

God Emperor 311

Chapter 311: Meeting

Seeing Zhang Ruochen below, Zi Qian was also slightly shocked.

She thought her eyes were playing tricks on her. She closed her eyes and thought to herself, "He can't be here at the Death City. It must be an illusion. Yes, it must be."

When she opened her eyes again, however, Zhang Ruochen was still there.

Standing in the center of the street, Zhang Ruochen smiled. He nodded to her slightly.

"He actually is here, in the Death City."

After a short while, Zi Qian left the inn in her purple veil. Walking through the crowd, she found Zhang Ruochen.

They stood face to face.

Zi Qian asked coldly, "Why are you here?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "You are here as well. Why can't I be here?"

"You don't know what you are talking about. Masters from the Black Market are everywhere here. What's more, many people want to kill you." In a low voice she said, "We can't talk here. Follow me!"

Zi Qian took Zhang Ruochen to the inn. They entered a room and she carefully closed the window and door. Only then did she dare to take off the purple veil and show her beautiful face.

Zhang Ruochen was very calm. He sat on the chair and asked, "So, I assume there must be many masters from the Hades Department here?"

His tranquil attitude was not what she was expecting.

Zi Qian replied, "There are altogether 257 killers at the Completion of the Earth Realm in the Hades Department. They are from all over the 36 commanderies in the Omen Ridge. And now, they are all here. Most of them are superiors from the older generation. Although they are not on the Earth Board, many of them are just as powerful as the Earth Board warriors."

One of the rules for the Earth Board was that warriors must be under the age of 50.

So in the Omen Ridge, there were many older warriors who actually had the ability to be on the Earth Board but couldn't because of their age.

Among the 257 killers from the Hades Department, there were at least 20 who had the same abilities as Earth Board warriors.

"The Hades Department is indeed the biggest assassin organization in the Omen Ridge. They can send out 257 killers at the Completion of the Earth Realm in such a short time. With power like this, they can easily destroy any inferior commandery."

Zhang Ruochen continued, "Are they going to follow Di Yi into the Underwater Dragon Palace?"

Zi Qian was astonished. "You know about that? Who told you that?"

"It's none of your business!"

Zhang Ruochen said, "I have only one question for you. Do you want to go to the Underwater Dragon Palace with me? You found the dragon horn and I gave you my promise. If I go to the Underwater Dragon Palace, I will take you with me."

"But I'm not a student at the School of the Martial Market now." Said Zi Qian disappointedly.

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "I don't care if you are from the School of the Martial Market or the Black Market. If you go, you'll have a share in the Underwater Dragon Palace's treasures."

Suddenly, Zi Qian's color changed slightly. "Zhang Ruochen, you need to listen to me. You can't go to the Underwater Dragon Palace. You have no idea how strong Di Yi is. Even Bu Qianfan, first on the Earth Board, couldn't block three of his movements. What's more, Di Yi has also sent many masters from the Black Market out to patrol the death reach in case someone gets close to the Underwater Dragon Palace."

"Well, it seems that many masters from the Black Market are here now." Zhang Ruochen frowned.

"At least half of the masters from the Black Market are gathering at the Tongming River now." Zi Qian said. "And it is said that masters from the Moon Worship Demonic Sect are here as well. It looks like they are asking around."

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "The Black Market made such a major move, the Moon Worship Demonic Sect and the Martial Market Bank must have noticed something. I'll think about what you said. If I really can't get into the Underwater Dragon Palace, I won't barge in. I'll stay in the Death City. If you have any problems, just come to me."

Zhang Ruochen left Zi Qian's room and was back on the street. He looked up and saw Zi Qian standing there. The moment their eyes met, Zi Qian became flustered and shy. She turned away immediately.

Zhang Ruochen didn't worry too much. He wandered about the Death City for a while, and soon found the mark Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling had left. Following the mark, he came to a magnificent mountain villa.

The mountain villa belonged to the Martial Market Bank.

When they had decided to come to the Tongming River, Si Xingkong had told the warriors of the Martial Market Bank in the Death City to get the mountain villa ready for their arrival.

Zhang Ruochen scanned the villa to make sure it was safe, then entered through the gate.

"Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, your cultivation is the highest, why are you the last to arrive? We have been waiting for you for two days."

Giggling, Chang Qiqi walked up to Zhang Ruochen.

Behind her was a red Greedy Rabbit as fat as a pig. It had long ears and big white teeth.

The Greedy Rabbit walked on two legs. It held a bowl-wide ginseng in its hands and was gnawing on it like a carrot.

“Yum, yum!”

When the Greedy Rabbit saw Zhang Ruochen, its eyes lit up and it swooped into his arms. Its teeth rubbed hard against his shoes.

What’s more, it pointed to the ginseng in its paws with a discontented look. Then it simply threw the ginseng away.

Apparently, it didn’t really like ginseng.

The ginseng Chang Qiqi had given it was not a Spiritual Dose at all. Although it was around three kilograms in weight, it was just common ginseng.

For common people, it might be useful. But for warriors and savage beasts, it was just like cabbage.

“Guoguo!”

Chang Qiqi shouted and gripped his fingers. He was very upset and quickly picked up the ginseng. He said bitterly, “This rabbit is too hard to raise. It is not only has a huge appetite, it’s also fussy. This ginseng cost me 800 silver coins. But it throws it away just like that! I can’t afford to raise it anymore. I’ll sell it.”

Guoguo was the name Chang Qiqi had given the Greedy Rabbit.

It seemed Guoguo understood what he had said. It was so shocked that its ears straightened up. Immediately, it hid itself behind Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and pulled a jade box out from his Storage Ring. He took out a 10 kilogram Spiritual Brawn from the jar.

“I happened to kill a Blackwind Python in the Tongming River and took its Spiritual Brawn. Guoguo can have this.” Zhang Ruochen patted Guoguo on the head.

Seeing the Spiritual Brawn, the Greedy Rabbit’s eyes suddenly lit up. It grabbed the Spiritual Brawn at once and started eating in a terrible hurry.

“The Blackwind Python is a fourth-level medium level savage beast.” Cried Chang Qiqi. “It’s as strong as a warrior in the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. When it is in water, it can be even stronger. Even a human warship can be overturned by it. Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, are you this strong now?!”

“Chang Qiqi, you are a mediocrity, while junior fellow apprentice Zhang is a top 100 genius on the Earth Board. There’s no way you can imagine his martial cultivation.”

The voice of a beautiful woman sounded out. Her voice was like music to the ear.

Chen Xier came out in a white dress.

Indeed, Chen Xier had an angelic face and voice. Almost every man fell for her. No wonder a conqueror like Yan Yunhuan had turned into an idiot when he was with her.

Chen Xier walked up to Zhang Ruochen. She smiled and said gently, "Junior fellow apprentice Zhang, where have you been these past few days? Were you in danger? My cousin and I were both worried about you!"

When Zhang Rouchen defeated Yan Yunhuan and became the top genius in the Omen Ridge, Chen Xier became interested in him again. She gave him excessive attention by actively talking to him about sword technique, the Underwater Dragon Palace, and Martial Arts.

In the past, she had advanced on Zhang Ruochen actively just because she wanted to annoy Huang Yanchen.

But now, it looked like she really was chasing him. Every time she looked at him, her eyes were filled with love.

Being the top genius in the Omen Ridge might not be so important, but being in the top 100 on the Earth Board was indeed very meaningful. It meant that he was one of the top ranked warriors in all of the Eastern Region.

A person like this had the potential to become a Half-Saint or even a Saint.

Zhang Ruochen was immune to Chen Xier's tenderness. He remained calm and said to Chang Qiqi, "Gather everyone. I have something very important to discuss."

After a while, Huang Yanchen, Duanmu Xingling and Si Xingkong all appeared.

The six of them gathered together.

Zhang Ruochen asked, "You guys have been here for two days. Have you noticed anything strange?"

"Strange? Is there something strange?" Chang Qiqi could be very unobservant.

Si Xingkong replied seriously, "I have been here twice. So I think I am quite familiar with the Death City. But this time, I do feel something strange."

"Like what?" Asked Chang Qiqi.

"There are more masters here than before." Said Si Xingkong. "Everywhere I go it feels dangerous."

In a small place like the Omen Ridge, Si Xingkong could reach Three-and-a-half-realm. He was indeed an elite of man.

Only a very sensitive person could feel the danger just by staying in the city.

Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen were both very confused about what was going on.

Since Zhang Ruochen had asked the question, he must have known something himself.

Feeling all eyes upon him, Zhang Ruochen said slowly, "The situation is very severe now. Half of the masters from the Black Market in the Omen Ridge are gathering in the Death City and the death reach of the Tongming River."

Chapter 312: Growing Crises

“What? What’s happening in the Death City? Why are so many masters from the Black Market being attracted here?” Exclaimed Chang Qiqi.

Chen Xier said seriously, “I did hear news from the Martial Market Bank that many masters from the Black Market were transferred here. But is it over the top to have more than half of the masters here?”

Duanmu Xingling was a little surprised as well. Just like Chen Xier, she had also heard something earlier. But the news had been heresy.

Duanmu Xingling and Chen Xier both believed that it was almost impossible for the Black Market to transfer more than half of their masters to the Death City.

“They didn’t transfer this many masters even when the Black Market had the most furious fight with the Martial Market Bank.” Chen Xier said. “You know, the Black Market is made up of countless forces. There is a chief in every Black Market in each commandery, and each of them forms an individual black market system. In Omen Ridge, no one has the ability to transfer the black market masters of the 36 commanderies at the same time. The 36 chiefs can’t do that. The head of the Hades Department can’t do that. And the chief chairman of the Poisonous Spider Club can’t do that.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “But the young master from the Black Market Excellence Hall can do that.”

“Who?” Asked Chang Qiqi.

“Who is the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall?” Si Xingkong wanted to know as well.

Hearing the name Black Market Excellence Hall, Duanmu Xingling’s eyes changed slightly. She asked, “Did the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall come to the Omen Ridge?”

Zhang Ruochen nodded. “Not only the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall, but also the Seven Kills Emissary are here as well. You can see how bad the situation is.”

Chen Xier and Huang Yanchen had heard of the Black Market Excellence Hall before due to their special status. Their faces grew pale after hearing Zhang Ruochen’s words.

Chang Qiqi was still very confused. He glanced at them and asked, “What is this Black Market Excellence Hall? Why do you look so scared?”

Huang Yanchen hummed coldly and replied, “The Black Market Excellence Hall is the biggest organization in the Black Market. It was set up to confront the School of the Martial Market. Notice, it was set up to confront the School of the Martial Market, not the Martial Market Bank.”

Chen Xier said, “At first, the Martial Market Bank set up the School of the Martial Market with a focus on attracting talented people so they would have talented personnel for the Bank. Nowadays, most of the top managers in the Martial Market Bank are graduates from the School. The Black Market noticed the significance of the School of the Martial Market and were afraid that the Martial Market Bank would one day take their place. So they established the Black Market Excellence Hall.”

“The Black Market Excellence Hall was established by the saints in the Black Market. It is not only a place to cultivate talented people, but also a sharp weapon to deal with the School of the Martial Market.”

“The disciples of different forces in the Black Market all regard attending the Black Market Excellence Hall as a great honor. Getting into the Black Market Excellence Hall does not just require extremely high talent. There is one more thing.”

