student too?"

Luo Xinyao didn't dare show a trace of disrespect. She shook her head. "No. I'm a branch family member of the Luo Clan. Presbyters of my family sent me to Omen Ridge to serve senior sister apprentice and practice with her. I'm a maid, but senior sister apprentice Luo refers to me as a junior sister apprentice rather than as a maid."

Reading Luo Xinyao's unusual expression, Zhang Ruochen realized that he had leaked his momentum out. He had just broken the realm and couldn't control his power at will yet.

Luo Xinyao could be suffering great stress from his formidable presence.

In fact, Zhang Ruochen hadn't even heard what she said because he was so restless.

He released his Space Domain and shrank his momentum into it.

Instantly, Luo Xinyao felt the pressure disappear, but the sweat had soaked her clothes, making her look like a drenched animal. She took a deep breath and mused that Elder Brother Zhang was broad-minded and wouldn't blame her for the irreverence.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Lead the way!"

Under her guidance, Zhang Ruochen quickly arrived at Luo Shuihan's practice mansion.

The practice mansion was broad. Apparently, she enjoyed many benefits as an Earth Board student.

There were many cornices, rockeries and carved pavilions along the river. The mansion also boasted spacious martial arts fields, savage beast parks, separated pavilions, and gardens in which a variety of exotic herbs were planted. Here, the environment was tranquil and beautiful. The Spiritual Qi was richer than other places.

It was a place of happiness, where fairies lived.

Luo Shuihan was exquisite and delicate.

Seated opposite a jade stone stage, Luo Shuihan watched Zhang Ruochen from afar. She said, "Junior fellow apprentice, you have something on your mind."

Zhang Ruochen gave an involuntary startle at her words before he sat down. He smiled and said, "Senior sister disciple Luo is indeed intelligent. Nothing can be hidden from you."

She gave a faint smile. "Your Martial Arts cultivation is marvelous. There isn't much that should annoy you."

Zhang Ruochen didn't want to reveal his feelings, so he laughed, "Senior sister apprentice, it seems that you have seen through my cultivation?"

Luo Shuihan shook her head slightly and said, "A little bit. But there is much that I can't figure out. I remember earlier today you asked me if I possessed a Holy Eye or Holy Body. Now I can tell you..."

"If it's inconvenient for you, you don't have to tell me."

It was just a casual question. Although Zhang Ruochen was curious about it, he didn't want to know Luo Shuihan's secrets.

A warrior's secret was his or her ace in the hole.

Luo Shuihan said, "It's not a secret. It will be okay to tell you. You should know, all Saint descendants have a little Holy Blood in their bodies. If the Holy Blood is awakened, special abilities will be awakened, even sanctifying the physical quality."

Zhang Ruochen commented, "The probability of Holy Blood awakening is too low, and the sanctification is even lower. Among a million descendants of the Saints, I'm not sure if there would be even one descendant possessing a pair of Holy Eyes."

"That's me. I've opened my Holy Eyes of Golden Light," she said.

Her black pupils revealed golden threadlike rays which then turned into two streaks of harsh golden lights.

As she stimulated the Holy Eyes of Golden Light, her momentum increased massively. Her eyes were like sharp swords that could see through everything in the world.

Sitting next to her, Zhang Ruochen felt great pressure. He quickly mobilized the power of Space Domain to resist her Holy Eyes.

Thanks to the obstruction from the Space Domain, he looked calm. He said, "If you used the power of Holy Eyes of Golden Light, you should have ranked much higher on the Earth Board."

Luo Shuihan dissipated her Holy Eyes power and said modestly, "I can't match with you, even if I use the Holy Eyes of Golden Light. Zhang Ruochen, do you know why I invited you here?"

Zhang Ruochen gently shook his head. "No, I don't know."

Luo Shuihan said, "Although the Holy Eyes of Golden Light is very powerful, compared to the Holy Body of Golden Light, well, it's far from that. If I can practice the Holy Body of Golden Light successfully, I'll go further in my Martial Arts cultivation."

The expression in her eyes was limpid; Zhang Ruochen could see nothing but her yearning for the Martial Arts.

The Holy eyes of Golden Light referred to the sanctification of a warrior's eyes. This meant that the warrior had Saint's eyes.

The Holy Body of Golden Light meant the sanctification of a warrior's whole body. It made a warrior flawless and divine.

The difference between the two was as great as the difference between a tile and a whole palace.

Since ancient times, warriors who had awakened the Saintly Being reached the level of Seven Tricks Genius. They were invincible to their contemporaries.

That's to say, if a warrior had a Holy Body as long as he didn't die, he would practice to a Saint.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Can I help you practice the Holy Body of Golden Light?"

"I'm just speculating. I'm not sure."

Luo Shuihan rolled up her sleeves gently and took out a Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph and waved her finger. It flew out and suspended three meters from the ground in mid-air.

It was the authentic Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph painted by Luo Xu.

"Do you remember I told you that my ancestor left a Martial Arts technique in the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph? No one in the Luo Clan has been able to perceive it.

"According to my ancestor, when he was young, he perceived the Martial Arts by chance and he practiced to a Saint successfully."

But even though he had reached the Half-Saint Realm, he couldn't pass it down. So he had to leave it in the Sacred Glyph."

Luo Shuihan continued, "When my ancestor discovered that I had the Holy eyes of Golden Light, he gave this Glyph to me. He added that if I could perceive the Martial Arts in it, I might practice to the Holy Body of Golden Light."

"I see."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "How can I help you?"

Luo Shuihan replied, "Last time when we entered the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph, you told me you'd seen a person shadowboxing on the water. I am speculating maybe it is the Martial Arts."

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "I just saw a shadow and it disappeared quickly. Perhaps my eyes were blurry."

Luo Shuihan stood up. Walking towards the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph, she said, "In fact, I shouldn't get my hopes up. But I should seize every single opportunity, right?"

Looking at the beautiful Luo Shuihan standing beneath the Sacred Glyph, Zhang Ruochen calmed down and expelled his anxiety.

He said, "Okay! I'll go into the Sacred Glyph again and perceive the Martial Arts left by Predecessor Luo Xu to help you."

Luo Shuihan glanced back and gave him a sweet smile.

Like a spring wind, her smile smoothed him. He felt an unprecedented tranquility and seemed to enter a land of idyllic beauty, forgetting all the annoyances of his previous life and this life. He wouldn't be distracted by anything; he concentrated on the practice of Martial Arts.

Zhang Ruochen managed to defuse his personal demons by helping her.

Chi Yao was his inner demon.

"Let's go into the world of the Glyph!"

Luo Shuihan closed her eyes, released Spiritual Power, and condensed it into a bright spot. Then she flew into the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

Zhang Ruochen closed the eyes likewise and began to sit quietly and meditate.

"Swoosh!"

A moment later, they once again entered the world of the Glyph. At their feet were rivulets, brooks, streams, and rivers. They heard clear sounds of water flowing, interchanging with gentle and choppy sounds now and then.

Each stream represented Luo Xu's Spiritual Determination. Only by overcoming it could they continue their march.

They stepped onto the water and walked side by side in the direction of the sea.

Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power was more powerful than hers, so he moved further, coming directly to the wide river near the sea.

He sat cross-legged on the water. Instead of practicing Spiritual Power intentionally, he tried to perceive the illusory Martial Arts.

However, the more he managed to perceive, the more indistinct the martial arts were.

One whole day went by. Zhang Ruochen had gained nothing.

They left the Glyph. She glanced at him.

He shook his head slightly and said, "Perhaps last time my eyes were blurry."

"Don't worry about it," she said. "Of course, it's good to practice the martial arts, but we don't have to force ourselves at the cost of generating inner demons."

"You're right," he replied. "The more we care about it, the easier it becomes to develop a demon. But I still want to try again. I need another seven days. If I still can't perceive the martial arts, I'll give up."

