

God Emperor 61

Chapter 61: Awakening

Zhang Ruochen was told that there could be no room for improvement when his Qi Pool was full and his realm had reached its peak.

It was a great pity that there was one bull short of the Ultimate Realm.

“It’s not because my Body of Martial Arts isn’t strong enough to break out the power of a hundred bulls, but my martial technique is just that of the mid-class of Human Stage and lacks power,” said Zhang Ruochen.

A light broke into Blackie’s mind and it mewed. It said, “Yes! I forgot that there is a martial technique that can increase one’s power. Why did you practice only one martial technique of mid-class Human Stage until now? If the martial technique that you’d practiced was low-class of Spiritual, you could break out 100 bulls’ power.”

“I don’t need a low-class of Spiritual. A Superior-class of Human Stage is enough, which would help me to break out 100 bulls power and reach the Ultimate Realm of Yellow Realm,” said Zhang Ruochen.

It was odd that somebody opened 36 meridians but still hadn’t reached the Ultimate Realm.

Only by practicing martial techniques, exercises and the body of Martial Arts together, one could break out his most powerful power. Any absence would not lead to the Ultimate Realm.

As for Zhang Ruochen, he had already reached the Yellow Realm in both exercises and the body of Martial Arts, but his martial techniques were still weak as he practiced Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm merely to the level two, which just belonged to the mid-class martial techniques.

The main role of Sacred Sword Skill was the sword, not the man that mattered to the practice of the low-class Spiritual martial technique.

If Zhang could successfully practice Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm to level three, ‘Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth’, it could be an easy thing for him to add the strength of a bull that he required.

The latter stages of Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm would be difficult to practice undoubtedly. For instance, Zhang had practiced three level three ‘Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth’ for many days but still couldn’t make any progress.

“I require combat experience and in the royal palace, I can’t find others to practice my palm with.”

“Thus, because of a lack of practice, I haven’t managed to reach the third level successfully.”

“If I leave here and exercise myself outside, I would lose the protection of the Yunwu Commandery Prince and the Queen would attempt to have me assassinated. Bingo!... I don’t have to go out!”

King Mount came to his mind.

The Royal Family reared many savage beasts in King Mount and most of them were first and second level savage beasts. Zhang could fight with them.

He hoped to practice the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm successfully as soon as possible, after that he could fight with savage beasts.

Zhang Ruochen had practiced in the internal space of Time and Space Spinel for 25 days, which equaled to eight or nine days outside.

He walked outside and saw Yun waiting for him.

“Your Highness, Le has been recovered, including his arms and foot. But he still looks dull, just sitting on the stone stairs or drawing pictures on the ground for the whole day,” said Yun.

Zhang Ruochen sighed and said with pity, “Give him two hundred silver coins and send him away. Whether he could get out of this dilemma or not depends on himself, and nobody can help.”

“Then I’m going to send him out,” Yun said.

Seeing Yun’s departure, Zhang Ruochen fell into meditation and he stopped Yun, “Wait, I want to see him once more.”

Yun showed a hint of joy and nodded, leading Zhang Ruochen to Le’s residence.

Like Yun’s description, Le was sitting on the stairs and drawing the picture of Lin Ningshan on the ground.

Repeatedly.

However, his eyes were empty and he was just drawing instinctively.

He didn’t even realize Zhang’s approach.

Zhang Ruochen looked at this young man and asked, “Where is your sword?”

Le sat still and mumbled, “My meridians are all broken and I have no power to lift a sword.”

“So you are broken too?” asked Zhang Ruochen.

“Of course...” Le answered slackly.

Zhang Ruochen asked, “But you have the power to draw these pictures? If you possess an aggressive heart, you must succeed. But now you are degenerating yourself.”

Le bit his lip tightly and said, “I’m not degenerating myself, I’m not!”

Zhang Ruochen looked at the pictures on the ground, “You turned yourself into a waste for this cruel woman. Guess I overestimated you.”

Zhang Ruochen walked over to the steps and destroyed Lin Ningshan’s drawings with his foot.

Le cried with a pair of big red eyes, “What are you doing!”

“She did not treat you as a man, why do you see her as a Goddess? Are you not better than crap?”
Zhang Ruochen said.

“If you hadn’t saved my life twice, I would have killed you.” said Le.

Zhang Ruochen laughed, “You piece of crap couldn’t kill me even if you practiced for 10 years, hahaha...”

“I AM NOT A CRAP!”

Le howled loudly and the Genuine Qi rushed to his hand so that he could handle a bamboo stick, stabbing at Zhang Ruochen’s heart.

His Genuine Qi made the soft stick sharper than an iron sword.

“Boom!”

Zhang Ruochen reacted with one palm.

Blasted away in the air, Le spat some blood and then fell down on the ground with the broken stick.

Zhang Ruochen said, “Now that I’ve beaten you to death and humiliated you. Do you still treat me as your lifesaver?”

“Awoo!”

Howling like a wolf, Le stood up from the ground with two red eyes. He ran to Zhang Ruochen again and aimed at his neck.

With his hand as a sword, Zhang Ruochen chopped Le’s neck and beated him into the air again.

“Bang bang!”

Le became more and more crazy, he attacked Zhang Ruochen again and again with stronger power.

However everytime it was he who beaten away by Zhang Ruochen, he could not touch Zhang Ruochen even a little.

Standing far away, Yun was very worried but she didn’t do anything.

She knew that Zhang Ruochen was trying to beat Le to an awakening.

An hour later, Le fell down on the ground and gasped again and again.

Zhang Ruochen walked over and planned to punch him once more.

“Stop!” cried Le.

Zhang Ruochen turned happy and withdrew his fist as he said, “You choose to be a waste still?”

Le shook his head and said, “I am a swordsman, by no means am I crap. Honestly speaking, I was clear when your first punch landed, thank you.”

“No need to thank me. It is your own that leads you out from the shadows.”

Zhang Ruochen helped Le to stand up and smiled, “What’s your next plan?”

Le answered sadly, "My meridians have all been broken. Currently, I am doomed not to be able to step into the Black Realm. However, I don't want to give up, I'll search for Spiritual Dose which can reconnect my meridians."

Zhang Ruochen reflected a while and said, "Broken meridians are not necessarily a bad thing for you. I have a roll of special exercises, which common people can't practice but broken-meridian man can. You may successfully practice these exercises with a strong will."

Suddenly Le's eyes flashed with light and he asked, "What if I do successfully?" If Zhang Ruochen hadn't told him this news, he might have had no hope.

"Like cocoons into butterflies! You might have a bright future," said Zhang Ruochen.

Falling on one knee, Le said emotionally, "Please accept my gratitude."

After that, Le said firmly, "I now owe you three lives if someday you need my assistance... I won't hesitate."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and passed 'Nonuple Samsara Magic formula' to Le directly.

Nonuple Samsara Magic formula was frighteningly stronger than the Tianhe Scripture which was given to the Ninth Commandery Princess. But Zhang Ruochen didn't worry about whether or not Le would let it out.

Le immediately secluded himself to refine Nonuple Samsara Magic formula and Deaths" Yun took care of his daily life.

It was time for Zhang Ruochen to head to King Mount to practice Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth.

Accompanying Zhang Ruochen, General Ge Qian went to King Mount as well in order to protect Zhang Ruochen from any assassination attempts.

Zhang Ruochen entered an impenetrable jungle, heading directly towards the first-level-superior-class savage beasts.

A common savage beast was no threat to him, and only the superior class savage beasts could be his opponents.

Half a day had passed, Zhang Ruochen encountered the first superior class savage beast, Thunderstorm Leopard.

Thunderstorm leopard was rather ferocious among the superior class savage beasts and had the power to kill a Yellow Realm warrior.

"Boom!"

Zhang Ruochen slapped it to death.

Zhang Ruochen was unsatisfied seeing the body, "They are too weak to practice my palm techniques, I have to search a second-level savage beast."

He walked deeper into King Mount.

General Ge Qian hid far away and saw Zhang Ruochen killing the Thunderstorm Leopard, “The ninth prince is so powerful! I was over-worried about his life. No accident will happen if the second-level savage beast doesn’t show.”

He was worried about Zhang Ruochen’s safety, so he secretly followed him at a distance to King Mount.

Chapter 62: Spiritual Brawn

Having trained at King Mount for three days, Zhang Ruochen had killed 13 superior-class level-one savage beasts and 25 medium-medium-class level-one savage beasts.

Finally, he came across his first second-level savage beast, a Silver Dragon-lion.

A single second-level savage beast was at least at the level of a Black Realm warrior.

The Silver Dragon-lion’s attack power was comparable to that of an Advanced Black Realm warrior, its speed was also comparable to that of an Advanced Black Realm Warrior, and its defensive power was comparable to that of an Initial stage Black Realm warrior.

Overall, the Silver Dragon-lion had immense strength. If a Mid-Stage Black Realm warrior was to run into one, it would essentially be a death sentence.

Other than Zhang Ruochen, if any other warrior at the Completion of the Yellow Realm had run into the Silver Draong-lion, even if they formed an elite team of 20, they would still be wiped out.

“Ao!”

The Silver Dragon-lion roared loudly and the sound waves from its mouth became a devastating hurricane. On the ground, dust and rocks flew up, while the surrounding trees were blown crooked, and all the leaves fell down leaving behind only stripped branches.

With only a loud roar, it could shock all warriors below the Advanced Stage of the Yellow Realm into a dead faint.

The Silver Dragon-lion was four meters tall and six meters long. Compared to a normal lion, it was many times larger. It was just like a small silver mountain standing in front of Zhang Ruochen.

Its pair of silver lion eyes were as big as Zhang Ruochen’s head, and they were emitting a bloodthirsty aura!

“Boom!”

Each step it made upon the ground made the earth shake slightly.

Zhang Ruochen rose onto his toes and leaped up, landing on the Silver Dragon-lion’s back. Gathering his Genuine Qi, he aimed a strike at its head.

The Silver Dragon-lion, who was very intelligent, instantly realized the danger it was in.

Thus, pushing off with all four hooves at the same time, it surged forward, achieving speeds of 30 meters per second, astonishingly fast.

Caught off guard, Zhang Ruochen lost his balance and fell off the beast's back.

He struck out with one hand against the ground and instantly righted himself. He backed up until he was three meters away and stopped. However, he remained alert, both legs slightly bent with Genuine Qi collecting thickly in his palms.

"It is indeed an adult Silver Dragon-lion whose speed has reached 30 meters per second."

Normal warriors who had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm could reach speeds of 20 meters per second or so. Talented warriors who had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm could reach speeds of 22 meters per second.

Even Zhang Ruochen could only reach speeds of 27 meters per second, an already incredible feat.

30 meters per second and 27 meters per second didn't to be much different, but in reality, the difference was immense.

If Zhang Ruochen and the Silver Dragon-lion were competing in a 100-meter race, by the time the Silver Dragon-lion had reached the end, Zhang Ruochen would still be a full 10 meters behind.

Which was to say, if Zhang Ruochen's strength could not defeat the Silver Dragon-lion, then he would die for sure, as he would not even be able to escape.

At this moment, Zhang Ruochen and the Silver Dragon-lion were three meters apart, but with the Silver Dragon-lion's speed, it only needed a second to be right in front of Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen watched the Silver Dragon-lion's every move carefully. Once the Silver Dragon-lion prepared to attack, he must strike first to have any hope of success.

"Ao!"

The Silver Dragon-lion roared. Turning into a silver blur it pounced towards Zhang Ruochen.

Silver claws slashed through void space and emitted four sharp beams of power.

Zhang Ruochen took a step to the side and dodged the attack.

"Bang!"

The Silver Dragon-lion's claw landed on a tree the thickness of a water barrel and tore a branch of it apart with bits of bark flying everywhere.

The branch broke in the middle and crashed down.

'Elephant Galloping!'

Zhang Ruochen took this opportunity to strike. With all the power in his body, he struck at the Silver Dragon-lion's abdomen and sent it flying.

The Silver Dragon-lion was incensed. Clambering up from the ground, it went to attack Zhang Ruochen.

But, Zhang Ruochen attacked first, another 'Elephant Galloping'.

