

Chapter 521: Set Sail

Xu Longyi was still in disbelief. He thought he had heard wrong, so he asked, "Really?"

Zhang Ruochen's patience was tested. He said in a serious manner, "You better get going before I change my mind."

Xu Longyi felt the chill coming from Zhang Ruochen. He did not want to stay there any longer. He unfolded his body and leaped forward, landing on the roof of a pavilion beside the street.

"Swoosh!"

After a few leaps, he disappeared completely.

"Amitabha!"

Monk Lidi walked forward with his giant blade in the scabbard. He stood not far from Zhang Ruochen, an honest smile on his face.

Upon seeing Monk Lidi, Zhang Ruochen frowned as if he had seen the Plague God coming. He quickly moved his body and rushed toward the Primitive World ferry.

Monk Lidi exhibited a profound bodily movement of Buddhism and chased Zhang Ruochen with neither delay nor urgency. Like a piece of candy, he was glued to Zhang Ruochen.

The Ten Thousand Fields Tavern was an elegant villa.

Saint Xu Gentry disciple, "Xu Hai", the Black Market Excellence Hall's "Green-robed Emissary", third disciple of the Ghost Saint, "Yin Wuchang", and ten Evil Warriors were all gathered there. They were standing by a pond.

Xu Hai and the Evil Warriors all looked strangely at Xu Longyi who had just returned.

Xu Hai looked at him coldly and asked, "So Zhang Ruochen told you that he is going to the Xuanwu Primitive World today?"

Xu Longyi felt something wrong in the atmosphere but he bit the bullet and answered, "That's right. He also said that if you want to kill him or rescue Orange Star Emissary, this is your golden opportunity."

Xu Hai took three steps forward, stopping in front of Xu Longyi. "Did you tell him about the alliance between Saint Xu Gentry and the Black Market?"

Xu Hai's body exuded a strong force of oppression. Even the air seemed to have solidified and stopped flowing.

Xu Longyi felt like a huge mountain was pressing on him. He quickly answered, "No, I didn't. How could I tell him something so confidential?"

"Really?"

Xu Hai sneered and said, "Do you think I'm a fool? If you did not tell him, would he have let you go? I believe you are now his person!"

Xu Longyi was frightened and his face turned pale. His legs crumbled and fell to the ground. With a trembling voice he said, "My lord...please, believe me, my lord, I dare not commit treachery toward our Gentry...Aaargghhh..."

Xu Hai's palm struck the top of Xu Longyi's head, letting off a loud snap. Four streams of blood flowed from the top of his head to his neck.

Fresh, red blood gurgled out, dying Xu Longyi's robe crimson.

Xu Hai retrieved his palm and then took out a white cloth from his sleeve, wiping the fresh blood from his hand. He smiled and said, "I'm incapable of disciplining my subordinates, please forgive me, my dear brothers."

Green-robed Emissary giggled. "We can see that Xu Longyi has been persuaded by Zhang Ruochen. Zhang Ruochen must have already set up a trap and sent Xu Longyi here to lure us to go to Xuanwu Primitive World so that he can destroy us once and for all."

Xu Hai snorted coldly. "How childish of Zhang Ruochen to think that we'll fall into his trap with this kind of cheap plot. He thought we're that stupid, didn't he? However, this might be our chance. Since Zhang Ruochen is going to the Xuanwu Primitive World, why don't we try to turn the tables?"

Green-robed Emissary thought for a moment and then said, "Be patient. Zhang Ruochen is not someone we can take lightly. We must never let our guard down.

An Evil Warrior who was wearing a long black robe with a mask came in quickly and said, "Report to His Excellency, a disciple of the Blood Cloud Sect told us that Zhang Ruochen had already arrived at the port of the Primitive World. He has reported with the Ministry of War and is set to go to the Battlefield of Primitive World in the Xuanwu Primitive World."

Green-robed Emissary was curious and asked, "How many people are going with him?"

"Only himself."

Green-robed Emissary was slightly astonished and said, "Are you sure it is only him?"

The Evil Warrior answered, "I've looked into this matter and it is confirmed that Zhang Ruochen is going alone. Plus, he has already boarded the ship to Xuanwu Primitive World. I have also checked on whoever has connections with Zhang Ruochen such as the Saint Academy, the Chens, and the Silver Sky Mercenary Corps; none of them actually boarded with him. Therefore, it is confirmed that Zhang Ruochen is going to the Xuanwu Primitive World alone.

Xu Hai could not help but look at Xu Longyi's dead body. He wondered whether he might have killed the wrong person.

However, even if he had killed someone wrongly, Xu Hai did not have any sense of guilt.

Xu Hai felt that Zhang Ruochen was too cunning. He deliberately sent Xu Longyi back to act as his messenger, causing him to be misunderstood, leading to his death.

Therefore, he believed that Zhang Ruochen should account for Xu Longyi's death.

Xu Hai's eyes were cold as he said, "Zhang Ruchen is too conceited. He really dares to go alone to the Xuanwu Primitive World.

Green-robed Emissary laughed loudly and said, "Zhang Ruochen was a warrior from nowhere yet all of a sudden he reached the pinnacle of the younger generation and successfully became first on the *Heaven Board*. Having made his name, it was inevitable that he would become arrogant and complacent."

Xu Hai also laughed and said, "I always thought that Zhang Ruochen was a flawless guy, but now I can see that arrogance is his biggest enemy. Did he really think that he could against Saint Xu Gentry and the Black Market all alone?"

"Since he is so arrogant, we shall teach him a lesson. Let him know that modesty is the most important virtue." Green-robed Emissary laughed huskily.

Xu Hai led the three Monks of the Fish-dragon Realm, Green-robed Emissary, and the third disciple of the Ghost Saint, Yin Wuchang, who also brought along the evil warriors of the Black Market, to the port of the Primitive World.

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Xuanwu Primitive World was a top-ranking medium level Primitive World. It was vast and full of danger. It was home to countless powerful indigens of the Primitive World.

The war between the Kunlun's Field and the Xuanwu Primitive World had been at a stalemate for 120 years, yet the Xuanwu Primitive World was still not completely subjugated.

It was said that there was a Saint-level indigenous king in the Xuanwu Primitive World who was so exceptionally powerful that he had killed some Half-Saints of Kunlun's Field.

At that moment, the ship to the Primitive World was still idle.

Zhang Ruochen stood on deck. His hand was holding a book that outlined the map of hell in the Xuanwu Primitive World and some explanation about the indigenous creatures in the Xuanwu Primitive World.

Zhang Ruochen had spent three Spiritual Crystals to buy the book from a soldier of the Primitive World at the port.

Monk Lidi was not far from Zhang Ruochen. He sat on the floor quietly with his knife at his back, just like a stone, or maybe a dead tree.

"It's no surprise that it is known as a medium level Primitive World since there are Saint Class indigens in it. It looks like I need to be extra cautious when I'm at the Xuanwu Primitive World. Otherwise, if I get noticed by the indigens of the Half-Saint Class, I might become dead meat."

Zhang Ruochen closed the scroll and put it away.

He had memorized its contents.

Zhang Ruochen felt eyes staring at his back, so he turned around and saw the soldiers of Primitive World. He looked away and spoke to himself. "So many people have followed. It seems that I've become a fragrant bun – everyone wants a bite."

There were more than 6,000 soldiers of Primitive World onboard. The weakest among them were at the Initial Stage of the Heaven Realm, while 30% of them had achieved the Fish-dragon Realm.

That meant that there were almost 200 Monks of the Fish-dragon Realm in that one ship.

Zhang Ruochen could sense that there were at least fifty soldiers of the Fish-dragon Realm from the Primitive World focusing on him. No doubt, these people were here just for him.

These were just the soldiers of Primitive World of the Fish-dragon Realm. He estimated that there were more soldiers of Primitive World in the Heaven Realm who had come with the same motive.

Some were probably here just for the Dragon Pearl and Holy Sword, while some came for the inheritance of Xuanwu.

"It seems this journey to the Xuanwu Primitive World is a perilous one."

Zhang Ruochen shook his head with a smile. He knew that this journey was going to be a bumpy one, yet he was not afraid.

He had to go to the Xuanwu Primitive World whether it was because he wanted to break through to the Ultimate Realm or to endeavor to look for the Xuanwu heritage. Of course, Zhang Ruochen was not a reckless or arrogant person. He had the confidence to escape since he dared go there.

At that moment, two more groups of people boarded the ship.

Zhang Ruochen recognized the leaders of these two groups. They were Xu Hai of Saint Xu Gentry and Green-robed Emissary of the Black Market Excellence Hall.

"They actually came!" Zhang Ruochen said.

Xu Hai boarded the ship with the three Monks of the Fish-dragon Realm and walked in Zhang Ruochen's direction. They stopped not far to his left but did not take any action.

Xu Hai acted as if he didn't know Zhang Ruochen. He whispered with the three Monks of the Fish-dragon Realm but kept looking at Zhang Ruochen from time to time.

Unlike Xu Hai, the arrival of Green-robed Emissary caused a commotion on the ship.

Everyone knew about the hostility between Zhang Ruochen and the Black Market Excellence Hall.

The appearance of Green-robed Emissary was not an ordinary signal.

With his appearance, the other Monks who had designs on Zhang Ruochen would have to forget their plans. After all, the Black Market was so powerful that commoners would not want to challenge them.

Green Robe Emissary brought only two people – a man and a woman.

The man was the third disciple of the Ghost Saint, Yin Wuchang.

Yin Wuchang looked gentle but his skin was dreadfully pale – as if he had not been exposed to sunlight all year long – giving off a feeling of eeriness.

The woman was called “Iron Lady”. She was the tenth killer who was trained by the Blood Cloud Sect.

She was tall and wore a tight-fitting black leather armor that emphasized her huge chest, hips and her long, slender legs. She was wearing a pair of metal iron boots that made a thumping sound with every step she took.

Iron Lady wore a black iron mask that covered her eyes and nose. The cloak she was wearing made her look very capable and full of heroic spirit. With a single glance, one could tell that she had killed numerous top masters.

Yin Wuchang went straight to Zhang Ruochen. Without bothering to hide his hostility, he said, “Zhang Ruochen, where did you hide my junior sister apprentice?”

Orange Star Emissary was the fourth disciple of the Ghost Saint, so obviously she would be Yin Wuchang’s junior sister apprentice.

When Yin Wuchang learned that Zhang Ruochen had set sail for the Xuanwu Primitive World alone he immediately checked Zhang Ruochen’s residence, but Orange Star Emissary was nowhere to be found.

Yin Wuchang had no choice but to follow Green-robed Emissary to the port of the Primitive World. He wanted to interrogate Zhang Ruochen directly.

Zhang Ruochen responded calmly. “Who are you, and who is your junior sister apprentice?”

“I’m the disciple of the Ghost Saint, Yin Wuchang. You must now know who my junior sister apprentice is, right?” Yin Wuchang replied.

Zhang Ruochen replied, “So you’re here for Orange Star Emissary. Too bad, she has already pledged allegiance to me. I’m afraid she will not be returning to the Black Market in the future.”

“What did you just say?”

Yin Wuchang’s eyes turned red as the anger in his body made his hands burn.

When he arrived at Myriad Chaos Mountain, Yin Wuchang heard that Zhang Ruochen had abused his junior sister apprentice. He even made her his sex slave.

He had doubts about those rumors at first, but after hearing what Zhang Ruochen said he finally believed it.

If Zhang Ruochen had not used despicable methods, torturing her, would the junior sister apprentice have surrendered to him?

Zhang Ruochen had not expected Yin Wuchang to be so angry. Deep inside, he was rather surprised – he could not fathom the reason behind Yin Wuchang’s ire. He said, “The port of the Primitive World is still within the Myriad Chaos Mountain. Therefore, I advise you not to start anything here.”

Green-robed Emissary was worried that Yin Wuchang would not be able to control his anger and lose his senses, so he rushed forward and stopped him. He said, "Brother, be patient. We'll take care of him once we reach the Xuanwu Primitive World."

Yin Wuchang controlled his anger and backed off.

After a short while, under the escort of a commander of the Ninth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm from the Ministry of War, the array of the Primitive World's ship gradually formed into an egg-shaped light screen with the ship wrapped in its middle.