Chapter 285: Fist Technique

"All right! You can stay in my practice mansion for the next seven days. We can also exchange some of our doubts on Martial Arts and help each other improve." Luo Shuihan said.

"I'm afraid that's not a good idea," Zhang Ruochen replied.

Word of Luo Shuihan's test result on the Earth Board had spread. She was now known as the top master and the top genius. She had a prominent family and a beautiful face; and she was even called the first beauty.

She had so many rings of light; she attracted everyone's attention.

Moreover, many people had witnessed him coming to her practice mansion, which came as a surprise to them.

If he spent another seven days in her practice mansion, you could imagine what a stir it would cause.

Luo Shuihan was very smart. She immediately understood his concern. She smiled lightly. "If you are worried, you can come tomorrow. The door is always open for you."

Hearing her words, he felt maybe he was being a bit unreasonable.

"She doesn't care about the rumors, why should you?"

Zhang Ruochen didn't stay in the end. He turned and left.

Back at the practice mansion, Zhang Ruochen explained to Kong Xuan some of his doubts about practicing the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels. He then practiced alone to consolidate the realm he'd just broken through.

Four days prior, Kong Xuan had reached the Initial Stage Realm of the Sword Following the Mind. Now she was practicing the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels.

The following day, Zhang Ruochen headed to Luo Shuihan's practice mansion and continued to perceive the Martial Arts of the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph.

After five days, he still had not gained anything. His Spiritual Power on the other hand had improved considerably.

Although Luo Shuihan did not know about the Martial Arts of the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph, she was quite indifferent. She merely asked, "Have you been deliberately perceiving the Martial Arts for the last five days?"

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head. "I think this method is wrong. Sometimes if you deliberately go after something, you will fail. I will try another method tomorrow."

On the sixth day, when he entered the Sacred Glyph, he ceased to deliberately perceive the Martial Arts. He freed his heart and began to enjoy the view within the Glyph. He felt the flow of water wash through his whole body.

The more he did that, the more he felt tranquility.

Suddenly, an illusory image appeared from the water's surface.

The illusory image was very much like Luo Xu's portrait. It stood on the water's surface as though walking on flat ground. He struck out mysterious fist techniques one after another.

He had finally appeared!

Zhang Ruochen felt pleased. He looked over carefully. He soon recognized the fist technique. It was the Luoshui Fist Technique, the one that had made him famous.

The 36 move Luoshui Fist Technique had shocked Omen Ridge. Warriors still indulged in elaborating on them.

However, the Luoshui Fist Technique the illusory image struck out was completely different from the one Zhang Ruochen saw.

The illusory image seemed to strike out a lot of fist techniques, but he actually only struck out one move from start to finish, not 36 moves.

Zhang Ruochen continued to watch and discovered more new tricks.

The fist technique the illusory image struck out contained all the subtleties of the 36 moves and was even transcendent.

“Wonderful fist technique.”

Zhang Ruochen started to practice by following the illusory image.

Zhang Ruochen found that after one round he hadn’t learned a single movement of the “shape”.

He hadn’t learned the “shape”. How he was supposed to learn the “meaning”?

Zhang Ruochen started to study. He continued to ponder the fist technique. He kept practicing, modifying and perceiving.

Ten times, a hundred times, a thousand times, two thousand times...

Zhang Ruochen had practiced countless times and gotten the subtlety. It was like he had opened a door and entered the hall of Martial Arts.

He finally got to the beginner level of the fist technique.

Zhang Ruochen practiced the fist technique again. His legs were like hooks and kept moving. When he struck out his fist, thunder sounded throughout the picture scroll.

It seemed to be one fist, but it was as if it contained the power of 36 fists.

A gold foil picture scroll hung in the air in Luo Shuihan’s mansion.

Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling, and Luo Shuihan were sitting below the picture scroll. All three girls were beautiful and they each had different temperaments.

There were three crystal clear emerald jade cups in front of them, full of Half-Saint’s Essence.

The thick Spiritual Qi of Half-Saint’s Essence seemed to have turned into stripes of white dragon-shaped fog that flew among the three of them.

Today, Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling were paying a special visit to Luo Shuihan. After all, they were the top talented girls in the Western Campus and had a very deep friendship.

There was a cup of Half-Saint’s Essence in front of Huang Yanchen, but she was not interested in it at all. She got straight to the point. “Senior sister disciple Luo, I heard that Zhang Ruochen has been living in your mansion for nine days. Is this true?”

Luo Shuihan said, “You are not here to visit me. You are looking for Zhang Ruochen.”

Luo Shuihan was younger than Huang Yanchen, but her cultivation was higher.

So, Huang Yanchen called her Senior Sister Apprentice, and she called Huang Yanchen Sister Chen.

“You’re right. I want to see him.”

Huang Yanchen didn’t hide her intention, rather she said her bit justly and forcefully.

Why not be bold and straightforward?

It was a matter of course for a fiancée to look for their fiancé.

There were lots of rumors going around the School of the Martial Market. So Huang Yanchen had taken Duanmu Xingling with her to visit Luo Shuihan. She wanted to find out if it was true that Zhang Ruochen and Luo Shuihan were together like people said.

Luo Shuihan smiled slightly. “Xingling, why are you here again?”

Duanmu Xingling sat to the side drinking the Half-Saint’s Essence. She said with a smile, “I’m certainly here for the entertainment. I want to know what Zhang Ruochen has done to become a frequent of your mansion. There are lots of people who are green with envy.”

Luo Shuihan looked at the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph and said with a smile, “He is going to wake up soon. Then you can ask him yourselves!”

Suddenly, a thin layer of white light appeared from the picture scroll. A ray of white light flew out and fell onto the crown of Zhang Ruochen’s head.

Zhang Ruochen, who was sitting on the ground, opened his eyes suddenly and asked, “How many days have I been practicing in the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph?”

“Nine days.”

Luo Shuihan walked over quickly. “You have been practicing for nine days straight. You must have made considerable achievements.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head. “I have perceived a type of Martial Arts and I’m going to pass it to you right now. As long as you can practice the beginner level and understand the subtlety of it, when you enter the Half-Saint’s Sacred Glyph, it will resonate, and you will inherit it. After all, predecessor Luo Xu passed it down to you.” ...

Luo Shuihan smiled, “No rush. Sister Chen and Xingling are in my mansion. Would you like to drink a cup of Half-Saint’s Essence together?”

He hadn’t yet noticed the two girls sitting in the distance. He showed a bitter smile.

He had been practicing in Luo Shuihan’s mansion for nine days straight. It would be strange if Huang Yanchen could sit still that long.

After passing the fist technique move to Luo Shuihan, he left the mansion with Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling.

Duanmu Xingling still didn’t believe him. She asked, “Zhang Ruochen, are you really helping senior sister disciple Luo to perceive the Martial Arts?”

Zhang Ruochen replied, "I passed the Martial Arts I perceived to senior sister disciple Luo. You were there. Why do you still refuse to believe me?"

"I didn't see you pass the Martial Arts to senior sister disciple Luo," Duanmu Xingling said, rolling her eyes.

Zhang Ruochen said, "The Martial Art was passed down by predecessor Luo Xu. It is a Luo family secret. How could we let you see it?"

"I don't believe it anyway. And I'm not the only one. If word gets out, no one in the entire Omen Ridge will believe it either." Duanmu Xingling said, "Everyone knows that senior sister disciple Luo is the top master of the young generation. Why would she need your help?"

"If you don't believe me, then forget it," Zhang Ruochen said.

Duanmu Xingling looked at Huang Yanchen. "Sister Chen, do you believe it?"

Huang Yanchen said, "I do."

"You actually believe him?"

Duanmu Xingling widened her eyes and shook her head violently. She said, "You're done. You're finished! You're hopeless!"

Zhang Ruochen was slightly shocked too. He glanced at Huang Yanchen. His opinion of her changed a little bit.

Senior sister apprentice Huang was not an altogether impulsive woman. She knew how to judge what was right and what was wrong, which was very precious.