The Silver Dragon-lion flew out once again.

'Elephant Galloping!'

'Elephant Galloping!'

...

Zhang Ruochen attacked 12 times in succession, each time it sent the Silver Dragon-lion flying out. When Zhang Ruochen struck for the 13th time, the Silver Dragon-lion was finally wounded, with blood dripping out of its nostrils.

The Silver Dragon-lion was finally angered!

Its body began to emit a layer of silver light. Opening its mouth, it spewed forth a beam of silver light that flew towards Zhang Ruochen's heart like a sword.

"Oh no!"

Zhang Ruochen pushed off with his legs and jumped over 10 meters into the air, landing on a branch of a thousand-year-old tree, and dodged the Silver Dragon-lion's attack.

"Boom!"

The silver light sword hit the place where Zhang Ruochen was standing on just before, making a cacophonous noise. On the ground, it left a crater with a diameter of one meter.

"Dragon in the Sky."

Zhang Ruochen leaped down from the tree branch. All the Genuine Qi from his body surged through the 36 Meridians and focused toward his hands. He let out a deep, dragon-like roar.

"Bang!"

One hand struck the Silver Dragon-lion's back, creating a sound of bones breaking and splintering. The Silver Dragon-lion let out a wail and fell heavily to the ground.

Its spine had been broken by Zhang Ruochen with one strike. Heavily wounded, it lay on the ground, unable to even stand up.

Zhang Ruochen was overjoyed. Using just the power in his body, he could heavily wound the Silver Dragon-lion.

If he used the sword, he could probably kill the Silver Dragon-lion in just 10 strokes.

"At my current strength, even if I am no match against warriors of the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm, I can at least hold my own for a while."

With this battle against the Silver Dragon-lion, Zhang Ruochen could clearly feel that his control over the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm had become stronger.

Zhang Ruochen drew out his Flash Shinning Sword and with one sweep, he slit the throat of the Silver Dragon-lion.

Not long after, the Silver Dragon-lion completely died.

After that, Zhang Ruochen made a foot long incision into the abdomen of the Silver Dragon-lion and withdrew a fist-sized piece of flesh.

This piece of flesh was extremely hard and as heavy as iron. It emitted a silvery light and carried a light fragrance.

It was like a Spiritual Dose rather than flesh.

“The Silver Dragon-lion was worthy of being a second-level savage beast, as it was able to actually grow half a catty of Spiritual Brawn.” Zhang Ruochen held the silver Spiritual Brawn in his hand, revealing the glimmer of a smile.

Spiritual Brawn, was the most precious treasure inside a savage beast.

If a warrior consumed Spiritual Brawn, it could increase the power in their bodies and cultivation Realms. If a normal person consumed the Spiritual Brawn, it could strengthen their physique and grant longevity.

The half catty of Spiritual Brawn in Zhang Ruochen’s hand, if taken to be sold at the Martial Market, could be at least sold for 3,000 silver coins.

Furthermore, Spiritual Crystal Stones could often be found inside Spiritual Brawn.

Even the lowest quality Spiritual Brawn was worth 1,000 silver coins.

For Zhang Ruochen, this piece of Spiritual Brawn was not very useful. He planned to take it home and give it to Concubine Lin to consume.

As long as the Spiritual Brawn was stored within a jade container, even if it was stored for a month, the Spiritual Brawn would not rot or degrade in quality.

To refine the Spatial Ring, Zhang Ruochen had purchased a number of jade containers. He took a jade box out from the Time and Space Spinel’s internal storage and placed the Spiritual Brawn inside.

There were treasures to be found all over the Silver Dragon-lion’s body. The skin, fur, blood, and bone could all be used in medicine, and be sold for a hefty price. However, Zhang Ruochen’s main purpose of coming to King Mount was to practice Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, and so, he did not take the Silver Dragon-lion’s body with him.

Not long after Zhang Ruochen left, a group of soldiers wearing armor came to the Silver Dragon-lion’s body.

General Ge Qian walked out from the group of soldiers, looked at the Silver Dragon-lion lying in a pool of blood, and said, “He is really strong that he even killed a Silver Dragon-lion. If he enters the Black Realm, who knows how powerful he will become? Let along His Majesty, even I am eager to see!”

The royal guards beside him couldn’t help but sigh, thinking it was unbelievable.

It had never been heard of before, that a warrior who was at the Completion of the Yellow Realm could kill a Silver Dragon-lion. This kind of impossible thing was right now staring them in the face.

General Ge Qian ordered and said, "Do the same with the bodies of the previous savage beasts. Take the body of the Silver Dragon-lion home, deliver it to the Imperial Finance Department, and convert it to silver coins. Once the Ninth Prince has finished practicing, I will personally hand the coins over to him."

Chapter 63: Ultimate Realm — The Chord of Gods

Zhang Ruochen had isolated himself and practiced in Mount King for the past 10 days, in order to work on his palm technique. He had killed another two second-level savage beast and 17 superior-class level-one savage beasts.

The second-level and first-level superior class savage beasts in King Mount had probably all been killed by Zhang Ruochen.

It seemed that the low-level savage beasts in King Mount knew a killing star had arrived. Once they saw Zhang Ruochen, they all ran away instantly as if they saw a monster demon.

"Clank!"

There was a seven or eight meters wide river rushing down from the top of the peak and delivered a sound of water rumbling. By throwing a stone into the river, it hit the forceful water current and started rolling in the water.

Zhang Ruochen arrived at the riverside. He looked at the rushing of water as if his heart was surging as well.

After all the cultivation recently, Zhang Ruochen could feel clearly that he had reached the edge of breaking through the palm technique.

"Phhhf!"

He dashed from the ground and jumped into the river. He made use of his powerful body so as to resist the force of the river.

"Boom!"

His Genuine Qi had been activated. He unleashed a powerful palm out.

The water in the river had stopped slightly because of his palm.

Shortly after, the current turned fiercely toward Zhang Ruochen and threw him out. The forceful water flow had knocked out his bearings and threw him on the edge of the riverside.

After spitting out a mouth of water, Zhang Ruochen jumped back to the river. He went against the current with different palm techniques in order to make a way for himself.

This time, he unleashed three palms consecutively. Again, he was thrown out by the water waves.

Zhang Ruochen kept going upstream every time he was knocked down.

Zhang Ruochen hadn't given up after being knocked down over and over again. The longer he practiced, the longer he could stay in the river.

It had been a whole day since Zhang Ruochen had confronted the water. He was exhausted and his entire body was covered in wounds.

After nightfall, he uncovered a piece of Spiritual Brawn from a cyan-eyed snake, a second-level savage beast. He ate the Spiritual Brawn, sat down and started meditating so as to absorb the Spiritual Qi which helped to recover his physical strength and energy.

The next morning, the wounds on Zhang Ruochen's body were all healed. His body was full of Genuine Qi and vitality. He then jumped back into the river and continued practicing.

On the fifth day, there was a long cry from the river. "Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth".

Zhang Ruochen unleashed both of his palms at the same time. A rushing palm force struck out hard and gave out a sound as if dragons and elephants were roaring together. Surprisingly, the water he smacked began to flow backward.

"Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth", the third palm technique of the Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm, cultivated successfully.

Zhang Ruochen had exploded out with the strength of 100 bulls and reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm.

At this moment, the Spiritual Qi in the entire Mount King had activated and gathered toward Zhang Ruochen. It turned into a white light beam and streaked toward the hundred miles tall void space.

There were ancient illusory images displayed around the light beam. Some of them were in human and dragon figures, some were like wind and Kylin.

Each of the illusory images was sacred. They demonstrated a sense of power as if they were the manifestation of gods.

"We are the manifestation of Gods. Kneel."

General Ge Qian and a troop of royal guards all knelt down and worshipped the illusory images of the gods devotedly from far away.

Such a manifest of gods normally happened only when it came to a large-scale sacrifice.

The illusory images of gods had appeared in Mount King and floated above the Ninth Prince's head. It was definitely a miracle for the entire Yunwu Commandery.

"It's true that it'll arouse the chords of the gods when I reach the Ultimate Realm." Zhang Ruochen looked at the illusory image of gods in the sky with excitement.

Finally, he made his first step on the path of being a powerful warrior.

"Boom!"

The illusory images of gods had turned into light beams. They floated to Zhang Ruochen's glabella and chiseled into his Qi Pool.

"Boom!"

The light beams exploded and displayed a white spiritual odor after plunging into Zhang Ruochen's Qi Pool.

The Qi Pool had nearly burst because of the too much light beam. The blood in his body kept rolling and rolling.

"In this case, let's break through to the Black Realm!"

Zhang Ruochen surely would not let such a good opportunity go. He sat in the water, and quickly activated the 36 meridians in his body. He then absorbed the strength of gods and started breaking through the Black Realm.

Zhang Ruochen had already reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm. On top of the help of the gods' spiritual power, it was no doubt that he would be able to break through to the Black Realm with no setbacks.

After an hour, Zhang Ruochen's Qi Pool shook heavily and cracked into breaches.

"Boom!"

His Qi Pool smashed and had broken into pieces.

Soon after, the broken pieces restructured at high speed and resolved to a much bigger Qi Pool.

No... not Qi Pool.

It should be called Qi Lake.

Zhang Ruochen had successfully broken through the Black Realm. Therefore, the Qi Pool in his glabella turned into a Qi Lake. It had enlarged 100 times more than when he was at the Completion of the Yellow Realm.

The marks of gods were stamped on the wall of his Qi Lake and displayed a gleam of spiritual splendor.

Yet, the marks of gods looked so faint and vague that one would probably miss it without taking a closer look.

Be mindful, Zhang Ruochen had just reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm and had drawn the Chord of Gods for the very first time. Therefore, having a vague mark of gods was seen as normal.

It was said that if Zhang Ruochen could reach the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm, he would be able to resonate the second time of the Chord of Gods. Hence, it would definitely deepen the marks of gods in his Qi Lake.

The number of warriors who had cultivated to the Ultimate Realm was scattered after the ancient times. Only a small number of Saints and the great emperor with astonished talent had finished cultivating the Ultimate Realm and resonated the Chord of Gods when they were young.

Yet, the Saint and the great emperor didn't expose many details about what had happened in their young age. It was impossible to record it in history books and thus no one knew any other details.

It was no doubt magnificent for Zhang Ruochen to resonate the Chord of Gods after all these years. However, it was beyond the bounds of possibility to make it happen again. Not even the great emperor and Saint.

The Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm was far more difficult to cultivate compared to the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm.

Even though Zhang Ruochen had already reached the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm, he wasn't confident enough to break through the Ultimate Realm of the Black Realm.

"Wreathed in the light of gods, shielded by the gods... Is this the Holy Light Spirit Lake in the ancient myth?"

In Zhang Ruochen's last lifetime, Emperor Ming had once mentioned the Holy Light Spirit Lake.

It was said that when Emperor Ming was young, he had resonated the Chord of Gods and received the safeguard of gods. His Qi Lake then turned into the Holy Light Spirit Lake.

Once the Holy Light Spirit Lake had been cultivated, the Qi Lake would become tenacious. Even warriors of the Earth Realm would not be able to pierce up Zhang Ruochen's Qi Lake.

Moreover, When Zhang Ruochen obtained the higher cultivation, the advantage of having the Holy Light Spirit Lake would be more obvious.

Zhang Ruochen had spent the entire day and night to digest the power of the Chord of Gods.

The Genuine Qi in the Qi Lake seemed to be filled up.

In other words, Zhang Ruochen had reached the Peak of the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. Soon after he would be able to break through the Mid-Stage of the Black Realm.

"This is certainly a Holy Light Spirit Lake. Compared to the warriors at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, the capacity of my Qi Lake is 10 times more and the purity of my Genuine Qi is far better. I guess it's more or less the same as warriors at the Completion of the Black Realm."

The capacity of the Qi Pool of an ordinary warrior would enlarge 10 times by breaking through from the Completion of the Yellow Realm to the Initial Stage of the Black Realm.

Since Zhang Ruochen had cultivated the Ultimate Realm which was one realm higher than ordinary warriors, the capacity of his Qi Pool had enlarged twice.

