

Chapter 391: Divine Dragon Transformation

“Zhang Ruochen, are you trying to fight against the Saint Gentries alone? You are biting off more than you can chew.”

With his hands at the back, Xu Qing stood stoically. He looked down at Zhang Ruochen and hummed coldly.

The four of them, Xu Qing, Zuo Fenggu, Shen Yuntong and the descendant from Saint Xi Gentry, stood on the 50th step. Each of them gave out a bright holy light. They were so overbearing and arrogant that they looked like four young kings.

But Zhang Ruochen showed no fear. He stood up again and wiped away the blood stain on his mouth. He straightened his body and suddenly, all of his Qi came to his Qi sea at once.

“Whoosh!”

The 10,000th Vital Essence was successfully condensed!

Floating in the Qi sea, the 10,000 drops of the Vital Essence glowed in green and clashed with one another.

The number of Vital Essences started to drop.

But each Vital Essence became bigger and bigger.

Finally, there were only two Vital Essences in the Qi sea, and each of them was the size of a pearl. Shining in all directions, they revolved around each other and pulled each other nearer and nearer.

“Boom!”

They crashed together and condensed into a pigeon egg-sized liquid Vital Essence ball.

The moment the Vital Essence ball was condensed, Zhang Ruochen’s pores were all opened and madly absorbed the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth.

“Whir!”

On the Stairway to Heaven, wisps of Spiritual Qi gathered to Zhang Ruochen and formed a huge Spiritual Qi vortex. The four descendants from the Saint Gentries kept backing up, fearing to be sucked into the vortex.

“What? Is he trying to break through the realm on the Stairway to Heaven?”

Xu Qing’s expression changed and said, “We can’t let him break through. Let’s go!”

After saying this, Xu Qing stepped out first. He activated the Fiery Wings again. His whole body was covered with fire. Then he flew towards Zhang Ruochen like a huge golden fire-ball.

“Infinite Palm!”

The descendant from the Saint Xi Gentry transferred his Genuine Qi. She lifted up his left arm and sanctified it completely. Every inch of her skin gave out the strong light that was brighter than the sun.

Her Holy Blood revived. Although she was not a Saintly Being now since only her arm was sanctified, the power of her arm was extremely strong, which could burst out the power ten times stronger than usual.

There was a shrill burst of wind in the air when she struck.

The palm power dashed towards Zhang Ruochen like a fierce storm.

“Domineering Saint Fist Technique!”

Inherited from the Domineering Saint, Shen Yuntong’s blood was boiling and his body was expanding, making cracking noise.

After a while, he turned into a five-meter tall giant.

Steel-like muscles appeared on the surface of his body. His fists were as big as washbasins, containing infinite power.

The blood of the Domineering Saint was recovering. Although he was not a Saintly Being yet, he could be seen as a Half-Saint.

Zuo Fenggu, in his alchemist robe, was the only one who did not make a move. But he was gathering his strength secretly as well, planning strike a deadly blow with Spiritual Power towards Zhang Ruochen at any moment.

Below the Stairway to Heaven, all the students were shocked with mouth wide open. These descendants from the Saint Gentries were so powerful that they looked like deities descending from Heaven.

“Each one of them is an elite warrior, and now they are working together to fight against Zhang Ruochen. I think every one of them has the strength to be Zhang Ruochen’s match.”

“What do you know? Zhang Ruochen is at the crucial moment of breaking through the realm. If he succeed, he will get into a whole new realm! Of course, people like Xu Qing won’t let him make it. Otherwise, they are no match for Zhang Ruochen even if they work together.”

Only a warrior in the Heaven Realm could understand how hard it was to break through the realm. Every realm was a barrier, and even the Mid Stage and the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, which were the easiest to break through, needed a long period of accumulation.

Just when Xu Qing’s attack was going to land on Zhang Ruochen’s body—

Zhang Ruochen’s body gave out a bright green light of Genuine Qi.

Boom!

Zhang Ruochen stretched out his arms as if all of his muscles and bones became one. Two illusory images of flying dragon of Genuine Qi appeared, and then they struck out simultaneously.

Xu Qing also struck out. But the moment he touched Zhang Ruochen, he felt an extremely powerful force coming from his arms. He could not help but fly backward.

When Xu Qing fell on the ground, he could not feel his arms. And his body became flaccid as if his soul had left him.

This was bad.

Xu Qing immediately transferred his Genuine Qi, which flowed out of his Qi sea towards his entire body through meridians.

Under the nourishing of Genuine Qi, his sense of his body began to restore, followed by unbearable pain from his arms and legs. Apparently, the collision just now had wounded him severely.

“How could he...be so strong? Could it be that he had already broken through the realm?”

Xu Qing’s face immediately lost all color and he felt extremely pressured by the person in front of him.

Could they handle Zhang Ruochen after he broke through the realm?

Indeed, Zhang Ruochen had broken through the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm. But he did not have the time to digest the power, because Shen Yuntong and the descendant from the Saint Xi Gentry had already attacked towards him.

The descendant from the Saint Xi Gentry struck with her hand. With the moving of her fingers, millions of hand shadow appeared in the void space.

It looked like every hand carried endless and unpredictable Saint Power.

“Huaa!”

From Zhang Ruochen’s glabella, a Skyeeye appeared, with which Zhang Ruochen spotted the real hand precisely.

So, Zhang Ruochen stretched his right hand, clenched her wrist, took hold of her meridians and pulled her.

The descendant from Saint Xi Gentry was surprised. She could not help but fly towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen clenched her wrist so tight that his fingers stabbed into her skin. With her wrist in hand, he swung his arm quickly and threw her hard on the Stairway.

“Pow!”

The descendant from Saint Xi Gentry clashed with the Stairway hard. Her body cracked, and she groaned out of agony.

She laid on the ground and could not move. With blood on her mouth, she shuddered all over.

Zhang Ruochen let her wrist go and step forward to meet Shen Yuntong.

Now, Shen Yuntong was almost five meters tall like a big-boned beast. His fists were like hammers as if one punch could crack the earth open.

“Bang! Bang!”

Dragon's roar raised inside Zhang Ruochen's body. He kept performing palm technique and confronted Shen Yuntong with toughness.

Shen Yuntong was born with Natural Divine Power. After inheriting the Domineering Saint's power, he was even more terrifying.

In the same realm, no one could even block his one single punch.

Now, Zhang Ruochen was one realm lower than him, but Zhang Ruochen could suppress him in raw strength and kept forcing him back.

Even Zhang Ruochen himself didn't realize, with his continuous punching, his hands were turned into golden dragon claws with Dragon Scales on them.

What's more, these golden Dragon Scales kept growing towards his shoulders, head, chest, and legs. After a while, Zhang Ruochen became a ten feet long golden dragon!

"Awoo!"

An exploding dragon's roar raised up, and even the Stairway to Heaven seemed like to be shaken a bit.

The Half-Saints in the Holy Temple couldn't believe their eyes. One of them stood up and blurted out, "It's...it's the legendary Divine Dragon Transformation!"

Only the human warrior who refined the divine Dragon Pearl could perform this unique technique.

A mortal actually turned into a Divine Dragon.

"Let's attack together. We must take him down."

Xu Qing recovered from the shock and attacked Zhang Ruochen again. He performed his unique technique which turned his 81 punches into 81 shadows that punched together.

The descendant from Saint Xi Gentry got up from the ground and punched on the Stairway. Her palm cracked open at once and blood was splattered everywhere.

She then exercised her technique and the blood on her hand began to burn.

"Huaa!"

Traces of white inscriptions appeared all over her arms, palms and fingers. Like white strings, they quickly covered her whole body.

This was a secret spell. With the help of this secret spell, she could transfer the power of the divine hand to her whole body and burst out the power of the Saintly Being in a short time.

In other words, she just temporarily became a Saintly Being, albeit a fake one.

Shen Yuntong also had his unique technique. Now, he performed it and tried to attack Zhang Ruochen.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen turning into a Golden Dragon, Zuo Fenggu also started attacking.

He was a Spiritual Power master, so he did not dash to Zhang Ruochen directly. Instead, he raised his arm slowly and pointed to Zhang Ruochen.

“Huaa!”

The Spiritual Qi between the heaven and earth shook and turned into flames, forming a blossoming flame floating in the air.

These flames were like a myriad of lights in the valley. They gradually condensed into a huge flaming phoenix. The phoenix stretched its two claws and rushed towards the Golden Dragon.

Standing below the Stairway and looking up, people could only see a Golden Dragon fighting with a flaming phoenix, while the two made ear-splitting noises.

At the same time, the giant, turned by Shen Yuntong, held a huge axe condensed by Genuine Qi and slashed the Golden Dragon as well.

The descendant from Saint Xi Gentry floated in the air like one of the Nine Goddesses of the Empyrean. From her fingertips, traces of light columns struck out and fell on the Golden Dragon's body.

Xu Qing's 81 shadows surrounded the Golden Dragon completely. Some of them performed the fist technique, some of them performed the palm technique, and some of them performed the sword skill.

Each of the four masters proved their worth and fought with the Golden Dragon.

“Bang! Bang!”

The Golden Dragon kept striking out palm print while flying in every direction. All four descendants from the Saint Gentries coughed up blood and flew backward.

“Huaa!”

The Golden Dragon uttered a long and loud cry. It turned into a ray light and landed on the Stairway again and condensed shadowy figure.

It had returned to human form.

Zhang Ruochen took a couple of deep breaths and stared at his hands in surprise. He could not believe that he had just performed the Divine Dragon Transformation.

The Divine Dragon Transformation was a Ghost Level Superior class martial technique.

Even if a warrior had refined the Dragon Pearl, he needed to practice this martial technique to become a dragon.

But Zhang Ruochen had never practiced the Divine Dragon Transformation before. He, however, directly turned into a Golden Dragon during the battle and defeated the four descendants from the Saint Gentries.

What was going on?

“I performed the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm while battling the descendant from Saint Shen Gentry. Is this palm technique somehow related to the Divine Dragon Transformation? Is that why I turned into a dragon because of some kind of power I accidentally stimulated while performing that palm technique?”

Actually, Zhang Ruochen wasn't wrong about that. Because the Divine Dragon Transformation was created by a Saint who comprehended the nine movements of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm and created the Draconic Transformation.

The Divine Dragon Transformation and the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, therefore, were somehow related.

During the battle, Zhang Ruochen had a very small probability to stimulate the power of the Divine Dragon Transformation. But no one knew how small the probability was. It could be 1%, 0.1%, or even 0.01%.

Chapter 392: Climb the Stairway

The Stairway to Heaven was a mess. Not only were the successors of the four Saint families heavily injured, those students of the four Saint families who took the Saint Academy's examination were as well.

Some of them were even in critical condition. They could not stand up and others had to come to carry them down the stairway.

Of the four Saint families, there were naturally some top masters. But how could they compete against Luo Shuihan and Duanmu Xingling?

Luo Shuihan was extremely powerful. She beat down and knocked down more than 40 talented students off the Stairway to Heaven.

It was the strength of the Saintly Being. Her situation was less vigorous than the situation of Zhang Ruochen and the four successors of Saint families, but no one dared to underestimate her.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen shocked them the most.

With one man's power, he defeated the joint attack of the four successors of Saint families. Even a Saintly Being could not easily fight them off.

"So amazing! He can even use a martial technique as incredible as the Divine Dragon Transformation. No wonder that Bu Qianfan regards him as an enemy. He's really powerful!"

"With his strength, which stair could he climb to?"

"He can probably climb to the 70th level."

"With his qualification, it won't be difficult for him to climb to the 80th level of the Stairway."

"How could it be possible? Even a Saintly Being can't climb to the 80th level. The pressure of the Saint Power is unimaginable."

...

It was extremely difficult for an ordinary genius to climb to the 30th level of the Stairway. Only the Saintly Beings could reach the 70th level.

It seemed that Zhang Ruochen was stronger than the Saintly Beings. So people were all looking forward to seeing which level he could climb to.

However, Zhang Ruochen stepped down the Stairway, denied all the expectation of those students and people of Half-Saint Class. He did not continue to climb.

Anyway, I have already left my name on the Jade Tablet. I have passed the first examination. Why should I continue to climb up the Stairway?

Although Zhang Ruochen wanted to keep a low profile, the war would make him famous in the Eastern Region and he would become the newly emerging God's favored son.

Many of God's favored daughters swooned at Zhang Ruochen after seeing his upstanding and firm figure. They looked at him as if he was a god in flesh.

He fought against the four successors of Saint families and beat them down with his own power. In the whole Eastern Region, how many could do this?

Walking down the Stairway, Zhang Ruochen came to Lei Jing.

At this moment, Lei Jing was flushed and excited. He directly slapped Zhang Ruochen's shoulder and said, "Good lord, you actually hid your strength. I was worried about you. But I didn't think that you can break through your realm mid-combat. Also, you were even proficient at the Divine Dragon Transformation, a martial technique of the Superior-class in Ghost Level."

