

Heavenly Star 51

Chapter 51: Choosing Violence

“Enough. Do not speak any further.” a monotonous voice echoed, Long Yin Who had been silent all along started talking: “Although what President Lin said was inappropriate, still he did not have bad intentions. President Lin, sit down first.”

Lin Yan, who had just now almost collapsed in his own anger, had to forcibly suppress his own anger in order to sit down heavily. His gaze was still fixed on Ye Wuchen, wishing he could Wuchen into a sea of flames and burn him into ashes.

After the sparring of words, Long Yin didn't even show a trace of anger. Instead he smiled happily and said: Ye and Lin family's youngsters are both extremely talented and outstandingly brilliant and can be pillars of our Tian Long nation in the future. I am extremely delighted! What Wuchen said was right, very similar to my own thoughts, our Tian Long nation will never be afraid of Gale Nation. We must never target any person for the Gale Nation without reason so as not to cause other nations to despise us. I also considered Lin Xiao's thoughts on Tian Long's safety, we should not allow a moment of negligence turn into tragedy. Besides, I gave the order, the ruler must not joke and I can't take back my own words, and this puts me in a difficult situation.

The emperor has spoken. The surroundings went silent. Ye Wuchen didn't answer back. Still, he was wearing an innocent smile on his face, he knew what the emperor meant “Difficult” was purely some nonsense, he must already have thought of some way to torment those people.

“How about this, since it's the right time and place, and both of you are here, might as well use this opportunity to compare your skills. Let's battle instead who determines who will win or lose. I will comply with the one who wins the duel.”

After Long Yin's suggestion, the surrounds went strangely quiet. Nobody dared to interrupt or to agree; however, this method was clearly unfair! This time even a fool can determine that Long Yin was obviously siding with Lin Xiao. Not only will he win comfortably, but the emperor can also take this opportunity to insult Ye Wuchen and the entire Ye family.

Young master Ye not only has no martial arts skills, but was also a formerly bedridden and sickly person. Even if he is now in good health, how could he possibly be Lin Xiao's rival. Some people who have practiced martial skills and enchantment were secretly shaking their heads in disapproval because Ye Wuchen's body doesn't even contain any trace of energy waves. He is neither someone who has mastered martial skills nor enchantments.

Lin Xiao's eyebrows wrinkled slightly and was about to tactfully decline because he has this lofty and unyielding character. To compete with someone who has no power might wound his reputation, but before he could even open his mouth to speak, Ye Wuchen already replied smiling: “Emperor's order, how could Wuchen refuse to obey.”

Lin Xiao quickly withdrew his thoughts and replied: “Lin Xiao shall comply.”

Once he treated this young master Ye with disdain, and didn't even have the interest to meet this person, but this was their very first confrontation. After the arguments, his standing went downwards,

but he didn't react with shock. Right now judging Ye's relaxed composure, his heart couldn't help but secretly stay vigilant. A very straightforward answer, could he have possibly come prepared? But judging by his breath, he clearly wasn't someone who had any powers.

In the contrary, Ye Wuchen's straightforward answer has brought about some murmurings in the surroundings, but no one believed that he had any strength to win over Lin Xiao. Some sighed, some secretly criticised.

"This... can't be. Don't let Chen compete with him. Don't say martial arts, Chen can't even harm a mosquito. How can we manage if he got injured?" Wang Wenshu stood up with great alarm, but Ye Wei dragged her arm and sat her down, comforting her: "Don't worry his facial expression is confident, clearly he has planned ahead of time. And based on the current situation, Lin Xiao wouldn't dare really harm Chen."

Wang Wenshu didn't even resist for a heartbeat. Firmly restraining herself not to shout, her whole body was obviously restless and impatient. A son will always be a mother's favorite. If Ye Wuchen suffered any harm, it will be more painful than using a knife to cut her heart.

Ye Wei calmly watched Ye Wuchen. For someone to be chosen by the Sword God senior, could he really appear to be so powerless? Let's see what is hidden inside of him.

Lin Kuang has been beaming with joy for the longest time, Long Yin obviously sided with them. He crooked his head over, with consoling face he said: "Old General Ye, don't worry. My son Xiao will show mercy."

Ye Nu let out a very cold "humph", and didn't feel like paying any attention to him. His innermost being intensely raised up, but on the outside he was as serene as stagnant water. His intense opinion and calm temperament were equal opposing forces.

"Hahahaha, I suppose this guy from the Ye family doesn't want to live anymore, how dare he challenge my future son-in-law. My future son-in-law could just stab him to death with his little finger. Oh!! hahahaha!"

A sound similar to a thunderclap resonated, every corner heard it very clearly. Hua Zhentian had this delighted facial expression, as if seeing his future son-in-law hoisting power was the most joyful thing to observe. Beside him was his daughter Hua Shuirou, who then softly whispered in his ears: "Dad... lower down your voice".

Hua Zhentian covered his mouth at once, then facing his daughter smiled in embarrassment.

Both people positioned on stage, facial expressions were similarly light and gentle. Leng Ya had retreated off the stage, covering his chest while sitting down in competitors' area. His complexion was still very cold, but only a few noticed him because he was no longer the center of attention. The focus point has been shifted to Ye Wuchen. He couldn't run away. Not that he can't, but even if he could, he couldn't possibly do it.

Lin Yan grudgingly stared at Ye Wuchen, then said in a low tone: "During the competition, swords have no eyes. If there's an accident blame it on the skills and not on the person involved. Even if the person became handicapped, there's no grounds for investigation!"

This sent secret signals to both Lin Xiao and Ye Wuchen, Ye Wuchen twisted the corner of his mouth and stared at Lin Xiao and said: "Master Lin, you have used up some of your energy in the competition a while ago. To be fair, I'll fight you without weapons, how's that?"

With these words, came uproar in the crowd. Most of the brothers even covered their stomachs and laughed, almost like hearing the greatest joke in the world. Hua Zhentian also smacked his mouth and said: "This young man from Ye is even more arrogant than his old man, interesting, very f*cking interesting."

"Dad... don't say bad words." Hua Shui Rou gently pushed him with a voice as soft as a fly.

Hua Zhentian immediately went silent.

"He deserves to be called the grandson of Old General Ye, it's very interesting, hahahaha." the red faced Lin Kuang laughed arrogantly.

Lin Xiao got distracted, smiled shaking his head: "Don't bother, I just used up a little energy a while ago. Now my strength has fully been regained. Young master Ye just use your full strength. May I know what weapon you are most experienced with." after speaking, he lifted up the sword on his hand, prepared to use it to fight against Ye Wuchen.

"Okay, since Mr. Lin used his sword, then I will just use my fan." Ye Wuchen's right hand confidently flinged. Closed the jade fan in his hand, then pointed to Lin Xiao.

"Let's begin" Lin Xiao didn't want to comment any further, stroking the sword's sharp end, hinting him to start the attack.

Chapter 52: Mark on the Face!

"Elder Liu, what do you think about his strength?" Long Yin asked, using his gaze to hint at Ye Wuchen.

"Neither did he have martial skills, nor does he know any enchantments" the old man from the right side said, the other from the left also nodded his head.

"Oh? Is that so?" Long Yin looked astonished. He could believe that there was no martial skills, but if there's not even any enchantment involved... Based on the information he gathered, Ye Wuchen can not only use enchantments to connect with the wind, but also has the ring from the God of Sword. Also, Long Yin made his choice of siding with Lin family in front of the whole crowd just to test Ye Wuchen's powers.

And he apparently did not have any desire to hide anything; instead, agreed instantly.

The jade fan came in contact with the broken sword, sending out an ear-piercing sound "Ding!", a very large force burst forth from the point where both ends meet. Ye Wuchen's arm slightly became numb, successively retreated two steps, Lin Xiao did the same, astonishment flashed through both his eyes.

"Crap! He successfully resisted!"

A rough voice loudly resonated through the crowd, that was Hua Zhen Tian's signature voice. And this loud voice expressed the same surprise felt by everybody.