Therefore, compared to the warriors at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, the capacity of his Qi Lake was 10 times more.

While Zhang Ruochen was breaking through the realm in the water, General Ge Qian rushed back to the Royal Palace and wanted to report to the Commandery Prince Yunwu the good news.

"I have something important to report to His Majesty. Eunuch Cao, please help to inform the Commandery Prince." Ge Qian looked urgent and said.

Eunuch Cao was allied with the Queen. Knowing Ge Qian was responsible for protecting the Ninth Prince, he would no doubt ignore Ge Qian. "His Majesty is resting at the moment. I'm afraid he will not be able to see you, my general. Please head back to your station and protect the Ninth Prince."

Ge Qian stared at Eunuch Cao angrily and said, "Cao Shiren, you'd better go inform His Majesty now! If anything happens because of your delay, you'll surely be dead!"

Eunuch Cao was known as a warrior at the Dawn State of the Black Realm. Although he wasn't strong enough to fight against Ge Qian, he wasn't afraid of confronting Ge Qian.

At the same time, the voice of the Commandery Prince Yunwu broke out. He said, "Who's making so much noise?"

Eunuch Cao stared at Ge Qian severely and whispered, "Let's see how you settle for disturbing His Majesty!"

Ge Qian didn't even look at Eunuch Cao but greeted towards the palace. He said, "Your majesty, your servant Ge Qian has something vital to report."

The voice of the Commandery Prince Yunwu broke out to the palace and he said, "Ge Qian, aren't you protecting the Ninth Prince? What's more important than protecting my son? Or have you encountered another assassin who attempts to kill the Ninth Prince?"

"More important than all of these!" Ge Qian exclaimed and said.

It seemed that the Commandery Prince Yunwu had noticed something had happened. He called in Ge Qian right away.

Hearing what Ge Qian had said, Eunuch Cao changed his face. He followed Ge Qian and entered the palace.

Ge Qian glanced slightly at Eunuch Cao and said, "Your Majesty, what I'm about to report is exceptionally important. I can only tell you, Your Majesty, not anyone else."

The Commandery Prince Yunwu sat on the top part of the palace holding a golden booklet. He frowned his eyebrows and took a quick glance at Ge Qian, "Dismiss everyone. I need some privacy with the General!"

Eunuch Cao was not willing to leave the palace. Yet, he dared not to disobey the order of the Commandery Prince Yunwu and left the palace instantly.

The Commandery Prince Yunwu asked, "Ge Qian, you can tell me now. What's wrong?"

Ge Qian knelt down single legged and reported to the Commandery Prince Yunwu what he saw in Mount King without missing any details.

"The Chord of Gods!"

Hearing this, the Commandery Prince Yunwu couldn't stay calm anymore. His whole body shivered and stood up all of a sudden.

Ge Qian nodded and said, "Yes. I'm sure the Ninth Prince has reached the Ultimate Realm like what the myth describes and thus resonate the Chord of Gods."

The Commandery Prince Yunwu's countenance kept changing. Having noticed how vital the news was, he asked, "Does anyone else know about it?"

Ge Qian answered, "Other than myself, the 10 royal guards who were stationed there with me also notice it."

The Commandery Prince Yunwu said, "The Chord of Gods is a tremendous thing. This news has to be completely secret. Ge Qian, what should we do about the 10 people who know about the Ninth Prince?"

In other words, what the Commandery Prince Yunwu meant was how to handle Ge Qian.

Ge Qian clearly understood how things worked and thought for a moment. There was a sense of determination in his eyes. He said, "Killed!"

The Commandery Prince Yunwu nodded and said, "Ge Qian, I know you've always been a loyal general. Yet, if the news about my son leaks out, all assassins will no doubt get him killed! Why don't you and the other 10 royal guards watch over the ancestor temple at Mount Emperor and never come back? In this case, my son, you, and the 10 guards will all be safe."

"Yes, Your Majesty." Ge Qian answered.

Then, the Commandery Prince Yunwu and Ge Qian rushed to Mount King. They wanted to make sure if the Ninth Prince had truly resonated the Chord of Gods.

Chapter 64: The Choice

"Swoosh!"

Zhang Ruochen leapt from the water. Then he turned in the air and landed on the riverside.

The white Genuine Qi spewed out from his pores, drying up his wet clothes in a second.

Having reached the Black Realm, he was able to drizzle Genuine Qi as the Genuine Qi in his body was so solid, or turned the Genuine Qi into a Qi sword and killed people through the air.

Zhang Ruochen activated the Genuine Qi in his body and transferred it to the Meridians on his right hand. A gleam of white gas had gathered at the fingertip of his index finger. He dashed toward the Iron Pine 10 meters away.

"Boom!"

The white Qi sword had broken the tree trunk of the Iron Pine and left a fist-sized hole.

"It's a fairly average Sword Breath with such massive power! No doubt it's incomparable between warriors at the Black Realm and the Yellow Realm. If I cultivate the "Sword Ripple of Ten Channels", a martial technique of the superior class at the Spiritual Stage and put the Qi sword in use, I wonder how powerful it's going to be."

In Zhang Ruochen's last lifetime, he had cultivated the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels. He had turned all his 10 fingers into swords. With a random point, he would be able to display a sharp Qi sword that could kill people 100 meters away.

Yet, the Sword Ripple of Ten Channels was extremely hard to cultivate. Even though Zhang Ruochen had successfully cultivated it in his previous life, it's surely not an easy task to achieve that technique again.

At this moment, he felt like someone was coming over, so he retrieved all the Genuine Qi back to his body.

The Commandery Prince Yunwu walked toward Zhang Ruochen and glanced at him from head to toes. He nodded with satisfaction and asked, "Did you break through to the Black Realm?"

Zhang Ruochen didn't say much but nodded slightly.

Zhang Ruochen didn't have much affection toward the Commandery Prince Yunwu. Yet, he could feel how much the Commandery Prince Yunwu cared about him and thus he respected him a lot.

The Commandery Prince Yunwu said, "Attack me with your strongest power!"

Zhang Ruochen took a quick glance at him and said, "Okay!"

Having reached the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, Zhang Ruochen was eager to test his ability and see how far it could go.

Since he clearly knew that the Commandery Prince Yunwu would do whatever it took to protect him and would never hurt him, he was safe to display everything he had in front of the Commandery Prince Yunwu.

"Swish!"

Zhang Ruochen exploded his speed to the highest point that it exceeded 10 meters per second. He unleashed a palm toward the Commandery Prince Yunwu's chest. "Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth".

The palm he displayed was the strongest with gigantic power. The bones and muscles in his body had all given out the sound of dragons and elephants roaring together.

The forceful palm wind forced the sand to flow in clouds.

Even though Zhang Ruochen's palm had unleashed on the Commandery Prince Yunwu, he neither moved an inch nor fought back.

"Boom!"

When Zhang Ruochen had released the palm on the Commandery Prince Yunwu's body, a vigorous power exploded from the Commandery Prince Yunwu.

Zhang Ruochen was thrown out far. The Spiritual Blood in his body kept rolling and he fell to the ground in an awkward position. He couldn't help but retreat 10 steps back so as to dissipate the powerful force.

The Commandery Prince Yunwu nodded and said, "Not bad! The power of your palm is stronger than most of the warriors at the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm. It's even more intense than some of the weaker warriors at the Dawn State of the Black Realm."

"Moreover, your biggest advantage is not your power, but your mastery of power and your sword technique which is the same as a warrior at the Earth Realm. All in all, I guess the warriors at the Dawn State of the Black Realm will not be able to defeat you. I guess you've indeed cultivated the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm. Otherwise, you won't be able to obtain such power!"

Zhang Ruochen thought, "No doubt that I startled the Commandery Prince Yunwu when I resonated the Chord of Gods."

The Commandery Prince Yunwu looked at Zhang Ruochen with a softness in his eye. "With your talent, your achievement in the future will definitely be beyond me. Staying in the palace will only waste your talent and stop you from improving. You have two choices now if you want to keep boosting your martial arts cultivation."

"Your first choice, the Yuntai Suzerain. I guess you've heard of it before?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "The Yuntai Suzerain is classified as a fourth-class suzerain that was established 720 years ago. They hold massive power and enjoy a particular superior status in the Western Nine Prefectures." Every prince, princess, and child from the large-scale family of the commandery were all proud of being a member of the Yuntai Suzerain. The Yuntai Suzerain was known as the cradle of strong warriors. Almost half of the Heaven Realm warriors in the Western Nine Prefectures were the disciples of the Yuntai Suzerain.

The Western Nine Prefectures referred to the nine commanderies of the Western Ridge. The Yunwu Commandery was one of them.

The Commandery Prince Yunwu nodded and said, "I once was the disciple of the Yuntai Suzerain. The vice chief of the external Yuntai Suzerain is a senior of the Royal Family in the Yunwu Commandery as well as an uncle of mine. If you decide to join the Yuntai Suzerain, I'll draft a letter to my uncle. I'm sure you only need to demonstrate one-tenth of your talent in order to make it to the Yuntai Suzerain and become an external student of the suzerain."

Zhang Ruochen thought for a while and asked, "How about the second choice?"

The Commandery Prince Yunwu said, "The second choice is going to be relatively hard. If your talent is high enough and able to stand out among all the outstanding warriors, your achievement will be magnificent. Have you heard of the School of the Martial Market?"

"You mean the School of Martial Market operated by the Martial Market Bank?" Zhang Ruochen said.

The business of the Martial Market Bank had covered the entire Kunlun's Field. Every commandery, every city, and every town was related to the Martial Market Bank to a certain extent.

The Martial Market in all the commanderies were controlled by the Martial Market Bank. It is a fact that the Martial Market Bank had control over 30% of the economic systems in the entire Kunlun's Field.

The Martial Market Bank was more powerful than the Yuntai Suzerain to a large extent. It had passed on the power since the Medieval Ancient Times and was regarded as a “Money Empire”. Not to mention the fourth-class Suzerain, even the first-class Suzerain didn’t dare to confront the Martial Market Bank.

With such massive prosperity, the Martial Market Bank surely required a tremendously strong force for protection.

Therefore, the Martial Market Bank had established the Coliseum of the Martial Market and the School of the Martial Market.

The School of the Martial Market aimed to foster more and more talent for the Martial Market Bank so that it could be powerful ever after and become the money dominator of the Kunlun’s Field.

The more outstanding the students were in the School of the Martial Market, the higher their status would be and more privileges they could enjoy after graduation.

The huge benefit of joining the School of the Martial Market was, they were always wealthy and would never lack resources for cultivation. The Martial Market Bank was the most powerful backer for the school.

Undoubtedly, it was extremely hard to get into the School of the Martial Market. It would only be more and more competitive each year so that a slight mistake would put the warriors to death.

Zhang Ruochen clearly understood how powerful the Martial Market Bank was. The Martial Market in the Yunwu Commandery was only a small part of the whole. The headquarters of the Martial Market Bank was larger than the royal court of the First Central Empire, both of whom controlled the fate of the world.

Zhang Ruochen asked, “Has the Martial Market Bank set up a school in the Yunwu Commandery yet?”

The Commandery Prince Yunwu shook his head slightly and said, “No. Not in the Yunwu Commandery but at the Omen Ridge. They’ve established a one-star school and specially enroll the talented warriors from the 36 commanderies at the border of the Omen Ridge including the Western, the Eastern, the Southern and the Northern Nine Prefectures.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded with consent and said, “Okay! I’ll join the School of the Martial Market!”

It would probably be less competitive for Zhang Ruochen to join the Yuntai Suzerain, and easier for him to cultivate. Yet, the potential of the Yuntai Suzerain was far less than the School of the Martial Market.

As far as Zhang Ruochen concerned, he was worried that it would not be competitive enough.

In terms of the Commandery Prince Yunwu, he was satisfied with Zhang Ruochen’s decision. He said, “When you become a senior of the Martial Market Bank in the future, the Yunwu Commandery will also benefit. There’s one more month until the enrollment day of the School of the Martial Market. You should keep your mind on enhancing the solidity of your realm during this period of time. When it’s about time, I’ll arrange the guards to send you to the Omen Ridge.”