Zhang Ruochen could not explain the Divine Dragon Transformation to Lei Jing. He looked calm and said with a smile, "It was just a stroke of luck. I'm not sure if I can use it again. However, I have offended the four Saint families. I'm afraid that it will be difficult for me to walk freely in the Eastern Region in the future."

Lei Jing stopped smiling. He looked dignified and said seriously, "As long as you show your talent, those Saint families and Half-Saint families will target you unless you are willing to be a coward. Otherwise, sooner or later, you will have face them."

"But don't worry. You have shown your talent today. I believe that the senior leaders of the Saint Academy have started to pay attention to you. As long as you get the support from the Saint Academy, people from Saint families will not hurt you."

Lei Jing continued to say, "Actually, you should continue to climb the Stairway to Heaven. Do you know why those people desperately want to climb the Stairway after passing the assessment?"

Zhang Ruochen certainly knew the reason and he answered, "I know some reasons. It's said that if a student can climb up to the 70th level, a Saint of the Saint Academy will accept him as a disciple. If he can climb up to the 80th level, he will become a disciple of a headmaster."

Lei Jing was puzzled and asked, "Since you know the reason, why didn't you give it a try? You have a chance to ascend the 80th level of the Stairway with your talent. Each of the 10 headmasters of the Saint Academy is extremely powerful. If you can become a disciple of any one of them, the four Saint families would never dare touch you."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "Even if I don't climb the Stairway, I'm afraid that many people have already prepared to accept me as their disciple. Besides, if I become a disciple of a headmaster, I will be a candidate for the young master of the School of the Martial Market. Now, there are already several candidates. If I also become a candidate, wouldn't I offend a lot more people and cause even more trouble?"

"Also, headmasters of the Saint Academy are all superior and powerful. Even if I become their disciple, I'm afraid that they will not have much time to teach me. I'm willing to be a Half-Saint's disciple to have more learning opportunities."

Zhang Ruochen had his own reason for not climbing the Stairway.

With his capabilities, not to mention the 80th level, even the 90th level of the Stairway would not be hard for him to reach.

Once he climbed to the 90th level, what a sensation would he make?

If he did, his name would be reported to the headquarters of the School of the Martial Market, even Empress Chi Yao would possibly hear his name.

But that would undoubtedly spell disaster for him.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen could stop after reaching the 80th level. But that would be so out of his character.

If you were determined to do something, you need to put your best into it.

If you did not intend to put in your utmost, then you better just give up.

And Zhang Ruocheng needed to keep a low profile, at least Empress Chi Yao could not know his name.

The battle today caused a great sensation, but it was not serious enough to alert Empress Chi Yao, so the influence was still under control.

Lei Jing stopped persuading Zhang Ruochen. He sighed and said, "I climbed to the 49th level and was only one step away from the 50th one."

Although Zhang Ruochen gave up climbing the Stairway, other students from Omen Ridge were not like him. They were still trying to climb up because they wanted to take this opportunity to test their talent and prove themselves.

Among those students, Chang Qiqi had the worst talent, but he still climbed to the 44th level of the Stairway.

Of course, if he could completely refine the Dragon's Blood in his body, he would be able to climb to a higher level.

The Dragon's Blood in Chen Xier's body had been completely refined so that she reached the 56 level. Her aptitude was comparable to the successors of some Half-Saint families.

Si Xingkong had climbed to the 58th Stairway, but he was still struggling to climb to the 60th stair.

Huang Yanchen's strength had been promoted, and her strength was slightly greater than Si Xingkong's. She had already on the 59th level and she was also trying to climb to the 60th Stairway.

The performance of Duanmu Xingling was unexpected— she had climbed to the 65th level of the Stairway and was only three stairs behind Luo Shuihan.

About three hours passed, all the students from Omen Ridge walked down the Stairway to Heaven and came to Lei Jing's side.

The final result was:

Chang Qiqi reached the 44th level of the Stairway.

Chen Xier reached the 56th level of the Stairway.

Si Xingkong reached the 59th level of the Stairway.

Huang Yanchen reached the 60th level of the Stairway.

Duanmu Xingling reached the 67th level of the Stairway.

Luo Shuihan reached the 44th level of the Stairway.

After Si Xingkong returned, he sighed and said, "It's such a pity. I was just one step away from the 60th level. But the step was a chasm which I could cross."

Huang Yanchen said, "Elder brother, your talent is stronger than mine, but you haven't fully refined the Dragon's Blood yet. It will not be difficult for you to reach the 60th level of the Stairway after you refining the Dragon's Blood."

Huang Yanchen understood that she had already taken many treasures that improved her physical constitution while she was refining the Dragon's Blood. It would be hard for her to enhance her physical quality anymore.

But Si Xingkong was different from her. He had not fully refined the Dragon's Blood, there was room to improve himself.

Lei Jing said, "Actually, with you guys' talent, you are not that far off from those successors of Saint families. However, your strength is much worse than theirs."

"Master, we can't do anything about that. How old are we? How old are they? There is a two-realm gap between our strength and their strength, so how can we be compared to them? If I have another five years, I will reach the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. By then, I won't be afraid of them then," Chang Qiqi said.

Everyone was in a good mood. Because they had beaten down those people of Saint families, and were currently basking in the limelight.

Especially Chang Qiqi, he was still excited about what he had achieved.

Zhang Ruochen intended to tamp down Chang Qiqi's pride, so he said, "Elder brother Chang, those successors of Saint families will reach a higher realm after five years, you will still not be an opponent of them unless you work harder than them."

As a friend, he must know when to cheer him up when he has fallen to the rock-bottom.

But at the same time, he should also know when to appropriately rein him in when he is being overly proudful and arrogant.

Chang Qiqi smiled and said, "At that time, senior sister disciple Luo and you will help me. With your talent, they will be beaten down and kneel down to beg for mercy."

Hearing these words, all of them stared at Luo Shuihan.

Only she had reached above the 70th level of the Stairway. The others were both envious and impressed.

But only Zhang Ruochen knew that Luo Shuihan had just practiced out the Saintly Being, so the advantage of the Saintly Being had not been completely showed. Otherwise, she would climb to a much higher level, the even 74th level of the Stairway would be easy.

The Saintly Beings were no joke. There were only a few of them in the entire Eastern region.

Lei Jing said, "You have all passed the first round of the assessment and you can choose which department you would like to go to. Meanwhile, you will participate in the second round of the assessment."

"Of course I will choose the Knife Technique Department. If I can become a disciple of a Half-Saint in Knife Technique, then I will become a successor of a Half-Saint. Haha!" Chang Qiqi said with laughter.

Lei Jing stared at Chang Qiqi and reminded him, saying, "The Knife Technique Department, the Sword Technique Department, the Palm Technique Department, and the Punch Technique Department are the biggest department of the Saint Academy. They have the largest number of applicants and the competition is extremely fierce. I don't worry about the others, but I'm just worried that you might not even pass the exam of the Knife Technique Department."

"Amitabha!"

At this moment, a four-meter-tall fat monk silently appeared right next to them. He smiled and looked very kind, just like a "Maitreya".

The "Maitreya" stared at Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong and said with a smile, "I sense a connection between them and Buddha. It's best for them to apply for the Buddhism Department."

Chapter 393: Half-Saints Accepted Apprentices

A connection with Buddha?

Apply for the Buddhism Department?

Chang Qiqi turned around to see the chubby monk. He was shocked at first glance. The monk was so tall that everyone only stood up to his thigh.

He's definitely not of normal human origins.

Moreover, his cultivation seems to be so unfathomable that no one can see through it.

After all, it's the Saint Academy, meeting a master was normal.

To be honest, Chang Qiqi did not even care about him. In his view, he had gotten the Dragon's Blood of Golden Dragon and reached the 44th Stairway, so he was a top-notch genius. If placed in Omen Ridge, he would be a legend in martial arts that would dominate everyone else.

His cultivation now was weaker than the monk's, but he would surely be able to surpass him in future.

Chang Qiqi walked for a couple laps around the monk and contemptuously smiled, "Monk, there is no difference between joining the Buddhism Department and becoming a monk. Who are you? My elder brother and I are God's favored sons. And we will drink wine, eat meat and make love with women. How could a mere Buddhism Department fit for people like us?"

He wanted to continue to say, but Lei Jing grabbed his neck and threw him back. Lei Jing yelled at him, "Shut up, do you know who is standing in front of you?"

Chang Qiqi was shocked by the strong power of Lei Jing. The loud yell of Lei Jing rang in his ears like thunder and made his scalp tingle.

"Who... who?"

Chang Qiqi was scared because he had never seen Master Lei this angry.

Lei Jing knelt on one knee and bowed to the monk. He said, "Disciple Lei Jing humbly greets Half-saint Alan."

"Demi...saint..."

It seemed that Chang Qiqi's eyeballs were going to bulge. He couldn't tell that the monk was a Half-Saint.

"Greetings Half-Saint."

Zhang Ruochen, Luo Shuihan, Si Xingkong, Duanmu Xingling, Huang Yanchen and Chen Xier immediately knelt on one knee to pay their respects to Half-saint Alan.

It was said that almost everyone in the Half-Saint Class could live up to at least 200 years. They were knowledgeable and had strong vitality. Besides, they could fight with dragons and phoenixes and open up Divine Temples to enjoy incenses of the myriad families.

People who could become Half-Saints were not only powerful. Their understanding of Holy Road, Martial Arts and Humanity were all crystal clear.

Simply practicing skills was not enough for a person to become a Half-Saint. If one wanted to become a Half-Saint, he must constantly learn from life and practice various martial arts and in the end, a Road of his own would eventually appear.

Therefore, people who reached the Half-Saint Class all possessed otherworldly strengths. Each of them was a peerless hero who had practiced the Martial Arts and the Holy Road to an extremely mysterious realm. Each of them was worthy of being respected, admired and even worshipped by all the warriors.

“Dong!”

Chang Qiqi was scared, his legs became weak and he directly knelt on the ground. He quickly put his face on the ground, lifted his butt and said with a shaking voice, “Monk... no... Half-saint Alan, grandpa Half-Saint, I didn’t mean to say that. I really didn’t know about your identity, please punish me for my wrongs.”

Chang Qiqi wanted to cry, he immediately took back his pride and reevaluated himself. *“In the East Region Saint City, my cultivation is nothing in front of those real masters. I should be more modest.”*

“Haha, please stand up! All of you.”

Half-saint Alan seemed to be easy-going. After he smiled and raised his arm, all the people were lifted by an invisible power and they stood up again.

Half-saint Alan’s eyes scanned through all of them, then he nodded and said, “If I’m not wrong, all of you have refined the Dragon’s Blood of Golden Dragon, haven’t you?”

It was hard to hide secrets in front of a Half-Saint. So everyone nodded.

Half-saint Alan took two steps forward and came to Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi. Then he said, “Golden Dragon is a wise ancestor of Buddhism. It’s not only powerful, but its wisdom and knowledge is the real treasure.”

“The Dragon’s Blood in both of your bodies has not yet been fully refined. If you practice my Buddhist doctrine, part of the wisdom and knowledge of Golden Dragon will be awakened, which will be beneficial for you to break through the Half-Saint realm.”

Before Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong could react, Lei Jing had understood the meaning of Half-saint Alan with his eyes glowing. He roared to them, saying, “Half-saint Alan wants to accept you as his students, immediately kneel down and kowtow to Half-saint Alan.”

Both Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong were clever. After they knew what the Half-saint Alan meant, they were ecstatic. *“He is a Half-Saint and so many people would die to be the successor of a Half-Saint.”*

“Master.”

When they were going to kneel down and salute again...

Half-saint Alan shook his head with a smile and said, “No hurry. If you want to be my student, you must pass three rounds of assessment. But before that, you two must apply for the Buddhism Department.”

“No problem, elder brother and I will go to Buddhism Department right now.”

“It is a great opportunity to have a chance to become a successor of a Half-Saint. Of course, this cannot be missed.”

Many Young Geniuses would fight tooth-and-nail with each other if it means they even get the sliver of a chance to become a monk. But of course, one who enters the Buddhism Department could only be regarded as a Buddhist disciple and not a fully fledged monk.

Fearing that Half-saint Alan would suddenly change his mind, Chang Qiqi and Si Xingkong immediately bade a farewell and then ran to the registration of the Buddhism Department.

Zhang Ruochen felt happy that they could be students of a Half-Saint. It meant that they would have a strong backer to shelter them in East Region Saint City.

Half-saint Alan deeply glanced at Zhang Ruochen and said profoundly with a smile, “Young man, you have the Dragon Pearl of Golden Dragon, right?”

Zhang Ruochen replied honestly, “Yes.”

Half-saint Alan nodded and inquired, “Would you like to join the Buddhism Department?”

“Half-saint Alan, is it right for you to grab my apprentice like this?” a woman’s voice resounded.

“Swoosh!”

A red light flashed past and fell on the shoulder of Half-saint Alan. Then it turned into a beautiful figure.

