God Emperor 291

Chapter 291: Auction

"So you are the young master of the Yan family."

Zhang Ruochen seemed to be talking to himself as he looked at Yan Yunhuan.

It was not his first encounter with a young master of the Yan family. Zhang Ruochen had met Yan Qingwu, who ranked 100th on the Earth Board, during the Earth Board test. He was the top master in the younger generation of the Yan family.

Therefore, Zhang Ruochen had some impression of the Yan family.

Chen Xier looked at Zhang Ruochen grinning. She wondered to herself, "Does he feel inferior?"

After all, Zhang Ruochen was definitely inferior to Yan Yunhuan in strength and family background. In this situation, Zhang Ruochen's talent seemed insignificant.

Yan Yunhuan assumed Zhang Ruochen was intimidated by his status and lost interest at once. "He is just a prince from an inferior commandery. He is absolutely shocked at my power, even without me doing anything. He is not a challenge at all," Yan Yunhuan thought.

However, what he didn't know was that Zhang Ruochen had lost interest in fighting him after hearing about his status.

Even the top master in the young generation of the Yan family wasn't able to defend against Zhang Ruochen's attack.

What was the point of fighting with the so-called second best?

Yan Yunhuan appeared to be very arrogant. He did not want to see Zhang Ruochen or the others anymore. He said, "Sister Xier, the auction is about to begin. Why are we wasting our time here?"

Thinking about the auction, everyone was intrigued.

Someone said, "I heard that there would be several priceless Space treasures. Do you have any interest, master Yan?"

Yan Yunhuan stood erect. With a laugh, he said confidently, "Space treasures are precious! Only the Yan family with its deep pockets can obtain them. Sister Xier, you may pick one if you want."

Chen Xier had also heard that Space treasure had been discovered. She had been anticipating them eagerly for a long time.

However, she also knew that all of Omen Ridge's important people would come to bid, and that this would raise the price of the Space treasures to an astronomical figure.

"In this case, just let Yan Yunhuan be the sucker to buy it. Anyway, the Yan family is the richest in the world. If I don't take advantage of him, who can I take advantage of?" She thought.

Huang Yanchen crossed her arms and said coldly, "You say it like the Space treasures already belong to you."

Hearing these words, Yan Yunhuan was immediately annoyed. "Commandery Princess Yanchen, you should know that I am the heir of the Yan family. I can mobilize a considerable portion of the family's financial resources. Don't you think I'll defeat the useless people of Omen Ridge with that wealth?"

"Commandery Princess Yanchen, please rest assured that once I buy the Space treasures you can have one. After all... I am afraid that Zhang Ruochen couldn't afford them with his wealth."

Yan Yunhuan looked at Zhang Ruochen as he spoke to Huang Yanchen.

However, Huang Yanchen revealed disdain in her eyes. Though others didn't know, she knew clearly that it was Zhang Ruochen who had refined the Space treasures. Why would he bother to buy it?

Maybe it was Zhang Ruochen who had put the Space treasures in the auction.

All of a sudden, Huang Yanchen had an idea. She fluttered her eyelids at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Zhang Ruochen, will you buy a Space treasure for me?"

Zhang Ruochen knew exactly what Huang Yanchen was thinking. He thought it over and decided it would be good to let Yan Yunhuan, who was indeed disagreeable, pay a substantial price.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Of course, I will buy you one. Even if I have to throw in my family's entire fortune."

The corner of Yan Yunhuan's mouth twitched up, a slight smile appearing on his face. "Is he challenging me?" He wondered.

"OK, why not?"

"Tonight, I will teach him not to think so highly of himself."

"He should look in the mirror before competing with me in terms of wealth."

Chang Qiqi walked over to Zhang Ruochen and said in a low voice, "Brother Zhang, if you lack for money, just tell me. Though I am not from a notable or great family, I still have some savings."

"Thank you, brother Chang." Zhang Ruochen laughed. "But I have made a small fortune recently. It's not difficult for me to buy a Space treasure."

"I see."

Chang Qiqi suddenly realized why Zhang Ruochen dared to challenge Yan Yunhuan. It turned out that he had prepared in advance. He said, "You have to buy a Space treasure. Then that Yan guy will not be so damned snobbish."

"Take it easy. It will be a piece of cake." Zhang Ruochen answered.

The salesroom in Omen Ridge, magnificent and glorious, was built like a castle made of gigantic boulders.

Half of the treasures from the 36 commanderies in Omen Ridge would be sent to the salesroom. Almost every treasure in the auction block was priceless; the common people could not afford it.

It was only dusk, yet many warriors had already gathered outside of the salesroom. Many splendid vehicles were parked in the square.

Some of them were even built on the back of fourth-level savage beasts. They were like palaces carried by beasts, which gave off a magnificent atmosphere.

The fighting capacity of a fourth-level savage beast was comparable to a warrior of the Heaven Realm.

Persons who had fourth-level savage beasts as their mounts naturally had to be very important people.

Everybody was gorgeously dressed. They stepped down from their vehicles and walked towards the salesroom with servants in front and behind.

"Awoo!"

A Kylin, with an enormous pair of fire wings, pulled a huge, resplendent, and magnificent carriage. It flew across the sky with a rumble.

The Kylin's howl reverberated across the entire Devil Martial City. All the warriors raised their heads to stare at the sky. The entire sky appeared to be lit on fire from the power of the Kylin, creating a vast fire cloud.

"A Kylin?! Oh my god! It's really a Kylin!"

"It is said that, in the whole of Omen Ridge, only the Yuntai Suzerain has raised a Kylin, and it is one of the three mountain guardian savage beasts in Yuntai Suzerain. Its strength is so strong that just one claw can beat a fourth-level savage beast to death."

"The man in the carriage is the Master of Yuntai Suzerain, Han Li."

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The crowd was shocked by the breath of the Kylin on the other side of the sky. Fortunately, the Kylin's howl didn't carry any aggressive power. Otherwise, the howl would have stunned one third of the warriors in the Devil Martial City.

Yan Yunhuan sneered disdainfully. "It's just a flame-winged Kylin. Its blood meridians are not pure, and its strength is no more than one-tenth of a real Kylin. Only warriors in the Omen Ridge would make such a fuss."

The Kylin folded its flame-like wings quickly and flew down to stop in the middle of the square.

Han Li, the Master of Yuntai Suzerain, came out of the carriage with a great air of martial arts. Streaks of translucent Spiritual Qi of heaven and earth flew around him like ripples in water.

Shortly after, Han Qiu also stepped down from the vehicle wearing a long periwinkle gown. She had an elegant temperament and bright eyes, catching the gaze of many male warriors.

"The cherished daughter of Yuntai Suzerain, Han Qiu, got through the fourth floor of Jiujue Tower three days ago. Since then, she has risen to fame. I did not expect her to also come to the auction."

"Why don't I see elder brother Zhang Tiangui of Yuntai Suzerain? Han Li always took him to events before."

"Perhaps Zhang Tiangui is secluding himself for refining. After all, the powerful rise of Luo Shuihan and Han Qiu has threatened his status as the top prodigy in Omen Ridge. He must be under a great deal of pressure."

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The whole salesroom went wild with of the arrival of Han Li and Han Qiu.

Especially the proud princess Han Qiu. Not only was she one of the top ten beauties in Omen Ridge but she had also managed to get through the fourth floor of Jiujue Tower. She was like a goddess from heaven, leaving other young warriors far behind.

Even the ten prodigies of Omen Ridge were in her shadow.

Once out of the vehicle, Han Qiu looked around and soon found Zhang Ruochen in the crowd. Her pretty face lit up.

"He is really attending the auction!"

Han Qiu had a favorable impression of Zhang Ruochen. But with so many warriors staring at her, she couldn't go to greet him.

They just looked and nodded at each other from a distance.

Afterwards, other important people arrived.

"The Master of Tai Qing Palace, Ye Huiyi, has always lived a secluded life. I never thought she would come to the auction today."

"It's surprising that the commandery prince of Minshu, Xia Xuecheng, should come all the way to Devil Martial City. Minshu Commandery is one of the strongest in Omen Ridge. It's much stronger than Square Commandery."

Zhang Ruochen looked into the distance and saw two vehicles coming abreast. "Ye Huiyi, the Master of Tai Qing Palace, seems to have a special relationship with the commandery prince of Minshu."

Chang Qiqi, who liked to gossip, laughed. "The Commandery Prince of Minshu was once a disciple of Tai Qing Palace, and Ye Huiyi's junior fellow apprentice. It is said that he chased Ye during those years, but Ye, seeking Dao wholeheartedly, didn't respond."

Si Xingkong sighed, "They'd rather live in oblivion than to love in despair. Almost a hundred years has passed. They haven't obtained love but deep friendship."

The important figures went straight to the special VIP auction room where they would receive special treatment and personal service.

Zhang Ruochen, Chang Qiqi, Si Xingkong and the other young warriors could only pick a relatively good position to sit temporarily in the hall.

With his status, Yan Yunhuan could enter the VIP room. But he came to the hall and sat near Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen under the request of Chen Xier. He wore a victorious look on his face.

It was normal for Yan Yunhuan, the heir of a Half-Saint family, to look down upon other warriors. Only successors of other Half-Saint families were qualified to become friends with him.

In his eyes, the chiefs of Suzerains in Omen Ridge were just stronger bumpkins. Today, he was the real star at the auction.

Chapter 292: Painting of a Cloud Dragon

"The auction today is surely grand. The Master of the Yuntai Suzerain and the Palace Master of Tai Qing Palace are both attending personally."

"Naturally. I've heard that not only are there Space Treasures at this auction, but also are some other special treasures."

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Endless discussions could be heard on the whole Auction House.

Suddenly, a washbasin sized Spiritual Crystal of light nature floated up in the center of the Auction House. It hovered about 66 meters in the air radiating a brilliant light.

It lit up the entire Auction House like a bright full moon.

A graceful woman in translucent white cloth flew down from the air and landed lightly, with jade white feet, in the center of the auction stage. Her long white hair cascaded like a waterfall down her back.

"Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, do you know who she is?"

Chang Qiqi stared at the enchanting woman on the auction stage, his eyes were as round as coins and he spoke in a very excited way.

Zhang Ruochen also glanced towards the woman and his eyes lit up a little. No wonder Chang Qiqi was so excited. The white-haired woman was extremely beautiful and also very alluring. The long, snow-white legs that peaked out from her dress were particularly seductive.

Many warriors' gazes were locked on her body. They looked as if they wanted to devour her.

"Indeed she is a rare beauty."

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "The Martial Market Bank is very good at doing business. By having such a beauty host the auctions, many young warriors will become hot in the head and recklessly bid high prices."

"Don't underestimate her."

Chang Qiqi glanced towards Si Xingkong and smiled. "Her name is Bai Xuling, one of the top ten beauties of Omen Ridge. She is also one of the martial arts legends at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, and an important member of the Martial Market Bank. Most importantly, she is our eldest brother's confidant."

"Oh!"

Zhang Ruochen revealed a trace of a smile and turned his gaze to Si Xingkong.

Sure enough, Si Xingkong appeared unusually awkward. "Don't listen to him, he is blabbering. Ms. Bai and I have only completed a mission together. It is nothing like what he said."

The people around them continued to tease Si Xingkong about Bai Xuling until finally Si Xingkong became tired of acknowledging them and resumed drinking his wine. However, his glances continued to return periodically to Bai Xuling and he would smile lightly each time.

Bai Xuling stood on the auction stage and began to warm up the audience as well as relay the rules of the auction. Following this, she said, "Now, please give your attention to the first item of the auction, the Painting of a Cloud Dragon, personally painted by an art master."

"The Painting of a Cloud Dragon is created with ink made from the blood of a Flood Dragon. The blood is combined with the power of Art. By simply injecting Genuine Qi into the Painting, a warrior can summon seven Flood Dragons simultaneously to aid them in battle."

"The starting bid for the Painting of the Cloud Dragon is 5,000 Spiritual Crystals. Each raise is not to be below 100 Spiritual Crystals. Let the auction begin."

"5,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"5,500 Spiritual Crystals!"

...

Bai Xuling's voice had just faded when the bidding began relentlessly.