The ship of the Primitive World set sail for the Xuanwu Primitive World.

Chapter 522: Camps on the Huangyu Island, Primitive World of Xuan Wu

The Primitive World of Xuan Wu was suspended between chaotic heaven and earth. It was far from Kunlun's Field, so even the Saints had difficulty flying across. Had they not passed through the spatial channel, they could not have reached it.

"Bang!"

The array of ships quickly shifted and had violent friction with the atmosphere of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu, resulting in a mass of crimson fire clouds.

If people on the ground looked up they would have seen a mass of fire clouds in the originally pale blue sky. The fire clouds covered half of the sky, which made spectators feel horrible – as if it was the end of the world.

From the mass of fire clouds, a pitch black ship flew out and rushed to the ground.

A moment later, the ship passed through the atmosphere of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu and appeared in the sky above the clear waters. Then the ship descended slowly and landed on a yellowish-brown island.

"Boom!"

A layer of thick, slimy mud was pushed up and the whole island shook a little.

Huangyu Island extended about 160,000 meters from north to south, and 85,000 meters from east to west. It was a base of the Ministry of War in the Primitive World of Xuan Wu.

A seven-layer defensive array was arranged around the island.

Underground palaces and camps were built inside the island, which could hold 30,000 soldiers of the Primitive World.

Everyone stepped off the ship onto Huangyu Island. Immediately, a soldier of the Primitive World wearing the armor of the Ministry of War came over and led them to the underground camp.

The soldier informed them, "Being located at the edge of the Xixuan Sea, Huangyu Island is one of the top ten military bases in the Primitive World of Xuan Wu. It is ruled by King Jinhuang. Within a sea area

of thousands of miles around the island, all aboriginal savage beasts have been removed. Please rest assured that Huangyu Island is a very safe place.”

Then he continued, “However, the aboriginals of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu are very clever. They often disguise as soldiers of the Primitive World to sneak into the base, gather intelligence, and wreak havoc. Therefore, in case of emergency, you must leave an image and a drop of blood on the Mirror of Truth.”

The Mirror of Truth was a Hundred Inscription Weapon developed by the Federation of Inscription. It could reveal a person’s true body.

Due to its special power, the First Central Empire purchased the Mirror of Truth in mass quantities from the Federation of Inscription. It was widely used in the Battlefield of the Primitive World to recognize those aboriginals who wanted to sneak into the base or Kunlun’s Field.

Suspended in mid-air, the Mirror of Truth was round, with a diameter of three meters. It was made of unknown materials.

A layer of pale white light emitted from the mirror surface. It was bright and clear, like the moon hanging in the night sky.

Zhang Ruochen was the first to move toward the Mirror of Truth. His shadow was reflected on the mirror.

He cut a finger and squeezed out a drop of blood.

The mirror then absorbed the drop of blood and kept a record of Zhang Ruochen’s biological information.

After doing this, Zhang Ruochen glanced at Xu Hai and the Green-robed Emissary behind him. Then, he quickly moved his body and rushed out of the underground camp.

“Hurry, hurry, keep up with him. We can’t let Zhang Ruochen get away.”

Xu Hai immediately rushed forward to chase after Zhang Ruochen. However, after just three steps, he was blocked by the soldier who was guarding the Mirror of Truth.

The soldier held a long spear with a sharp point. He pointed it at Xu Hai’s heart and said coldly, “Since you’ve come to Huangyu Island, you must leave your image and blood in the Mirror of Truth. Otherwise, you’ll be treated as aboriginals of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu and killed on the spot.”

Xu Hai clenched his fists, fire burning in his eyes.

He looked in the direction that Zhang Ruochen had gone. Finally, he subdued his mounting anger because he did not dare challenge the Ministry of War.

He quickly moved beneath the Mirror of Truth. After he left his image and blood, he hurried toward the stone ladder and resumed his chase.

By the time Xu Hai reached the ground, Zhang Ruochen had already rushed out of the seven-layer defensive array and disappeared into the sea, sitting in a small ship that was more than 30 meters long.

The other three cultivators of the Fish-dragon Realm from Saint Xu Gentry reached the ground and came behind Xu Hai.

“Child, what can we do now?” asked a cultivator of the Fish-dragon Realm.

Xu Hai solemnly said, “Don’t let him escape. Go and chase after him. We must catch up with him.”

“But... we won’t wait for the people of the Black Market?”

Xu Hai got angry and said, “By the time they get here Zhang Ruochen would have already gone far. It will be difficult to find him then. It’ll be like looking for a needle in a haystack considering the vastness of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu.”

Xu Hai and the three cultivators, together with six soldiers of the Primitive World, formed a squad. They boarded a small ship and chased after Zhang Ruochen’s ship.

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In the Battlefield of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu, only people in groups could kill and hunt aboriginal creatures at sea.

Ten soldiers of the Primitive World formed a squad. A hundred soldiers formed a squadron. A thousand soldiers formed a battalion. Ten thousand soldiers formed a legion.

The sea around Huangyu Island had already been swept over by the Primitive World battalion. Almost all of the strong aboriginal savage beasts were killed. Only a few inferior class beasts still lived here.

The inferior class beasts had low intelligence and limited attack force, therefore they were not the targets of the soldiers of the Primitive World.

The imperial court’s intention was to rule the Primitive World of Xuan Wu, not exterminate all creatures there.

They usually went to sea in squads of ten to accumulate military merits. They would only go to sea in a squadron or battalion if strong aboriginal creatures were found.

Zhang Ruochen had joined a squad of ten so he could go out to sea immediately.

All members of the squad were sergeants of the Ministry of War. With the most profound cultivation, the squad leader had only reached the Medium State in the Heaven Realm. Almost all the others were only at the Initial Stage or the Mid Stage in the Heaven Realm.

The squad leader was Nie Nanfei. He looked more than 30 years old, with somewhat a sense of the vicissitudes of life. He was obviously battle-hardened; his hands and face were full of scars.

After talking to him for a while, Zhang Ruochen learned that he was already 68 years old, and he had fought for 21 years in the Primitive World of Xuan Wu. He had enough military merits to exchange for a title of Low-grade Commandery Prince in the First Central Empire.

“How old are you? You should be less than 30! Is this your first time to the Primitive World of Xuan Wu?” asked Nie Nanfei.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said with a smile, “Yes.”

Nie Nanfei signed and said, “You can reach the Heaven Realm at such a young age, you must be a talent who wants to enter into the Heaven Board. However, I must tell you the truth. The Primitive World of Xuan Wu is a top-class medium-level Primitive World, almost close to superior-class Primitive World, so it’s very dangerous. Not to mention warriors of the Heaven Realm, even warriors of the Fish-dragon Realm could die here if they are careless. Therefore, if you want to accumulate military merits and enter into the Heaven Board, you’d be better off going to the Inferior Primitive World, where the risk is lower.”

Zhang Ruochen knew that Nie Nanfei meant well, but since he was already here, he would not leave easily.

Zhang Ruochen said humbly, “Brother Nie, you’ve been here for over twenty years. You must be familiar with everything here, right? Can you tell me something?”

Nie Nanfei knew that he was unable to persuade Zhang Ruochen. Out of those he’d seen, young and aggressive talents like Zhang Ruochen, only a few could survive.

However, as an old soldier, he had already done his duty to try to persuade Zhang Ruochen, and he would not continue to do so.

Nie Nanfei explained to Zhang Ruochen, saying, “The Half-Saint in the army is not clear about how vast the Primitive World of Xuan Wu is. According to the current map unveiled by the Ministry of War, two continents have been discovered in the Primitive World of Xuan Wu, respectively called as ‘Xuan continent’ and ‘Continent of Wu’.”

“The two continents only occupy a small part of the map. In fact, more than 90% of the Primitive World of Xuan Wu is covered by the sea.”

“Almost all of the aboriginal humans live on the two continents and some large islands. In the sea, most creatures are aboriginal savage beasts of high intelligence. Some are much smarter than human beings.”

“Huangyu Island is located at the edge of the Xixuan Sea among the eight seas. Within thousands of miles around it, nearly all savage beasts above the fourth level have been exterminated. Therefore, if we want to obtain military merits, we must move further out to sea.”

“The soldiers of Primitive World who haven’t reached the Fish-dragon Realm yet should not go further out to sea. They’d better act within 1,500 kilometers of Huangyu Island, where the risk is lower. Once beyond 1,500 kilometers, it’ll be easy to meet strong fifth-level savage beasts. Meeting even one of them will be a catastrophe for a squad like us.”

Zhang Ruochen listened carefully and kept Nie Nanfei’s words in mind.

While they were speaking, the ship had already sailed a thousand miles from Huangyu Island and entered the dangerous area. It slowed down markedly.

Suddenly, Zhang Ruochen glanced behind him and saw a black dot on the sea approaching quickly.

It was a small ship.

Zhang Ruochen looked over at it with his Skyeeye. He clearly saw Xu Hai standing on the bow. Beside him, there were three other cultivators of the Fish-dragon Realm from Saint Xu Gentry.

“How did they catch up to me so quickly?”

With a smile, Zhang Ruochen stood up and leaped. He flew from the defensive array and fell about 33 meters to the water surface.

A current of Genuine Qi surged from his feet and supported his body.

Nie Nanfei said with some amazement, “Brother Zhang, what are you doing?”

Zhang Ruochen stepped on the water as easily as if he was walking on firm earth. He said to Nie Nanfei, who was on the ship, “Brother Nie, go ahead! I have some personal affairs to solve. I hope to see you again soon.”

Glancing at the ship behind him, Nie Nanfei became very thoughtful. He nodded and said, “Ok! Please take good care of yourself.”

With this, Nie Nanfei and the rest accelerated and sailed away.

A moment later, Xu Hai and the three cultivators of the Fish-dragon Realm from Saint Xu Gentry sailed through wind and waves and berthed 1,500 meters away.

Chapter 523: Who is the Most Powerful?

Standing on the prow, Xu Hai looked very elegant in a splendid silver-white robe. He looked at Zhang Ruochen, standing above the water level, and said with a smile, “Zhang Ruochen, why did you stop escaping?”

Zhang Ruochen had a look at the ship on which Xu Hai stood. He saw six corpses falling on the deck, gushing fresh blood. Obviously, they had just died.

The six dead people were soldiers of the Primitive World in Xu Hai’s squad.

Zhang Ruochen asked, “Why did you kill them?”

Xu Hai said with a smile, “I can’t let it out that I have come here to kill you. If they talk nonsense about me killing a fellow warrior from Kunlun’s Field after returning to base, I’ll be punished by the Ministry of War.”

Zhang Ruochen said, “So, you killed them to keep their mouths shut.”

“If it were not to form a squad to leave Huangyu Island, do you think I would take the same boat as them?”

Xu Hai said again, “Furthermore, this wasn’t murder. Upon reaching the base, I’ll tell the government officials at the Ministry of War that they were killed by aboriginals from Xuanwu Primitive World. As a result, their families will be given large pensions.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, "If I kill you, will the Ministry of War give a pension to the Saint Xu Gentry?"

Xu Hai looked solemn and cold. But soon, he roared with laughter, saying, "Zhang Ruochen, are you dazzled by your reputation as the No. 1 on the *HeavenBoard*? You really think that you're invincible simply because you can't find a decent opponent? But to tell you the truth, you're just an ant in front of masters in the Fish-Dragon Realm."

Zhang Ruochen said, "Isn't it too early to jump to that conclusion? Only after having a fight will we know who is stronger, right?"

Xu Hai said, "You're so arrogant and conceited. In the case, as your elder brother, I'm responsible for teaching you how to conduct yourself with humility."

"Master, you don't need to deal with a warrior in the Heaven Realm personally. I'll kill him for you."

A monk in the Fish-Dragon Realm came out from behind Xu Hai.

He was Xu Qianling, an elder of the Saint Xu Gentry.

Armed with a four meter Black Golden Stick, Xu Qianling took a step and rushed out of the ship. Treading on top of the waves, he struck Zhang Ruochen first.

Seeing that Xu Qianling rushed out, Xu Hai did not start making his moves, for the moment. He thought to himself that Xu Qianling was strong enough to cope with Zhang Ruochen.