Chang Qiqi asked, “What is that?”

“A head.” Answered Chen Xier.

“A genius from the Black Market can only enter the Black Market Excellence Hall’s gate by carrying the head of a student from the School of the Martial Market.” Said Huang Yanchen.

Chang Qiqi shrank the moment he heard this, feeling a chill in his spine.

Chen Xier said, “The young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall is like the young celestial in the Saint Academy of the School of the Martial Market, or the Saintness in heresy. In addition, the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall has more power in some ways. You can say he is the representative of the Black Market Saints’ wills.”

“The Seven Kills Emissaries are the people who were selected to protect the young master of the Excellence Hall. Their talents are only slightly weaker than the young master, and one day they will become prominent figures in the Black Market. Because they are older than the young master, their abilities are actually stronger than the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall.”

Huang Yanchen added, “If the young master dies young, or has no ability to continue his talent, the new young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall will be picked out from among the Seven Kills Emissaries.”

Duanmu Xingling asked, “If they are so significant, why have they come to the Omen Ridge?”

“Because of one treasure, the Dragon Sarira,” replied Zhang Ruochen.

“The Dragon Sarira?”

Everyone was confused.

Zhang Ruochen, explained the origin of the Dragon Sarira to them. After hearing this, everyone became very excited again.

“The Buddhist Emperor’s Sarira is indeed a precious treasure! If I could eat it, I could become a legendary and peerless Seven-realm Fighting Genius!” Chang Qiqi was wild with joy.

Huang Yanchen gave him an angry glare. “The Buddhist Emperor’s Sarira likely contains a huge amount of energy. If you simply swallowed it, you would burst to death immediately.”

Chang Qiqi said, “Forget the Dragon Sarira. If we can find the Golden Dragon’s body and take some drops of Dragon’s Blood from it, we can refine our bodies. It would be very easy for me to become a Three-realm Fighting Genius! Maybe I could even become a Four-realm Fighting Genius!”

Chang Qiqi’s words moved everyone.

It was said that a baby dragon was equivalent to a human Three-realm Fighting Genius at birth. And it would become even stronger with practice. But this was only the situation for the mixed-blood Dragon tribes, like the Four-winged Earth Dragon.

The pure-blood Dragon tribes were even stronger. Some of the baby dragons were equal to Five or even Six-realm Fighting Geniuses.

So human warriors always saw Dragon's Blood as precious refining medicine.

The stronger the dragon was, the more effective its blood would be. The purer the dragon's blood was, the more the human warrior's physical quality would improve.

The Golden Dragon was not only a pure-blood dragon, it also had very high cultivation. Even one drop of its blood would benefit young warriors significantly.

So even Si Xingkong, who was always calm, was in ecstasy.

This was indeed a great opportunity. If he could seize it, his life would be totally different.

It was now or never.

Staring at everybody, Zhang Ruochen said, "I've told you just about everything. Great danger and great opportunity co-exist in the Underwater Dragon Palace. I believe you all have your answers now."

"We have to take our chance no matter how dangerous it is," said Si Xingkong. "But there is one problem: the Underwater Dragon Palace was blockaded by the Black Market masters; even if we have the key we can't get in."

"I won't allow the Black Market to take the Dragon Sarira alone. I'll contact my father now and have him come here in person."

Chen Xier took out a Signal Flare and crumpled it.

SWOOSH!

A bright light came out of the flare and disappeared into the horizon.

Chen Xier's father was the Palace Master of the School of the Martial Market.

Zhang Ruochen didn't stop her. After all, young warriors like them couldn't compete with the countless Black Market masters. Only by contacting the masters from the Martial Market Bank and the School of the Martial Market would they have a possibility of winning.

Duanmu Xingling also took out a Signal Flare. She smiled and said, "I'll ask my aunt to come here as well. After all, there are too many Black Market masters here. The School of the Martial Market and the Martial Market Bank won't necessarily be able to gather enough masters in such a short time. The more we have, the stronger we are."

As Lady Saint of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, Duanmu Xingling also had her responsibility.

She had also been investigating why so many Black Market masters were here in the Death City. She had even fought against Di Yi once. But she hadn't known his identity until she met with Zhang Ruochen.

Naturally, Duanmu Xingling would tell all of this to the Moon Worship Demonic Sect.

Zhang Ruochen gazed at Duanmu Xingling. He pondered for a while but decided not to say anything.

Chang Qiqi asked, "So what should we do now?"

"There's nothing we can do now. All we need to do is hide and wait for the Palace Master to come and take charge." Said Si Xingkong.

"I'm afraid you won't live to see that!"

A penetrating sound wave stabbed into their ears like a needle from outside the villa.

"No! The villa has been surrounded by the Black Market warriors!" Said Chen Xier.

Outside the villa, the ground was shaking. The roar of brute elephants could be heard everywhere.

The giant brute elephants surrounded the villa like mountains.

Si Xingkong said, "Don't panic! There is a blind pass in the villa to the underground river. And the underground river is connected to the Tongming River. It's not hard to escape. I'll take you to the blind pass now."

The Martial Market Bank had operated in the Death City for many years, so they had room for maneuvering.

Si Xingkong had been here twice. Naturally, he knew the blind pass in the villa.

"You guys leave first. I'll stall for time."

Zhang Ruochen waved his arm, and 32 Formation Flags flew out from his Spatial Ring. They landed in 32 different positions in the villa. He stood directly in the center of the array.

There were too many Black Market masters. Even if there was a blind pass, it might be hard to escape.

Someone needed to stall for time.

"Zhang Ruochen, I'll help you."

Huang Yanchen stared deeply at Zhang Ruochen, trying to dash back.

Duanmu Xingling grabbed her. "If Zhang Ruochen can't stall for time successfully, you will be no help either. All we need to do now is leave here quickly. That way, Zhang Ruochen will be able to leave earlier as well."

"Senior sister apprentice Duanmu is right." Said Zhang Ruochen. "Senior sister apprentice Huang, you will only distract me if you stay here."

Chen Xier grabbed Huang Yanchen's other wrist and pulled her away with Duanmu Xingling.

After they left, Zhang Ruochen gave out a small sigh of relief. He took out a War Map and put it in his hand, ready to set it off at anytime.

CLANG!

Outside the villa, two brute elephants ran towards the wall at the same time. The wall tumbled down, leaving a huge hole.

The brute elephants were over nine meters tall. Their legs were like pillars. They had black scales and two sharp teeth, like white blades in their mouths.

Chapter 313: Kill Yin Shan

On each brute elephant's back stood a strong heavily-armored sergeant.

They held long spears with an aura of coldness, like devils.

"Zhang Ruochen, how can you escape this time?"

Holding a heavy sword, Guo Shisan leapt onto the wall. He stared at Zhang Ruochen from a distance.

The eunuch, Cao Lin and the archery Master, Yin Shan appeared from the other two directions.

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "You guys again. You failed last time. You don't have the means to catch me, do you?"

"Hoho! You are overestimating yourself, you bloke. I want to know how strong you really are."

Cao Lin stomped on the ground suddenly, causing it to crack. With the help of the power of recoil, his speed exploded. Like a shadow he rushed toward Zhang Ruochen.

At Cao Lin's martial cultivation level, with speed exceeding the speed velocity, it was impossible to judge exactly how fast he was going.

Zhang Ruochen could only see Cao Lin's moves by using his Spiritual Power.

Warriors who had reached the Heaven Realm had the advantage of using Spiritual Power to see.

However, they couldn't be superior if fighting with Zhang Ruochen because of his sharper eyes and stronger Spiritual Power.

The moment Cao Lin moved, Zhang Ruochen started to move, too.

Genuine Qi surged rapidly through his Meridians and rushed towards his left thumb. He pointed out and shot a magnificent red Sword Wave from his fingertip.

There was an about 33 meters wide Qi billow circle surrounding him with his finger at the very center.

WHEW!

Under the power of Sword Wave, a stupefied Cao Lin stretched out his hands to form a Celestial Bodyshield.

Once a warrior's cultivation had reached the Heaven Realm, the Celestial Bodyshield would form when there was a qualitative change in Genuine Qi.

The Genuine Qi spread out like Celestial Bodyshield Qi.

The higher one's martial cultivation was, the thicker and stronger his Celestial Bodyshield was.

BANG!

A magnificent power erupted from the collision between the Sun Meridian Ripple and Cao Lin's Celestial Bodyshield. Cao Lin flew back.

Blood flowed from the space between his fingers, bringing him an intense burning pain. His hands trembled ceaselessly.

Sword Qi had entered his body and was destroying his Meridians.

"What strong Sword Wave! It broke my Celestial Bodyshield!"

Cao Lin activated Icing cold Genuine Qi to expel the invading sword Qi from his body.

"What a pity that I have only reached Small Success! If I had achieved succeed, I could kill you with that blow." Zhang Ruochen said lightly.

"Don't talk rubbish with him; he is just wasting time."

Guo Shisan pulled out his combat sword and shouted, "Barbarian Elephant Army obey my order. Go into the villa immediately. Kill all the people in it! No exceptions!"

There were only 300 Barbarian Elephant Soldiers outside the villa, but their presence had already shocked people inexplicably, as if the sky would soon dim.

The 300 Barbarian Elephant Army warriors attacked at the same time. They charged into the villa and razed it to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen infused Genuine Qi into Cloud Painting.

The War Map produced a vast amount of white mist, enveloping the whole villa and its peripheral area.

The mist was like a piece of white cloud had fallen down from the sky.

It was hard to discern a shadow beyond 10 steps.

"A huge Barbarian Elephant Army appeared, and then an odd white fog covered the city. There must be something happening in the Death City!"

"No one knows where the Barbarian Elephant Army came from, it just popped up. It's so shocking. Even the millions of soldiers stationed in Death City cannot deter the Barbarian Elephant Army."

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After activating the Cloud Painting, Zhang Ruochen put on the Flying Fish Armor and sped out.

SLASH!

He slashed his sword, chopping the legs off of a brute elephant.

The elephant burst out a sad and shrill howl. Its enormous body fell to the ground.

The warrior standing on the back of the brute elephant thudded to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen sped out of the white mist at the speed of sound. He slashed at the legs of brute elephants as he went. Several brute elephants were hurt. They whined up and down the whole property, causing the Barbarian Elephant Army to panic.

They couldn't even see Zhang Ruochen so couldn't execute their combined attack.

Activating the power of Martial Soul, Zhang Ruochen released Space Domain so he could see the situation in the villa clearly and surprise the Barbarian Elephant Army.

He detected the trace of archery master Yin Shan. With killing intent flashing in his eyes, he rushed towards Yin Shan.

Yin Shan's magnificent archery skills were a great danger for Zhang Ruochen. He needed to kill Yin Shan.

With the fog drifting through the manor, Yin Shan had lost sight of Zhang Ruochen. But he could sense where he was when he heard him move. Zhang Ruochen, who was as fast as the speed of light, had already moved by the time Yin Shan heard him.

All of a sudden, Yin Shan saw a shadow coming toward him.

"Perfect timing!"

Yin Shan moved his fingers quickly and put a Phoenix Feather Arrow on the bowstring.

As if it had a mind of its own, the Phoenix Feather Arrow made a slight turn and flew towards Zhang Ruochen's chest.

"Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth!"