However, what Huang Yanchen said next was disappointing.

She said, "I believe senior sister disciple Luo. With her personality, she will never lie to us. As for Zhang Ruochen's... we can only trust half of what he says!"

Zhang Ruochen was able neither to cry nor to laugh. He merely shook his head. He had overestimated Huang Yanchen.

Suddenly, he put on a straight face. "Senior sister apprentice Huang, do you still remember the dragon horn?"

Huang Yanchen stopped suddenly and made eye contact with Duanmu Xingling. She showed a serious expression. "Ready to go?"

"What dragon horn? What are you talking about? Where are you going?"

Duanmu Xingling was like a curious child. She looked from Zhang Ruochen to Huang Yanchen.

Zhang Ruochen said, "We can't get all of the treasures from the Four-wing Earth Dragon, even with our combined strength. We need at least six people. I think we should bring senior sister apprentice Duanmu with us."

“Yes! Yes! Take me with you! What on earth are you hiding from me? Tell me, I’m dying to know!”
Duanmu Xingling said.

Huang Yanchen relaxed. “Even if we need six people, we have to choose the most trustworthy ones. There can’t be any uncertainties.”

Duanmu Xingling patted her chest hurriedly and said, “Obviously, I am your most trustworthy person.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at Huang Yanchen and nodded his head.

“All right! Tell her.”

Huang Yanchen looked her. “Xingling, do you remember when we practiced in the Chikong Secret Mansion last time?”

“Of course I remember.”

Huang Yanchen said, “We found a dragon horn in the Chikong Secret Mansion and we think that it is the key to opening the Dragon Palace at the bottom of Tongming River.”

Chapter 286: The Medium Level Inscription

“Underwater Dragon Palace of the Four-wing Earth Dragon.”

Duanmu Xingling’s eyes lit up. Eagerly, she said, “What are we waiting for? Let’s go now. The Four-wing Earth Dragon is like a Saint. It has ruled Omen Ridge for hundreds of years. There must be countless treasures. If we get its treasures, our cultivation will improve greatly.”

“No! We have to wait.”

“Tongming River is full of danger. Underwater Dragon Palace is a forbidden area. It hasn’t been opened for 500 years. We need three months to prepare,” Zhang Ruochen said.

Huang Yanchen nodded her head. “My martial cultivation is at the Medium State of the Earth Realm right now. If I want to go to the Underwater Dragon Palace, I have to break through one more Realm. Three months should be enough time!”

Duanmu Xingling sighed. “All right! It’s true, we need to be prepared. I have to improve my cultivation too.”

“We only have three people. We need three more,” Huang Yanchen pointed out. “Who are you going invite to our team?”

Zhang Ruochen narrowed his eyes. “They need to have powerful strength and their martial cultivation should not exceed the Heaven Realm. I have three options and will take the time to talk with them.”

“All right! Then we’ll split up,” Huang Yanchen agreed. “In three months, we’ll go to Tongming River and break into the Underwater Dragon Palace.”

Zhang Ruochen wanted to wait for three months to go to the Underwater Dragon Palace because he wanted to practice the fifth palm of Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to the completion during this period and make himself more powerful.

After separating from the girls, he went to Merit Tower to exchange for four bottles of third-class healing pills and 20 body quenching and reinforcement pills. It cost him a total of 22,000 merit points.

Afterwards, he went to Mount Saint Crossing and entered the Earth Stage Secret Gravity Practice Room to continue practicing the Nine-folds of Elephant Power and refine his body.

Last time, he'd used ten Refined Physique Elixirs, improving his physical strength from the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm to the Mid Stage.

He had brought 20 Refined Physique Elixirs this time. He wanted to improve his physical strength even more.

Martial Arts were about cultivating the body and exercising.

Exercise was just as important as the body.

Zhang Ruochen decided he would challenge himself with an even more cruel practicing environment. He entered the Earth Stage Secret Practice Room in hopes of reaching the highest level.

He practiced the palm technique with 30 times the gravity.

Ordinary people were unable to survive gravity or pressure increases of ten.

"Bang! Bang!"

A palm technique sound came from the Secret Practice Room. A new round of intense practice had begun!

After half a month of practicing, Zhang Ruochen left the Secret Gravity Practice Room.

His palm technique had increased again.

He could now strike out eight palms at a time, and his power was eight times stronger. He was only one step away from Success.

His body was also much stronger after refining the 20 Elixirs. Of course, he didn't reach the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

After the Heaven Realm, the span of Realm was wider, and the effect pills had on the body decreased.

He estimated he had to refine at least ten Refined Physique Elixirs before he could reach the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

In this half month, he had strengthened the realm he had broken through considerably. He could now control his improved strength freely. Even if he didn't use the Space Domain, he didn't need to worry about Qi leakage.

"Swish!"

Zhang Ruochen's body flashed and he disappeared from Mount Saint Crossing. He stood outside Secret Practice Mansion shortly afterward. It was like he emerged out of the void.

"My speed seems to have improved a bit. My quickest speed is 293 meters per second. I can compare with the top ten warriors on the Earth Board!"

He felt a kind of inexpressible pleasure every time his cultivation improved. As long as his strength improved, all his hard work was worth it.

Back at the practice mansion, Zhang Ruochen wanted to rest for a few days and then go to Mount Saint Crossing to practice his palm technique.

No one could stay under an environment of ten times gravity for long. He didn't want to hurt himself or risk anything.

Practice needed to proceed in an orderly way, step by step.

During this period, Zhang Ruochen entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and began to study the *Mystery of Time and Space*.

He took the *Mystery of Time and Space* onto the stone steps and started to read slowly. In his current realm, he could read the first six pages.

As for page seven, no matter what he did, he couldn't open it.

According to the record of the *Mystery of Time and Space*, he could now start to practice the "Mark of Time".

Time was much harder to control than space. There were many uncertainties. He didn't want to practice "Mark of Time" yet. It would not be too late to study it when he reached the Heaven Realm. And by then his cultivation would be more powerful.

For now, he mainly focused on studying the Inscription of Space.

Due to time constraints, Zhang Ruochen had only learned 12 Inscriptions of Space to date.

He wanted to start learning the Universe Form Inscription, a defensive Inscription of Space.

The medium level inscription was ten times harder than the basic inscription. It was very delicate and complicated. If the Spiritual Power was not enough, it would fail, and the work would not be completed.

Generally, a warrior could only dissect the medium level inscription after his Spiritual Power reached level 30.

The medium level inscription of space was even harder. The Spiritual Power had to have reached level 35.

Of course, the power of the medium level inscription was far better than that of the basic inscription.

For example, one basic Inscription of Power Series was merely a soldier with a 50kg increase in weight.

One medium stage Inscription of Power Series was a soldier with a 500kg increase in weight.

What was the most important thing in the Martial World?

To survive.

Most of the Heaven Realm warriors in the Black Market he had fought with had amulet treasures. When they encountered a death threat, the amulet treasure would form a defense and save its owner's life.

Amulets were sold in the Martial Market. They were made by Refined Weapon Masters and were very rare and expensive.

It cost at least ten million silver coins to buy an amulet. This was half the fortune of a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm. Most of them had a disposable protective effect and could only be used twice.

Zhang Ruochen studied the defensive medium stage Inscription of Space. He wanted to form a protective amulet.

The medium level inscription was much harder than he'd expected. It took him a half month and 10,000 pieces of Spiritual Paper to carve the entire medium level inscription.

"Finally, I've completed the first step. It's one big step forward toward Success."

In addition to the medium stage Inscription of Space, Zhang Ruochen had learned three basic defensive Inscriptions of Space.

With his current Spiritual Power, he could get the basic Inscription of Space and carve it successfully and easily.

Zhang Ruochen decided to carve the defensive inscription onto the Spatial Ring and turn it into a defense treasure.

The first defensive Spatial Ring was the most important, so he was very careful.