Zhang Ruochen stared at the left shoulder of Half-saint Alan and saw a mere ten-centimeter high woman donned in a red dress. Although she was small, she had a perfect body and peerless appearance.

She looked cold with a sword behind her back. She stared at Zhang Ruochen and said, “Zhang Ruochen, your sword technique had reached the Heart Integrated into Sword, so obviously, you should join the Sword Technique Department.”

Lei Jing had never seen this woman in the Saint Academy, so he did not know her identity.

However, he could feel the powerful strength of her, which was the aura that only a Half-Saint could have. So he immediately saluted again and said, “Student Lei Jing, greets Half-Saint.”

Another Half-Saint?

Zhang Ruochen and others immediately followed him to pay their respects.

“My name is Ling Shu.”

After Half-saint Lingshu simply introduced herself, she looked to Zhang Ruochen again and said, “I come to ask you, on behalf of my Master, if you want to be his apprentice?”

A Half-Saint was already quite formidable. How powerful must the Master of a Half-Saint be?

Zhang Ruochen respectfully saluted with joint hands and asked, “Pardon my imprudence, but could I know the name of your master?”

Half-saint Lingshu proudly answered, "My Master is one of the ten headmasters of the Saint Academy, Elder Xuanji. He is very interested in you and hopes that you can apply for the Sword Technique Department. At the same time, he wishes that you can be his apprentice."

After hearing what Half-saint Lingshu had said, even Half-saint Alan looked serious and did not dare to mention that he wanted to accept Zhang Ruochen as his apprentice anymore.

He wouldn't dare have any ideas on the person that Headmaster Xuanji wanted.

Lei Jing was shocked and promptly said, "Zhang Ruochen, Headmaster Xuanji is reputed as one of the three sword saints of the Eastern Region. His power is only inferior to the power of the first headmaster."

"Actually, the first headmaster has long since stopped interfering with the affairs of the Saint Academy. He has been traveling over the world to perceive the supreme Holy Road. His movement and trace are secretive, and he has never been seen in the past 100 years. Therefore, Headmaster Xuanji can be said to be the most powerful and leading person in the Saint Academy."

Huang Yanchen was happy for Zhang Ruochen that he could be taken of interest by Elder Xuanji. She quickly pulled the sleeve of Zhang Ruochen and said, "Zhang Ruochen, why are you hesitating? Come on. If you become the apprentice of Headmaster Xuanji, even the four Saint families won't dare to deal with you."

Under the urging of everyone, Zhang Ruochen still had some concerns and worries.

He had so many secrets, which he may still had to hide from the Half-Saints.

However, could he hide them in front of such a powerful Elder? Zhang Ruochen was not sure at all.

Half-saint Lingshu was a bit speechless. If other students were to be recognized by a headmaster, they would be so excited to immediately kneel down and salute.

The man is still hesitant.

What's wrong with him?

Half-saint Lingshu thought that Zhang Ruochen was worried that Elder Xuanji had some hidden intentions, so she said, "Master already knows that you've refined the Dragon Pearl of Golden Dragon. Don't worry, I'm not interested in your Dragon Pearl, let alone Master. If anyone dares to harass you, even if Master doesn't stand for you, as your Senior sister apprentice, I will help you to resolve those problems."

Half-saint Lingshu was very straightforward, for she feared that Zhang Ruochen may worry too much.

For headmasters of the Saint Academy, they would not use such an inferior method to seize treasure. Since Medieval Ancient Times, the development of the Saint Academy had relied on the tradition of selecting moralists and geniuses. So, it had a high reputation in Kunlun's Field.

Zhang Ruochen replied with a smile, "I certainly trust Half-saint Lingshu and Headmaster Xuanji. But I haven't passed the three rounds of assessment. It's too early for me to officially become a student under the headmaster."

Half-saint Lingshu nodded and said, "All right, I'll come back to you after the three rounds of assessment."

After Half-saint Alan and Half-saint Lingshu left, there were a few other Half-Saints appear who came to accept apprentices.

Refining the Dragon's Blood of Golden Dragon means getting part of the inheritance of Golden Dragon. So obtaining warriors who had refined the Dragon's Blood were naturally goals to fight for for the Half-Saints.

In the end, Chen Xier, Duanmu Xingling, and Huang Yanchen all respectively made an agreement with a Half-Saint— once they passed the three rounds of assessment, they would respectively become an apprentice of those Half-Saints.

(To be continued...)

Chapter 394: Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing

Everyone was invited by a Half-Saint to become their apprentice. Everyone except for Luo Shuihan.

Luo Xu, the forefather of Saint Luo Gentry, was originally from Saint Academy, so Luo Shuihan had been the successor of Luo Xu. Even if other Half-Saints wanted to apprentice Luo Shuihan, they would not succeed.

The Saint Academy was divided into 27 departments.

There were 18 departments in the Martial Arts and 9 in the Spiritual Power.

The 18 departments in the Martial Arts included Sword Technique Department, Knife Technique Department, Palm Technique Department, Fist Technique Department, Finger Technique Department, Spear Technique Department, Whip Technique Department, Club Technique Department, Buddhism Department, Taoism Department, and other departments.

The nine departments in the Spiritual Power included Weapon Crafting Department, Alchemy Department, Beast Taming Department, Sorcery Department, Thunderbolt Department, Wind and Fire Department and other departments.

All roads would eventually lead to greatness.

After reaching a certain realm, one could become a Saint whether he practiced the sword technique or the knife technique.

The pace of practice would be slower as the warrior stepped into the Heaven Realm. A genius warrior also needed to spend a lot of time to break through a realm.

If warriors continued to practice different Martial Arts at the same time, they would only make limited progress. So those who broke through the Fish-dragon Realm were extraordinary. Almost nobody could break through the realm of Half-Saint.

Therefore, the most important role of Saint Academy was to allow warriors to choose a technique suitable for themselves and abandon all other distractions.

Meanwhile, the brilliant masters would teach their apprentices and provide them with the best environment to make the most of their potentials.

Only through this way would the warriors be able to improve their skills faster than others.

Of course, Zhang Ruochen chose the Sword Technique Department.

Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling also chose the Sword Technique Department, while Chen Xier chose the Finger Technique Department and Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi chose the Buddhism Department.

Zhang Ruochen originally thought that Luo Shuihan would choose the Fist Technique Department, but she chose the Taoism Department instead.

According to Luo Shuihan, the inheritance of Saint Luo Gentry seemed to have something to do with Taoism. Besides, predecessor Luo Xu advised her to choose the Taoism Department.

As the largest department of Saint Academy, Sword Technique Department had the largest number of applicants. There was still a long queue registering after the first round of assessment.

There were no lecturers at the registration office. Instead, there were only six previous Saints of the Saint Academy—the elder brothers and sisters, each of them being a top master.

Zhang Rouchen could see through the martial cultivations of them with ease.

Five of them reached the realm of the Completion of Heaven Realm and one reached the realm of the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

Of course, the ordinary warriors who have reached the Completion of Heaven Realm were incomparable to those disciples of Saint Academy for their training and experience accumulated over a decade.

Having finished signing up, Zhang Ruochen, Huang Yanchen, and Duanmu Xingling got the scrolls for the second round of exam.

Xu Hai, the disciple who reached the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, was a disciple of a Half-Saint. Although he was already 45 years old, he looked like he was his twenties. He wore a golden disciple's robe, and had a deep and unpredictable temperament.

For warriors who reached the Fish-dragon Realm, they always looked like they were twenty years old even if their real age was forty.

Standing on the stone table, Xu Hai infused Genuine Qi into his voice and said, "More than 60,000 people from different places come here to take examination this year. Every one of you is a genius in your own right. With your qualifications, most of you can pass the first round of examination."

"Sword Technique Department, the largest department of Saint Academy, attracts nearly one-third people to sign up. However, the Sword Technique Department recruits just 5,000 people each time,

which means that the competition of Sword Technique Department is the fiercest and over 70% of warriors will not pass all three examinations.”

“I will ask again before showing the examination paper. Are you guys really ready to apply for the Sword Technique Department? There are still opportunities to select other departments, such as Spear Technique Department, Whip Technique Department and Club Technique Department, where there are less competition.”

The Saint Academy only recruited disciples once every ten years; one must be cautious when making their decision in choosing a department.

Missing this chance, one might too old to apply again later.

The Saint Academy’s wide age limit aimed to give a chance to those senior warriors who were well-prepared, but they must be under 45 years old.

There was no chance to enter Saint Academy for warriors above 45-year-old, even if they were of high potential.

After hearing the words of Xu Hai, some disciples who were not confident in their own strength put down the scroll silently and left the registration office of the Sword Technique Department, deciding to apply for other departments.

Seeing those disciples who left, Xu Hai smiled coldly and shook his head.

Zhang Ruochen said in a whisper, “The exam has already begun. Just now, brother Xu Hai is testing the determination and self-confidence of people. Those who can not bear the pressure or have no confidence in themselves have already left.”

Xu Hai seemed to hear Zhang Ruochen’s voice. He looked in Zhang Ruochen’s direction, showing his unfriendly look, and said, “Now, I will announce the content of the second exam. The scrolls in your hands record a set of sword technique of superior Spiritual Stage, named ‘Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing’ .”

“Although this sword technique is in superior Spiritual Stage, it is hard to practice. It definitely reaches the peak of martial technique in sword techniques of superior Spiritual Stage, which is enough to compete with sword techniques of inferior Ghost Level.”

“Now, all of you have three days to practice the sword technique. The passing mark of the second exam is to successfully practice the three swords of ‘Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing’ .”

“So, this exam will test your comprehension capabilities and talent on sword techniques.”

“Were you to fail to complete the task, it would mean that your comprehension abilities are too low, or your qualifications are not good enough. So you cannot enter the Sword Technique Department of Saint Academy.”

The sword technique of superior Spiritual Stage was a mysterious martial technique even for warriors of the Heaven Realm. It entailed a lot of time perceive and practice —three or five days won’t do.

This round of exam was quite strict and a large number of people would not be able to succeed.

One of the disciples stood up and said, "Since it is to evaluate everyone's comprehensive capability, wouldn't it be unfair if other students had already comprehended the technique in advance?"

What he asked was the question which the other disciples wanted to ask.

Xu Hai said seriously, "Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing is created just seven days ago by a Half-Saint in the Sword Technique Department. Besides, it has been kept within Saint Academy and never leaked out. Therefore, no one could've gotten the chance to practice beforehand. Everyone should rest assured about that."

"In addition, in order to encourage you to perceive the sword technique, the elder presbyter of Sword Technique Department will give a reward of a 'Sword Heart Pill' to the best performing disciple in this exam."

"BAM!"

All disciples were astounded.

Sword Heart Pill, a seventh-class pill, was worth over one million Spiritual Crystals—an astronomically expensive price. Many warriors of Fish-dragon Realm could not afford it, and it was difficult to get even if you had a lot of money.

The main function of Sword Heart Pill was to help warriors gather the sword technique "Heart of the Sword" to reach the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword.

Of course, Sword Heart Pill is just an external assistance. Reaching the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword must depend on warriors' comprehension of sword techniques.

Even so, Sword Heart Pill was such a treasure that all warriors under Half-Saints competed for it. Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen's beautiful eyes were also sparkling upon hearing about it.

Even if it could not let them reach the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, taking a Sword Heart Pill could let warriors make great progress in the realm of sword techniques.

Only Zhang Ruochen stayed calm. After all, he had already reached the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, so he didn't think much of the Sword Heart Pill.

The disciples below opened the scrolls and raced against time to perceive the "Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing."

Zhang Ruochen also opened the scroll. As expected, there were more than 1,000 tiny words of cultivation method engraved on it.

13 sword pictures and corresponding 13 sword techniques were at the bottom of the cultivation method.

At a glance, 13 sword-holding people began to swinging swords on the scroll, as if they were alive.

"A set of peak-level superior sword technique of Spiritual Stage is absolutely a first-class treasure in Omen Ridge. It will cause lots of scrambles and blood once it appears. On the other hand, Saint Academy can just take a set of sword technique for all disciples who merely sign up here to perceive."

The warriors who come here were disciples of the School of the Martial Market, so Saint Academy did not care that the sword technique would be spread out at all.

With his comprehension of sword techniques and Spiritual Power, it was easy for Zhang Rouchen to practice martial techniques of superior Spiritual Stage.

It only took half a day for Zhang Rouchen to fully perceive the first three sword techniques. All subtleties of sword movement, were understood well by his Skyeeye.

However, he continued to perceive the fourth sword technique instead of practicing the sword techniques at once.

There were 13 sword techniques in Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing and Zhang Rouchen was ready to perceive all of them to win the first place in the second round.

Even if he did not need Sword Heart Pill, he could still give it to someone else as a gift.

Standing by Xu Hai in the distance, Nie Wenlong stared in the direction of Zhang Rouchen with cold eyes. He transmitted his voice to Xu Hai, "My brother, that man is Zhang Rouchen, who has reached Heart Integrated into Sword and defeated the descendants of four powerful Saint families by himself on the Stairway to Heaven. Your younger brother, Xu Qing, is severely injured by him. This time Saint Xu Gentry has lost a lot of reputation."