Zhang Ruochen struck out his palm, Genuine Qi shot from his hand in the dragon shadow.

The success of the fifth movement meant that Zhang Ruochen had broken the "Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm" to the spiritual stage mid-class level. The power this technique could explode was stronger than most of the martial techniques of Spiritual Stage Superior class.

Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth was the third palm of Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm. Although it was weaker than the fifth palm, it could still burst out seven-fold power, which was equivalent to the power of a Spiritual Stage Superior class martial technique.

AWOO!

A light dragon shadow flew out from Zhang Ruochen's palm and bounced off the Phoenix Feather Arrow.

The palm strength hit Yin Shan and forced him to stop.

"What a potent palm technique!"

Yin Shan's complexion changed; he felt all his Spiritual Blood stop, like an invisible strength was squeezing his chest.

Zhang Ruochen appeared on his left and stabbed him in the neck.

Oh no!

Yin Shan's face changed. Zhang Ruochen was too fast; it was too late.

With no other solution in sight, Yin Shan had to infuse Genuine Qi into a string of jade beads.

It was an amulet treasure that had cost him several million silver coins.

With the inscription of jade beads activated, a two-meter-long Light Shield appeared in the void space, guarding Yin Shan.

BANG!

But before the Abyss Ancient Sword, the Light Shield was broken immediately.

Sword Qi slashed through Yin Shan's neck.

His eyes opened wide; the red bow in his hand fell to the ground; he was not moving any more.

Zhang Ruochen retrieved the Abyss Ancient Sword and looked at the string of jade beads. "Your amulet treasure's class was too low. It could withstand other's swords, but not mine."

TCH!

A line of blood appeared on Yin Shan's neck, and it gushed out.

Yin Shan's martial cultivation, which had reached the Peak of the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, was so great that he could fight with a warrior at the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. That's why he'd been able to harm Zhang Ruochen with his arrow last time.

Even though he was an archery master, Zhang Rouxhwn had been within steps of him. His magnificent archery skills were meaningless.

He had been killed by Zhang Ruochen. It didn't mean that he was weaker; Zhang Ruochen had taken advantage of the situation.

"They should have entered the underground river by now. I should leave."

The moment he tried to escape, a thundering voice boomed out from the white fog. "Zhang Ruochen, give my daughter's life back!"

Jin Chuan, dressed in a golden robe, rushed into the manor, crossing through layers of white fog. He hit Zhang Ruochen with his palm.

CLANG!

The whole villa shook from the impact.

Although Jin Chuan was still 33 meters away, Zhang Ruochen's internal organs shook fiercely as if they had been broken to pieces.

PFFT!

Zhang Ruochen started bleeding. He was thrown back violently into the center of the prepared array.

Jin Chuan, the tenth greatest Martial Arts master in Square Commandery, had achieved the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. Besides, he was a two-class master, so he could actually fight with warriors at the Final State of the Heaven Realm.

Facing Jin Chuan, fighting against Yin Shan, Jin Yeyun and the others was like fighting against children. There was a huge gap in their levels of strength.

Such a strong superior punching with his full strength created an incredibly powerful momentum.

Even a warrior with 10 times the power Zhang Ruochen had would be killed.

Standing in the center of the array, Zhang Ruochen stomped fiercely on the ground. A stream of Genuine Qi surged from his soles, diverging into 32 streams of Genuine Qi and activating the 32 Formation Flags.

The Array of Water Fire Wind and Thunder!

BOOM!

In a flash, the 32 Formation Flags produced a light column each nearly at the same time. The beams connected to form a huge array.

Jin Chuan's palm made a dent in the light wall, forming streams of surging ripples.

Pointing his finger, Zhang Ruochen initiated the power of the array to attack Jin Chuan.

The 16 Formation Flags on Zhang Ruochen's left formed a Power of Water. On his right, a red Power of Fire appeared.

The two kinds of power came together and began to spin in large spirals.

"Attack!"

The power of fire and water surged out to attack Jin Chuan.

Chapter 314: Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm

Jin Chuan's long hair fluttered without wind. He put his hands together in Mudra to unleash the Celestial Bodyshield, which covered his body.

BOOM! With a loud sound, Jin Chuan was hit by the power of water and fire. Under protection of the Celestial Bodyshield, he slid backward more than 30 meters.

"Attack!"

Zhang Ruochen screamed the word again. Flashes of purple lightning flew out in all directions from the array.

Tiny electric lines appeared densely on the ground. The whole villa was turning into a thunderbolt ocean.

The pavilions were split into pieces under the impact of lightning. Only bits of burned wood remained.

More than 30 soldiers from the Barbarian Elephant Army were hit by the lightning. They screamed out and fell to the ground.

Some of them were badly hurt and fainted; others were turned into charred skeletons inside their armor.

In the distance, a man with a metal mask was standing on top of a six story tower. It was Di Yi, the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall.

A purple light emerged in his eyes, like two purple fireballs burning in his pupils. Even the white fog that enveloped the city couldn't block his line of sight.

Gazing out at the faraway battleground, Di Yi shook his head. "A bunch of craps! Zi Feng, go help them."

"Yes, sir."

Dressed in a purple robe, the man who had stood behind Di Yi flew to the sky of the Death City in a flash.

The Purple Wind Emissary, who wore a pair of purple metal gloves, was hanging in the void space. His fingers were like purple metal sticks. He put his hands together in Magic Handprint in different positions and shouted, "Spirit of wind throughout the universe, heed my call!"

BOOM!

The Purple Wind Emissary opened his mouth and took a breath. He exhaled a fierce wind over the entire Death City.

The wild wind howled eerily. After a few seconds, the white fog in the city was blown away.

When the white mist lifted, the Barbarian Elephant Army soldiers who had been besieging Zhang Ruochen got their vision back. They attacked in the direction of the Array of Water, Fire, Wind, and Thunder.

"Forward!"

"Kill Zhang Ruochen, and you will be handsomely rewarded." Guo Shisan said.

"Do you really think you can stop me with an array? Guo Shisan, assist me!" Jin Chuan said in a deep voice.

Guo Shisan made a dash for the spot near Jin Chuan.

Jin Chuan closed his eyes. A light shadow of soul flew out from his body and floated above him.

"Jin Chuan has practiced the Martial Soul. No wonder he is one of the top 10 masters in the Square Commandery."

Guo Shisan stared at the shadow of soul above, full of admiration.

Although it was said that once a warrior reached the Heaven Realm, he or she could use Genuine Qi to foster their soul and practice the Martial Soul, only warriors with profound cultivation actually had the ability to do it.

If a warrior practiced Martial Soul, he or she could mobilize Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi to attack others.

So, warriors of the Heaven Realm who practiced Martial Souls and those who didn't were two totally different concepts.

The strength of Guo Shisan's soul was far from the level of Martial Soul.

Martial Soul was actually the name of a soul that had reached a certain level.

Jin Chuan's Martial Soul began to mobilize Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. He created a huge saber shadow in the void space and used it to cut the Array of Water, Fire, Wind and Thunder below.

"What bad luck! Jin Chuan has practiced the Martial Soul." Zhang Ruochen's face clouded.

Although Zhang Ruochen had a Martial Soul to mobilize the Genuine Qi of the universe and his Martial Soul might even be stronger than Jin Chuan's, his Martial Soul had to be connected by the power of the Vessel of Spirit, which was largely restrained.

Regardless of whether he could withstand Jin Chuan by mobilizing the power of his Martial Soul, Zhang Ruochen dared not show his Martial Soul. The powerhouse who had just blown away all the white fog in the city was somewhere nearby.

Once his Martial Soul was exposed, more horrible warriors would be attracted.

Zhang Ruochen would not show his Martial Soul until he had no other alternative.

He controlled the array and gathered the power of the 32 Formation Flags together. It turned into a huge lightning ball. He used it to attack in front of Jin Chuan.

CLASH!

Jin Chuan controlled the shadow of the saber and cut downwards.

The Thunder Bolt was sliced to pieces with a loud noise, turning into shades of thunderbolt, rushing in all directions.

BANG!

The shadow of saber hit the top of the shield of the Array of Water, Fire, Wind and Thunder, crushing the earth beneath the array and spraying mud up from the ground.

When the mud cleared, a huge hole dozens of meters wide and two meters deep appeared on the ground.

Only broken Formation Flags remained. Zhang Ruochen disappeared.

Jin Chuan's Martial Soul returned to his body. He cried out, "Chase him! We cannot let him escape from us."

Cao Lin and Guo Shisan led the Barbarian Elephant Army into the villa and searched the whole building.

“The powerhouse of the Heaven Realm that practiced the Martial Soul is indeed powerful. Even the Array of Water, Fire, Wind, and Thunder couldn’t defend against his hit. He is truly a martial arts legend. Thankfully the Flying Fish Armor warded off 70% of the attack.”

Zhang Ruochen unleashed movements and raised his speed as much as he could, heading towards the entrance of the secret channel.

He had consumed a lot of Genuine Qi when he was controlling the array. In addition, he was badly hurt from Jin Chuan’s last attack.

He only hoped that he could escape through the secret channel.

A deep voice called out behind Zhang Ruochen. “Zhang Ruochen, where are you trying to escape to?”

The old eunuch Cao Lin trailed closely behind and was rapidly gaining on him.

Zhang Ruochen could feel the Icing air coming from his back. Every wisp of the chilly air was like a needle punching his back. It was cold and painful.

Cao Lin was much faster than Zhang Ruochen. Just as Zhang Ruochen arrived at the stone gate of the secret channel, Cao Lin stuck his hand out with claw-shaped trying to scratch Zhang Ruochen’s back.

Zhang Ruochen was fully aware that the claw would hit him, but he did not dare stop and resist. If he did, Guo Shisan and the Barbarian Elephant Army would track him down and surround him again.

If he was surrounded again, would he be able to get out?

He could only bear the attack.

CRACK!

Cao Lin’s claw hit him in the back.

The claw crashed against the Flying Fish Armor with a metallic clink. It left five white marks on the armor.

“It’s a ninth-level Genuine Martial Arm suit of armour. It was able to withstand a hit from Jin Chuan and save me from him. But it’s a pity, no matter how strong the armour is, it can only keep out penetrating power, not hidden or concussive power.”

Cao Lin took his claw back and opened his hand.

“Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm.”

BANG!

He hit Zhang Ruochen right on the spine with a cold and penetrating palm power.

Although the armor kept out some of the power, there was still Yin power coming through the armor continuously. It was a unique type of palm power. It could enter Zhang Ruochen’s body and seep towards his bones.

Suffering this, Zhang Ruochen continued on and fell through the stone gate of the secret channel. He tumbled down the stone ladder towards the underground.

“There is a secret channel. No wonder Zhang Ruochen went all out to escape in this direction.”

Cao Lin was delighted. He quickly entered the secret channel.

If he could catch Zhang Ruochen, whether he was alive or not, it would be a great merit.

Zhang Ruochen had already been hurt even before Cao Lin hit him with the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm. Now was the perfect time to kill him.

“The old eunuch has a great capability. He is more powerful than Yin Shan and Jin Yeyun, not to mention that he has practiced the evil Bone-melting Skill.”

After falling down the stone ladder, Zhang Ruochen was dizzy and weak. He was in great pain and felt like his bones had disappeared.

The sound of flowing water came to his ears.

