

God Emperor 81

## Chapter 81: Poisoning

Zhang Ruochen's Qi Lake had expanded 10 times its previous size when he reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. That allowed him to store a lot more Genuine Qi.

A large amount of Genuine Qi he had already consumed recovered rapidly and became even more energetic. It flowed throughout his 36 Meridians and it soon created a large circle of vital energy.

"Swish."

He had released his Martial Soul and demonstrated the Space Domain.

When he was at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, the Space Domain could only cover a space with a surrounding area of 10 meters. Now at the Mid Stage, the size of the Space Domain had enlarged to 30 meters.

At the same time, Zhang Ruochen's mastery of the Space Domain had matured.

A Poisonous Bee suddenly flew into the Space Domain and attacked Zhang Ruochen. He thought for a second and activated the power of the space warps, attempting to change the flight path of the Poisonous Bee.

Zhang Ruochen's mastery of the Space Domain was so sophisticated that 10 Poisonous Bees would not be able to harm him even if he stood still.

"Swish!"

Zhang Ruochen swung his sword. The Poisonous Bee was cut in half and fell to the ground.

Qing You was standing nearby. He chuckled. "Even though you've broken through the realms, it won't change your final destination—dying by my hand!"

"Is it now?" Zhang Ruochen said.

"Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits."

Zhang Ruochen's body was surrounded by a light Blood Aura. With the stimulation of the Blood Aura, he dashed out and attacked Qing You with an explosive speed of 38 meters per second.

The speed he obtained surpassed most of the Dawn State warriors of the Black Realm.

"Elephant Galloping!"

The Genuine Qi inside Zhang Ruochen's body surged towards his arms. His palms were filled by the Genuine Qi; even the air moved with his hands.

"Green Devil Hand!"

Even though Zhang Ruochen had reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, Qing You wasn't afraid of him. There was only one thing Zhang Ruochen could do—die.

“Boom!”

Two powerful forces clashed together and created a deafening sound.

A strong wind circled around them, stripping the nearby trees of their leaves.

“Puff!”

Qing You spat out a mouthful of blood. He felt a powerful force roll through his arms that shook his internal organs.

Zhang Ruochen pressed his palm on top of Qing You’s. The power of his palm was getting stronger and stronger and kept forcing Qing You back.

“Boom!”

Qing You slid back 10 meters and bumped into the trunk of a huge tree. Again he spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Your power... How is your power stronger than mine? You are definitely going to die today!” Qing You’s face was distorted and he yelled. “Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts!”

The blood inside Qing You’s body seemed to burn. A large blood fog appeared behind his back. It combined together and turned into a two-meter tall image of a wolf.

“Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts” was the signature move of reaching the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

Boiling Animal Spirits, Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits, Soaring Animal Spirits, Animal Spirits Fixing Beasts...

For each Black Realm a warrior passed through, the Spiritual Blood in their bodies would be greatly increased and all sorts of phenomenal changes would occur.

If warriors at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm exploded out the power of Spiritual Blood and reached the “Boiling Animal Spirits”, their fighting force would be increased by 10 percent.

Warriors at the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, who used the power of Spiritual Blood and reached the “Power of Rainbow-like Animal Spirits”, would see a 30 percent increase.

Warriors at the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm could raise their fighting force by 50 percent if they used the Spiritual Blood power of the “Soaring Animal Spirits”.

When warriors reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm, the Spiritual Blood inside their bodies would condense into the shadow of a beast, and their power would be incredible. Once the warriors unleashed the power of their Spiritual Blood, their fighting force would double quickly.

Even if warriors of the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm were extremely talented, they would have difficulty defeating warriors of the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

It was said that by reaching the “Divinity of the Spiritual Blood” at the Completion of the Black Realm, the power of the Spiritual Blood of the warriors would be able to double in a short amount of time.

The power of Qing You had now doubled and all the Meridians in his body had thickened. He unleashed a palm towards Zhang Ruochen and sent him flying seven meters.

“Whoosh!”

Qing You didn't allow him to catch his breath. He had a sharp sickle in his hand and ran towards him. In a flash, he stood before him.

The inscriptions on the sickle had been activated and displayed a dazzling blood light. Together with the powerful knife energy, he swung towards Zhang Ruochen, aiming for his neck.

“Space warps!”

Space distorted again. Qing You swung the sickle over the top of his head.

Qing You had finally realized that something was wrong. His facial expression changed and said, “How is it possible? What technique did you use? No! You didn't escape from the attack of the Death Sickle. There was a distortion in space.”

“I can't believe you finally understand. Anyway, you're finished!”

Zhang Ruochen Whamed his sword back-handed. It passed through Qing You's throat and pierced through his body.

Qing You's eyes widened and he couldn't reconcile he had lost. His entire body shook severely and blood poured out from his mouth.

“Bang!” His body fell heavily to the ground.

The most outstanding genius of the Qing family in a century fell to the sword of Zhang Ruochen.

If he hadn't encountered Zhang Ruochen and with his talent, he would have definitely reached the Heaven Realm in 20 years, and become a martial arts legend.

Fortunately, Zhang Ruochen had broken through the Mid Stage of the Black Realm before the fight. Otherwise, it would have been hard to tell who would have lived and who would have died.

After killing Qing You, Zhang Ruochen felt relieved. He soon felt a feeling of weakness emerging. His sight darkened and he almost passed out.

“He is seriously injured and lost a lot of blood!”

Zhang Ruochen couldn't stop himself from falling to his knees. He supported himself with his palms on the ground and tried to keep himself awake.

He took the Saint Stone Pill for healing and sat cross-legged on the ground. Then he activated the Genuine Qi in his body in order to refine the Pill Spirit of the Saint Stone Pill.

Within a minute, Zhang Ruochen's injury was 20 percent recovered, but he was still very weak.

He would be in grave danger if he encountered any other warriors or savage beasts.

Suddenly, there were rustling sounds above his head.

A massive black shadow plunged from the sky and landed in front of Zhang Ruochen.

He looked at the shadow closely and saw that it was a giant black cat, as big as a lion. It had a pair of black wings.

“Meow!”

Blackie made a cat sound. His body contracted gradually and returned to its normal size. He moaned. “I’m so exhausted! That guy’s cultivation was beyond my expectations. I can’t believe he’s a Tamer and called for a number of carrion crows. Otherwise, I’d definitely have killed him!”

When he recognized that it was Blackie who was standing in front of him, he felt relieved and asked, “Prince Huo Xing escaped?”

“Yes!”

“I almost consumed all the Genuine Qi within my body just to fight him. Young man, give me a Spiritual Crystal. I need to recover my Genuine Qi,” Blackie said.

Zhang Ruochen took out a Spiritual Crystal and threw it to Blackie. He asked with curiosity, “How has your cultivation improved so greatly?”

While Zhang Ruochen had cultivated the Medium State of the Yellow Realm, Blackie’s fighting force had just reached the Medium State of the Yellow Realm. He was also weaker compared to Zhang Ruochen.

Yet the fighting force that Blackie had just demonstrated was powerful enough to confront warriors of the Dawn State of the Black Realm. Surprisingly, he fought well against Prince Huo Xing and was able to escape.

“I’ve told you before, my power has been sealed in the Yin Yang Wooden Glyph. You are the only person who can open that seal. The stronger your cultivation, the more seals you will be able to open, and my power will also grow stronger,” Blackie added.

“What happens when your seals are fully opened?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

Blackie looked up and said with pride, “That will be the time when I return to earth. Everyone will have to heed my command. All you have to do is follow and serve me. I will make sure that all the people of the Kunlun’s Field will fear and obey you.”

Blackie sighed. “Unfortunately, the cunning monk has a backup plan in case someone like you opens up the seal. With your cultivation, you’ll never be able to open up all the seals. Now I will go to the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel to recover my Genuine Qi. Young man, give me a Spiritual Crystal.”

Zhang Ruochen didn’t respond to what Blackie had said and instead asked, “There are lots of Spiritual Crystals in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel. Take them if you want. By the way, how much time will you need to recover your Genuine Qi?”

“With the help of the Spiritual Crystal, I will need half a day,” Blackie replied.

After Blackie went into the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel, Zhang Ruochen stood up and started searching the battlefield. It seemed that even Blackie himself knew that he would never be able to escape from the seal of the Yin Yang Wooden Glyph.

Moreover, he dared not harm Zhang Ruochen. If he were to die, it would again be forever sealed in the Yin Yang Wooden Graph.

Qing You was dead as well as the other seven warriors from Square Commandery. Only Prince Huo Xing escaped.

Zhang Ruochen searched Qing You's body and found 18 Beast's Eyeballs which equated to nine inferior-class level-two savage beasts that he had hunted down.

There was also a Two-Star VIP Card, 38 Spiritual Crystal, and 300 silver coins.

Zhang Ruochen didn't place too much hope in the Two-Star VIP Card. If he couldn't find Qing You's blood relatives, he wouldn't be able to withdraw them, so it wouldn't matter how many silver coins were on the card.

He picked up the Death Sickle Qing You had used and transferred Genuine Qi into it. He discovered that there were altogether 23 inscriptions carved on the Death Sickle which classified it as a fifth level Genuine Martial Arm. Its value was at least 10,000 silver coins.

The Death Sickle was indeed an expensive and precious weapon. He would make a lot of money once he sold it.

He kept searching the other seven warriors and found Beast's Eyeballs, weapons, Spiritual Crystals, and silver coins. He stored it all in the internal space of the Time and Space Spinel.

He knew that it wasn't the right time to count the treasures. Prince Huo Xing could come back anytime. With his current condition, he was surely not strong enough to defeat him.

He had to leave right away to find a safe place to rest and count all the items he had collected.

Suddenly he thought of Zi Qian, so he entered the forest where he fought with Qing You to see if he could find any trace of her.

"Ahh... Help..."

He heard a woman sobbing and moaning.

He separated the dense, thick grass and saw Zi Qian laying on the ground. She put her hand to her chest and shivered when she saw Zhang Ruochen. Her face turned red and said with a weak voice, "I... I'm poisoned... Help... me..."

She didn't seem to be asking for help with her usual soft and tempting voice, but more moaning the request.

She didn't look like she was in good condition. Her eyes were fuzzy, her eyelashes trembled, and her red lips were slightly open. A layer of pink covered her snow-white skin which smelled of sweat.

"Poisoned? What type of poison?"

Zhang Ruochen saw there was a mark of a black palm on Zi Qian's right shoulder that was caused by Qing You's Green Devil Hand.

It was the toxin of Green Devil Hand!

"Wait... It seems like there's more than one type of toxin!"

Zhang Ruochen kept checking her body. He found a bloody wound on her stomach, caused by Poisonous Bees.

There were three wounds on her body in total. On her neck, stomach, and left leg.

Her long legs shivered slightly and twisted together so hard that her culottes looked like they were going to be torn apart. He wasn't sure if it was because of the pain or something else.

## **Chapter 82: Detoxication**

Zi Qian had begun to hallucinate after being poisoned by the Poisonous Bees.

The second poison of Green Devil Hand made her lose her mind. She scratched holes in her clothes, exposing her snow-white skin.

"The Martial Arts that Qing You cultivates is relatively demonic. It specializes in absorbing the Genuine Qi inside a woman's body to build itself up. Green Devil Hand is a toxin that makes women go crazy with lust in order to make female warriors more easily defeated. This is going to be tough to handle!"

Zhang Ruochen didn't know how to detoxicate Zi Qian. He gave her a Red Pill to swallow.

He knew that it wasn't safe to stay in the forest, so he grabbed Zi Qian's arms and carried her on his back to search for a safer place to treat her.

Zi Qian was a killer and was most likely sent to kill Zhang Ruochen. It would have been completely understandable for him to leave her there to fend for herself.

Yet they had fought together before. If Zi Qian couldn't kill the seven warriors, he wasn't powerful enough by himself to fight his way out.

"Ah... Help me..."

Zi Qian's entire body was limp, as if she was intoxicated. Her beautiful face was rubbing Zhang Ruochen's and she was short of breath.