“What’s...” the elder beside Long Yin sounded alarmed: “What’s going on here? Young master Lin had used half of his power with one blow, how could he be able to resist that? Totally no energy wave was detected, don’t tell me his body itself has high power to such an extent?”

Long Yin flashed his gaze, his vision firmly fixed on Ye Wuchen.

“Master Ye really is the sage presented as a normal person, likewise, be careful.” after a moment of surprise, Lin Xiao’s face had that self-confident smile again. He brandished the broken sword in his arm, and momentarily formed a dazzling shadow from his sword which overshadowed the whole body of Ye Wuchen. After what happened in his first attempt, he was decided not to hold back this time.

He only used half of his strength before. But Ye Wuchen also only used half.

Lin Xiao’s sword speed was very fast, but Ye Wuchen’s strength of vision and hand speed was also extraordinary. With just a simple fan, he had resisted the sword. Then, with a simple flick of his wrist, he opened the jade fan. The thick edge of the fan carried a sharp energy slash towards Lin Xiao’s chest.

Ding... Ding... Ding... Ding...

The sound of the sword and jade collision repeatedly echoed, the two men fighting on stage both showed serene complexion, but the people outside the stage were flabbergasted, couldn’t believe their eyes.

Lin Xiao jumped high and struck with his sword. The power went from faintly traceless to outstandingly strong and had been directly resisted by Ye Wuchen. “Boom” a sound echoed, a marble stone below Ye Wuchen’s feet suddenly shattered into small pieces, both his feet sunk through deeply into the ground.

Lin Xiao jumped back by means of his strength, and retreated a few steps after touching the ground and then stood firm.

A very deep dent mark had emerged in the jade fan in Ye Wuchen’s hand, and this was almost snapped off because of the hit. The power that was able to break the fan like this, proved that Lin Xiao’s strength was in no way beneath his own.

The second degree of Wuchen’s power is equivalent to this ordinary world’s tenth level power, how about the third, the fourth... and the highest seventh degree locked within his blurred memory?

Lin Xiao absorbed a deep breath, his contemptuous intent disappeared without a trace. He didn’t stop. He concentrated on his sword with eyebrows furrowed and then dashed forward while his two faint sword beams flashed while approaching its target. Ye Wuchen used the jade fan to push them aside in succession, resisting both beams, then directing his fan towards the approaching sword.

“My son... when did he become so powerful.” Wang Wenshu sound excited and surprised, partly didn’t sound so convinced, but mostly had let go of her worries. Beside her, the once emotionless Ye Shui Yao now looked surprised.

“Sister, Chen is being considered as the descendant of God of Sword, it’s impossible for him not to receive any teachings from God of Sword. He simply did not reveal his true powers” Ye Wei said, the usually serious face this time turned into one filled with excitement, he could no longer control it.

“Is he really Ye family’s sickly young master?” still many people asked this question over and over again.

“He is younger than Mr. Lin, yet his strength was enough to resist Mr. Lin, indeed the young master of Ye also is an overall genius.”

“If I weren’t able to witness this in my own eyes, I absolutely wouldn’t believe it.”

“This surely means that if the father is a distinguished person, the son will surely do well, Ye family would not produce a useless person. To endure silently for so many years... they finally revealed this youngster’s talent today.”

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There are endless discussions going on the stage right now, but Ye Wuchen and Lin Xiao’s confrontation had already continue for several minutes. Still it couldn’t be determine who won the engagement, both had their advances and retreats.

Let’s just bring this to an end, this should be his entire strength... Apparently the second degree of his power might be somewhere between the ordinary world’s tenth level and the spiritual realm.

But, Wuchen’s strange and unpredictable power was really unimaginable.

Yet again there was another true direct strike, the raging power had caused the broken rocks under their both feet to flutter around, finally the jade fan in Ye Wuchen’s hand broke apart from its middle. Still he had no intention to yield, but suddenly he sped up his body, with his bare hands grabbing Lin Xiao’s neck.

Lin Xiao used his sword to directly stab backwards, but his vision blurred up. Ye Wuchen’s body suddenly sprung forward in a right angle. Like a ghost, he appeared by his right side -- his actions contrary to cognition of an ordinary person, proceeded straight forward but quickly shifted to the side. “Inertia” -- this word could not be applied to his actions.

His hand grabbed the wrist but was shifted into another direction. Lin Xiao thrust his sword but before his powers could take effect, he realised there was not enough time to decide whether to pull back or go in reverse. The wrist had been precisely grabbed by Ye Wuchen, his palm was forced to flip upwards.

“Ka-cha” sounded loud and clear, his wrist was dislocated, and his sword was taken by Ye Wuchen, then struck at the direction of Lin Xiao.

Lin Xiao hurriedly retreated back, but the silver sword beam became nearer each time he blinked his eyes.

“Chi!”

The blade of the sword cut through the left side of the once perfect face of Lin Xiao, leaving behind a very long blood-colored scar.

Whoah!

A huge wave of noise, many young ladies who had crush on Lin Xiao let out a loud scream. Lin Kuang and Lin Zhan both stood up, eyes bulging from their sockets, shouted worriedly: “Xiao-er! (Son!)”

“Haha! Good, nice! Hahahaha!” in the middle of the noise, old master Ye clapped his hand while laughing heartily, wishing he could dance wholeheartedly. Because of his grandson, he had been worried for a long time, and had been sullen for more than ten years due to the comparison between both youngsters especially with Lin family. But now... a moment of revelation! The word “pleasure” was not enough to describe what his heart felt at this moment.

“Disgraceful youngster of Ye, how dare you hurt our Xiao-er!”. This time Lin Yan’s five senses had been twisted together, evidently his anger reached its pinnacle.

“Oh? Then moments ago who was the one reminding me that ‘swords have no eyes during a competition, if someone was inattentively injured... even if handicapped there should be no investigation’, are so old so as to have forgotten your own words? Do you mean you are talking rubbish?” Ye Wuchen said mockingly. The broken sword in his hand was as bright and clean as before and didn’t leave a single trace of blood.

Chapter 53: Hua Zhentian

“Don’t be angry second Grandpa, it’s me who did not perfect my skills, don’t blame it on young master Ye” Lin Xiao said while covering his wounds. Then, facing Ye Wuchen, somewhat carried a bitter smile while saying: “Mr. Ye really has good skills, I’m sincerely convinced and I concede. I guess I acted ignorantly.”

“Hurry and lead Xiao-er to treat his wound!” shouted Lin Kuang.

“Hehe, elder Lin please don’t worry, our Chen-er had already shown mercy. It’s just a small wound. If a while ago Chen-er slashed through his neck, then we would have made a fuss.” Ye Nu consoled with these words.

The muscles on Lin Kuang’s face twitched continuously. He sat down heavily, and let out a cold groan. Ye Nu felt leisurely invigorated upon seeing that expression.

Lin Xiao went down the stage, a wizard who was seated behind Long Yin had left his seat hurriedly and went out to treat Lin Xiao.

When you strike someone you don’t aim at the face, let alone mark the face. This is akin to giving Lin family a ferocious slap on their face in front of numerous influential officials.

Everybody stared blankly at Ye Wuchen on the stage, after today, who would call the young master Ye a sickly person.

“You disgraceful young man!!”

This huge roar spread widely like a song. Along with this roar, came leaping a man with a solid and thick image, standing roughly 10 meters high and landing on the competition stage. Upon his landing, Ye Wuchen faintly felt the faint trembling of the stage.

“Ah.... dad!” Hua Shui Rou cry out in surprise. But her voice was too small, Hua Zhentian couldn’t hear her since he had already landed on the stage.

“So it’s actually Senior Hua, looking forward to receive your enlightenment” Ye Wuchen said, his face exposing a smiling expression.

For anyone to be so impudent in front of the emperor, no other would have dared other than Hua Zhentian. Long Yin wanted to say something but hesitated and finally chose not to utter anything and also had no indication of anger. Evidently, he was already accustomed to Hua Zhentian's attitude a long time ago.