The air was moist, and it was totally dark all around him.

Nevertheless, he could see his surroundings by using the power of Space Domain. There was an underground river a short distance away.

He was lying on the stone terrace, only a dozen meters from the river.

Zhang Ruochen immediately used the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean, hoping that he could defuse the power of Cao Lin’s Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm with Spiritual Fire and Genuine Qi.

The Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm that Cao Lin practiced was quite strange. It had a kind of Yin power that could cross the air and touch one’s bones. Even the Flying Fish Armor couldn’t withstand it.

Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean deserved to be rated as one of the top exercises. Genuine Qi circulated vital power through his body for a large circle of vital energy and some of the Yin power dispersed. Zhang Ruochen regained some power.

But he didn’t have time to completely disperse the Yin palm power. He heard the sound of footsteps not far away.

Cao Lin lit the dark underground space with a Spiritual Crystal of light nature, showing his ferocious pale old face.

He appeared in front of Zhang Ruochen and laughed. “Young man, you’ve been hit by my Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm. That must be painful. Are you feeling like all your bones are disappearing? Do you have any strength left? Haha!”

Zhang Ruochen had been lying on the ground. But as soon as Cao Lin appeared, he suddenly unleashed his power, pulled back his legs and sat cross-legged.

Cao Lin was shocked; his eyes twitched. He said, “Good boy, you’ve got the goods. I’m surprised you can even move after being hit by my Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm.”

Cao Lin assumed it was Zhang Rouchen's armour that helped him withstand the palm power, and that was why he could still move. He could never have realized that Zhang Rouchen had the power to disperse the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm.

Zhang Rouchen continued dispersing the power from the palm. He laughed and said, "A simple palm technique can't hurt me."

"Really. I think you are just pretending."

Cao Lin smiled inexorably and got closer and closer to Zhang Rouchen.

Knowing that Zhang Rouchen had skills and weapons, Cao Lin dared not underestimate him. He had seen him kill Yin Shan.

Even with 300 Barbarian Elephant Army soldiers surrounding him, he could still fight his way out. This man should never be underestimated.

When Cao Lin was less than five steps away, he suddenly dashed forward charging his finger towards Zhang Rouchen's glabella.

As soon as Cao Lin pointed his finger, the whole underground was filled with a cold light.

Zhang Rouchen frowned. He lifted his left thumb quickly, in an attempt to fight back.

"Sun Meridian Ripple!"

WHEW!

Two fingertip forces smashed together.

It was obvious that Zhang Rouchen's cultivation had not recovered, and the power of his Sword Wave was still limited. He was defeated by Cao Lin's finger force in a split second.

"BANG!" Cao Lin's fingertip hit the surface of Zhang Rouchen's Flying Fish Armor and sent him flying.

"Haha! You're badly hurt just as I expected. It's naive of you to try to scare me like that."

Cao Lin laughed and charged up again. He moved his Genuine Qi and rotated his five fingers, ready to use the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm again.

If he killed Zhang Rouchen, he would not only gain great merit, he would also be famous around the world.

Lost in his excitement, Cao Lin didn't notice that the space around him was vibrating slightly, and that strange space Lines had emerged.

Chapter 315: What A Rabbit

The space around them shook harder and harder.

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen, who was badly hurt, suddenly stood tall. He stared at Cao Lin, waved his arm and struck towards Cao Lin.

It seemed like he was striking in void space without unleashing any power.

However, a two-meter-long crack appeared in the space in front of Cao Lin.

The ground was broken. The crack unleashed a strong suction power with a purring sound. It was chaos inside.

The whole underground tunnel became a mess.

The Space Crack became the center of the entire space. It seemed that the crack wanted to swallow everything in the underground tunnel.

Looking at the split, Cao Lin's face clouded. He was lurching forward and there was no way he could elude it.

"No... How could this happen..."

TCH!

The Space Crack swallowed Cao Lin whole, leaving nothing but his scream.

Then, the crack closed up.

"I'm so fortunate the old eunuch dropped his guard... Otherwise, the Space Crack might not have hurt him." Zhang Ruochen took a long breath.

Actually, Zhang Ruochen had planned to deal with Cao Lin by using the power of Space Crack from the beginning. But considering Cao Lin's high speed, he knew it would be hard to kill him if he used it rashly.

So, he had to wait for an opportunity in which Cao Lin totally dropped his guard.

Only in this way, could he beat Cao Lin in one hit.

After killing Cao Lin, Zhang Ruochen was not excited at all. Because fighting with Cao Lin had exacerbated his injury.

In his current physical condition, it was hard for him to even move his fingers, never mind jumping in the underground river.

"There is a secret channel leading to the underground. Zhang Ruochen must have escaped through the channel."

"Hurry up!"

The sound of several human voices came to Zhang Ruochen's ears. It was obvious that the Barbarian Elephant Army had found the secret channel and was still in pursuit.

"Even killing Cao Lin didn't help me get away."

Zhang Ruochen bit the bullet and tried to control his body and move to the underground river not far away.

Even in his most difficult moments, he would never give up his hope.

CRACK!

There was a strange sound from the stone ladder in the distance.

A red rabbit, as big as a pig, rolled down the stone ladder quickly. It showed its big white teeth and ran very fast.

Zhang Ruochen was suddenly delighted. He hurriedly called the rabbit. "Guoguo, this way."

Hearing Zhang Ruochen's voice, Guoguo immediately stopped running and looked in his direction.

Guoguo's eyes popped at the sight of Zhang Ruochen on the ground. It rushed over and uttered a little squeak as if to ask Zhang Ruochen why he was lying on the ground.

Zhang Ruochen had fed it the Spiritual Brawn of the Blackwind Python earlier without any consideration of the energy the Spiritual Brawn contained. The icy power had frozen the greedy rabbit and it had been unable to move.

Chang Qiqi hadn't been able find it when they evacuated the villa, so he had left it there.

It had just finished digesting all the power from the spiritual brawn and traced their smell to the underground river. It didn't expect to see Zhang Ruochen who was badly hurt.

"Hurry! Zhang Ruochen wouldn't run far."

"Your Excellency Cao Lin was chasing after him. He might have already caught him."

...

Voices from above the underground channel became clearer. It wouldn't be long before they arrived.

"Guoguo, get me out of here." Zhang Ruochen said.

Guoguo's wide eyes were filled with confusion. It plucked at Zhang Ruochen with great effort but couldn't move him.

Zhang Ruochen said hastily, "If you can get me out, you will get more food than you can imagine."

The word "food" lifted Guoguo's spirit. It grasped Zhang Ruochen's body and carried him. It jumped into the river with a plop. It sank to the bottom of the water and swam downstream.

After a few moments, Jin Chuan and Guo Shisan arrived at the underground riverside with some soldiers from the Barbarian Elephant Army. But they couldn't find any trace of Zhang Ruochen or Cao Lin.

"They must have left via the river. Guo Shisan, keep chasing with our people. We can't let Zhang Ruochen escape from us. I will go back and report our current status to the young master and the Commandery Prince."

Jin Chuan returned through the underground channel, heading towards the six-story tower in the Death City.

At the sight of Di Yi who sat upon the top, Jin Chuan showed respect by kneeling on the ground. Cautiously he said, "Young master, Zhang Ruochen and the internal students from the School of the Martial Market have escaped."

Jin Chuan thought Di Yi would burst into anger. He prepared to get punished.

To his surprise, Di Yi stayed calm. Coolly, he said, "I was watching when you laid siege to the student from the School of the Martial Market. He was well prepared has excellent cultivation. I won't blame you for letting him escape. It is the information organization of the Black Market that should be responsible for this."

Square Commandery Prince was standing beside him. He asked, "Young master, what do you mean?"

"The student from the School of the Martial Market is not just a warrior in the top 100 of the Earth Board. His power is similar to that of the top 20 warriors."

Di Yi said with a smile, "I didn't expect that Omen Ridge could have such a powerful master. He is indeed outstanding."

Square Commandery Prince said with flattery, "No matter how powerful Zhang Ruochen is, he still has a long way to go compared to you, our young master. Even the top ranked warrior on the Earth Board, Bu Qianfan couldn't withstand three movements from you, never mind Zhang Ruochen."

Di Yi hummed coolly. In a serious tone he said, "You truly underestimate the top 20 masters of the Earth Board."

"Do you realize that masters like Zhang Ruochen are big threats to the Black Market? I can tell you clearly, he is more of a threat than his Master Lei Jing. We must kill him before he grows up and causes trouble for us."

"Where is the Red Wish Emissary?"

In the void space, a few wisps of red smoke came and gathered in the air, then formed into a sexy female figure.

Dressed in red, the Red Wish Emissary floated in the air. Evil smoke surrounded her body like a fantasy.

Di Yi said, "Go and help them kill Zhang Ruochen. Remember, this man must die."

"Yes, sir." The Red Wish Emissary responded.

After she and Jin Chuan left, Di Yi put on a thoughtful look. "Purple Wind Emissary, take my order to others. The situation has changed. Let every force in the Black Market start to prepare now. I will go to the Underwater Dragon Palace to explore tonight."

The Purple Wind Emissary was a little worried. He said, "Young master, the Underwater Dragon Palace is too dangerous. I suggest that we send some people to search for the Life Gate of the Dragon Palace a few more times before you go there."

"We can't wait any longer! I have a hunch that the School of the Martial Market and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect have heard the message and will be sending masters soon."

Di Yi continued, "Besides, I just want to go on a fishing expedition. I don't need to break in yet."

"I understand. I will inform all the forces to start preparations."

After the Purple Wind Emissary finished speaking, he left.

...

The water in death reach of the Tongming River was as black as ink.

It was too cold for ordinary savage beasts to live in.

Savage beasts that could survive here were all extremely fierce creatures.

SWOOSH!

A huge bubble suddenly surged upward in the placid river.

A rabbit, carrying a man dressed in armor, appeared in the river. It shifted its eyes and looked around. Finding no enemy, it headed towards the shore.

The other side of the underground river ran into the death reach of the Tongming River.

After going ashore, they went into the wood. Zhang Ruochen took off the Flying Fish Armor and it turned into a fist-sized red iron ball.

He took some healing Pills and started to run exercises, making all efforts to defuse the power of the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm.

A short time later, the Spiritual Fire and Genuine Qi had run nine large circles of vital energy. Most of the power from the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm was defused.

Zhang Ruochen opened his eyes and looked forward. The fat face of the rabbit was all he could see.

Guoguo stared at him. Seeing Zhang Ruochen waking up, its face lit up. The rabbit drew its claws, begging him for food.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "We haven't arrived at the safe place. Our enemies may catch us up at any time." Zhang Ruochen smiled. "We haven't arrived at a safe place yet. Our enemies may catch up to us at any time. Even though I defused the power of the Bone-melting Darkcloud Palm, I haven't recovered yet. I can only unleash about a quarter of my power. If you can take me somewhere safe, I will give you lots of delicious food."

Guoguo made a squeaking sound as if to ask him where was safe.

Indeed!

People from the Black Market had now surrounded the entire city. Where could he find a safe place?

Though Zhang Ruochen could hide in the Time and Space Spinel, any top masters who had practiced Martial Soul could follow his aura and find the Spinel.

Would he have to stay in the Time and Space Spinel for the rest of his life?