Huang Yanchen's mind clicked. "The Flood Dragon is an inferior fourth level savage beast. Its power is equal to that of a warrior at the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm. If someone could call forth seven Flood Dragons at the same time, they could challenge a warrior at the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. However, the power of the War Map decreases with each use, so regardless of how powerful it is the first time, the second use would see a major decrease in power."

The power of the Painting of a Cloud Dragon was awe inspiring. It would be enough to kill a warrior at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm and threaten the life of a warrior at the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen naturally understood Huang Yanchen's meaning. She wanted to buy the Painting of a Cloud Dragon since they were about to enter the Underwater Dragon Palace.

If she could control a Painting of the Cloud Dragon, it would be much easier to deal with any danger that could arise.

"I'll help you buy it!"

Zhang Ruochen raised the crystal sign in his hands and waved it in the air. The crystal sign displayed his price, "7,600 Spiritual Crystals."

Very quickly someone else called, "7,700 Spiritual Crystals."

"7,900 Spiritual Crystals!"

Zhang Ruochen raised his sign again. "9,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Huang Yanchen sat beside Zhang Ruochen and glanced at him. Although her expression remained nonchalant, she was very happy inside.

Although she could command large amounts of Spiritual Crystals and could have bought the Painting of a Cloud Dragon by herself, she liked watching Zhang Ruochen buy it for her. It was a strange kind of joy.

Yan Yunhuan revealed an expression of disdain. "It is only a mere War Map of an inferior fourth level savage beast. In the Yan's family, we have as many of those as we want."

Yan Yunhuan already owned many War Map treasures. He never even considered auctioning for the Painting of a Cloud Dragon.

In just a few moments, the price of the Painting had risen to more than 10,000 Spiritual Crystals, which were equivalent to ten million silver coins.

Of course, as the price rose higher, fewer and fewer people were in competition for it.

Although the Painting of a Cloud Dragon was very powerful, it was mainly attractive to warriors of the younger generation.

Warriors of the older generation were powerful in and of themselves. They had already surpassed the Heaven Realm and had no need to spend large amounts of wealth on a War Map.

Other older warriors whose cultivation had not yet reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm did not wish to spend that much on a War Map. For them, it was much more practical to purchase panacea that would improve their cultivation.

At the moment, there were only four people still in competition, they were almost all warriors of the younger generation. Aside from Zhang Ruochen, the other three were members of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge.

"15,000 Spiritual Crystals! If the price goes up again, I'm not adding any more!"

Zeng Qingyu from the Tai Qing Palace, held up the crystal sign, which showed his final price.

Zeng Qingyu was ranked eighth of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge and was also considered a Three-realm Fighting Genius. For him, 15,000 Spiritual Crystals was a very high price.

Any higher and it would be beyond his means.

The other two competitors were also showing hesitation. After all, the Painting of a Cloud Dragon was only powerful on its first use. The second use had little value for them.

When Zeng Qingyu called out his price of 15,000 Spiritual Crystals, they had already decided to give up their bids.

Rather than spend a fortune buying the War Map, they could buy some Spiritual Doses and break into the Heaven Realm.

Once they broke into the Heaven Realm and became powerful themselves, they would reach a whole new level.

For members of the Ten Prodigies of the Omen Ridge, once they broke into the Heaven Realm, they would have enough power to at least challenge a warrior at the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen raised his sign again. "16,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Seeing this price, Zeng Qingyu glanced in Zhang Ruochen's direction and seemed to recognize his status. He nodded slightly towards Zhang Ruochen.

Previously, Zeng Qingyu had said that he would not compete for the Painting of a Cloud Dragon if the price increased.

In this kind of situation, Zhang Ruochen could simply have added another 100 Spiritual Crystals and easily claimed the Painting of a Cloud Dragon. However, Zhang Ruochen had added another 1,000 Spiritual Crystals in one go. This gave Zeng Qingyu a lot of face and could be considered an act of respect.

And so, Zeng Qingyu had nodded in a friendly way towards Zhang Ruochen to show his thanks.

Not all at the Auction House were enemies.

"16,000 Spiritual Crystals, going once!"

"16,000 Spiritual Crystals, going twice!"

"16,000 Spiritual Crystals...!"

Just as Bai Xuling was about to call out for the third time, Yan Yunhuan glanced meaningfully at Qiu Lin who was sitting next to him. Qiu Lin smiled and nodded, and immediately raised his crystal sign. "17,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Qiu Lin naturally enraged Huang Yanchen by raising his sign.

Huang Yanchen clenched her fists tightly and suddenly stood up. In a rage, she asked, "Qiu Lin, what are you doing? Zhang Ruochen had already clearly bought the Painting of a Cloud Dragon. What are you trying to do?"

Qiu Lin smiled lightly. "Junior sister apprentice Huang, I think you are mistaken! Clearly, the Painting of a Cloud Dragon's price has not yet been set. Junior fellow apprentice Zhang Ruochen has not yet secured the price, right?"

"You..."

Huang Yanchen gritted her teeth. "You never even raised your sign before. It wasn't until Zhang Ruochen was about to buy the Painting of a Cloud Dragon that you purposely called a price. I think you just want to raise the price!"

"How does that make any sense, junior sister apprentice Huang? Anyone may call a price in an auction. Why is it that only Zhang Ruochen can, but I cannot?" Qiu Lin asked.

Chang Qiqi sneered coldly. "I think junior sister apprentice Huang is right. Someone is angry they lost to junior fellow apprentice Zhang and purposely raising the price."

Qiu Lin said coldly, "Chang Qiqi, don't speak nonsense. Be careful, you don't want to sprain your tongue."

Chang Qiqi did not like Qiu Lin. He swept up his sleeves, about to charge forward and fight Qiu Lin.

Zhang Ruochen pulled Chang Qiqi back. "Elder brother Qiu is right. He can participate in the bidding. Since it is so, then we will compete fairly!"

"No wonder junior fellow apprentice Zhang is Master Lei's disciple. Indeed, some people are better at understanding such affairs than others." Qiu Lin laughed.

Zhang Ruochen raised his sign again and immediately raised the price to 20,000 Spiritual Crystals.

Zhang Ruochen said, "If you raise the price higher, the Painting of a Cloud Dragon is yours!"

Qiu Lin furrowed his brows in thought. 20,000 Spiritual Crystals were practically his entire fortune. It did not seem worth it to spend his entire fortune on a War Map.

His gaze swung to Yan Yunhuan, asking is he should raise the price.

Yan Yunhuan shook his head. They had forced Zhang Ruochen to spend another 4,000 Spiritual Crystals and had achieved their goal. There was no need to actually buy the Painting of a Cloud Dragon.

Qiu Lin understood. "Since junior fellow apprentice Zhang really wants the Painting of a Cloud Dragon, then I shall surrender it to you!"

"20,000 Spiritual Crystals, going once!"

"20,000 Spiritual Crystals, going twice!"

"20,000 Spiritual Crystals, three times! Sold! The Painting of a Cloud Dragon is sold to client number 743. Please come to the back after the auction to collect your item and complete the transaction."

Bai Xuling continued, "Now, for the second treasure. A 300-year-old White Ginseng Fruit."

"The most powerful use of the White Ginseng Fruit is to raise cultivation. If a warrior of the Black Realm takes it, he could rise through two small realms. If a warrior of the Earth Realm takes it, he could rise one small realm."

Chapter 293: The Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder

Bai Xuling stood gracefully on the auction block like a peerless beauty. She fused her voice with Genuine Qi, turning it into a sound wave that spread across the whole Auction House. She said, "The starting price of the White Ginseng Fruit is 1,000 Spiritual Crystals. And each raise is to be no fewer than 100 Spiritual Crystals."

"1,200 Spiritual Crystals!"

"1,500 Spiritual Crystals!"

...

The warriors in the Auction House kept raising their crystal signs and increasing the price.

Although the starting bid for the White Ginseng Fruit was not high, there were lots of people who wanted it. The competition was intense.

As long as it was a treasure that absorbed anima, which could greatly improve one's cultivation, it would be snapped up by warriors.

"It is said that the White Ginseng Fruit can promote warriors of the Earth Realm to a higher realm." Si Xingkong said. "But it only makes sense in theory and may not always work in real life."

Zhang Ruochen nodded in agreement.

It would still be hard for him to break through to the Final State of the Earth Realm even if he took the 500-year-old Ice Snow Lotus.

Not to mention that the White Ginseng Fruit only lived for 300 years.

But he could buy it for Kong Xuan. That was not a bad idea.

Zhang Ruochen raised his sign and called, "2,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"2,100 Spiritual Crystals!"

"2,200 Spiritual Crystals!"

The older generation of warriors bid for it too. The White Ginseng Fruit didn't mean much to them, but they could give it to their juniors.

The White Ginseng Fruit was different from the War Map.

If they bought the War Map for the juniors, the juniors would think that they could defeat anyone, which would lead to them being lazy and depending on the War Map. However, the White Ginseng Fruit could improve a warrior's abilities. And that was an actual benefit.

Spiritual fruits that could promote cultivation were difficult to obtain.

The Commandery Prince of Minshu called, "5,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Seeing this price, many people gave up the idea of bidding for the White Ginseng Fruit. After all, this price far exceeded its value.

In addition to this, it was the Prince Commandery of Minshu who had bid.

Hardly anyone in the Omen Ridge would dare to offend the Commandery Prince of Minshu.

Chang Qiqi discouraged Zhang Ruochen. "Forget it! The Commandery Prince of Minshu is not only powerful as hell, he was also the junior fellow apprentice of the Palace Master Ye Huiyi of the Tai Qing Palace. We can't afford to offend him. We shouldn't displease a big shot for something as small as a White Ginseng Fruit."

Si Xingkong glanced at Zhang Ruochen. "I have a 300-year-old Emerald Moon Fruit. Its efficacy is about the same as the White Ginseng Fruit. You can have it if you want."

Zhang Ruochen's reason for bidding for the White Ginseng Fruit was to help Kong Xuan improve her cultivation. So it was not indispensable. He didn't need to offend the Commandery Prince of Minshu.

"All right! But the Emerald Moon Fruit belongs to you. How could I take your Spiritual Dose for free? I will pay 5,000 Spiritual Crystals for it. What do you think?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

Si Xingkong lifted his wine gourd and took a sip. "It's up to you. But if you want to buy it, I will not be your eldest brother anymore. 5,000 Spiritual Crystals are not enough. I want 50,000 Spiritual Crystals. I won't sell for even one Spiritual Crystal less."

This brought a wry smile to Zhang Ruochen's lips. If he insisted on paying for the Emerald Moon Fruit, he might offend Si Xingkong and sour their relationship.

In this way, Zhang Ruochen accepted the Emerald Moon Fruit Si Xingkong offered without paying a single Spiritual Crystal.

As for the White Ginseng Fruit on the auction block, there was no doubt that the Prince Commandery of Minshu had bought it.

The third item on auction was a mid-class Spiritual Stage broadsword technique. After some fierce competition, it was sold to someone from the Godblood School.

Bai Xuling started to introduce the fourth item. She said, "This is a set of Formation Flags made by a Fifth Class Array Master. It is called the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder and has 32 Formation Flags in all. Once it is used for an array, it can attack as well as defend. When using it to attack, it will be powerful enough to kill warriors in the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. Using it for defense, it can withstand attacks from warriors in the Final State of the Heaven Realm." #

As soon as she finished her words, the crowd burst out into shocked gasps.

"The power of this set of Formation Flags is almost equal to a Defender Array."

"This set of Formation Flags is much more powerful than ordinary Defender Arrays. It's definitely a treasure. I want it no matter how high the price."

"The Helian Clan only lacks a Defender Array. So we must get this set of Formation Flags, the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder."

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Seeing that every warrior in the salesroom was attracted to the Formation Flags, Bai Xuling smiled and said, "This set of Formation Flags starts at the price of 80,000 Spiritual Crystals, and each raise is to be no fewer than 1,000 Spiritual Crystals. Now let's begin."

Hearing the starting price, many of the people who were quarreling lost their words.

The price started at 80,000 Spiritual Crystals, which meant 80 million silver coins.

There were hardly any warriors that could command so many Spiritual Crystals.