As a previous Saint, Nie Wenlong had been practicing in Saint Academy for ten years, and his martial cultivation had already reached the Completion of Heaven Realm.

Although he did not break through the Fish-dragon Realm, he entered the Heaven Board, which meant that he was powerful.

Xu Hai gave a cold smile and said, "So what? Compared with the powerful Saint families, he is nothing."

Xu Hai was the descendant of the last generation and his talent was even higher than that of Xu Qing, so he looked down upon Zhang Rouchen. It would be quite easy to kill Zhang Rouchen off for Xu Hai with his current strength.

Chapter 395: Practicing Sword Techniques

The second round of testing was three days long. All of the students were required to stay in the Saint Academy and perceive sword techniques.

Only after the test was complete were they allowed to leave.

Two days time passed very quickly.

Xu Hai had his hands behind his back and his eyes were cold and sharp. He surveyed the examination field and asked Nie Wenlong, "Which move has Xu Canglan reached?"

Nie Wenlong's expression was very respectful and he said, "In reply to elder brother, the eighth move."

Xu Hai nodded with satisfaction and said, "Xu Canglan is the second master of this generation from Saint Xu Gentry. His sword technique attainment is very high and should have reached the Peak of the Sword Following the Heart Realm a long time ago. Seven days ahead of time, I had gotten the cultivation method for the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing from the master and gave it to him. He indeed has not let me down. The eighth sword, that is very good."

The person hosting the second round of the tests of the Sword Technique Department was Xu Hai's master, Demi-saint Lingyuan.

The Thirteen Swords Technique of Soul Chasing was a sword technique developed by Demi-saint Lingyuan seven days ago.

As a genius of Saint Xu Gentry, as well as a disciple of Demi-saint Lingyuan, seven days ago he had received the cultivation method for the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing and had given it to the second genius of this generation in Saint Xu Gentry, Xu Canglan.

That is to say, before the start of the Saint Academy's examination, Xu Canglan had already had seven days to perceive the cultivation method, and was just about finished studying the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing.

Now, he just had to practice the sword movements to merge them and the cultivation method into one, and then he would have succeeded in practicing this sword technique.

Having spent two days on them, Xue Canglan had already successfully practiced seven moves and was now just beginning the eighth.

"There is still one day left. Xu Canglan should be able to successfully practice the 10th move. The Sword Heart Pill is already in my pocket."

Thinking of this, a slight curve appeared at the corner of Xu Hai's mouth.

The reason that he told Xu Canglan of the cultivation method of Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing early was because he wanted Xu Canglan to win first place in the second round of the examination and help him win the Sword Heart Pill.

20 years ago, Xu Hai had reached the Peak of the Sword Following the Heart Realm, and his cultivation of sword techniques became deeper and deeper, but he just could not converge the Heart of the Sword.

Thus, he had to obtain the Sword Heart Pill and break into the Heart Integrated into Sword Realm.

And after tomorrow, the Sword Heart Pill was his.

Nie Wenlong stared in Zhang Ruochen's direction and said, "Elder brother Xu Hai, Zhang Ruochen is in the Heart Integrated into Sword Realm, his sword technique practice is probably very fast. I think he will become a strong opponent of Xu Canglan."

Xu Hai gave a cold sneer and showed a disdainful expression. "So what if his realm is high. It's only a total of three days, and he is just a mortal and not a Saint, so how could he practice a sword technique successfully so quickly? Don't you see? He is still perceiving the cultivation method and hasn't started sword practice."

Practicing sword techniques was split into two parts: perceiving the cultivation method, and practicing the sword movements.

The cultivation method included the coordination of the footwork, the running of the Genuine Qi, and the key secret of the sword technique.

Only after clearly perceiving these three things could one start practicing the sword movements.

The purpose of practicing the sword movements was so that the sword technique, the warrior, the footwork, and the running of the Genuine Qi in the warrior's body could meld into one being.

The sword technique and the warrior became one whole body and reached the point of doing as one wished.

When one struck, there was no need for thought. The sword technique had already been executed and killed those who were under your sword.

For example, Zhang Ruochen had practiced some sword techniques in his previous life. Arriving in this life, he had to practice again so that the sword techniques could meld into one with this body and reach the Realm of Following the Heart, or even Integrating.

In other words, practicing the sword technique until it was part of the body just like the hands, feet, eyes, and nose. Only then was it the Realm of Following the Heart.

Practicing the sword technique until the flesh of the body melded with the soul, only then was that considered the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword.

If that point was not reached, then your practice would always only have the shape of the sword movement and you could only be considered a rash man, and would not be able to become a swordsman.

Just as Xu Hai's words finished, suddenly, Zhang Ruochen, who had been sitting cross-legged, began to practice the sword movements.

Zhang Ruochen used his hand as a sword and pointed outward, then shortly after, seven shadowy streaks of his hand appeared and split apart, like a heavenly girl scattering flowers, and flew toward seven points in the void space.

“Crack! Crack!”

Seven Qi explosions resounded in a row, just like the sound of seven sword tips hitting against a stone wall.

“Elder brother Xu Hai, Zhang Ruochen has already begun to the practice of sword movements. He just demonstrated the first sword of the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing, ‘Haunting Septuple Kill’,” Nie Wenlong said.

Xu Hai's expression darkened and he immediately turned around and gazed at Zhang Ruochen.

It was already the last day, and not only Zhang Ruochen, but the other students were also rising and beginning their practice of sword movements.

After Zhang Ruochen had executed the first move, he became like a stone again, sitting cross-legged on the ground. He did not move and did not continue practicing any movements.

I never knew that, after reaching the Realm of Heart Integrated into Sword, one would only need to thoroughly perceive the cultivation method and then one could use the Heart of the Sword and complete the practice of sword movements in one's mind. Furthermore, it could reach the Realm of Success.

Earlier, Zhang Ruochen had been practicing the move "Haunting Septuple Kill" in his mind. When he had tried it just now, it had indeed succeeded.

Zhang Ruochen continued to enjoy this marvelous realm.

In his Qi Sea, the Heart of the Sword dissolved into a human shape and began to practice the second move, "Soul-breaking Windwhisper".

In the distance, Nie Wenlong saw Zhang Ruochen not moving at all and furrowed his brows. "What is that guy doing? He only demonstrated one move and then he doesn't move again. There is only this last day left, is he not going to start practicing the sword movements?"

Xu Hai smiled coldly and said, "Ignore him, he probably thinks too highly of himself and wants to thoroughly perceive all 13 cultivation methods of the sword technique before starting to practice the moves. It is a pity, there is not that much time left for him."

They had not reached the Heart Integrated into Sword so, of course, they did not understand the marvels of the Heart Integrated into Sword. They had no idea that Zhang Ruochen had long thoroughly perceived all 13 moves of the sword technique and was now already practicing the moves in his mind.

In the other direction, Xu Canglan of Saint Xu Gentry had already successfully practiced the eighth move and had begun the ninth.

How is that student from Saint Xu Gentry so powerful? He's already successfully practiced eight moves, is he that talented?

Duanmu Xingling was very unhappy, her round eyes stared closely in the direction of Xu Canglan.

At the Stairway to Heaven, Duanmu Xingling had fought against Xu Canglan and did feel that he was particularly powerful. At least, if she released her sealed cultivation, she absolutely could have crossed two realms and defeated Xu Canglan.

However, right now, she had already put all her power into perceiving the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing and had only succeeded to seven swords.

Did a genius student from Saint Xu Gentry have more comprehension ability than she did, a heretical Saintness?

There must be a problem, I don't believe his comprehension ability is really that high.

Duanmu Xingling was very unhappy and continued to perceive the sword technique with all her power, trying to surpass Xu Canglan. If he surpassed her, that would be so embarrassing.

The three days finally ended.

On this day, the main examiner, Demi-saint Lingyuan, personally visited and sat in the highest position.

Beside Demi-saint Lingyuan, there hovered a jade lotus platform. The three-inch tall Demi-saint Lingshu sat cross-legged on the platform.

She wore an outfit of red and carried a sword. Her body was hidden behind a swirl of white fog, like an immortal from another world.

Although Demi-saint Lingshu was not very old, she was the disciple of Headmaster Xuanji. Her position in the Saint Academy was above that of Demi-saint Lingyuan.

Even Demi-saint Lingyuan treated her with great respect and did not dare to slight her.

All of the students who had registered for the Sword Technique Department ascended the martial arts platform and tried their best to demonstrate the sword technique that they had perceived, attempting to show their most outstanding condition.

If they could be favored by a Half-Saint and become a descendant, that would be reaching the heavens in one step.

The first student to ascend the martial arts platform was a young girl. Her cultivation was at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm.

“Haunting Septuple Kill.”

“Soul-breaking Windwhisper.”

“Soul-repose Shadowing.”

The girl tried to demonstrate the fourth move but failed and retreated.

However, successfully practicing three techniques was a minimal pass, so she passed the second round of the examinations.

The second student to mount the martial arts platform had a cultivation that reached the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. He was considered a first-class superior among the students who were participating in the Saint Academy’s examination.

However, he failed. He barely managed to successfully practice two sword techniques and was not able to enter the Saint Academy in the end.

“To be able to reach the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm before he was 35, his talent is already very high. It is a pity that his comprehension ability of sword techniques is so lacking and has not reached the standards to be a student at the Saint Academy.”

Many people felt regret for him but at the same time, they sighed with feeling. The threshold for the Saint Academy was very high, even ace geniuses might be turned away.

Over the following tests, at least 70 percent of the students were able to demonstrate three moves of the sword technique and pass the exam.

20 percent of the students were only able to demonstrate two moves of the sword technique.

And less than 10 percent were only able to demonstrate one of the moves of the sword technique.

Among them, there were three to five people who could not even demonstrate one move.

However, even so, it was clear that the students who had participated in the Saint Academy examination were all of a very high quality, and all were aces from the cream of the crop.

If a warrior with a normal talent in the Heaven Realm were asked to practice such a deep sword martial technique like the Thirteen Swords Technique of Soul Chasing, never mind in three days, even if they were given 30 days, they still might not be able to successfully practice even one move from that technique.

Through the sword practice, it was also possible to see the different levels of the students' comprehension abilities.

There were almost 1,000 students practicing sword techniques here, and about 700 of them were able to practice three moves of the sword technique. About 80 people were able to practice four moves. And only 10 were able to practice five moves.

There was not a single person who could do six moves.

Only one descendant of a Saint from a powerful family was able to practice seven moves, which was the most outstanding result.

"Someone actually practiced seven moves of the sword technique. I never knew that among those powerful Saint families there were geniuses with such high comprehension abilities." Duanmu Xingling glanced toward Huang Yanchen and said, "Sister Chen, how many moves have you practiced successfully?"

"Five moves," Huang Yanchen said.

In terms of comprehension ability, Huang Yanchen could only be considered at the Peak, but had not reached the Incredible Level.

To perceive seven moves in just three days, that was an incredible skill. Even in the eyes of the Half-saints, it was a very good result.

(To be continued...)

Chapter 396: The 10th Move and the 11th Move

Duanmu Xingling fluttered her eyes and stared at Zhang Ruochen. In a sweet voice, she asked, "You?"

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "It should be at the Succeed Level, I think!"

"All 13 moves have reached the Succeed Level?" Duanmu Xingling asked in surprise.

Zhang Ruochen nodded.

Although Zhang Ruochen had not demonstrated the sword technique, Duanmu Xingling did not doubt his words at all. She only felt very unsatisfied in her heart, stamping her feet, she said coldly, "Freak."

It was at this moment that Zhang Ruochen's gaze focused on the martial arts platform and saw a familiar beautiful woman appearing in the center of the platform.

Seeing that woman, Huang Yanchen's eyes became cold and she said, "Enemies really do walk a narrow road. I never thought she would also come to the Sword Technique Department."

At this moment, the woman who mounted the martial arts platform was Xue Yingrou.

Xue Yingrou's talent was very high as was her comprehension ability. She had successfully practiced five moves and shocked the other students.

"What a beautiful woman, she'll probably become the flower of the Sword Technique Department in the future."

"Not only does she have a startling beauty, but her comprehension ability and practice are both very high. If I could get close to her, even if it cost me 10 years of my life, it would well be worth it."

...

Zhang Ruochen nodded, Xue Yingrou's comprehension ability was indeed very high.

In the beginning, he had to only gently point out some things to Xue Yingrou and she immediately compensated for the lack in her sword technique and rose to another level in the cultivation of her sword technique.

Huang Yanchen saw that Zhang Ruochen had long been focusing on Xue Yingrou on the martial arts platform, and he had even been nodding his head. She felt very unhappy in her heart as, with a cold sneer, she leaped up and also landed on the martial arts platform.