Still, he wasted seven jade rings before he was able to make the first defensive Spatial Ring successfully.

This Spatial Ring was now his most valuable Space Treasure. It contained 100 times more storage space than all the Spatial Rings before it.

Moreover, this Spatial Ring had a special function – it could recognize its owner. Even if he lost it, other warriors wouldn't be able to open it.

The most powerful function was the defensive power.

He carved three medium stage defensive inscriptions and 33 basic defensive inscriptions onto the Spatial Ring. Just the power of inscription was at Genuine Martial Arms level nine.

According to his calculation, the defensive function of the Spatial Ring could be used three times. At its most powerful it could hold back a warrior at the Final State of the Heaven Realm.

In other words, as long as Zhang Ruochen wore the Spatial Ring and didn't meet masters at the Completion of Heaven Realm, he had three chances to escape from death.

Zhang Ruochen spent another three days refining nine pieces of Space Treasure: three Spatial Rings; three space bracelets and three space necklaces.

Including the Spatial Ring he'd refined earlier, there were ten Space Treasures.

That's right.

The Spatial Ring Zhang Ruochen had just made deserved to be a Space Treasure. And it was the one at the lowest level.

The ones he'd made before were just storage tools.

He took out the two space bracelets and three Spatial Rings he'd made earlier and threw them on the ground like they were trash.

For him, they were just junk. For other warriors, however, they were priceless treasures. He realized that if they were taken to the auction market in the Devil Martial City, they could be sold for a considerable sum.

Breaking into the Underwater Dragon Palace required a lot of preparation. The defensive Spatial Ring was far from sufficient.

He planned to visit the auction market and get some cutting-edge aggressive defense treasures.

No sooner said than done. Zhang Ruochen picked up the two space bracelets and three Spatial Rings on the ground and left the practice mansion.

He wanted to ask for Lei Jing's help before going to the auction market.

So, he came to the Silver Gowned Elder's Hall again.

Lei Jing was very happy to see him but still stood on his master's dignity. Proudly, he said, "Zhang Ruochen, what do you want me to help you with this time?"

Zhang Ruochen folded his hands and bowed. He replied with a smile, "Master, you are indeed most observant. I am here to ask for your help with something."

Lei Jing raised his eyes slightly. "What is it?"

"I want to ask you to come forward personally and send something to the auction market in the Devil Martial City to sell it," Zhang Ruochen said.

Zhang Ruochen definitely didn't want to let outsiders know that the five Space Treasures were from him. It was the best for Lei Jing to sell them to him. At least people would keep their hands off Lei Jing.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen could hide his identity and take the five Space Treasures to the auction market to sell them himself.

However, the Devil Martial City was no match for the Yunwu Commandery. There were so many masters and martial arts legends at the Heaven Realm here. Zhang Ruochen could easily expose his identity if he was careless. This would defeat the purpose.

Lei Jing widened his eyes. "You come to disturb for such a trifle thing. There are just a few things, why don't you send them to Auction Market yourself?"

"Master, please just look at these objects. It's not too late to make a decision.

Zhang Ruochen took out the two space bracelets and three Spatial Rings and put them in front of Lei Jing.

Chapter 287: Master Lei was Excited

Lei Jing looked at the five pieces of jade on the table with some contempt. There were three jade bracelets and two jade rings. The material of the jade was not bad, but still quite common.

A few pieces of carved Jade were nothing for a Martial Arts master. A piece of Spiritual Crystal could buy a whole basket of them.

Lei Jing pursed his lips and picked up a Spatial Ring with his two fingers. He played with it for a moment as if there was a dung beetle in his hands. He dumped it on the table and rubbed his fingers on the cloth violently. He said lightly, "You want to sell them at the Auction House? Don't make me lose face. The Auction House of the Devil Martial City is the largest one in the Omen Ridge. Only the best treasures can be sold there. Only prominent figures of the first class can enter the Auction House."

Lei Jing meant simply, take your dung beetles... no... carved jade away and don't make a fool of yourself.

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "Master, can you please look at them again?"

"Look again?"

Lei Jing stared at the table with doubt. Was there some mystery to these carved jade pieces?

Out of curiosity, Lei Jing picked up the Spatial Ring again and infused a stroke of Genuine Qi into it.

"Boom!"

A thin layer of white light appeared from the surface of the ring. It was like a fake door to a secret space.

When Lei Jing discovered the secret of the Spatial Ring, an overwhelming light came into his eyes. He looked at the pieces of Jade on the table like a sugar daddy looking at a bunch of beautiful naked women.

Lei Jing looked at Zhang Ruochen again and piled up the five Space Treasures. He covered them tightly with his big hand, afraid that they would fly away.

Lei Jing dry-coughed twice. With a serious expression, he said, "You haven't been with me very long and don't know this, but I have five wives. I think these Jade pieces are very fine and I want to bring them back as gifts for them"

Zhang Ruochen was not impressed. He hadn't expected that the master of the Silver Gowned Elder's Hall was an old scoundrel and would want to take away his own disciple's treasure.

Lei Jing showed a curious expression. "Right! I was going to ask you."

Lei Jing showed a curious expression as well and asked, "Right! I was going to ask you."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Once I discovered an ancient cave from medieval times and found some treasures inside it. I found not only these pieces of Jade, but also several top level books of practice skills."

In order to cover his identity as the son of Emperor Ming 800 years ago, Zhang Ruochen could only make up a story.

There was nothing else he could do!

Lei Jing knew long ago that Zhang Ruochen must have had some adventures. Otherwise, he was just a prince from an inferior commandery, how could he have opened up 27 Meridians?

At least, the exercises he practiced were quite amazing.

This was not that strange. Kunlun's Field had a long history. There had been many masters since ancient times. Even for Zhang Ruochen to discover the cave of an ancient saint, it was not that odd.

Lei Jing was a man of principle, so he didn't ask about Zhang Ruochen's adventure. And he never considered stealing Zhang Ruochen's practice skills.

Yan Lixuan had had a heart knot because of a book of sword techniques at the Superior Class of the Spiritual Stage. He hadn't broken through the Realm for decades.

Loss was greater than gain.

Lei Jing stared at Zhang Ruochen intensely. "What do you mean?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "As far as I know, a warrior has only one chance to revitalize his exercises. That is at Fish-dragon Realm."

"Fish-dragon Realm is also called Nine Changes in the Fish-dragon Realm. At this realm, a warrior will go through nine changes. A warrior who can complete it is a fish forever and can never get the holy door.

"A warrior at the Fish-dragon Realm can exchange a practice skill every time he experiences a change. The higher his practice skill is, the faster his practice speed is, and the higher his future achievement will be. Master, don't you want to get a higher class of practice skills?"

Lei Jing smiled, "The Blood Cloud Scripture I practiced is an exercise at the inferior class of the ghost level. Compared to the most powerful one, Holy Universe Reaching Skills, in Yuntai Suzerain, there is no difference. Can you bring out an exercise more powerful than Blood Cloud Scripture?"

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Unfortunately, I found an exercise at the Superior Class of the Ghost level, which is called Blood and God Classics. It seems to have the same origin as Blood Cloud Scripture. Revising Blood and God Classics was certainly an easy thing. I wanted to give it to you. Since you're not interested... then..."

Zhang Ruochen hadn't even finished talking, when Lei Jing stood up suddenly and roared, "You are such an unfilial disciple. When did I say that I wasn't interested?"

Lei Jing seemed to notice his malpractice and sat back awkwardly. He said with a smile, "Zhang Ruochen, your cultivation is still at a low level after all. You may not understand the exercises at ghost level. Take out the Blood and God Classics, so I can appraise it for you. It may be real."

Zhang Ruochen didn't bother to whet Lei Jing's appetite any further. He took out the Blood and God Classics which he'd written long ago and gave it to Lei Jing.

Lei Jing looked at the Blood and God Classics with his hands shaking. He seemed to be calm but was very excited.

It was just a copy, not an original exercise.