Finally, an elder of the Helian Clan decided to bid for it. "80,000 Spiritual Crystals." He said.

The Helian Clan was only a sixth class family with a limited fortune. 80,000 Spiritual Crystals was a fortune to them. The Spiritual Crystals that the elder of the Helian Clan could use was 80,000 at most.

At this moment, Helian Wen only hoped that other forces were not interested in the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder. Otherwise, there was no way he could buy this set of Formation Flags.

However, Helian Wen underestimated the importance other forces attached to the Array. After his bidding, the VIP salesroom displayed a plate with the price of 90,000 Spiritual Crystals.

They had added 10,000 Spiritual Crystals!

People had to admit that as a fourth class Suzerain, Yuntai Suzerain had deep pockets.

Almost immediately the VIP Secret Room for the Commandery Prince of Minshu displayed their price, which was 100,000 Spiritual Crystals.

"105,000 Spiritual Crystals!" The VIP Secret Room for the Godblood School also displayed their price.

These forces attached great importance to this set of Formation Flags. It was not only for its actual value but also for the research value of the Formation Flags.

There were only two Fifth Class Array Masters in the whole of Omen Ridge. And they were from the School of the Martial Market and the Federation of Inscription.

As for other forces, their most powerful Array Master was just a Fourth Class Array Master.

If they could buy the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder and give it to a Fourth Class Array Master in their Suzerains, the masters would surely be enlightened. Maybe they could even make more Arrays of Water Fire Wind and Thunder.

This was the real value of this set of Formation Flags.

In a split second, the price of the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder had surpassed 120,000 Spiritual Crystals, and it was still rising.

Huang Yanchen talked with Zhang Ruochen secretly by sending the sound wave to his ears. She said, "Zhang Ruochen, the Underwater Dragon Palace is very dangerous. We must buy the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder so that we have a higher chance of survival. How many Spiritual Crystals do you have?"

After purchasing the Painting of a Cloud Dragon, Zhang Ruochen had just over 90,000 Spiritual Crystals left.

Zhang Ruochen asked her, "How many Spiritual Crystals do you have?"

Huang Yanchen answered, "The Royal Family members in Qianshui Commandery receive Spiritual Crystals according to their cultivation. The greater one's cultivation is, the more property they could use. Based on my cultivation, I can use about 50,000 Spiritual Crystals now."

"That should be enough!"

Zhang Ruochen held up the crystal plate which displayed "130,000 Spiritual Crystals".

When Zhang Ruochen bid, all the warriors in the Auction House were shocked.

Generally speaking, a treasure like the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder could only be sold to the top forces. That was why the Helian Clan had already given up.

"A young junior dares to bid for the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder. Who is he?"

People turned their eyes to Zhang Ruochen.

Someone recognized him and said, "That's the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery, Zhang Ruochen. It is said that he is a great genius. His aptitude is neck and neck with his elder brother Zhang Tiangui."

"But he is just a prince from an inferior commandery. How could he have the money to buy the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder?"

Someone smiled sarcastically and said, "The fortune of the Royal Family of Yunwu Commandery is equal to that of the Helian Clan. Even the Yunwu Commandery Prince himself could not easily bear the price of 130,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"You guys don't understand! Zhang Ruochen is more than just a prince from Yunwu Commandery. He has another identity."

"What identity?"

"The Prince Consort of Qianshui Commandery. Don't you see that the Commandery Princess Yanchen is sitting beside him? My guess is that he just bid for the Commandery Princess Yanchen, and she is the one that can actually afford it."

"So he is a just a boy toy. Hee hee."

Chen Xier who sat not far away looked puzzled. She was confused that Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen wanted to buy the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder after they had already purchased the Painting of a Cloud Dragon.

What on earth did they want to do?

These two valuable treasures were both top weapons, that could help the owner kill enemies beyond their realm.

For disciples from the School of the Martial Market, most of the time they stayed in the Martial Market, away from dangerous things. When fighting with each other, the disciples had a sense of propriety. Even when they went out to get more experience, there was little chance they would meet dangerous masters in the Heaven Realm.

So why would they spend so many Spiritual Crystals on powerful treasures?

Buying high-class pills to improve martial cultivation was far better than spending a large number of Spiritual Crystals to purchase war weapons. There was no way they were not aware of that.

"There must be something fishy behind this."

Chen Xier raised her eyebrows and took a look at Yan Yunhuan sitting by her. She smiled and said, "With such a fortune at such a young age, Zhang Ruochen deserves to be the disciple of Master Lei. I'm surprised he can use more than 100,000 to buy a set of Formation Flags. If I could get a set of Formation Flags like this, I would not be afraid of those Evil Warriors when I go out to experience."

Yan Yunhuan threw out his chest with a high spirit. He said confidently, "Spiritual Crystals mean nothing to the Yan's Family. If Sister Xier really wants those Formation Flags, I will buy them and give them to you as a gift."

Chen Xier was waiting for these words. She revealed a surprised expression intentionally and asked, "Really? But... it's so expensive!"

"It's all right. I will give you what you want, even if it is a star in the sky, not to mention Formation Flags."

Then Yan Yunhuan held up the crystal plate which showed "150,000 Spiritual Crystals".

Chapter 294: Storage Bracelet

Huang Yanchen glared at Chen Xier, with an aggressive chill gleaming in her royal blue eyes. "Chen Xier, are you doing this on purpose? You're the the School of the Martial Market of the School of the Martial Market's daughter. Nobody in Omen Ridge would dare hurt you. What's the point of buying the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder?"

Chen Xier was delighted to see that Huang Yanchen was angry. She put on a look of pity and said delicately, "Cousin, why are you so angry? I feel like I lack a sense of security, so I want a Formation Flag. I don't have a fiance to protect me like you do."

Yan Yunhuan was sitting to the side. Hearing her words, he quickly thumped his chest and said, "My dear sister, don't worry. I would like to be your escort and protect you for your whole life."

Huang Yanchen gave Yan Yunhuan a pitiful look. "How great you are to be a sucker! Your family will fall into decline soon if someone like you becomes the successor!"

Commandery Princess Yanchen, it is I who have volunteered to buy 'the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder' for Xier. It has nothing to do with her. You should show some respect. I really want this Formation Flag!"

Yan Yunhuan glared at Huang Yanchen, as if to say, "I'm a wealthy man. Leave now. You are interfering with my ability to flirt with girls."

Huang Yanchen gritted her teeth in anger, turned away and paid no heed to Yan Yunhuan and Chen Xier.

"160,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"161,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"162,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Anything over 100,000 Spiritual Crystals was an enormous fortune, enough to cultivate several geniuses. Even the large forces stayed conservative in bidding. This kind of money couldn't be spent extravagantly.

Zhang Ruochen bid again. "170,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"You can really pay 170,000 Spiritual Crystals for your unscrupulous bidding?" Yan Yunhuan gave a cold humph.

It was not a small price for Yan Yunhuan either. 170,000 Spiritual Crystals was a lot.

Although he was the successor of the Yan's family, his spending of the family's money was limited.

Zhang Ruochen said, "Now that I dare to bid, of course I can pay for it."

Yan Yunhuan gave a cold humph and continued to bid, "180,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"190,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Zhang Ruochen bid again without hesitation.

The value of 190,000 Spiritual Crystals was much higher than that of the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder itself. The other large forces ultimately gave up the buying after some careful consideration.

Yan Yunhuan balled up his fists and bid. "200,000 Spiritual Crystals."

The two young juniors' bidding up to the horrific price of 200,000 Spiritual Crystals made all the other warriors want to explode.

"The the Yan's Family is one of the third-class families. They should already have a Formation Flag at the same level as the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder. Why is he paying twice the price to buy a Formation Flag? It's quite unintelligible."

"It's not known who will get it?"

• • •

Zhang Ruochen stayed calm and displayed his crystal plate which was showing "250,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

BAM!

The whole Auction House seemed to be exploding.

The price was too amazing!

It was up to Yan Yunhuan to chaffer.

In fact, the price of 250,000 Spiritual Crystals was already more than he had expected. However, as the successor of the Yan family, how could he be defeated by a prince from an inferior commandery?

Yan Yunhuan held the crystal plate tightly and showed, "280,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Maliciously he said, "Zhang Ruochen, if you continue to raise the price, I'll give up on the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder."

"He is just a poor prince from a remote and backward place. How can he pay 280,000 Spiritual Crystals? Even I, the successor of a third-class family, almost can't afford it."

"Since you're so gentle and humble, I'll buy it!"

Zhang Ruochen held up the crystal plate which showed "281,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen really was offering his price, Yan Yunhuan couldn't be angrier. He sneered, "You think I'm not as wealthy as you are. I just think that a Formation Flag is unworthy of that high price. When the Space Treasures are sold by auction later you will see how rich I am."

It was easy to comprehend.

"I am the local tyrant. I made it easy on you just now. Later you'll see how wealthy I am. I'm afraid that you will be scared to death."

To Zhang Ruochen, such an arrogant declaration was nothing!

He just ignored Yan Yunhuan, smiling faintly.

It must be admitted that Yan Yunhuan was really annoying. If he hadn't been an obstacle, Zhang Ruochen could have saved a large number of Spiritual Crystals.

Yan Yunhuan whispered to Chen Xier, "My dear sister, we don't need this Formation Flag! If you really feel insecure, I'll immediately send message to my family to send a similar Formation Flag."

Chen Xier did not actually care about the Formation Flag at all. She just wanted to challenge Huang Yanchen.

Unexpectedly, Yan Yunhuan had been a coward who was defeated by Zhang Ruochen. It really pissed her off!

At first Chen Xier had admired Yan Yunhuan's Martial Arts talent, but now she was quite disappointed in him.

However, Chen Xier showed an understanding smile rather than disappointment. She said, "It doesn't matter. It's just a Formation Flag. If junior fellow apprentice Zhang likes it that much, of course we will give up on bidding!"

Yan Yunhuan was relieved that Chen Xier didn't get angry. He smiled and said, "My dear Xier, don't worry. Even if its price is higher than any other treasure, I will buy you a Space Treasure later."

Chen Xier smiled and gave a gentle nod.

She was quite eager to get a Space Treasure.

At this moment, the fifth auction item was sent to the auction block by a beautiful maid.

It was a dainty jade bracelet, presented on an exquisite indigo salver.

Everyone could guess what the bracelet was.

One person thought it was an amulet treasure; some guessed it was an ancient object left by a Saint; others took it as a bracelet made of a kind of special Spiritual Crystal.

Bai Xuling was amazed when she looked at the jade bracelet as well. She said, "Now, we are going to sell the first Space Treasure by auction, the 'storage bracelet'."

"What? Is that the Space Treasure?"

"Is the Space Treasure finally being sold?"

All eyes were fixed on the bracelet.

Han Li, Master of Yuntai Suzerain, was sitting in the VIP auction room. He suddenly opened his keen eyes, which were sharp as light.

Ye Huiyi, the Palace Master of Tai Qing Palace, was looking through Taoist scripture.

She closed the book and stared in the direction of the jade bracelet.

"Space Treasures appearing in Omen Ridge, it's so wonderful! I'd like to see how amazing they are."

The Commandery Prince of Minshu gently touched the beard on his chin with a laugh, showing his eagerness and anticipation.

Aside from Zhang Ruochen, no one else had ever seen a Space Treasure before. Space Treasures only existed in legend for them.

How could they not be excited when they saw the real thing?

Bai Xuling began to give an introduction, "The bracelet presented here only has one function— storage."

"Miss Bai, can you show us the magic power of the storage bracelet?" Asked an elder.

"Of course."

Bai Xuling put the jade storage bracelet on her left wrist and activated its inscription by exerting Genuine Qi.

With a gleam of white light, an illusory light gate emerged on the surface of the bracelet.

Bai Xuling seized a two-meter Formation Flag and put it into the bracelet.

Then, she put another 31 Formation Flags into the bracelet.

The whole set of Formation Flags was inside the bracelet.

Bai Xuling smiled. "Now you've all seen it! Even a set of Formation Flags can be taken with you easily if you own a storage bracelet. When you want to use the Formation Flag, you just activate the storage bracelet to set out the array."

With this she waved her hands.