"Enlightenment nonsense! How dare you muddy youngster hurt my future son-in-law's face, let me teach you a lesson!" Hua Zhentian's eyebrows furrowed, his eyes seem to have puff out flames. He loved his daughter more than his own life, and also loved everyone connected to her. Naturally, he would also protect his daughter's future husband whom he clearly witnessed the face being marked and wounded by a sword. He exhausted much of his will restraining his anger, but finally he threw himself at the stage, his repressed anger crumbling his restraint in violent eruption.

Along with his anger, a whiff of violent breath had been released and pressed into Ye Wuchen's chest like a huge rock. His heart felt frightened... This master from the Hua family really had a spiritual level of strength.

His grandson who had demonstrated extraordinary skills made him feel pride, which had now been tarnished by the defeat. If Ye Nu could still withstand this kind of attitude, he will not be called "Ye Nu"* anymore. Standing up with a "Ceng" sound, he pointed to Hua Zhentian shouting: "Hua Zhentian, Lin youngster does not have the skills to match you. It's not our Chen-er's fault, don't make trouble without any reason, other people might laugh at you."

TL: Ye Nu also means Anger

Hua Zhentian turned ferociously, then using his thunder-like voice roared: "Old man Ye, I saw him hurting my future son-in-law's face. How could my precious daughter handle this! Although he is your grandson, I will still hold him responsible."

With Hua Zhentian's fiery temper, he could scold any person, even the emperor is not within exception, and definitely not even Ye Nu.

"It's really none of my business even if your future son-in-law is killed. If you dare touch a single hair on Chen-er, I'll burn down your Hua house tomorrow!"

"Bah! I'll smash you until your mother will not be able to recognize you anymore. If you don't burn our house down tomorrow, then you are a cuckold and a bastard!"

"Do you think I won't? In those days when I was fighting in a battlefield, you were still a child seeking milk!"

"What's the use of fighting in a battlefield, I, your father, can use a single Vibrating Sky Thunder that can surely wipe out your entire Ye family!"

TL: 老子 - I, your father/superior - word used in anger to connote that you are superior. We've used this before but just putting a note for it in case not familiar to you.

Both of them fumed with anger, their elegance and composure completely lost. They both wished they could start a fight right away. Long Yin shook his head with a bitter smile, yet speak a word, and Lin Yan's lips were sealed, but he felt happy inside. He really hoped the relationship of Ye and Hua family would deteriorate.

Hua Shui Rou grasped both her hands tightly, nervous tears emerged abruptly. If any young man saw her lovely, pitiful posture, they would be stunned by her beauty and feel sorry for her.

“Enough, shut up!” Ye Wuchen shouted as he couldn’t tolerate any longer.

His voice had caused Hua Zhentian to shift his focus, he twisted both hands, replied very fiercely: “After scolding the old one, let’s teach this young one a lesson, I’ll beat the crap out of you later.”

“Wait a moment Elder Hua, could you please listen to the us youngsters for a few moments?”

“Spit it out.”

Ye Wuchen smiled indifferently, all of a sudden bent low his body, used the damaged sword in his hand to cut through the ground, his body movement shifting into high-speed. During few small breaths, he had draw a 5 meter diameter circle on the floor. When Ye Wuchen moved back to his original position, the circle happened to be surrounding him and Hua Zhentian.

“Hurting the elder’s future son-in-law, that clearly is the fault of this youth. But Hua and Ye family both have made their contributions to the Tian Long nation and both are pillars of this nation, how could a small matter affect the harmony of both family. To avoid the casualties caused by the lack of harmony, let’s compete by means of literary, whoever comes out of this circle first loses, how about that?”

“You’re talking nonsense, I’m here to teach you a lesson, if you jumped out of that circle, who am I to compete with? Don’t treat me as a fool!” Hua Zhentian roared in rage.

“Elder Hua are you afraid?”

“Nonsense!”

“If I lose, you can do whatever you want to do, how about that? Elder Hua... can you do it!”

“Hey... This is what you’ve said, why can’t I!”

“Then Elder Hua are you willing to gamble with me?”

“What bet!”

“Whoever come out of the circle first loses. Winner should agree to the three conditions of the loser, Elder Hua can you accept that?” Ye Wuchen explained clearly.

“Yes! Why not, since you youngster wants to die, let me help you fulfill your wish.” Hua Zhentian agreed without thinking, fiercely lifting his two fists and aiming at Ye Wuchen. His martial skills and power relied mainly on transformation. After applying Chi his whole body seemed like it was covered by a layer of copper wall. He has confidence that even if he stood motionless in front of Ye Wuchen, he wouldn’t be easily defeated.

“Alright, then let’s begin Elder Hua, be careful.” the corner of his mouth revealed a smile as if he had prevailed in a conspiracy.

Some of the people in the crowd finally reacted, but hadn’t gotten the time to shout in response as suddenly Ye Wuchen gracefully leaped out of the circle.

Hua Zhentian looked distracted, and then pointed to Ye Wuchen and laughed wildly while saying: "As it turns out, young boy like you has soft bones. Now that you have been defeated, give me immediately..."

TL: Soft bones means cowardly

"I'm already defeated, please follow our bet Elder Hua, agree to my three conditions." Ye Wuchen chuckled.

Hua Zhentian stared for a moment, almost went violent: "You young man, are you out of your mind, I was the one who won this bet, you are the one who should agree to my three conditions!"

"I think you must have heard it wrong, Elder Hua. What I meant is --- the winner -- should agree to the three conditions of the loser. You are the winner, and I'm the loser." Ye Wuchen laughed amiably, face looking innocent.

Hua Zhentian opened his eyes wide, his big mouth formed a circle, and he fiercely inclined his head to look towards the audience.

Chapter 54: Young man, you have a future!

"Hehe, General Hua, Mr. Ye said moments ago that the winner will be the one to agree to the loser's three conditions, and not the loser responding to winner's three conditions." an old official said.

"My beloved official Li, you are right." Long Yin said.

Even the emperor had seconded the statement, so it was impossible for it to be untrue. Majority of the people from the audience had committed the same mistake of hearing the statement in reverse, even they were unable to make certain of it. Only the minority had heard the statement correctly, and they have seen the proof just by looking at Hua Zhentian's eccentric and pitiful face.

"Daddy... what he said... it is indeed that way." echoed a very soft and timid voice. Although it was soft voice, Hua ZhenTian was able to hear it clearly.

Even his daughter had said the same thing, was it still worthy of doubt?

Hua Zhentian kept on changing his facial expression, then suddenly facing up laughed out loud like a crazy person and walked briskly in front of Ye Wuchen. He used his dark hand to pat Ye Wuchen's shoulder while laughing out loud, and exposing his teeth, his tears from the laughter nearly overflowed from his eyes.

"Good! Good! Good! Hahahaha! Well, young fellow, you went as far as to trick this old man. Very well, very well, hahahaha!"

"After all these years you are the first one who dared to trick me! Well, pretty good! You have a bright future! Hahahaha... I'm really convinced. Alright, what conditions do you like me to agree upon, do I simply have to wrinkle my brows or write my own family name backwards!"

Ye Wuchen separated from Hua Zhentian's hammer-like arm and said: "My first condition is to request Elder Hua not to investigate recent events."

“Of course I don’t have any plans to delve into the past anymore. For someone who could trick me like this, what does it matter about Lin family’s young son, he incurred wounds that just serves him right. You have two more conditions.” said Hua Zhentian straightforwardly.

Ye Wuchen’s head beaded with sweat ... What’s the logic in this?

“Then approach me once you have them... young fellow, you deserve to be called the young son of Ye family. I think highly of you! Hahahaha!”

Hua Zhentian turned around, swaggering to return to his seat. His anger had disappeared completely, replaced by a whole face of contentment and looking exactly like a patron leaving the brothel.

“I’m finally being tricked ruthlessly. Great! So fucking great!”

Feel great after being tricked? That’s nonsense... had he suddenly gone insane? Majority of the people thought the same thing.

Ye Nu, who had exploded in rage, went back to his seat, gritting his teeth inwards.