Afterward, both the Commandery Prince Yunwu and Zhang Ruochen left Mount King.

Zhang Ruochen went back to the Jade Palace, but he didn’t see General Ge Qian.

The royal guards who were stationed at the Jade Palace were all replaced. The general in charge was massive and tanned with a beard over his face. When he saw Zhang Ruochen, he bowed and greeted him with his thick voice instantly. He said, "Your servant Gan Li greets my Ninth Prince."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "Where is General Ge Qian?"

Gan Li responded, "Ge Qian has been assigned to the Mount Emperor ancestor temple. From now on, your servant will protect my Ninth Prince. Don't worry, my Ninth Prince. My martial cultivation is above Ge Qian and I'm powerful enough to defeat three Ge Qians!"

He then showed Zhang Ruochen his sturdy arms and muscular body. The muscles on his body were like pieces of iron.

Zhang Ruochen was deep in thought. It looked like Ge Qian and the other royal guards knew that he had resonated the Chord of Gods and hence they had all been assigned to watch over at the ancestor temple.

Zhang Ruochen glanced at Gan Li and said, "I'm sure no assassin dare to come near the Jade Palace under the protection of General Gan Li!"

Having listened to Zhang Ruochen's compliment, Gan Li laughed and waved the ax in his hand, saying, "I have fought with His Majesty on the battlefield 10 times. I can even kill a savage beast with one swing of my ax. Any assassins who dare to come to the Jade Palace, I assure you I'll tear them apart!"

Zhang Ruochen nodded and went into the palace. He wanted to go to the courtyard where Le stayed and see if he had cultivated the "Nonuple Samsara Magic formula".

When he walked into the courtyard, he saw Le standing still in the middle of the court.

The bamboo leaves of the forest beside him were falling down like a rainfall of leaves.

The speed of Le releasing the sword was as fast as lightning. It had pierced through the leaves every time he struck. There were shadows of swords everywhere in the courtyard and there were sounds of swords whistling through the air.

None of the bamboo leaves that fell down on the ground was whole.

"Clap!"

Zhang Ruochen clapped his hands while walking towards Le and said, "Congratulations on upgrading your cultivation! I guess you've cultivated the first move of the 'Nonuple Samsara Magic formula'?"

Zhang Ruochen could tell that Le's cultivation had reached the Initial Stage of the Black Realm.

Le pulled back the sword instantly, sheathing it with great accuracy.

Le's sight had also fallen on Zhang Ruochen. He asked, "How about you, my benefactor? Have you reached the Initial Stage of the Black Realm?"

"I did indeed make it to the Black Realm." Zhang Ruochen nodded and asked, "So... what's your plan?"

Chapter 65: The Battle between Women

Le said, "The technique I'm practicing is called the Self-destructive Swordsmanship and the 'Nonuple Samsara Magic Formula'. I guess I'm doomed to take a slaughter path in my life. Since I've cultivated to the Black Realm, I want to test myself at the black market."

Zhang Ruochen said, "The black market is surely a path with no comeback for ordinary warriors. Perhaps it's a good try for you!"

The power of the black market was certainly massive, it had spread all over the commandery. It had enough power to confront the Martial Market Bank, the Federation of Inscription, and the Moon Worship Demonic Sect. Moreover, it was where the depraved and the fugitives assembled.

Yun rushed to the Ninth Prince. She bowed and said, "My Ninth Prince, Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan have a message for you from their maidservant. They said the one month time is up. They want to invite you to the Martial arts field of the Royal Family and observe the fight."

"Oh! It's already been one month! Okay, I'll head to the Martial arts field now." Zhang Ruochen put up a smile on his face. He glanced at Le and found him exceptionally calm.

Zhang Ruochen nodded and asked, "Le, do you want to watch the fight together?"

Le said, "Good idea, let's go!"

When Zhang Ruochen, Le, and Yun arrived at the Martial arts field, all the princes and princesses had already gathered around in the field.

Other than Lin Chenyu and Lin Ningshan from Lin's family, they also brought four guards to the field.

Seeing Le walking into the field with Zhang Ruochen, every single warrior of the Lin's was shocked, including Lin Ningshan.

"Isn't he the slave of Ningshan? He is in real luck that he didn't die!" One of the four guards sneered.

"So what? Although he didn't die, all his Meridians have been destroyed. He's disabled now!" The other guard said with disdain.

The four guards who stood behind Lin Ningshan were exactly the four who broke Le's arms and legs outside the Coliseum of the Martial Market.

They all thought that they had beaten him to death. No wonder why they were relatively shocked when they saw Le who was following behind Zhang Ruochen.

One of the guards with a hawk nose held a hundred kilogram iron rod, stepped up behind Lin Ningshan and said, "Le, you're the slave of Ningshan. How dare you not kneel down when you see our mistress?"

Le stared at the guard cold-bloodedly.

The guard who just spoke out was only at the Advanced Stage of the Yellow Realm. Looking into Le's eyes, he felt a chill.

"All his Meridians have been destroyed! I shouldn't be scared! Calm down!"

The guard tried to comfort himself and continued, "A slave who wants to raise a ruckus? Such a degrading slave! I, Lin Zhuosi, have to teach you a lesson today!"

The guard held the iron rod with both hands and swung toward Le's waist.

"Beep!"

A sword flashed.

The head of the guard had been torn apart from the body and blood sprouted three meters high from the neck.

The body without a head fell to the ground heavily.

The other three guards were all frozen behind Lin Ningshan. They couldn't believe that Le would dare to kill Lin Zhuosi.

Moreover, the way he swung the sword was too fast that no one recognized how he killed the guard.

Even Lin Ningshan with a higher cultivation couldn't identify Le's sword technique clearly. Not to mention these three guards behind her.

The only person who had distinguished Le's sword technique was Lin Chenyu. He chuckled and said, "Le, you're definitely the deadly swordsman of the Lin's. Your cultivation is much stronger than before with a faster sword technique. I guess you've reached the Black Realm?"

Le answered, "Master Lin, I once was the slave of the Lin's. However, the Le in front of you is just Le. He has nothing to do with the Lin's anymore!"

"Haha! Le, you're too naive. Once you are a slave, forever a slave!" "If you dare to betray your master, you've violated the regulations of the commandery and will be subjected to death," Lin Ningshan said. "Since you've broken through the Black Realm, why don't you come back to the Lin's? You're will enjoy lots of benefits in the future if you're loyal to us."

Le looked sharp and said, "Miss Lin, the reason why I agreed to be your slave was you saved my life. Yet, your saving grace has been written off since the moment you decided to kill me outside the Coliseum of the Martial Market. The Le you're looking at is not going to be anyone's slave now. I'll make sure you don't get to live if you force me to be your slave!"

Lin Ningshan was extremely irritated and said, "How dare you! Guards..."

"My cousin, I'll buy this slave!" Zhang Ruochen walked toward Lin Ningshan and pointed at Le.

Although Lin Ningshan was arrogant, she was correct that it was considered as a serious crime for a slave to betray their master in the Yunwu Commandery. They would no doubt be subjected to death.

Lin Ningshan looked at Zhang Ruochen and said while smiling, "Oh, my cousin. Can I say that you're begging me?"

Zhang Ruochen answered, "If you have to comprehend it that way, you can."

“Great! Since you beg me, how can I not save you some face as your cousin? Give me one million silver coins and I’ll sell you this slave.” Lin Ningshan lifted up her head and giggled.

A slave at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm was valued at a maximum of 10,000 silver coins. No one would spend one million silver coins to buy a slave at such level, including Lin Ningshan.

The Ninth Commandery Princess added, “Lin Ningshan, you’re robbing my ninth brother! One million silver coins are more than enough to buy 100 slaves at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm!”

Lin Ningshan laughed and said, “Don’t pretend to be good if you don’t have enough coins to buy. Being a good person has a price!”

Zhang Ruochen interrupted Lin Ningshan and exclaimed, “Deal! One million silver coins are indeed worth it for Le. I’ll send the one million silver coins to the Lin Mansion within a month.”

Everyone in the field was amazed by what Zhang Ruochen had said, including Lin Ningshan.

No one believed that he would spend one million silver coins just to buy a degraded slave.

Only a fool like Zhang Ruochen would do such losing business.

“My ninth brother...”

The Ninth Commandery Princess was about to say something but was stopped by Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen looked at Lin Ningshan. He outstretched one arm and asked, “My cousin, I guess you can hand me the slave contract now?”

“Wealth speaks louder than words! My cousin, you have my respect. One million silver coins come in at the right time, it’s going to be my dowry when I marry the Seventh Prince. Thank you, my dear cousin!” A joyful smile was displayed on Lin Ningshan’s face. She took out the beast-skin contract and handed over it to Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen responded with a faint smile. He took the beast-skin contract and made sure it was Le’s name on it. Then, he activated the Genuine Qi in his body and transferred it to his five fingers.

“Boom!”

The beast-skin contract had been shattered by his Genuine Qi and turned into nail-sized pieces of skin.

People were shocked again.

Having spent one million silver coins to buy a degraded slave and then he destroyed the contract right away. Was the Ninth Prince insane?

Le looked at Zhang Ruochen deeply and exclaimed, “I’ll repay you 100 times in the future!”

“Phew!”

A guard who stood behind Lin Ningshan laughed, “100 times? Boasting fool! That’s altogether one billion silver coins. Even warriors of the Heaven Realm are not able to accumulate such wealth in their entire life.”

Lin Ningshan naturally didn't believe Le and thought he was being foolish.

The Ninth Commandery Princess shook her head and felt sorry for Zhang Ruochen. Le wasn't worth what Zhang Ruochen had done. Besides, even the large-scale families were unable to take out one million silver coins at once.

She sighed in her heart and since her ninth brother had made the decision, she could do nothing but let Lin Ningshan take advantage of Zhang Ruochen.

The Ninth Commandery Princess held her sword elegantly in the middle of the Martial arts field and pointed at Lin Ningshan. She said, "Lin Ningshan, stop being proud of yourself! One month time is up. I hereby challenge you to fight!"

Lin Ningshan who had just received a million silver coins was so pleased that no words could explain her feelings. Moreover, she had greatly improved her cultivation level, thus she didn't bother too much about the Ninth Commandery Princess.

"The Ninth Commandery Princess is indeed very positive! I wonder whether or not you'll still be arrogant like this if I defeat you for the third time?" Lin Ningshan sneered.

The Ninth Commandery Princess was full of confidence and said, "If I defeat you, I'm not going to go easy on you!"

Lin Ningshan who was wearing a white long dress walked towards the Martial arts field looked as pure as lilies. She stood beautifully in front of the Ninth Commandery Princess.

Her sight shifted to Zhang Ruochen and said, "My cousin, I want to change the rules. If I defeat the Ninth Commandery Princess, you don't need to apologize but instead, do me a favor."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What's it about?"

Lin Ningshan looked up slightly and smiled, "I haven't thought about it yet. I'll tell you when I have an idea. You don't need to worry, my cousin. We are a family and I'm not going to hurt you!"

Zhang Ruochen looked at the Ninth Commandery Princess. He nodded and said, "Okay, I promise you! I'm sure my Ninth Sister will defeat you, I have confidence in her!"

Having listened to what Zhang Ruochen said, the Ninth Commandery Princess felt more pressure. She thought to herself, "I need to win this fight and stop Lin Ningshan from being so arrogant. With my cultivation and the use of the 'Tianhe Scripture', I should be able to win."

The Ninth Commandery Princess surely understood how important this fight was. She had taken out all the savings she had in order to buy all sorts of resources she needed for cultivation in this month. Therefore, her cultivation had improved greatly.

"My ninth brother, I won't let you down!" The Ninth Commandery Princess looked toward Zhang Ruochen with a glimmer of a smile in her eyes and the glance had displayed a sense of mystery.

"This look... has she successfully cultivated the first level of the 'Tianhe Scripture'?" Zhang Ruochen was shocked slightly by the fact that Yuxi had fully prepared for the fight.

“Stop chattering, my Ninth Commandery Princess. You are doomed to lose the fight again!”

Lin Ningshan huffed coldly. She took out the Splendor Sword and released it toward the Ninth Commandery Princess.