SWISH-

The 32 Formation Flags flew from the storage bracelet, floating in the void space and forming the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder.

People were immediately excited at this sight.

Why had warriors been unwilling to give a high price for the Formation Flag?

One reason was the inconvenience of the Formation Flag. Who wanted to carry dozens of flags with him when he went out?

But with a space bracelet a lot of troubles were saved.

Ye Huiyi of Tai Qing Palace asked, "How large is the internal space of the space bracelet?"

"12 cubic meters."

Bai Xuling smiled. "The internal space of this storage bracelet is large enough to carry a great deal of money, weapons and Pills. If you had such a bracelet, you wouldn't need to carry bags or other things for a trip."

Ye Huiyi shook her head slowly, saying, "It's a pity that this space bracelet can only be used for storage. The internal space is quite small."

Bai Xuling responded, "If there were Space Treasures that could hold mountains, rivers and even sky and earth, Master Lei would certainly not be selling them in the Auction House of Omen Ridge."

"That's right."

Ye Huiyi said, "If I had such a Space Treasure, I wouldn't sell it at all."

The Commandry Prince of Minshu was very interested. He said, "You'd better announce the starting price quickly. Palace Master Ye may not care about a storage bracelet, but I like it very much."

"Who said I don't care?"

Ye Huiyi glared at the Commandery Prince of Minshu.

The Commandery Prince of Minshu and Ye Huiyi were pupils of the same master. Nobody really thought that they would fight. They just liked arguing with each other.

Bai Xuling announced, "The starting price for this storage bracelet is 50,000 Spiritual Crystals. Each bidding should add 1,000 Spiritual Crystals at least."

"60,000 Spiritual Crystals." The Commandery Prince of Minshu bid immediately.

"70,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"71,000 Spiritual Crystals."

...

Huang Yanchen was surprised to see the price of the space bracelet go higher and higher. She didn't think the bracelets and rings which Zhang Rouchen had sent at random would be so expensive.

Chapter 295: A Huge Fortune

"The price of the storage bracelet has already risen to 100,000 Spiritual Crystals in such a short span of time."

Huang Yanchen could not believe it. Zhang Ruochen was going to make a huge sum of money.

It must be noted, as the Commandery Princess of a superior class commandery, she could only command a fortune of 50,000 Spiritual Crystals. For a warrior at the Heaven Realm, this was already a huge fortune.

Zhang Ruochen smiled, "The rarer the item, the higher the price. Why are you so surprised?"

Although Zhang Ruochen spoke casually, he himself was indeed quite shocked at the price of the space bracelet.

The space ring he had initially sold to Liu Chuanshen was only 100,000 silver coins.

One of the reasons was that its internal space was only one square meter. There was little value to a space so small. Another important reason was that there had been no one competing with him for it.

The higher the status of the people competing for the Spatial Ring, the higher the price, naturally.

This was why Lei Jing had personally written letters inviting all these big shots. His purpose was to sell the Spatial Rings and Bracelets at the best price possible.

Every Elder present was an important figure in Omen Ridge. For them, 100,000 Spiritual Crystals was not considered extravagant.

"150,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Sima Mingde, Head of the Godblood School, stood and saluted the other powerful people in the room, "The Godblood School must have this space bracelet. I hope my old friends will let me have this one. I promise that I will not be bidding for the following Space Treasures."

"My dear Sima, do you really think we can just let you have this one? I also think I must own this spatial bracelet. Why don't you let me have this one, and you can compete for the other ones?"

As they spoke, the Commandery Prince of Minshu bid again. "160,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

The Space Treasures could only be discovered and not sought. There were only five in total, and each one that was sold meant there was one less to buy. Who knew how intense the competition would be for the final few pieces?

"I've heard that people from the Black Market have mingled their way into the Auction House. They want to spend a large amount to buy a Space Treasure then resell it for an even higher price on the Black Market."

"Such things happen?"

"It is only what I've heard. But, Space Treasures are very rarely seen and perhaps they will not sell for their true value in Omen Ridge. If they were sold in a superior commandery or in the Eastern Region, they could probably sell for more."

...

The news that the Black Market was going to enter into the bidding gradually spread out. All the Elders became more nervous and each joined in the bidding of the storage bracelet.

Yan Yunhuan also began to bid. On his first bid, he raised the price of the Spatial Bracelet. "200,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"210,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"220,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

...

Yan Yunhuan raised his sign again and called, "300,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Yan Yunhuan had his own plan. The Spatial Bracelet was more valuable than both the War Map and the Formation Flag. The Yan's Family did not lack for either.

However, the Yan's Family did not have any Space Treasures.

He decided he would buy a Spatial Ring to take back for his great-grandfather to celebrate his 150th birthday.

Yan Yunhuan's great-grandfather was a Half-Saint.

If he was able to garner the support of his great-grandfather, then his position as the heir to the Yan's Family would be unquestionable.

As long as his great-grandfather was happy, he could spend Spiritual Crystals as much as he wanted without fear of punishment.

If he could buy all the Space Treasures, that would be best.

300,000 Spiritual Crystals was a considerable amount of wealth. It had already scared many people away.

The only people left in the bidding were Yan Yunhuan, the Master of the Yuntai Suzerain Han Li, the Commandery Prince of Mingshu, and the Palace Master of the Tai Qing Palace Ye Huiyi.

"The Yan's Family is clearly a Half-Saint family. Even a junior from the Yan's Family can command 300,000 Spiritual Crystals. It is impossible to deny their strength."

Ye Huiyi was the first to give up. She decided to watch for now. After all, there were still four more Space Treasures.

Han Li also chose to give up and did not raise the price. He shared Ye Huiyi's line of thought.

The Commandery Prince of Mingshu rather liked the jade bracelet and continued to raise the price. He and Yan Yunhuan engaged in a bitter battle.

Finally, Yan Yunhuan successfully bought the first Space Treasure with 387,000 Spiritual Crystals.

"387,000 Spiritual Crystals, going once."

"387,000 Spiritual Crystals, going twice."

"387,000 Spiritual Crystals, going three times. Sold! The jade storage bracelet is sold to bidder number 793."

Having bought the jade storage bracelet, Yan Yunhuan let out a long breath. Even his eyebrow lifted. When he looked towards Chen Xier, it was with more pride than usual. It was as if to say, "Did you see that, what is Zhang Ruochen compared to me? I have enough wealth to suppress the important figures in Omen Ridge. That is true power!"

Yan Yunhuan was not aware that although he had shown off, he had also just disrespected every major player in Omen Ridge.

Furthermore, the Spatial Bracelet he had spent a fortune to buy was worth nothing in Zhang Ruochen's eyes. Most importantly, the Spiritual Crystals all ended up in Zhang Ruochen's wallet.

Yan Yunhuan rode the high of his victory and glanced towards Zhang Ruochen, "Zhang Ruochen, I thought you were going to buy a Space Treasure for Commandery Princess Yanchen. Why didn't you bid? Are you already out of Spiritual Crystals?"

Zhang Ruochen had already been very nice to him by not purposely raising the price.

Who would have thought that he would purposely pick a fight with Zhang Ruochen? He was forcing Zhang Ruochen to take action against him.

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Aren't there four more Space Treasures? I will do my best to buy the next one. I hope you will not compete with me."

"How can I not? The first Spatial Bracelet was for my great-grandfather. The second Space Treasure will be for sister Xier." Yan Yunhuan tossed his words out casually.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Must we fight until both sides are bloody?"

Yan Yunhuan replied, "Nothing can be done about that. After all, this is an auction. The treasures naturally belong to those with more money. Am I right, Sister Xier?"

Chen Xier revealed a surprised expression and asked, "You'll really buy the next Space Treasure for me? But...it's so expensive."

"It is only a few hundred thousand Spiritual Crystals. It is nothing to the Yan's Family." Yan Yunhuan spoke with great confidence.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head gently. He had never seen such a stupid person. The auction hadn't even begun, and he had already made such promises. How was he going to get himself out of it when the auction for the second Space Treasure started?

Zhang Ruochen did not have to wait long. As the first Space Treasure was sold, the second was brought onto the auction stage.

It was a green jade ring decorated with delicately carved phoenixes. The work was particularly sophisticated and perfect for a woman.

Bai Xuling said, "This is a Space Storage Ring. It works the same way as the previous storage bracelet. However, the internal space of the Spatial Ring is twice as large as the bracelet. It contains a full 24 square meters of space. To be honest, I myself like this storage ring very much. If someone were to buy it and propose to me, I might agree immediately."

Si Xingkong's eyes lit up.

However, his eyes quickly dimmed again. It was impossible. The Space Treasure was too expensive and there was no way he could afford it. The previous storage bracelet had sold for 387,000 Spiritual Crystals. The price of this storage ring would certainly be higher.

"Perfect! If I can buy this Storage Ring and give it to Sister Xier, she will probably be grateful enough to marry me."

Yan Yunhuan was excited; his gaze grew more determined.

The Commandery Prince of Mingshu looked across the VIP auction room at Ye Huiyi and his eyes glimmered with confidence. He thought, "Senior sister apprentice probably likes this Spatial Ring very much. I must buy it and give it to her."

The Commandery Prince of Mingshu and Ye Huiyi had once been disciples of the Tai Qing Palace together and they were very close. They were once almost lovers.

Unfortunately, a misunderstanding had occurred and the two never ended up together.

This old rumor had long been a topic of great interest to the warriors of Omen Ridge. Some said the Commandery Prince had been too much of a playboy in his youth and had many confidents. This had angered Ye Huiyi and so she rejected him.

Some said that Ye Huiyi's Master wanted her to be able to inherit the Tai Qing Palace, so he had purposely broken the two apart.

Rumors ran amok in the world of Martial Arts and no one really knew what had happened. Regardless, there was one thing that was certain: The Commandery Prince of Mingshu continued to love Ye Huiyi and if the Tai Qing Palace ever ran into trouble he would send his army to the rescue at once.

The Commandery Prince of Mingshu would have that Spatial Ring at any cost.

Bai Xuling announced, "The starting price of this Spatial Ring is 100,000 Spiritual Crystals. Each bidding should increase by 1,000 Spiritual Crystals at least."

"110,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"120,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

"150,000 Spiritual Crystals."

...

In just a moment, the price of the Spatial Ring had risen to 300,000 Spiritual Crystals.

Zhang Ruochen called out a bid or two to keep up the pretense, but seeing that the bidding was quite intense he stopped temporarily and did not bid anymore.

Huang Yanchen had long been shocked by the price of the storage items. She secretly communicated to Zhang Ruochen, "You're going to make quite a fortune this time. Shouldn't you share your good fortune?"

"No problem. You can pick any item from the auction tonight, and I will buy it for you." Zhang Ruochen said generously.

"You said it, not me. I'll take full advantage!"

Huang Yanchen tipped up her sharp white chin and her neck stretched into a beautiful curve. Although her face was cold, her eyes glimmered with laughter.

In the time they'd spoken, the price of the Spatial Ring had risen to 600,000 Spiritual Crystals.

The last two people bidding were Yan Yunhuan and the Commandery Prince of Mingshu. Although the Spatial Ring was precious, there was a limit to its value. Any big shot here who had lived for nearly a century, would not lose their minds and bid outside what was rational.

Chapter 296: The Arrogant Yan Yunhuan

Yan Yunhuan raised his crystal card and again placed a higher bid, "630,000 Spiritual Crystals."

It seemed that he was going to bid against the Commandery Prince of Minshu to the end.

The Commandery Prince of Minshu was in an extremely bad mood. The expression in his eyes grew worse as he glared at Yan Yunhuan.

"I've already given the jade storage bracelet to you. How dare you bid against me for the Spatial Ring? You really think that I dare not to offend the Yan's Family?"

An elder with a wrinkly face stood behind the Commandery Prince of Minshu with a cold expression in his eyes. "He's just a junior. How dare he be so arrogant in Omen Ridge. Your Majesty, won't you give him the Spatial Ring and let me teach him a lesson when the auction finishes?"

"Forget it! He's just a junior!"

The Commandery Prince of Minshu once again raised the price. He said, "650,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Yan Yunhuan raised the crystal card and said, "670,000 Spiritual Crystals."