“Daddy, you... are you alright?” Hua Shuirou asked in a worried tone when Hua Zhentian returned to his seat since Hua’s reaction was so strange

“Hmm... that young fellow is pretty good. His appearance is better than the young fellow of the Lin family - his martial skills are also better than the young fellow of Lin; furthermore, even dares to trick me... Why did I reject the marriage proposal from Ye family before. Certainly I’ve lost my mind.” Hua Zhentian seemed somehow upset patting his head. Looking at Ye Wuchen, his gaze was quite reluctant to part from him, oddly wishing he could just let Ye trick him again.

“...”

Hu Shuirou secretly looked at Ye Wuchen, then all of a sudden, she lowered down her head, her heart beating very fast.

Ye Wuchen had caused Hua Zhentian to reveal the distinct feature of his characteristic and flaws through his extrinsic performance, and consequently, Hua Zhentian was fully defeated.

Originally, this competition was supposed to be a great show but it’s conclusion had reached a point where the ending was not something anybody expected. Hua Zhentian not only got unlucky, but moreover the Ye family also got their great bargain -- two conditions! Judging by Hua Zhentian’s character, he would surely keep his words and that is what makes it a valuable prize.

All things shall come to an end, but some people in the contrary don’t want it to end.

Yet another man hopped onto the stage, then, completely without poise, pointed and shouted at Ye Wuchen: “Young child of Ye, you’re not only shielding a people from the Gale Nation, but also using your despicable and shameless acts in front of Your Majesty the emperor and the people to treat General Hua as an idiot! You are so presumptuous, you don’t even respect the emperor and his rules!”

Lin Yan originally had bellyful of flaming anger, but then it burned stronger, and appears as if it would explode at any time. How can he just let Ye Wuchen slip by so peacefully after this. As a result, he made up a so-called unknowing accusation to press on - letting the people twitch their lips and say.... just say it

out loud when you want to vent out your personal spite - why would you have to include the emperor and us.

Ye Wuchen hadn't gotten the time to respond, Hua Zhentian angrily interrupted, standing up, pointing finger and scolding: "Old man Lin, what do you mean! I'm sincerely convinced that I lost and I conceded in a straightforward and upright manner! Ye youngster defeated me with his own ability, winning fair and square, it's none of your business. Damn you. How can you curse me as an idiot, would you believe that I'll make your house explode by tomorrow?!"

Although Lin Yan was just using Hua Zhentian to resolve the situation, there was somewhat a reason to exonerate him, but he didn't expect to provoke this kind of tongue-lashing. The veins in Lin Yan's neck burned in red. Ye Wuchen waved facing the direction of Hua Zhentian: "Elder Hua please don't be mad, this is an affair of the younger generation, only we can resolve it."

Hua Zhentian did not say anything further, and just sat down. The people were taken aback by this.

"Head Lin would you also like to have a competition with me?" Ye Wuchen rubbed his shoulder and asked indifferently.

"That's right! You hurt my Xiao-er (son) and won against General Hua, let's see if you have the ability to beat me. If you win, I not only won't investigate on the incident where you hurt Xiao-er, but will also give you three kowtows with my head banging on the floor, would you dare or not!?"

A wave of light hissing sound echoed. One of the seven Heaven Level masters of the Tian Long Nation would dare compete with a normal tenth grade power level youngster, and to question intensely whether the opponent would dare take the challenge --- was he not ashamed?

But these words no one would dare ask. Because behind Lin Yan there was not only the Lin family, but he was also the head of Tian Long's Imperial Educational Institute - several influential officials have their children in this institute.

Even a fool can see that, Lin Yan's shameless request for a competition was fake. The true reason was to use this opportunity to vent out his personal spite. Due to his high position he hasn't been this sullen before. But... the emperor didn't even intend to stop him, instead his face seems leisurely contented. Many people still didn't realize that today the emperor only spoke very little and only observed in silence, as though enjoying a stage full of marvellous shows.

Ye Nu fiercely stood up and was about to rain curses, but instead heard Ye Wuchen sneered: "Why not?"

Ye Nu suddenly stared in amazement and wasn't able to speak any further.

"Judging by your old age and weak body, I'm afraid of being not able to control my powers, Accidentally killing head Lin would be awful... How about this, I'll stand here to let you beat me. Oh, I heard you can play with fire, right? Then I'll stand here to let you beat me with fire three times. If you can injure me, then I lose, I'll do whatever you want. But if the three flames are unable to hurt me, then Family Head Lin loses. Kowtow is not necessary, because for me those are worthless, if Lin lose, then from now on whenever you see me just call me "grandpa" three times, would you dare?"

The whole audience went absolutely silent, now they have witnessed the most inconceivable incident in this world. Ye Nu and Ye Wei's face color changed, Ye Nu stood up and roared: "Chen-er (son), don't make trouble! Although he might seem like a half dead old man, he has Heaven Level power! His fire can even melt steel!"

"What!? Ye Wuchen startled upon hearing, eventually his face color changed, looked at Lin Yan with a gaze brimming with fear.

Chapter 55: Resistance

The sudden change in face color of Ye Wuchen had caused Lin Yan to laugh grimly, he lowered his tone while laughing: "Well, you speak very well, how can I not do it! Haha haha!"

Lin Yan's voice dropped. Because he had taken the bet, there was wild uproar within the audience. Lin Yan was the strongest fire wizard in the whole Tian Long nation, there's no way a youngster would be able to resist him. It would be fine if it were just a simple competition, at most he will just be simply defeated by Lin Yan and get burnt in a battered and exhausted manner, but in no way would he get murdered because Lin Yan wouldn't dare do this. Even if he defeated his opponent it would be just an everyday experience; on the contrary, Lin Yan will get despised by other people if he lost. This idea had been suggested by Ye Wuchen, but in any case he would just suffer from the consequences of his actions and be consigned to his eternal damnation.

Could it be that this astonishing genius of the Ye family would just like that get destroyed by the hands of Lin Yan? Anyway, the Ye family wouldn't allow this kind of thing to happen. After a while, there would be an unavoidable episode of riot.

Ye Wuchen turned around, facing towards Ye Nu and Ye Wei he revealed a relaxed smile but quickly concealed it. Ye Nu and Ye Wei simultaneously took it all in, and then glanced at each other's face.

Don't tell me he is luring Lin Yan into something?

Although they could tell what method would be used, the two men calmed down at long last. Ye Wei patted Wang Wenshu to calm down her nerves, and signaled her not to panic.

Ye Wuchen suddenly clenched his teeth fiercely and turned around as though he weren't afraid of dying. Facing the location where the emperor was seated, he yelled every word solemnly: "We, the Ye family, are absolutely not ones who would break our promise. Since I, Ye Wuchen, have already agreed on this bet, then there's no way I'm backing out. Let Your Majesty and all the friends and elders seated here be my witnesses. If I lose, I will be punished by Clan Head Lin without any resistance. But if I luckily defeat Head Lin, then he should call me "grandpa" three times whenever we met.

After a moment of silence, a flat powerful voice echoed: "Fine! Since you've insisted, then I am going to be your witness. You started this bet, have you pondered on the outcome if you are defeated?"

"We from the Ye family, when we lose, we lose with dignity and fairness. Absolutely we never grow fat eating our word else we would be ridiculed by other people." Ye Wuchen remarked in a serious tone.

TL: Idiom alert, grow fat eating our words means not to live up to one's promises.

Long Yin nodded his head: "Now we begin... but... I really hate seeing a talented young man get ruined by this. Sometimes admitting one's defeat is not a shameful thing - to blindly pursue one's dignity is a behaviour of an impertinent person.

"Wuchen thanks Your Majesty for the concern."

Ye Wuchen turned to face Lin Yan, his face is calm and his attitude that of facing death with equanimity: "Superior Lin, please go ahead. Just like we agreed, you can only use flame to attack, or else you lose, and I cannot evade, or else I'll lose."