There was half a meter long sword light pulled through as well as an irritating sword echo while she was releasing the sword.

“The Completion of the Yellow Realm!” Zhang Ruochen frowned slightly. He could tell Lin Ningshan’s martial arts realm when she released her sword.

Lin Ningshan’s cultivation had been greatly enhanced in just a month! If she didn’t take any pills, she wouldn’t be able to break through from the Final State to the Completion of the Yellow Realm in such a short period of time.

The Third Prince shook his head and said, “Lin Ningshan has cultivated to the Completion of the Yellow Realm. Our ninth sister is definitely going to lose!”

“If our ninth sister loses, our ninth brother will have to do Lin Ningshan a favor. What if Lin Ningshan wants him to kneel down? It will no doubt that can stain the reputation of the Royal Family!” The Fifth Prince said with cruelty in his eyes.

The Third Prince said, “Our ninth brother is still too young and impetuous. If let him suffer some setbacks. It’ll do him good for his future as a warrior.”

Chapter 66: The Outcome Has Already Been Decided

“She has reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm. So what? I have also made it!”

The corner of the Ninth Commandery Princess’s lips curved slightly. She started the “Tianhe Scripture”. The Genuine Qi in her body became white and even covered her skin with a layer of white brilliance.

The Blue Water Sword in her hand reacted and gave off a beam of light around five feet long.

“Boom!”

The Ninth Commandery Princess waved her arms, drawing sword circles above her head. It emitted streaks of white light, and the Sword Breath wound round and round towards Lin Ningshan.

“How can this be?”

That the Ninth Commandery Princess had broken through to the Completion of the Yellow Realm?

Also, the Ninth Commandery Princess’s Genuine Qi also seemed more powerful now. It was very thick and carried with it a light sense of coldness.

Lin Ningshan felt her own Genuine Qi may be a little weaker than that of the Ninth Commandery Princess.

“She has indeed successfully finished the practice of one part of the Tianhe Scripture. I had no idea that ninth sister’s physique was so suitable for practicing the Tianhe Scripture,” said Zhang Ruochen.

Training exercises were not always the more powerful the better and it is important that the training and the warrior's physique were compatible.

Clearly, the Ninth Commandery Princess's physique was very compatible with the Tianhe Scripture, and thus she was able to, in a very short amount of time, completed the training for one part of the Tianhe Scripture.

If Le were to train with the Tianhe Scripture, perhaps he would not improve as quickly as the Ninth Commandery Princess. That was not to say he was not as talented as the Ninth Commandery Princess, but because his physique was not as compatible with the Tianhe Scripture.

As the Ninth Commandery Princess had also reached the Completion in the Yellow Realm, then the outcome of this match was once again suspenseful.

Lin Ningshan was slightly more accomplished than the Ninth Commandery Princess in sword techniques.

However, the Ninth Commandery Princess trained with a higher class of sword technique, and so her Genuine Qi was purer. Even when using a lower class sword technique, her attacks would still be very powerful.

They were known as the "Two Beauties of Yunwu City", possessing beauty beyond that of normal people. Each of the sword techniques is executed with grace and is elegant to behold. It seems as if two the fairies were engaged in a dance of the sword.

Their clashes were very dangerous, each stroke of the Sword Breath leaving deep gashes in the earth.

"So what if you have reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm? You are still not able to challenge me."

"Sacred Guiding Sword!"

Lin Ningshan executed a low-class Spiritual sword technique. With a wave of her arm, a Sword Breath of eight meters in length flew out from the sword, dragging behind it a long sword path, straight towards the Ninth Commandery Princess.

The Ninth Commandery Princess had not trained a low-class Spiritual Stage sword technique but had successfully practiced a Superior class Human Stage sword technique, Ethereal sword technique.

"Etherealness and Silence!"

The Ninth Commandery Princess grasped her sword by the hilt with both hands and chopped down towards the ground, meeting Lin Ningshan's attack head-on.

"Boom!"

The Ninth Commandery Princess's hand was scratched by the Sword Breath, blood dripped from her wrists.

The power of low-class Spiritual sword techniques could not be compared to Human Stage sword techniques. In the end, the Ninth Commandery Princess was still slightly weaker than Lin Ningshan.

Lin Ningshan gave a cold laugh, and once again stepped up her pace, chasing after the Ninth Commandery Princess, once again striking with “Sacred Guiding Sword”.

Seeing that the Ninth Commandery Princess was being pushed back with nowhere to go by Lin Ningshan, Zhang Ruochen immediately said, “Ninth sister, don’t go head to head with her, utilize the strategy of movement, use up her Genuine Qi.”

Hearing Zhang Ruochen’s words, the Ninth Commandery Princess suddenly understood. Immediately she executed a mid-class Human Stage technique, becoming a shadow and flitting aside, dodging Lin Ningshan’s attack.

Although the Spiritual Stage sword techniques were very powerful, they also consumed huge amounts of Genuine Qi. Lin Ningshan had only just reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm, and her Genuine Qi is still very lacking. After, at most, ten strokes of Spiritual Stage sword techniques, her Genuine Qi would have been depleted.

Lin Chenyu stood outside the Martial arts field with his hands behind his back, smiled and said, “Since you can advise the Ninth Commandery Princess, then may I advise Ningshan?”

Zhang Ruochen gestured with both hands, smiled and said, “Please, go ahead.”

Lin Chenyu said, “Ningshan, since the Ninth Commander Princess wants to escape, then you should follow and win the chase. Use the Lin family’s Killing Sword Technique and cut off her escape.”

Lin Ningshan took her brother’s words to heart, and following Lin Chenyu’s words, immediately executed the Killing Sword Technique, chasing after the Ninth Commandery Princess and forcing the Ninth Commandery Princess into dangerous straits.

On the Ninth Commandery Princess’s clothes, a few more cuts opened.

Zhang Ruochen stood at the other end of the Martial arts field and said, “Ninth Sister, use the blue water sword technique, and attack her base.”

The Ninth Commandery Princess immediately acted on Zhang Ruochen’s words, executing a blue water reverse. The tip of her sword sliced past Lin Ningshan’s abdomen.

“A hitting!”

At Lin Ningshan’s abdomen, her robe was slashed, showing a small section of pale white skin. The Ninth Commandery Princess almost drew blood.

Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu were far more knowledgeable than the Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan about Martial Arts, and so with their advice, the fight became even more dangerous.

It could no longer be considered a fight between the Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan, rather it was a duel between Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu.

“Lin Ningshan, use Sacred Sword Skill, straight towards her face.”

“Ninth sister, don’t meet her head on, immediately take three steps to the left then turn back and strike.”

...

Zhang Ruochen and Lin Chenyu continued to advise the Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan. Half an hour passed and yet there was still no winner, both women continued to take more and more damage.

Zhang Ruochen saw that the Ninth Commandery Princess already had five wounds, each was dripping blood. He knew that if the fight were to go on, she and Lin Ningshan were sure to be heavily wounded.

Were both of them to be defeated and wounded?

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and took Le's sword from his hand, gripping it in his own and said, "Ninth sister, look how I execute this move, Sacred Breaking Plum Sword!"

Zhang Ruochen stood outside the Martial arts field and began the move. Striking out with the sword, seven streaks of Sword Breath flew out from the sword.

The Ninth Commandery Princess watched closely. She immediately followed Zhang Ruochen's instructions and struck out, executing the Sacred Breaking Plum Sword, straight toward Lin Ningshan's glabella.

Sacred Breaking Plum Sword was one of the techniques of the Sacred Sword Skill, even Lin Ningshan had not yet managed to learn it.

Seeing the Ninth Commandery Princess executing the Sacred Breaking Plum Sword, Lin Ningshan panicked and immediately dodged to the right.

Outside of the martial arts field, Zhang Ruochen seemed to have expected Lin Ningshan to dodge to the right and so with a shake of his arm, the sword in his hand immediately dipped down and started swinging to the right.

The Ninth Commandery Princess saw Zhang Ruochen change his strike and followed to do the same, and the Blue Water Sword in her hand turned to strike to the right.

"Swish!"

When her sword came to a stop, not an inch more or less, it landed exactly on Lin Ningshan's neck.

Lin Ningshan's face changed and was about to strike back.

"Don't move!"

The Ninth Commandery Princess pushed a little harder on her sword. The edge of the sword slightly broke the skin at Lin Ningshan's neck, a drop of blood rolled along the edge of the blade and fell down.

If Lin Ningshan dared to retaliate, the sword would only plunge deeper.

At this moment, the Ninth Commandery Princess was overjoyed. Using the sword at Lin Ningshan's neck, she used the point to raise Lin Ningshan's chin, smiled and said, "Sister Ningshan, you really shouldn't move! If by accident, I slice through your face of startling beauty, that would be a tragedy!"

Lin Ningshan was afraid to move. She was terrified that the Ninth Commandery Princess would slice her face.

Given the Ninth Commandery Princess's identity, if she sliced her face during a duel, she would at most be scolded by the Yunwu Commandery Prince and the Queen, they wouldn't truly punish her.

"If it weren't for Zhang Ruochen helping you, you would not be able to beat me." Lin Ningshan bore her pearly white teeth in anger, and said, "We shall fight again, fairly."

"I have already won, why would I fight you again?" the Ninth Commandery Princess asked teasingly while innocently blinking.

Her sword continued to remain around Lin Ningshan's neck and face as if at any moment she could strike and ruin Lin Ningshan's face.

Before the fight, Lin Ningshan had never thought she would lose to the Ninth Commandery Princess. Even now, she would not admit that she was not as good as the Ninth Commandery Princess.

Lin Ningshan was not satisfied and said, "If you are willing to fight again, we can raise the stakes. If I lose again to you, I am willing to become your serving girl, and serve you for 10 years."

"Not interested!"

The Ninth Commandery Princess shook her head and said, "I do not have the time to fight you again. You have lost this fight, kneel instantly and apologize to me, or I will slice apart your face and make you ugly."

Zhang Ruochen gently shook his head and sighed quietly. "Battle between women was a terrifying thing".

However, he did not feel sympathy for Lin Ningshan!

If the Ninth Commandery Princess had lost this fight, Lin Ningshan would use even more extreme methods to humiliate Zhang Ruochen.

Lin Ningshan's eyes carried a dark anger and she said, "I agreed to apologize, but did not agree to kneel and apologize."

"I have won, and I want you to kneel. You can decide! If you don't kneel, then I will really slice open your face." The Ninth Commandery Princess said.

Lin Ningshan's eyes flashed to Lin Chenyu, imploring him to help.

Lin Chenyu said, "Your Majesty, one should forgive..."

"Shut up! Who are you? You are nothing more than seven brother's servant, do you have the right to stand and talk to me?" The Ninth Commandery Princess said.

Lin Chenyu's face darkened, a sense of death flashed through his eyes, but he quickly suppressed it. Politely he bowed to the Ninth Commandery Princess and said, "This servant dares not. Ningshan, kneel immediately and apologize to the Ninth Commandery Princess."

Lin Ningshan's eyes were filled with murderous intent, her whole body was shaking. For her, to kneel to the Ninth Commandery Princess, it was the greatest humiliation.

The Ninth Commandery Princess blinked, smiled and said, "I am not an unreasonable person, if you are willing to pay out one million silver coins, then I can let you go at once, and you won't need to kneel."

"A million silver coins, where would I find that?" Lin Ningshan said.

The Ninth Commandery Princess's eyes flashed to Zhang Ruochen standing outside the Martial arts field. Her meaning was clear, "ninth brother owes you one million silver coins. If you will not ask for the one million silver coins, then I will let you go."

Lin Ningshan, of course, understood the Ninth Commandery Princess's meaning, and also looked towards Zhang Ruochen.

If she could bring out one million silver coins, she could choose to not kneel.

But, the one million silver coins, for the whole family, it was a huge amount. Lin Ningshan could not hand it back.

"Fine! I'll kneel!"

Lin Ningshan looked like she had made an important decision, unbelievably she kneeled in front of the Ninth Commandery Princess and said, "Your Majesty, the Ninth Commandery Princess, I apologize humbly. Everything was my fault previously, please forgive me."