"Xu Qianling had reached "Bone Refining to Jade" of the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. He was powerful enough to not be compared with warriors in the Heaven Realm."

"Even if Zhang Ruochen ranked first on the Heaven Board, he could not be stronger than Xu Qianling."

"What's more, Xu Qianling was the disciple of the Saint Gentry, so he was stronger than an ordinary monk in the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. Even if he fought with a Fourth Change monk, he might not be defeated."

"How could Zhang Ruochen possibly defeat him?"

Xu Hai had confidence in Xu Qianling. Thus, he was too lazy to start making a move. After all, you don't need a sledgehammer to crack a peanut.

"Swoosh!"

Xu Qianling's Genuine Qi was abundant. It surged through his arms and into the Black Golden Stick, a tenth level Genuine Martial Arm.

He brandished his war staff, stirring a layer of seawater into a wave that surged towards Zhang Ruochen.

Spurred by the strength of Xu Qianling's staff technique, waves smashed against Zhang Ruochen's Celestial Bodyshield and flung him about 30 meters away.

"Haha! The number one on the Heaven Board is nothing more than an ant in front of a Fish-Dragon Realm monk."

With a laugh, Xu Qianling held the war staff and launched an attack once again.

Zhang Ruochen steadied himself and stopped retreating. He pulled the Abyss Ancient Sword out and turned his arms quickly over the water to stir up a circle of waves.

Water rotated around the blade like a stream.

With the sound of a crack, the circle of waves froze and turned into numberless three inch ice knives.

“Out!”

Zhang Ruochen swung his arm and the ice knives flew at Xu Qianling like a rain of blades.

“Heaven Shaking Fury.”

Xu Qianling chopped downwards with his stick.

The Black Golden Stick formed a 30 meter long shadow as wide as a bowl. It stroke downward and shattered all the ice knives into a fine powder.

The huge staff shadow contained the most frightful force. It depressed the whole surface of the water, stirring up waves about 30 meters tall.

Zhang Ruochen immediately put his sword sideways to block. Sword Breath came out endlessly, like a body flying up. It formed a large bell of Sword Breath.

” Pow!”

In an instant, the huge staff shadow shattered the large bell of Sword Breath, and he was struck and flung away once again.

His sword hand suffered a minor injury and throbbed.

“Zhang Ruochen, I’ve told you so. The first on the Heaven Board could only be a king in the Heaven Realm. Once you meet masters in the Fish-Dragon Realm, you’re only an ant. To be honest, I just used half of my force.”

Xu Qianling felt confidence in victory and strode toward Zhang Ruochen.

He was excited, and he thought to himself that if he could kill Zhang Ruochen, it would be a great contribution. Surely, he would be granted the rich reward promised by the ancestor.

Zhang Ruochen sighed and said, “With my current strength, I’m far away from a monk in the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm.”

“Unfortunately, you learned too late,” Xu Qianling said with a laugh.

“It’s not too late.”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head, immediately took charge of his Martial Soul, and mobilized the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth.

“Swoosh!”

In a flash, the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth flew to Zhang Ruochen endlessly, making his aura stronger and stronger.

Zhang Ruochen had been fighting Xu Qianling with only his own power, instead of with his Martial Soul. However, Martial Soul was his greatest strength. His Martial Soul was comparable to a monk in the Seventh Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm.

Aided by his Martial Soul, he seemed to turn into another person. He held his sword and stood there calmly. However, it put a lot of pressure on Xu Qianling.

“How strong his Martial Soul is!”

Xu Qianling immediately stopped in shock. His face grew darker.

Then, he also summoned his own Martial Soul to mobilize the Spiritual Qi between heaven and earth to assist himself.

However, Xu Qianling’s Martial Soul was as strong as his cultivation realm, which was only at the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm. Thus, his strength was not enhanced a lot with the assistance of his Martial Soul.

“No matter how strong his Martial Soul, he’s only a warrior in the Heaven Realm.”

Xu Qianling suppressed his anxiety and calmed down. He mobilized his Genuine Qi with all his strength and displayed the Eight Trigrams for Guard, a staff technique at the Inferior Class of the Ghost Level.

He rotated the Black Golden Stick quickly to form huge vortex strength. Sea water from several miles around the defense collected into a thick water column about 100 meters high.

“Rumble!”

His staff technique was an impressive display of power.

The water column struck Zhang Ruochen like a huge stick. Xu Qianling stood in the center of the water column to mobilize Genuine Qi into the Black Golden Stick continuously. His skin became golden and his bones became as tough as white jade.

Zhang Ruochen flew up from the water surface and hung suspended in midair.

“Awoo!”

Suddenly, he used the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon. He rushed forward and the Genuine Qi inside his body condensed into a Wind Dragon dozens of meters long.

He stood at the head of the Wind Dragon and brandished his sword. An arc-shaped projection of sword radiance struck the thick water column.

With a boom, the Sword Breath broke the water column into two parts.

“Splash!”

The water column dispersed and changed into water drops. They eventually came down as heavy rain.

Xu Qianling’s body was broken in two. Both parts fell into the water and dyed the surrounding seawater blood red.

He just used one stroke to kill a superior in the Third Change in the Fish-Dragon Realm.

Xu Hai startled and felt unbelievable. He asked himself, "Is Zhang Ruochen's unique skill 'Swift and Neat?'"

Xu Hai never saw the fight between Zhang Ruochen and Huang Shenyi, so he did not know the real 'Swift and Neat'.

However, Zhang Ruochen was well-known as the first on the *Heaven Board*. His single-move sword technique, 'Swift and Neat,' was thought to be a gift from above. It had become his unique skill, and it terrified numerous warriors.

Xu Hai did not know that Zhang Ruochen had just used Swift Swordsmanship. Zhang Ruochen had acted too quickly and accurately. Moreover, he saw the flaws of the Eight Trigrams for Guard. Thus, he could kill Xu Qianling with one stroke.

He came to the surface again and picked up Xu Qianling's Black Golden Stick. He refined the stick with the Abyss Ancient Sword. A moment later, another basic inscription had appeared on the Abyss Ancient Sword.

Xu Hai stared at the Abyss Ancient Sword. He felt that after the absorption of the Black Golden Stick, the Abyss Ancient Sword became sharper and its power more volatile.

This sword should be a Holy Weapon.

No wonder Xu Qianling could not block Zhang Ruochen's stroke, even with an amulet treasure.

How could an ordinary amulet treasure withstand a Holy Weapon?

Xu Hai squinted and snorted, saying, "It's unbelievable that you can refine Genuine Martial Arms. Thus, your sword may be a Hundred Inscription Weapon, or even a Thousand Inscription Weapon."

Zhang Ruochen glanced at his Abyss Ancient Sword and said, "Do you want this sword?"

The corners of Xu Hai's mouth turned up as he said, "Besides your sword, I'll take away all your treasures. Xu Konglin, Xu Chen, if either of you can behead Zhang Ruochen, I'll give you a Holy Weapon."

Xu Hai only had one Holy Weapon, which was one of the supreme treasures of the Saint Xu Gentry. He would use it to deal with Zhang Ruochen if necessary, so he would not give it to Xu Konglin or Xu Chen.

However, Zhang Ruochen had a lot of Holy Weapons.

If Zhang Ruochen was killed, those Holy Weapons would belong to Saint Xu Gentry.

Then, it would not be a big deal for Xu Hai to give a Holy Weapon to one of them.

Behind Xu Hai, the eyes of two monks in the Fish-Dragon Realm, Xu Konglin, and Xu Chen, sparkled when they heard the words "Holy Weapon."

Chapter 524: The Weak Overcame the Strong

Xu Konglin and Xu Chen were Elders of Saint Xu Gentry. Both of them held great power and high status. However, their weapons were still only eleventh level Genuine Martial Arms.

An eleventh-level Genuine Martial Arm was a great fighter. Its value exceeded a million Spiritual Crystals. Countless warriors in the Fish-dragon Realm would loot it when it appeared.

However, how could an eleventh-level Genuine Martial Arm compare with a Holy Weapon?

If an ordinary Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm held a Holy Weapon, he could cross a realm to kill his enemy. He could even cross two realms to defeat his opponent.

If Xu Konglin and Xu Chen could get a Holy Weapon, their strength would certainly be elevated to a new height. In the future, they would have even greater power in Saint Xu Gentry.

We must kill Zhang Ruochen even if it's only for a Holy Weapon!

SHUAH!

SHUAH!

Xu Konglin and Xu Chen jumped off the ship and landed on the water. They attacked Zhang Ruochen from both sides at the same time.

Xu Konglin's cultivation was in the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. However, his strength had reached the Peak of the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. He had more than double the cultivation of Xu Qianling, who had been killed by Zhang Ruochen.

In the interior Martial Arts Tournament of Saint Xu Gentry, Xu Konglin had only used seven strokes to make Xu Qianling vomit blood.

Both Xu Konglin and Xu Qianling were in the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm, but their strengths were not at a same level.

The other Elder, Xu Chen, had more terrifying cultivation. He had already broken through Bone Refining to Jade, the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm and reached Yinqiao Holy Meridian, the Fourth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

Although the Fourth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm was only a realm above the Third Change, the strength between warriors in the two realms was quite different.

Even if Xu Konglin and Xu Qianling attacked Xu Chen together, he could defeat them within three moves.

Xu Chen was stronger and Xu Konglin was weaker, so they took to a tactic of attacking and provoking Zhang Rouchen.

Xu Chen confronted him directly, while Xu Konglin, who was weaker, stood in the distance and shot flying knives at him.

Xu Chen was indeed strong. Even though Zhang Ruochen had his Martial Soul, he was still suppressed and had no power to fight back. He could only continue to retreat. He dared not meet Xu Chen headed on.

Xu Chen was more than 70 years old and he was a figure of the older generation of Saint Xu Gentry. He had also been a powerful genius when he was young.

He held a Cracking-tiger Broadsword, an eleventh level Genuine Martial Arm. His broadsword technique was very skillful. A casual attack from the 1,500 kilogram broadsword burst out a power strong enough to crack the cliffs.

Xu Chen's long hair flew in the air. His infinite strength was suppressing Zhang Ruochen.

BOOM!

BOOM!

...

Every sword strike Chen displayed contained bitter cold Icing air.

He struck the ninth movement. The surrounding sea area froze into thick ice for dozens of kilometers.

"Zhang Ruochen, I have already opened my Yinqiao holy meridian. I can turn Genuine Qi into Holy Qi and use martial techniques at their strongest power. Why try to fight with me? Give up! You don't stand a chance!" Xu Chen said with a sneer.

His broadsword sliced toward Zhang Ruochen. The cold sharp knife energy sped past his neck, shaving off a lock of hair.

It just barely missed his neck.

Zhang Ruochen stamped his feet. He quickly retreated backwards, landing three kilometers away. He stopped and stabilized his stature. He was ready to fight back.

SHUAH!

In the distance, Xu Konglin saw the opportunity before him. He held a Bronze Flying Knife between his index and middle finger. He flung it out towards Zhang Ruochen.

The Bronze Flying Knife was a sixth-level Genuine Martial Arm. Under the mobilization of Xu Konglin's Genuine Qi, inscriptions in the flying knife were activated, emitting a ball of flame that was two meters in diameter.

The knife rotated rapidly. Dragging a long flame tail behind it, it flew at a speed that was four times the speed velocity.

It shook the air violently and sent out loud thunderous roars.

The speed of the flying knife was much faster than the speed of sound. It broke through the Celestial Bodysield and was about to reach Zhang Ruochen's back. It was going to pierce through his body.

But Zhang Rouchen seemed to have eyes in the back of his head. He waved his sword backwards and it collided with the flying knife.

With a clash, the flying knife split into two pieces. The two parts shot out and dropped into the water with a splash.

The flying knife had a flame, so when it fell into the water, the seawater began to boil.

SHUAH!

Xu Konglin's fingers quickly catapulted. He shot out the second flying knife, then the third and the fourth... Each flying knife shot out at a speed four times the speed of sound and was aimed at Zhang Ruchen's vital parts.

Zhang Ruchen's sword technique was skillful. The flying knives could not hurt him at all. However, they did interfere. He could not concentrate on dealing with Xu Chen's powerful attack.

When masters fought, they could not be distracted. If one was careless, he could be doomed.