"Hmp! I don't need your reminders!" Lin Yan let out a cold groan of disdain, then his expression turned to sorrow. He firmly believes that Ye Wuchen's power would never be able to resist his flames. He lifted both of his hands, and then both palms ignited a red colored flame. The flame color went from a red-yellow hue and gradually turned to a dark scarlet red. A small portion of heat became stronger and stronger starting from his palm then quickly spreading to all the directions.

But at this moment, the originally angry Ye family should have yelled "Hey old Lin Yan, if you dare hurt my Chen-er, even just a single strand of his hair, we Ye family will make you pay". Instead, completely out of everybody's expectation they had completely maintained their silence, but their foreheads continuously broke out cold sweat showing their inner nervousness.

Wang Wenshu's heart almost jumped out of her mouth, Ye Wei grabbed her hand to comfort her: "Believe in Chen-er, we must believe in Chen-er, if we interfere without careful consideration this might in turn bring harm to him."

Would Lin Yan really use his powers to kill Ye Wuchen?

Of course not. Even though Ye and Lin families could not get along, they didn't have any major grudges beyond their rivalry. If Lin Yan had really caused Ye Wuchen to be handicapped or even to cause him to die, then there will be absolute irreconcilable hatred between these two families. The Ye family would take their revenge against Lin by all means, and there'll be no such bullshit regarding there being a bet. What kind of bet would cost them their son. Moreover, people would criticize Lin family for being cruel, and they wouldn't say anything wrong against the Ye family.

Lin Yan at most only wanted to injure Ye Wuchen, possibly cause him to be confined on a bed for a month or two to vent out the accumulated anger within his own heart. This way, people wouldn't blame it on the Lin family, and would only mock Ye Wuchen for overestimating his own powers - and to go so far as to make bets with a person with Heaven Level powers without knowing the background of his opponent. To get what he deserved for the injury - one could not blame Lin Yan for delivering this. Also, Ye family would not be able to seek any vengeance afterwards, at least regarding the outcome of the yet.

Furthermore, Long Yin's words just a few moments ago were aimed at persuading Ye Wuchen not to do anything stupid and for him to concede to save himself which should have given enough of a hint to dissuade him.

On the side of the audience, Hua Shuirou and a majority of the people began to be anxious. She pulled Huan Zhentian's clothes and said in a low-voice: "Daddy, will something bad happen to him? Looks like the old Ye Ye is more powerful."

TN: Ye Ye is grandfather

This old fellow when he encounters me only runs away, this youngster does really play big now. Perhaps this will be the time of his ruin.” Hua Zhentian said pitifully yet with a grin.

In a corner, Long Zhengyang’s inner being was also anxious. He leaned his head only to find Ye Ningxue’s peaceful face. In the corner of her mouth hung a faint silly smile, and he couldn’t help but ask: “Sister Ningxue, aren’t you worried of your brother?”

“No worries.” Ye Ningxue answered.

“But my grand uncle... that Lin Yan is the most powerful fire wizard in the Tian Long Nation, would he have any method to take his attacks and not get hurt?”

“Of course! Because brother simply is not afraid of fire.” Ningxue said full of smiles.

Lin Yan waved both of his hands and two identically sized fireballs burst out as though they were two red colored dragons flying towards Ye Wuchen’s chest, all the while twisting and rotating. The corner of Lin Yan’s mouth exposed a sneer. With this hit, he only used 20% of his powers, he was confident that Ye Wuchen could only resist at most a few seconds without getting seriously burnt. Yet, as everyone had expected, Ye Wuchen didn’t even use any powers to resist or isolate the flames. He only stood there without moving, his expression strangely calm and he even stuck out his chest in preparation to receive the two approach flames.

The two flames knocked against Ye Wuchen’s body at the same time... the audience platform immediately echoed with the screams of women. Some women even turned around to cover their eyes, but this was immediately followed by a surprised and shocked cry.

After the two scorching, fiery dragon flames hit Ye Wuchen’s body, it was indeed like two flames falling into the water. Between a few breaths it disappeared without any trace. No splash of fire, no white smoke, just like that it completely disappeared. Not only was Wuchen’s body unharmed, but his clothes didn’t receive any damage as well. Ye Wuchen was still standing quietly on the same spot, as though nothing happened.

In disbelief, people rubbed their eyes again and again, they looked cautiously at Ye Wuchen’s body and attempted to find any traces of the burn, but could not find any. They could not help but think, did Lin Yan only mean to frighten his opponent by throwing out flames only to extinguish them or were the flames he threw simply flame-like fire lights? Beyond this, there was nothing that could have explained this inconceivable incident that just occurred.

But the extreme surprise that could be found in Lin Yan’s face surely could not have been faked ----- then by using what method did Ye Wuchen completely resist such flames?

Chapter 56: The Five Elements Resistance Body

Wang Wenshu’s face went pale as she returned to her seat, her heavy feeling slowly turned into relaxedness. Her forehead already full of cold sweat, she remarked: “This kid really scared the crap out of me, his mother.” When Ye Wuchen got struck, she almost stood up as if she were in electric shock, her heart almost jumping out of her throat.

"I already told you, just trust Chen-er." Ye Wei said in a mischievous laugh. At the same time, he wiped off the cold sweat out from his own forehead and left no trace behind. His heart was similarly pushed to its maximal limits. He was surprised as to how a while ago he was able to keep most of his composure.

After all, this child who came back after having been lost for year had brought them a great deal of shock... or rather pleasant surprises.

"That's the first attack." Ye Wuchen said simply while facing Lin Yan with an exposed and mocking grin across his face that provoked his opponent. He seemed almost nonchalant about the situation.

Inside his mind, a new memory emerged.

"... Your body possess water, fire, wind, thunder and earth - the power of death from the five dark elements of the holy Qilin. Qilin's blessing. You will not fear the ice nor the snow nor the bitter cold throughout your lifetime. You will not fear the fire nor the burn nor the torrid heat. Not the fear-twisting wind nor the crushing boulder. Not the thunder nor the lighting splitting from the sky nor the breath of death. Your body helps you empower these six channels of forces - water, fire, wind, thunder, earth and death - for you to have immunity and control over these six channeled elemental power..."

Holy? Qilin's blessing... because of it, can one never fear of water, fire, wind, thunder, earth and death and even harness these forces?

Lin Yan strongly suppressed his anger and surprise and said in a lowered tone: "I was unable to tell that such as little fellow as you had such skills. In that case, if you have guts, then don't hide it! Ha!!"

With one loud shout, Lin Yan's hands clasped together onto his chest, a strong dazzling red light rose up from the surface of his plans and then expanded rapidly. In that same moment, a scorching heat grew gradually more powerful until it shrouded the entire public area. The crowd felt as though, for a moment, the scorching sun of a hot summer was cast upon them.

For a person's strength to be Heaven Level was quite rare, but once they became a master this was sufficient enough for them to go against the whole world. Nobody could stop them, and no one would dare provoke them. They even earned the respect of the emperor, so even though Long Yin was present, Lin Yan could freely show off his powers like a raging inferno. Since Heaven Level masters were rare, few could really contest them, and witnessing their true strength became a very rare and fortunate event.

But today Lin Yan used up 70% of his powers to condense the flame power that already caused the audience to tremble in fear - even Ye Wuchen's facial expression displayed astonishment.

This was Heaven Level strength... and as powerful as this was, this still wasn't his full force. A while ago the energy of Hua Zhentian was extremely astonishing and would already have been difficult to resist. This time, given the strength that Lin Yan put on display, it was clear that the magnitude of power was incomparably superior to that of Hua Zhentian's.

Spirit Level and Heaven Level seemed as though they were just one level, but their difference was like the distance between sky and earth.

Ye Wuchen arrived in this Heavenly Star continent for just a short period of time, and still could not thoroughly understand the different levels of the worldly powers. If the level was high, it would be more difficult to upgrade and almost axiomatic in every aspect. From the Tenth Level to the Spirit Level was a

very large gap that few could surmount. Then from the Spirit Level to the Sky Level was another larger gap that, once surpassed, led to the recognition of a power so great that the owner was attributed as having a Demi-God state as called by the human race. But the Heavenly Star continent had Spirit Level masters everywhere, yet the Heaven Level masters were a rarity because it was really hard to step across that gap - power, luck, perception and opportunity, these were all indispensable.