Lei Jing opened the first page of Blood and God Classics and read the first sentence. He fell into it, stuck in the mysterious exercise like he was enchanted. He was very fond of it and unable to extricate himself. He kept shouting "Bravo."

"Excellent! It is indeed excellent! It deserves to be an exercise at the Superior class of the ghost level. It is exquisite and profound. Even a Saint can't explain its subtlety."

Two hours had passed. Lei Jing didn't remove his eyes from the Blood and God Classics. It seemed that he had forgotten Zhang Ruochen was standing beside him.

If he kept reading, Zhang Ruochen suspected that he would continue for a month.

"Master. Master. Master."

Zhang Ruochen called him three times. Lei Jing removed his eyes from the Blood and God Classics unwillingly. It was like he was holding a unique treasure. He held the Blood and God Classics tightly in his arms. He was so afraid that Zhang Ruochen would take it away from him.

Never mind Zhang Ruochen, even if the owner of School of the Martial Market wanted to take the Blood and God Classics away from him, Lei Jing would fight to death for it.

The exercises at the inferior class of the ghost level and the exercises at the Superior class of the ghost level were only two classes apart. But the value of the exercise was more than 100 times different.

Originally, at Lei Jing's age, he'd had no hope of breaking through to the Half-Saint Realm.

But the Blood and God Classics gave him hope again.

As long as he practiced these exercises at the Superior class of the ghost level, he had a great chance of reaching the Half-Saint Realm.

The more Lei Jing looked at Zhang Ruochen, the more he felt pleased. He was so lucky to have such an incredible disciple.

He not only had incredible Talent, he also had incredible Luck.

If his Luck was not incredible, how could he have been able to get such an incredible practice skill like the Blood and God Classics?

"Master," Zhang Rouchen began. "Have you made your decision about the auction?"

Having received the Blood and God Classics , the five Space Treasures were not so attractive to Lei Jing anymore.

Lei Jing looked at the five Space Treasures and said proudly, “Zhang Ruochen, don’t worry. I will handle it properly for you. You just sit back and wait. And get a sack to hold the Spiritual Crystal for when auction day comes!”

“I don’t need a sack, I have more powerful Space Treasures.”

Zhang Ruochen took out a newly refined jade space bracelet and passed it to Lei Jing. “This jade space bracelet is a present from me to you and 100 times better than those five Space Treasures. I hope you can take it.”

Lei Jing picked up the jade space bracelet and looked at it carefully. He discovered that the internal space of this bracelet was extremely broad. And there were defensive inscriptions and owner recognition inscriptions on it.

Compared with it, the five Space Treasures on the table looked like defective goods.

He had been joking when he discussed giving the five Space Treasures to his wives.

His disciple had had five Space Treasures and wanted to sell them at auction. He hadn’t wanted to give them to his master. Lei Jing had been unhappy about it and had just wanted to scare him.

But now he could see that Zhang Ruochen was not unwilling to show filial respect for his master, rather he wanted to give him something better. Lei Jing was certainly in a good mood.

When Zhang Ruochen left, Lei Jing put on the jade space bracelet. The more he looked at it, the more he liked it. He couldn’t help but laugh. “Good boy, you deserve to be my disciple.”

“Zhang Ying, Ji Fantian,” Lei Jing called.

Hearing Lei Jing calling them, two silver gowned Elders rushed to the Silver Gowned Elder’s Hall and bowed to Lei Jing with one knee on the ground, “Hall Master, what do you want us to do?”

“Please rise!”

The two silver gowned Elders stood up.

Lei Jing took a very thick pile of invitation letters and said, “Zhang Ying, I order you to send these ten letters within three days.

Zhang Ying felt surprised that they were just letters. Was the Hall Master really making a fuss over a trifle thing? Asking a silver gowned Elder to deliver them personally?

When Zhang Ying took the ten letters and saw the names on them, he was shocked.

“Master of Yuntai Suzerain, Han Li.”

“Head of Godblood School, Sima Mingde.”

“Master of Tai Qing Palace, Ye Huiyi.”

“Prince of Minshu Commandery, Xia Xuecheng.”

...

The names on the envelopes were all famous overlords in Omen Ridge. If any one of them sneezed, the 36 commanderies in the entire Omen Ridge would shake.

What on earth had happened? The Hall Master wanted to invite these people.

Zhang Ying asked, “Hall Master, Are... Are you holding a decennial Martial Arts Meeting?”

Lei Jing said, “Zhang Ying, your memory is getting worse. Didn’t we just have the Martial Arts Meeting three years ago?”

“But...”

“No ‘buts’,” Lei Jing said. “You just need to deliver the letters.”

Lei Jing didn’t mention a single word about the contents of the letter.

“Yes! I’m leaving right now.”

After saluting Lei Jing, Zhang Ying walked out of the Silver Gowned Elder’s Hall quickly.

Chapter 288: Han Li

After Zhang Ying left, Lei Jing was silent for a moment, as if thinking about something.

After a moment, he looked at the other silver gowned Elder, and asked, “Fan Tian, eight inferior commanderies of Western Nine Prefectures have already begun to send a punitive expedition against Square Commandery, correct?”

Ji Fantian stood below. In awe, he replied, “Hall Master, two weeks ago, eight inferior commanderies began to attack the inferior commandery almost at the same time and dispatched troops from eight directions. It is obvious that they want to carve up Square Commandery’s territory.”

“It is said that when the sanction document of Saint Prince’s Mansion in the Eastern Region was issued, all the senior members of the royal family in Square Commandery escaped, and the whole palace was empty. Now, Square Commandery is in a civil strife. The leaders of the army are standing on their own to form independent factions and even the big Families and Suzerains are included. They also want a piece of the pie in troubled times.”

“However, in terms of overall strength, the eight inferior commanderies are still the strongest.”

“Square Commandery is a medium level commandery.” Lei Jing went on, “Both its area and population are much more than the sum of the other eight commanderies. With only power, an inferior commandery cannot swallow Square Commandery.”

“Hall Master, why are you suddenly asking about this?” Ji Fantian asked.

Lei Jing did not answer. He stood up, opened the door and went out. Standing atop the 12-floor tower, he gazed into the sea of clouds. "Fan Tian, you have been with me for fifty years, right?"

"Forty-nine years and three months," Ji Fantian answered.

Lei Jing asked, "Which realm is your Martial Arts Practice at?"

"The Completion of Heaven Realm," Ji Fantian answered.

Lei Jing nodded. "I never admitted that you are my disciple, but I have always regarded you as my eldest disciple. I think you can understand, right?"

Ji Fantian immediately kneeled on the ground, tears filling his eyes, "I see Lord."

Lei Jing motioned for him to rise. "Fan Tian, there is one thing I need you to do for me."

"I will go through fire and water only for your one word."

Ji Fantian immediately asked again, "Is it pertaining to the thing of Square Commandery?"

"That's right."

Lei Jing said, "Your youngest junior fellow apprentice is the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery. I am hoping Square Commandery will fall into the hands of Yunwu Commandery. However, the strength of Yunwu Commandery is still too weak. So I want you to go to Square Commandery and help the Yunwu Commandery's army. At the same time, you also need to relay my message to the powers of the Martial Market Bank in Square Commandery. Let them know who to help."

"I understand." Ji Fantian answered.

"You may go!"

A peach for me and a peach for thee.

Zhang Ruochen had given him the Blood and God Classics and the Space bracelet. It had been such a big favor. Naturally, he wanted to do something in return.

...

Yuntai Suzerain was the top-rated hegemony in Omen Ridge.

To Omen Ridge's warriors, Yuntai Suzerain was a sacred place. Each year, countless young men came here wanting to join the Yuntai Suzerain.

At the moment, in a quiet and beautiful manor of Yuntai Suzerain, a tall, slim, attractive woman was practicing with the Ancient White Jade Sword, revealing many mysterious sword techniques.

"Swish!"