Zhang Ruchen's opponent was Xu Chen, a warrior in the Fourth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm and a top master. Zhang Ruchen felt great pressure.

Xu Konglin pestered from a distance. He wanted to distract Zhang Ruchen so Xu Chen would have as many opportunities as possible to kill him.

Xu Konglin and Xu Chen were both very smart. They worked together seamlessly.

Zhang Ruchen adopted a relatively conservative tactic. He was prepared to kill the weaker Xu Konglin first and slowly deal with the stronger Xu Chen afterward.

Zhang Ruchen ignored Xu Chen. He displayed the Shadow of the Royal Wind Dragon to stimulate his speed to the extreme and charged toward Xu Konglin.

"Want to kill me?"

The corner of Xu Konglin's mouth twitched up. A smirk appeared on his face.

He did not face up to Zhang Ruchen. He quickly turned around and raced away. There was already a distance of 33 meters between him and Zhang Ruchen.

He was only there to be a distraction, it was not necessary for him to engage in actual combat. If Zhang Ruchen displayed his unique sword technique, Swift and Neat, he would not be able to offend against it.

The movement Xu Konglin was displaying was Roc Flying with Double Wings, one of Saint Xu Gentry's unique techniques.

Roc Flying with Double Wings was an Inferior Class Ghost Level martial technique.

A Monk could only practice Ghost Level bodily movements when he reached the Fish-dragon Realm. Only the Genuine Qi of a Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm could support the consumption of a Ghost Level bodily movement.

So even though Zhang Ruchen had reached the Peak of the Heaven Realm, he could still only display Superior class Spiritual Stage bodily movements.

Xu Konglin injected Genuine Qi into his back Meridians. With a loud thud, the illusory image of huge roc wings appeared on his back. His speed immediately increased several times, leaving Zhang Ruochen far behind.

He flew out over the sea, leaving behind a deep path that divided the sea in two.

Xu Konglin was very happy to see Zhang Rouchen further and further behind him. He felt like they were playing a game of cat and mouse.

Xu Konglin paused slightly and said with a smile, "Zhang Ruochen, even if your sword technique is great, you can only threaten me within 10 meters. Unfortunately for you, you can't get that close. The bodily movement I practice is from the Inferior Class of Ghost Level; what you practice is only from the Superior Class of Spiritual Stage. There's no comparison at all. You are far slower."

"Really?" Zhang Ruochen said.

Xu Konglin grinned and said thoughtfully, "Don't struggle too much. In my opinion, you are like a turtle in a jar. If you give up now, perhaps you can still have a whole corpse."

Zhang Ruochen was calm, he did not lose his temper.

He quickly pursued and soon reached a position 60 meters away from Xu Konglin. He secretly operated his Genuine Qi and injected it into the Dragon Lock Chain on his wrist.

The surface of Dragon Lock Chain sent out filaments of lightning that flew out from Zhang Ruochen's wrist and turned into a thick iron rope. The rope spun on the sea and sped toward Xu Konglin in the distance.

"That's... the Orange Star Emissary's Holy Weapon... Dragon Lock Chain..."

Xu Konglin's face changed. He displayed the Roc Flying with Double Wings again and took off with an intention of escaping.

However, it was too late.

SWOOSH!

The Dragon Lock Chain wrapped around Xu Konglin's waist round and round. Strikes of lightning rushed out of the chain, like knives, hitting him and made crackling sounds.

Zhang Ruochen controlled the Dragon Lock Chain. With a shake of his arm, Xu Konglin spun and twisted in agony.

He screamed in terror.

His whole body was struck by the Dragon Lock Chain's lightning fire. His clothes and hair all turned black. His skin cracked and blood flowed out. It was like his whole body had been thrown into a stove and roasted. Black smoke wafted out from his crispy corpse.

POOF!

Under Zhang Ruochen's control, the Abyss Ancient Sword flew out and smashed Xu Konglin's charred body, leaving a huge blood hole in his chest.

Blood gushed out.

An Elder in the Fish-dragon Realm had just been killed under Zhang Ruochen's sword.

Xu Chen had followed them. He saw the scene before him and his old face distorted. He roared angrily, "Bloke, you are courting death!"

He jumped up and held the hilt of his sword with both hands. He waved it toward Zhang Ruochen.

"Perfect timing!"

A twinkle of amusement appeared in Zhang Ruochen's eyes. He took out the Auspicious Vase from his Storage Ring and held it in his hand. All the Genuine Qi in his body flowed into the vase.

Chapter 525: Holy Soft Leather Armor

Xu Chen's broadsword technique was overwhelming. It brought a gust of cold wind and tore Zhang Ruochen's robe apart.

Zhang Ruochen was calm. He controlled the Auspicious Vase and simultaneously calculated the power of space.

Xu Chen's broadsword was about to hit Zhang Ruochen in the head. If it made contact, he would inevitably die.

CHUU!

Zhang Ruochen cast out Space Moving and disappeared from his original place. Then, he appeared behind Xu Chen.

Failing to attack Zhang Ruochen, Xu Chen's broadsword move hit the water's surface, causing the entire sea to churn and two huge 33 meter waves to rise. He quickly realized the severity of the situation. He hurriedly drew back his broadsword and split toward the spot behind him.

But before his broadsword could slice out, a huge pulling force appeared above his head. It formed a vortex and enveloped his entire body.

It was like falling into a black hole. Xu Chen could not fight the strong pulling force no matter how hard he struggled. He could not control his body at all and he flew upward.

From afar, one could see a small delicate bottle suspending above Xu Chen's head. A vortex was condensing just above the bottle.

Xu Chen's body became smaller and smaller. He became as small as a finger and was suctioned into the bottle.

Zhang Ruochen quickly took back the Auspicious Vase. He held it in his hand. "Wow! It can even take in a master at the Fourth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. The power of the Auspicious Vase is amazing!"

BOOM!

The Auspicious Vase shook violently. It formed a circular wave of power, causing Zhang Ruochen's fingers to ache. If he had not increased his power to control it, it would have flown away.

"Where am I? Let me out! Zhang Ruochen, aren't you first on the Heaven Board? Fight with me in person if you dare."

The Auspicious Vase resounded with Xu Chen's voice.

With a loud bang, it shook violently again.

Zhang Ruochen used Genuine Qi to quell the Auspicious Vase. He said to himself, *"The Auspicious Vase's attack is still weak. If I added a powerful flame array to the bottle, it would be able to refine Xu Chen instead of just trapping him."*

The Auspicious Vase still had many imperfections. If it encountered a superior with higher cultivation, the superior could beat his way out before it exerted its strength.

For now, Zhang Ruochen could only take back the Auspicious Vase. He would have to figure out a solution for dealing with Xu Chen after he killed Xu Hai.

PHHF!

Xu Hai drove his ship forward and overtook him.

Although Xu Hai had been standing in the distance, he had clearly seen the battle. He had seen Xu Konglin die under Zhang Ruochen's sword and he had also seen Zhang Ruochen use the Auspicious Vase to take Xu Chen in.

"Those two craps. Zhang Ruochen took them out so easily. It seems that they have become accustomed to a decadent family lifestyle. They are useless."

Xu Hai was quite angry.

Xu Konglin's cultivation was at the Peak of the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. From his point of view, even if he was no match for Zhang Ruochen, he could have avoided being hurt if he had been more careful.

However, Xu Konglin had also been arrogant. The Dragon Lock Chain had entangled him before he could escape, and finally, he died under Zhang Ruochen's sword.

Xu Konglin's death was his own fault. No one else was to blame.

However, Xu Chen had profound cultivation and his strength was much higher than Zhang Ruochen's. He had been put into a bottle and instantly suppressed. To Xu Hai this was unacceptable.

"Xu Chen's cultivation has reached the Fourth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm, and he is a battle-seasoned superior among the elders. How could he make such a mistake and lose to a junior like Zhang Ruochen?"

What on earth was that mysterious bottle?

Xu Hai was very annoyed at the loss of three Fish-dragon Realm masters.

Even in a large family like Saint Xu Gentry, the number of superiors in the Fish-dragon Realm was small. It took a lot of resources for the family to cultivate a superior in the Fish-dragon Realm.

It could be said that every Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm was a great treasure.

If Saint Xu Gentry was to be compared to an empire, then every Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm was a city. A loss of a Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm was more regrettable than the loss of a city.

Now, Xu Hai had no way out. If he could not defeat Zhang Ruochen today, he would be severely punished when he returned to Saint Xu Gentry. Even his position as successor of Saint Xu Gentry would be lost.

Xu Hai expelled his contempt and showed an ugly look. He said, "Zhang Ruochen, I admit that I made a mistake by looking down on you. However, from now on, I won't give you a chance."

Zhang Ruochen smiled. "If I were you, I would run away now."

Xu Hai was extremely angry, but he smiled and said, "Zhang Ruochen, you are too arrogant. When I was in the Heaven Realm, I reached 91st on the Heaven Board. Even if there is a gap between 91st and 1st, it is not huge."

"Moreover, I have reached the Second Change of the Fish-dragon Realm and my strength is much higher than it was before. Even if you have some great Holy Weapon, it can't make up for the gap in cultivation."

Zhang Ruochen said, "To have become a descendant of Saint Xu Gentry, you are obviously not average warrior. However, are you sure you can take my Swift Swordsmanship?"

"Swift and Neat?"

Xu Hai sneered and looked confident. "Well then, let's see which one is stronger, your sword technique or my power?"

SWOOSH!

A cyan light column flew out from above Xu Hai's head.

The light column rose from the sea and connected to the lower part of the clouds.

A Martial Soul rushed out from the top of Xu Hai's head and suspended in the light column.

The Martial Soul began to mobilize the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi. It could be seen with the naked eye. Streaks of Spiritual Qi gathered from all directions and poured into Xu Hai's glabella.

Xu Hai's Martial Soul was very powerful; it had reached the Seventh Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. Its strength was almost equal to the strength of Zhang Ruochen's Martial Soul.

"Roc Wings Spreading."

Xu Hai's arms spread out. Rich Genuine Qi flowed out from his palm and transformed into two huge wings of light.

The exercise that Xu Hai practiced was Roc Martial Classics, a King's Stage exercise.

His wings moved. Xu Hai flew up above Zhang Ruochen's head. His two palms struck down at the same time.

Two strands of palm power condensed into two huge handprints. Before they even struck, the water under Zhang Ruochen's feet had already pressed down and sunken. Two 10-meter-long handprints appeared on the sea's surface.

Xu Hai was even more powerful than Xu Chen.

When he attacked, the whole world seemed to be under his control.

SHUAH!

Zhang Ruochen immediately demonstrated Space Moving. He leapt through the space and appeared on Xu Hai's left.

"What?!"

Xu Hai was shocked. He did not expect that Zhang Ruochen's speed could reach such a level.

No.

That was not speed, it was the power of space.

When Zhang Ruochen fought with Xu Chen, he had used Space Moving. However, at the time, Xu Hai had been too far away to feel any spatial fluctuation.

But this time, Xu Hai clearly sensed that the surrounding space had sent out a slight turbulence.

The feeling was very similar to the power that ships from the Primitive World sent out when they shuttled through wormholes and space passages.

What made Xu Hai surprised was the fact that Zhang Ruochen could use this kind of power. He knew better than anyone how terrible it was.

Zhang Ruochen did not allow Xu Hai to think further. He prepared to kill him with one blow, to kill Xu Hai with his sword.

After displaying Space Moving, Zhang Ruochen immediately captured a mark of time to merge into his sword technique. He waved his sword and attacked toward Xu Hai's neck.

"Swift and Neat."

Zhang Ruochen was only three meters away from Xu Hai. After integrating with the power of time, his sword was as fast as light. The Abyss Ancient Sword hit Xu Hai in the neck.

PING!

Like hitting a layer of armor, it sounded like two pieces of metal colliding. It burst out several sparks.

Zhang Ruochen was surprised. He could not understand why the sharp Abyss Ancient Sword hadn't punctured Xu Hai's body at all.

Xu Hai merely tilted back under the attack.

He was quick-witted. He flipped around in the void space to unload the power of the Abyss Ancient Sword. Then, he broke out a speed that was three times faster than before and struck Zhang Rouchen in the chest.

His speed was so striking that Zhang Ruochoen didn't see even a shadow of movement.