Zhang Ruochen couldn't help but be seduced by her soft hands. She slid her hands inside his clothes and started touching his chest.

He rushed inside the woods very quickly with Zi Qian on his back. He wanted to get away from where they had just fought.

Zi Qian kept touching his back. She started kissing his cheeks and left strawberry lipstick marks on his neck.

“When is she going to stop...”

He moved her face away from his head in order to stop her from kissing him.

Zi Qian’s hallucinations were getting worse.

“Boom!”

She tore off her clothes and wore only her white skintight underwear. Exposing most of her snow-white skin, she squeezed her plump chest towards Zhang Ruochen’s back.

She started breathing faster. Her body was boiling hot. She kept rubbing Zhang Ruochen’s back and kissing his cheeks, leaving traces of her moist lips.

“Beep!”

All of a sudden, a Kylin Hawk roared above Zhang Ruochen’s head.

Zhang Ruochen’s facial expression changed as he sensed something dangerous was coming. He stopped running, lay down in a hole, and concealed himself with grass and leaves.

He held his breath and looked up towards the sky.

He saw that Prince Huo Xing was standing on the Kylin Hawk’s back. He circled in the air as if he was looking for something.

Besides Prince Huo Xing, there was another man in the sky, riding on a two-headed gryphon dressed in white.

They were both looking down at the ground as if they were looking for something.

“Help... Help me... Please...”

Zi Qian’s sight was blurred. She hugged Zhang Ruochen tightly, breathing heavily and reached her hands into his clothes again.

“Don’t move!”

Zhang Ruochen held her from behind beneath him. He covered her mouth with one hand while he held her arms with the other. Otherwise, Zi Qian might yell or squirm around, alerting the two people in the air to their position.

If someone walked past both of them right now, they would have thought that Zhang Ruochen was doing something terrible to Zi Qian.

Even though Prince Huo Xing stood on the back of the Kylin Hawk and circled in the air, he couldn’t find any trace of Zhang Ruochen or Zi Qian. He had a cold-blooded look on his face and said, “They escaped! Square Commandery has suffered a great loss this time. Both Feng Zhiyi and Qing You were killed by Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian. The hate inside me will never go away if we don’t kill them both!”

Standing on the two-headed gryphon’s back, Feng Zhilin also had a cold look on his face and said, “The Ninth Prince from Yunwu Commandery, right? He killed my brother and I’ll make sure he will pay!”

Feng Zhilin was Feng Zhiyi's older brother. His cultivation had reached the Final State of the Black Realm. He had become the external student of the School of the Martial Market two years ago.

He was also one of the members of the inspection team in the first-round examination of the School, and was responsible for saving the new students should they be in danger.

"Since they're gone, I should probably head off. If other members of the inspection team realize that I'm with you, they'll report to the presbyters of the School that I'm committing a crime," Feng Zhilin said.

Prince Huo Xing nodded and said, "You're right! You should go, Brother Feng! They are lucky to have escaped this time, but luck won't always be on their side. We will hunt them down next time!"

Prince Huo Xing and Feng Zhilin separated and flew away in different directions.

"I didn't know that he is Feng Zhiyi's brother. I have to find him, so I can withdraw the silver coins from Feng Zhiyi's Two-Star VIP Card." Zhang Ruochen began to memorize Feng Zhilin's features so that he would be able to recognize him in the future.

Suddenly, a massive force from Zi Qian shook Zhang Ruochen off and pressed him down underneath her.

Zhang Ruochen shook his head and moved his finger towards Zi Qian's glabella.

Zi Qian's Qi Lake shivered severely. She closed her eyes and fell limply on top of his body.

"This truly is a horrible toxin if it is able to turn a cold-blooded killer into a person with such dissipated behavior. You're lucky I saved you! Otherwise, you would have been dead!"

He helped her stand up and carried her on his back again.

After having spent an hour getting 100 kilometers away from the forest, Zhang Ruochen had finally found a relatively safe cave to rest.

He put her down on the ground. He saw that her lips had turned purple, and her face was pale. If she didn't get medical help right away, she would undoubtedly die.

He helped her to sit up and walked to her back.

He sat down cross-legged behind her and activated the Genuine Qi in his body. The second level of the "Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emyrean" was floating in his mind.

"The Ming's Jade Heaven, the second level of the Scripture of Emperor Ming's Emyrean!"

With the Genuine Qi running, the Genuine Qi inside his body had started to spin gradually and turned jade-white.

"Beep!"

He thrust both of his palms towards her naked back.

The jade-white Genuine Qi had been released from his palms. It went through the Mid-heaven Meridian on Zi Qian's back and entered her body.



“The Emperor’s Heaven, the first level of the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean.”

“The second level of the Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean, the Ming’s Jade Heaven!”

The quality of Zhang Ruochen’s Genuine Qi would change after each level of cultivation. Not only was the purification of his Genuine Qi far better than of other warriors in the same realm, but it also had a certain nature.

For example, the second level of the “Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean” allowed warriors to cultivate a Pure Jade Genuine Qi which could cleanse unhealthy substances and toxins from the body.

In other words, once he had cultivated the second level of the “Scripture of Emperor Ming’s Emphyrean”, he was able to detoxicate most of the poison in his body, if not all.

The Pure Jade Genuine Qi in Zi Qian’s body had activated a large circle of vital energy. It flowed back to Zhang Ruochen’s palm and returned to his Qi Lake.

After 36 circulations, the poison inside Zi Qian’s body had subsided greatly. Her lips soon turned red again and her face looked blushed.

“Aww!”

Zi Qian spat out a mouthful of the toxic black blood.

She woke up slowly and felt a sense of coldness from her body. She looked down and discovered that she wasn’t wearing any clothes and her body was completely exposed.

Both of Zhang Ruochen’s palms were still pressing on her back. He exclaimed. “Don’t move! Activate the Genuine Qi inside your body with me now. It’s the only way to fully discharge all the poison in your body.”

Having heard what Zhang Ruochen said, it was hard for her to stay calm.

“Boom!”

She exploded a massive force from her body and pushed Zhang Ruochen away.

She covered her chest with one hand to protect her privacy while she grabbed the sword with her index and middle finger of the other hand. She pointed the sword towards Zhang Ruochen glabella and asked coldly, “What have you done to me?”

Zhang Ruochen felt absurd and said, “Stay calm, will you? If I wanted to take advantage of you, I would have done so a long time ago! I didn’t do anything to you! Look at my neck, my clothes, and the scratches on my chest! These are all because of you. If I hadn’t stopped you right away...”

“Stop it!”

She stared at the red marks on his neck and her face turned pink. She bit her lip and took a few steps back.

Her body was still weak and she couldn’t stand still. She fell to the ground and breathed heavily.

Zhang Ruochen stood up and gasped. "I warned you not to mess around in your current condition. You are such a stubborn woman! The poison inside your body hasn't been cleaned yet. They'll take hold again if you don't do as I say!"

"That's none of your business!"

Zi Qian didn't believe what he had said. She removed a small bottle from her Spatial Ring, took a Detoxification Pill out, and swallowed it.

Suddenly, she saw Zhang Ruochen walking towards her. He covered her tiny body with a large piece of cloth.

Zi Qian shivered and looked down at the ground. There was confusion in her eyes. She finally got the courage to ask, "Other than the marks on your neck, nothing happened between us right?"

Zhang Ruochen laughed. "What else could have happened? Haha!"

Zi Qian's cheeks blushed. Looking at the handsome youngster in front of her, she bit her lip and looked embarrassed. She wanted to run away and hide, because she felt so awkward.

"Oh yes, one more thing!"

Zhang Ruochen took out the fish intestines sword hidden in the sleeve and handed it to Zi Qian. "I found it in your clothes. Take it."

Zi Qian face suddenly changed. She stared at the fish intestines sword hidden in the sleeve that Zhang Ruochen was holding and said, "You... You already know I'm a killer from the Hades Department?"

He took a closer look at the fish intestines sword in his hand. He nodded and smiled. "Who else would use this type of sword except the killers of the Hades Department?"

Zi Qian's beautiful eyes stared at Zhang Ruochen and said, "Since you've discovered that I'm a killer from the Hades Department, you must have known that I was sent to kill you. Why did you save my life?"

"Well... I couldn't just sit there and watch you die, could I?"

He continued, "Even so, if you did try to kill me, you would have died slowly. There's no way that you'd still be alive standing in front of me. Since you can't kill me and didn't kill me, why couldn't I save you?"

Zi Qian felt ashamed after hearing that. She almost bit through her lip and said, "Zhang Ruochen, did anyone ever tell you that you're a jerk?"

### **Chapter 83: End of First-round Examination**

As for Zi Qian's question, Zhang Ruochen's answer was surely no.

Who would admit to being a jerk?

The following day, Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian hid in the cave to recover.

With the help of the healing pill, Zhang Ruochen's condition of an injury had recovered 70-80% by nightfall. Even though he hadn't fully recovered yet, he was confident that he could defeat Prince Huo Xing should he encounter him.

Although both Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian almost died, they had gained a lot this time.

On top of the 14 Beast's Eyeballs that Zhang Ruochen now owned, there were 18 and 26 Beast's Eyeballs found on Qing You and the seven warriors' bodies respectively.

Altogether Zhang Ruochen had 58 Beast's Eyeballs which equated to hunting down 29 inferior-class level-two savage beasts.

"Since I'm at the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, I only need to hunt down 10 inferior-class level-two savage beasts in order to pass the examination, which means I've already exceeded the target."

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly and looked over at Zi Qian. "Miss Zi, how many Beast's Eyeballs do you have?"

Zi Qian sat cross-legged on the ground, retreated her Genuine Qi and said, "68 in total, which equals to hunting down 34 inferior-class level-two savage beasts."

Warriors at the Dawn State of the Black Realm were required to hunt down 40 inferior-class level-two savage beasts in order to pass the examination.

Zhang Ruochen took out 12 Beast's Eyeballs and handed them over to Zi Qian. "Here you go."

Zi Qian took the 12 Beast's Eyeballs without hesitation and put them inside her pocket.

"You really don't care I was sent to kill you? Do you know how much your head is worth on the black market?" She asked.

He was counting the Spiritual Crystals, silver coins, and Genuine Martial Arms placed on the ground. "How much?" He asked without looking at her.

"150 Spiritual Crystals, equal to 150,000 silver coins."

She chuckled. "With that many silver coins, I could hire a master of the Earth Realm to kill you!"

He turned and passed her a bag. He said, "Here, 150 Spiritual Crystals. Keep them safe."

"What do you mean?"

She was shocked. She took the bag from him and opened it.

The bag glittered in different colors. A strong Spiritual Qi surged out from it and the density of the Spiritual Qi in the air rapidly increased.

It was indeed 150 Spiritual Crystals!

Zhang Ruochen gave her a faint smile and said, "I found them on Qing You's and the other seven warriors' bodies. Like we agreed before, I take the Genuine Martial Arms and Pills and you take the Spiritual Crystals."

Zi Qian bit her lip slightly and stared at Zhang Ruochen. She took the 150 Spiritual Crystals and put them away.

Every young warrior who had joined the examination of the School of the Martial Market was a genius of Martial Arts. They came from either a large family or powerful Suzerains.

Their resources and properties for practice were no doubt abundant. 10 of their properties would equate to the family property of a master of the Earth Realm.

Zhang Ruochen put away all the Genuine Martial Arms and dozens of elixir bottles. He said, "Mission complete! We can finish the first-round examination in advance. Let's go back!"

"No! Although we've killed 24 warriors of Square Commandery, we didn't harm their foundation. Two of their best warriors, Feng Zhiyi and Qing You, have already been killed by us. We can attack the remaining warriors from Square Commandery as we please!" Zi Qian had a cold-blooded look on her face and didn't want to finish the first-round examination yet.

He rubbed his chin softly and asked, "You really think that killing all the warriors of the Square Commandery will earn you more than the title as a killer, don't you?"

"I do! So what?"