The Commandery Prince of Minshu frowned. He placed his final bid. "700,000 Spiritual Crystals."

The Commandery Prince stood up and glared at Yan Yunhuan. He said, "Childe Yan, this is my final price. If you can offer a higher price, then you can take the Spatial Ring away!"

Hearing this, Yan Yunhuan was greatly relieved. To be honest, 700,000 Spiritual Crystals almost reached the limit he could endure. Fortunately, the Commandery Prince had given up first.

Yan Yunhuan calmly raised the crystal card once again. "701,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Seeing the price on the crystal card in Yan Yunhuan's hand, the Commandery Prince clenched his fist. The anger in eyes was even stronger. He said, "Damn it, this junior is deliberately insulting me. Ji Lao, please crucify him after the auction."

"701,000 Spiritual Crystals. Once!"

"701,000..."

Just when people thought that the Spatial Ring was to be won by Yan Yunhuan, Zhang Ruochen slowly raised his crystal card. "750,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

Bai Xuling's eyes lit up. She immediately shouted, "750,000 Spiritual Crystals. Any higher bids?"

Yan Yunhuan's eyes sank, as he stared at Zhang Ruochen in anger. He had never expected that Zhang Ruochen would interfere just when he'd almost gotten the Spatial Ring.

Yan Yunhuan looked at Chen Xier. She was staring at him with deep expectation in her eyes, which seemed to remind him, "Bid quickly! You told me that you would give it to me. Don't be a coward at such a critical moment!"

Yan Yunhuan clenched his teeth. It was as difficult for him to lift the crystal card, like raising a large mountain. Eventually, he said, "760,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"800,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Zhang Ruochen appeared to be greatly relaxed as he raised the crystal card once again.

Yan Yunhuan was furious. "Zhang Ruochen, you are just a prince from an inferior commandery. Can you really offer 800,000 Spiritual Crystals?"

Zhang Ruochen certainly could not offer 700,000 Spiritual Crystals. However, he was the one who had actually sent the Spatial Ring to auction. Therefore, he did not worry about the price.

Huang Yanchen said "I suppose the heir of the Yan's family can't actually afford a Spatial Ring? If you can't afford it, then you'd better not talk big. Others may despise you."

Chen Xier also showed a bit of disappointment. Reluctantly she said, "Hey! Forget it. Childe Yan, I don't want this Spatial Ring that much. Just give it to Zhang Ruochen! We can't win against him!"

Hearing Chen Xier's words, Yan Yunhuan quickly grew more furious. "Sister Xier, you don't have to worry about it. I will win the Spatial Ring and give it to you. I don't believe that he can be richer than me."

Actually, Yan Yunhuan was a bit worried that Zhang Ruochen was deliberately bidding up the price. However, on second thought, he was concerned that if he didn't increase the price, Zhang Ruochen would purchase the Spatial Ring.

If Zhang Ruochen could not offer the Spiritual Crystals, he would be severely punished by the Martial Market Bank.

It was based on this idea that Yan Yunhuan again bade with Zhang Ruochen. However, he could never suspect that Zhang Rouchen was actually the owner of the Spatial Ring.

"810,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Zhang Ruochen raised the crystal card. "900,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"910,000 Spiritual Crystals."

"1,000,000 Spiritual Crystals." Zhang Ruochen raised the price dramatically once again.

Every time Zhang Ruochen raised the price, Chang Qiqi sitting next to him trembled. He was really worried that Zhang Ruochen was just bluffing. What would he do if could not afford the Spatial Ring after winning it?

Many people in the Auction House were also frightened.

"Zhang Ruochen is bidding too high! Where can he get so many Spiritual Crystals?" Someone asked anxiously.

Many people felt that Zhang Ruochen was being very arrogant, even more arrogant than Yan Yunhuan who was from a Half-Saint's family after all.

The Commandery Prince of Minshu was delighted, so delighted that he almost laughed out. "Great! Yunwu Commandery has a good son. Right, just bid up the price like this and ruin the Yan's Family."

"Your Majesty, what's going on here? I'm a little confused! Even if Zhang Ruochen is the Prince Consort of Qianshui Commandery and he has the support of Commandery Princess Yanchen, there's no way he could afford so many Spiritual Crystals at one time. Is he not afraid that he won't be able to afford it?" Asked the elder standing behind him.

The Commandery Prince of Minshu grinned. He said, "That's because you don't know a secret."

"What secret?"

The Commandery Prince of Minshu laughed. "The owner of the Spatial Ring is the Hall Master of the Silver Gowned Elder's Hall, Lei Jing."

Hearing this, the elder suddenly understood and laughed. He said, "I see. Since Zhang Ruochen is Lei Jing's disciple, he must be his assistant. It is really unlucky for the junior of the Yan's family to be competing with Zhang Ruochen."

Almost all the big shots who had received letters from Lei Jing understood what was going on here. Many people were waiting for a good show, wondering to what degree Zhang Ruochen, the assistant, could bid up the price?

"How come the Yan's family has such an idiot? Can't he see that Zhang Ruochen is an assistant, even an unwise assistant?" Han Li, Master of the Yuntai Suzerain, laughed.

Han Qiu had been staring at Zhang Ruochen. "Why do you say that? I think he is very smart! Otherwise, how could Yan Yunhuan be cheated?"

Han Li shook his head. "Of course he's not smart. People who know that Zhang Ruochen is Lei Jing's disciple are sure to defend him. It is not wise for Lei Jing to ask him to be the assistant. If I were to do it, I would definitely ask someone that people don't know."

Han Qiu said, "So you mean it was Master Lei who did not do a good job."

"Who did you think I was talking about? Zhang Ruochen?"

Han Li shook his head. "Zhang Ruochen is just a junior, nothing to talk about really."

In Han Li's opinion, Zhang Ruochen was just a junior of the Earth Realm. It was difficult to tell what kind of achievements he would make in the future. Such a junior was naturally not qualified to be noticed by him.

Zhang Ruochen once again raised the crystal card. "1,100,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Yan Yunhuan was in a cold sweat. He raised the crystal card again, trembling. "1,150,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Sitting next to Yan Yunhuan, Chen Xier could clearly see the sweat on his forehead and feel his quick aura. It was obviously an auction, why did she feel like they were risking their lives?

On the contrary, Zhang Ruochen had been relaxed and talked with Huang Yanchen cheerfully and humorously from time to time.

Chen Xier knew better than anyone else how many Spiritual Crystals Huang Yanchen could dispatch.

She knew that his confidence was not because of Huang Yanchen's support.

Since it was not Huang Yanchen who was supporting him, who could it be?

Chen Xier felt that she was increasingly unable to understand Zhang Ruochen. She always felt that he was not as simple as he seemed to be on the surface. She seemed to have underestimated him.

Zhang Ruochen decided to use a dose of powerful medicine and raised the price considerably. "1,500,000 Spiritual Crystals!"

" 1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals."

Yan Yunhuan bid again.

However, he trembled. Just as he raised his bid, he suddenly understood.

Why had Zhang Ruochen suddenly increased the price to 1,500,000 Spiritual Crystals?

1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals exceeded the number that he could control.

He was nervous to his limit. He kept staring at Zhang Ruochen, hoping he would once again bid up the price.

But to his disappointment, Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment, looked at Huang Yanchen, and softly shook his head. Quietly he said, "That's it!"

According to Zhang Ruochen's estimation, Yan Yunhuan should have reached his limit.

Even if he continued to provoke Yan Yunhuan, he would probably ignore his face and give up the Spatial Ring.

Zhang Ruochen was still hoping to make money from auctioning the Spatial Ring, so it was naturally impossible for him to buy it. Yan Yunhuan was just the man to pay the bill.

Huang Yanchen understood what Zhang Ruochen was thinking. She said, "Since Childe Yan is so dedicated to that Spatial Ring, let's give it to him!"

Yan Yunhuan immediately said, "No, no, I don't want to buy the Spatial Ring anymore. I think it's better to give it to you. You can bid again and this time, I will certainly not increase the price."

Huang Yanchen stared at Yan Yunhuan like he was an idiot. She said, "Why should we bid up the price when you have already won the Spatial Ring? What's more, there are still three Space Treasures, which may be better. Why do we need to compete for this one?"

"1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals. Once."

"1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals. Twice."

"1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals three times. Sold! Congratulations to the 793rd guest for winning the Spatial Ring. Now, let's welcome today's next item."

Although Yan Yunhuan had won the Spatial Ring, his face was rather ugly, and he was in tears. He was thinking about how he was going to explain this to his family.

"Maybe it's not a loss to bid 1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals for the Spatial Ring... After all, it is a Space Treasure... The leader may not punish me..."

Yan Yunhuan's face was pale as he tried to reassure himself.

Chen Xier immediately brought him back to reality. She said delightly, "Childe Yan, you are generous! No wonder you are the heir of the Yan's family. I really appreciate you winning me the Spatial Ring. You are so generous!"

"What?" Yan Yunhuan exclaimed.

Chen Xier squinted her beautiful eyes and said, "Childe Yan, you did say that you would give me the Spatial Ring, didn't you?"

"Yes! I heard it too. Childe Yan is truly the model of our generation. In order to pursue junior sister apprentice Chen, you bid 1,510,000 Spiritual Crystals for that Spatial Ring! I really admire you." Said Chang Qiqi.

Yan Yunhuan squeezed out an ugly smile.

Chapter 297: Ending of the Auction

A number of rare and valuable treasures, priceless to ordinary warriors, were exhibited next.

Among them, a volume of the Half-saint's Blood Book was sold for 700,000 Spiritual Crystals.

Zhang Ruochen bought three War Maps and a set of ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms armor, the Flying Fish Armor.

The Flying Fish Armor could bear an all-out attack from a fifth-level inferior savage beast, but it could only defuse 70% of the attack.

With his current cultivation, if a fifth-level inferior savage beast attacked him, even if wearing the Flying Fish Armor, his body would be shattered to pieces.

Actually, what Zhang Ruochen liked most about the armor was its speed advantage.

Wearing the Flying Fish Armor, a warrior could reach the speed of sound velocity whether they were on the ground, in the air or in water.

It wasn't that amazing on the ground or in the air because most warriors who had reached the Mid Stage of Heaven Realm could do this easily.

But it was astonishing if you could reach this speed in water.

Water's resistance often caused a warrior's speed to decrease by half. It could even be just a third or a quarter of his speed on the ground.

As long as Zhang Ruochen was wearing the Flying Fish Armor, he could ignore the water resistance and exert movements more quickly than most warriors of the Heaven Realm.

Zhang Ruochen only spent 90,000 Spiritual Crystal on the Flying Fish Armor.

Other warriors had seen how he played Yan Yunhuan's arrogancy and treated him as a trustee of the Martial Market Bank. Hence, when Zhang Ruochen competed for the Flying Fish Armor, they raised the price carefully, offering him a bargain.

The three War Maps were called Cloud Painting, Flame Snake Painting, and Bee Painting.

The Flame Snake Painting and the Bee Painting were aggressive, and the Cloud Painting was defensive.

Zhang Ruochen spent just 100,000 Spiritual Crystal on three wonderful War Maps.

Huang Yanchen also bought two items, a six-hundred colored Ganoderma (mushroom) and a pair of eighth-level Genuine Martial Arms boots, which cost 30,000 and 28,000 Spiritual Crystals respectively.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen paid the 58,000 Spiritual Crystals because he had said he would.

"Thanks to this mushroom, I'm sure I will be able to reach the Completion of the Earth Realm before we go to the Underwater Dragon Palace."

Huang Yanchen was confident. Her eyes shone, and she clasped her hands in front.

AThe colorful Ganoderma, worth 30,000,000 silver coins was a rare treasure. Naturally, it would help her to break through two levels easily.

The eighth-level boots were called "Silver Snow Glass Boots" and they were another rare treasure. When wearing the boots, a warrior could use their Genuine Qi to launch and activate the inscription. Once they did this, their speed could reach the speed of sound.

Moreover, even an ordinary person could wear the Silver Snow Glass Boots and be able to walk in the snow without leaving any tracks or cross a river and not drown. For warriors of the Heaven Realm, they were quite an amazing treasure.

Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen indulged in buying treasures and never worried about the price. Chang Qiqi was a bit jealous.

He also wanted to buy something, however, he couldn't afford even the cheapest treasure. His total assets were just 3,000 Spiritual Crystals.

"Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, it looks like you have made a fortune!"

Chang Qiqi licked his lips. He lifted head and looked at Zhang Ruochen with an eager expression.

Most people didn't know, but they had a special relationship.

Zhang Ruochen understood. He smiled. "Indeed, I made a fortune. Junior fellow apprentice Chang, elder brother, if you would like a treasure, just buy it. My treat!"

Chang Qiqi was excited. He rubbed his hands and said, "I'm so shy, I don't know if I can do it. But, since you are so generous, I can't refuse... I'll buy something!"

Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong made themselves at home and each bought one treasure.

Chang Qiqi bought a fourth-level baby savage beast. It cost 48,000 Spiritual Crystals.

It looked like a rabbit with two lumps on its head, which were likely budding horns.

It was fat, twice as big as Blackie.

According to Bai Xuling's introduction, the rabbit-like savage beast was a mutant of the Elephant-swallowing Rabbit. When it grew up, it would become as powerful as warriors of the Heaven Realm.

What's more, since it was a mutant, it might be more powerful in its adult life than a regular Elephant-swallowing Rabbit. It had a one in ten chance of growing into a fifth-level savage beast.

Of course, this rabbit also had a drawback, it ate a lot.

It was young now, and it already ate a first-level savage beast every day.

If you wanted it to grow, you had to spend a lot of money buying food for it.

For this reason, many Suzerain and families were not willing to buy them; they were afraid to do business at a loss.

Chang Qiqi was fond of the rabbit and had paid a lot for it.

Si Xingkong purchased a pot of wine. It was said that the wine was brewed by "Feng Suisheng", Mundus' third disciple who had ranked first among the Nine Emperors eight hundred years ago. It had been brewed almost eight hundred years ago and could be called an immortal brew.

One pot cost 13,000 Spiritual Crystals; it was incredibly expensive.

"Feng Zuisheng was called the 'brewmaster'," said Zhang Ruochen. "His Martial Arts achievement was inferior to Mundus' other disciples, but his winemaking ranked first."

"That's right! I would give my life to drink wine brewed by Feng Zuisheng! Junior fellow apprentice, you know about Feng Zuisheng, does that mean you also like drinking?" Si Xingkong asked Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen answered, "How elegant Mundus was! He was a big shot, and everyone knew him. Even his six disciples were first-class warriors. It's common to know about Feng Zuisheng. The only thing that makes me curious is that six hundred years ago, when Mundus fought with Empress Chi Yao in Tonglu Plain, how was he defeated? How did invincible Mundus die in the hands of a young generation?"

Zhang Ruochen had looked through many historical documents and studied some big events.

However, those documents could not represent the true history, after all, they had been written by the historical officers of the First Central Empire who were completely controlled by Chi Yao.

Moreover, more history had disappeared because there were no documents at all.

It was only mentioned in one sentence, "Princess Chi Yao led the army and fought with Mundus at Tonglu Plain. Mundus fought with the princess Chi Yao day and night, and several thousand kilometers of land turned to ruin. After nine days, there was no night at all. After nine days, Mundus died with blood scattered around the world. He became immortal with only a skeleton left."

A few internal students sitting nearby heard him mention Empress Chi Yao. They were terrified with eyes darting, lips trembling, and their eyes were filled with fear. They were even afraid to speak.

They looked like mortals who could not discuss gods.

In their eyes, Chi Yao was more sacred and dignified than the gods. She was magical and omnipotent. They couldn't even talk about her in private, they were afraid of being heard by her.

Chang Qiqi whispered, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, you'd better stop questioning anything to do with Empress Chi Yao. It's banned here."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and didn't say anything more.

The auction was approaching its end.

The other three space treasures had been presented on the auction stage one by one.

The first one, a space bracelet, was bought by the Commandery Prince of Minshu for 540,000 Spiritual Crystals.

The second space bracelet was purchased by a mysterious man for 730,000 Spiritual Crystals.

The third was a space ring. Han Li, Master of Yuntai Suzerain bought it for 610,000 Spiritual Crystals.

The auction didn't end until after midnight.

Zhang Ruochen and his friends had gained a lot. They went to the back of the auction stage expectantly to get their treasures.

Only Yan Yunhuan was extremely depressed. He had planned to show off during the auction, but his plan backfired on him. He had spent nearly two million Spiritual Crystals on just two space treasures.

What was worse, he had to give the more precious space ring to Chen Xier.

In front of Chen Xier, he had to pretend to be joyful, yet he was wondering how he could get enough Spiritual Crystals?

Even though he was the heir to the Yan family, it was impossible for him to spend two million Spiritual Crystals in one shot.

Yan Yunhuan took out a piece of white jade and squeezed it tightly in his hand. His eyes revealed a very sad look.

"Is this the only way?"

The piece of jade was his amulet treasure. It could not only exert defensive force five times, it could also help him to burst out and reach a high speed, like warriors at the Completion of Heaven Realm could, instantly.

As long as he wasn't attacked by the warriors at the Fish-dragon Realm, no one could hurt him.

It was because of this piece of jade that he was fearless at all times and looked down upon the warriors from Omen Ridge.

Now, he had to take it off and give it as mortgage to the Martial Market Bank temporarily.

If you could not afford to pay the Spiritual Crystals, you were deliberately provoking the Martial Market Bank. Afterwards, the Martial Market Bank would penalize you severely. Even if the Yan family was a Half-Saint family, it did not dare to play chicken with Martial Market Bank.

Zhang Ruochen received the four War Maps, the Formation Flag of the Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder, and a Flying Fish Armor which was a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arms.

Five space treasures had been sold for a total of 3,767,000 Spiritual Crystals, minus 37,000 to pay for the auction fee. In total Zhang Ruochen had gained 3,730,000 Spiritual Crystals.

After paying 612,000 Spiritual Crystals for all the things they bought in the auction, he had 3,118,000 Spiritual Crystals left.

Aside from Huang Yanchen, no one knew that Zhang Ruochen had so much wealth.

Chang Qiqi hugged the baby Elephant-swallowing Rabbit, his fingers touching its hairy head. His heavy heart finally came down to earth. He said excitedly, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, you are so rich! Tonight, you spent over 600,000 Spiritual Crystals. Even predecessors of the Heaven Realm were shocked by you! They struggled all their life, but still cannot save that much money. What do you do to make Spiritual Crystals? Can you let me in? I'll run errands for you!"

The others knew that Chang Qiqi was joking and thought that Zhang Ruochen would just ignore it.

But no one expected him to suddenly become serious. "Like you said, there is a way to earn money. I am ready to discuss it with you and my elder brother. If my plan works, we could gain millions of Spiritual Crystals."

Chapter 298: Tricked

Millions of Spiritual Crystals was a small matter?

If Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong had not just seen Zhang Ruochen throw down thousands of Spiritual Crystals – as if it was nothing – with their own eyes, they would have thought he had gone crazy!

It was not an easy matter for a commandery with tens of millions of people to gather hundreds of millions of Spiritual Crystals, much less for a single person to do so.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen appeared to be very serious, Chang Qiqi's heart skipped a beat. Perhaps there really was a way to make lots of money. He asked excitedly, "Re...really?

"Of course it's true, but..."

Zhang Ruochen spoke evenly, "I have to warn you beforehand, this matter is very dangerous and could cost you your life."

Chang Qiqi's excitement cooled but, very quickly, his gaze became determined. "The way of the Martial Arts is like walking on the sharp edge of a knife, how can it not be dangerous? I am not an heir to one of the Half-Saint families and I don't have enough resources. How will I become a strong warrior if I don't work hard? I can earn merit to exchange for resources by completing missions, but it wastes a lot of Practice time. If I could somehow get a million Spiritual Crystals I would be able to buy enough Practice resources to actually focus on Practicing."

Chang Qiqi's aspirations were not that high. As long as he made it to the Completion of the Heaven Realm it would be a sufficient achievement. It would be enough for him to establish a strong clan.

Given his current progress, he could work his whole life and never earn a million Spiritual Crystals. Similarly, his chances of reaching the Completion of the Heaven Realm were also very slim.

There was an opportunity hanging in front of him right now. If he didn't grasp it now there might not be another one.

"I'll do it!" he said with determination.

Zhang Ruochen's gaze swung towards Si Xingkong. "How about you, elder brother?"

Si Xingkong looked at Zhang Ruochen and smiled. "They say that treasures are found in the midst of danger. How can I become a strong warrior if I don't take risks? I'm in too!"

Chang Qiqi asked urgently, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, please tell us! What is it that we are doing?"

Zhang Ruochen gazed into the darkness and seemed to sense something. He became cautious. "This is not a good place to talk. Let's go to my Practice mansion and take our time discussing it."

The five young warriors walked out from behind the three-meter tall giant statue, creating a slender and graceful silhouette.

Hidden in the shadows, Chen Xier's face appeared unusually pale, as if it was covered in wax. Her eyes glimmered with excitement. "It seems that Zhang Ruochen and my cousin are indeed hiding a huge secret. What on earth are they planning to do? How could it be easy to earn a million Spiritual Crystals?"

Chen Xier's hand tapped on her chin. Her glossy red lips turned up at its corners, giving off a trace of a smile.

It could be said that there were as many happy people as there were sad after this auction.

Tonight would be a sleepless night for Yan Yunhuan.

Having put his jade amulet as collateral, he had finally been able to take the Storage Ring and Storage Bracelet with him.

But, he had barely warmed it up before giving the Storage Ring to Chen Xier leaving him with a Storage Bracelet that had an internal storage space of a mere 12 cubic meters.

He sat and contemplated all night; his eyes were dull and bloodshot. He shouldn't have come to Omen Ridge.

Early the next morning, he decided to pack and leave this cursed place.

Although he had lost a great deal, at least he had been able to suppress Zhang Ruochen in terms of attitude and had won a definite victory there. That should have left sister Xier with a positive impression.

Everything must be considered in a positive light!

Having thought things through, Yan Yunhuan felt his spirit rise a little. He got ready to say good-bye to Chen Xier.

The sun had just risen, and its beams fell like threads of gold on Devil Martial City.

An Elder from the Yan family who had come with Yan Yunhuan to Omen Ridge appeared and gave him a message.

After hearing the message, Yan Yunhuan suddenly stood up. A wave of shock strong enough to crush mountains and stop oceans radiated from him. In a serious voice, he asked, "What?! Is this true?"

The Elder from the Yan family spoke, "The news was all over Devil Martial City this morning. The owner of the five Space Treasures was indeed Master Lei of the Silver Gowned Elder Hall, and Zhang Ruochen is indeed Lei Jing's disciple. Do you understand what happened now?"

Yan Yunhuan felt like he had been struck by lightning; his entire head was a blank. Only one word floated in his mind: Sucker!

Yan Yunhuan grabbed the Elder by the shoulders desperately. His face was twisted, and he asked ferociously, "The auction just happened last night, how could the news have come out so fast? It must be someone making up rumors, right? Right?!"

The Elder sighed. "Actually, Lei Jing sent letters to many of the powerful Chiefs before the auction inviting them to attend. So many people already knew that the owner of the Space Treasures was Lei Jing. They also knew that Zhang Ruchen was Lei Jing's 'seed'."

"Boom!"

Yan Yunhuan felt like he had been struck by lightning again, his entire body was numb. He released his grip on the Elder's shoulders and muttered to himself, "So last night, everyone knew that Zhang Ruochen was a seed and I was the only one who was in the dark. And like an idiot, I competed against Zhang Ruochen, thinking I had triumphed over him... haha... Zhang Ruochen... Zhang Ruochen, I'm going to kill you!"

Yan Yunhuan snatched up the sword on the table and rushed into the street yelling Zhang Ruochen's name. He ran in the direction of the Martial Market School.

The warriors of the Devil Martial City saw this and immediately thought of the amusing situation that had happened last night at the auction.

"Looks like he figured out that he was tricked and wants to get revenge on Zhang Ruochen."

"What an idiot. I'm really worried about the future of the Yan family."