He did not even have time to display Space Moving. He could only inspire the power of Dragon Pearl quickly. Meanwhile, he swiftly turned the side of the Abyss Ancient Sword to block the attack.

POW!

Zhang Ruochoen flew back 5,000 meters. With a thud, he fell into the sea.

After a moment, he flew up from the sea and landed on the surface.

"PFFF!"

He spat out a mouthful of blood, and his face was very pale. His five internal organs and six hollow organs were all badly hurt and burning painfully. His body seemed to crack.

Despite being seriously injured, Zhang Ruochoen was still standing straight with no fear on his face. He stared at Xu Hai who was suspending in the air and asked, "Are you wearing Holy Soft Leather Armor?"

Xu Hai nodded as he saw that Zhang Ruochoen had been severely injured by his palm. He was quite satisfied with the power he had shown.

"Yes, I do wear Holy Soft Leather Armor. Even if your sword technique is stronger and your sword is sharper, you can't hurt me."

Xu Hai began to run his Genuine Qi. His skin emitted a layer of golden light.

With sacred power, the layer of light sucked all the Spiritual Qi from the sea to form a white cloud that enveloped his body.

From afar he looked like a young Saint. He stood in the center of heaven and earth and controlled the entire world.

That was the aura of a Saint.

Holy Soft Leather Armor, a protective Holy Weapon, was made of Saint's skin and bones and nine other precious materials.

Holy Soft Leather Armor automatically adhered to a Monk's skin. If people did not observe it carefully, they could not detect its existence at all.

Chapter 526: Fierce Fighting for 500 Kilometers

The inner and outer layers of the Holy Soft Leather Armor were carved with many inscriptions. There were also other precious materials for refining weapons, like Dragon Scale, Dragon Skin, and Luan feathers.

Therefore, the defensive power of the Holy Soft Leather Armor was more than ten times more powerful than that of the Saint's skin. After all, this was a Holy Weapon.

An ordinary Hundred Inscription Weapon could not break the Holy Soft Leather Armor. Only by using the Thousand Inscriptions Weapon, could one pierce through it.

Xu Hai was rather arrogant. He said with a smile, "Zhang Ruochen, now you should have known my trump card? Wearing the Holy Soft Leather Armor will increase my speed to seven times of speed velocity. Even a Monk at the Seventh Change of the Fish-dragon Realm might not be able to catch up with me. And the Saint Power in the armor can enhance my power. Did that palm hit feel good?"

Xu Hai was the best master. Once the inscription and Saint Power of the Holy Soft Leather Armor were activated, his strength was even more powerful. Even if Zhang Ruochen had the Dragon Pearl to protect his body, after a hit like that, he was badly hurt.

Suddenly, Xu Hai became serious and his eyes grew sharp. "But, you also brought me a big surprise. You actually can use the power of space. If I were not wearing the Holy Soft Leather Armor, I could have died under your sword."

Zhang Ruochen smiled and seemed not to be hurt. He said with ease, "The defense of the Holy Soft Leather Armor is not impossible to break."

Xu Hai was surprised first. Then he laughed loudly. "Your Holy Sword is just a Hundred Inscription Weapon. No matter how powerful it is, it can't pierce through the Holy Soft Leather Armor."

"The Hundred Inscription Weapon may not be able to pierce through the Holy Soft Leather Armor," Zhang Ruochen said calmly. "But there is always some part of your body that can't be defended by the Armor, like your eyes."

The Holy Soft Leather Armor was made of Saint's skin. It clearly could not defend his eyes.

Xu Hai snorted. "Even if my eyes are unguarded, so what? Do you think I will just stand there and wait for your attack?"

Zhang Ruochen still had a smile on his face. He took out six golden Holy Swords from the Spatial Ring. Under the control of the Heart of the Sword, the six Holy Swords floated up and flew in six different directions around his body.

Seeing how calm and composed Zhang Ruochen was, Xu Hai was worried. *"Zhang Ruochen's sword technique has already reached the Heart Integrated into Sword realm. I'd better be careful."*

So Xu Hai shut his eyes.

That way he didn't have to worry about Zhang Ruochen attacking his eyes.

Actually, with Xu Hai's realm, there was no difference whether he had his eyes open or closed. His Martial Soul and Spiritual Power had better perception than his eyes.

Seeing Xu Hai close his eyes, Zhang Ruochen knew that he was a bit horrified. Even though he wore the Holy Soft Leather Armor, he was not confident enough in himself.

After all Zhang Ruochen had killed two Elders from the Saint Xu Gentry without leaving any blood on his weapon. And he had sent another Elder into the Auspicious Vase.

It was because of this that Xu Hai felt a psychological shadow. He felt that Zhang Ruochen's means were too weird, impossible to guard against. With any carelessness, he would die under Zhang Ruochen's sword.

Maybe Xu Hai did not even realize that Zhang Ruochen had already penetrated his psychological defense.

Once a person had fear, no matter how powerful he was, he would die for sure.

The flaw of the Holy Soft Leather Armor was indeed the eyes.

However, Zhang Ruochen had never thought that he would have to attack Xu Hai's eyes.

The reason was very simple. The eyes were located on the front of a person and also the place with the best protection. When both sides were well-matched in strength, if one side wanted to attack the other's eyes, it was almost impossible.

Moreover, Xu Hai was more powerful than Zhang Ruochen.

If Zhang Ruochen wanted to break his defense with a frontal attack and stab the sword into his eyes, it was an impossible task.

If he did that, the one that would die was surely Zhang Ruochen, not Xu Hai.

What Zhang Ruochen really wanted to use was space power. This was the only way to kill Xu Hai.

Certainly, in the Holy Soft Leather Armor Xu Hai was terribly fast. If he suddenly used the Space Crack and Space Collapse, he could probably escape. If he escaped once, and then used space power to attack a second time, it would be impossible to hurt him.

WOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen grinned. He pointed his finger forward and applied the Sword Defending Technique. Six golden Holy Swords flew out at the same time.

Xu Hai's first instinct was that Zhang Ruochen was going for his eyes. So he struck out a handprint quickly to protect his face. He sent the six Holy Swords flying away.

But, the six Holy Swords revolved in a circle in the void space and attacked toward him again.

"I am more powerful than Zhang Ruochen, and I am wearing the Holy Soft Leather Armor, why can I only defend passively? No, I will initiate an attack."

Xu Hai infused Genuine Qi into the Holy Soft Leather Armor. He was growing more and more powerful. A Saint Power burst out from the soft armor and formed a circle of energy ripples. He hit the six Holy Swords and they flew out in all directions.

“Roc Birth-death Fist.”

The seven times speed velocity Xu Hai exposed turned into a flying light. It rushed at Zhang Ruochen and struck out an overbearing fist technique.

Roc Birth-death Fist was a mid-class Ghost Level fist technique. Xu Hai had practiced it for five years and only succeeded in two moves.

Xu Hai had killed a fifth level medium level Blood-tail Kylin with these two moves. It was in that battle that his strength had been approved by the High-level of Saint Xu Gentry and he became the heir of the future leader of Saint Xu Gentry.

Saint Xu Gentry and the ancient mythical beast roc had a great source of origin. So the direct descendants of Saint Xu Gentry had blood of the Mythical Beast roc in their bodies.

Roc Birth-death Fist was a unique technique that the Saint of Saint Xu Gentry had perceived from the Roc Martial Classics. He infused 32 forms of roc into the Martial Arts and evolved it into 32 devastating fist techniques.

It was just the beginning of the fight. Xu Hai had applied his most powerful unique technique. Hence, he attached great importance to Zhang Ruochen.

A layer of light shadow appeared on Xu Hai’s body and formed a roc shape.

The roc’s illusory image was more than 70 meters high. It was like an ancient Roc floating in the sea, emitting a stroke of trembling Mythical Beast of Reckless Waste’s aura.

BANG!

A giant fist shadow flew out. It seemed to overturn all the sea area.

“That’s a mid-class Ghost Level fist technique...”

Zhang Ruochen saw the roc’s illusory image and the overwhelming fist strength. He gulped and retreated backward.

Under such circumstances, he could only fight with Xu Hai by activating the Divine Dragon Transformation.

However, he could only activate the Divine Dragon Transformation if he kept striking out Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm. The probability was quite low. It could only be done by sheer luck.

The situation was quite critical now. Zhang Ruochen was not allowed to try his luck. He chose not to fight recklessly with Xu Hai and applied Space Moving immediately, rushing toward the bottom of the water.

BOOM!

Xu Hai’s fist technique hit the surface of the water and pushed the whole sea level down, raising up giant waves as high as lofty mountain.

“Funny! Don’t you know that the roc is the dominator of water.”

Xu Hai laugh wildly and rushed into the water, chasing after him.

Xu Hai had the Holy Soft Leather Armor, yet Zhang Ruochen had Space Moving. So, although Xu Hai's speed was astonishing, he could never catch up with Zhang Ruochen.

The two men ran across the water, one chasing and the other escaping.

The Holy Qi and roc aura sending out from Xu Hai's body terrified the savage beasts in the water. They thought they had met the Sovereign Being and all retreated in succession, not daring to get close.

Zhang Ruochen applied the Sword Defending Technique and continued striking out the six golden Holy Swords.

At the same time, he regulated the power of thunderbolt with his Spiritual Power and launched an attack over his shoulder. He kept making trouble for Xu Hai.

"Zhang Ruochen can indeed control space power. Every time he does a Space Jump, it is a distance of 99 meters. I can never catch up with him."

Xu Hai was crossed and slightly on edge.

They chased each other 500 kilometers. There was a 10-meter-high reef island up ahead.

Xu Hai stretched out both his arms at the same time, condensing them into two Genuine Qi Hands dozens of meters long. He lifted the island.

BOOM!

Both his arms lifted hard and the reef island flew forwards, attacking toward Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen turned back and saw a small black hill flying toward him. It cast a giant shadow on the water.

Zhang Ruochen stopped to condense his strength and infused Genuine Qi into the Abyss Ancient Sword.

A stroke of white sword light rushed out of the sword tip. Sword Qi burst out from the sword edge.

"Break!"

Zhang Ruochen struck out his sword. It clashed together with the reef island.

The reef island split open in the middle and flew left and right. The two pieces dropped in the sea.

Xu Hai rushed out. In a flash, he was in front of Zhang Ruochen. He struck out a palm.

"Fist of Eternal Truth."

Xu Hai's arms let out a bang. Pieces of blue scales appeared on the surface of his skin and every finger emitted the light of death.

It could be imagined that the power of this fist must be devastating. Once it hit, even a small hill would be smashed to pieces.

Apparently, Xu Hai seemed to have control over the whole situation. He could kill Zhang Ruochen in an instant. However, in Zhang Ruochen's opinion, this was his chance.

It was right now.

Who would die? Zhang Ruochen or Xu Hai?

Seeing that Xu Hai was getting nearer and nearer, Zhang Ruochen became firmer. He secretly regulated power of space and gathered it to the finger-tips of his right hand.

His arms struck out quickly and he pointed his finger forward.

Chapter 527: Anger, Hatred

SWOOSH!

Zhang Ruochen pointed his fingers, and space shattered like glass. It was ripped open with a multitude of breaches. Then it suddenly collapsed.

He peeked inside the space breach and saw a murky, void and chaotic space.

The surrounding dozens meters collapsed. Driven by a Devouring Power, the whole area turned into a giant vortex.

Actually, Xu Hai had been watching for Zhang Rouchen to apply space power. He just did not expect that Zhang Ruochen would collapse all the space within a certain area.

"I can't be involved in a space collapse. Even a Half-Saint would for sure die if he fell into it."

Xu Hai was so scared that he broke out in a cold sweat. He ran his Genuine Qi with all his strength to use the power of the Holy Soft Leather Armor. He rushed out of the vortex at an unprecedented speed.

Before he could be happy he saw that Zhang Ruochen controlled a giant 33-meter-long ice sword and was slashing at him.

BANG!

The ice sword hit Xu Hai and sent him back into the collapsed space.

"No... No..."

Xu Hai stretched out his arm, wanting to escape.

Unfortunately, this time he was not so lucky. He was quickly swallowed by the collapsed space.

Space became silent again. All the sound and noise disappeared.