Zi Qian made no secret of the fact that she wanted to kill them all. She continued, "Don't you want to protect Yunwu Commandery seeing as you're its Ninth Prince? If we both leave Omen Ridge now, the other young warriors of Yunwu Commandery would not be able to confront the warriors of Square Commandery and end up dying in the woods!"

Zhang Ruochen responded. "Well... Seems like I really shouldn't stand by and just watch them die!"

Zi Qian put a sweet smile on her face while her long eyelashes glittered. She said softly, "Fighting in wars will also greatly increase our cultivation. The more resources we collect, the faster we cultivate after entering the School of the Martial Market."

"Let's do it! I don't want any of the warriors of my Commandery to die!" Zhang Ruochen said with a determination to protect his people.

Darkness had covered the woods. Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian turned into two shadows and dashed into Omen Ridge.

Zhang Ruochen had reached the speed of 38 meters each second which was similar to Zi Qian's.

A rain of blood covered the woods that night.

Another 35 warriors of Square Commandery were killed by Zi Qian's sword.

They had again collected a lot of resources: the Beast's Eyeballs, Spiritual Crystals, silver coins, tens of Genuine Martial Arms, numerous pills, and more than 10 kilograms of Spiritual Brawn.

During the day, they hid and rested in the cave in order to heal and recover their Genuine Qi.

Zhang Ruochen had refined seven Triple-purity Genuine Qi Pills. He had finally stabilized the cultivation of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. His body was fully healed as well as looking sharp and fresh.

Times passed and nightfall came.

The sky was gloomy, soon it had turned to night.

This was the last night of the first-round examination.

There was a roar in Omen Ridge that lasted the whole night. Some candidates grasped the Kylin Ball and called for help with the Kylin Smoke.

Yet when the inspection team arrived, the candidate had already died. The killer had disappeared into the woods.

“That’s strange! The examination this year is such a tragedy. 20 young warriors of the Square Commandery have been killed!” A member of the inspection team said with a long spear in his hand.

Another inspector crossed his arms, stood next to the dead body and said, “I’m afraid there are more than 20.”

“I wonder what kind of trouble Square Commandery has encountered this year!”

“Let’s go! The examination is going to end tomorrow afternoon anyway!”

The two inspectors rode on their two-headed gryphons, turned into two massive shadows and left the woods.

The slaughter had continued until noon the next day. 49 warriors in total had been killed by Zi Qian.

Since Zi Qian was a warrior of the Dawn State of the Black Realm, the warriors of both the Initial Stage and Mid Stage of the Black Realm had no way to fight back. They all died with one strike of her sword.

Zhang Ruochen followed behind Zi Qian and did nothing.

That was because there was someone sweeping and searching for the treasures. Besides, that person was more than happy to do so.

To be more precise, it was a cat, not a human being.

“Haha! Two kilograms of Spiritual Brawn, it’s really worth the search!”

Blackie found a jade box on the body of a Mid Stage warrior of the Black Realm. He opened the jade box and a strong fragrance emerged.

Stored inside the jade box was Spiritual Brawn.

“21 Spiritual Crystal, 300 silver coins. This warrior is way too poor!”

Blackie shook his head with disappointment. He threw the bag full of Spiritual Crystals and silver coins to Zhang Ruochen and caught up with Zi Qian.

While Zi Qian continued killing the warriors of Square Commandery, Blackie searched for treasures. A human and a cat worked exceptionally well together.

Zhang Ruochen followed behind them moderately. He lifted his head and looked at the sky. “It’s almost noon. We should head back, otherwise, we’ll be late and be disqualified.”

“Go back? For what? I want to try to kill two people at the same time!” Blackie looked fierce and exposed his sharp teeth and claws.

He stared at Blackie coldly and said, “Do you want me to seal you back to the Graph right now?”

“Relax! I’m just joking with you!” Blackie covered his teeth and claws, and looked gentle again.

Zi Qian was curious about Blackie when she first met him. Soon after, she got used to how Blackie and Zhang Ruochen talked. She glanced at Blackie and quickly shifted her attention away.

If a savage beast learned to speak the language of humans when they were young, those clever savage beasts could indeed communicate with humans.

Savage beasts that were able to speak the language of humans were very rare.

“I’ll keep your treasures for now. We’ll share them when we get back to the School of the Martial Market.” After she wiped the blood off her sword, Zi Qian put it back in the sword scabbard.

Zhang Ruochen could clearly feel that the Martial Arts realm of Zi Qian had enhanced a lot after three days of hunting. She was not far away from cultivating the Sword Following the Mind, the realm of an Advanced Stage.

At her current practice pace, she would definitely reach the Advanced Stage of the Sword Following the Mind before cultivating to the Earth Realm.

“She should cultivate the Slaughter Kendo!” Zhang Ruochen thought.

“Mew!”

Blackie shrank his body to the size of a fist. He jumped onto Zhang Ruochen’s arm and went inside his pocket.

Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian left Omen Ridge for the School of the Martial Market.

Shortly after, they met an Outer Palace student of the School of the Martial Market along the way.

The Outer Palace student let them sit on his two-headed gryphon’s back and led them back to the School of the Martial Market.

The generous Outer Palace student was called Wang Qi and had cultivated to the Final State of the Black Realm.

Wang Qi glanced at Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian. He couldn’t help staring at Zi Qian. She was beautiful and elegant, and could definitely be called an Iceberg Beauty.

She was as pretty as Three Beauties of Western Campus.

Wang Qi moved slightly towards Zi Qian and said, “I started practicing at the School of the Martial Market three year ago with a ranking of 238 among all the external students of Western Campus. Which Commandery Prince do you two belong to?”

Zi Qian's eyes were cold. She grabbed her sword and stood on top of the two-headed gryphon's back without responding to Wang Qi. She had encountered numerous men hitting on her before. She didn't bother talking to anyone of them.

Zhang Ruochen smiled and said, "I'm the Yunwu Commandery Prince."

"Yunwu Commandery!"

Wang Qi shook his head slightly as if something was wrong. Yet his eyes were still focused on Zi Qian and he gasped. "Things are getting tough for the warriors from Yunwu Commandery in the School of the Martial Market. They have always been suppressed by Square Commandery, especially the freshmen. They are always bullied if none of the stronger warriors at the School protected them. Some of the freshmen have strangely disappeared over the past few years. Rumor has it they have been killed by the students of Square Commandery. My junior sister apprentice, if you encounter any problems just say my name, Wang Qi. People in Western Campus honor me and won't dare cause you any trouble."

"Thank you for your kind reminder, Wang Qi. We will be careful when we arrive back at the School." Zhang Ruochen responded with courtesy.

While they were chatting, they had already flown above Western Campus of the School of the Martial Market.

#### **Chapter 84: The Warrior of Division Profound**

When they went back to the drill ground of Western Yard, Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian found nearly 400 young warriors gathered there. Many of them had injuries and their faces were full of disappointment.

Some were in high spirits, laughing and talking happily. It was apparent they had completed the first round of the exam, which explained their confidence.

People were discussing vividly in the drill ground, mostly about the thrilling experience of hunting the savage beasts.

"I heard there are two killing stars in the exam this year. They caused a foul wind and a rain of blood in Omen Ridge, killing many young warriors."

"I heard that too! The killing stars targeted warriors from Square Commandery, killing at least 50 of them."

A warrior from Yunwu Commandery sighed. "We're lucky that the two killing stars fended off warriors from Square Commandery so that they didn't have the energy to fight us. I don't think I would pass the first round otherwise."

Zhang Ruochen walked past those warriors with a small smile on his face and hand over 20 Beast's Eyeballs to the disciple in charge of counting them.

Zi Qian handed over 80 Beast's Eyeballs.

They both passed the first round of the School of the Martial Market exam and returned to the drill ground to join the others from Yunwu Commandery.

They both kept the extra Beast's Eyeballs to themselves.

The eyeballs of savage beasts all had medicinal value. They could be used for making Pills. If they sold them, they could make a hefty profit.

It was now noon, and the first round of the exam was over.

Standing on a dais, Elder Situ held a scroll made of animal skin and began reading the names of the warriors who had passed the first round.

"1,537 people took part in the first round of the exam, 468 passed. The names are as follows: Jiang Ying, Liu Chengfeng, Xia Hao..."

The young warriors who had passed left the drill ground after Elder Situ finished reading their names. The others were sent back to their own commanderies.

Elder Situ continued, "Warriors, who have passed the first round, will rest in the drill ground tonight. The second round, 'Breaking Through the Wu Tower', will start tomorrow morning. The top 120 who finish the second round will pass. The others are all eliminated.

"Your two seniors will keep order here tonight. Whoever dares to make trouble before 'Breaking Through the Wu Tower' round will be punished severely."

Elder Situ walked off the dais and left the drill ground.

Two pretty ladies, one tall and the other short, walked into the drill ground of Western Yard from the ancient building after Elder Situ left.

The external students of the School of the Martial Market seemed alarmed when they saw the two ladies and bowed immediately.

"Greetings, Senior Huang and Senior Duanmu!"

"Greetings, Senior Huang and Senior Duanmu!"

...

Wang Qi, the external student who escorted Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian back to the School of the Martial Market earlier, also bowed to the two ladies in respect.

Senior Huang was tall and slender with royal blue hair that reached her waist. Her skin was fair and smooth, like the petals of the pear blossom.

Senior Duanmu appeared only 13 or 14 years old. Her facial features were quite delicate, with long and fine eyelashes and a pair of bright eyes. Despite her youthful appearance, her body was fully grown. Her breasts were perkier than Senior Huang's.

More importantly, they were both devastatingly beautiful, with appearances that could topple nations.



They climbed up the stone stage and glanced at the young warriors in the drill ground. They sat with their legs crossed on the stage and closed their eyes, as if they were practicing.

In the drill ground of Western Yard, everyone's attention was drawn to those two ladies. No one could look away.

But the external students of the School of the Martial Market who had studied here for one or two years dared not look at them, as if it was a taboo.

Zhang Ruochen also glanced at those ladies and said with a little surprise, "They're wearing colorful robes!"

Generally, external students of the school could only wear white robes.

Only the internal students of the school could wear colorful robes.

Liu Chengfeng stared at the ladies and replied quietly, "Even external students of the school could wear colorful robes if they become Warrior of Division Profound or earn enough merits."

Liu Chengfeng's eyes would typically light up and he would be impatient to make a move when he saw pretty ladies.

But he showed no trace of being a player when he saw the two ladies. Instead, he seemed a little afraid.

Zhang Ruochen was a little curious. "Are they Warriors of Division Profound?"

Liu Chengfeng nodded at once. "It's always the Yin that flourishes while the Yang declines in the West House of the School of the Martial Market. Females are extremely powerful while males hardly have any say in Western Campus. They're called the imperial consort of Western Palace inside the School of the Martial Market. They control the whole Western Campus. If any men offend them, they're dead meat. Alas!"

Zhang Ruochen looked serious. If those two ladies were indeed Warriors of Division Profound, they were very powerful.

It was harder to enter the Profound Board than to enter the Yellow Board.

The Yellow Board was only the ranking list of the top warriors of the Yellow Realm in one commandery. Firstly, the Yellow Realm was quite low. Secondly, the Yellow Board's territory was very narrow.

The Profound Board was different. Only the top warriors of the Black Realm could enter it.

Moreover, the Profound Board involved the 36 commanderies around Omen Ridge.

In other words, only the top warriors of the Black Realm of the 36 commanderies could enter the Profound Board.

In a manner of speaking, any warrior who could enter the Profound Board had the power to fight warriors of the Earth Realm. The top ranking people of the Profound Board were even more powerful than warriors of the Earth Realm.

If the two ladies on the stone stage were indeed Warriors of Division Profound, could it be that they could fight the top warriors of the Earth Realm?

No wonder that the external students were all afraid of them.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew his gaze. Instead of staring at the two ladies, he looked around and saw there were 31 young warriors from Yunwu Commandery who had passed the first round.

In previous years, no one dared to expect such an achievement.