"You can't say that. After all, Yan Yunhuan is ranked 375th on the Earth Board. He's a strong warrior. Zhang Ruochen can't compare to that. Seems like there will be another show to watch!"

"Not necessarily. Zhang Ruochen clearly must know he is no match for Yan Yunhuan. Maybe he's already hiding."

"Hopefully so. Otherwise, given Yan Yunhuan's currently mood, he might kill him in one strike."

. . .

As Yan Yunhuan ran up the street with his sword, Chen Xier arrived at Huang Yanchen's Practice mansion.

Huang Yanchen was not pleased to see Chen Xier. With a cold sneer she asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Cousin, we grew up together. Can I not come and visit you?"

Chen Xier stepped over the threshold of the Practice mansion with a long slim leg. Pushing out her bountiful chest, she stroked the Space Storage Ring on her finger, purposely showing it off in front of Huang Yanchen.

Huang Yanchen's attitude became cold. She gently stroked the purple Space Pendant hanging from her neck. She thought, "This is a true Space Treasure, yours is but second-grade trash."

Zhang Ruochen had given her the purple Space Pendant last night. The Storage Space reached 2,800 cubic meters and it also recognized its owner and could protect them.

Of course, Huang Yanchen could not tell Chen Xier. She let her continue to show off her second-grade item.

Huang Yanchen declared, "Chen Xier, if you're only here to show off your Storage Ring, I suggest you leave now!"

Chen Xier's eyes leaped and she immediately got to the point. "Cousin, you and Zhang Ruochen are going to explore the ancient cave from Medieval Ancient Times, right?"

Huang Yanchen's eyes tightened. "What ancient cave?"

Chen Xier smiled. "The ancient cave where Zhang Ruochen found the five Space Treasures. Were you planning to hide that from me?"

Huang Yanchen sneered coldly. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Chen Xier said, "If you don't understand, here, let me analyze the situation for you. Zhang Ruochen discovered an ancient cave from the Medieval Ancient Period and found five Space Treasures. However, he did not dare to auction them himself, so he went to ask Master Lei for help. To deceive the eyes and ears of others, Master Lei came forward and said he discovered the Space Treasures so that the attention would not be on Zhang Ruochen."

Huang Yanchen's heart skipped and she involuntarily clenched her fist, "This is only your theory!"

Chen Xier laughed and stared intently into Huang Yanchen's eyes. "Even if it is a guess, it's not without basis. Last night, Zhang Ruochen spent a total of 610,000 Spiritual Crystals at the auction. If the five Space Treasures didn't belong to him, how could he have such a fortune?"

"When Zhang Ruochen and Yan Yunhuan were competing, he didn't even break a sweat. If the five Space Treasures were not his, how could he bid a price like 1,500,000 Spiritual Crystals?"

"Your reasoning is based on this?" Huang Yanchen asked.

"Of course, it is not just this."

Chen Xier smiled. "Last night, the objects Zhang Ruochen bought were all for either battle or self-defense. This means that he plans to go on an expedition sometime soon, and the returns on the expedition are expected to be high. Otherwise, it would not be worth it for him to spend that many Spiritual Crystals. Following this line of thought, it was not difficult to guess the truth."

It could not be denied, Chen Xier was rather incredible. She had managed to guess most of the truth from just one auction.

In terms of cunning, Huang Yanchen could not compare at all.

Chen Xier watched Huang Yanchen's cold gaze and suddenly smiled brilliantly. "You aren't going to kill me to keep me quiet, right?"

"Chen Xier, what are you actually here for?" Huang Yanchen asked coldly.

Chen Xier replied, "I am just here to warn you that if I can guess the truth so can others. Although Zhang Ruochen was very careful, there were still slip-ups. If I were his fiancee, I would definitely have stopped him from making those mistakes."

"SWISH!"

Her sword flew out from its scabbard.

Huang Yanchen swung her arm and pointed the sword straight at Chen Xier's neck.

Chen Xier appeared very calm, showing no indication of fear. She smiled coquettishly. "Cousin, although we fought all the time growing up, surely it hasn't come to this? Besides, you should know that I don't have any ill intent. I just want to be in on exploring the ancient caves and sharing in the spoils."

"Clip-Clop!"

The sound of urgent footsteps rang out.

A maid ran in from the outside. "Princess Commandery, things are not good. Master Yan just ran into Zhang Ruochen's Practice mansion with a sword."

"What?!"

Huang Yanchen and Chen Xier spoke almost simultaneously.

Yan Yunhuan was ranked 375th on the Earth Board; his martial cultivation was unfathomable. How could Zhang Ruochen be a match for him?

What if Yan Yunhuan killed Zhang Ruochen in a fit of anger?

Chen Xier had just made a deal with Huang Yanchen. If Zhang Ruochen died, didn't that mean no one would know the location of the ancient cave?

"Quick, go stop him."

Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen moved almost at the same time. They dissolved into two beautiful shadows and rushed out the door towards Zhang Ruochen's Practice mansion.

Chapter 299: Defeat in One Battle

"Zhang Ruochen, get out here! Get out here!"

Yan Yunhuan kicked down the copper door. It cracked into several giant pieces, flew out and landed within the mansion.

He took two quick steps forward and rushed crazily into Zhang Ruochen's Practice mansion. With one swing of his sword, a streak of Sword Breath flew out and sliced a two-story pavilion in two.

"Boom!"

The wooden pavilion collapsed into a pile of rubble.

The giant crash alerted the students of the Internal Academy.

A number of internal students gathered outside of Zhang Ruochen's Practice mansion, but no one dared to go in to stop Yan Yunhuan. After all, his cultivation proceeded him. Who could block a strike from his sword?

There were even a few students who just wanted to watch the show. They were hoping that Yan Yunhuan would kill Zhang Ruochen with one strike.

"Zhang Ruochen offended Master Yan. Much like plucking the hair from a tiger's arse, it was a road that could only lead to death." Qiu Ling watched the mansion from afar with gloating eyes.

Qiu Lin had been waiting for this day since Yan Yunhuan arrived in Omen Ridge.

Qiu Lin had once fought with Yan Yunhuan before. He knew how powerful he was.

Given Zhang Ruochen's strength, he was far from an even match.

"Boom!"

Yan Yunhuan struck out with a fist, releasing a strong wave of Genuine Qi. His strike broke a rock, dozens of meters high, into rubble. It sank into the lake.

"Where is Zhang Ruochen? Where is he hiding?"

Yan Yunhuan's hair was in disarray and his eyes were red. He stormed through the mansion as if he was going to tear the whole place apart.

"Master Yan, this is where my master secludes himself for refining. You should leave quickly. If you don't, I will report this to Master Lei."

Kong Xuan could feel his strength. It felt like a giant ocean whereas she was just a mere leaf floating within it.

A wave of his hand could kill her.

But she felt no fear. She approached him in the hope of stopping his entry.

"A mere serving girl dares to block my path. You're looking for death."

"AARGHHH!"

Yan Yunhuan let out a roar. A sound wave flew from his mouth.

Less than half a meter away, Kong Xuan suddenly began bleeding from all seven orifices and flew backward. Her slender body smashed into the wall, leaving a streak of blood.

"Ahh..."

She placed her hands on the ground and tried to climb up with great difficulty.

Yan Yunhuan walked over and placed a foot on Kong Xuan's back. He rested his sword on her neck. The sharp edge of the sword left a deep cut on her throat.

"I'll ask one more time. Where is that turtle, Zhang Ruochen, hiding?" Yan Yunhuan roared.

The door of the Secret Practice Room flew open.

"SWISH!"

A human shadow flew out.

The shadows converged and formed into Zhang Ruochen's body.

Zhang Ruochen rested his hands behind his back and stared at Yan Yunhuan. He spoke in a cold voice, "Yan Yunhuan, this is my Practice mansion. It is no place for your wild behavior."

Yan Yunhuan saw Zhang Ruochen and suddenly began to laugh like a madman. He removed the sword from Kong Xuan's neck, "Zhang Ruochen, you coward. You actually dare to come out! You tricked me out of 2,000,000 Spiritual Crystals. Did you think that the Yan family would sit back and do nothing? Do you think we are so easily bullied? Today, I will teach you who is truly the more powerful one."

Yan Yunhuan rushed over. Breaking out a speed of 260 meters per second, he was in front of Zhang Ruochen in a flash.

Circulating his Genuine Qi, he struck his sword toward Zhang Ruochen's heart.

Yan Yunhuan's strike, which appeared to be almost as fast as the speed of light, was very slow from Zhang Ruochen's perspective.

Zhang Ruochen stood his ground and did not move. He merely leaned slightly to one side to avoid the sword. At the same time, he quickly struck out with his palm and landed it on Yan Yunhuan's chest.

With a "Bang", Yan Yunhuan took a heavy hit and flew backward.

Yan Yunhuan could only feel an intense pain in his chest. It felt as if his five internal organs had been shattered.

It was this strike that cleared his mind and stopped him from underestimating Zhang Ruochen.

"I am 375th on the Earth Board, how could I be forced back by a no-name junior? Unacceptable."

He realized he had been too careless in his thinking. Zhang Ruochen was actually very powerful.

Zhang Ruochen stopped in front of Kong Xuan and helped her get up. He gave her a healing Pill and dismissed her to heal herself.

Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen also arrived at this moment. They burst into the Practice mansion.

Chen Xier saw that Kong Xuan was hurt. She assumed Yan Yunhuan was about to go on a killing spree, so she scolded loudly, "Yan Yunhuan, stop. This is the School of the Martial Market, don't do anything rash."

Huang Yanchen pulled out her sword and pointed it toward Yan Yunhuan. In a cold voice she said, "Yan Yunhuan, if you dare to hurt even a single hair on Zhang Ruochen's head, I will make sure you die painfully."

Yan Yunhuan was almost angry enough to spit blood. Clearly, he had just been hit and taken internal damage, yet they were still helping him.

It was reasonable that Huang Yanchen would be on Zhang Ruochen's side. After all, she was his fiancee.

But, why was Chen Xier also helping him?

"Is it possible that Chen Xier, Huang Yanchen, and that idiot Zhang Ruochen all worked together last night to trick me at the auction?"

The more Yan Yunhuan thought about it the angrier he became. He became more and more convinced that Chen Xier had something going on with Zhang Ruochen. Completely ignoring the two girls, he once again attacked Zhang Ruochen.

"Zhang Ruochen, you stole what belonged to me, so you must die."

Yan Yunhuan gnashed his teeth. Fiery anger burned in his heart. He would kill Zhang Ruochen the bastard, even if he had to offend the School of the Martial Market.

"Sword Flurry!"

Yan Yunhuan executed a Superior Class Spiritual Stage sword technique. His Genuine Qi surged out, fusing with the Spiritual Qi in the air to suddenly create a vision of heaven and earth.

Flurries of snow began to fall over the entire Practice Mansion.

Several Meters of Snow.

Streaks of Sword Breath surged out from the sword, forming a giant vortex. The vortex emitted a giant wail as if it was about to swallow Zhang Ruochen whole.

Even Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen, who were standing far away, could feel the effects of the powerful Sword Breath.

"Crack!"

The Sword Breath left small cuts on their bodies.

They had no choice but to retreat from the Practice mansion.

They were not strong enough to stop Yan Yunhuan.

"That's the Yan family's Superior Class Spiritual Stage martial technique, Sword Flurry Sword Technique. I didn't know Master Yan had already practiced it to the Success level, that's incredible. No wonder he

has such a high ranking on the Earth Board. I bet even a warrior of the Heaven Realm couldn't block one of his strikes!" Qiu Lin sighed in admiration.

Qiu Lin ranked top five in the Internal Academy of the Martial Market School, but in front of Yan Yunhuan, he felt quite insignificant.

"Oh no! This brute used the Sword Flurry Sword Technique. Does Zhang Ruochen even have a chance?" Chen Xier clenched her fists tightly; her eyes shone with worry.

She had invited Yan Yunhuan to suppress Huang Yanchen and Zhang Ruochen. But she didn't want to actually kill Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen was also very worried. Each time she wanted to rush into the Practice mansion Chen Xier stopped her.