Zhang Ruochen stood on the water and looked in the direction of the Space Collapse. He shook his head and sighed. "It's a pity to lose a piece of Holy Soft Leather Armor."

A treasure like Holy Soft Leather Armor could only be owned by a powerful saint family. It was a priceless treasure, that had only come about by accident.

Although he did not get the Holy Soft Leather Armor, he had removed a powerful enemy. Zhang Ruochen would have time to accumulate military merits with full strength and look for the Xuanwu heritage place.

Of course, he had to recover from his injury first.

Zhang Ruochen suffered severe internal injuries from the fight with Xu Hai. He would not be able to recover quickly.

He sank to the bottom of the water and took out the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. He opened the gate of the space and entered into the inner world of the graph.

Ten days later, with the assistance of healing Pills, Zhang Ruochen had completely recovered from his injuries.

Blackie appeared. It said, "Zhang Ruochen, do you want to practice in the Yin Yang Wooden Graph or go out?"

Zhang Ruochen thought for a moment. He shook his head. "Secluding myself for refining can indeed increase my strength. I might even be able to successfully practice one or two Ghost Level martial techniques. But I can't reach the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm if I just seclude myself for refining. Moreover, fighting and killing is also a way of refining." #

"By the way, there is another man. I almost forgot about him!"

Zhang Ruochen stood up and took out the Auspicious Vase. He let out Xu Chen who had been trapped inside.

SWOOSH!

A light spot flew out from the vase and landed on the ground. It turned into the shadow of an old man.

It was Xu Chen.

Xu Chen was free. He instantly swung the Tiger Hunting Knife and chopped toward Zhang Ruochen.

"Kneel!" Blackie roared.

Xu Chen seemed like he'd been hit by a heavy blow. His body cramped. With a bang, he knelt on the ground. He could not move.

"What just happened?"

Xu Chen clenched his teeth. Blue veins bulged on his face. No matter how he resisted, he could not stand up.

Blackie raised its head and walked over. It smiled and in a cold voice said, "A Monk at the Fourth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm comes to my place and dares to resist?"

In the Scroll World, Blackie's power was not sealed. It could easily suppress Xu Chen.

Blackie patted Xu Chen's shoulder with its paws. Its long whiskers swept around Xu Chen's ears. It smiled, "The Scroll World is totally stable. It's time to build some palaces and abode of fairies and

immortals. We'd better build another city. We happen to lack for laborers and will hire you first. Old man, do you have any opinion? All right! Since you don't, you will start to work tomorrow."

Xu Chen was extremely obedient to Blackie's order. Zhang Ruochen shook his head and smiled. He walked in the direction of the Sacred Prime Tree stump.

Huang Yanchen sat cross-legged under the new seedlings of the Sacred Prime Tree. Thick Xuanwu Qi enveloped her. A strong and powerful aura emitted vaguely from her body.

Huang Yanchen had been practicing in the Scroll World for half a month. With the assistance of Xuanwu Qi, her cultivation had improved greatly. She had reached the late stage of the Completion of the Heaven Realm and was just one step away from the Fish-dragon Realm.

Huang Yanchen did not immediately swallow the Fish-dragon Pill to reach the Fish-dragon Realm. She walked out the Scroll World with Zhang Ruochen together. She wanted to practice in the Xuanwu Primitive World for a while and stabilize her current realm.

Both of them walked out of the space gate. They headed toward the middle of the Xixuan Sea.

"What a strong Spiritual Blood smell."

It wasn't long before Zhang Ruochen sniffed and smelled the strong stench of blood too.

They followed the smell. A small ship appeared on the water in the distance.

Zhang Ruochen leapt up and landed on the ship. He saw the miserable condition on the ship and felt anger in his heart.

Zhang Ruochen knew all the soldiers of Primitive World on this ship. Although he was not familiar with them, he had great respect for them and treated them as his old friends.

However...

The nine soldiers had died in distress.

Especially the leader Nie Nanfei, he had met an even more tragic death. All ten fingers had been chopped off. Both his eyeballs had been dug out. His stomach was cut open. Even his heart had been dug out and thrown to the side.

Nie Nanfei was a senior, and a veteran Zhang Ruochen respected very much. He never thought that he would die like this.

Seeing their condition, he could only assume that they had been cruelly tortured before they died.

Huang Yanchen arrived shortly after Zhang Ruochen. Seeing the situation in front of her, she could not help frowning. "Is it possible that the indigens from the Xuanwu Primitive World killed them?"

Zhang Ruochen clenched his fists. He shook his head and said coldly, "No, it was the Evil Warriors from the Black Market. Their aura remains on the ship. They must have sensed my aura. This was why they used such diabolical means to question the soldiers."

BANG!

Zhang Ruochen hit his fist on the mast, leaving a large hole.

A cold murderous feeling emitted from his body. He said seriously, "Green-robed Emissary, I swear I will get even with you."

Huang Yanchen had never seen Zhang Ruochen so angry. She pursed her lips slightly and urged in a low voice, "I know you are very angry and you blame yourself. But I still have to remind you: never let the anger get you. The Green-robed Emissary, Yin Wuchang and the Iron Lady are all masters that have been famous for a long time. They have very high status in the evil circle. With our current strength, if we fight against them, it will be like hitting an egg against a rock."

Zhang Ruochen slowly stretched his five fingers and let out a long breath. He gradually restored his equilibrium. "I understand. I am not so stupid to confront them with toughness before I reach the Fish-dragon Realm."

"The Fish-dragon Realm!"

Zhang Ruochen gazed into the distance. He clenched his teeth, full of endless hope.

One could only really be beyond the Martial Arts and break the mortal's limit by reaching the Fish-dragon Realm.

Who didn't want to reach the realm?

In his last lifetime, Zhang Ruochen had not reached the Fish-dragon Realm. He did not know the subtlety of the realm. It was because he had not reached the realm, that he looked forward to it so much.

Certainly, he had to reach the Ultimate Realm before that.

The Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm might be difficult for others. However, it was not hard for him.

Riding on the ship, Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen came to a remote island.

On the island, they dug out pits to bury the nine soldiers.

Huang Yanchen asked curiously, "Why don't we bring them back to the Huangyu Island Base. Then the Ministry of War would give their families pensions. Wouldn't this be better?"

Zhang Ruochen covered the pit with the last pile of soil. He shook his head. "If we brought them back to the Huangyu Island Base, the Ministry of War would notice with one look that they were not killed by the indigens. They might think that we killed them."

"Second, as long as they are not back to the base, the Ministry of War will certainly count their names and think that they have died in the battle in the Battlefield of the Primitive World. Their families will still get pensions."

Huang Yanchen nodded her head. She had to admit that Zhang Ruochen considered a problem more thoroughly than she did.

Zhang Ruochen said thoughtfully, "We are at least 1,500 kilometers away from the Huangyu Island Base. We have entered a relatively dangerous area. If we move forward, we will be in the middle of the Xixuan Sea."

“Why should we go to the depth of the Xixuan Sea? You have said that it is a very dangerous area. Even a Half-Saint could die there,” Huang Yanchen said.

Zhang Ruochen had fully calmed down and suppressed his anger. He analyzed, “Huang Shenyi has been to the Xuanwu Primitive World twice. And both times he went to the Huangyu Island Base. With his cultivation, he can’t go to the Xuan continent or the Continent of Wu, and he can’t go to the other sea area either. He can only practice in the Xixuan Sea.”

Huang Yanchen’s eyes sparkled. “You mean that the Xuanwu heritage place may be in the Xixuan Sea too?”

“It should be.”

Zhang Ruochen said again, “If the Xuanwu heritage place was not far from Huangyu Island, it would have been found long ago. It must be in the depth of Xixuan Sea, which is very dangerous. No one dares to go there. It is because of this, that it is full of endless opportunities.”

“If I can figure it out, other monks who want to find the Xuanwu heritage place have probably also thought of it. If I am right, the Green-robed Emissary, Yin Wuchang, the Iron Lady and other Monks in the Fish-dragon Realm have probably already been in the depth of the Xixuan sea.”

Huang Yanchen asked, “Are we going there now?”

Zhang Ruochen shook his head. “No! If we go there now, we won’t be able to compete with masters in the Fish-dragon Realm. Moreover, if the Xuanwu heritage place was easy to find, I’m afraid it would have been discovered long ago. Huang Shenyi couldn’t find it. We don’t have to rush over right now. Our priority now is to improve our cultivation.”

Huang Yanchen said, “We can experience ourselves at the boundary of the Xixuan Sea. We can look for the Xuanwu heritage place when I reach the Fish-dragon Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded his head.

They spent the next four days in the boundary area of the Xixuan Sea.

Zhang Ruochen killed 86 fourth level savage beasts and accumulated 2,372 military merits.

Huang Yanchen killed 13 fourth level savage beasts and obtained 412 military merits.

Of course, Huang Yanchen did not have much chance to strike. Most of the time, she was helping Zhang Ruochen to clean up the battle field, collecting Spiritual Brawn from inside the savage beast’s body, skin, armor and blood.

A fourth level savage beast was full of treasures. If they brought it back to the Myriad Chaos Mountain, they could get a large amount of Spiritual Crystals.

Huang Yanchen was not as talented as Zhang Ruochen. However, she had refined Dragon’s Blood and Xuanwu Qi and also swallowed a large amount of treasures. With her current cultivation in the late stage of the Completion of the Heaven Realm and her strength, it was enough for her to be in the top 1,000 on the Heaven Board.

There was hope for her strength to go further after she practiced for a while.

However, Huang Yanchen knew that Zhang Ruochen needed the military merits more than she did to reach the Ultimate Realm. So she did not strike out much and left the savage beasts for Zhang Ruochen to deal with.

“It’s impossible to accumulate 30 million military merits if I only kill fourth level indigenous savage beasts. From tomorrow on, we will head to the center of the Xixuan Sea to kill fifth level savage beasts.” Zhang Ruochen made his decision.

Huang Yanchen certainly did not have any opinion about it. Actually, she also wanted to fight fifth level savage beasts. Only through danger could one’s potential be activated and improved.

Chapter 528: Redcloud Python

A fifth level savage beast’s strength was equal to that of a Human tribe Monk in the Fish-dragon Realm.

A warrior in the Heaven Realm would get 1,000 military merits for killing a fifth level savage beast, even if it was the weakest one.

That night Zhang Ruochen and Huang Yanchen rode on the ship and sailed toward the middle of the Xixuan Sea.

Thick black clouds shielded the moon. The whole world seemed to be covered with a layer of black cloth. Nothing could be seen.

A fierce cold wind was blowing on the sea. It raised huge waves. The ship was lifted dozens of meters up, and sunk down to the bottom of the waves. Up and down, up and down, it seemed to rush to the bottom of the sea.

Huang Yanchen released her Celestial Bodyshield. She held the sword and leaned against the mast. She displayed a dignified look on her beautiful face.

She stared at the black sea with her blue eyes. “No wonder no one dares to enter the depth of the Xixuan Sea. The natural environment in the middle of the sea has been so terrible, warriors below the Heaven Realm couldn’t survive at all if they came here.”

Zhang Ruochen stood straight on the deck with his eyes closed. He regulated his inner Genuine Qi and held the balance of the ship.

“Hoho!”

Suddenly, his ears moved. He heard a low and bizarre cry coming from the bottom of the water.

The voice was getting closer and closer. It seemed that a giant creature was rushing toward the ship at a rapid pace.

CLANG!

The Abyss Ancient Sword on Zhang Ruochen's back sensed the dangerous aura. It trembled violently and let out a piercing sword sound.

With a whoosh, it flew out from its sheath, dragging out a long sword radiance. It turned into a bright light and rushed deep into the sea.

Then.

BANG!

A red Huge Python rushed out of the water and opened its mouth wide, letting out a deafening roar. The wind and waves grew more intense.

Its body was as thick as a millstone. It lurched up, exposing half of its body, which was more than 100 meters long. The scales all over its body were as big as cattail leaves and emitted red light. It was like the armor of a unicorn made of red gold.

There was a blood hole in the Huge Python's body, a sword wound left by the Abyss Ancient Sword.

WHOOSH!

The Abyss Ancient Sword revolved around for one full circle before it flew back. It landed in Zhang Ruochen's hand.