The Ninth Commandery Princess was shocked!

The Ninth Commandery Princess had not meant to really humiliate Lin Ningshan. She only wanted to force Lin Ningshan to return the one million silver coins.

She did not expect for Lin Ningshan to kneel for the one million silver coins, to take such humiliation as kneeling and apologizing.

If they had swapped places, the Ninth Commandery Princess would definitely not have been able to do that.

Chapter 67: Refining the Spatial Ring

Lin Ningshan stood up. Instead of looking at Ninth Commandery Princess, she turned to Zhang Ruochen and said, "Ruochen, don't forget to send 1,000,000 silver coins to Lin Mansion in a month."

After that, Lin Chenyu and she left the Royal Coliseum with their three guards dispiritedly.

When they walked out the palace, Lin Ningshan's eyes were filled with tears of humiliation. She said coldly, "She must die for insulting me, so will Zhang Ruochen. I don't want to see them anymore."

Lin Chenyu's gazeing was cold as he said, "Don't worry! I've offered a lot of money for Zhang Ruochen's head in the black market. He'll die if he steps out of the palace."

"As for Ninth Commandery Princess, it'll be easy to kill her."

“Ningshan, what’s most important for you is to practice hard to reach the Black Realm. When that time comes, you’ll be able to kill her by your own hands.”

An icy stare flashed in Lin Ningshan’s eyes. She replied, “You’re right! I must kill her myself to ease my hatred.”

Lin Chenyu took out a red copper box from his sleeve and handed it to Lin Ningshan. “This is a Third-Class Dark Blood Pill. It’ll help you increase your success rate by 30% when you challenge the Black Realm. If you can make it, you can go to Yuntai Suzerain with me. It won’t be difficult for you to pass the exam for Yuntai Suzerain then.”

Lin Ningshan took the Dark Blood Pill with some pleasure. “I can go to Yuntai Suzerain as long as I break through the Black Realm? That’s great! I’ll be able to meet Seventh Prince then.”

“That’s for certain.”

Lin Chenyu smiled and said, “The Seventh Prince is now an internal student of the suzerain and has a high status. If he favors you, you’ll receive many benefits in the future.”

Hearing his words, Lin Ningshan instantly transformed the humiliation to some expectation in her heart. The Seventh Prince was a great talent in front of whom, Zhang Ruochen was just an extra.

At the martial art field of the Royal Family, Zhang Ruochen said, “Ninth sister, you’ve humiliated her and made her kneel down in front of the crowd. She definitely will take revenge on you in some extreme ways one day.”

Ninth Commandery Princess took back her Blue Water Sword and said, “I didn’t mean to humiliate her and I just wanted your 1,000,000 silver coins back. Besides, should I be afraid of her? Even lent her a daring, she did not dare to hurt anyone of our royal family.”

“I hope that’s the case.” Zhang Ruochen took out a black copper box and handed it to Ninth Commandery Princess. “A Dark Blood Pill and it’ll increase your success rate by 30% when you challenge the Black Realm.”

Zhang Ruochen should have eaten the pill that he bought for his Black Realm challenge. But when he practiced Ultimate Realm in Mount King, he brought in Chord of Gods. With the help of the Gods’ power, he directly broke through Black Realm without Dark Blood Pill.

He now passed it into Ninth Commandery Princess.

She accepted it happily without hesitation.

The other princes and the princesses were very envious. It was known that the pill was a Third-class pill, valued at 120,000 silver coins. Those who ate it could save a year’s worth of practice.

Ordinary princes and princesses could not afford it.

After leaving the martial arts field of the Royal Family, Le bade Zhang Ruochen farewell and left for the black market.

“Le!”

Zhang Ruochen called Le and said meaningfully, "A month later, I will leave for the School of the Martial Market. But, there's something I'm worried about."

"Ninth Commandery Princess?" Le stared at Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen nodded. "Having suffered such a huge insult, Lin Ningshan will certainly take revenge on my ninth sister. She may even kill her."

Le said, "As long as I'm in Yunwu City, I'll protect her from the Lin family."

"I hear you!" Zhang Ruochen laughed.

Without any more words, Le walked out the palace, leaving Zhang Ruochen the view of his lonely, but proud back.

Zhang Ruochen felt it was the best deal he had ever made to buy Le from Lin Ningshan with 1,000,000 coins.

However, one million was a lot of money.

He currently had 890,000 silver coins left and still needed 110,000. How could he get the money?

"It seems that I can only depend on Spatial Ring. As long as I refine a Spatial Ring, I must earn 110,000 silver coins easily."

"My Genuine Qi has become richer since I reached the Black Realm. I also have the faint power of Gods in my body. This all makes it possible for me to carve Inscription of Strain-type and Inscription of Condensing."

Except for the two inscriptions, Zhang Ruochen had also carved the other six basic Inscriptions of Space.

One must know, Zhang Ruochen's Spiritual Power was powerful. He had already reached level 32.

The reason why he couldn't carve them previously was not that his Spiritual Power was not strong enough, but his Genuine Qi was not thick enough.

Now that his cultivation had reached the Black Realm and his Genuine Qi increased, he was sure he could carve them.

Thinking about this, Zhang Ruochen could not wait to carve, so he returned to Jade Palace as quickly as possible.

When he arrived at Jade Palace, General Gan Li bowed to him, with a hatchet in hand. "Your Highness."

"What are you doing here?" asked Zhang Ruochen.

General Gan Li laughed and handed a bag to Zhang Ruochen. "There are silver coins and Spiritual Crystals from Imperial Finance Department. These were exchanged for the savage beasts you hunted in King Mount."

"Oh!"

When Zhang Ruochen happily accepted the bag, he felt it was a little too heavy.

When he opened the bag, he laughed.

There were 143 Spiritual Crystal and 670 silver coins, amounting to 143,670 silver coins.

Earlier, Zhang Ruochen had killed three level-two savage beasts, 30 superior-class level-one savage beasts, more than 30 medium-class level-one savage beasts, and some inferior-class level-one ones.

A second-level savage beast was valued at more than 20,000 silver coins. For example, Silver Dragon-Lion could be sold for 30,000 or 40,000 silver coins since its whole body was full of treasure.

A superior-class level-one savage beast was valued at 5,000 to 10,000 silver coins.

A medium-class level-one savage beast was valued at 1,000 silver coins.

“After half a month in Mount King, I made 143,670 silver coins. The price was low because they were exchanged in Imperial Finance Department. If I sell them in the Martial Market, they’ll pay 200,000 silver coins.”

It seemed pretty lucrative to hunt savage beasts, but the work was not easy.

The reason why Zhang Ruochen could hunt so many savage beasts was that King Mount was the hunting ground of royal family. The beasts there were not fierce. There were also no superior class beasts of the second and third levels.

If it was in the Omen Ridge or Tongming River, hunting would be dangerous for warriors of Completion in Black Realm, let alone warriors of Initial Stage in Black Realm.

Warriors in Earth Realm or Heaven Realm might even die if they ventured too far into Omen Ridge and Dead Reach of Tongming River.

Thus it was enough for Zhang Ruochen to earn 143,670 silver coins. At least, he now had enough money to pay Lin Ningshan.

Zhang Ruochen immediately entered the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel after returning to his room.

He took out an inscription pen and placed a piece of Spiritual Paper on the ground.

“I must carve successfully!”

He injected Genuine Qi into the pen and sketched Inscription of Strain-type on the paper.

After reaching the Black Realm, Zhang Ruochen felt his carving became more fluid. It took him only 10 breaths to complete his carving.

“Haha! I did it!”

He started to draw Inscription of Condensing.

He carved quicker this time, using just eight breaths.

Zhang Ruochen continued. When he practiced for the 10th time, he could carve both inscriptions in three breaths.

“This is awesome! I can now carve all eight basic Inscriptions of Space. After I brought in the first Chord of Gods, my Spiritual Power increased so much. I wonder which level I am at right now.”

Zhang Ruochen was very happy and started to refine the Spatial Ring.

Last time, he refined a Spatial Ring successfully. But back then, he could not draw Inscription of Strain-type, limiting his ability to expand the internal space in Spatial Ring.

That ring was just a basic Spatial Ring with limited internal space of around one cubic meter. It can only store a couple of things.

Now he had learned how to draw Inscription of Strain-type and the Inscription of Condensing. Could he refine a Spatial Ring with a larger internal space?

Excitedly, he took out a white ring carved in a phoenix pattern.

The first step was to carve Inscription of Space on it.

Zhang Ruochen spent 15 minutes successfully carving six Inscriptions of Space on the ring.

There was an internal space of one cubic meter inside the ring.

The next step, also the most important step, was to carve Inscription of Strain-type to expand that space.

Zhang Ruochen held the pen, carving carefully. He drew as fluidly as floating clouds and flowing water.

“Boom!”

Once he carved successfully, the internal space instantly expanded.

One cubic, two cubics, three cubics...

The internal space quickly expanded to eight cubic meters and it was still increasing.

Zhang Ruochen injected all his Genuine Qi into the ring. He made full use of his cultivation to maximize the internal space of the ring.

Chapter 68: Space Areas

With his unremitting efforts, he expanded internal space of Spatial Ring to 12 cubic meters. Finally, the space became as big as a small house.

“Haa!”

The surface of the ring glistened and the internal space quickly turned into a separate space.

“With my current cultivation, the biggest internal space I can make is 12 cubic meters.”

12 cubic meters was not that big, but it was enough for a regular warrior.

When his cultivation improved, he could refine a ring with a bigger internal space in the future.

To carve the inscription was just the first step.

The next step was refining the ring.

The reason why Ruochen bought a weapon refining stove, which could refine Genuine Martial Arms of the seventh stage from Qingxuan Pavilion, was that he could refine a Spatial Ring. Under the refining fire, the internal space of the ring would stabilize, making the ring Genuine Martial Arms.

He put the ring in the stove and lit Fire Nature Spiritual Crystal under.

“Phew!”

Driven by Ruochen’s Genuine Qi, the crystal began to burn.

Zhang Ruochen needed only to control the strength of the fire, when the crystal was burning. When the stove needed stronger fire, he poured his Genuine Qi into the crystal, making the fire larger.

He sat by the stove with his legs crossed and summoned the Sacred Prime Tree painting floating on Qi Lake, placing it in front of him.

He stretched one hand over the painting and injected Genuine Qi in it to summon Blackie.

A dark light flashed and a giant black cat appeared in front of him.

Blackie had a rounded body with a raised tail. His eyes were like two round black crystals. Blackie asked, “Young man, have you learned all eight basic Inscriptions of Space?”

Zhang Ruochen nodded. “Yes! But I feel like there’s something lacking in the ring.”

Blackie said, “A Spatial Ring is just a basic treasure of space. But the ring you refined is the basic ring of the basic treasure.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, “What do you mean?”

Blackie answered, “The ring you refined lacks Master-Verifying Inscription. Once you lose your ring, anyone can open it and take your treasures from it.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded. “What else?”

Blackie said, “The Spatial Ring refined by Saint Monk Xumi can store not only treasures but also have the power to attack and defend.”

Zhang Ruochen’s eyes were gleaming. “Can I carve Inscriptions of Attack and Defense on the Spatial Ring?”

“Of course.”

Blackie continued, “If you have high attainments in the inscription, you can carve Inscription of Anonymity on your ring. That way, people can’t see your ring and they won’t covet it.”

He added, “But both Master-Verifying Inscription and Inscription of Anonymity are medium-level inscriptions. They’re so complicated that you can only carve them after your Spiritual Power has reached

level 30. Even if when you reached that level, you must learn and practice a lot before you can carve them. After all, Inscription of Space is harder than other inscriptions.”

Zhang Ruochen turned The Mystery of Time and Space to page four where the 16 kinds of medium level Inscriptions of Space were recorded.

Master-Verifying Inscription and Inscription of Anonymity were among them.

In addition, there was Inscription of Aggression and Inscription of Defense.

The easiest medium-level inscription was Master-Verifying Inscription. It was, however, still much harder than Inscription of Strain-type and Inscription of Condensing.

It would not be easy for Zhang Ruochen to carve Master-Verifying Inscription with his current cultivation.