“Forbidden Fire --- Red Lotus Arrow!”

A loud voice cried. This casted half a meter of red light that transformed into a rough and long flame arrow and was then followed up by a luminous and terrible heatwave of shots across Ye Wuchen’s front chest.

Wang Wenshu once again stood up fiercely, and for a moment her heart raced faster by many multiples.

Such terrible attack, could the miracle happen once more?

Countless heartbeats rose up in speed - perhaps that of all the people watching with the exception of one calm Ningxue

Boom!!

The scarlet flame exploded into a crackling and radiating fireball - and then extinguished itself in almost an instant. The temperature on stage rose up into something impossible to withstand, but then dropped suddenly and then slowly the temperature returned into its normal state.

When the flames exploded, Ye Wuchen’s body flew out, his body flipping into the air and receding seven to eight steps after falling to the ground and the finally he stood still upon reaching the other side of the stage. His face was flushed. Ye Wuchen bravely inhaled, then forcibly swallowed the fresh bloody that was just about to rush from his throat.

If Lin Yan were simply using his flames, it wouldn’t have mattered given how strong Ye Wuchen was. But this kind of tremendous flame attacks were definitely not something he would really like to face. Although Lin Yan had high magic power and low competence skills as a wizard, the applied force of impact could not be compared to the same level of Martial Skill type of masters, but it was still something impressive from a Heaven Level master. Wuchen almost got full defeated if he hadn’t fully guarded his chest.

Pacifying his internal wounds, Ye Wuchen leisurely walked towards the stunned Lin Yan. With his posture set up on high, he said: “Master Lin, apparently your flame wasn’t good enough - not a strand of my hair or even a cloth on me was burnt.”

After speaking, his face was filled with loathing as he patted the clothes on his chest, as though being touched by the flame just a while ago was akin to humiliation.

In front of Lin Yan, a long black line extended all the way up to where Ye Wuchen was which wasn’t originally present. This was the mark that was left when he had chanted “Forbidden fire -- red lotus arrow” and the awfully scorching hot temperature burned through the marble floor. This was a terrible flame that was impossible to fake.

But Ye Wuchen who had been directly hit without any shield appeared not to have the slightest injury. If they had not actually witnessed it, they would never have believed it even though if they were to be beaten to death.

What method did he really use! Or it may mean that his strength has reached a point where Lin Yan's flame can't even harm him... Is that even possible?

"Daddy, you are awesome, seriously... really, really awesome." Hua Shuirou said unable to restrain herself. From time to time she secretly looked at the young man on stage who had caused everyone's incomparable surprise.

"Yes... really fucking awesome." Hua Zhentian stared with his bull-like eyes, then speaking in a low muffled voice: "Fuck, why did I even rejected this fellow to be my son-in-law! He's even more pleasing to the eye than that Lin youngster."

"Dad... don't say bad words!" Hua Shuirou said softly, her face turning red.

Long Yin's face was a still as water, but both eyes flickering with acute radiance. He said in a low voice: "Elder Li and Elder Lao, could you have resisted like him?"

"Definitely impossible!" both shook their heads without hesitation.

"If I were the one to face Clan Head Lin's attack, I would have simply avoided it in the first place. Directly withstanding his force, even if full strength were used... the injury still cannot be avoided. But to bear the attack without any defense... even if it is the God of Sword, one could not have resisted without receiving any injuries." the old man said, is faced filled with surprise.

Chapter 57: Flame of Anger: Burn the Entire Eight Desolation

"Then... what kind of person would possess such great power which cannot be detected by any of you?" Long Yin asked.

"Not unless... that person's power is one level higher than ours and is deliberately hiding his strength." the old man said, suddenly his face changed and he remarked in a surprised tone: "Ye Family's young master was able to fully endure the flame, his is a power that we cannot see and we cannot even feel its presence. Don't tell me he has... he has God level power!? This..."

"No!" Long Yin shook his head, his eyes full of vitality as he started at the stage: "He is very young, and possessing such strength to defeat Lin Xiao who is already a gifted genius. It's already impossible for him to have God level powers, otherwise he would not previously use the kind of method he used to defeat Hua Zhentian and would also unlikely make this bet with Lin Yan. Elders, what kind of method would enable a person to hide his breath? Is there a way to make a person fearless of fire?"

"This... In my ninety years of existence I have never heard of it... perhaps it exists but we cannot say for sure."

"Of course, it's impossible for a person to naturally possess this kind of amazing powers!" Long Yin said.

"I heard Clan Head Lin is regarded as the greatest fire wizard of Tian Long Nation, don't tell me that he can only throw the kind of funny flame that can't even hurt a single strand of hair? Oh, hehe... excuse my rudeness, my words are too extreme. Please don't put my word into your heart and please be

generous Clan Head Lin. Since you are the greatest fire wizard in Tian Long, then your powers must be able to shake the world and scare the supernatural beings. You must have shown mercy to younger generations like mine, I'm really so grateful, but I hope Clan Head Lin will take it more seriously. Don't make any tricks that even a three-year-old would not think of doing. Please do not forget Head Lin, if you lose, you must call me grandpa three times. I don't mind if I have another grandchild, but being a grandpa without getting married, what would people say..."

"Shut up!!" Lin Yan went violent as though hovering between a life and death situation and wishing he could tear him up into pieces. After all these years, there wasn't anyone who didn't praise him, respect him, fawn over him and never has anyone dared humiliate him before. However, this time, it wasn't just because it was done by a young man but also because it was in front of all the aristocrats of the Tian Long Nation. At this very moment, under the influence of violent rage, Lin's rage led to a motivation to kill. The apprehension and consideration he once had was fully engulfed and consumed by his anger.

TL: To hover between life and death - the idiom used here was A Buddha being born, another Buddha ascended to heaven.

With open eyes flaming in red, he shouted loudly, his whole body immediately ignited in raging fire... the color of the flame shifted to a shade of blue, which was even scarier than the red and scarlet flames. At the same time, a heat that was extreme and hard to bear momentarily shrouded the entire audience, causing suffocation and even producing excruciating pain - as though one were being burned alive.

"This Clan Head Lin's most powerful skill: Forbidden Fire -- Burn the Entire Eight Desolation! Oh no!!" Howled Elder Li who was seated beside Long Yin.

Long Yin abruptly stood up, pointing at Lin Yan and shouted: "Stop it! Stop your actions at once, are planning to burn alive all the people here including myself!?"

Upon hearing Long Yin's cry, Lin Yan blocked his ears and didn't heed the words, both his eyes stared firmly at Ye Wuchen -- he could lose, because if he lost, there will yet another humiliation waiting for him! Accumulating the power of his entire body, most of his senses had been sealed off. Even if he had heard Long Yin's voice, it was now too late because once started, it was impossible to stop. If anyone tried to stop it by force, that person would have burned himself alive and have died as a consequence.

The blue flame in his body constantly expanded - that burning hot sensation became more and more dreadful and the frightened shouts that became more chaotic could be heard echoing through the entire arena. However, the surface under Lin Yan's feet was not burned, but instead it slowly subsided - indeed it seemed to be melting away!

Ye Wuchen's posture was still calm and unruffled. In the midst of the chaos, he was the closest to Lin Yan, but he didn't feel any scorching heat, only a kind of warmth.

There was an obvious disturbance erupting in the competition area, a group of people situated near the stage even started to cover their heads while leaving the area, making their own way to retreat. At this time, two yellow shadows leapt out, landing separately at both the left and right side of the stage. They both shouted and waved their hands, and suddenly, two streams of air as vast as the ocean were dispatched from the left and the right side, fusing together in middle. With its tremendous power, an opaque barrier was formed, blocking out the scorching heat.