There were 162 people from Square Commandery who had passed the first round. It was still the best result of the Western Nine Prefectures. Of course, it was still not as good as the previous years.

Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian had killed 98 warriors from Square Commandery. Many of them had been very powerful. It surely shocked the other martial artists of Square Commandery.

Prince Huo Xing sat among the warriors from Square Commandery with his legs crossed. He shot Zhang Ruochen and Zi Qian a cold glare, with strong malice brewing in his eyes.

Zhang Ruochen also stared at Prince Huo Xing who sat afar and noticed his Spiritual Blood had increased a lot. Even his eyes looked sharper.

“Prince Huo Xing has broken through to the Dawn State of the Black Realm!” Zhang Ruochen said.

“What?”

Liu Chengfeng’s faced changed as he cried out in surprise. “Prince Huo Xing is incredibly talented and he’s also a genius tamer. He must have strong Spiritual Power. With his breakthrough to the Dawn State of the Black Realm, maybe he’ll be ranked first in this exam.”

Zhang Ruochen asked, “What happens if you become the first in the exam? Are there any benefits?”

Liu Chengfeng said, “Never mind being first, you’ll be well-rewarded if you get to the top 10.

“Even the 10th place would get 100 points of merits. The ninth would get 200 points, and so forth. The fourth would get 700 points.

“The third ranked would get 1,000 points.

“The second would get 2,000 points.

“The first ranked would get 3,000 points.”

A young warrior beside them scoffed. “The first only gets 3,000 points of merits. It’s not much!”

Liu Chengfeng rolled his eyes. “The merits of the School of the Martial Market can be exchanged for any Practice resources, like Pills, Genuine Martial Arms, savage beast mounts, slaves, buildings... The limitation is your imagination. There’s nothing the School can’t give. It’s beyond your wildest imagination.

“If you have enough merits, the School of the Martial Market could help you buy a commandery.

“One merit of the School of the Martial Market equals one Spiritual Crystal. The reward for the first ranked equals 3,000 Spiritual Crystal, in another word, 3,000,000 silver coins.”

“Three... million... silver coins...” Those young warriors from Yunwu Commandery were all shocked.

Zhang Ruochen was surprised too. He had heard of the wealth of Martial Market Bank, but he did not truly comprehend it until this moment.

Even seventh-class families like the Lin family had to use up all their savings and unite all their forces to gather 3,000,000 silver coins.

Now, to obtain 3,000,000 silver coins, all he had to do was to get the 3,000 points reward for the first ranked new disciple.

With such a fortune, one could surely trade for massive Practice resources to speedily increase one’s cultivation.

“The ‘Breaking Through the Wu Tower’ round tomorrow is the key. The better your performance is, the higher your marks are.”

Liu Chengfeng continued, “Although it tests your cultivation, it tests your talents and comprehension even more, such as Spiritual Power, Five Senses, willpower, judgment...”

Zi Qian’s eyes lit up. “I’m going to get into the top three tomorrow.”

Liu Chengfeng glanced at Zhang Ruochen thoughtfully. “What about you, Ninth Prince?”

Zhang Ruochen smiled. “I know nothing of the Wu Tower. I can only try my best.”

### **Chapter 85: The Wu Tower**

Zhang Ruochen did not know much about the Wu Tower. He had no idea how many floors and levels he would be able to get through.

Beside him, Liu Chengfeng seemed excited. He lowered his voice and said, “Let me tell you guys a secret. I’ve practiced at the Wu Tower three times before the exam.

“Given my current Realm of Martial Arts, I’m very confident I can pass the three obstacles on the first level. As for the second level, I should be able to pass one or two.

“According to the previous results, as long as you can pass the three obstacles on the first level, you’ll stand out and be accepted as an external student of Western Campus.

“People who are able to pass the three obstacles on the second level are incredibly rare. There is either one or two in a year or no one at all.” Liu Chengfeng laughed. “Given my talent and the practice I’ve had, I have a chance to be in the top 10.”

Warriors from Yunwu Commandery all looked at Liu Chengfeng with envy.

“Master Liu, please tell us more about the situation in the Wu Tower! At least we know what to expect when we get inside. I have eight Spiritual Crystals here, please take it.” A male warrior pressed the Spiritual Crystals into Liu Chengfeng’s hands.

“Master Liu, we are all warriors from Yunwu Commandery. If we get into the School of the Martial Market, we can look out for each other! Please tell us more! Here are five Spiritual Crystals. Please keep them.” Another warrior reluctantly held out five Spiritual Crystals and passed them to Liu Chengfeng.

Everyone started taking out their Spiritual Crystals for Liu Chengfeng to learn more information about the Wu Tower.

Shortly after, Liu Chengfeng had collected a small pile of Spiritual Crystals. The smile on his face got even brighter. Clearing his throat, he said, “It’s not a problem to tell you about the Wu Tower. First, the Tower has seven levels with three obstacles each.

“When I first entered the Wu Tower to practice, I was only at the Completion of the Yellow Realm. I didn’t even make it through the first obstacle. When I entered the second time, I passed the first obstacle, but failed on the second. The third time, I got through the first two obstacles, but failed again in the third.”

A warrior asked, “What are the three obstacles on the first level?”

Liu Chengfeng smiled. “I can’t reveal too much, but I can tell you this. The first obstacle tests your battle strategy, the second tests your agility and speed, while the third tests your Spiritual Power and willpower.”

Liu Chengfeng’s answer was vague and everyone was still confused. They did not know what they were going to face in the Wu Tower.

While the warriors below were discussing the Wu Tower, the two beauties sitting crossed legged on the stone stage were also talking to each other.

Senior Huang swept her eyes around her and said, with a voice as cold as ice, “The cultivations of the new students this year are pretty good. 15 of them have reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm while 47 are in the Advanced State. If nothing goes wrong, the top 10 of this year’s exam should come from these 62.”

Senior Duanmu’s eyelashes were long and curved and her eyes sparkled when she smiled. “We can’t be sure though. The obstacles within the Wu Tower are more about testing the warrior’s talent, battle strategy, willpower, and Spiritual Power. Perhaps there will be a prodigy from the Initial or Mid Stage!”

Senior Huang said, “Although it’s said that the Wu Tower tests talent, the higher the cultivation, the larger advantage. Let’s see if there will be a prodigal warrior this year who can pass the third obstacle on the second level!”

“A freshman passing the third obstacle on the second level? That’s far too difficult!”

Senior Duanmu spoke again. “There are three people who might succeed: Prince Huo Xing of Square Commandery, Chi Minghai of Flame Dragon Commandery, and Yao Yintong of Moon Commandery. Qing

You of Square Commandery was also a competitive warrior, but unfortunately, someone killed him in the first exam.”

Senior Huang’s mouth twitched upwards. “Then, isn’t the one who killed Qing You more powerful?”

Senior Duanmu’s eyes lit up. “You’re right! I wonder who killed him!”

Duanmu’s eyes started searching through more than 400 young warriors below. To be able to kill Qing You, they would have to be one of the strongest among the new students.

Senior Huang once again closed her eyes. “Since you’re so curious, let’s make a round at the Wu Tower tomorrow and see what kind of prodigies there are.”

“Great idea!”

Duanmu was very excited and began anticipating the breakthrough of the Wu Tower tomorrow.

At dawn, when the first light shined at West Campus of the School of the Martial Market, 468 young warriors were brought to the foot of the Wu Tower under the guidance of the nine presbyters.

The Wu Tower was seven stories tall. The entire tower radiated in a golden glow. It did not resemble a tower built by man, but more like seamless Genuine Martial Arms.

Not only were there the nine presbyters, there were also a number of external students of the School of the Martial Market who came to watch the competition. They wanted to see what kind of prodigies would be revealed among the new students.

The School of the Martial Market only admits new students once a year. The exam was naturally a major event.

Three days ago, the students of Outer Palace who took Zhang Ruochen and others to Omen Ridge were mostly male students.

However, that was not the case today. Over 70 percent were female students, with the male students as the remainders.

The female students were all wearing white robes. Many of them were good-looking as if they were the beauties who had just walked out of an art piece.

Zhang Ruochen stood at the foot of the Wu Tower and asked Liu Chengfeng, “Why are there so many female students of Outer Palace today?”

Liu Chengfeng responded. “The Yin flourishes while the Yang declines at West Campus of the School of the Martial Market. The female students have far more say than the male students. For example, taking us to and back from Omen Ridge, patrolling Omen Ridge. All these laborious jobs are given to the men.”

Zhang Ruochen replied, “That’s so unfair!”

“Exactly! But who dares to rebel? Who dares to challenge them? If you confront with them, you’ll be dead. Especially the three female devils. One is worse than the last. If we become the students of Outer Palace of West Campus, we’ll have to be careful when we see them.” Liu Chengfeng wouldn’t stop shaking his head and sighing.

Zhang Ruochen smiled, but he did not take Liu Chengfeng's words seriously. As long as he was strong enough, he would not be afraid of being bullied by women.

At this moment, the "Breaking Through the Wu Tower" had begun. 10 people entered the Wu Tower at a time.

Elder Situ stood outside the main door to the Wu Tower, announcing the names of the first 10 people to enter the Tower. Those who were not called had to wait for the next round.

After about three minutes, the first warrior who failed an obstacle walked out from the Wu Tower. His chest had a blood hole that bled continuously. It was a serious injury.

Everyone was shocked and said, "That person's cultivation is at the Initial Stage of the Black Realm. He only lasted for three minutes before failing."

The warrior who had failed an obstacle said depressingly, "I failed at the second obstacle on the first level. One moment of oversight, and I was attacked by..."

He was about to reveal his experience in the Wu Tower, but a presbyter standing far away gave a cold grunt and an invisible sound wave flew from his mouth. The young warrior's face turned white and he immediately swallowed the words he was about to say.

Within only a quarter of an hour, the first group of warriors who entered the Tower had all come out one by one.

Out of the 10 new students, three of them had passed three obstacles on the first level. Five had passed two, and two had only passed one.

Yet, no one made it to the first obstacle on the second level.

Those three who passed the first level had a large chance of passing the exam and becoming external students of the School. Of course, the final ranking would be determined by exactly how well they performed in the Tower.

The next group of people entered the Wu Tower.

There was a prodigy emerging from the second group. He made it through the second obstacle on the second level and almost passed the third obstacle.

Someone recognized the prodigy, Chi Minghai of Flame Dragon Commandery. He was only 22 years old and had already reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

A presbyter wearing an emerald gourd at his waist let out a gentle sigh. "What a pity! He almost made it through the third obstacle on the second level."

Elder Xie said, "That's already remarkable for a new student. Looking at his performance inside the Tower, he'll definitely make into the top five, perhaps the top three."

Another presbyter smiled and said, "If no one else makes it through the third obstacle on the second level this year, does that mean he'll become the first of the new students this year?"

Elder Situ stared at Prince Huo Xing standing in the crowd. He smiled slightly. "There'll definitely be someone who will pass the third obstacle on the second level. Just watch!"

Elder Situ had great confidence in Prince Huo Xing. Given his current cultivation of the Dawn State, passing the third obstacle on the second level should not be a problem. He might even be able to pass the first obstacle on the third level.

The second round continued. Soon after, it was Prince Huo Xing's turn.

In just 10 minutes, the lights on the second level of the Wu Tower lit up, meaning Prince Huo Xing had already made it to the second level.

"To make it to the second level in just 10 minutes, Prince Huo Xing is indeed extraordinary. He truly lives up to the name of a young prodigy of Square Commandery. Rumor has it, he's also a talented Tamer. Given his talent, he'll surely pass the third obstacle on the second level. The first place this year will surely belong to him!" said a beautiful external female student, her eyes glowing with admiration.

"Huo Xiuxiu, are you thinking of becoming a Crown Princess?" Another female student laughed.

The female student of Outer Palace called Huo Xiuxiu said, "So what if I am? Prince Huo Xing is not only a Prince, but also a highly talented warrior. As long as you're a woman, who doesn't want to marry him?"

"Swish!"