What's more, the Time and Space Spinel was hard to break for ordinary warriors. But that was not the case when it came to the top masters of the Black Market.

At least for now, Zhang Ruochen couldn't put his hope in the Time and Space Spinel. He had to find another safe place.

Zhang Ruochen pondered for a while, then said, "The most dangerous place might be the safest one. Let's go towards the death reach of the Tongming River and get into the water. This might be the only way for us to survive."

Zhang Ruochen cut down an ancient tree two meters wide. He hollowed it out in the middle and made a ten-meter-long canoe.

After putting the canoe into the water, Zhang Ruochen sat at the bow and continued to heal himself.

The death reach of the Tongming River was like a wide lake, much larger than a normal river. From afar, it looked like an endless ocean.

Guoguo stood at the stern of the canoe and used a branch to row to the deep section of the Tongming River.

To get the food that Zhang Ruochen had promised it, the Greedy Rabbit spared no efforts.

Chapter 315.5: Twelfth-Class Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower

According to the map of Omen Ridge, Death Reach covered a water area 5,000 kilometers in radius. It was nearly twice as large as the Yunwu Commandery.

This water area was inhabited by many ferocious savage beasts. It even had fifth-level beasts, which were capable of tearing the Fish-dragon Realm warriors into pieces with their terrifying power.

Therefore it was a risky move for Zhang Ruochen to choose Death Reach. But staying on the water was the only way to hide his scent, making it easier to elude the Black Market.

Now he just needed to stay away from the aquatic formidable savage beasts.

It took half a day for Zhang Rouchen to recover from most of his injuries and regain his power.

Moreover, he felt his martial cultivation had improved; he was just one step away from the Completion of the Earth Realm. He could reach the next realm at any minute.

Zhang Ruochen looked at the paddling Greedy Rabbit and smiled. He called, "Guoguo, come here!"

Hearing his call, Guoguo immediately dropped the twig, hopped two times in the dugout canoe and then groveled at Zhang Ruochen's feet like a puppy.

Zhang Ruochen stroked its head. Then he took out a jade box, fetched a chunk of Spiritual Brawn weighing more than 10 kilograms and gave it to Guoguo.

Guoguo almost slavered over the Spiritual Brawn. It promptly leaped up to catch the Spiritual Brawn with its teeth, dragged it to the other end of the canoe, and then indulged itself in eating.

Zhang Ruochen took out another chunk of Spiritual Brawn, cut it into pieces and ate it slowly.

Spiritual Brawn was conducive to supplement a warrior's energy and promoting their cultivation.

After finishing the Spiritual Brawn, Zhang Ruochen felt the energy inside his body increasing rapidly. Though it did not help him reach the Completion of Earth Realm, it was comparable to half a month's worth of hard practice.

Guoguo ate up its Spiritual Brawn too. It stood frozen in place once again from the Icing air contained in the meat.

Through the Ice Crystals all over its body, Zhang Ruochen saw its mouth and eyes opening wide in content, it was extremely adorable.

"It's a worthy variation of Greedy Rabbit. What a strong digestion! It's able to consume the Spiritual Brawn of a medium-level, fourth-level savage beast in its juvenile stage. Even the Yellow-Realm warriors can't do that."Zhang Ruochen thought to himself.

If a warrior in the Yellow Realm had eaten the Spiritual Brawn of a medium-level, fourth-level savage beast, he might lose his life, rather than improve his cultivation.

CRASH!

Huge bubbles abruptly rose to the originally calm surface of the water, some as small as fists, others larger than basins.

It looked like the whole water was boiling, causing a heat wave.

"What's happening?"Zhang Ruochen became vigilant.

He stood up quickly, but only found a blaze of dark-red light spreading from the bottom of the water hundreds of meters away.

The dark-red light, growing stronger, emerged through the water.

It turned out to be a ball of bright, crimson flame, floating spectacularly on the black water.

An exotic flower the size of a millstone opened from within the flame. It had 12 glittering translucent petals and released strong whiffs of a rare fragrance.

Zhang Ruochen watched the flame with an ecstasy of delight."It's a Twelfth-Class Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower! Who would have thought of such a treasure living in Death Reach!"

Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower was a Spiritual Dose to improve a warrior's cultivation. It had a fire nature and only grew in exceedingly cold waters.

A new petal indicated a higher class.

A Twelfth-Class Spirit Flower meant that this flower had lived here for 1,200 years.

Most Spiritual Doses might have changed the potency after 1,000 years, just like warriors elevated themselves from the Earth Realm to the Heaven Realm.

A 900-year-old Spiritual Dose could be considered a remarkable treasure for warriors.

Yet the potency was far from the 1,000-year-old ones.

The difference was more than tenfold.

Thus, a 1,200-year-old Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower was extremely a Spirit Treasure. Even warriors at the Completion of the Heaven Realm could not resist the lure of such a spirit treasure.

Zhang Ruochen thought, "Just one petal from the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower would help me reach the Completion of the Earth Realm."

Thrilled with excitement, he immediately paddled the canoe towards the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower.

The appearance of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower had created such a loud sound that all the savage beasts living in this area of the water were startled. They flocked towards it.

"GRRR!"

A savage beast growled beneath the water.

Great waves were rolling in one after another. A huge claw, formed by black water droplets, was stretching out to capture the Spirit Treasure.

"What a horrible savage beast!"

Just one step away from the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower, he had no choice but to stop. He grasped frozen Guoguo, released the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel and jumped into it without hesitation.

A Twelfth-Class Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower was indeed priceless, but it was not worth it to risk his life.

The savage beast was so fierce; Zhang Ruochen could not even withstand one blow. So he decided to hide inside the internal space of Time and Space Spinel.

It certainly did not mean that Zhang Ruochen had given up on the flower. He released a Space Domain to keep a close watch on the outside world as soon as he entered the Time and Space Spinel.

Meanwhile, he put on the Flying Fish Armor, ready to rush out and snatch the treasure at the first opportunity.

The aquatic savage beast was about to grab the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower when another growl echoed beneath the water.

The second powerful Aquatic Savage Beast emerged.

BOOM!

It was a Silverlight Shark, 12 meters long, covered with silver scales. It leaped out of the water, as fast as a silver arrow.

The first Aquatic Savage Beast, like a black island, also surfaced. It was a hundred times larger than the Silverlight Shark and extended eight tentacles— a gigantic octopus!

Both beasts had terrifying power. They engaged in a fierce battle stirring the whole water area.

BANG!

The Silverlight Shark's tentacle penetrated the surrounding flames of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower and smashed it. It broke into 12 petals, scattering in 12 different directions.

The 12 petals looked like flame crystals, floating in a water area 333 meters in the surrounding area. Each petal was two meters long, as thick as five joining fingers.

Every petal was potent enough to match a 900-year-old Spiritual Dose.

For Zhang Ruochen, even just one petal would help him reach the Completion of the Earth Realm.

"It's divided into 12 parts!"

Zhang Ruochen looked out of the Time and Space Spinel and found that one petal was just within his reach, only 13 meters away.

But the two powerful Aquatic Savage Beasts would surely spot him if he dared to fetch the petal of Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower.

To try or not to try?

Just do it!

Zhang Ruochen carefully controlled the Space Domain to encircle the petal and then used the power of space to draw it towards the Spiritual Crystal slowly.

SWOOSH!

A ring of pale white light emerged from the surface of the Spiritual Crystal and drew the petal into the internal space in the blink of an eye.

Standing in the internal space, Zhang Ruochen was overjoyed to have caught the petal.

"Awesome!"

With the help of this Spirit Flower Petal, he could reach the Completion of Earth Realm in one stroke. His cultivation would mount a new step before he entered the Underwater Dragon Palace.

The Silverlight Shark was still fighting with the giant octopus over the Spirit Flower Seed, the most precious part of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower. They did not notice that one petal was missing.

Wrapped by 12 petals, the seed contained most of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower's potency.

When all the petals scattered, the seed was exposed. It suspended 10 meters above the water, emitting a fiery brilliance.

It looked like a basin-sized ball, crimson and sparkling. It radiated intense heat that boiled the surrounding water area.

Ordinary people would vanish like smoke in an instant if they got close to it.

The two Aquatic Savage Beasts suddenly became vigilant. They realized that a thief had been hiding and taken three petals on the sly. When Zhang Ruochen was to get the fourth Spirit Flower Petal...

The two Aquatic Savage Beasts suddenly became vigilant. They realized that a thief had hidden in this water area and taken three petals on the sly.

They were the dominators of this area! Who dared to steal the spirit treasure right before their eyes?

They stopped fighting and began to search for the shameless thief.

They soon noticed a dugout canoe drifting in the water. It had not drawn their attention earlier because it showed no signs of life.

After careful probing, they found faint Spiritual Qi fluctuation over the canoe.

"Damn! I've been made! I shouldn't have underestimated these savage beasts— they are both powerful and intelligent." Zhang Ruochen thought to himself.

He stood inside the Spinel's internal space and furrowed his brow as he racked his brain for a counterplan.

SWOOSH!

The Silverlight Shark swam to the canoe. It didn't find anyone, just a tiny spinel.

Just a spinel?

The Silverlight Shark gave a furious cry then opened its giant jaws wide. It bit the canoe in two, swallowing the spinel.

Thus Zhang Ruochen entered its belly with the spinel.

"So I've actually overestimated its wisdom. Swallowing the Time and Space Spinel? It's willfully taking the path to its doom."

He was no match for the Silverlight Shark face-to-face. But right now, its defensive power was weakest with Zhang Ruochen inside its body. Killing it would now be child's play for him.

Yet Zhang Ruochen was not quite ready to kill the Silverlight Shark. He was going to use its power to snatch the seed and the remaining petals of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower.

He decided to take advantage of this favorable situation and refine one petal. It was time to reach the Completion of the Earth Realm.

Chapter 316: Martial Soul VS Beast Soul

Spiritual Qi was floating in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

The Time and Space Spinel was a source of Spiritual Qi, so it released Spiritual Qi all the time.

Zhang Ruochen sat cross-legged with a Spirit Flower Petal in his hands. The Genuine Qi of Spiritual Fire spurted from his body to refine the petal.

Under the refinement of his Genuine Qi, the Spirit Flower Petal thawed a little and a drip of Spiritual Fluid dropped. It emitted a strong exotic fragrance in Zhang Ruochen's hand.

“CRACK!” Zhang Ruochen inhaled the fluid into his Meridians to fuse with his Genuine Qi.

As Spiritual Fluid entered his Meridians, it became a strong fire-like potency, circulating with Genuine Qi. It flowed through the whole body, muscles, meridians, blood, internal organs and Tianchong. Finally, it gathered at the Qi Sea in his glabella.

Every inhalation of the Spiritual Fluid advanced his martial cultivation.

As it thawed, the petal of the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower became smaller and smaller.

WHOOSH...

Nearly an hour passed. A vast amount of Spiritual Fire gushed from Zhang Ruochen’s body. It formed a five-meter fire ball, with him at its center.

The power became stronger and stronger, a balloon that was going to burst. His Meridians couldn’t hold this much strong power, so it poured out.

It signified that Zhang Ruochen was going to break the shackle and reach a new realm.

BAM!

A fire mark appeared on his glabella and the Qi Sea in his mind made a crack.