The temperature outside the stage quickly returned to its normal state. The disturbance settled down. The crowd originally came to attend this event just to witness some young talent, but quite unexpectedly because of the appearance of just one person it suddenly became a series of twists and turns eventually reaching this pinnacle where the two in front of them were each showing their true powers.

Long Yin sat down with a gloomy face, a bit enraged, but looking at Ye Wuchen he discovered an expression still as normal as before - his heart was amazed.

Ye Wei and Ye Nu already had a huge shift in the color of their faces because the two people had offered protection - soon it will be certainly followed by Lin Yan's universally devastating attack. Even if Ye Wuchen's composure remained calm - he still could not keep from trembling from within with fear. This was not imagination nor game -- that Lin Yan had lost his rationality to the flames of his anger and use this kind of terrifying attack against a young man -- what's more is that the target is Ye family's one and only son!!

By the time Lin Yan had accumulated his powers, everything was too late. Even if they wanted to interfere it was impossible to approach. The two individuals risked themselves to rescue all the people, but they have blocked Ye Wuchen and Lin Yan, permanently sealing off their escape route.

Lin Yan's body disappeared in the midst of that blue flame, but this time, the blue flame finally exploded. The entire competition hall was immediately covered by the blue flame, turning it into a dreadful sea of blue flame. At the same time - its range continuously expanded, almost breaking through the barrier set by the two protectors.

Seeing Ye Wuchen submerge completely in the sea of flame, the competition hall burst out in a cry of surprise. Wang Wenshu's eyes immediately turned white and then she collapsed. Ye Wei responded in time, quickly helping her. Acting hastily he pinched her philtrum fiercely until she swung wide awake.

Note: Philtrum is an acupuncture point - the vertical groove between the base of the nose and the border of the upper lip.

"Chen-er... what happened to Chen-er!" Wang Wenshu struggled to get up. Ye Wei said promptly: "Shu-er, believe in Chen-er, he will be alright. Haven't you seen his fearless expression a while ago - it's nothing. It will be alright."

He was comforting his wife just as much as he was comforting himself and his father, Ye Nu, whose body was indistinctly trembling.

The sea of flame still flaring up - the sound of surprised cries rose and fell in succession. Some of them were without experience in martial skills nor enchantments. Even those young men and ladies who rarely left their homes were having doubts as to whether they were dreaming -- this so-called power of sky level masters... is this really considered within human capability?

If they only knew that Lin Yan had compressed the range of his power to its smallest form. This Burn the Entire Eight Desolation was enough to extend up to a hundred meters wide, and people will surely be engulfed in fear.

Desperately searching through the sea of flames - where could she find her own son. Once again, Wang Wenshu's eyes turned white and her body collapsed.

Chapter 58: Monster! Devil!

"Daddy... I'm scared. Is he already..."

"Clever daughter, don't say anything. Please don't say anything." Hua Zhentian opened his eyes widely and fixated his eyes to look into the stage that was submerged in a sea of flames. That very short moment of focused and concentrated expression was as though he were looking at a naked woman with only bubbles covering her body.

Li and Lao - the two elders were sweating as though they were rainclouds, but once the sweat evaporated through the scorching heat, their clothes didn't have the slightest evidence of moisture. Even though there was a barrier, the heat still hit their face, and they still needed to exert effort to protect their clothing else their clothes would have burned to pieces - revealing their bodies in front of all the people and ruining the reputation they took a lifetime to build.

This kind of fire even a Heaven Level master would not dare directly touch. That young master of Ye might already have been burnt to ashes, or...

The blue flame burned for a total of more than ten seconds, but finally there was indication that it was subsiding. The pressure had decreased and the two protectors heaved a sigh of relief simultaneously. Then what happened next caused the two earnest elders to almost let their eyes jump out of their sockets from surprise.

As the blue flames slowly dropped, two shadows appeared at the same time. The first one was Lin Yan's whose body was still burning in blue flames, the other was... Ye Wuchen who happened to be yawning. He stayed within the blue flame, yet his body didn't incur any wounds and his expression did not betray any fear, and it seemed he even had an expression of wishing to continue on. It seemed as though he resented the duration of the fires for being so short that he didn't even have a chance to express any pain.

"Why was it extinguished so fast? Hey! What a huge letdown." Ye Wuchen muttered in a low voice. The voice reached the ears of the two protectors and almost made them fall apart.

At that moment, the expressions on the people's faces were of extreme wonder. Some opened their mouth, but forgot to scream, some rubbed their eyes with all their might as they couldn't believe what they had witness. Some even secretly clutched their necks, testing whether they were just dreaming.

The word 'genius' did not seem sufficient enough to describe this person; this time he was practically a monster... devil!

When the fire was completely extinguished, they witnessed another surprising scene. The stage which was originally one meter tall had completely disappeared... not only did it disappear, but the area had obviously descended. That jade fan which had fallen to the ground and the sword had both disappeared without a trace. They didn't even leave any marks... all were incinerated into ashes.

After such terrible flame, he was still safe and sound and his clothes did not get burned by even a bit.

Ye Wei almost jumped in excitement. He patted the back of his wife, and with a blameful face he said: "See, I said we must believe in Chen-er, this time we are relieved. Our Chen-er (son) is not the Chen-er from before. He worships the God of Sword as his master, maybe he will become a minor God himself."

Wang Wenshu only nodded her head, speechless after being pleasantly surprised.

Ye Nu abruptly turned around and firmly slapped Lin Kuang's shoulder, followed by a few more slaps, he said laughing: "Hahahaha! Elder Lin, you people from Lin family are indeed not that simple. Burning that kind of flame but still not even burning a single strand of my grandson's hair, bravo, bravo ah! Hahahaha!"

Lin Kuang's complexion was ashen, he couldn't even conceal the surprised look of his face.

"Daddy, he's actually..."

"Good fellow! Good fellow! Somebody I admire this much has never shown up before... Today I have really fallen head first for this fellow. Since he will not be able to become my son-in-law, then at least we might be sworn brothers!" Hua Zhentian once again interrupted his daughter, clicking his tongue non-stop.

Hua Shuirou jumped with fright, saying urgently: "How is this possible. He is very young, how can he become sworn brother with daddy."

"Who said young people cannot be sworn brothers with your dad. Even if those old men kneel before me to become my sworn brothers, I wouldn't do it."

Hua Shuirou behaved and didn't say anything further. She knew when her father's tough temperament came up, even a hundred bulls wouldn't be able to drag him out.

The two protectors pulled back, almost suffering from heat exhaustion. The blue flame in Lin Yan's body was finally extinguished. But both of his eyes were spiritless, his body slightly trembled. This was the aftermath of not only using up all his magic power but also experiencing inconsolable shock.

"Impossible... this is impossible..." he mumbled in a low voice as if it were a dream while looking at Ye Wuchen who was without even the slightest of injuries.

Long Yin stood up and said with an angry face: "Head Lin, because of your personal spite you even used this trick called the Flame of the Eight Desolation, and you didn't even consider the life of the people and my own!"

Thousands of angry gazes shot at Lin Yan. Thinking of the terrible heat wave, there was still lingering fear inside their hearts.

"Please don't be angry Your Majesty. He had already compressed the power of Flame of Eight Desolation to a minimum range, or else the whole surrounding would be in sea of flames, even we two wouldn't be able to bring Your Majesty out. President Lin already relaxed a bit when exhibiting his Flame of Eight Desolation because he knew we were here to protect. He didn't have any intention to harm Your Majesty." Protector Li said half rising out of his chair. He clearly wasn't planning to exonerate on behalf of Lin Yan, but because if the emperor had taken one step further, Lin Yan might only have gotten further enraged.

Long Yin let out a cold snort, sat back, then said in a low voice said: "Then this matter is settled!"

Long Yin was definitely not a very lenient person, wishing he could just tear the retarded Lin Yan into pieces. Lin Yan was usually boastful and hot tempered, looking down upon people, but this time his anger was provoked repeatedly, and under this rage he would seem to do crazy things. But Heaven Level masters can be forgiven, better to go with the flow as they should not be provoked. Once provoked, the power of a Heaven Level master could easily bring out disasters. Lin Yan could continue to be enraged because of his impulsive personality, moreover the Lin family was present to back him up.