After an hour had passed, the lights on the third level of the Wu Tower lit up.

This meant Prince Huo Xing had made it to the third level!

At the foot of the Wu Tower, all the warriors were shocked and surprised.

## **Chapter 86: Ghost Prodigy Luo Xu**

"The first place student this year will most certainly be Prince Huo Xing."

"It will be incredible if he can pass the first obstacle on the third level. I heard that when the three female devils of the School of the Martial Market took their exams, they all passed the first obstacle on the third level."

...

Everyone was discussing excitedly.

Another 10 minutes or so passed and Prince Huo Xing finally walked out of the Wu Tower.

Elder Situ immediately approached him and asked, "Did you pass the first obstacle on the third level?"

Prince Huo Xing looked arrogantly towards the other young warriors with a smile on his face. His eyes focused on Zhang Ruochen, he smiled and said, "I passed the first obstacle on the third level, but unfortunately I failed on the second."

“Great!” Elder Situ was very pleased.

After Prince Huo Xing spoke, excited chatter erupted from outside.

“Incredible!”

“He managed to pass the first obstacle of the third level! His talent is probably comparable to the three female devils who currently rule West Campus, or at least it’s not far off.”

“Amazing! Given Prince Huo Xing’s incredible talent, he may break the current state of the Yin flourishing while the Yang declines,” a male external student said excitedly.

“First place amongst the new students will surely belong to him.”

With the cheers of the crowd, the next group entered the Wu Tower.

In this group of warriors was not only Zi Qian, but the God’s favored daughter of Moon Commandery, Yao Qingtong.

10 people entered the Wu Tower at the same time.

Four minutes later, the first warrior had failed an obstacle and walked out.

10 minutes later, another five warriors walked out.

Soon the light on the second level of the Tower ignited.

The nine Elders under the Wu Tower all nodded. One of them said in praise, “This group of warriors is good. Four of them managed to enter the second level. I wonder how far they will go.”

“Yao Qingtong has been a prodigy since she was young. Her Sacred Mark was activated when she was four, and it was a sixth grade Blizzard Sacred Mark. It shouldn’t be difficult for her to pass the third obstacle of the second level.”

Elder Xie had full confidence in Zi Qian. He also thought that she had a chance to pass the third obstacle of the second level.

An hour had passed. The light on the third level of the Wu Tower lit up.

Only eight warriors had come out from the Tower. That meant two warriors had passed the third obstacle on the second level.

In fact, those two had continued on to challenge the first obstacle of the third level!

“Those two are Yao Qingtong of Moon Commandery and Zi Qian of Yunwu Commandery. I didn’t expect that West Campus would have two additional outstanding females this year.”

The facial expressions of the nine presbyters were rather strange. After all, West Campus had seen the Yin flourish and the Yang decline for almost 100 years.

They thought that there might be a chance to change this trend with the emergence of Prince Huo Xing. However, no one would have expected these two female prodigies to perform so well.

It was getting dangerous now!



If they passed the first obstacle of the third level, West Campus would continue to be ruled by female students for the next few years. It would be difficult for the male students to turn the tide.

Prince Huo Xing gave a cold laugh and said, "The first obstacle of the third level is extremely difficult. Even I myself almost failed. They will definitely fail to pass it."

Zhang Ruochen was confident in Zi Qian's abilities. After all, she was descendant from the bloodline of Saints. She possessed an amazing physical quality with extremely good eyesight, hearing, and sense of smell.

Her talent was definitely not inferior to that of Prince Huo Xing. Perhaps she was even slightly stronger than him.

Shortly thereafter, Yao Qingtong and Zi Qian seemed to walk out of the Wu Tower at the same time.

The nine presbyters immediately went to ask them what happened.

Yao Qingtong replied, "I passed the first obstacle of the third level, but failed on the second."

Zi Qian nodded and said, "As did I."

The nine presbyters all laughed together. The new students were very good this year. Three prodigies managed to pass the first obstacle of the third level.

Throughout the history of West Campus, 10 years could go by without a single prodigy being able to pass the first obstacle of the third level.

In recent years, however, it had become frequent.

This was a great omen!

If nothing went wrong, Prince Huo Xing, Yao Qingtong, and Zi Qian would be the top three students of this year. Their actual rankings would depend on their performance in the Wu Tower.

"Miss Zi is very powerful. She actually managed to make it passed the first obstacle of the third level. She will definitely receive a lot of training." A warrior of Yunwu Commandery said with great admiration.

Liu Chengfeng's face revealed a bitter facial expression and said, "This year's new students are all freaks. I thought I could make it into the top 10, but now chances seem pretty slim."

"The next round of Breaking Through the Wu Tower consists of Liu Chengfeng, Zhang Ruochen, Xie Zhaowu..."

Including Liu Chengfeng and Zhang Ruochen, 10 young warriors walked out of the crowd and stood in front of the nine presbyters.

A total of six warriors in the Initial Stage of the Black Realm, three in the Mid Stage, and one in the Dawn State.

The Dawn State warrior was Xie Zhaowu, a prodigy from the Xie Family from Square Commandery.

Xie Zhaowu glanced at Zhang Ruochen contemptuously and thought. "Their cultivation is rather weak. In this group of warriors, I'm sure to stand out and have the best result."

Prince Huo Xing stared at Zhang Ruochen with a furrowed brow. "He was able to kill Qing You, so he must be very talented. However, he is only a warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. He should at most pass the third obstacle of the second level."

The 10 warriors walked into the first level of the Wu Tower.

Walking into the front door, another 10 small doors appeared inside.

Above the 10 small doors were three ancient, carved characters, the First Obstacle.

Zhang Ruochen looked very relaxed. He walked straight through the second small door. The other nine warriors also chose a door and walked through.

As soon as he had only just entered the small door, Zhang Ruochen came to a closed Martial arts field. All four sides consisted of metal walls.

This closed Martial arts field was quite large. It had a length and width of 20 meters, and a height of 30 meters. On the four metal walls were 16 alcoves each with a bronze light inside.

Zhang Ruochen walked to the center of the Martial arts field and looked at the rock wall above.

A young warrior about 20 years old walked out from the rock wall. He faced Zhang Ruochen and said, "I am Luo Xu. I represent the most powerful force in the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. If you can withstand three of my strikes, you will pass this first obstacle."

The Luo Xu standing in front of him was not a real person. It was a Spiritual Body created by the Wu Tower through the convergence of Spiritual Qi.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You represent the most powerful force in the Mid Stage?"

Luo Xu laughed and said, "The School of the Martial Market in Omen Ridge has been open for 460 years. Every year young warriors come to break through the Wu Tower. It not only includes new students like you, but also older students who have been practicing at West Campus for some time. I am the West Campus' strongest warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm."

Zhang Ruochen seemed to understand something and said, "If my cultivation had reached the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm, I would have met the strongest Advanced Stage warrior of the last 460 years?"

Luo Xu laughed. "Exactly."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and asked, "Withstand three of your strikes, and I will pass this first obstacle?"

"You are correct."

Zhang Ruochen asked, "What if I defeat you?"

Luo Xu replied, "Then you will enter straight into the second level. You will also take my place and become the challenger to the Mid Stage warriors, but defeating me won't be an easy task."

"Let's give it a try!"

Zhang Ruochen lifted the Flashing Shining Sword. While holding it, he became one with the space surrounding him.

He did not use the Space Domain, because he wanted to fight the strongest warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm in the last 460 years in an equal battle.

At the center of the Wu Tower, two beautiful girls sat in a secret room.

The woman surnamed Huang and the girl surnamed Duanmu sat cross-legged in the center of the secret room. In front of them were 10 Spiritual Qi mirrors floating in the air. The mirrors allowed them to see the progress of the 10 warriors.

Normally, two silver robed Elders from the Martial School would watch the Wu Tower.

The woman surnamed Huang and the girl surnamed Duanmu wanted to see the talents of the new students this year, so they made a deal with the two Elders that they would help watch the Wu Tower.

The woman surnamed Huang had an aura of coldness and long jewel blue hair hung straight alongside her face, in contrast to her fair skin. She stared at the 10 Spiritual Qi mirrors and said coolly, "After seeing Prince Huo Xing, Yao Qingtong, and Zi Qian, there's no point in watching the rest of the warriors in the Wu Tower. Even if prodigies do appear again, they won't be stronger than those three. Overall, this year's new students are good. I'm going back to practice!"

The woman surnamed Huang clearly seemed uninterested. When she stood up, her tall and elegant figure was very obvious. She walked towards the exit of the Wu Tower.

The girl surnamed Duanmu continued to stare at one of the Spiritual Qi mirrors. Her eyes grew brighter and brighter, and she exclaimed. "Interesting! So interesting!"

Walking almost to the door, the woman surnamed Huang stopped and asked, "Duanmu Xingling, are you going to keep watching?"

The girl who appeared to be 13 or 14 years old was one of the three female devils of West Campus, Duanmu Xingling.

The woman surnamed Huang was also one of the three female devils. Her name was Huang Yanchen.

Both of them were in the Warrior of Division Profound. They were the masters of West Campus and no one dared challenge them.

Duanmu Xingling waved to Huang Yanchen and said, "Sister Chen, come here. That warrior of the Mid Stage of the Black Realm is battling Luo Xu, and actually holding his own."

"How could it be? Luo Xu is the most talented prodigy that the Martial School in Omen Ridge has seen in the last 460 years. He's the ghost prodigy of a generation. Is it even possible that someone in the same realm can match him?"

Huang Yanchen was in disbelief, but she still went back and looked at the Spiritual Qi mirror.

In the mirror, two males were engaged in a tense battle.

They moved extremely fast, leaving behind streaks of shadows.

Huang Yanchen's facial expression changed slightly. A pair of beautiful starlight eyes revealed a trace of delight, as if they had discovered a new land. She said, "How many strikes have they exchanged?"

“74 strikes!” Duanmu Xingling said.

Huang Yanchen sat cross-legged on the ground again. Picking up a copy of the list, she looked at it and said, “He must be the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery, Zhang Ruochen. His name actually has the ‘Chen’ character. Doesn’t he know that that is taboo?”

Duanmu Xingling laughed and said, “You’re not going to make him change his name, are you?”

“I’ll wait until he passes the Wu Tower.

“If he can withstand 100 strikes from Luo Xu, he’s an outstanding prodigy. As long as he changes his name, I’ll spare his life,” Huang Yanchen said coldly.

Huang Yanchen had a great appreciation for outstanding prodigies.

Suddenly, the image on the Spiritual Qi mirror changed. Zhang Ruochen’s sword technique became harsher, forcing Luo Xu to retreat continuously.

“How could it be?”

Both Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen held their breath and stared closely at the mirror.

## **Chapter 87: Nine Fists**

“Swish!”

Zhang Ruochen took three steps forward through the numerous sword shadows. Striking out with his sword, he pierced Luo Xu’s glabella.

Luo Xu’s body froze, and a cut appeared on his forehead.

Zhang Ruochen withdrew the Flash Shining Sword and took three steps back.

“Amazing, you win. Your talent is superior to mine!” Luo Xu said and laughed.

His body became more and more dreamlike, disappearing into wisps of Spiritual Qi until he vanished completely.

“Luo Xu’s cultivation was truly powerful. He managed to withstand 93 of my strikes. He lives up to the name of the strongest Mid Stage warrior of the Black Realm in the last 460 years.”

“Of course, if I’d have used the power of Space Domain, I most likely would have defeated him within 10 strikes.”

Zhang Ruochen put the Flash Shining Sword into its sheath. Opening the metal door, he went straight to the second level.

Having defeated Luo Xu, Zhang Ruochen did not need to continue to the second and third obstacles on the first level. He could go directly to the second.

Duanmu Xingling and Huang Yanchen let out a sigh of relief. Looking into each other’s eyes, they could see their shock reflected back at them.

“He managed to defeat Luo Xu within 100 strikes!” Duanmu Lingxing still could not believe it.