Spiritual Qi shook the entire internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

Zhang Ruochen’s Qi Sea rapidly expanded with all his Meridians extending at a high speed. After a moment, he finally broke through the realm, reaching the Completion of the Earth Realm in one stroke.

A breakthrough!

As the capacity of his Qi pool increased, it became hungry and began to absorb the surrounding energy.

Spiritual Fire, which had been swirling around Zhang Ruochen, rushed into his glabella like a flood. It went through the Sacred Mark and finally arrived in the expanded Qi Sea.

He had absorbed one-third of the Spirit Flower Petal before his breakthrough.

His refinement and assimilation were now faster.

Half an hour later, he had fully absorbed the Spirit Flower Petal. It strengthened his Genuine Qi so that it covered almost 40 percent of his Qi pool.

There was a layer of faint light shining from his skin.

“I’ve finally reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. I wonder how much my power has strengthened.”

Zhang Ruochen raised his arm and lightly shoved his palm forward. Strong Genuine Qi gathered to form a two-meter-long giant handprint ahead.

The handprint alone could wound masters like Guo Shisan and Cao Lin badly.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t display the handprint. He ran exercises to take back all of the Genuine Qi from it.

“If I refine one more Spirit Flower Petal, I should be able to perfect the Genuine Qi Practice and reach the Peak of the Completion of the Earth Realm. Then, my strength will be even further enhanced.”

Zhang Ruochen did not go about refining the second petal, because he realized the fighting outside was coming to an end.

Sure enough, strength of the Silverlight Shark superior. It had injured the giant octopus severely and won the Spirit Flower Seed.

Although badly wounded, the octopus beast’s power was just slightly less than the Silverlight Shark’s. It took five Spirit Flower Petals as it was escaping.

The Silverlight Shark won the remaining four petals and the Spirit Flower Seed. It once again issued a shout, as if claiming itself dominator of this area and showing its strong power.

Savage beasts in the water were trembling with fear when they heard the roar. They did not dare to take the Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower and immediately swam away.

The whole water area became silent once more.

The Silverlight Shark swam to the bottom to swallow the seed and the remaining four petals. They would be a mighty power for him to evolve into a five-level savage beast.

The Silverlight Shark was a savage beast of the superior class in the fourth level. Its force could contend against a warrior at the Completion of the Heaven Realm.

The Nirvana Fire Spirit Flower could enhance the shark’s physical quality and would probably make him evolve.

Becoming a fifth-level savage beast would be completely different.

It would be a top dominator at the Death Reach and the waters under its rule would be even broader.

With success in sight it was extremely excited.

However...

Where were the Spiritual Flower Seed and five petals it had swallowed?

They had just vanished.

Where were they?

The Silverlight Shark suddenly became anxious. So close to becoming a fifth-level beast, how could this happen?

It could not believe that the swallowed treasures had just vanished.

Once Zhang Ruochen put the Spirit Flower Seed and the four Spirit Flower Petals into his Space Spinel, dressed in the Flying Fish Armor, he rushed from the spinel and entered into the Silverlight Shark’s belly.

There were strongly corrosive liquids in the Silverlight Shark’s stomach. If not for the Flying Fish Armor, Zhang Ruochen’s body would be eroded.

“Silverlight Shark, it’s your time to die!”

Covered in armour, Zhang Ruochen pulled out and wielded the Abyss Ancient Sword. He sliced off the Silverlight Shark’s main artery.

He continued to attack other crucial parts of the Silverlight Shark.

Silverlight Shark felt a sharp pain from his abdomen and felt Zhang Ruochen’s aura.

When did I swallow a human?

Without time to think, the annoyed Silverlight Shark immediately unleashed its beast soul.

Dazzling light burst forth from its brain. A ferocious shadow of soul flew out with an aura of wild beast.

CLASH!

The beast soul rushed into its abdomen and attacked Zhang Ruochen.

The beast soul of a savage beast was the same as the Martial Soul of a warrior.

Only a savage beast in the superior class of the fourth level could refine a Martial Soul and reach the realm of Martial Soul Out of Body.

The Silverlight Shark’s beast soul broke out tyrannical power, baring fierce teeth. It chomped at Zhang Ruochen attempting to bite him into pieces.

“You have your beast soul, I own a Martial Soul, too.”

Zhang Ruochen promptly communicated with the Vessel of Spirit, and a white light column flew out over his head.

A shadow that looked exactly like Zhang Ruochen flew out and met the Silverlight Shark’s beast soul head-on.

BOOM!

The beast soul and the Martial Soul collided together, forming a strong energy wave.

In his previous life, Zhang Ruocheng had only had cultivation at the Completion of the Heaven Realm, but he had remained the top of the Heaven Board with stronger power than inferior warriors who were at the Fish-dragon Realm.

His Martial Soul was definitely more powerful than the souls of the warriors at the Completion of the Heaven Realm. And it was just slightly less than that of Fish-dragon Realm warriors.

And now, the intention of his Martial Soul had naturally improved. It could match the souls of Fish-dragon Realm warriors.

However, his cultivation had not reached the Heaven Realm. He could only use the Vessel of Spirit to communicate with his Martial Soul, the power exerted by which was not robust enough.

After reaching the Completion of the Earth Realm, Zhang Ruochen could use more power from his Martial Soul. So it was parallel for him to compete with the Silverlight Shark’s beast soul.

“Though the Silverlight Shark is a fourth-level superior-class savage beast, it was hurt during the war with that Octopus. Also, some of its vital parts have been cut, which makes it weaker. Even if its beast soul is the same as a warrior in the Completion of the Heaven Realm, its power is still limited.”

Both the beast soul and the Martial Soul could mobilize the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi and transfer it into their own power.

The more powerful the soul was, the more Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi it could control, and the power it exploded was more formidable.

The greatest advantage Zhang Ruochen had was not that his Martial Soul was stronger than the Silverlight Shark’s beast soul, but the fact that he was in the Silverlight Shark’s abdomen. No matter how violently the two souls fought, the hapless Silverlight Shark would lose.

The Silverlight Shark had originally thought that its beast soul could easily kill the human, but it was unexpected that the man had practiced Martial Soul.

There was almost nothing its beast soul could do to deal with its opponent.

The two souls were fighting fiercely, causing more wounds in the Silverlight Shark’s viscera. It could feel more drastic aching.

It was spitting blood and groaning in pain.

“Weapon of thunderbolt!”

The Spiritual Qi in the water gathered toward Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Soul and transformed into lightning.

The lightning twisted into a dagger and stabbed into the shadow of the beast soul.

Seeing the beast soul would be pierced by thunderbolt dagger...

Suddenly, the Silverlight Shark begged for mercy. Through its beast soul, it talked to Zhang Ruochen, “Superior of Human tribe, I’d like to submit to you and be your mount, please spare my life.”

The sharp thunderbolt Dagger suspended over its beast soul blowing bright light. It frightened the shark into begging.

Even without powerful strength, Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Soul still had robust deterrence.

The reason the Silverlight Shark was willing to surrender to him was that it felt the great power of his Martial Soul.

It assumed Zhang Ruochen was a warrior in Fish-dragon Realm since he owned such a powerful Martial Soul. It was not disgraced to submit to him.

Whether human beings or savage beasts, all honored superiors.

If the Silverlight Shark had known that Zhang Ruochen was only at the Completion of the Earth Realm, it would not have surrendered even if it died. It was the dominator in this water, how could it submit to a weaker human?

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Why should I believe you? What should I do if you change your mind and bite me?"

The Silverlight Shark was afraid of provoking the human master, so it said in haste, "I would like to dedicate my beast soul. As long as it is held by you, you still can destroy it any time you think I'm going to betray you."

The Silverlight Shark had great intelligence. It was clear to it that making a huge sacrifice was the only way to stay alive.

Chapter 317: Six Red Spider Vessels

The beast soul was the soul of the Silverlight Shark.

Both human beings and savage beasts would die if their soul broke.

Generally, a savage beast's soul could only survive inside its body. However, when the soul became a martial soul, it could be separated.

The Silverlight Shark was offering to give its beast soul to Zhang Ruochen in order to survive.

After some contemplation, Zhang Ruochen decided to accept the Silverlight Shark's beast soul.

The Silverlight Shark had strong power and it was a water dominator. It would be good for him to control a savage beast like this. He might even be able to make use of the Silverlight Shark to deal with masters from the Black Market.

"OK! In that case, you can put your beast soul into this scroll."

Zhang Ruochen's glabella flared. A scroll flew out and landed on his hand.

The scroll spread out. In the painting, a Sacred Prime Tree was sending out a strong momentum. This frightened the Silverlight Shark even more. He had a sense that the man in front of him was unfathomable.

It was the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, which had once sealed Blackie.

Only the power of the Yin Yang Wooden Graph could suppress the Silverlight Shark's beast soul. There was no need for Zhang Ruochen to be wary of it.

After putting the Silverlight Shark's beast soul into the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, Zhang Ruochen rolled up the painting and retracted his Qi Sea.

Since he could now control Silverlight Shark's beast soul, there was no need for him to stay inside its belly.

He flew out through its mouth and landed on its back.

The Silverlight Shark surged out from the water with Zhang Ruochen on its back.

It was nearly dark. The moon was floating in the sky.

Sunset glowed as red as fire.

It was about to sink below the horizon.

Zhang Ruochen took out a Fourth Class Pill, the Muscle Growing Pill. He threw it to the Silverlight Shark and motioned for the shark to take it to heal.

“Master, thank you very much.” The Silverlight Shark said respectfully.

Given that Zhang Rouchen now controlled its soul, the Silverlight Shark must respect him. It dared not resist against him.

The fourth-level savage beast was highly intelligent. It had the ability to learn human languages quickly.

It was only a fourth-level savage beast. It was said that a seventh-level savage beast could even practice into a human shape.

Looking at the sun setting in the sky, Zhang Ruochen said, “You are familiar with the Death river, do you know where the Four-winged Earth Dragon’s Underwater Dragon Palace is?”

“Master, you want to go the Underwater Dragon Palace?” The Silverlight Shark was surprised.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Don’t tell me that you don’t know where it is.”

“Of course not. It’s just... just the Underwater Dragon Palace is located in the depth of the death river. What’s more, it is the Three-clawed Flood Dragon’s place. A human could die trying to break into it.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, “Is the Three-clawed Flood Dragon powerful?”

The Silverlight Shark answered, “500 years ago, a human army caused a massacre, killing all the powerful savage beasts. Even the overlord, the Four-winged Earth Dragon was killed. But a son of the Four-winged Earth Dragon survived, it was the Three-clawed Flood Dragon.”

“I once visited Three-clawed Flood Dragon; it was a horrible Dominator, its breathing alone was enough to make me too scared to move. Don’t go to the Underwater Dragon Palace, Master. If you disturb it, we will die.”

Zhang Rouchen had to go to the Underwater Dragon Palace.

The Buddha Sarira was extremely important to him.

Zhang Ruochen touched his lower jaw and pondered. Finally, he asked, “Silverlight Shark, you call me master. Are you willing to obey my order, no matter what the order is?”

“Of course.” The Shark answered.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Okay! Go see the Three-clawed Flood Dragon and tell it that a massive group of humans are going to the Death river. They want to break into the Underwater Dragon Palace and steal the treasure left by the Four-winged Earth Dragon.”