Han Qiu's sword technique was Floating Clouds and Flowing Water, like a dragon, like a butterfly. Every move was like a peerless sword that could almost inspire the Spiritual Qi of heaven and earth.

The move she was showing was Nine Yin Sword.

Since she'd returned to the Yuntai Suzerain, Han Qiu had been secluding herself for refining. She had gained a certain level of Nine Yin Sword. Even without the Nine Yang Sword, its impact was still powerful.

Every move seemed to have the power to cut a river and split mountains.

Suddenly, Han Qiu's mouth curved. She turned the blade into a white light and stabbed at a middle-aged man standing just outside the Coliseum.

"Clash!"

The fast speed and powerful sword technique made a deafening screech.

The middle-aged man, tall and handsome, continued to stand there casually. He gave off the aura of a Martial Arts master.

...

In the entire Yuntai Suzerain, it was estimated that only Han Qiu, dared to attack him with a sword.

The middle-aged man just gently lifted two fingers, firmly clutching Han Qiu's sword. He commented, "The sword is actually exquisite, but unfortunately you are still limited in movement. It is obvious that somebody has passed you Nine Yin Sword. But they only taught you the sword moves and footwork; they did not pass the inner strength to you.

Han Qiu was unconvinced. She said, "Not true. You can only hold my sword because of your strong cultivation. In my opinion, Nine Yin Sword is too enigmatic. Currently, I can't use even one percent of its power. When my cultivation reaches your level, I will defeat you with just one sword."

"Haha! Okay! I am looking forward to it."

The middle-aged man was the Master of Yuntai Suzerain, Han Li.

Han Li was usually a very serious person, but recently, he had been in a great mood. He could not help laughing today.

Han Li released his fingers and let go of the jade sword. Feeling very pleased, he gazed at Han Qiu. "Nine Yin Sword is indeed a great sword technique. Even with only the sword strokes and footwork, it is comparable to the ghost level martial technique. You are lucky that someone gave you this expert advice. If you see him again, you must invite him to Yuntai Suzerain. I will reward him."

Han Qiu thought of Zhang Ruochen in the back of her mind, her eyes flashing an unusual color. She answered, "Father, the expert not only taught me sword technique, but also helped me solve a big problem in cultivation. In your eyes, do you think I can break through the fourth floor of Jiuju Tower now?"

Han Li answered, "You have indeed progressed considerably. Breaking through the fourth floor of the Jiuju Tower will not be difficult for you."

“If you can also learn the inner strength of Nine Yin Sword and practice it to the Success stage, maybe you can make it through the fifth floor. Of course, do not be discouraged. Even without the inner strength, you still have the opportunity to achieve level four.”

Even though Han Li was at the Completion of the Earth Realm, he was still not as good as the present Han Qiu. How could he be upset?

Han Li said again, “There is one more thing I want to tell you. Your grandfather has watched you play Nine Yin Sword. He plans to create a series of sword technique based on Nine Yin Sword that will belong to our Yuntai Suzerain.

Han Qiu immediately felt unhappy hearing this. “How can he do this? When was he watching and how could I have no clue?”

“Actually, even if he is standing at your side, you may not see him,” Han Li said.

“Father,” Han Qiu started. “When the expert passed me this sword technique, he told me this set of sword techniques is from the Liangyi Sect. Is it ok to copy others’ sword techniques?”

“We are not copying, but we are evolving it.”

Han Li shook his head. “All martial arts come from three laws. If you trace the source of any martial arts techniques, they all evolved from other martial arts.”

“You should be aware that our Yuntai Suzerain’s greatest weakness is sword technique. After four hundred plus years, we still do not have a superior-class Spiritual Stage sword technique.”

“As a sect, if you want to be strong, you have to have martial arts as the base. If your grandfather can create one of the top sword techniques using Nine Yin Sword and it belongs to Yuntai Suzerain, then in the future, the Sword Arts geniuses of Omen Ridge will not choose Tai Qing Palace or the School of the Martial Market. We will become the top Sword Arts place for them.”

Han Qiu was still annoyed. “This is the reason you made me keep practicing sword technique?”

Han Li seemed to feel sorry for his daughter. His face turned tender. “Don’t be angry! This is my fault. I will make it up to you, okay? Whatever it is you want, just tell me. I give you my word.”

Han Qiu knew that the sword technique had been stolen, it was an irreparable thing.

“Okay! I want you to expel Zhang Tiangui from Yuntai Suzerain.” Han Qiu said.

Slightly startled, Han Li laughed, “Zhang Tiangui? Are you and him not all right? Did you have a fight?”

Zhang Tiangui had always been one of Han Li’s favorite disciples. Han Li liked him, and he also knew that he and Han Qiu had had a good relationship. Years ago, he had decided to marry Han Qiu to Zhang Tiangui.

Han Qiu snorted. “Father, do you think I’m joking? In appearance, he looks fair and honest, but behind closed doors, he is sinister and mean. He even dared to hurt his own brothers, what else could he do? Father, if you leave him in Yuntai Suzerain, I think you are breeding evil.”

When she returned to Yuntai Suzerain, Han Qiu had sent someone to investigate Zhang Tiangui.

After discovering his real character, she had been extremely disgusted. She could not think of him as the senior brother she had once admired.

Han Li became very harsh. He said, "Han Qiu, your senior brother is my disciple. He is an extreme genius. In the future, he will become the pillar of Yuntai Suzerain. You do not have any evidence. How can you say that?"

"I do have evidence."

Han Qiu said, "I not only have evidence, I also have a witness."

"Who is this witness?" asked Han Li

Han Qiu said, "Father, do you remember Zhang Tiangui's servant, Lin Chenyu?"

Han Li nodded. "Of course. Lin Chenyu is also a good genius, but your senior brother told me he has some type of hidden illness. He is not sound."

Han Qiu sneered. "His hidden illness is thanks to senior brother."

Chapter 289: Do Not Offend A Rascal

"What do you mean?"

Han Li's expression darkened, and a gust of icing air emanated from his body. The entire courtyard grew colder.

Not afraid of her father's powerful momentum, Han Qiu said, "Father, if you want to find out what happened, just call in Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan and you will know everything."

Han Li looked at Han Qiu keenly. He sent for someone to bring Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan to him.

Before long, they came to the manor, guided by a Bearded Elder.

The Bearded Elder bowed to Han Li and, knowing his place, he left.

"Greetings, Master. Greetings, Elder Sister Han."

Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan appeared very solemn. They bowed deeply in reverential awe.

For them, both Han Li and Han Qiu were big shots.

Especially Han Li, whose existence was legendary. He had such a powerful status in Omen Ridge that even Yunwu Commandery Prince should salute him and call him "Senior Uncle Master" when meeting with him.

Han Li sat on a Taishi chair. He picked up his teacup and gently took a sip. He took a cold stern look at Lin Chenyu and said, "You are Zhang Tiangui's servant, you know the consequences if a servant frames his master, don't you?"

Although Han Li had only taken one look at him, Lin Chenyu felt like a mountain was collapsing on him. His sight darkened, and he crumpled to the floor in fear.

If two people differed greatly in martial cultivation, just one look from the stronger one was enough to spook the weaker one.

Lin Chenyu was on his hands and knees with his face against the ground. His voice trembled. "Master, I... I wouldn't dare to lie to you. When Elder Sister Han started investigating Zhang Tiangui, I told her everything."

Han Qiu said, "Lin Chenyu, don't be afraid. Tell me everything you know."

Lin Chenyu lay on the floor with a trace of cold amusement showing in his eyes.

But no one noticed his eyes.

"Master, Zhang Tiangui is an insidious and villainous man. He will do anything to get what he wants. Previously, I offended him because of a trifling matter and in revenge, he not only sent someone to castrate me, but also forced me to become his servant. This is a dark man with no mercy. He's not as honest and good as he appears to everyone."

"Truthfully, I don't blame him for what he did to me for I was in the wrong originally."