“Not only defeated, but killed. He managed to kill Luo Xu who was in the same Realm as him within 100 strikes. That’s scary.” Huang Yanchen replied.

“I want to see how many levels and obstacles he can pass.” Duanmu Xingling said and narrowed her eyes. She felt a great deal of curiosity towards Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen entered the first obstacle of the second level in the Wu Tower.

It was a sealed Martial arts field, much like the one on the previous level.

“Swish!”

Another Spiritual Body warrior emerged from the rock.

It was Luo Xu again.

Luo Xu looked at Zhang Ruochen and smiled. “We meet again!”

Zhang Ruochen was surprised and asked, “You are the guardian of the second level as well?”

Luo Xu nodded and said, “You’re correct! Now, if you can withstand one of my strikes, you pass the first obstacle on the second level. However, there’s one thing I must tell you. I’m now at the cultivation of the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm. I’m also the strongest of the Advanced Stage warriors.”

“The strongest amongst the warriors in the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm?” Zhang Ruochen said seriously. He dared not underestimate Luo Xu.

Luo Xu was the strongest of the Mid Stage; now he is the strongest in the Advanced Stage?

Given Luo Xu’s current cultivation at the Advanced Stage, he shouldn’t have any trouble defeating a warrior of the Dawn State of the Black Realm.

Perhaps given his ability, he could even fight against warriors of the Medium State.

If you were a warrior of the Mid Stage, it would be easier to try to climb straight up into the sky than to attempt to withstand a strike from a warrior of the Medium State.

However, Zhang Ruochen was not your average warrior of the Mid Stage. Facing Luo Xu, he felt no fear at all and asked, “What if I defeat you?”

Luo Xu smiled and said, “If you can defeat me, you can not only pass the other two obstacles on the second level, but you can also pass the first obstacle of the third level.”

“You’re not going to use a weapon?” Zhang Ruochen drew out his Flash Shining Sword and pointed it at Luo Xu.

Luo Xu replied, “If I used a weapon, few people would be able to pass the first obstacle on the second level.”

In fact, when other warriors were facing the first obstacle on the second floor, they were considered to have passed as long as they could stand after taking a strike from Luo Xu.

“OK! Let’s fight!” Zhang Ruochen said.

“First strike, Water Luo out of Sea.”

Luo Xu’s fingers clenched into a fist. Moving into his paces like a gust of wind, he reached a speed of 42 meters per second, a bit faster than that of normal warriors of the Mid Stage.

A normal warrior of the Mid Stage probably wouldn’t even see Luo Xu’s shadow properly, much less withstand a strike from him.

Zhang Ruochen did not use the power of his Space Domain. Instead, he moved his Spiritual Qi into his Eye and Ear Meridians, and determined where Luo Xu would strike using his sight and hearing.

Zhang Ruochen moved his body one step to the left and avoided Luo Xu’s fist. Zhang Ruochen swung out with his sword, aiming towards Luo Xu’s waist.

“The second strike, Water Luo Returning!”

Luo Xu’s body leapt like a flying fish, bending into an arc with his fist aimed towards Zhang Ruochen’s chest. There seemed to be a little more power behind this strike than the previous one.

His fist appeared in an instant in front of Zhang Ruochen.

He would certainly be seriously wounded if he were to be hit by the fist.

“Sacred Bell Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen blocked the fist with the flat side of his sword. His great Sword Breath converged into the illusion of a huge bell.

“Boom!”

Luo Xu’s fist connected with the surface of the illusion. The bell was immediately dented and shattered. The strength behind the strike sent Zhang Ruochen back.

Luo Xu did not give Zhang Ruochen any time to breathe. He immediately followed up with a third strike.

“The third strike, Water Luo transferring Sword!”

Luo Xu struck out with his fist and flew towards Zhang Ruochen like a Sword Breath.

Fist into sword.

Only after having practiced the fists technique to a very high level could a warrior strike like a sword with their fists.

“Luo Xu is very powerful. If I hadn’t practiced the Yellow Realm to the Ultimate Realm, we would be very evenly matched in the same Realm.”

As Zhang Ruochen had practiced the Yellow Realm to the Ultimate Realm, he practiced one Realm higher than Luo Xu. That was why he was able to defeat Luo Xu before.

Now Luo Xu was one Realm above Zhang Ruochen. It would be almost impossible to defeat him.

“Sacred Guiding Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen swung out with his sword and broke Luo Xu’s attack. Following the strike, he did not retreat. Instead, he took the initiative and attacked Luo Xu.

Meanwhile, in the secret room inside the Wu Tower, Huang Yanchen stared at the Spiritual Qi mirrors and said, “Luo Xu is using a low-class Spiritual grade martial technique, ‘36 Fists of the Water of Luo’.”

“Sister Chen, while Luo Xu was in the Advanced Stage, how many fists of the ‘36 Fists of the Luo Water’ did he learn?” Duanmu Xingling asked.

“Nine.” Huang Chenyan replied.

Duanmu Lingxing nodded and said, “How many fists do you think Zhang Ruochen can handle?”

“Hard to say.”

Huang Yanchen shook her head slightly and said, “Zhang Ruochen’s talent is incredible. If he can withstand Luo Xu’s nine fists, he can force Luo Xu to a draw.”

“That’s impossible! Luo Xu is an incredible warrior. Few in the same Realm can challenge him, never mind defeating him across Realms.” Duanmu Xingling said.

“We’ll find out! Zhang Ruochen has already withstood six of his fists.” Huang Yanchen also found it incredible and had difficulty believing her own eyes.

Luo Xu had been undefeated for the last 200 years. He has long been a legend of West Campus.

It was already unbelievable that Zhang Ruochen had defeated Luo Xu in the same Realm. It would definitely shock the campus if news got out.

If Zhang Ruochen managed to cross Realms and defeat Luo Xu, the result would be unimaginable.

“The eighth strike, Water Luo transferring dragon!”

Luo Xu’s strength became increasingly powerful. Waves of Genuine Qi circulated around his body forming layers of water waves.

It was as if he was punching on top of a massive river, releasing the sound of flowing water in the air.

“Howl!”

That giant river became a long water dragon over 10 meters long, surging towards Zhang Ruochen.

“Sacred Breaking Plum Sword!”

Zhang Ruochen struck out with his sword and struck the glabella of the water dragon.

His strike did not pierce the water dragon’s forehead. Instead, it seemed as though it slammed into a metal wall, screeching.

“Boom!”

The Flash Shining Sword in Zhang Ruochen's hand received a powerful shock, and almost flew out of his hand. His entire right arm went numb and he could not summon any strength into it at all.

Luo Xu struck with his ninth Fist.

"The ninth strike, Water Luo Crushing!"

Zhang Ruochen gritted his teeth and would not admit defeat. Raising his left arm, he sent all the Genuine Qi in his body surging to his arm and cried, "Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth!"

The third palm, Dragon and Elephant Prajna Palm.

"Boom!"

The two fists collided.

Two powerful forces clashed together, resulting in an ear-splitting sound.

Zhang Ruochen spat out a mouthful of blood and flew backwards. He forced his body to recover its balance, taking a few steps back. Although he was hurt, he did not fall down. He summoned all the strength he had and remained standing.

Zhang Ruochen's hands were sore and cracked. If Luo Xu were to strike again, he would certainly be defeated.

Zhang Ruochen stared at Luo Xu standing in front of him and said, "You win!"

Luo Xu shook his head and said, "It's you who have won! I only learned nine of the '36 Fists of the Luo Water' when I was in the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm. Now I've attacked with all nine fists, but still failed to knock you down."

"In your first strike, you only used 20 percent of your strength. In your second strike, you used 30 percent. With each strike you increased your strength by 10 percent, only on your ninth strike did you use all of it. If you had attacked with all your strength from the beginning, I wouldn't have been able to block your nine strikes." Zhang Ruochen replied.

Luo Xu smiled and said, "That may be true, however, other warriors of the Mid Stage only have to withstand one of my strikes at 20 percent and they will pass this obstacle."

Zhang Ruochen nodded. He didn't feel disheartened at all. After all, his opponent was one of the strongest warriors in 460 years. Being in a Realm inferior to him, there was no shame in being defeated.

Zhang Ruochen also hadn't used the Space Domain.

If he had, it would be hard to say who would win.

The Luo Xu he saw now was only an illusion created with Spiritual Qi by the Wu Tower. He was not a real person. The battle ability of this illusion could never represent Luo Xu's true abilities!

There was no point guessing who would have won.

Zhang Ruochen rested a while until he felt mostly recovered. Then he walked to the metal door and went to the second obstacle on the second level.



Zhang Ruochen did not defeat Luo Xu, so he had to pass the second and third obstacles on the second level.

The second obstacle on the second level was a corridor 30 meters long and only three meters wide. On the wall of each side were small round holes.

“Whew!”

Walking into the corridor, short arrows in the length of a hand shot out of the holes.

Zhang Ruochen did not draw his sword. Instead, he waved his sheath in the air knocking all the arrows aside.

He walked slowly down the 30 meter long corridor. His feet never stopped moving and he seemed quite relaxed.

This obstacle was easy only for him.

If it were any other warrior of the Mid Stage, avoiding the dense rain of arrows would not be an easy task!

### **Chapter 88: Great Genius**

The third pass, on the second level of the Wu Tower.

Having gotten through the arrow corridor, Zhang Ruochen walked towards the third pass.

He opened up the door and saw a transparent and glittering jade tablet standing beside a 10-foot square pool. A line of words appeared on the jade tablet. “Count the number of ripples in the pool, no more than 10 ripples error”

“Count the ripples, what does that mean?”

He didn’t react as he heard the splash.

“Splash!”

A silver coin had fallen onto the calm surface of the pool.

Immediately, ripples appeared in the center of the pool where they radiated to the outer edge.

Zhang Ruochen didn’t understand the purpose of this pass, but he concentrated on counting the ripples on the water’s surface. “One, two, three...”

The ripples became thinner and weaker, making them more difficult to count.

“This is to test the ability of the warriors’ Spiritual Power, observation, judgment, and willpower.” Zhang Ruochen thought.

His eyes became dry and started to sting, but he continued to stare at the surface without blinking.

While the task seemed simple, it contained some great truths about martial arts.

The First truth was Spiritual Power. If your Spiritual Power wasn't strong enough, you wouldn't be able to see the slight changes in the ripple.

The second truth was observation. Only those, who were observant, were able to see every ripple because the ripples spread from the center and then returned after hitting the wall, which could affect the warrior's observation. Warriors who lacked observation would get nervous when the ripples returned. Then they would fail.

The third truth was judgment. As the ripples became fainter and fainter and the surface returned to calmness, this was the time to test the warrior's judgment. The warrior must decide when the ripples had disappeared and the water was considered calm.

The final truth of this test was willpower. As a warrior concentrated on counting the number of ripples, their eyes would tire and a warrior that lacked willpower would give up before the end.

After 15 minutes, the surface finally returned to its former calmness.

Zhang Ruochen felt a pain in his eyes and closed them for a while. "Luckily, I've opened up my eye vessel which facilitates the ability of my eyesight. Hence my eyesight is stronger than warriors who are in the same Realm. My Spiritual Power reaches level 30, so I can distinguish each ripple. It's not difficult for me to complete this pass."

Zhang Ruochen walked towards the jade tablet, picked up a pen and wrote down a number on it.

2765 ripples!

"Waaa!"

A white light lit up the tablet and displayed this word: pass.

Zhang Ruochen smiled slightly. "Just like I had thought. But, this is a messed up pass. It's no wonder not many can't successfully complete this task. This tests the warrior's overall ability."

"Boom!"

The door to the third floor opened.

Zhang Ruochen went straight through the door, climbed the stairs and arrived at the third floor of the Wu Tower.

The lights on the third floor of the Wu Tower were lit up.

Right now, all the young warriors and the nine presbyters outside the tower were shocked again.

Eight of the 10 warriors that had entered the tower with Zhang Ruochen, were all defeated. Only Xie Zhaowu of Square Commandery and Zhang Ruochen of Yunwu Commandery still remained in the tower.