He held the sword with one hand and stared at the giant creature. He landed his eyes on the top of its head.

He saw that there was a flame-like crest on the top of its head. It was like a magic lantern in the darkness. It dimmed the surrounding area and shone red. The sea water below and the clouds above were all as red as blood.

It was not a Huge Python, it was a red dragon.

Zhang Ruochen's face grew serious. He said to Huang Yanchen, "Before I came to the Xuanwu Primitive World, I read a book. It said that an savage beast called the redcloud python lives in the Xixuan Sea. They are as intelligent as humans and can bring wind and rain. They are fifth level savage beasts. Even the weakest redcloud python can be on par with Monks at the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. You have to be careful."

Huang Yanchen pulled out her sword and held it in hand. She regulated all her Genuine Qi and was ready to fight.

The redcloud python strengthened its body. It said loudly, "Extraterritorial human, you know that the Xixuan Sea is our territory. Yet you dare to break in. Are you looking to meet your death?"

The redcloud python bent its body. It stretched out a giant red claw and attacked toward the ship.

If other soldiers of Primitive World had been on the ship, they would have definitely been killed by the redcloud python with its one claw.

But this redcloud python was most unfortunate. Its opponent was Zhang Ruochen.

As its claw struck down, golden Dragon Scales appeared on Zhang Ruochen's body. They grew into a pair of dragon wings and he dashed out. He struck out a Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm and attacked the redcloud python's claw.

"Nine-folds of the Elephant Power!"

BANG!

Zhang Ruochen was like an ant compared to the redcloud python.

However, he struck out a palm with all his strength. The strength it exposed was more powerful than the redcloud python and sent it flying.

Zhang Ruochen continued the triumphant pursuit. He held the Abyss Ancient Sword in hand, exposed the power of the Holy Weapon and slashed. It hit the redcloud python in the neck.

The Abyss Ancient Sword was very sharp. No matter how hard the redcloud python's armor was, it could not fend it off. It quickly pierced through the layer of hard scales. The creature spat out blood.

SWOOSH!

The redcloud python was chopped in half.

With a bang, the giant headless dragon fell down and dropped into the sea. An endless stream of blood gushed out.

Zhang Ruochen held the giant head with one hand and landed on the ship. He took out the Auspicious Vase and threw it to Huang Yanchen. He said, "Senior sister apprentice, collect the flood dragon blood."

Huang Yanchen grabbed the Auspicious Vase, standing on her tiptoes. Her tender body flew up lightly. She landed on the redcloud python's dead body in the sea and started to collect its blood.

Although flood dragon blood was not as good as Dragon's Blood, it was a very precious Treasured Body Refining Medicine. Many powerful Saint families would like to pay good money for it.

Zhang Ruochen put the giant head on the deck. He said to himself, "This redcloud python was pretty much as powerful as a warrior at the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. I should get 10,000 military merits."

For a warrior who wanted to be on the Heaven Board, the more powerful the indigenous creatures he killed, the more military merits he would get.

Certainly, the way of calculating military merits for a warrior who wanted to be on the Heaven Board was much different from that of soldiers of Primitive World.

Generally speaking, a warrior in the Heaven Realm who could kill a creature of the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm was very close to a human's strength limit. Once he succeeded, he got 100,000 military merits.

The reward for killing a indigenous creature at the Fourth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm was two hundred thousand military merits.

The reward for killing a indigenous creature at the Fifth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm was 300,000 military merits.

...

A warrior in the Heaven Realm who could kill a creature in the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm was a one in a million God's favored son. Only warriors in the top 50 could do that.

Why did one only get 200,000 military merits for killing a savage beast at the Fourth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm?

It was because the nature of being in the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm was to sacrifice.

Killing a savage beast was a sacrifice to the gods. Only when the number of sacrifices met the gods' requirement could it attract the Chord of Gods and reached the Ultimate Realm.

Certainly, if the warrior wanted to be in the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm, he could focus entirely on the savage beasts in the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm and kill them to quicken the accumulation of military merits.

However, the Battlefield of the Primitive World was a different situation. You couldn't simply come across indigenous creatures at the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm as you wished. With any carelessness, you might run into indigenous creatures at the Seventh Change of the Fish-dragon Realm or even Half-Saint Class.

A warrior who wanted to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm had to slaughter all living beings and kill thousands of indigenous superiors. Only by using their blood to sacrifice to the gods could there be an extremely small opportunity to succeed.

Zhang Ruochen knew very clearly that the obstacle of reaching the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm was not just the savage beasts, but also the human power of the Kunlun's Field.

Others would never allow him to reach the Ultimate Realm. When he was close to the Ultimate Realm, there would be many people who wanted to stop and kill him.

Gathering his thoughts, Zhang Ruochen stared at the crest on the redcloud python's head.

The crest emitted red light. From afar, it looked like an ancient lamp with magic power.

Up close, it was very large with a diameter of more than a meter. It was like a red flower with three leaves. It was glittering and translucent, as if it was artwork carved by blood jade.

This crest was called the Bloodcrown Mushroom.

Its importance exceeded even the brain of the redcloud python.

The redcloud python owed its intelligence and ability to communicate with people mostly to this crest.

If a warrior ate it, it could improve his Spiritual Power.

Huang Yanchen had already collected the redcloud python's blood, scales and Spiritual Brawn. She had returned to the ship.

Zhang Ruochen said quickly, "Senior sister apprentice Yanchen, eat the Redcrown Mushroom, it should improve your Spiritual Power to 30th level."

He could see that her Spiritual Power was currently at twenty-eighth level.

Huang Yanchen looked at the crest on the head of flood dragon. She said, "Redcrown Mushroom is a Spiritual Dose to increase the Spiritual Power. You need it more than I do."

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and smiled. "My Spiritual Power has reached 42nd level. A Redcrown Mushroom won't improve my Spiritual Power much. It would be much more useful for you."

Zhang Ruochen had calculated that one needed at least 30 Redcrown Mushrooms of this level to improve his Spiritual Power to 43rd level.

He would have to kill at least 30 redcloud pythons at the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm to improve his Spiritual Power one level.

It was not easy to find 30 redcloud pythons in the vast sea.

Huang Yanchen nodded and didn't refuse further. She said, "Well, the Redcrown Mushroom is mine. Then the Dragon Pearl is yours."

Huang Yanchen took out a bloody fist-sized pearl and gave it to Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen touched the Dragon Pearl. He felt an enormous power coming from it.

The dragon's body was full of Spiritual Doses.

The Redcrown Mushroom could improve the Spiritual Power. The Dragon Pearl could enhance physical quality and increase cultivation.

Zhang Ruochen's cultivation was at the Intermediate Stage of the Completion of the Heaven Realm. If he refined the Dragon Pearl, he could most probably reach the late stage of the Completion of the Heaven Realm and increase his strength even more.

"Hoho!"

Zhang Ruochen was just about to put the Dragon Pearl away, when suddenly, his arm stopped and his face changed. He listened carefully and heard the strange sound coming from the water again.

It was the sound of a dragon.

And this time the dragon's roar was more intense and louder. It came from all directions.

Chapter 529: A Monster With a Human Head and a Redcloud Python's Body

"Oh no, we've run into a group of pythons."

Zhang Ruochen stared at the surface of the water and his face became very grim.

The Abyss Ancient Sword sensed the danger and trembled continuously, emitting sword sounds.

The Xixuan Sea was the territory of redcloud pythons. Without having to guess, it must have been the Spiritual Blood coming from the dead redcloud python that had attracted the group.

Zhang Ruochen had not expected to be suddenly surrounded by a python group when he had just been lamenting that it was impossible to find 30 redcloud pythons.

If it had just been two or three, Zhang Ruochen would have been able to handle them.

However, with dozens of them, even a superior in the Seventh Change of the Fish-dragon Realm would immediately escape, let alone Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen also felt the dangerous aura. Looking at Zhang Ruochen, she said, "Let's return to the Yin Yang Wooden Graph!"

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "You go ahead into the Scroll World. I have the Dragon Pearl to protect me, and I am proficient in Space Moving. Protecting myself is not a problem."

"Swoosh –"

The Yin Yang Wooden Graph flew out from between Zhang Ruochen's brows and hovered in the air.

Above the scroll, a space door appeared.

Huang Yanchen knew that given her strength, she would definitely be defeated by even the weakest redcloud python. If she stayed, she would be of no help to Zhang Ruochen and would probably distract him instead.

Thus, she quickly entered the space door and returned to the Scroll World.

Zhang Ruochen did not enter the Scroll World. After all, he had come to the Xuanwu Primitive World to train in order to charge into the Ultimate Realm. How could he hide from danger?

Sometimes, one had to face challenges head-on. He would not hide in the Yin Yang Wooden Graph unless there was no other choice.

Zhang Ruochen held onto the scroll and wrapped the Yin Yang Wooden Graph around his body.

The Yin Yang Wooden Graph was not only a scroll but also a defensive treasure. As long as it was wrapped around one's body it could block even an attack from a Holy Weapon.

The next moment.

"Roar!"

A huge, red shadow broke through the surface of the ocean. There were two enormous eyes that looked like lanterns, and on the redcloud python's head was a red "magic lantern".

The redcloud python was right beside the boat. It lowered its body and stared at Zhang Ruochen.

Its eyes were only 30 meters away. When it opened its big, ferocious mouth, thick Spiritual Blood dissipated from it. In a deep voice, it said, "Extraterritorial human, did you kill that redcloud python?"

Zhang Ruochen stood calmly on deck. He looked at the redcloud python closely and said, "That's right."

Zhang Ruochen's body was not even as big as one of its eyeballs. Despite being tiny in comparison, he appeared very calm, not showing any glimmer of fear.

Although it was also a redcloud python, this one's body was even thicker and the aura it gave off was stronger.

Its cultivation was about the same as a Monk at the Fifth Change in the Fish-dragon Realm .

Killing it would be enough to gain 300,000 military merits.

Of course, given Zhang Ruochen's present cultivation, it would not be easy to kill it even if he used the power of time and space.

The redcloud python's nature was aggressive and it had boundless strength. It could call the wind and the rain, it could flip the rivers and overturn the oceans. It would not be as easy to defeat as the treeman.

"You dared to kill a redcloud python in the Xixuan Sea? You are looking to die."

The redcloud python roared angrily and struck out with a claw.

Zhang Ruochen did not dare to meet it head-on. He immediately executed Space Moving and appeared 99 meters away, hovering above its head.

"Crash!"

The redcloud python's claws tore the 30-meter-long boat into pieces. With a crash, the mast, the deck, and the cabin all sank to the bottom of the ocean.

Upon finding Zhang Ruochen gone, the redcloud python was slightly confused.

"Die!"

Zhang Ruochen gathered all the strength in his body and channeled it into his arms. He chopped down and aimed straight at the red crown on its head.

That was the redcloud python's Achilles Heel – its life spot.

If he could pierce through the crown, the redcloud python's fighting strength would decrease by at least half.

Zhang Ruochen's attack was very fast, but the redcloud python's reaction was even faster. Even before his sword landed, the python's tail had whipped around and landed on his body, sending him flying outward.

Fortunately, he was wrapped in the Yin Yang Wooden Graph and had the Dragon Pearl to protect him. Otherwise, a full-strength attack from a redcloud dragon at the Fifth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm would have heavily injured him, if not kill him.

"Such quick reaction time and such terrifying power."

Zhang Ruochen wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth. He decided that this redcloud python was not an easy target, so he executed a bodily movement and charged toward one with a relatively weak aura.

Dozens of redcloud pythons had gathered in the sea area. Naturally, their strengths ranged from strong to weak.

Among them, there were a few redcloud pythons who only had the cultivation of the Third Change in the Fish-dragon Realm. Zhang Ruochen set his sights on them.

One redcloud python at the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm was equivalent to 100,000 military merits.

“Swift and Neat.”

Zhang Ruochen flew toward the head of one such redcloud python. He incorporated the Time Mark and executed Swift Swordsmanship, stabbing forward quickly.

“Pffff!”

His body followed the Abyss Ancient Sword, piercing through the redcloud python’s head and flying out the other side, leaving a bloody hole over a meter in diameter.

White brain fluid and red blood surged out of the bloody hole.

“I’ve earned 100,000 military merits.”