In terms of beauty, Huang Yanchen and Xue Yingrou could be said to be almost on par. With her appearance, the eyes of the students below all lit up.

Another department level beauty had appeared.

When Huang Yanchen finished performing the five moves of the sword technique, a loud applause broke out from below.

"Another five moves and another beauty, will there be two flowers in the Sword Technique Department this year?"

"I must do my best and, no matter the cost, I must pass the third round of the exam and become a Saint of the Saint Academy. For nothing else but those two beauties."

...

After Huang Yanchen left the martial arts platform, Xu Hai gestured to Xu Canglan to show that he could make his move.

Xu Canglan was the second genius of this generation from Saint Xu Gentry. He was only 28 and had already reached the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. His steps as he mounted the martial arts platform appeared to be very steady.

“Swish!”

With his long sword leaving its sheath, Xu Canglan’s arm extended and the first move was struck out quickly.

Moving like floating clouds and a flowing river, he danced through the sword movements. In the space of a breath, he had already displayed 10 moves of the sword technique and had returned his sword to its sheath.

Xu Canglan bowed in the direction of the two Half-Saints and said, “My talent is limited, I have only practiced these 10 moves.”

The students below had already seen Xu Canglan perform the 10 moves, so they had been prepared. They were not shocked, they just felt very inferior.

Among them, one of the students who had performed five moves said with a sigh, “I am from the Martial Market School in the Shilong Commandery, and I am considered a top genius, even the Palace Master has praised me many times. After coming to the Saint Academy, I have realized how petty my previous glories have been. Compared to Xu Canglan, I have far to go.”

Another student who had also practiced five moves also gave a long sigh and said, “Give me another three days and perhaps I can practice 10 moves.”

“My so-called talent is not worth mentioning in front of Xu Canglan.”

It was not only the students, even Demi-saint Lingshu, who sat on her jade lotus platform, was slightly surprised. After closely considering Xu Canglan, she said, “I never expected that Saint Xu Gentry would give birth to such an incredible talent. To have practiced 10 moves in three days, even if I were in the Heaven Realm I wouldn’t be able to do it. However, his sword technique is still inexperienced and not strong enough. He is still very far away from the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword.”

Demi-saint Lingshu, of course, did not know that Xu Canglan had received the cultivation method for the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing seven days ahead of time. She just thought that Xu Canglan had incredible comprehension ability.

Originally, Demi-saint Lingshu had come to watch mostly to see Zhang Ruochen’s performance. Xu Canglan could be considered an unexpected surprise.

Although Demi-saint Lingyuan had guessed at what had probably happened, the exam question had leaked from his mouth, so of course, he could not say anything.

He said, “The students in this round all have very high talents, surpassing the previous round. In the last round, there were no geniuses at Xu Canglan’s level.”

Demi-saint Linghu also nodded her head.

Xu Hai heard the praise that the two Half-Saints had for Xu Canglan and felt a secret joy in his heart. It looked like the Sword Heart Pill already belonged to him.

Duanmu Xingling huffed coldly, she did not believe that Xu Canglan’s comprehension ability was that high.

Thus, after Xu Canglan had left the platform, she immediately went up and began practicing the sword moves.

11 moves.

Duanmu Xingling went straight ahead and demonstrated 11 moves of the sword technique. Furthermore, her speed at demonstrating the sword technique was even faster than Xu Canglan's. It was almost possible to see the streaks of a human figure.

In the end, 11 streaks of human shadows overlapped and formed Duanmu Xingling's body.

"Boom!"

The entire audience shook once again.

"I'm done, that's too depressing! She is so young and, yet, can already participate in the Saint Academy's examination. She even demonstrated 11 moves."

The genius student who had demonstrated five moves earlier had already taken a blow from Xu Canglan and had now taken another blow. They could not accept this reality and almost fainted.

Duanmu Xingling looked to be a girl of about 15 or 16. In the eyes of the crowd, her age was definitely under 20.

Too young!

Many of the genius students felt embarrassed and thought of immediately escaping from the Saint Academy. They felt that they had absolutely no right to enter the Saint Academy.

Among them, the people who had taken the greatest hits were, of course, Xu Hai and Xu Canglan. They had always seen Zhang Ruochen as the biggest threat and did not expect Duanmu Xingling to pop up halfway.

The almost-at-hand Sword Heart Pill had been snatched by Duanmu Xingling.

Xu Hai's eyes revealed a desire for murder—he wished he could break Duanmu Xingling into tens of thousands of pieces.

Damn. Damn.

Xu Canglan was able to perform 10 moves because he knew about the test ahead of time and had 10 days, rather than three, to practice the sword technique.

Other than Xu Canglan, the most talented student had only been able to practice seven moves, and they were a descendant of a powerful Saint family. Their fame had long traveled far and wide, they were the first to be listed on the Eastern Region Report.

Who the hell was Duanmu Xingling?

No one had heard of her name before, where had she come from?

The eyes of the two Half-Saints were also shining, their gazes converged on Duanmu Xingling's body.

Demi-saint Lingshu said, “Her comprehension ability is very high, and her sword realm is above that of Xu Canglan’s. She is probably not far from the Heart Integrated into Sword. If she takes the Sword Heart Pill, she will have the opportunity to break into the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword.”

Although Xu Canglan had performed 10 moves, his sword technique realm could not be hidden from the superior Half-Saint class. In one glance, they could see that he was some distance from Duanmu Xingling.

After seeing Duanmu Xingling perform the sword technique, a trace of doubt was revealed in Demi-saint Lingshu’s eyes. She felt that it was not logical that Xu Canglan would be able to perform 10 moves. Perhaps someone had leaked the exam question ahead of time?

This matter was a concern to a Half-Saint because, after all, Demi-saint Lingshu did not dare to report it lightly. She could only suppress the suspicion in her heart.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Senior sister apprentice Duanmu has been deeply hidden. Such powerful comprehension power is not something that normal people can achieve.”

If Zhang Ruochen had not reached the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword, even he could not promise that he could do better than Duanmu Xingling.

Just comparing their comprehension abilities, he and Duanmu Xingling were almost on par.

Huang Yanchen also gently nodded her head. She suddenly felt that Duanmu Xingling had become very unfamiliar—it was like she had never known the real Duanmu Xingling.

After Duanmu Xingling left the platform, Zhang Ruochen also mounted the martial arts platform.

As he passed by Duanmu Xingling, Zhang Ruochen said to her in a low voice, “Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, perhaps I have already guessed your identity.”

Hearing Zhang Ruochen’s words, Duanmu Xingling’s proud figure shook slightly. Her eyes revealed complicated emotions like fear, struggle, relief, and worry.

She did not know whether or not Zhang Ruochen had truly guessed her identity. If Zhang Ruochen already knew, how would he treat her in the future?

Zhang Ruochen would definitely not report it to the Saint Academy, Duanmu Xingling was sure of this point.

But, could they still maintain their current relationship?

It was not until now that Duanmu Xingling finally felt the losses and gains. She felt very regretful and that she should have told him the truth earlier.

For some reason, she truly cared about what Zhang Ruochen thought.

In a flash, she guessed countless outcomes. And in the end, her face had become very pale like she had just gone through a major illness.

Zhang Ruochen mounted the martial arts platform.

Through the battle of the Stairway to Heaven, Zhang Ruochen had already become famous. Many people recognized him and knew that he had practiced to the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword.

“How many moves do you think Zhang Ruochen has successfully practiced? Any chance that it could be more than Xu Canglan and Duanmu Xingling?”

“Bro, that is the Heart Integrated into Sword. How many people have reached the Heart Integrated into Sword in the Heaven Realm? I think he’s practiced at least 10 moves successfully, if not more.”

“I’m not sure about that. Zhang Ruochen may not have reached the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword because his comprehension ability is high. I heard that he received the inheritance of Buddhist Emperor. Perhaps he took the Dragon Sarira and that’s how he entered the Realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword.”

...

Zhang Ruochen stood in the center of the martial arts platform and called out his name. Following that, he squeezed his index and middle fingers together and ran all of the Genuine Qi in his body.

“Haunting Septuple Kill.”

Zhang Ruochen slowly lifted his arm, and with his hand as the sword and at a very slow speed, he struck out with one finger.

“Swish!”

Streaks of sword breath, with his arm as the center, converged and became seven shapeless sword shadows and flew out.

Seeing Zhang Ruochen’s slow speed, the students below did not understand.

“How can you kill an enemy if you execute the sword technique so slowly?”

“Does this count as reaching the Succeed Level?”

“Perhaps the Heart Integrated into Sword does not live up to its fame?”

Countless questions arose.

They were inevitable. Who told Zhang Ruochen to move so slowly to the point that it did not look like he was executing a sword technique?

If anyone looked closely, they would discover that every move that Zhang Ruochen executed was extremely perfect, without any flaws. It was almost more perfect than the original sword technique movements.

However, normal people did not have this power of perception.

On hand, only the two Half-Saints and Xu Hai, who had reached the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, could infer anything from what they saw.

“Perhaps it is... the Perfection of Martial Arts?”

Xu Hai's expression changed. His eyes revealed a disbelieving shock.



Chapter 397: The Battlefield of Primitive World

Martial techniques were divided into four realms.

They were Beginner level, Small Success, succeed, and the Perfection of Martial Arts.

Previously, the sword techniques the genius students had demonstrated were in succeed level. Whether they demonstrated three moves or more, none reached the Perfection of Martial Arts.

In reality, few people were able to polish a set of sword techniques to the Perfection of Martial Arts. Only those warriors who spent decades cultivating a particular set of sword techniques were capable of such feat.

But who would spend so much time polishing one set of sword techniques?

With that much time, they could have practiced a more superior level of sword technique instead.

Of course, if one could polish a sword technique until the Perfection of Martial Arts, the sword technique would undergo great changes. Its power would grow greatly, its exquisiteness clearer. The technique would rise to a new level.

Take the Thirteen Sword Techniques of Soul Chasing as an example. It was originally a Peak sword technique of the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage, but its power would be stronger than certain sword techniques in the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level once it was polished to the Perfection of Martial Arts.

“Soul-breaking Windwhisper.”

Zhang Ruochen very slowly began demonstrating the second move of the sword technique. He moved even slower than he did for the first move.

“What is Zhang Ruochen doing? Can he do it or not?”

Huang Yanchen glared with her almond eyes, angered. She felt that he wasn't taking the demonstration seriously and was playing around.

She failed to see the profoundness of his sword technique even with her cultivation.

Some of the students began to feel drowsy watching Zhang Ruochen.

“Soul-repose Shadowing.”

Continuing to move at an incredibly slow speed, Zhang Ruochen finally completed his demonstration of the third move of the sword technique.

He then stopped and didn't continue to practice.

“Why did he stop? Did he only finish learning three moves?”

From below came a lot of questioning sounds.

“He only managed to execute three moves of the so-called Heart Integrated into Sword and so slowly at that! He really doesn’t live to his name.”

“Looks like he simply lucked out in receiving Buddhist Emperor’s inheritance and reached Heart Integrated into Sword.”

The envious students were being sarcastic on purpose. They were implying that Zhang Ruochen was merely luckier than them. If they were the one receiving Buddhist Emperor’s inheritance, they would also achieve the same things that he did.

It was true that Zhang Ruochen had only practiced these three moves to the Perfection of Martial Arts. The rests were all in the succeed.

Since he hadn’t practiced them to the realm of perfection, there was no need to demonstrate them.

“In just three short days, he’s able to practice the sword technique to the Perfection of Martial Arts. This child is indeed in the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword,” Demi-saint Lingyuan praised.

Demi-saint Lingshu nodded. “It’s even more incredible for him to have perfected three moves than polishing the entire set to the succeed. He’s more genius than I am.”

Zhang Ruochen had undoubtedly gained the first place in the second round of the examination.

The round continued.

The students who were done demonstrating their sword technique left the Saint Academy in succession and returned to the Courier Station of Martial Market. There, they waited for the results of the second round and the details of the third round at the same time.

Si Xingkong, Chang Qiqi, Luo Shuihan, and Chen Xier had also finished the second round of the examination so they gathered and went to the biggest restaurant in the Seventh District, the Saint Music Pavilion, and had a celebratory feast.

The Saint Music Pavilion was extremely expensive. Only Half-Saint families and disciples of powerful Saint families could dine at such an extravagant restaurant.

Chen Xier called herself the host and so she was buying.

At the celebratory feast, Luo Shuihan revealed some information to everyone. “The third round may be different than usual. It’s likely it won’t be held in the Saint Academy or even in Kunlun’s Field.”

Since the forefather of Saint Luo Gentry was Saint Luo Xu, Luo Shuihan’s information was certainly not baseless.

Chang Qiqi had sobered a little and quickly asked, “If not in Kunlun’s Field, where would it be?”

Luo Shuihan pressed her lips together into a slight smile but said nothing.

“The Battlefield of Primitive World,” Zhang Ruochen said, wearing a thoughtful expression.

Everyone's expression changed.