"There are warriors that made it through the third pass on the second level and they entered the third floor. Who do you think it is?"

"It must be Xie Zhaowu, warrior of Square Commandery."

“Yes! It must be him! Although he’s less famous than Prince Huo Xing and Qing You, he’s still a genius with his cultivation of the Dawn State of the Black Realm. How can he be mediocre since he’s young and has reached the Dawn State of the Black Realm!”

No one believed that Zhang Ruochen would have the ability to pass the third pass on the second level. After all, he was only 16 and had just reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm.

Even Elder Situ nodded and said, “Xie Zhaowu must have hidden his actual strength in the past in order to set the world on fire when he breaks through the Wu Tower. He’s going to obtain great achievements with such wise thinking.”

The other presbyters all gazed coldly because they didn’t like to see Elder Situ’s proud look.

Elder Situ was the receptionist of Square Commandery. The better the warriors’ grades, the more rewards Elder Situ received.

When he saw the third level illuminate, he couldn’t help laughing with smug satisfaction.

However, the next second, he was frozen.

“Cheeka!”

The gate opened and the one who emerged in despair was not Zhang Ruochen, but Xie Zhaowu.

When Xie Zhaowu raised his head, he noticed that the nine presbyters were looking at him. He was so surprised that he stepped backward.

“What happened?” he thought.

Elder Situ immediately approached him and asked, “How many barriers did you get through?”

Xie Zhaowu stepped back again as if he were scared by Elder Situ’s overbearing look. Once he was able to stand steady, he said, “I broke through the second pass on the second level, but I failed at the third pass. Elder Situ, what has happened?”

Elder Situ’s face turned red. He was angry and shouted. “Since you failed on that level, why has the light on the third level turned on?”

“What, the light is on?” Xie Zhaowu was more surprised than Elder Situ.

Standing not far away, Elder Xie laughed before saying, “You should know that there’s still another young warrior in the Wu Tower. Since Xie Zhaowu failed, the other warrior must have broken through the third pass of the second level.”

“Zhang Ruochen, the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery.”

Finally, all of them recognized what was happening and displayed a look of shock.

It was unbelievable that a warrior who was in the Mid Stage of the Black Realm could break through to the third pass!

Only Zi Qian remained calm because she knew how strong Zhang Ruochen was. It would have been strange to her if he didn’t break through.

“Back-off!” Elder Situ glared at Xie Zhaowu and said, “Somebody, get me Zhang Ruochen’s information.”

He couldn’t believe a warrior at the Mid Stage of the Black Realm could break through to the third pass. He wanted to know more about Zhang Ruochen.

Shortly thereafter, an external student of the school handed over Zhang Ruochen’s information to Elder Situ.

“How can this be?”

After reading his details, Elder Situ was so shocked. He looked as if his eyes were going to fall out of his head.

The other eight presbyters looked curious and wanted to know what it was about Zhang Ruochen’s details that made Elder Situ look so surprised?

“Calm down! Calm down! Elder Situ, you are mature enough to keep calm. It’s just information about a genius. Why are you so surprised?” Elder Xie laughed.

Elder Situ looked serious and said, “Stop saying those irresponsible and sarcastic remarks. Come and take a look yourself.”

The eight presbyters looked at each other blankly before walking towards Elder Situ, looking at Zhang Ruochen’s information.

After reading it, they all showed the same expression as Elder Situ. They were shocked and speechless for a long time.

“He didn’t open up his Sacred Mark until he was 16. I guess it has been less than a year since then? After less than a year of practice, he was able to reach the Mid Stage of the Black Realm?”

“Look at this, after only six months’ practice, he became a warrior of the Yellow Board and ranked as first. Oh, god! What a magnificent genius he is.”

Elder Xie was the receptionist for the young warriors of Yunwu Commandery, but he hadn’t read Zhang Ruochen’s information.

This was the first time that he read it and he shouted. “Liu Chuanshen, you’re a jerk! Why didn’t he tell me that Zhang Ruochen was so incredible? What a pity! What a pity!”

Elder Xie was so upset and regret filled. If he had known that Zhang Ruochen was so talented, he would have taken him as his apprentice on the way to the School of the Martial Market.

But, it was too late now!

A genius with this gift must be accepted by the dean of Western Campus as his own disciple. He’d have no chance.

Elder Xie scolded Liu Chuanshen.

Standing not far away, Liu Chengfeng felt displeased and whispered, "Uncle Xie has always been polite. Why did he scold my father all of a sudden? Well, just let it go. He is an elder, and I'm not going to argue with him."

Liu Chengfeng was also depressed.

...

Zhang Ruochen walked into the first pass on the third level. It was still a sealed Martial arts field, much like the one on the previous level.

"Waaa!"

The Spiritual Body of Luo Xu walked out of the wall again.

Luo Xu looked at Zhang Ruochen and laughed. "You don't need to fight me again. You've already defeated me on the previous level."

Zhang Ruochen could sense that Luo Xu was still at the Advanced Stage of the Black Realm. He asked, "How many strikes do I have to catch in order to pass this barrier?"

"Three strikes," Luo Xu answered.

The first strike of Luo Xu was at 20% power, the second at 30%, and the third at 40%.

He only needs to catch three attacks of Luo Xu and then he would be able to pass the first obstacle on the third level.

It was known that Zhang Ruochen had caught all nine strikes in the first barrier on the second floor, so he should pass this barrier quickly.

Zhang Ruochen stared at Luo Xu and said, "I have a question!"

"I can answer one question for you." Luo Xu laughed.

Zhang Ruochen said, "You've been the most powerful warrior of the Mid Stage and Advanced Stage of the Black Realm for 460 years in Western Campus. Are you also the most powerful warrior in the seventh Realm of the Black Realm?"

Luo Xu said, "It was true before you appeared, but now that you have shown up. I believe that you'll replace me and become the new gatekeeper of the Wu Tower for every Realm."

After that, Luo Xu turned into a wisp of Spiritual Qi and disappeared in the Martial arts field.

Zhang Ruochen laughed lightly and walked towards the second barrier on the third floor.

### **Chapter 89: The Suppressing of the Freshmen**

After walking out of the Martial arts field, Zhang Ruochen came to the second pass of the third floor in the Wu Tower.

“It seems that none of the other young warriors were able to complete the second pass on the third floor this year. It must be more difficult than the one on the second floor.”

Zhang Ruochen looked at the rules for breaking through blockades on the wall.

“Easy job.”

Zhang Ruochen nodded and opened the door to the second pass on the third floor.

It was a 30-meter-long enclosed corridor that was only three meters wide. There were nine bronze metal statues on both sides of the corridor.

There were 18 bronze statues in total.

According to the rules, every bronze statue was refined by a weapon refiner and weighed around 1,000 pounds. There was an inscription and a Spiritual Crystal embedded in their body, as hard as the Genuine Martial Arms.

The weapon refiner named them the refining warriors.

The power and speed of each refining warrior were equal to a warrior at the peak of the Advanced Stage in the Black Realm.

Be mindful, the refining warrior’s body was as hard as iron and its strength was mighty, without any bug. When it came to a real fight, a refining warrior could defeat a warrior of the Dawn State in the Black Realm.

That’s to say, Zhang Ruochen was facing 18 refining warriors who were equal to the warriors in the Black Realm’s Dawn State, in such a narrow corridor.

It’s nearly impossible for a warrior in the Mid Stage of the Black Realm to pass this corridor.

“Zi Qian, Prince Huo Xing, and Yao Qingtong, whose cultivation are in the Dawn State of the Black Realm, must have been defeated by these 18 refining warriors of the Final State of the Black Realm. This pass is exceptionally freaky!”

Zhang Ruochen retracted his Flash Shinning Sword, because weapons were not allowed in this pass.

“Let’s fight!”

Zhang Ruochen rolled up his sleeves. With a determined look, he stepped into the corridor.

At the head of the corridor stood two refining warriors. They moved their bodies slightly, with gleaming fire in their eyes.

The sound of metal hitting metal echoed, as the two refining warriors woke up.

“Bang!”

The two refining warriors attacked at the same time.

The refining warrior on the left punched at Zhang Ruochen’s face. His fist puffed fire like the Flaming Fist and exploded the horrible power towards Zhang Ruochen.

The refining warrior on the right reached out one leg with the icing cold power and swept towards Zhang Ruochen's lower body.

Their speed was so fast that Zhang Ruochen couldn't avoid their attacks in such a narrow space.

Zhang Ruochen leaned back and dodged the metal fist while quickly punched the refining warrior's chest.

"Boom!"

Zhang Ruochen's powerful palm slapped down the refining warrior and its whole body was knocked against the wall, making the wall shake slightly.

But, the refining warrior wasn't hurt and quickly fought back.

"An immortal?" Zhang Ruochen thought.

His speed was faster than that of the two refining warriors. He walked three steps forward to avoid their continued attack.

However, there was a bigger crisis.

Zhang Ruochen had woken up another two of the refining warriors as he walked forward.

Zhang Ruochen was surrounded by the four refining warriors and they were attacking at the same time.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Four refining warriors, eight metal arms, and eight legs all attacked towards Zhang Ruochen simultaneously.

He was surrounded by palms and foot shadows.

Zhang Ruochen quickly ran his Genuine Qi, moving his legs to attack and sweep, while his palms waved to attack and defend.

"Elephant Galloping!"

Zhang Ruochen unleashed four palms at a fast speed.

"Boom!"

The four refining warriors were knocked hard, and they landed far away from Zhang Ruochen. Some hit the wall, while the others fell to the ground.

Zhang Ruochen continued ahead. Two more refining warriors struck him, together, the former four refining warriors again caught up with him.

An idea flashed through his mind. "I have to end the battle quickly. If I'm surrounded by 18 refining warriors, there's no doubt that I'll lose."

"Boom!"

While squatting, Zhang Ruochen waved his arms to slap down the refining warrior on his left, which knocked down the four refining warriors who were chasing after him.

He quickened his pace and rushed forward.

“Dragon and Elephant Returning to Earth!”

“Dragon in the Sky!”

“Elephant Galloping!”

...

“Bang Bang!”

Zhang Ruochen went through the long corridor extremely quickly.

Once he had made it through the long corridor, the 18 refining warriors returned back to their position and stood still.

Looking at his bruised arm, Zhang Ruochen sighed. “It’s wasn’t wise to fight against the refining warriors with my fleshy body. However, I made it.”

Zhang Ruochen kept walking towards the third pass, on the third floor.

“The freak! He just passed the second pass without being wounded. Perhaps he’ll make it through the third pass with his abilities.” Duanmu Xingling crossed her arms tightly, stared at the mirror, and felt unpleasant.

It was known that she didn’t pass the second pass on the third floor when she first entered the Wu Tower.

According to the Western Yard’s history, only three people have gotten through the second pass on the third floor for their first time entering the Wu Tower.

Zhang Ruochen was now the fourth one.

Duanmu Xingling asked, “Sister Chen, do you think that he can pass the third pass on the third floor?”

After thinking for a second, Huang Yanchen said, “In the history of the Western Campus, only one freshman has passed the third pass. That’s Luo Xu, the warrior who currently guards the pass. Since Zhang Ruochen has defeated Luo Xu, in the same Realm, he might break through the third pass.

“Moreover, if he passes the third pass on the third floor, he doesn’t need to pass the first pass on the fourth floor, because he had already passed it when he made it through the first pass on the second floor.”

The first pass on the fourth floor was to catch the nine fists of Luo Xu.

Zhang Ruochen had made it through that on the first pass on the second floor.



Duanmu Xingling blinked lightly as if she was thinking and said, "If he passes the first pass on the fourth floor, he must cover our limelight and become the spotlight of the School of the Martial Market. I guess he'll also shock the Internal of the School."

Huang Yanchen asked, "What do you mean?"

Duanmu Xingling smiled and said, "If he passes the third pass on the third floor, we'll keep him from entering the fourth floor."

Huang Yanchen nodded and said, "Right. Since the male students of Western Campus called us the devil, we should do what a devil would do. For example, to suppress the freshmen."