Chen Xier said, "Calm down. Zhang Ruochen is not weak. Even if he isn't a match for Yan Yunhuan, there's an opportunity for him to escape. If you go in, you'll die for sure."

"I can't stand it!"

Huang Yanchen was extremely worried, her face was very serious. If Yan Yunhuan actually killed Zhang Ruochen, she would make the whole Yan family suffer cruel consequences.

After a moment, the strange snow disappeared.

A mournful and desperate cry could be heard from within the mansion.

"Yan Yunhuan, don't think you're anything special just because you're the heir to the Yan family. I won't rest today until one of us is dead..."

Huang Yanchen thought that Zhang Ruochen had already been defeated. She ran through the door with her sword in her hand.

But, just as she rushed in she jolted to a halt.

Zhang Ruochen remained standing where he was, with not even a hair out of place. However, Yan Yunhuan was lying on the ground spitting up mouthfuls of blood. His clothes were all ripped and there was a giant bloody handprint on his chest.

Yan Yunhuan struggled to get up for a while but was unable to rise from the ground. A look of terror remained on his face.

Could he not stand up to even one of Zhang Ruochen's strikes?

How could this be?

He could not be reconciled.

Chen Xier ran in next. Seeing the scene before her, she couldn't process what had happened. The only question in her mind was, "How did this happen?"

Yan Yunhuan had actually... lost to Zhang Ruochen, and he had lost very badly.

He was one of the top 500 masters on the Earth Board, a prodigy of the younger generation. How could someone like Zhang Rouchen match him?

Zhang Ruochen glanced coldly at Chen Xier. "Senior sister apprentice Chen, you saw with your own eyes that Yan Yunhuan trespassed into my Practice mansion, causing a disturbance and injuring my serving girl. I was going to kill him with one strike, but I spared him for your sake. Take him away. I hope this will not happen again."

Chen Xier was slightly numb. She found that it was even more difficult to understand Zhang Ruochen.

A prince from an inferior commandery had defeated the heir of the Yan family. It was unthinkable and unfathomable.

Suddenly the Elder from the Yan family rushed in from outside.

"Young master! Young master! What happened?"

The Elder held the heavily injured Yan Yunhuan and fed him a Healing Pill.

The Elder could not let out a breath until Yan Yunhuan's color returned to his pale face.

"Zhang Ruochen, you dared to harm the heir of the Yan family. Are you aware that if the Yan family were to give the order, you and your Yunwu Commandery would disappear overnight?" The Elder spoke with great anger.

The Internal Students once again showed their gloating upon hearing the Elder's words.

The Yan family was a third-class family with a Half-Saint as their head. No matter how powerful Zhang Ruochen was, if he offended the Yan family, things would not go well for him.

Huang Yanchen sneered coldly. "The Yan family certainly knows how to boast. Can they kill whoever they want? Are you aware that Zhang Ruochen is my fiancee, the Prince Consort of Qianshui Commandery? Besides, it is clear that Yan Yunhuan trespassed into Zhang Ruochen's Practice mansion and caused a disturbance first. It is only because he was not accomplished that he lost to Zhang Ruochen. Zhang Ruochen has already given the Yan family plenty of face by not killing him. What more do you want?"

Chapter 300: Three Months Time Due

"Great, that's great!"

The Elder stared at Zhang Ruochen severely. "You'll have to pay for what happened today. Wait and see!"

He left the School of the Martial Market with Yan Yunhuan.

The Elder's threats didn't scare Zhang Ruochen. Since he was a genius disciple of the School, no matter how powerful the Yan Family was, they wouldn't dare challenge the School of the Martial Market.

At least, they wouldn't dare to attack him in broad daylight.

After the Elder left, students who were rubbernecking suddenly lost their interests and gradually dispersed.

Especially Qiu Lin, Yan Yunhuan's biggest fan. He had left long ago, perhaps scared that Zhang Ruochen would beat him up.

It was believed that if he saw him in the future, Qiu Lin would only dodge away from Zhang Ruochen.

"Even Yan Yunhuan was defeated by elder brother Zhang. I think his capability has already surpassed elder brother and senior sister disciple Luo. He is the number one master of the School of the Martial Market."

"Where's Qiu Lin? Didn't he say offending Yan Yunhuan would be self-destruction? Where has he gone?"

"It's said that Qiu Lin offended elder brother Zhang at the auction. Let's see how he's going to survive in the School of the Martial Market now! Haha!"

"If he wants to survive in the School, I'm guessing he will visit elder brother Zhang's mansion with treasures tomorrow and ask for forgiveness."

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A strong warrior displayed a formidable character, they were feared and respected.

It was obvious that Zhang Ruochen was one of the school's strong warriors. All the other disciples had to please him, fear him, and respect him.

If Commandery Princess Yanchen didn't stand at his side so fiercely, many female students would approach him, or even throw themselves at him.

Being a strong warrior was an honor.

"Boom!"

The Yan Family Elder was riding in an old carriage driven by a Chi Lin Lion-vulture, a fourth-level savage beast. He was taking Yan Yunhuan away from Devil Martial City, preparing to return to the Yan Family.

The old carriage exited the city gate.

The wings on the Chi Lin Lion-vulture's back expanded. It flapped hard and the carriage rose into the sky.

There were several groups of people staring at them from the ground.

One of them was the Commandery Prince of Minshu, whom Yan Yunhuan had offended.

Elder Ji was like an aged bamboo stick, tall and slender, yet emitting a frosty Martial Arts Qi.

His face was lined with wrinkles. He stood behind the Commandery Prince of Minshu, laughing. He said, "That fellow from the Yan family went to the School of the Martial Market wanting to trouble Zhang Ruochen, yet he was seriously wounded. I heard that he had to be carried out of the School."

"He deserves it!"

The Commandery Prince of Minshu watched the carriage leaving. He sneered, "He thinks that just because he is the heir of the Yan Family he can be boast and despise Omen Ridge? Does he really think he is superior?"

"However, Zhang Ruochen being able to defeat him when he ranks 375th on the Earth Board caught me by surprise."

"Yunwu Commandery has nurtured Zhang Tiangui, and now Zhang Ruochen. In another decade or so, I'm afraid they will rule Omen Ridge."

"You're worrying too much, Commandery Prince!" Elder Ji exclaimed. "As far as I know, Zhang Tiangui and Zhang Ruochen get along like cats and dogs. They'll fight against each other soon. Given how talented they are, even the Yunwu Commandery Prince isn't able to suppress them. Perhaps there will be a civil war in the Yunwu Commandery soon. We just need to give them some time and enjoy the show."

Commandery Prince of Minshu nodded. He shifted his sight towards where Yan Yunhuan had disappeared. "We can't just let Yan Yunhuan leave Omen Ridge with the two Space Treasures. Remember, I just want to get the Space Treasures back, don't hurt him. Moreover, there can be no trace that it was us. We don't want the Yan Family after us."

"Understood."

Elder Ji finished speaking and left.

Half a day later, news spread to the Devil Martial City that the Space Treasures had been stolen from the Yan Family heir by a Martial Arts master.

Zhang Ruochen smiled calmly. He had anticipated this.

Yan Yunhuan had offended all of Omen Ridge's big players at the auction. Of course, someone had gone after him.

In the Martial Arts world, there were many who had kind hearts, free of hatred, but there were also many people who only focused on interests at hand.

Two Space Treasures had been significant enough for them to steal using all means.

However, after a short laugh, Zhang Ruochen had to face another severe problem.

He had already met with Chen Xier and she had told him her suspicions.

He had to say she was indeed a very smart woman. She had been able to figure out the truth from just a few clues.

Zhang Rouchen's target was not the Middle-aged ancient cave, but Underwater Dragon Palace. It was not important where he went but the news could not be leaked out.

"I'm too careless!" he thought to himself.

What should he do now?

Did he really have to bring her with them?

The truth was, Zhang Ruochen did not trust Chen Xier.

That night, he assembled Si Xingkong, Chang Qiqi, Huang Yanchen, and Duanmu Xingling together to discuss a strategy.

They were a team and it was good for him to listen to everybody's opinions.

"This is indeed a frustrating situation," Si Xingkong said, revealing a serious expression. "Junior sister apprentice Chen is the daughter of the palace and the cousin of junior sister apprentice Huang. There's no way to kill her. But, if we don't kill her, we'll have to bring her along. And if we don't bring her along, she will definitely leak this to others."

Chang Qiqi was holding the Greedy Rabbit in his arm. His eyes were sharp. "Why don't we lock her up for the time-being? Wait until we come back from Underwater Dragon Palace, and then we'll set her free."

"That is what you call a bad idea!"

Si Xingkong responded, "Even if we lock her up, we'll have to set her free eventually. Once that happens, she will still tell people. She may even report us to the chief of the palace and ask him to punish us."

"Chen Xier isn't a bad person," Huang Yanchen said. "She just likes setting herself against me. If we're fighting for the same thing, she won't sabotage us."

In fact, if Zhang Ruochen got to choose, he hoped Luo Shuihan could join their team of six. However, because of Chen Xier, he didn't know how to choose.

Like Si Xingkong said, she was an important person. They could neither kill her nor do anything to upset her.

"If there's no other way, I can keep an eye on her," Huang Yanchen suggested. "Her cultivation is more or less the same as mine, I won't let her do anything unfavorable to the team."

Zhang Ruochen was still worried. He looked at Duanmu Xingling. "What do you think, senior sister apprentice Duanmu?"

Duanmu Xingling touched her cheek, blinked, and chuckled. "I don't have a problem with it. Entering Underwater Dragon Palace is incredibly dangerous. We don't even know if we"ll make it out alive. If she wants to go, bring her. Sister Chen and I can monitor her together."

"Alright. Since everyone agrees to bring her along, let's do it."

Zhang Ruochen continued, "We still have two months to get ourselves ready. Let's try our best to improve our cultivation. As for Chen Xier, senior sister apprentice Huang, can you go and tell her?"

After the discussion, Zhang Ruochen headed to the Mount Saint Crossing and continued practicing palm technique.

Each session in the Earth Stage Secret Practice Room was half a month long.

Each time he practiced in the secret room, his palm technique and cultivation improved massively.

After a month, Zhang Ruochen had finally practiced the fifth movement of Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, the Nine-folds of Elephant Power, to the Success level.

The success of the fifth movement meant that Zhang Ruochen had reached the Spiritual Stage of Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm. The power this technique could exert was stronger than most superior class martial techniques.

He had also refined a considerable number of Refined Physique Elixirs. His body density was now equal to a warrior at the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

He could now explode at 298 meters per second.

The top 10 warriors of the Earth Board were at about the same level.

"My martial cultivation has already reached the peak of the Final State of the Earth Realm. I'm one step away from reaching the Completion of the Earth Realm. Will I reach the Ultimate Realm of the Earth Realm?"

Zhang Ruochen took a deep breath. He grasped his fingers tight and felt power emitting from his bones and muscles.

"Crack! Crack!"

It was as if his bones and muscles were exploding.

Even if he didn't use the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, his fist power would be strong enough to confront ordinary warriors at the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm.

With one month left, Zhang Ruochen decided to enter the internal space of the time and space spinal and continue practicing Sword Ripple of Ten Channels.

Time in the internal space was three times that of the outside world. After spending three months practicing in the internal space, Zhang Ruochen had successfully practiced the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels to the beginner level. He had even broken through the Sun Meridian Ripple into the realm of small success.

"If I want to practice the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels to Success, I have to go somewhere extremely Yin and extremely Yang. Tongming River is one extremely cold place in Omen Ridge. I hope when I go to Underwater Dragon Palace this time, I can practice the Sword Wave of the five strands of Yin nature on my right hand to Success."

His three months were up. It was time to go.

Zhang Ruochen went to visit Luo Shuihan. He wanted to invite her to go to Underwater Dragon Palace, but she was secluding herself for refining.

"I guess she has started to practice in the Half-Saint's Sacred Glyph."

Shortly after he left Luo Shuihan's practice mansion, he encountered Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong.

Chang Qiqi was holding a magazine. Excitedly he rushed towards Zhang Ruochen. "You're brilliant! No wonder you looked down on Yan Yunhuan. You're strong enough to defeat his sister!"

"What are you talking about?" Zhang Ruochen asked.