"No way! The Battlefield of Primitive World is so dangerous that only Monks of the Fish-dragon Realm and the existence of Half-Saint class stand a chance there. If warriors of the Heaven Realm go, they're no different than cannon fodder," Huang Yanchen said solemnly.

"I've heard only some of the news the forefather sent. Right now, the High-level of the Saint Academy hadn't made a decision if they'll send us there. It's never a bad thing to prepare ahead of time," Luo Shuihan said.

Everyone nodded in response.

They went to purchase healing Pills, Genuine Martial Arms, and amulets after the feast, preparing a large number of resources and treasures. Since they were heading into the Battlefield of Primitive World, naturally they had to be completely armed to the teeth.

In the Saint Academy, in a deep and serene abode of fairies and immortals.

This abode was very close to the holy meridian of the Saint Academy and the Spiritual Qi here was relatively thick. There seemed to be Spiritual Qi spreading out from the surface of the rock face.

TAP! TAP!

Crisp footsteps rang out in the abode.

Xu Hai approached the bottom of the abode and knelt on one knee, bending his body in a bow.

"Forefather, in the second round of the examination, Zhang Ruochen actually practiced the sword technique until the Perfection of Martial Arts. This child not only has outstanding talent but has a terrifying comprehension ability. Coupled with the fact that he has refined the Golden Dragon's Dragon Pearl, it's unfathomable what more he'll achieve in the future. If we don't kill him now, he'll certainly spell disaster for us in the future."

Demi-saint Sandao was seated cross-legged above him on a stone chair, casting a giant human-shaped shadow and emitting a terrifying power. He sneered coldly. "Being Lei Jing's disciple, he has always been an enemy to the Saint Xu Gentry. Today, at the Stairway to Heaven, he made us lose all our face. If we don't kill him, we'll become the laughing stock of the world."

Back then, Lei Jing had offended Saint Xu Gentry. That was why he had been forced to leave the Saint Academy and leave for the Omen Ridge.

Now, Lei Jing had brought a group of genius students back to the Saint Academy. Naturally, the Saint Xu Gentry felt the threat and thought of Lei Jing's students as imaginary enemies.

"Since that's the case, I'll go make the arrangements now. Let's take the opportunity to get rid of him before he fully develops," Xu Hai said.

"Wait."

Demi-saint Sandao stopped Xu Hai. "Today, Zhang Ruochen's performance was too spectacular. There were those at the level of the headmaster who had begun paying attention to him and preparing to take

him as a disciple. If we kill him right in the East Region Saint City, how can we prevent the headmaster from finding out?"

"Then what's your plan?" Xu Hai was confused.

Demi-saint Sandao slowly said, "The location for the third round of the examination has almost been confirmed. We'll be sending all of the participating students to the Battlefield of Primitive World."

"What? The Battlefield of Primitive World?" Xu Hai was greatly surprised.

Demi-saint Sandao smiled. "Why are you so astonished? The Battlefield of Primitive World is also split into different levels. They'll only be sent to the Inferior Primitive World. Though it's still dangerous, it shouldn't be difficult for someone at the Heaven Realm to survive."

"Do you know which Inferior Primitive World?" Xu Hai asked.

"The Five Elements Primitive World. It's a newly discovered Primitive World."

"Go seek out a few reliable aces below the Fish-dragon Realm and bring them to me. I'll contact some of the people in the Battlefield of Primitive World and have them sent to the Five Elements Primitive World ahead of time. When Zhang Ruochen goes here to participate in the third round of the examination, they'll be able to get rid of him without anyone none the wiser," Demi-saint Sandao said.

Xu Hai was ecstatic. "You're very wise to come up with such a marvelous plan. In the Saint Academy, there's a Saint who is loyal to the Saint Xu Gentry called Nie Wenlong. He's a master on the Heaven Board. If he strikes, he'll definitely be able to kill Zhang Ruochen."

"A master of the Heaven Board? Good, very good! Anyone below the Fish-dragon Realm is already considered a top master. Furthermore, even if he's discovered by a Saint from the Saint Academy, he can explain that it's a training experience of the Heaven Board." Demi-saint Sandao laughed.

"Go now and bring Nie Wenlong here. Xu Hai, work hard for me. As long as you can get rid of Zhang Ruochen this time, I'll gift you a Sword Heart Pill and help you break into the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword."

"Many thanks, ancestor."

Xu Hai felt overjoyed. He quickly bowed and backed out of the abode to find Nie Wenlong.

...

The sky was already dark when they got back to the Courier Station of Martial Market.

Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi returned to their own rooms to continue refining their Dragon's Blood.

Zhang Ruochen stood alone in the garden. Threads of bright moonlight were like strands of silver gauze spilling onto his body, casting a long shadow.

FLASH!

He rubbed the Storage Ring with his finger and saw a flash of light. He retrieved a long purple sword and gripped it in his hand. The blade of the sword was slightly cold. It was about one and one-third meters long and about half a palm wide.

The mark of an ancient Mythical Beast was carved on the surface of the blade. It seemed to resemble a Thunder Vulture.

It was the Violet Thunder Sword, a tenth level Genuine Martial Arms. There were 72 basic inscriptions and three medium level inscriptions carved on the blade. The basic inscriptions were all 'electric' inscriptions.

Of the three lines of medium level inscriptions, one was of the Inscription of Electric Series, one was of the Inscription of Power Series, and one was of the Inscription of Fire Series.

Zhang Ruochen had just purchased the sword at the Martial Market in the Seventh District, costing him 370,000 Spiritual Crystals.

He temporarily placed his Abyss Ancient Sword in the Sword Sanctum. He estimated that it wouldn't be restored for a while.

If the third round of the examination was really in the Battlefield of Primitive World, he naturally needed a suitably powerful combat sword.

Though he had already reached the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword and he could use just about anything as a sword, he would definitely be able to exhibit more combat power with a true legendary sword in hand.

A tenth level Genuine Martial Arms was indeed much more expensive than a ninth level Genuine Martial Arms.

370,000 Spiritual Crystals.

It was certainly an enormous fortune for an ordinary warrior of the Heaven Realm.

SWOOSH!

He held the hilt and swung the sword gently without running his Genuine Qi. The sword immediately crackled with the sound of lightning.

Strands of fine electricity surged out from the blade of the sword, completely enveloping his right arm.

"Good sword."

Zhang Ruochen moved all of the Genuine Qi in his body and sank it into the Meridians of his right hand, directing them toward his sword. He instantly activated all 72 lines of 'electric' inscriptions carved on it.

BOOM!

The sound of thunder and beasts roaring burst forth from the blade.

He then saw streaks of purple lightning shooting out of the sword tip, forming dozens of lightning as thick as a wine cup. They flew in all directions, nearly enveloping the entire garden in lightning. It was completely impossible to see any of his shadows.

Chapter 398: Saintess of the Heresy

Violet Thunder Sword was made of Purple Ribbed Steel. Its blade was forged in a pool of a Thunder Vulture's blood, creating a boundless power. It was an unique treasured sword.

When Zhang Ruochen activated the 72 lines of basic electric inscriptions, a giant purple shadow rose from the blade. It spread out both of its wings like a giant Thunder Eagle.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen seemed to find something interesting. He spared a glance at the shadow that was not far away.

His arms swung and chopped over.

SWISH!

That was a Thunder Eagle condensed by the thunderbolt. It seemed to have come to life and flew toward the shadow.

It was not a real Thunder Eagle but a shadow compressed by sword Qi and lightning, which was called Transformation by sword Qi.

Duanmu Xingling, who was standing in the shadow, did not expect that she would be discovered by Zhang Ruochen, so she immediately applied her body movement and sidestepped to the left.

It seemed to be one step, but she actually moved 33 meters. It left a series of Shadow, and the speed was as quick as a ghost.

WHOOSH!

The sword Qi that turned into the Thunder Eagle did not dissipate. It seemed to have a mind of its own and chased after Duanmu Xingling, attacking relentlessly.

A purple combat sword flew out of Thunder Eagle's stomach and attacked toward the Duanmu Xingling's back.

Duanmu Xingling sensed danger from her back. She suddenly stopped and did a back flip, jumping over by the purple combat sword. She then attacked the Thunder Eagle with her palm.

Duanmu Xingling's palm turned red and struck out a giant Flying Snake with four wings on its back. It widely opened its mouth and swallowed the Thunder Eagle.

She applied the Transformation by Palm Force.

She moved the Genuine Qi with her palm and turned it into a Flying Snake, which had a great explosive power.

Zhang Ruochen struck out with the sword again. His arm shook and turned into seven illusory images of sword Qi. Seven swords slashed toward Duanmu Xingling at the same time.

It was the first move of Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing, Haunting Septuple Kill.

At this very moment, the power Zhang Ruochen applied was totally different from the power he applied to the martial arts stage. It was no longer looked sluggish and slow. The slash appeared out of nowhere like a bolt of lightning and it swept towards Duanmu Xingling like the wind..

Even though it was still the same move of Haunting Septuple Kill, it was totally different as Zhang Ruochen's mastery brought this move up to another level.

"Amazing. He has already practiced Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing into the Perfection of Martial Arts," Duanmu Xingling was surprised.

Duanmu Xingling was up in the air and had not landed. The white bracelet on her wrist span quickly under the infuriation of Genuine Qi. It became bigger and bigger and flew out from her wrist.

It was a weapon of the tenth level of the Genuine Martial Arms and it was called the Anti-Dragon Ring.

It was said that it could expand and shrink. If the inscriptions were all activated, it could even lock a giant flood dragon.

Anti-Dragon Ring clashed with Violet Thunder Sword. A large number of sparks came out. A layer of Genuine Qi wave gushed out into the distance.

Luckily, there was an array set up in the Courier Station of Martial Market. Otherwise, the fight between them would destroy almost half of the Courier Station.

Duanmu Xingling wore a black nightcrawler coat and a black hood with only her bright eyes were being exposed.

After holding back Zhang Ruochen's sword attack, she turned around immediately and flew away. She wanted to escape.

Duanmu Xingling was here because she was influenced by what Zhang Ruochen had said the other day. She could not help but came over to see him. She did not really want to have a fight with Zhang Ruochen.

So she took the chance to try and leave. She immediately applied the bodily movement with all her might.

However, Zhang Ruochen was faster. Suddenly, he was behind her and stabbed toward her again with his sword.

Duanmu Xingling struck out the Anti-Dragon Ring again. With a swooshing sound, the Anti-Dragon Ring flew above Zhang Ruochen's head and started to spin quickly. It turned bigger and bigger and attacked over from above, wanting to lock Zhang Ruochen.

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen flew downwards quickly and swung his sword upward.

The sword tip accurately hit the Anti-Dragon Ring and the Ring spun away.

Duanmu Xingling swung her sleeves and drove a stroke of Genuine Qi. She wrapped up the Anti-Dragon Ring the Genuine Qi and withdrew it quickly. She put it on her wrist again.

At the same time, her feet gently landed on a nearby cornice.

Under the moon light, Duanmu Xingling appeared to be very graceful. She was curvaceous and every curve of her was full of endless temptation.

CRASH!

There was a loud sound.

Duanmu Xingling's black hood was ripped open. Her long blackish hair fell down, exposing her fair forehead along with her long and arched eyebrows arched above her big, beautiful eyes.

However, the face below her eyes was still covered by the black cloth.

Duanmu Xingling was a bit flustered. She had no idea when she was stabbed by the sword.

It was just her hood that was torn apart. If the sword Qi was slightly more powerful, her neck would've been cut off.

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen swung his arm and turned the Violet Thunder Sword into a flying light. It accurately landed in the sword scabbard about 33 meters away.

"Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, you have come to visit me late at night. There must be something you want to talk about?"

"How did you know it is me?"

Duanmu Xingling slowly pulled off the cloth on her face, exposing her beautiful face. Her skin was crystal-clear and she had delicate facial features. She seemed to be not much older than 10 years old, but she was very enchanting and attractive.

Zhang Ruochen walked to the side of a stone table in the yard. He flicked his sleeves and a stroke of Qi billow gushed out and blew off the dust on the two stone stools.

He sat on one of the stool and said slowly, "We have been friends for almost three years. It would be strange if I didn't recognize you."

Zhang Ruochen sniffed with his nose. He said, "There seemed to be your scent in the air. Did you deliberately want me to recognize you?"

Duanmu Xingling flew off from the cornice and sat opposite to Zhang Ruochen. She had a worried look on her face and it was in total contrast with her usually cheerful look.

After a long while, Duanmu Xingling broke the silence and raised her beautiful face. She said, "Do you already know my identity?"

Zhang Ruochen said with a smile, "Just some few guesses. I am not completely certain."

Duanmu Xingling saw Zhang Ruochen's smile. She felt more relieved and pouted her lips. She said, "Then tell me your guesses. I want to know if you are right."

Zhang Ruochen stared at Duanmu Xingling's eyes. He said, "You are a Saintess of Moon Worship Demonic Sect. Those who appeared at the Tongming River are not warriors of Duanmu family but apprentices of the heresy."