“Master, who wants to break into the Underwater Dragon Palace?” Silverlight Shark asked.

“You’d better not ask questions that you shouldn’t ask.” Zhang Ruochen said.

The Silverlight Shark stopped asking questions at once and went to inform the Three-clawed Flood Dragon.

Before leaving, it told Zhang Ruochen where the Underwater Dragon Palace was located.

“When I go to the Underwater Dragon Palace, I can test my speed and see if I have a faster burst rate.”

He stood on the surface of the water as steady as if he was standing on the ground. He took a deep breath and leapt into the air.

As time went on, Zhang Ruochen went faster and faster. He quickly broke a speed of 300 meters per second, followed by 310 per second, then 320, 330, 331, 332...

As his speed got closer to the speed velocity, the resistance of the air became stronger and stronger.

“CRACK!”

Zhang Ruochen’s clothes started to burn, quickly turning to flying ash.

Meanwhile, he was feeling ill. His upper body became heavier and heavier while his lower body was getting lighter and lighter. His eardrum had expanded and he heard a deep ringing sound.

PFFT!

He threw himself headfirst into the water, making a huge splash.

A short time later, he leaped out of the water panting for breath. His long hair covered his face.

The closer he got to the speed velocity, the greater the air resistance was. If his body hadn’t reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, he would have been torn up by the hedge force.

Zhang Ruochen had been wearing the Flying Fish Armor, so he hadn’t felt the powerful pressure.

However, when he broke through speed velocity in the cultivation of the Earth Realm, he found it was so difficult.

His speed nearly reached the speed velocity, but the closer he got, the more pressure he felt. Even though his body had reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, it wasn’t enough.

Warriors in the Heaven Realm who had a Celestial Bodyshield could withstand the pressure.

Unfortunately, Zhang Ruochen didn’t have a Celestial Bodyshield. He had to use his body to withstand the power. As a result, he felt ill.

“This could explain why it is so difficult to reach the Earth Realm’s Ultimate Realm. Even with my power and advantages, I cannot break through. Do I have to advance my body to the Heaven Realm’s Dawn State, to reach the Ultimate Realm?”

If a warrior in the Earth Realm could make his body reach the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, it was a great achievement.

There were very few warriors whose body had reached the Heaven Realm’s Mid Stage.

The number of warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm, whose bodies had reached the Heaven Realm's Advanced Stage, like Zhang Ruochen, was very few. The ones who had were great Geniuses. If a warrior wanted to achieve this, he would need a large number of Treasured Body Refining Medicine, to put in a lot of effort and come across the right advantages.

As for one's body reaching the Heaven Realm's Dawn State while still in the Earth Realm, it was legendary.

According to Zhang Ruochen's understanding, it had only happened once. 800 years ago, among the Nine Emperors, Emperor Wu had a strong enough body that his body reached the Heaven Realm's Dawn State when he was in the Completion of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen was about to reach the Earth Realm's Ultimate Realm. Perhaps if he advanced his body to the Heaven Realm's Dawn State he could break through the realm.

"Only by getting Dragon Sarira or Dragon's Blood, can I improve my physical quality to reach the Earth Realm's Ultimate Realm."

Zhang Ruochen's clothes had burned to ashes. He stood naked with a big smile on his face. "That explains why the Elders who have reached the Heaven Realm all wear special silver robes. Common clothes must burn when they run at a very high speed."

Although Zhang Ruochen was just an internal student, he had enjoyed a treat that only silver gowned Elders could enjoy. He had gained three sets of silver robes.

After taking out a silver robe and putting it on, Zhang Ruochen continued his journey. He stepped onto the water's surface and headed for Underwater Dragon Palace at a very high speed.

Entering the vicinity of the Underwater Dragon Palace, he sensed warriors' breathing.

He slowed down and put on the Flying Fish Armor. He dove down and used the power of space to hide himself as he moved forward carefully.

He let out his Martial Soul to explore the area at the same time.

He found six Red Spider Vessels hundreds of kilometers away.

Zhang Ruochen used his Martial Soul to explore, but he still stayed at a distance in order to not be found by the strong vessels.

"So much powerful aura. Like Le said, the Black Market has assembled a great number of warriors at the Completion of the Earth Realm. There may be thousands of Martial Arts superiors here."

The Black Market's power could not be underestimated. Thousands of warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm; it was horrible.

Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul was invisible. It floated in the air like a gust of wind and watched the six Red Spider Vessels.

He discovered that two of his acquaintances, Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi, were on a Red Spider Vessel.

Their hands were bound with iron chains and their legs were shackled. On their necks, chests, backs and bellies, were many whip scars, and they were dripping with blood.

In addition to them, hundreds of ragged warriors of the Earth Realm were tied to the masts.

“They’ve been caught by the Black Market masters. Did senior sister apprentice Huang and senior sister apprentice Duanmu manage to escape?”

Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Soul searched all six Red Spider Vessels and didn’t find Huang Yanchen or Duanmu Xingling. He was relieved.

“I can understand why the Black Market would want to catch Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi. After all, the Black Market and the School of the Martial Market have been hostile to each other for ages. But why did they kidnap the other warriors and why so many?”

Chapter 318 & 319 - Zhang Tianguis Revenge

As Zhang Ruochen was thinking about how to rescue Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi, several warriors from the Black Market came out of the Red Spider Vessel.

Jin Chuan and Guo Shisan were in the front. Behind them were other warriors whose cultivation had reached the Completion of the Earth Realm. They wore black robes and had weapons on their waists.

Everyone showed arrogance.

“Why have you kidnapped me? Who are you? I am the successor of the Wang Clan, Wang Jingtian. If my father finds out what you did to me, you will die.”

A magnificently dressed man was tied to the mast. He was shouting as if his identity as the heir of the Wang Clan was so great that it would scare them.

Jin Chuan cast a cold look and gave orders to a nearby warrior.

The warrior nodded and sneered, walking towards Wang Jingtian. He took out a blazed whip, a sixth-level Genuine Martial Arm, and began lashing Wang Jingtian.

CLAP!

CLAP!

After only two lashes, Wang Jingtian cried out loudly. He was begging for mercy.

But the warrior continued to whip him ruthlessly. His flesh and blood flew in all directions.

And he did not stop until Wang Jingtian was almost dead.

“Bah! The Wang Clan actually dares to threaten our Black Market.”

He spat contemptuously in Wang Jingtian’s face.

On the deck, the other warriors had originally wanted to rebel. When they saw this scene, everyone calmed down.

Even though they wanted to rebel, all they could do was keeping silent.

They had just witnessed Wang Jingtian get beat almost to death.

Jin Chuan looked at the warriors and focused on Si Xingkong. He walked towards Si Xingkong and said coldly, "Si Xingkong, you are a top master in the younger generation of Omen Ridge. You are different from them. Our young master values talent, so, he is giving you one last chance. If you tell us where Zhang Ruochen is, the young master will spare your life. Think carefully. This is your final chance."

Si Xingkong's long hair covered his face, but it did not cover his free temperament.

He smiled and said, "I don't know where junior fellow apprentice Zhang is. Even if I knew, I wouldn't tell you."

Jin Chuan sneered. His eyes were murderous. He transferred Genuine Qi to his fingers, about to stab Si Xingkong in the heart.

"Wait!"

Zhang Tiangui came out from the cabin with his arms crossed behind his back and said to Jin Chuan, "Predecessor Jin, the young master is very interested in Si Xingkong. He wants to see how strong the first genius of Omen Ridge is."

"Does the young master want to test Si Xingkong's cultivation by himself?" Jin Chuan asked.

Jin Chuan did not dare look down upon Zhang Tiangui. Di Yi trusted him and gave him preferential treatment.

Zhang Tiangui shook his head and laughed. "To test Si Xingkong's cultivation? I am enough!"

Chang Qiqi laughed aloud, "Zhang Tiangui, you were defeated by my eldest brother. Only a few months have passed, and yet you boast without shame."

Zhang Tiangui didn't get angry. He said, "I'm different now. My level has reached new heights under the guidance of the young master."

Chang Qiqi sneered and said, "Who the hell do you think you are? Do you think the eldest brother will fight against you? You overestimate yourself!"

Chang Qiqi was so sharp-tongued that Zhang Tiangui who was in a state of peace of tranquility was irritated by his words.

He gave a cold look and attacked immediately. He squeezed Chang Qiqi's neck and pulled him up.

Zhang Tiangui squeezed hard, making Chang Qiqi's neck thinner and thinner. He let out a gasping sound as if his throat and cervical vertebra were broken.

Chang Qiqi's face grew more and more pale. The veins on his face were bulging as if about to burst.

"Enough!" Si Xingkong shouted. "Let him go! Zhang Tiangui, I'll fight with you."

Zhang Tiangui sneered; his mouth was like a hook. He released Chang Qiqi's neck and threw him to the ground. "Perfect! Very good! As expected your brotherhood is deep. Come on, untie Si Xingkong!"

Two Black Market masters in their fifties walked towards them and quickly untied Si Xingkong.

As for Chang Qiqi, he was dragged aside by the two masters.

One master pulled out his dagger and put it up to Chang Qiqi's neck.

"Don't hurt my junior fellow apprentice."

Si Xingkong shot out an Icing air and dashed towards Chang Qiqi.

Zhang Tiangui flashed in front of Si Xingkong and laughed. "Si Xingkong, if you can defeat me, you can save Chang Qiqi. But if you lose, he must die."

Si Xingkong clenched his fists. His eyes were red with rage.

"Zhang...Tian...gui..." Si Xingkong gritted his teeth in anger.

With Si Xingkong's Genuine Qi surging out, the air around him shook.

He unleashed a long fist covered with purple light that formed a huge fist shadow.

Zhang Tiangui sneered. He separated his feet slightly to dodge Si Xingkong's attack.

Si Xingkong was shocked. He hadn't expected that Zhang Tiangui could dodge his fist so easily at such a high speed. It was a world of difference compared to a few months ago.

Zhang Tiangui was now a Four-realm Fighting Genius. His cultivation had reached a new high, in only a few months' time.

"Si Xingkong, during our last battle, you defeated me in seven attacks. Now, I can beat you with five attacks. You will taste failure."

Zhang Tiangui hummed coldly. Both of his feet left the ground as he kicked towards Si Xingkong's chest.

Si Xingkong stepped on the deck and leaped up more than 33 meters to dodge Zhang Tiangui's attack and strike towards Zhang Tiangui's head.

"Thousand Hands of the War God!"

Zhang Tiangui bent his legs and unleashed his palms towards the sky. A palm shadow appeared as if he had released 1,000 handprints at the same time.

"BANG!"

Both of their handprints crashed into each other forming an energy ripples that flew in all directions.

The other Black Market warriors standing nearby were forced to step back.

"Marvelous, a battle between two top masters of the Omen Ridge. These guys must have the ability to defeat martial arts legends of the Heaven Realm!" One of masters murmured, shocked.

PFFT!

Si Xingkong spat out a mouthful of blood. He flew back.

Zhang Tiangui's strong palm power was beyond Si Xingkong's expectation, much stronger than his.

Seeing Si Xingkong hurt, Zhang Tiangui was happy. "The Dragon's Blood Di Yi gave me was a great thing. Now my body's physical quality is very close to that of warriors at the Mid Stage of the Heaven Realm. I may be a Four-and-a-Half-realm Fighting Genius."