"But I resented him for forcing my sister to become his concubine as revenge against the Ninth Prince. The Ninth Prince and my sister were brought up together; they were childhood sweethearts. But Zhang Tiangui took my sister away from the Ninth Prince, his own brother. I also blame myself. I was no match for him, so I couldn't protect my sister; I could only yield to his arbitrariness."

Following this, Lin Chenyu listed Zhang Tiangui's crimes one by one. Some of them were true but he added some lies to take revenge on Zhang Tiangui.

People would rather offend the gentleman than offend the rascal.

Lin Chenyu truly was a rascal. If you offended him, he would seek revenge when you least expected it and he would stab you in the back mercilessly.

All these years, Lin Chenyu had born all the insults and humiliations silently, groveling to Zhang Tiangui. He had long been waiting for this day.

How humiliating was it to be castrated?

The accumulated resentment in Lin Chenyu's mind all found their release at this moment.

Han Li looked increasingly gloomy as Lin Chenyu went on. He said, "Han Qiu, do you think he is twisting the truth to get revenge on Zhang Tiangui for his castration?"

Han Qiu replied, "I sent someone to Yunwu Commandery to investigate Zhang Tiangui. Most of Lin Chenyu's words are true."

Lin Chenyun saw the time was right, so he said, "I want to tell Master one more thing. The reason that Zhang Tiangui is kind to Elder Sister Han is that he wants to obtain the practice skills of Holy Universe Reaching Skill. He said once he succeeded, he would become the Master of Yuntai Suzerain."

Han Li breathed deeply, anger blazing in his eyes. He made a fist and said, "Damn it! How dare he think about replacing me? What a remarkable man, really remarkable, huh!"

Lin Chenyu continued to stir up Han Li's anger. "Zhang Tiangui is a man who dares to frame his brother, is there anything he won't do?"

"Hmph!"

A raging power spread from Han Li's body. His hair and robe fluttered even though there was no breeze, and the air crackled as he clenched his fist.

"You two may leave now." Han Li waved his sleeves and tried to restrain his anger.

Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan stood up and backed away shakily. Their bodies trembled until they left the manor.

As he left the manor, a cruel smile showed on Lin Chenyu's face. He said to himself, "Zhang Tiangui, I would like to see how imposing you are after this! I have to seek revenge for your past actions."

In the past, Han Li might have spared Zhang Tiangui due to his supreme talent.

But now, it was clear that Han Qiu had just as much talent as him. Thus Zhang Tiangui was not as important as he'd been previously.

Han Qiu asked, "Father, how should we punish Zhang Tiangui?"

Han Li, having calmed down, replied, "Although Zhang Tiangui has not behaved himself, he hasn't done anything bad to Yuntai Suzerain. If I expel him from Yuntai Suzerain, I'm afraid that most people will not understand. At the moment, most Elders in the Suzerain support him."

"For now, we do nothing. We can deal with him when he shows his ambitions."

Han Qiu nodded. Having her father aware of Zhang Tiangui was enough.

Her father would not force her to marry him now.

With the title of "The First Genius of Omen Ridge", Zhang Tiangui drew the attention of many warriors. Punishing him was not an easy matter.

"Master, Elder Zhang of the School of the Martial Market has brought you a letter." The Bearded Elder appeared again and spoke to Han Li with respect.

"What letter?" Asked Han Li.

"It's said that it is a personal letter from Master Lei of the Silver Gowned Elder's Hall."

Han Li's eyes lit up. "Let him in."

Guided by the Bearded Elder, Zhang Ying, in a neat silver robe, walked into the manor, and bowed to Han Li. "Master Han, this is a personal letter from Master Lei."

Zhang Ying took out the letter and gave it to Han Li with both hands.

Once Han Li had received the letter, Zhang Ying left hurriedly to deliver the next letter.

Han Li opened the letter and read it. He smiled and said, "How lucky Lei Jing is. He found an ancient cave dating to the Middle Ancient Times, and he found five Space Treasures in it."

Han Qiu stood beside her father. When she heard about the Space Treasures she thought about the Spatial Ring on Zhang Ruochen's finger. "Father, what happened?"

Han Li put the letter away and said, "Lei Jing sent the five Space Treasures to the Auction House. He hopes that I will go and support him. Space Treasures are rare. In all of Kunlun's Field, there are not many. Maybe Lei Jing's are flawed. Otherwise, he wouldn't auction them in Omen Ridge."

Even if the Space Treasures had flaws, they were still incomparably precious, and each deserved to be contested for.

Although Han Li had supreme cultivation and status, he had never seen a Space Treasure. He felt very excited and decided he would buy one.

"Han Qiu, you should come with me to expand your horizons. Since Lei Jing plans to auction the Space Treasures, he must have invited many big shots. The auction in five days will be a grand auction. There will likely be many other treasures as well." Han Li said.

But at this moment, Han Qiu was thinking about a different issue. Was it Zhang Ruochen or Lei Jing who had actually found the ancient cave of the Middle Ancient Times?

Han Qiu preferred to believe it was the former. After all, she'd seem Zhang Ruochen use the Spatial Ring with her own eyes, and Zhang Ruochen had even taught her Nine Yin Sword.

Maybe the Nine Yin Sword was a treasure Zhang Ruochen had found in the ancient cave.

Han Qiu wasn't sure why, but even though she knew this, she didn't share it, choosing instead to keep Zhang Ruochen's secret.

...

...

As Lei Jing's letters were being sent to the big shots of Omen Ridge, he ordered the Martial Market Bank to get ready for the biggest auction of the year.

Zhang Ruochen didn't know about any of this. After returning to his mansion, he started to practice Sword Ripple of Ten Channels.

He had just at the Beginner level of Sun Meridian Ripple. He needed to continue practicing and strengthen it so that the power of the sword wave could become stronger.

Meanwhile, he also started to study the other nine Sword Waves. He planned to practice the 10 Sword Waves together.

Just like this, time passed day by day.

In the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen practiced for half a month until he finally received a message from Lei Jing that the auction would be held that night.

It was already midday now, just a few hours before the auction. Zhang Ruochen stopped his practice temporarily.

As he straightened his surroundings, Zhang Ruochen unexpectedly found 110,000 Spiritual Crystals, worth 110,000,000 silver coins.

Most of the Spiritual Crystals were from the Red Spider Vessel when Zhang Ruochen had killed Mu Qing. It was a huge sum of wealth.

“Perfect! Since it’s an auction, there must be some rare treasures I can buy.”

Zhang Ruochen was about to walk out with Kong Xuan, when two people walked in. They were Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi.

Zhang Ruochen was a little surprised and asked, “Eldest brother, elder brother Chang, how did you get in?”

Si Xingkong was carrying a wine gourd and a strong smell of alcohol emanated from it. His long hair was scattered on both sides of his cheeks. He replied casually, “We walked in, you think a door can stop us?”

Chang Qiqi looked at Kong Xuan with a surprised expression and sighed. “We knocked for a long while and I was wondering why no one was answering. Now I know that my junior fellow apprentice Zhang has hidden a beautiful girl in the house. He’s dating her secretly and doesn’t want to be bothered. Eldest brother, it seems we have disturbed his date, we’d better leave.”

“Yes, you are right, we shouldn’t have rushed in hastily. If Commandery Princess Yanchen asks us, we don’t know how to cover this up for him.”

With this, he grabbed Chang Qiqi’s shoulder and headed out.

Zhang Ruochen was dumbfounded. He held them back and said, “That’s nonsense! Kong Xuan is my maid. It’s not what you think.”

Chang Qiqi stopped and smiled. “Since she’s just a maid, can you sell her to me? I’ll give you a good price.”

Chapter 290: The Second Young Master of Yan Nationality

Chang Qiqi stopped and smiled. “Since she’s just a maid, can you sell her to me? I’ll give you a good price.”

Kong Xuan was worried. She knelt on the ground begging, “Master, please do not sell me. I would rather die than leave you.”