Duanmu Xingling's smile turned stiff. She signed and slightly frowned. She hesitated and finally said, "You are right."

Zhang Ruochen, "Why?"

Duanmu Xingling said, "Are you asking why did I change my appearance just to enter the School of the Martial Market? How about you answer my question first? How did you know my identity?"

Zhang Ruochen stretched out three fingers. He said, "Three reasons."

"First, you are too talented. The disciples of the powerful Saint families are not even in your league. A Half-Saint family can't cultivate a God's favored daughter like you. If I am right, you didn't use all of your power when you were at the Saint Academy's examination."

Duanmu Xingling showed her snow-white teeth with a smile, "But isn't your talent even higher than mine?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "I do have a big secret, but I can't tell you right now. It is because of this secret that I got to be where I am today."

Duanmu Xingling, "Then what is the second reason?"

Zhang Ruochen said, "The Saintess of the heresy has been in Omen Ridge once. How can such a big shot like her be in Omen Ridge?"

Duanmu Xingling said with a smile, "Wasn't Di Yi also in Omen Ridge?"

Zhang Ruochen replied, "Di Yi went to Omen Ridge for the Dragon Sarira. So why did the Saintess of the heresy go there for? Moreover, Di Yi didn't rescue me, the Saintess of the heresy did. We don't even know each other. Why did she do that?"

Duanmu Xingling was frustrated and said, "It seems like you knew from long ago."

In Yunwu City of Yunwu Commandery Prince, when Zhang Ruochen was hunted down by the Black Market masters, Duanmu Xingling helped him defeat the Black Market masters by using the identity of the Saintess of the heresy.

Zhang Ruochen continued, "And the third reason. In Tongming River, when I strived for the Dragon Sarira, Duanmu family gathered several hundred warriors in the Completion of the Earth Realm in a very short time."

"Even the dominator of Omen Ridge, Yuntai Suzerain, and Tai Qing Palace couldn't do it, how could the Duanmu family do it? Since then, I had started to doubt you."

“Combining the three reasons, it is not hard to guess your identity.”

Duanmu Xingling said, “Since you have known my identity, what are you going to do next?”

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, “You have to answer my question first.”

Duanmu Xingling said, “It was certainly Sect Master’s idea to send me to the School of the Martial Market. He asked me to practice hard and try to become a High-level in the Martial Market Bank.”

“As simple as that?” Zhang Ruochen was unconvinced.

“Of course.”

Duanmu Xingling crossed her arms over her chest. She spoke seriously.

Zhang Ruochen stopped asking and advised, “Senior sister apprentice Duanmu, what you are doing is very dangerous. If the superior of Saint Academy finds out your identity, you will end up in a miserable situation. You should also know that the spies of the Black Market and the evil all end up dead if caught.”

Duanmu Xingling was a bit dejected. She said, “You think I had a choice? It is the Sect Master’s order, how could I reject it? Although I am the Saintess and I can give orders to Masters of all Demonic Sect, I am just a servant of all the Sect Saints. If I am not a Saint, I can only be a nonentity.”

She stared at Zhang Ruochen and continued, “Now that you know my identity, will you tell it to the Elder of Saint Academy?”

Zhang Ruochen stood up and said, “Of course not.”

If Zhang Ruochen exposed Duanmu Xingling’s identity to Saint Academy, it would certainly be a great credit, and he would be rewarded heftily.

However, he would not do that.

Zhang Ruochen joined the School of the Martial Market to look for a better place to practice and help improve himself. At the same time, if he was in danger, he would be protected by the School of the Martial Market.

There was no need to betray a friend.

There was only one enemy in Zhang Ruochen’s mind, Empress Chi Yao.

As long as they had matched personalities and could help and support each other, anyone, even the warriors of the Black Market and believers of the heresy, could be his friends.

After listening to Zhang Ruochen’s affirmative answer, Duanmu Xingling blinked her eyelashes. She could not help but shed tears and walked to Zhang Ruochen’s back. She unfolded a pair of her snow-white lotus like arms and hugged Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen could clearly feel that a fine soft body fell on his back. It seemed that there were two fluffy balloons that pressed tightly on him with the seductive warmth of a woman’s body.

Hiding in the School of the Martial Market for several years, Duanmu Xingling had been under great pressure. It was like treading on the thin ice. She was very careful, and dared not tell anyone about her secret that had been buried in her mind all these years.

Duanmu Xingling seemed to be very optimistic, but her heart was actually filled with fear.

Now she finally spoke out her identity and shared it with Zhang Ruochen, and Zhang Ruochen had willingly lent her his ears.

The touch and the relief made all Duanmu Xingling's bottled up stress and worries flood out of her in an instant.

Chapter 399: Divine Dragon's Steal

After Duanmu Xingling left, Zhang Ruochen pulled himself together. He did not want to think about her identity anymore. He took out the Time and Space Spinel and entered the internal space, continuing to practice Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing.

The first three sword moves, Haunting Septuple Kill, Soul-breaking Windwhisper and Soul-repose Shadowing, had been practiced into the Perfection of Martial Arts.

Next, he needed to practice the rest of the 10 sword techniques.

Zhang Ruochen held the Violet Thunder Sword in his hands. The Heart of the Sword in the Qi Sea started to spin and turned into a small human shadow.

While the human shadow applied the sword technique, Zhang Ruochen also entered the realm of Heart Integrated into Sword. The sword in his hand waved along as well.

Zhang Ruochen took four days to practice all the sword techniques into the Perfection of Martial Arts.

The power of his sword technique seemed to have increased a level.

"Now only one day has passed outside. The second round of the exam shouldn't have started yet."

"I have reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, I wonder what kind of power I have now."

When Zhang Ruochen had reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, he did not have a chance to check on his strength. He could finally find out now.

Zhang Ruochen closed his eyes and emerged his Martial Soul into the Qi Sea. A pigeon egg sized liquid Ball of Vital Essence floated in the center of the Qi Sea.

Vaguely, many sacred illusory images of gods floated on the surface of the Ball of Vital Essence. They were flying around in a certain pattern.

He circulated the Scripture of Emperor Ming's Empyrean, and the Ball of Vital Essence immediately started to spin quickly and released streaks of Genuine Qi. The streaks of Qi separated into 36 lines and gushed into 36 Meridians in his body.

SWISH!

At the same time, a layer of green light was glowing on the surface of Zhang Ruochen's body. It then rushed out of his body and turned into a layer of Celestial Bodysield with a diameter of about ten meters.

Even if an ordinary warrior in the Completion of Heaven Realm struck out with his full strength, he would not be able to so much as leave a scratch on the Celestial Bodysield.

Zhang Ruochen mobilized his Genuine Qi into the Vessel of Spiritual Blood and woke the gold Dragon Pearl in his heart.

"Divine Dragon Transformation."

There was a deep dragon's roar from the Dragon Pearl.

A stroke of golden dragon Qi was released from his heart. It rushed into Zhang Ruochen's limbs and head.

Zhang Ruochen shuddered. He felt his body, limbs, and head get pulled by an invisible power, as if he was being ripped apart.

"PUFFET!"

Zhang Ruochen felt the danger. He immediately put away the Genuine Qi and the force finally dissipated. A sharp pain dashed to his throat from his stomach, and blood spurted out of his mouth.

He failed!

"It is indeed not easy to pull off the Divine Dragon Transformation."

On the Stairway to Heaven, Zhang Ruochen displayed the Divine Dragon Transformation and turned into a Golden Dragon. He easily defeated disciples of the four powerful Saint families like he was breaking a dead branch from a tree.

Hence, the great power of the Divine Dragon Transformation was obvious.

However, the Divine Dragon Transformation was a martial technique of the Superior class of the Ghost Level. Zhang Ruochen had never practiced it before. His only guess was that it may be related to the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

If Zhang Ruochen could freely display the Divine Dragon Transformation, how powerful would he be?

He wanted to try again.

Zhang Ruochen became more cautious in case he hurt himself before he could even display the Divine Dragon Transformation.

But he failed again.

With the last experience, Zhang Ruochen was not injured this time.

Then, he tried again for the third time.

This time, while Zhang Ruochen was striking out the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, he also infused the Genuine Qi into the Dragon Pearl. He used both the power of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to drive the power of the Dragon Pearl.

It was a pity that he failed again.

After failing for 78 times, he finally made some progress.

Zhang Ruochen realized that he could bring out part of the power of the Dragon Pearl if he quickly struck out the first five palms of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm in a row. There would be a layer of golden Dragon Scale formed on his body.

“Elephant Galloping.”

“Dragon in the Sky!”

“Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth!”

“Dragon Shape and Elephant Shadow.”

“Nine-folds of the Elephant Power.”

After striking out the fifth palm, Zhang Ruochen felt a great power rushing out of his body.

There was light emitting from the surface of his skin. Nail-sized golden Dragon Scales grew out and covered his whole body. Even his scalp and nails turned into scales too.

It was not the full power of the Divine Dragon Transformation that was brought out, but it greatly increased Zhang Ruochen’s power and defensive power. He turned into a half-dragon and half-human form.

“It is too difficult to bring out the Divine Dragon Transformation. I probably won’t succeed even if I try for 1,000 times.”

“Maybe only when I meet danger, will I be able to display the Divine Dragon Transformation under great pressure and with the power of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.”

Of course, bringing out one layer of the armour of the Dragon Scale had already greatly increased Zhang Ruochen’s strength.

According to Zhang Ruochen’s prediction, if he successfully practiced the sixth palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, Divine Dragon’s Steal, he could bring out even more dragon power.

The probability of displaying the Divine Dragon Transformation would also be greatly increased.

Zhang Ruochen had just reached the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm, there is no way he could reach the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm overnight.

If he wanted to increase his power before the third round of the exam, he could only practice the sixth palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

If he could successfully master the sixth palm, his Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm would become a martial technique of the Superior class of the Spiritual Stage. With the profound of the Dragon and

Elephant Prajna Palm, even if he just practiced the sixth palm, he could display the power of the martial technique of the Inferior Class Ghost Level.

“Divine Dragon’s Steal.”

Zhang Ruochen stood in the center of the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel. His legs slightly bent and formed a dragon-shaped horse stance. His hands looked like palms and claws. Almost all of his bones were connected together, making clicking sound of bones clashing together.

When his palms struck out, there were streaks of flying light like lightning flying out of the center of his palms.

“AWOO!”

An illusory image of Divine Dragon more than ten meters long flew out of the center of his palm. It spun around him once and then disappeared.

Divine Dragon’s Steal mostly emphasized on the palm power. It could transform the Genuine Qi into the power of Thunderbolt. It was like a Divine Dragon tiding over a disaster in the thunderbolt.

Because Zhang Ruochen swallowed the Dragon Pearl, it was easier for him to practice the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm and totally release the momentum of his palm power.

“Both are martial techniques of the Superior Class of the Spiritual Stage, the sixth palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm is more profound than the Thirteen Swords Techniques of Soul Chasing. Its power is more formidable, and it is extremely virile and masculine. At the same time, it is very difficult to practice.”

Zhang Ruochen had spent the entire day and night to practice the Divine Dragon’s Steal into the Beginner level.

Zhang Ruochen spent another three days to practice the Divine Dragon’s Steal into the Small Success.

Next, Zhang Ruochen would strike out tens of thousands palms every day until his Vital Essence was exhausted, then he would stop to take a rest.

When his Vital Essence recovered, he immediately continued to practice.

Without rest, Zhang Ruochen had been practicing for half a month. He finally practiced the Divine Dragon’s Steal into the succeed.

If Zhang Ruochen wanted to master the sixth palm of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm without him reaching Heaven Realm, it would at least take him one or two years.

At present, he spent less than one month to master it.

Moreover, Zhang Ruochen had totally refined the Half-Saint’s Light in the Qi Sea.

Although it was only 1% of the Half-Saint’s Light, Zhang Ruochen’s Martial Soul equaled to the level of a Monk in the Fourth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

If he could use the power of the Martial Soul to regulate the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi and turn it into attack power, with Zhang Ruochen's current strength, he would be able to compete with a monk in the Second Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

Of course, he would not be able to defeat the Monk in the Second Change in the Fish-dragon Realm but only stay on the defensive side.

However, if his opponent was a genius of Saint Academy, whether they were in the Second Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, or even just the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, it was best for him to just run for his life.

For example, although Xu Hai was in the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm, he was still the disciple of a powerful Saint family, which means that he could leap over several realms to defeat his opponent.

If Zhang Ruochen ran into him, the best way was to run, and he may even be unable to escape.

The internal space of the Time and Space Spinel was very narrow. Zhang Ruochen dared not test the power of the Divine Dragon's Steal in it. He could only leave the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

BANG! BANG!

Zhang Ruochen came to the Martial arts field of the Courier Station of Martial Market, and he struck out six palms of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm in a row at the fastest speed. He suddenly brought out the power of the Dragon Pearl.

SWISH!

Zhang Ruochen was wrapped up by the golden light. His skin gradually became stiff and turned into scales.