"It was said that there might be Golden Dragon remains in the Underwater Dragon Palace. If he could get Golden Dragon's Blood, he could reach the level of Five-realm Fighting Genius, which would be even better."

Zhang Tiangui had wild ambitions. He fawned over Di Yi only because he wanted to gain precious practice resources from him.

In fact, deep in his heart, he had no respect for Di Yi.

"Now you know how big a disparity there is between us? Haha!"

Zhang Tiangui laughed loudly. All of a sudden, he leapt forward and released his palms once again, striking Si Xingkong in the chest.

BANG! Si Xingkong flew backwards again and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Zhang Tiangui jumped up and flew high, stomping hard on Si Xingkong's back.

CRACK!

This attack stepped Si Xingkong down to the board.

Si Xingkong's body hit the deck so hard that the sound of his bones breaking could be heard.

"Eldest brother."

"Zhang Tiangui, I'm going to kill you!"

Chang Qiqi roared and tried to break free from the two Black Market masters.

However, both warriors were masters of the Completion of the Earth Realm. Moreover, they were elders who had been practicing for more than 50 years. Their Genuine Qi was stronger than Chang Qiqi's.

One of them bashed at Chang Qiqi's temple with a knife handle. His temple Meridians broke and drops of blood surged out.

Chang Qiqi's face was filled with blood and all he could see was black. BANG! He fell down on the deck.

"Junior... fellow apprentice... Chang..."

Si Xingkong shouted out. He lay on the deck in pain. He felt like all his bones were broken. He blamed himself. He had thought that if he could defeat Zhang Tiangui, he could save Chang Qiqi's life.

Zhang Tiangui stepped hard on Si Xingkong's back and chuckled arrogantly. "Si Xingkong, I can give you one more chance. If you kneel before me and make three kowtows to me, I will consider letting your junior fellow apprentice go. How about that?"

“Zhang... you are dreaming.”

Every word was forced out as Si Xingkong gripped his teeth hard.

“Am I? I admire your great pride. But your junior fellow apprentice will die.”

Zhang Tiangui motioned to the two Black Market masters with his eyes and sneered. “Cut Chang Qiqi into pieces and throw them in the water. Feed the savage beasts.”

Chapter 320: The War of Death

“Yes, sir.”

The two Black Market masters sneered and waved their war knives towards Chang Qiqi.

“Wait a minute!”

Si Xingkong clenched his teeth and shouted, “Zhang Tiangui, I agree... I agree... OK?”

“Ha ha ha ha!”

Zhang Tiangui burst out a great laughter. “As expected, you are righteous and affectionate. I have to say, I admire you! Kneel down and give me a kotow.”

Zhang Tiangui moved his feet and stood upright. Expectations were rising in his mind.

A few months ago, Si Xingkong had been the eldest brother at the School of the Martial Market, full of high spirits. But now he was being defeated by Zhang Tiangui.

Only a few months had passed. Now Si Xingkong was lying on the ground like a dog, his life in the hands of Zhang Tiangui.

For Zhang Tiangui, the satisfied feeling of power was so wonderful.

Si Xingkong dragged his badly injured body and climbed up from the ground glaring at Zhang Tiangui.

As a warrior, Si Xingkong would rather to die than be humiliated.

But as a friend and senior fellow apprentice, he couldn't ignore his junior fellow apprentice.

He was a great man with dignity as well as affection.

Between dignity and his junior fellow apprentice's life, he must choose one.

This was a much more difficult problem than death. If Si Xingkong could choose, he would choose to die. It would be easier for him.

Si Xingkong closed his eyes with a long sigh and was about to kneel down.

Zhang Tiangui's smile grew larger.

But suddenly, two ice swords surged out from the water. They rotated and finally shot onto the Red Spider Vessel.

CRACK!

The two nine-meter ice swords pierced through the Genuine Qi of the two masters who were holding Chang Qiqi. The swords penetrated through their chests leaving two icy sword tips.

The blood covering the two tips looked like bloody jade.

“AHH...”

“Young master, save...me...”

Looking down at the two ice swords pierced through their chests, the two masters were frozen with fear.

BANG! BANG!

Their vitality ran out. They fell to the ground at the same time.

However, wounds in their chests didn't bleed.

The blood was sealed with Icing cold.

The sudden change left all the Black Market warriors aboard the Red Spider Vessel in a panic. They all looked towards the surface of the water.

A hundred meters out, a warrior in red armour with a broken sword was gliding across the water. He walked towards the Red Spider Vessel.

Every step he took froze the surrounding water into ice.

It was he who had used the ice sword to kill the two masters.

“Zhang Ruochen!”

Although he was covered in armour, Jin Chuan recognized him.

Jin Chuan clenched his fists, with a complicated feeling. He was angry but excited.

What really angered him was that Zhang Ruochen had killed his daughter, Jin Yeyun.

Of course, Jin Yeyun had actually been killed under Le's sword, but Jin Chuan didn't know that. He hated Zhang Ruochen.

What really excited him was that Zhang Ruochen had appeared.

It would not have been easy for Jin Chuan to find him if he had remained hidden.

Of all those present, aside from Jin Chuan, Zhang Tiangui was the most excited.

Originally, he had just wanted to humiliate Si Xingkong. He hadn't expected to draw Zhang Ruochen out. It was an unexpected harvest.

Excellent!

Zhang Tiangui thought, *“Zhang Ruochen! Zhang Ruochen! There’s a way to reach the heaven and yet, you decide to break into the underworld. If you can escape successfully today, I will be shocked.”*

Zhang Tiangui was so delirious with joy that his blood was boiling.

If he could kill Zhang Ruochen, he would regain the honor that once belonged to him. He must get back what Zhang Ruochen had taken away.

In fact, Zhang Ruochen never wanted this. It was a dead end.

If he had remained hidden in the water and ignored Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong, he would not have been found by the warriors of the Black Market.

But, he couldn’t convince himself.

Zhang Ruochen had no other choice. Si Xingkong was being forced to give up his dignity to save his junior fellow apprentice’s life.

He would sooner die a hero than drag out an ignoble existence and see his junior fellow apprentice being humiliated.

Even Di Yi sitting in the cabin looked out the window and stared at Zhang Ruochen. He sneered and thought, *“He is choosing to come forward. Is he being brave or is he just stupid?”*

Zhang Ruochen stopped when he was 160 meters from the Red Spider Vessel. *“Let elder brother Chang and elder brother Si go. I will be your captive.”*

Standing on the bow Jin Chuan sneered with his creepy face. *“Zhang Ruochen, you aren’t qualified to talk terms with us. Do you think you can escape now that you are here? Guo Shisan, Xia Houshuo, you two take Zhang Ruochen.”*

WOOSH!

Guo Shisan and Xia Houshuo leapt up at the same time and charged toward water, attacking Zhang Ruochen from two different directions.

As a top Master of Martial Arts in the Square Commandery, Guo Shisan’s power was strong. He held an epee but still rushed towards Zhang Ruochen’s right at a speed faster than sound.

He slid on the water with the Genuine Qi inside his body surging hard and forming a Blood Wave five meters wide. He lifted his sword and struck towards Zhang Ruochen without any other moves.

A surge of vast and mighty sword Qi flew downward like a waterfall.

The surface of the water was split, forming a path.

The waves poured to the left and right of the water wall.

Zhang Ruochen stood in front of the sword Qi like an ancient pine rooted in water. When he waved his arms, the Genuine Qi turned into wind that surged out.

A wave of water rose and condensed into an ice wall 10 meters high and three meters thick.

BANG!

Guo Shisan cut through the ice wall in one single motion, then struck at Zhang Ruochen's head.

Zhang Ruochen stared at the sword. With contracted pupils he could see everything clearly as if in slow motion.

In reality, Guo Shisan was very fast, even faster than Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen held the Abyss Ancient Sword and condensed his Genuine Qi into palms activating the sword's inscriptions. He lifted his arms and shook sword light towards Guo Shisan.

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His counterattack was as fast as the speed of sound.

For an instant, all the sword Qi flew out.

Guo Shisan's expression changed. He immediately held up his Celestial Bodyshield and blocked it with his sword.

BANG!

Guo Shisan flew back and fell to the ground more than 30 meters away. His Celestial Bodyshield had been pierced by the sword Qi, leaving two cuts, one on his belly and one on his right leg.

SWOOSH!

Having repelled Guo Shisan, Zhang Ruochen stepped forward and flew towards the Red Spider Vessel.

All of a sudden, a shadow dashed towards him, it was Xia Houshuo, Jin Chuan's first disciple. He was a martial arts legend at the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. He was famous in the Square Commandery.

"Zhang Ruochen, if you want to break into the Red Spider Vessel, you have to pass through me first."

"Tianyuan Vigorous Qi!"

Xia Houshuo spread his arms. He was holding a globe cover of Vigorous Qi. It was 40 meters in diameter and emanated bright white light.

Standing in the center of the cover, Xia Houshuo moved his palms with force.

A huge handprint appeared on the Vigorous Qi cover and pressed towards Zhang Ruochen's head.

"Dragon in the Sky!"

Zhang Ruochen twisted and swung. All his bones connected together causing a sound like dragon's roar.

ROAR!

Zhang Ruochen struck towards Xia Houshuo with sevenfold power. All of a sudden, Xia Houshuo's Vigorous Qi cover broke.

Xhang Rouchen's palm hit him and he spat out a mouthful of blood. He fell into the water with a huge splash.

"Awesome! With just one attack, Xia Houshuo was badly injured. Zhang Ruochen deserves to be a top master among the younger generation."

"Even Guo Shisan was hurt badly by Zhang Ruochen. He is talented in both palm technique and sword technique."

"Shit! He is flying towards the Red Spider Vessel."

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When Zhang Ruochen landed on the Red Spider Vessel, more than 10 Black Market warriors at the Completion of the Earth Realm rushed forward and surrounded him.

"Sacred Wave Sword!"

Zhang Ruochen slashed with his sword. He surged out Genuine Qi that turned into waves of sword Qi.

PFFT!

As the sword Qi swept, blood spilled and screaming arose.

Six Earth Realm warriors were chopped in half by the sword Qi. They died. Other warriors with higher cultivation reluctantly blocked Zhang Ruochen's attack but were still injured.

Zhang Ruochen dashed towards Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong. He grabbed Chang Qiqi's right arm and Si Xingkong's left arm and dragged them away.

Seeing that Zhang Ruochen's two hands were busy, Zhang Tiangui seized the opportunity to quickly unleash a fist technique of Spiritual Stage, attacking him from behind.

Zhang Tiangui didn't have the ability to defeat Zhang Ruochen if they fought face to face.

However, still grasping his injured brothers, he turned back to Zhang Tiangui.

His attack was enough to cause serious injury.

Zhang Tiangui was strong. As he punched, a crackling sound rose. His fist turned silvery like an iron fist.

Zhang Ruochen could feel Zhang Tiangui's fist strength. It was as if he had eyes in the back of his head. He nudged Si Xingkong forward, pushing him out of the Red Spider Vessel and into the water.

He turned back quickly and pointed his left thumb.

"Sun Meridian Ripple!"

All his Genuine Qi surged into his thumb. Like a roaring flame, it turned into sword Qi and flew towards Zhang Tiangui's fist.