"Instead of suppressing him, we are saving him. It's not a good thing for him to show such an incredible performance." Duanmu Xingling convinced herself, nodded slightly and said to herself, "Everything I do is good for him."

But, the evil smile on her face betrayed her.

She looked like a devil, rather than a little girl around the age of 13 or 14.

The second pass on the third floor was just like the third pass on the second floor. There was another pool, nine square meters, and what the warriors had to do was count ripples.

The difference was that two silver coins fell into the pool at the same time, forming two sets of ripples.

A warrior must focus his mind on the two ripples without any negligence.

When the two silver coins fell into the water at the same time, it would interfere the progress of counting and increase the difficulty.

If a warrior wanted to keep his mind focused on two things at the same time, his Spiritual Power must have reached level 20.

If he wanted to clearly count the number of ripples, his Spiritual Power must reach level 25 since level 20 isn't good enough.

It was known that except for the weapon refiner, the alchemist, and the animal trainer, whose major is practicing Spiritual Power, none of the warriors would waste their time on Spiritual Power.

If a warrior didn't practice their Spiritual Power purposely, their Spiritual Power would only reach level 20 to level 25, even if he was a warrior of the Heaven Realm.

It was impossible for a young warrior to pass this pass.

Of course, it wouldn't be difficult for Zhang Ruochen, whose Spiritual Power had reached level 30.

When the surface of the water was completely calm, Zhang Ruochen wrote down the number of ripples on the jade tablet. As expected, he passed it easily.

Zhang Ruochen thought. "The most outstanding freshman only passed the first pass on the third floor. Now, I've passed the third pass on the third floor. Surely I'll be the number one freshman this year. In this case, I don't think passing the fourth floor is a good idea."

He was not a person who liked to show off. Since he wouldn't be gotten more prizes for passing the fourth floor in the Wu Tower, he decided to leave.

When he was about to leave, two beauties walked out from the golden gate and blocked his way.

"Zhang Ruochen, you're not supposed to go to the fourth floor."

Huang Yanchen stood upright, lifted her chin, and looked at Zhang Ruochen arrogantly with her hands behind her back.

She was about 1.75 meters tall. She stood on a step which made her look even more slender with her long legs. Her figure was perfect.

Zhang Ruochen looked at her beautiful face and said, "Why can't I go to the fourth floor since I've broken through the third pass on the third floor?"

He didn't plan to go to the fourth floor. But, he didn't want to be blocked by others.

"What did they want?"

Zhang Ruochen had heard about them. They were both masters of the Profound Board. They had a powerful cultivation and were absolutely flawless. Even the seniors were afraid of them.

However, this meant nothing to Zhang Ruochen.

Zhang Ruochen wasn't afraid. He was in the Wu Tower and he didn't need to have the worry that they would kill him.

Huang Yanchen said seriously, "We are saving you, rather than hurting you. If you perform too well, of course, you will get a great number of resources and become a key person which will be trained by the school. But, if you go too far, you'll suffer a fatal disaster."

"That sounds like a little bit of truth."

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "But, we're neither relative nor friend. Why are you concerned about me? Why are you being unreasonable? What exactly do you want? Just spit it out."

### **Chapter 90: The Fourth One?**

Huang Yanchen, a beautiful woman with an unapproachable expression on her face, said, "To tell you the truth, it doesn't matter. I assume you've heard of the three she-devils of Western Campus?"

Zhang Ruochen nodded and said, "A little."

Huang Yanchen continued, "Did you know that one of them is a descendant of Luo Xu?"

Surprised by her words, Zhang Ruochen asked, "A descendant of Luo Xu?"

Zhang Ruochen had a lot of admiration for Luo Xu because he was difficult to defeat in the same realm. It wouldn't have been possible at all had he not practiced the Ultimate Realm of the Yellow Realm.

When she saw the expression on his face, she said with a faint smile, "One she-devil is called Luo Shuihan. She is the seventh generation down from Luo Xu. She sees him as a role model and is determined to become a strong Martial Arts warrior as great as her predecessor. I wonder whether she would kill you if she knew you've defeated her predecessor in the same realm."

"It's hard to say!" he responded.

According to Zhang Ruochen, women were unintelligent and difficult to understand. Princess Chi Yao in his previous life for example, and Lin Ningshan in the present.

He still couldn't figure out why they wanted to kill him.

"Do you know what the two most intolerable things are for Luo Shuihan?" Huang Yanchen asked.

"What?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

"According to her, first, nobody is a better warrior than Luo Xu; second, no one was superior to her."

"She only got through to the second obstacle of the third floor the first time she went into the Wu Tower. You, however, got to the third obstacle of the same floor. If she ever finds out she will surely challenge you to a duel. But your present cultivation is far from hers. One attack from her could kill you 10 times over."

Although what Huang Yanchen said seemed to be true, Zhang Ruochen was not at all afraid. "I hardly think she would dare to kill me in the Martial Market's School," he said.

"Well!" She smiled, blinked her eyes and said, "Ninth Prince, do you think that 'devil' is just a random title? Luo Shuihan's has the power to kill you without anyone noticing. Even the presbyters of the Martial Market's School would not be able to find your body."

"You have spent a lot of time persuading me to give up, but neither of you have answered my question. You don't even know me. Why do you care so much about my life? Or do you want to stop me from breaking into the fourth floor of the Wu Tower?" He replied.

Both Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling felt awkward. It was their first time talking to such a tactless freshman of Western Campus.

If only they weren't in the Wu Tower. Then they would break his legs to show him how powerful devils really were.

The expressions on their faces showed Zhang Ruochen that he had guessed correctly. They did want to stop him from breaking into the fourth floor of Wu Tower. Both of them were Division Profound warriors who were very powerful on Western Campus. Even if they weren't devils, their power was almost equal to that of the three devils.

It was not easy for Zhang Ruochen to take control over of the situation due to the fact that their cultivation was much more powerful than his.

"Actually, I might fail to pass through to the fourth floor," Zhang Ruochen said.

Huang Yanchen nodded slightly and smiled, implying that Zhang Ruochen was very perceptive.

“But you have to meet my demands!” Zhang Ruochen added suddenly.

The smile on Huang Yanchen’s face disappeared instantly.

How dare this freshman negotiate with her! It seemed that the only means of teaching him the meaning of the word “devil” was to punch him very hard.

Although he sensed that something was wrong, Zhang Ruochen remained confident and said, “Please allow me to continue to the fourth floor if you have no intention of meeting my demands.”

Duanmu Xingling whispered, “Sister Chen, we cannot break the law of the School in the Wu Tower. We can teach him a lesson when we get out of here. Let’s hear him out. If it is a reasonable demand, why not give it to him?”

Huang Yanchen withdrew her power with a sneer and said, “Go ahead! What’s your demand?”

Zhang Ruochen seemed to predict their compromise and said, “It is well known that I am the Ninth Prince of Yunwu Commandery, which has always been the rival of Square Commandery. The power of Square Commandery in the School of the Martial Market is relatively strong. Their warriors will attempt to attack me considering my status. Thus, my demand is that you two save me if I’m in danger.”

Duanmu Xingling giggled and said, “You’re so cute! Although the power of Square Commandery is indeed strong in Western Campus, they still need to take us seriously. Rest assured, Ninth Prince! From now on, you just need to say my name, and no one will dare attack you!”

“So you accept my demand?” Zhang Ruochen asked.

“It’s a piece of cake,” Huang Yanchen said in a cold voice.

“If others besides warriors of the Square decide to cause me trouble?” Zhang Ruochen continued.

Duanmu Xingling laughed and said, “Anyone who wants to trouble you in Western Campus will be driven away by us.”

Zhang Ruochen let out a slight sigh of relief when they agreed.

He wasn’t so much worried about the Square Commandery’s warriors, but he did need to defend himself against killers from the Hades Department.

Since Zi Qian had failed to kill him, more terrible killers from the Hades Department would be sent to assassinate him. With his present cultivation, his recklessness was likely get himself killed.

Now that Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling had promised to protect him, he felt much safer from the assassination attempts of the Hades Department.

Zhang Ruochen hadn’t intended to get to the fourth floor of the Wu Tower anyway. Now he had the bonus of getting a promise from two Division Profound warriors.

Zhang Ruochen had another question. “When I was on the first floor of the Wu Tower, I defeated Luo Xu at the Mid Stage of the Black Realm. Doing so meant that I would become the guard instead of Luo Xu, testing warriors in that Realm’s Stage. Once I become the guard, the devil Luo Shuihan will know I have defeated her ancestor. What should I do when she finds out?”

Huang Yanchen answered, "The Wu Tower is a Genuine Martial Arm without wisdom. If you want to be the guard and test warriors in the Mid Stage of the Black Realm, you must draw inscriptions of your power, speed, and martial technique. Only then can your Spiritual Body be formed in the Wu Tower."

"How many people know that I have defeated Luo Xu in the same realm?"

"Only the three of us." Huang Yanchen replied.

"That means that if you don't tell the presbyter I have defeated Luo Xu, he will still be the guard of the Wu Tower?" he asked.

"That's right," Huang Yanchen answered.

Zhang Ruochen murmured, "The presbyter would let two students guard the tower on such an important reception day? He seems unreliable!"

Huang Yanchen heard what he said and sneered. "The presbyter of the Wu Tower is a normal person, who wants to spend more time practicing and trying to break through to a higher realm. He is delighted to have someone else guard the Wu Tower. Besides, the Wu Tower is able to record each warrior so it doesn't matter if there is a guard here or not."

That explains that.

"Can you tell me your name?" Zhang Ruochen asked.

"Huang Yanchen." she responded indifferently.

He remembered the names of Huang Yanchen and Duanmu Xingling. Then he leisurely walked towards the exit of the Wu Tower.

Duanmu Xingling let out a long sigh of relief after he left and said, "It was very difficult dealing with him!"

Huang Yanchen gave a sweet smile and said, "Let's give him a lesson in Dragon Martial Temple later. A freshman dares to negotiate with me? Let's see how strong he really is."

Nine presbyters and many young warriors had been waiting for a long time outside the Wu Tower. They did not however, see Zhang Ruochen come out.

"Why is he still in the tower? Could he have gotten through the first barrier of the third floor?"

"How? Maybe he died in the tower!" A Square Commandery warrior sneered.

Prince Huo Xing smiled and said, "The Wu Tower is indeed full of dangers. I wouldn't be surprised if he died in there."

Zi Qian, Elder Xie, and the Yunwu Commandery warriors were starting to get anxious. They thought maybe he had had an accident.

"Cheeka!"

Zhang Ruochen suddenly walked out of the Wu Tower. He was not only alive but wasn't injured at all.

A smile appeared on Elder Xie's face. He immediately walked to him and asked, "How many levels have you broken through, Zhang Ruochen?"

"The second obstacle of the third floor." he responded.

"It doesn't matter. After all, you have only just reached the Mid Stage of the Black Realm... Wait a second! What did you say? You got passed the second barrier on the third floor?" Elder Xie was stunned. He had bloodshot eyes and goosebumps all over his body.

The other eight presbyters were all stunned as well.

In the history of Western Campus, only three people had successfully passed the second obstacle of the third floor on their first attempt in the Wu Tower.

Could Zhang Ruochen be the fourth?

Elder Situ was annoyed and said in a muffled voice, "Zhang Ruochen, you should never lie to the nine presbyters. Do you know the consequences of lying?"

Zhang Ruochen didn't care. "I don't understand why getting passed the second obstacle of the third floor is such a big deal."

Elder Situ was really angry. A junior in the Mid Stage of the Black Realm told him that getting passed the second obstacle was not such a big deal? Doesn't he realize that he is making everyone uncomfortable?

It was well known that Elder Situ had passed the second obstacle of the third floor on his first attempt.

Elder Situ still didn't believe it and said, "I need to take a look at the record of Zhang Ruochen's grades in the Wu Tower. I propose to open the mirror of the Spiritual Qi in the third floor of the Wu Tower."