“My Spiritual Power has reached the level required for carving medium-level inscriptions. If I work hard, I can carve Master-Verifying Inscription.”

Zhang Ruochen carefully examined Master-Verifying Inscription and kept it in his mind. Then he practiced on the Spiritual Paper.

About an hour later, the weapon refining stove emitted an odd noise.

He did it!

Zhang Ruochen was impatient to take out the ring out of the stove. He placed it in his hand and stared at it happily. “A Spatial Ring with an internal space of one cubic meter is valued at 100,000 silver coins. This one has 10 times that internal space. How much will it worth?”

Zhang Ruochen did not sell the ring at once, as he did not lack money. He decided to deal with it later.

Now that he had succeeded once, he would be able to refine more Spatial Rings.

“The entrance exam of the School of the Martial Market is in a month. I should try reaching a higher level.”

It was very difficult for him to reach Mid Stage of Black Realm from Initial Stage in just a month.

If so, he decided to start to practice Space Domain.

Zhang Ruochen turned the Mystery of Time and Space to page three. He devoted himself to studying Space Domain.

As for Space Domain, it utilized Soul of Space. Using oneself as the center, one could create a separate Martial Arts space. Zhang Ruochen pulled all strings in Space Domain, for he was its master.

His combat effectiveness would triple once he succeeded, at the very least.

Zhang Ruochen should have only been able to practice Space Domain once he reached Heaven Realm. But his soul was a warrior of Heaven Realm and he opened up Vessel of Spirit, which meant he can practice Space Domain in advance.

Time flew quickly.

A month outside the time and space spinel equaled three months inside.

For three months, Zhang Ruochen practiced Space Domain. He succeeded at the night before he was supposed to leave the palace.

“Space Area!”

Zhang Ruochen sat with his legs crossed in the room. He triggered his Martial Soul with Vessel of Spirit to make it float behind him.

The Martial Soul uses Spiritual Qi of the heaven and earth to converge into a Space Power. With Zhang Ruochen on the center, it created a sphere with a radius of 10 meters. That was his Space Domain.

It was as if Zhang Ruochen was wrapped in a giant white ball. Everything within the ball was under his control.

“Rise!”

When Zhang Ruochen raised his arm, a red copper lampstand three meters away flew up and floated delicately in the air.

“Slap!”

The lampstand abruptly fell to the ground. The flame went out and the oil inside spilled all over.

His Space Domain then broke and disappeared.

“The Space Domain I can currently build is frail. I must keep practicing. I feel traces of the power of thunderbolt in my Space Domain. Didn’t my Martial Soul of thunderbolt in the last life disappear?”

Zhang Ruochen held his Space Area again to watch it carefully and found small sparks of thunder and lightning in it.

Just then, a mosquito broke into his domain, flying towards him.

He smiled. An idea came to his mind.

“Slap!”

A thunderbolt from the void space, like a white sword, struck the mosquito into ashes.

Zhang Ruochen had discovered an amazing feature. As long as he was in the domain, his eyesight and hearing were enhanced several times. He could clearly see the fine scales on mosquito’s wings and he could audibly hear the most subtle of winds.

Was this the beauty of Space Domain?

“As the Mystery of Time and Space recorded, Space Domain is truly excellent. I just discovered 10 percent of its beauty.”

Zhang Ruochen wanted to keep practicing and discover more.

However, he would have to leave the palace to go to the School of the Martial Market tomorrow. He did not know when he would return again, so he wanted to visit Concubine Lin before he left.

Since he showed a powerful gift for the Martial Arts, Concubine Lin's status in the palace was on a steady rise. More and more maidservants and eunuchs served her, making Jade Palace a livelier place.

"Chen, I hear the School of the Martial Market is located at Omen Ridge where savage beasts run wild. It's a dangerous place. You must be careful!" Concubine Lin took his hand in hers, not wanting him to go.

But she knew that as children grew up, sooner or later, they would leave the arms of their parents and independently face challenges in the outside world.

Zhang Ruochen laughed. "Mother, you think too much! The school is on the outskirts of Omen Ridge. It's not dangerous. Besides, savage beasts dare not attack the school where have many masters."

Concubine Lin nodded. "I heard you and Ningshan became enemies! Ah, after all, she's your cousin. You're supposed to spare her life no matter her mistakes in the future."

Zhang Ruochen's expression turned grim. "Did the head of the Lin family ask you to tell me this?"

After consuming Spiritual Brawn, Concubine Lin had become more beautiful and youthful. She said in a soft voice, "Chen, your grandfather cares about you. But there are many things that he's forced to do that are out of his will."

Zhang Ruochen nodded. "Mother, I promise you I'll never touch the Lin family if they don't bother me again."

Concubine Lin nodded slowly. She was proud of her son as he had truly grown up! The School of the Martial Market would be a bigger world for him.

If he achieved great things in the school, those people who undermined them would have nothing more to criticize.

Zhang Ruochen then gave her mother 1,000 Spiritual Crystals, asking her to send them to Lin Mansion. 1,000 Spiritual Crystal was equal to 1,000,000 silver coins.

He did because he knew Concubine Lin had deep attachments to the Lin family. It would mend their relationship if she was the one who sent over the money.

If that family still did not change their attitudes, forcing him to be their enemies, he would not show any mercy.

When dawn broke the next day, Zhang Ruochen got on the roan antelope vintage carriage under the protection of royal guards.

Ninth Commandery Princess stood on top of the steps. Her body was slender and beautiful. "Ninth brother, I'll practice and reach the Black Realm soon. At that time, I'll also go to the School of the Martial Market."

Sitting on the antelope-horse, Zhang Ruochen laughed. "Ninth sister, I'll wait for your arrival!"

Zhang Ruochen then left the palace under the protection of General Gan Li and 100 royal guards, embarking on a new journey.

Chapter 69: Two Assassins

In Lin's Mansion, Lin Ningshan headed to Lin Chenyu's house as soon as she got the message. She said anxiously, "Brother, Zhang Ruochen has left the palace for the School of the Martial Market. Why haven't you made your move yet?"

Lin Chenyu smiled mildly. "Don't need to hurry."

"If you let him arrive at the School of the Martial Market, there's no chance to kill him anymore." Lin Ningshan said with coldness in her eyes. Her grudge against Zhang Ruochen was so deep.

Lin Chenyu was seated in a chair, his palms put together as he practiced an evil art. His entire body emitted a biting, chilling air. He said serenely, eyes closed, "Ningshan, even if you don't trust me, you should have faith in the Hades Department. Don't worry! He'll be dead before he makes it to the School of the Martial Market."

"The Hades Department? It's the largest assassin guild in Yunwu Commandery. Word on the street says it once killed warriors of the Heaven Realm." Lin Ningshan's eyes lit up. If they did hire the assassins from the Hades Department, Zhang Ruochen was dead.

Lin Chenyu laughed, "The Hades Department is not only the largest assassin guild in Yunwu Commandery but also the best in the entire Western Nine Prefectures. In this case, the Hades Department sends two assassins who had at least killed one warrior in the Dawn State of the Black Realm. Under their conjoint attack, Zhang Ruochen has no way to survive even if his cultivation has reached the Black Realm."

"I guess, we'll get the good news that the Ninth Prince is assassinated before noon. When the time comes, the Queen will reward me greatly for sure. Haha!"

When Lin Chenyu opened his eyes, his pupils had turned bloody red, giving an extremely savage feeling.

Lin Ningshan showed a little smile, and said, "Since the assassins are from the Hades Department, it's a sure thing."

...

There were some other warriors in Yunwu City who would go to the School of the Martial Market for this year's entrance examination besides Zhang Ruochen.

If they could pass the examination and study in the School of the Martial Market, it would be a sudden rising in life for them, just like finding the paradise. They would have access to endless practicing resources. Merely thinking about it was a huge excitement.

Those warriors were quite young. They were under their thirties, but all have the cultivation of the Black Realm. There was no weakling. Now, they all were gathering in the Coliseum of the Martial Market, waiting in silence.

There had been more than 30 young warriors in the Coliseum of the Martial Market when Zhang Ruochen arrived, including both male and female warriors.

“Everyone, look! His Highness Ninth Prince is also here!”

“It’s indeed the Ninth Prince. They said he just got the first place in the Division of Yellow not long ago. Could it be possible that he had broken through to the Black Realm?”

“Since he’s come to the Coliseum of the Martial Market, he must have reached the Black Realm. It’s unbelievable! His practicing speed is so fast. No wonder he is the Genius of Martial Arts.” A twenty-something girl in purple with a jade flute in her hand stared at Zhang Ruochen, who just walked out of his carriage. There was a strange light in her eyes.

A skinny man standing opposite of the girl in purple exchanged glances with her. They made a little nod and turned their attention towards a nearby Zhang Ruochen. There was a faint trace of malice in them.

They were the assassins from the Hades Department. Achieving the Black Realm at such a young age, they could be considered as top talents.

The girl in purple was named Zi Qian. She was incredibly beautiful and had some fame in Yunwu City. Yet no one knew that she was an assassin of the Hades Department.

The skinny man was named Chen Libing. He seemed a little sick and looked only 25 years old.

Before achieving the Black Realm, he had 10 winning streaks in the Yellow Fighting Palace. His best rank was 18th on the Yellow Board.

Thanks to his outstanding performance in the Yellow Fighting Palace, he was recruited by the Martial Market Bank to be the captain of the guards. With so many resources at hand, his cultivation grew fast and reached the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm.

A Yellow Board warrior who could achieve the Black Realm was definitely the strongest one among those in the same Realm. He could even kill people of a higher realm.

Zi Qian and Chen Libing were both considered as genius assassins in the Hades Department. This time, their main task was to assimilate into the School of the Martial Market in preparation for future assassinations.

To them, assassinating the Ninth Prince was just an additional task.

If the assassination succeeded, they surely would receive great rewards.

Even so, it was no small challenge for them to assassinate the Ninth Prince without exposing their true identities.

Liu Chengfeng immediately went up to Zhang Ruochen, greeting them with a fist and palm salute. He smiled and said, “Your Highness, I beg your pardon for the things I’ve done in the past.”

Somewhat stunned by Liu Chengfeng’s humility, Zhang Ruochen replied, “Brother Liu, what are you doing?”

Liu Chengfeng laughed. "Ever since I suffered defeat twice at your hands in the Yellow Level Palace, I had been agonizing. Thus, I made up my mind to turn over a new leaf. I didn't expect that, with this new insight, my cultivation broke through into the Black Realm before long."

Zhang Ruochen tentatively looked into Liu Chengfeng's eyes and smiled. "Congratulations, Brother Liu."

"If it wasn't for Your Highness inspiring me, I'm afraid I wouldn't have broken through into the Black Realm so quickly." Liu Chengfeng laughed.

Liu Chuanshen, the Manager of the Martial Market Bank, walked into the Colosseum of the Martial Market at the moment, along with other big shots. All eyes were drawn to them.

Liu Chuanshen walked towards Zhang Ruochen and smiled. "Your Highness, the Commandery Prince and I were comrades since we were young. "I hope you can forgive Chengfeng and your past enmities for my sake. If you both pass the examination and join the School of the Martial Market, you must support each other."

Liu Chuanshen then turned towards Liu Chengfeng and gave him a sharp stare. "Chengfeng, you're too reckless and not nearly calm enough. I hoped you could learn from the Ninth Prince from now on and take him as your role model."

Liu Chuanshen was so sophisticated that he knew Zhang Ruochen's talent was way higher than his own son. If his son could have more contacts with Zhang Ruochen, it would benefit him much in the future.

Liu Chengfeng retorted, "I'll learn from the Ninth Prince even if you didn't tell me so."

If Liu Chengfeng had really turned over a new leaf, Zhang Ruochen naturally would not mind forgiving and letting him off.

Liu Chengfeng was indeed a genius. He had reached the Completion of the Yellow Realm when he was 17 years old. Then, he became a warrior of Yellow Board and broke through to the Black Realm when he was 20 years old.

There were only a handful of geniuses like him in the whole of Yunwu Commandery.

With Liu Chuanshen standing next to Zhang Ruochen, Zi Qian and Chen Libing had no chance to attack.