“Ha-ha! I’m just kidding! Don’t worry. I can see there is something going on between you and your master,” Chang Qiqi said.

Kong Xuan blushed but she didn’t dare to refute. Chang Qiqi was Zhang Ruochen’s elder brother; she was just a servant.

A servant was not allowed to refute their master’s elder brother.

Si Xingkong stared at Kong Xuan with a surprised look. "Junior fellow apprentice Chang, I advise you not to offend her. Her future achievements may be higher than yours."

"What? Her achievements higher than mine?"

Chang Qiqi didn't believe Si Xingkong. He looked at Kong Xuan again. This time, he saw more than just her beauty.

He found that he couldn't see her real cultivation. He could only guess from her appearance.

But he was sure that her cultivation was much weaker than his.

What did it mean?

"Her exercises are more profound than mine, much more profound," he exclaimed.

This was why he could not see her cultivation.

Chang Qiqi was upset. "I'm an excellent internal student, a genius. What I practice should not be lower than that of a maid."

He grasped Zhang Ruochen's shirt and dished out hard. "I just practiced Spiritual Stage's mid-class exercises. Did you let your maid practice Spiritual Stage's superior-class exercises? Or ghost level?"

Kong Xuan practiced the Kong Xuan Scripture. It was far more than ghost level, they were legendary King's Stage exercises.

If Zhang Ruochen told the truth, Chang Qiqi would cry out.

Si Xingkong had excellent vision. When he saw Saint Power coming out from Kong Xuan, he was shocked. "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, you've spared no effort to cultivate your maid. You even give her Half-Saint's Essence?"

"Well, I can't really hide it from you."

Zhang Ruochen laughed. "Kong Xuan has a lot of talent. I have to foster her, or her talent will be wasted."

Si Xingkong had seen through Kong Xuan's cultivation. He said thoughtfully, "Her martial cultivation is at the Medium State of the Black Realm. But I sense that her power is much higher than that of many warriors at Completion and she has the ability to enter the Profound Board. If she enters the Jiuju Tower, she could break through the fourth floor, possibly higher."

"Oh my god, even a mere maid is better than me. What should I do?"

Chang Qiqi rushed towards Zhang Ruochen again and clutched his neck.

Zhang Ruochen quickly unleashed his power and avoided him. He laughed openly. "Elder brother, elder brother Chang, are you just visiting me for a maid?"

Chang Qiqi was outraged. "Of course not."

Si Xingkong said, "Tonight, the Devil Martial City will hold a great auction, do you want to go with us? It is said that the legendary Space Treasure will be there, something to look forward to."

Zhang Ruochen realized that in order to increase the value of the five low-class Space Treasures, Master Lei had conducted vigorous propaganda.

"The five low-class Space Treasures should sell at a good price."

Zhang Ruochen, Kong Xuan, Si Xingkong, and Chang Qiqi went to the auction together. As they were walking out of the practice mansion they saw a group of internal students.

Among the internal students, there were some acquaintances. They were princes and aristocratic daughters, who formed a separated faction.

Even Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen were there.

First in the queue was a 20 something man. He was good-looking, tall and handsome, and had a very haughty temperament.

He was surrounded by a group of internal students who were complimenting him.

"Childe, you deserve to be a top talent. You are so handsome, we can only look upon you."

A beautiful internal student was gazing at Yan Yunhuan, with a worshipping look.

One of the students noticed Zhang Ruochen and the other people walking out of the mansion. He shouted out, "Yan, that man is Commandery Princess Yanchen's fiance, Omen Ridge's and God's favored one, Zhang Ruochen."

"God's favored one? In front of childe Yan, who can dare to say he is God's favored one?" Qiu Lin sneered.

Qiu Lin was the second master of the Internal Academy. However, right now, he was following childe Yan around like a puppy.

The other internal students followed together.

"Childe Yan has an invincible cultivation. He is God's favored one."

"Zhang Ruochen and his elder brother may be strong, but there is a huge disparity between them and Childe Yan."

...

Huang Yanchen grimaced. She was unhappy.

Yan Yunhuan was a great master and had been invited by Chen Xier. He ranked highly on the Earth Board, moreover, he was chasing after Chen Xier.

Huang Yanchen understood why Chen Xier had invited him to Omen Ridge. She wanted to suppress Zhang Ruochen as a way to prove that her insight was higher than Huang Yanchen's.

She worried that Yan Yunhuan would bully Zhang Rouchen, because he couldn't defeat Yan Yunhuan with his current power.

Chen Xier was trying to humiliate not only her but also Zhang Rouchen.

Huang Yanchen knew that Zhang Rouchen and Chen Xier had broken up and she was happy about this. But now, she was worried. Chen Xier was vindictive, and she didn't want to let Zhang Rouchen go.

Chen Xier's eyes gleamed when she saw Zhang Rouchen. She turned to Yan Yunhuan purposefully. In her soft voice she said, "What a coincidence! We were going to ask you to attend tonight's auction with us."

"Zhang Rouchen? Isn't he Commandery Princess Yanchen's fiancé?"

Yan Yunhuan glanced at Zhang Rouchen. Casting a contemptuous look, he said, "Commandery Princess Yanchen, you are the commandery princess of a superior class commandery, why do you like him? A top genius of Omen Ridge means nothing! You can have any man you want, even Half-Saint Family disciples."

Yan Yunhuan was after Chen Xier, but he was also fond of Huang Yanchen, the cool beauty. Both Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen were pretty. If he could date them both at the same time, it would be pure bliss.

Zhang Rouchen frowned.

Standing by Zhang Rouchen, Chang Qiqi was angry enough to shout, but Si Xingkong stopped him.

Huang Yanchen glared at Yan Yunhuan. "I can choose my fiancée, no need for your suggestions."

"Cousin Yanchen, don't be angry, he didn't mean to offend you."

Chen Xier walked over and grasped Huang Yanchen's arm to stop her from leaving.

If Huang Yanchen left, there was no point humiliating Zhang Rouchen.

Yan Yunhuan showed his generosity and bowed to Zhang Rouchen. "Brother Zhang, if I have offended you, please forgive me. Since you are the fiancée of Commandery Princess Yanchen, of course, you are my friend. I don't look down upon a prince from an inferior commandery."

Chang Qiqi couldn't stand it anymore. He taunted, "Child Yan, I've never heard of him? Is he from Omen Ridge?"

"What a limited view you have."

Yan Yunhuan didn't realize that Chang Qiqi was mocking him. He said, "In the Eastern Region, Omen Ridge is a remote wilderness. If the Yan Family army were to attack, in just one month, we could destroy all 36 commanderies, making them ours."

"Wow! Frightening! If you are so invincible, are you going to overthrow Empress Chi Yao's imperial throne?"

"You... you..."

Yan Yunhuan realized that Chang Qiqi was mocking him. His anger showed, and he sent out an overbearing momentum.

A row of golden light came off from Yan Yunhuan's pores forming a light pillar of about 30 meters. It seemed that there was a burning sun inside his body and once it broke out, its power could ruin everything.

Impacted by Yan Yunhuan's power, Chang Qiqi's face grew pale and there was blood on his lip. He backed away more and more.

Yan Yunhuan was power. Just by unleashing his power, he could hurt Chang Qiqi. His power must have reached the top 1,000 on the Earth Board.

Zhang Ruochen and Si Xingkong stood in front of Chang Qiqi. They ran their Genuine Qi to block Yan Yunhuan's power.

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Huang Yanchen, giving a cold look as if to blame her.

If he was just trying to find trouble, Zhang Ruochen wouldn't mind hitting him to give him a lesson.

Huang Yanchen understood. "Yan comes from a third level family, the Yan Family. He is a distinguished guest. In addition, he is the second talent of the young generation of Yans and ranks 375th on the Earth Board."

Huang Yanchen was not only introducing Yan Yunhuan but also warning Zhang Ruochen that he was a superpower. He could not defeat him, so it was not smart to provoke him. Huang Yanchen was very worried.