Zhang Ruochen was in dangerous territory and his entire body was covered in blood, but he was extremely excited. The war intent in his heart grew stronger.

Zhang Ruochen used the power of Space Moving and Swift Swordsmanship and succeeded in killing two more redcloud pythons in the Third Change of the Fish-dragon Realm, one after the other, earning another 200,000 military merits.

Just as he was about to continue attacking, purple lightning suddenly surged out of the sky above him like thick lightning dragons twisting through the dark clouds. They made faint rumbling sounds.

A monster with a snake body and human head was flying through the clouds, controlling the lightning.

Its cultivation was very powerful, it exceeded that of a Monk in the Sixth Change of the Fish-dragon Realm. It had the head of a fierce human elder that was connected to the neck of a snake. Its eyes were deeply sunken and revealed a cold and ruthless light.

Zhang Ruochen had long known that some highly intelligent groups of savage beasts that managed to reach Sixth Level Savage Beast were able to practice some mysterious ancient skills and have a human shape.

The fact that this redcloud python was only a Fifth Level Savage Beast yet it could form a head and become half-human in shape was truly astonishing.

Under the control of that redcloud python, dense lightning surged down from the sky like a waterfall heading straight for Zhang Ruochen.

The other redcloud pythons also attacked at the same time. Some spat wind blades from their mouths, some spat fire, and others spat ice knives...

Zhang Ruochen kept using Space Moving and dodged quickly, but a dozen attacks still landed on his body. His neck, legs, and arms were left mangled and bleeding. Every inch of skin on his body was burnt black.

“Extraterritorial human, where are you running to?”

The creature with the head of a human and the body of a redcloud python charged out from the clouds and extended a flame-like claw. A giant purple hammer was grasped by this claw. It suddenly struck ferociously toward Zhang Ruochen’s head.

The giant hammer was square, over 10 meters long. Its surface was carved with inscriptions and gave off the light of hundreds of lightning bolts.

Zhang Ruochen felt suffocated. All the hair on his body stood up, feeling as if the sky was crashing down and the ground was falling away.

“Swoosh!”

The brilliance of the Yin Yang Wooden Graph flashed and the space door opened. Zhang Ruochen quickly jumped inside and entered the Scroll World.

“Boom!”

The giant hammer fell and landed on the sea.

A powerful wave of energy emanated from the giant hammer, spreading out and forming concentric layers of connected Yun Tian waves.

Three of the redcloud pythons were blown out of the water by the wave of power. Some others were struck by the fallout from the impact of the giant hammer – their scales split open and they suffered minor injuries.

With even just the aftermath having such an effect, one could tell how terrifying the destructive power of that strike was.

“Has he turned into ash and smoke?”

The creature with the human head and redcloud python’s body raised the giant hammer and hovered over the void space. Its eyes fired out two columns of light and closely observed the roiling surface of the ocean below.

Chapter 530: Why Cultivate Martial Arts?

There was not a single soul on the surface of the sea. What was left was a picture scroll bobbing up and down with the waves.

“What kind of a picture scroll is this? It was able to take the blow from the Thunder Hammer without breaking into pieces.”

Overcome with curiosity, the creature with a human head and a flood-dragon’s body picked up the Yin Yang Wooden Graph and studied it carefully.

Earlier on, the thunderbolt emitted by the Thunder Hammer was so glaring that it overshadowed the light emitted by the Yin Yang Wooden Graph, so much so that the human-headed flood-dragon creature did not notice that Zhang Ruochen had entered into the Scroll World, believing that Zhang Ruochen had been annihilated.

“This has to be a treasure, I will carry it back with me so I may take my time to study it.”

After spending some time browsing through it, he remained clueless about the contents of the Yin Yang Wooden Graph. He could only roll it up and stuff it into one of his scales.

The human-headed flood-dragon creature glanced down at the redcloud pythons below him and said, “I have annihilated that human trespasser. Let’s all perk up and continue to patrol around since there has been an increase in the number of these human trespassers in the Xixuan Sea region. I heard that they are searching for the Xuan Wu heritage place.”

The human-headed flood-dragon creature was one of the six commanders in chief who were subordinate to the Black Skeleton Flood-dragon King.

From the sea waters, the gigantic head of a redcloud python emerged and said, “Is there really this Xuan Wu heritage place within the Xixuan Sea?”

The human-headed flood-dragon creature coldly said, “I’ve lived in the Xixuan Sea for over a thousand years, but have never heard of this Xuan Wu heritage place. However, the Xixuan Sea is mighty and vast, there are a few places that even the Lord of the Flood Dragons dares not enter, so there really might be a treasure here.”

Yet another redcloud python lifted its head and asked, “But Commander, where are those few places?”

The human-headed flood-dragon creature glared at it and replied with a low voice, saying, “Don’t tell me you still want to find out more about this Xuan Wu heritage place? To be honest, those locations were historical murderlands, so don’t even think to enter them because you will surely die if you do.

“Furthermore, the Lord of the Flood Dragons has commanded us to patrol the Xixuan Sea and annihilate any extraterritorial trespassers. What’s most important now is to carry out our duty. Let’s move on to the next target!”

The human-headed flood-dragon creature led the group of flood dragons to dive into the water to continue their search for any other extraterritorial trespassers.

Upon returning to the Scroll World, Zhang Ruochen immediately ingested a recovery pill and started to nurse his injuries.

This was the first time ever that he had gotten so severely wounded—his left shoulder was badly burnt and oozing blood; sharp pain shot through his right thigh as it was frostbitten by the Ice of Profound; a

lesion ran through the back of his head where he was struck by the Wind Blade and it looked as if it was almost going to be split in two... His entire body was covered with injuries, it was an appalling sight.

However, his abdomen and back were unscathed as they were shielded by the Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

Huang Yanchen, standing beside him, could imagine the danger back then just by looking at the condition of Zhang Ruochen's injuries.

"I could have helped him if only I had reached a high enough level of cultivation."

Huang Yanchen was a strong-headed person. She was arrogant and would not easily admit defeat. However, she felt inadequate at this moment because she could not help Zhang Ruochen at all.

Blackie yawned, stretched, and got up, saying, "Why should you be guilt-stricken? It is up to him to surmount the next level of the Ultimate Realm from his current Heaven Realm, there is no way other people can help him.

"While it is easy to accumulate 30 million military merit points, it is difficult to win the acceptance of the gods. He must not fall short in great strength, great courage, and great wisdom. How many among these numerous talents are able to reach the Ultimate Realm?"

Huang Yanchen frowned and said coldly, "Does he have to risk his life time and again just to accumulate more military merits?"

"That's right."

Blackie continued, "It is impossible for one who does not put up a desperate fight to accumulate 30 million military merits. Girl, there is no way that others could help him. I would suggest you try to surmount the Fish-dragon Realm, otherwise not only will you lag far behind Zhang Ruochen, you will also be lagging far behind the other two girls in terms of your cultivation level."

Ao Xinyan and Orange Star Emissary had been cultivating themselves in the world inside the scroll for three months under Blackie's guidance. On top of that, the sacred Qi emitted by the Sacred Prime Tree had helped them transcend the limitations of mortals and allowed them to reach the First Change in the Fish-dragon Realm.

Moreover, their levels of cultivation were rapidly increasing.

Huang Yanchen pouted, still unconvinced, as she shook her head and said, "Let's talk when he wakes up! There is no rush to cultivate ourselves now."

Over three days, Zhang Ruochen had ingested huge amounts of the Blood of the Wood Spirit, and with the help of those healing pills, he recovered 30% from his injuries and his condition was finally stabilized.

"Boom!" A loud noise arose.

Cracks appeared on Zhang Ruochen's skin. A layer of perfectly smooth and fair skin was visible through the cracks.

Blackie squinted his eyes, smiled, and said, "He is rightfully called a monk of 'Chakras', for his skin has transformed into growth rings, with every ring depicting a new life."

After a while, Zhang Ruochen emerged from a heap of shells, having recuperated from his external injuries.

Zhang Ruochen made some crackling noises while he shook his entire body loose. He then heaved a sigh and said, "That was close! I would have lost my life in the Xixuan Sea if I was a little slower."

Huang Yanchen turned her eyes and said, "You did great, not only did you escape death from the ambush of the flood dragons, you even slew four redcloud pythons. This will be extensively reported in the Eastern Region Report once news travels back to Kunlun's Field."

Zhang Ruochen was a modest man. He laughed and said, "I'm not as great as you imagine, it would be impossible for me to survive the flood dragon's ambush if not for the Yin Yang Wooden Graph."

Huang Yanchen asked, "So what are your plans as of now?"

"What else can I do? I will nurse myself back to health and continue to accumulate military merits," replied Zhang Ruochen.

Huang Yanchen clenched her teeth, hesitated for a second, and finally warned him, saying, "Honestly, there is no need for you to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm. There were countless Saints and emperors in history who still were deemed the most powerful figures despite not reaching that Ultimate Realm."

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and said, "I'm not bothered about what other people do, or what happens in the future, I just want to do my best for now."

Huang Yanchen said sharply, "Why do we practice Martial Arts and pursue reaching the Saint Path? Do we need to risk our lives just to become stronger? What would happen to your loved ones if you met with any mishap? What would happen to your mother?"

Although Huang Yanchen was reserved in expressing her emotions, Zhang Ruochen could still sense her concern for his safety.

She tried to warn him and dissuade him because she was worried about him.

Perhaps the most important thing to her was that Zhang Ruochen continued to live. To her, there was no need for him to risk his life to reach the Ultimate Realm of the Heaven Realm.

However, she was not aware that Zhang Ruochen had personal reasons.

He had to become stronger or even the strongest, otherwise, how would he be able to take revenge on Empress Chi Yao?

Zhang Ruochen had no idea how to explain this to Huang Yanchen. After pondering for a long time, he said, "The purpose of cultivating Martial Arts is not for competition, name, money, or for destruction, it is for when I meet her. I want to be standing instead of kneeling down before her the day I see her. If that day ever comes... perhaps there will only be one living soul left."

"Who is she?" Huang Yanchen questioned further.

Zhang Ruochen looked intently at Huang Yanchen and said, "Senior sister apprentice, there are some things that I can't tell you now. But please believe me, I am going to live on and take you as my wife. I will not let down those who care for me, I will keep my promise."

His voice sounded firm and exuded a confidence that left no room for doubt.

Zhang Ruochen continued nursing his injuries after he finished speaking.

Huang Yanchen, realizing that no one could change Zhang Ruochen, just sighed and left.

Perhaps she should also make an effort in cultivating herself, not so much for a name, but so she could be of help to him in the future.

After Zhang Ruochen recovered from his internal injuries, he ingested another Dragon Pearl. Two days later, he broke through to the late stage of the Completion of the Heaven Realm, thereby stepping up his strength.

"I wonder if the human-headed flood-dragon creature has taken the Yin Yang Wooden Graph."

Zhang Ruochen released the Spiritual Power of his mind to unite with the Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

At that instant, the strength of Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power revealed an underwater rock cave, which appeared to be the lair of the redcloud pythons.

Presently, the Yin Yang Wooden Graph was placed on top of a red coral table in the cave. That human-headed flood-dragon creature was lying prone and coiled up in the cave, with its head hanging in mid-air, and was studying the Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

"What on earth is this picture scroll that it could withstand the blade of a sword and burning fire? It must be some fabulous thing. If I were to offer this to the Lord of Flood Dragons, he could surely make sense of it."

Right when this human-headed flood-dragon creature was about to put away the Yin Yang Wooden Graph,

a green light suddenly emerged from the scroll and fine lines started appearing on the scroll.

"What is happening?"

The human-headed flood-dragon creature paused and looked curiously at the picture scroll.

"Crash!"

Suddenly with a flash of sword radiance, the Abyss Ancient Sword flew out of the picture scroll and struck the human-headed flood-dragon creature on its face, piercing its left eye and breaking half of its head into pieces.

"Aah..."

The human-headed flood-dragon creature let out a shrill of agony, stretched out one of its claws, and struck the coral table, shattering it.

How could Zhang Ruochen let this opportunity slip away?

It was high time.

He dashed out of the Scroll World, grabbed the Abyss Ancient Sword and struck the neck of the human-headed flood-dragon creature with the sword.