All his bones went through subtle changes. Just like refining a golden stone, streaks of dragon patterns grew out.

The length of his fingers had increased by two times and became sharp, turning into two dragon claws.

There was a searing pain in his back. With a "Chh" sound, his body grew a pair of 12-meter-long golden dragon wings, which were also covered by the Dragon Scale and was as hard as iron.

Watching the change in his body, Zhang Ruochen was very surprised.

It was not Divine Dragon Transformation. He was still Half-dragon and Half-human. However, it was more powerful than the previous state in the Time and Space Spinel.

"With my current strength, even if I don't use the Spiritual Power and the power of the Martial Soul, I can possibly fight against warriors on the Heaven Board for a few moves.

Warriors on the Heaven Board were all very powerful. They were elites among the elites.

Especially the masters who ranked in the front, even if Zhang Ruochen used up all his Spiritual Power and the power of the Martial Soul, he still could not match his opponent.

When Zhang Ruochen practiced in the Time and Space Spinel, eight days had passed in the outside world, and the second round of the exam of Saint Academy had finally ended.

The exam ranking of every department had been posted. They were written in lists hanging outside of Saint Academy.

Without a doubt, Zhang Ruochen became the first in the Sword Technique Department. He got a pill of seventh-class, Sword Heart Pill as the reward.

Many people saw that Zhang Ruochen actually got first place in the Sword Technique Department, and they were very surprised. How did this happen when Zhang Ruochen merely displayed three moves of the sword technique during the second round of the exam?

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Luckily, Zhang Ruochen was not a disciple of a powerful Saint family. Otherwise, some people would've thought that there was a despicable plot behind the assessment.

Only very few knew that the three moves of sword technique Zhang Ruochen showed had reached the Perfection of Martial Arts. He fully deserved to be the first in the Sword Technique Department.

Half-saint Lingshu sent the Sword Heart Pill to Courier Station of Martial Market. She personally handed it over to Zhang Ruochen.

"Zhang Ruochen, the third round of the exam will commence tomorrow. The location will be the Inferior Primitive World that was just discovered."

"The Primitive World is full of unknown danger. There are powerful indigenous Monks and is also filled with dangerous places. Even warriors in the Fish-dragon Realm may die there if they are unlucky."

Half-saint Lingshu was very serious. She said again, "You'd better prepare in advance. When you are in the Primitive World, you can only count on yourself and no one can help you. I have high hopes for you. Don't let me down."

Chapter 400: East Region Saint Mansions

The Sword Heart Pill was put in a thumb-sized jade elixir bottle.

Zhang Ruochen opened the lid of the elixir bottle. With a swishing sound, a white light sword flew out of the bottle.

It was not a real light sword but a stroke of the Pill Spirit.

Zhang Ruochen immediately closed the lid and tightly held the bottle in his hands.

"I have reached the Heart Integrated into Sword. The Sword Heart Pill is not much of a use to me now. Who should I give it to?"

Si Xingkong and Chang Qiqi did not practice the sword technique, so he could only give it to Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling.

Duanmu Xingling was the Saintess of the Moon Worship Demonic Sect, if she wanted a Pill like Sword Heart Pill, it would be very easy for her to get one.

Huang Yanchen's mother was a Half-Saint who practiced the sword technique. It was also not hard for her to get a Sword Heart Pill with her power. However, Huang Yanchen's mother must have some considerations in mind and would not give the Sword Heart Pill to Huang Yanchen right now.

It was because that Huang Yanchen was still far from the realm of the Heart Integrated into Sword. Even if she swallowed the Sword Heart Pill, she would still not be able to reach the Heart Integrated into Sword.

After some thoughts, Zhang Ruochen decided to give the Sword Heart Pill to Huang Yanchen.

Even if it could not help her reach the Heart Integrated into Sword, it would greatly increase her realm of the sword technique.

Zhang Ruochen left the Courier Station of Martial Market with the Sword Heart Pill in hand and headed towards East Region Saint Mansions.

East Region Saint Mansions was not just a mansion. It consisted of 360 mansions, big and small, and they covered the entire East Region Saint City.

It was said that there was an array platform at the bottom of every Saint Prince's Mansion. If 360 array platforms were all activated, they could start up the Big Array of Circulation covering the entire East Region Saint City.

In the Seventh District of Jinhong Mainland, there was also a Saint Prince's Mansion located in Lake Jiangyue.

One could find it if he just made a few inquiries.

There were many younger generations in the Chens. Almost all the most outstanding talents lived in the Saint Prince's Mansion of Lake Jiangyue.

Lake Jiangyue was vast and boundless. It was said that its broadest part was 400 kilometers.

There was a large number of island-dotted around the lake. Resplendent and magnificent Pavilions, Palaces, high towers and martial-arts arenas were built on the islands. Looking at it with a glance, one would feel that it was like the land of the immortals.

The gate of the Saint Prince's Mansion was about 33 meters tall. Giant Kylin statues stood on each side of the gate. They looked as fierce as if they were alive.

There were 16 sergeants, eight on each side guarding the entrance to the Saint Prince's Mansion.

The eight people on the left side were all three meters tall. They had massive human bodies, but with a wolf's head above each of their bodies.

They were of the Fire Lycan tribe. Every one of them was in the Heaven Realm.

Although the eight people on the right side had human looks, their bodies were even bigger. They were all four meters tall with the Giants' blood running in their bodies. They had Natural Divine Power and could tear apart a brute elephant with their bare hands.

With 16 powerful sergeants guarding Saint Prince's Mansion, who dared to get close to the gate?

"Who is it?"

A sergeant of Fire Lycan tribe who was in the Advanced Stage of the Heaven Realm looked at Zhang Ruochen who was still far away. He picked up a weapon and took a step forward. He roared, and the sound wave was so loud that it sent the sand and rock flying.

Zhang Ruochen was calm. He walked forward and came to the outside of the gate. He said, "I am Zhang Ruochen and I am here to visit Huang Yanchen. Please send my message."

The sergeant of Fire Lycan tribe sized up Zhang Ruochen for a while. His voice was loud and rough, "Do you have the token of East Region Saint Mansions?"

"No," Zhang Ruochen replied.

"No token? Why should I report it for you? Get away from here quickly. You shouldn't be here." The sergeant of Fire Lycan tribe said rudely.

As a member of East Region Saint Mansions, even if he was just a sergeant who guarded the gate, he had a very high status. So the sergeant of Fire Lycan tribe was cold and arrogant. He did not want to talk more with Zhang Ruochen and sent him away directly.

Zhang Ruochen slightly frowned but he was not angry, because he knew that the more powerful one's influence was, the more rules it had.

If you did not have high status, even a doorkeeper wouldn't look up to you, how would he pass the message for you?

While Zhang Ruochen was going to leave, a dozen of young students came up to him from the distance. They were all geniuses of East Region Saint Mansions. Some were handsome men, and some were beautiful women.

They were holding the latest *Eastern Region Report* and discussing something.

"The person who defeated Bu Qianfan was actually the young master of the Black Market Excellence Hall. I wonder what kind of person Di Yi is?"

"No matter how powerful Di Yi is, he was defeated by Buddha Emperor's descendant, Zhang Ruochen."

"Genius appears one after another. Bu Qianfan, Di Yi, and Zhang Ruochen are all incredible and outstanding talents. We still have a lot to catch up."

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Suddenly, Chen Tianshu raised his head and looked at Zhang Ruochen who was in the distance. He laughed out loud, "Haha! What a coincidence. That is Zhang Ruochen. Weren't you all were suspecting his strength? You should go and challenge him right now. If you can win, you can be featured in the next Eastern Region Report."

Chen Tianshu was about 20 years old. He was extremely handsome. He wore a silver-colored martial robe which made him very chivalrous.

Zhang Ruochen had very sharp hearing. Although the group's conversation was happening about 33 meters away, he could still hear Chen Tianshu's voice, so he spared a glance at him.

"Hey! This man looks very familiar."

Zhang Ruochen recalled for a while and finally remembered. Two years ago, he had met him once in Sword Technique Conference in Qianshui Commandery.

His name should be Chen Tianshu.

Was he actually a member of the Chens?

In a very short moment, a dozen of young students of the Chens were ten steps away from Zhang Ruochen. They were all looking at him curiously. Among them, almost all of the male warriors were driven by war intent. They were eager to have a try.

On the other hand, Zhang Ruochen was confused. He did not know what had happened.

Chen Tianshu smiled and cupped his hands. He said, "Brother Zhang, do you still remember me since we parted in Qianshui Commandery?"

"I certainly do."

Zhang Ruochen cupped his hands too. He said, "At that time, I didn't know that you were actually a young master of East Region Saint Mansions."

Chen Tianshu said with a smile, "I was ordered by the Elder of my family to handle some affairs in Qianshui Commandery. It was destiny that we could meet there. Unexpectedly, you have become an outstanding talent whose name became famous in the entire Eastern Region within two years. Congratulations."

At this very moment, a man of about 20 years old stepped up from behind Chen Tianshu. He had a hawk nose and sharp eyes. He said, "I am, Chen Tianran, a young student of the Chens who ranks 12th. Zhang Ruochen, would you accept my challenge?"

Zhang Ruochen was a bit shocked. He looked at Chen Tianshu with confusion.

Chen Tianshu laughed and said, "My sixth brother is a warlike. He wants to fight with any young masters. He just saw the Eastern Region Report and knows that you have defeated the young master of Black Market Excellence Hall, Di Yi, so he can't help but want to challenge you. If you don't mind, please spare him some moves."

Chen Tianran was not happy. He said coldly, "Tianshu, you boost other's morale and being too humble yourself. After all I am top 20 among the masters of the Chens. I have reached the Dawn State of the Heaven Realm. If I strike out with my full strength, I may not lose to him. Although he is talented, he is still too young."

Chen Tianshu said with a smile, "Sixth brother, brother Zhang defeated Di Yi, who defeated Bu Qianfan. If I am right, you have fought with Bu Qianfan once, he was two realms lower than you and defeated you with only seven moves."

A young genius girl of the Chens with a pony tail laughed, "Sixth brother, didn't you see Saint Lady's commend of Zhang Ruochen at Eastern Region Report? Saint Lady said that Zhang Ruochen is one of the Six Young Kings in the younger generation in the Eastern Region and he has the talent to become a Saint."

Chen Tianran's face did not change. He said coldly, "Although Saint Lady governs Eastern Region Report, and she could reckon nature's mystery and write about big Events Under the Sky, that doesn't mean what she says is always right. As long as I can defeat Zhang Ruochen, I can be on the next issue of Eastern Region Report."

The young woman sneered, "You don't need to win. As long as you can hold back him back for 10 moves, I will give you the Peacock Pill that uncle gave to me."

Chen Tianran showed smirking expression in his eyes. He said, "Sister Jing, Peacock Pill is made from peacock's blood, and it is very valuable. A warrior would be able to grow a pair of peacock wings when he or she swallows it which enables him to fly across the sky and go underground. Are you sure you want to bet with it?"

Chen Jingjing smiled, "If you can hold him back for 10 moves, the Peacock Pill would certainly be yours. If you lose, you have to be my loyal follower for ten days, is that a deal?"

"Hmph! How can I lose?"

Tianran raised his chin. He sneered.

Chen Tianran was not confident to defeat Zhang Ruochen.

However, exchanging 10 moves with Zhang Ruochen shouldn't too difficult. So, Chen Tianran agreed immediately.

Zhang Ruochen was feeling indifferent. He said, "I don't seem to have accepted your challenge yet."

"As a powerful warrior, how can you be afraid of challenges?"

Chen Tianran did not care if Zhang Ruochen agreed. He roared and the Genuine Qi in his body released.

Under the promotion of the Genuine Qi, a long black spear that was on his back flew to Chen Tianran's hands.

"Genuine Martial Arms of the tenth level, Ghost King Spear."

Chen Tianran's arms shivered suddenly. The long spear drew an arch line, letting out banging sound. A cloud of cold fire came out of the spear. It brought out a stroke of Icing air.

WHOOSH!

A layer of white heavy frost appeared on the ground, covering the surrounding area about 100 meters away.

"Ghost King Invisible Spear."

Chen Tianran took the initiative to attack. He displayed a move of spear technique of the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level.

The long spear kept spinning. It stabbed toward Zhang Ruochen with cold air.

With the tip of the spear getting closer and closer, Zhang Ruochen faintly heard the ghost's roaring sound. A stroke of Icing air blew toward him. It was like he fell into an ice hole, and all his blood was going to freeze.

He could rank top 20th among the young men in the Chens because he was indeed not an ordinary person and deserved to be one of the top masters. He had actually practiced the martial technique of Ghost Level into the succeed.

Zhang Ruochen finally figured out what had been going on. It turned out to be the fault of Eastern Region Report. From today on, challenges like this would surely come one after another.

In this case, he should suppress his opponent with overwhelming strength. Showing his strength at an appropriate level would stop the endless challenges.