By noon, there were 68 young warriors who reached the Black Realm gathered at the Warfare Palace. All the warriors who wanted to attend the School of the Martial Market in the entire Yunwu Commandery were there.

"Waaa!"

There came an earsplitting howl of an eagle from the sky. More than half of Yunwu City could hear it.

A huge blood-feathered eagle flew out of the cloud. When it spread out its wings, the distance between them was more than 70 meters. It looked like a bloody red hill, flying down from the sky.

The blood-feathered eagle showed an imposing manner, exerting huge pressure on the warriors below. Some warriors with lower cultivation even felt that their legs weakening and cold sweat all over their bodies.

“Blood-feathered eagle was a savage beast in the third superior class. If we only consider the destructibility, its power is scarier than the power of a warrior in the Completion of the Earth Realm,” a young warrior of the Black Realm said in his shaking voice.

Another young female warrior said, “I once saw a blood-feathered eagle in the outer-ring of Omen Ridge. With just a mouthful of flame from the eagle, an entire village became scorched to the ground. Everyone there was burnt to death.”

Hearing these comments, the young aristocrats who had never left Yunwu City turned pale with fright.

Yet Zhang Ruochen was perfectly calm and collected. He looked up into the sky and saw a middle-aged man in a silver robe standing on the head of the blood-feathered eagle.

The silver-robed man stood still with an ancient sword on his back. He was even more imposing than the blood-feathered eagle.

Liu Chuanshen smiled with his hands clasped behind his back. “Elder Xie, long time no see.”

The silver-robed man standing on the head of blood-feathered eagle said, “Elder Liu, are there only dozens of people from Yunwu Commandery taking the entrance examination this year? I remember there were 103 warriors of the Black Realm from Yunwu Commandery last year, but only three of them passed and became the external disciples of the school.”

Liu Chuanshen was the Manager of the Martial Market Bank in Yunwu Commandery, but in the Martial Market Bank, he and the silver-robed man were both Elders.

Liu Chuanshen smiled. “Don’t worry, Elder Xie. There will be more people passing the examination than last year. Who knows if we may even have some surprises.”

“Oh!”

Hearing Liu Chuanshen’s words, Xie Nantian thought of something and said, “Could it be that some extraordinary genius had popped up from Yunwu Commandery? A genius who can get into top 10 in the examination?”

Liu Chuanshen smiled mysteriously and said, “You’ll know when the time comes.”

Xie Nantian knew that Liu Chuanshen was a prudent man. There must be an incredible genius from Yunwu Commandery. He must definitely find the genius and take him in as a disciple in advance.

Xie Nantian stared at the 68 warriors of the Black Realm below. When his eyes fell on Zi Qian, he gasped.

Zi Qian was only about 22 years old, but she had reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm. She could be considered a genius even in the external School of the Martial Market.

“She must be the one that Liu Chuanshen meant.”

Xie Nantian showed a little smile in his eyes. Nodding slightly, he said, “Since you’re all here, come and stand on the back of the blood-feathered eagle. We’ll head to the School of the Martial Market now.”

The 68 warriors all demonstrated their martial art to leap to the back of the blood-feathered eagle, finding a place to sit.

Zhang Ruochen sat beside Liu Chengfeng. All of a sudden, he smelled a faint fragrance.

Zhang Ruochen turned around towards his left and saw a girl in purple sitting next to him. She was gorgeous and had a particularly lovely shape. Her breasts were perky and round, looking as if they were going to burst out of her purple dress.

Zhang Ruochen just glanced at her, and he drew back his sight.

“Waaa!”

The blood-feathered eagle soared upwards to the sky when all warriors were seated on its back. In just a short moment, it was out of Yunwu City, heading to Omen Ridge.

Chapter 70: The Inferior Commandery

The Bloody Eagle had not only a giant size, but also was very fast. It was said that one could cover 9,000 kilometers per day, thus many Heaven Realm warriors desired Blood-feathered Eagles as their mounts.

Within an hour, it had already flown out of Yunwu City and entered the boundless wilds.

Sitting on the back of Blood-feathered Eagle, Liu Chengfeng winked at Zhang Ruochen as if he had something to say.

Zhang Ruochen was a little confused and asked, “Brother Liu, what do you mean?”

Liu Chengfeng stared at the woman in a purple dress who sat next to Zhang Ruochen, and then he said in a lower voice, “Ninth Prince, did you not even know her?”

Zhang Ruochen glanced at the girl quickly and shook his head. “No, I don’t.”

Liu Chengfeng was handsome, however, he looked perverted when he laughed. He grinned and said, “Her name is Zi Qian. She’s very famous in Yunwu City. Not only beauty but also her talents for practicing Martial Arts. It’s said that she had already reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm and she will probably become a warrior of the Earth Realm in the future.”

He added, “There are countless sons of the government officials and the large-scale families want to marry her in Yunwu City. Yet, no one had won her heart. Rumor has it that the Third Prince, your brother, has also followed her but she refused him. Haha! I can’t believe we are going to the School of the Martial Market to take part in the exam together. We may perhaps become classmates, who knows? Well, my Ninth Prince, if you’re not interested in her, I’ll go after her!”

Although Liu Chengfeng spoke as low as he could, being a young warrior at the Dawn State of the Black Realm as well as sitting next to Zhang Ruochen, Zi Qian heard every single word that Liu Chengfeng had said.

Zhang Ruochen felt embarrassed and yet Liu Chengfeng acted like nothing happened. He nodded towards Zi Qian and started a conversation with Zi Qian. “Miss Zi, I’m Liu Chengfeng, son of the Manager of the Martial Market Bank. I’ve long heard of you and you’re just as beautiful as I expected!”

Indeed Zi Qian was very gorgeous, with long eyelashes and two crystal big eyes. She had rosy lips like a cherry and a fair body like white jade.

The Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan were two beauties in Yunwu City, but they were both so young that they could only be seen as teenage girls who were turning into adults. Zi Qian was different. Her figure was perfection when compared to the Ninth Commandery Princess and Lin Ningshan. Every curve of her body was gorgeous.

Zi Qian glanced at Liu Chengfeng and said, "Son of a Manager? Your father is just a presbyter in the Martial Market Bank let alone in the whole Yunwu Commandery."

Liu Chengfeng did not feel any awkwardness then he continued, "I think Miss Zi had a bias against me!"

"No, I don't. I just heard something bad about your personality, so I don't want to make friends with you," said Zi Qian.

She spoke frankly and made the young warriors around them laugh, which made Liu Chengfeng feel as if he had been put out.

Be mindful, the number of people who had been turned down by Zi Qian was countless. Some of their identities and talents were more or less the same as Liu Chengfeng. Yet he dared to chase after Zi Qian. He deserved to be humiliated.

Withdrawing his smiles, Liu Chengfeng said gravely, "How dare you humiliate me! I have many attendants in the School of Martial Market, I will lesson you there!"

"Ahem!"

Zhang Ruochen cleared his throat and said, "Brother Liu, haven't you decided to behave yourself?"

Liu Chengfeng answered, "Ninth Prince, didn't you hear how she insulted me? How dare she say I'm not a good person and she didn't want to make friends with me?"

"Calm down. If you want to build your reputation again, you have to learn how to control your temper and stop being so explosive. Always reflect on yourself before judging others. I'm sure that if you had behaved well previously, Miss Zi would want to be friends with you," said Zhang Ruochen.

"But... never mind, I don't want quarrels with a woman. Listen to your warning, Ninth Prince." Liu Chengfeng bit his teeth and bowed with his hands to Zi Qian as he said, "Sorry, Miss Zi! It was my fault."

Zi Qian looked at Zhang Ruochen and nodded. "It is nice to follow the Ninth Prince's instruction in the future."

"That's true," Liu Chengfeng answered.

Chen Libing, another killer who was sitting behind Zhang Ruochen, looked calm and said, "Since Mr. Liu is the son of the Martial Market Bank's Manager, I guess you're definitely the most familiar with the exam of the School. I wonder if you can tell us more about the exam?"

Liu Chengfeng laughed and said proudly, "I surely know a lot more about the School of Martial Market than any of you. To be honest, I've been to the School of the Martial Market and practiced there seven times before reaching the Black Realm. I've gained a lot each time I visited."

"There were 103 young warriors of Yunwu Commandery that attended the exam of Martial Market School last year. 28 of them died and 37 were injured and crippled during the exam. Only three warriors had passed the exam and become the external students of the School in the end."

Heard what Liu said, many young warriors took a deep breath since they never expected such high death rate.

Liu Chengfeng was rather happy to see everybody's reaction so he continued, "After all, Yunwu Commandery is just an inferior commandery with a population of 80,000,000. There are only over 100 people to attend the exam each time."

"I guess you've all heard of Square Commandery? It's a medium level commandery with a population of 300,000,000. A few hundred warriors attend the exam each year. There were 36 warriors who had become the external students of the School of Martial Market last year."

However, only 36 warriors had passed the exam in Yunwu Commandery. What a huge gap!

A warrior that looked 27 or 28 years old gasped. "In the Western Nine Prefectures, the Square Commandery is the only medium level commandery equipped with the strongest power. She is five times bigger than Yunwu Commandery."

"Unfortunately, commanderies, who are bound to Square Commandery, have always been oppressed."

"Two years ago, near the Mo River, there was a war between us and Square Commandery, which had plotted to capture a mine that located in Omen Ridge of our Commandery. However, the military force of Square Commandery was five times than ours and she sent 400,000 armies out to defeat us. Unfortunately, that mine had been plundered."

"It was said that Square Commandery had killed 30,000 of our soldiers, taken away seven cities and captured millions of people of our commandery in that fight. Those people who had become prostitutes and slaves worked at the mine without any sunlight. Some of them were living incredibly poorly and even being bullied by the people from Square Commandery. What a hate!"

Looking at Zhang Ruochen who sat aside, Liu Chengfeng said, "If we didn't fight back and let Square Commandery take away our mine, we would definitely be oppressed even more in the future."

Everybody signed. They all knew that Yunwu Commandery could not compete against Square Commandery.

Even Yunwu Commandery Prince was injured seriously and nearly died in the war two years ago.

Based on the size of population, territory, and the number of strong warriors, commanderies could be divided into three levels, ranging from the inferior commanderies, the medium level commanderies to the superior class commanderies.

Generally speaking, an inferior commandery had a population of less than 100,000,000.

Medium level commanderies had a population between 100,000,000 and 500,000,000.

Almost all superior class commanderies had populations of over 500,000,000.

Besides population size and territory area, the number of warriors should also be taken into consideration. The more Martial Arts warriors a commandery had, the stronger it was.

For example, a commandery could also be thought as a medium level commandery with a population of tens of millions, only if she had a huge number of warriors of the Earth Realm and the Heaven Realm.

Liu Chengfeng said, "It is said that Prince Huo Xing will lead more than 600 warriors of Square Commandery to attend the exam of the School of the Martial Market this year. Square Commandery had been managing to gobble up Yunwu Commandery, I guess they'll once again suppress our warriors during the exam."

"They said the reason why so many of our young warriors died in the exam last year was that Square Commandery's students had targeted on them."

A young warrior said, "No wonder only three of our warriors passed the exam! Square Commandery suppressed us on purpose!"

"It's said that Prince Huo Xing of Square Commandery is a genius of Martial Arts who had reached the Black Realm at the age of 17. He is at the same time a Tamer who had captured lots of strong beasts."

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While some warriors were discussing Prince Huo Xing, some were worried about the exam of the School of the Martial Market this year.

After all, the examinee number of Square Commandery was 10 times than that of Yunwu Commandery. If they were to suppress Yunwu Commandery on purpose, more Yunwu Commandery's warriors would die.

At this moment, Zi Qian who was sitting next to Zhang Ruochen took a thin needle out of her hair and kept it between her two fingers without any trace.

Her body moved moderately closer to Zhang Ruochen.

There were altogether 68 warriors riding on the back of the Blood-feathered Eagle. No one would notice that if Zhang Ruochen died under the toxin of the Poisonous Bee Needle. None would know who poisoned him.

She was about to stab the needle into Zhang Ruochen!