Lin Yan pretended not to hear Long Yin's voice and still foolishly stared at Ye Wuchen. He couldn't believe his own eyes. Ye Wuchen quite enjoyed his facial expression right now, smiling while extending out three fingers: "President Lin, according to the bet, you need to call me grandpa three times. His Majesty and all the people here are witnesses. Alright, obedient grandson, you can now call me out."

The pupil of Lin Yan's eye momentarily enlarged, he opened his eyes wide, shaking while slowly lifting his arm, a finger pointed towards Ye Wuchen, but in his heart the humiliation and fury made him feel as though he wanted to burn all his internal organs to pieces.

Ye Wuchen sneered at him. Depleted of magic powers, rapid fury striking at his heart, losing his dignity to the greatest of extent, even getting berated by the emperor like that...

Ye Wuchen extended out three finger then took them back one by one, unhurriedly saying them gently: "three... two... one... "

"One" being said, Lin Yan's eyes both turned white. The world seemed to be spinning in front of his eyes, and then directly he collapsed onto the ground unconscious.

The Lin family head master's brother, one who held a position in the Lin Family not lower than that of Lin Kuang, one who was Head of Tian Long's imperial education institute and one that held the title of Tian Long Nation's number one fire wizard - yet just like that he collapsed in front of Ye's young master.

Lin Xiao had been fully defeated by Ye family's Wuchen. Then Lin Yan was also defeated in an even more miserable manner. After this day, news of this event would spread across the city, and the Lin family will never be able to lift their heads in front of the Ye family again.

Chapter 59: Lin Family Are All Grandchildren

"Second brother!"

"Second uncle!"

Two sorrowful voices sounded amidst the chaos, Lin Kuang dashed forward to lift up Lin Yan. His face was ashen as he looked up at Ye Wuchen saying: "Young child of Ye, you have gone too far!"

"Too far?" Ye Wuchen said in a puzzled face, he said: "Master Lin, I cannot understand what you mean, a while ago who was the one who volunteered to compete against me. Who planned to kill me without considering the safety of His Majesty and all the people here... From beginning until the end I didn't fight back nor flip any of my fingers, then you're saying I'm the one who had gone too far? Master Lin, I would like to ask you boldly -- are you blind?"

To be able to scold Lin Family like this in public.. Besides Ye Wuchen, no other person could do the same or even dare. Even those experienced and knowledgeable aristocrats were dumbstruck.

There was indeed nothing wrong with calling him blind.

Seeing the situation turn rigid, Long Yin finally opened his mouth to say: "General Lin, Clan Head Lin used up all his strength. If it's not too hard, please bring him down to rest."

Any person with a discerning eye would be able to see, depletion of power was just a secondary reason. When he fainted, the primary reason was that the anger had lead to a heart attack, and he also used it to walk away from the humiliation of his failure.

The first to suffer such humiliation, and in the hands of a younger generation of the Ye family, Lin Zhan couldn't easily give up. If they just walked away with this, the Lin family would not just lose their respect, but for the rest of eternity they will never be able to lift their faces in front of the Ye family again. He pointed to Ye Wuchen and said in a hateful voice: "But Your Majesty, this young son from the Ye family indeed forced my second uncle to call him... He was the first one to hurt my son (Xiao-er), and then to humiliate my second uncle like this. Insulting us Lin family, how can I agree to this!"

"Hoho, Master Lin, this event was not only provoked by you Lin family, but when me and Head Lin made the bet and Lin didn't even oppose, you Lin family didn't even advise against it. His Majesty and the people here and the people here can prove it. This time, I, Ye Wuchen wins honorably then you're saying that I humiliated your Lin family... that's extremely ridiculous. As it turns out, the majestic Lin family is an untrustworthy and shameless group of people. I once respected you as the Master of Lin, but now... your second uncle still needs to call me grandpa. They can prove it. I will then regard you as my great grandson. How about that?"

"You!!"

"Great father, please don't be angry."

A clear and sonorous voice sounded, and all of a sudden, the owner of that voice soared gracefully through the air and landed in front of Lin Zhan who went to heal Lin Xiao of his wounds. The long scar was still present in the latter's face, but it was already being taken cared of. Because the cut was only at the surface and because it was a fresh wound, one could simply heal it using light enchantment. After a week or more, the wound will be completely without any scars. This was the reason why the Lin family did not fully react with violent rage when Lin Xiao was injured by Ye Wuchen. If Lin Xiao's perfect face was really destroyed by Ye Wuchen because of the competition, Lin Xiao would not have easily dropped the issue.

Together with Lin Zhan, they lifted up Lin Yan. Lin Xiao calmly said: "Father superior, for this matter our second grandpa is wrong in the first place. I, your child, being injured is due to my lack of skills and we could not blame Young Master Ye. I would Great Father to leave with second grandpa."

Lin Xiao said those words as though he were putting his own prestige in the line, but this caused people to nod their heads in agreeance. Being broad-minded at his young age, Lin Xiao was sure enough he was respected by the Tian Long Nation as the number one rising talent, his achieve in the future might probably exceed his father's.

Lin Zhan strongly suppressed his anger, nodding his head at Lin Xiao and then left with Lin Yan without saying any word. Intensely proud of his elder son at the same time trusting and understanding him, he knew Lin Xiao already had his own way of thinking.

When he was leaving, Lin Xiao clearly saw his meaningful glance... that look made him want to redeem the Lin Family's reputation by all means within the same day.

Silently standing at a distance, this Young Master of Ye who had caused him disdain within contempt at this moment brought mountainous pressure on him. In the past, everywhere he went, he was the more dazzling person and was the target of everyone's flattery. But today, while standing side by side Ye Wuchen.... He could feel it in people's eyes that the latter's brilliant rays had overshadowed his own.

"Young Master Ye, my father and second grandpa's words might have sounded irritable, if they had offended you, please be lenient. Be understanding on their part as elders and do not take them seriously. In addition, I'm giving this shameless request hoping you can take back your bet. After all, my second grandpa is from the older generation, all his life he valued reputation more than his own life. It's really difficult for him to accept that his reputation is ruined. Even if he has so many discomforts, if you treat him this way it may be too much for him. So I'm earnestly requesting Young Master Ye to take back his words, we Lin Family will surely compensation you in other ways.

Lin Xiao's words were reasonable and fair, and the tone was also sincere. Outsiders might think that if Ye Wuchen didn't agree and take the honor because of his past incident with Lin Yan, this kind of bet would be going too far.

Ye Wuchen somehow felt helpless when he said: "Master Lin what you said is right, I really don't want to disrespect Clan Head Lin and very much wanted to take back the bet. However, me and Head Lin's bet has been witness by His Majesty, the emperor, and all the people present here. If we really dropped the bet at this point, wouldn't it mean that we're playing tricks on the emperor and all the superiors here. This kind of thing I will never do. Hay... in the future, I will do my best to keep away from Head Lin, not only to save Head Lin from embarrassment but also to avoid the awkward moments. People will probably forget this incident after a while.

He went through this explanation with a face of mercy, but any person would easily figure out that he only meant two words -- no way! Moreover, he even included the emperor and all the superiors from the imperial families as well as the officials, sealing off Lin Yan's way to reason out further he explained in a confident and generous posture, as though letting the opposing side take the better bargain. Lin Xiao was unable to retort and he more likely needed to thank him with gritted teeth...

"If that's the case... then I'll thank you Young Master Ye." Lin Xiao Said, forcing a smile. Second grandpa lost the bet to him, which meant it was compulsory to call Ye Wuchen grandpa. Then it was evident that generations of Lin Family will be his grandchildren, even great grandchildren, or great great grandchildren...

"Don't mention it. This is what I must do." Ye Wuchen said generously.

Lin Xiao: "..."

After the exchange of words, Lin Xiao still couldn't get the upperhand, but instead dropped downwards. Seated in the side of the audience, Lin Kuang was so greatly angered that his mustache was shaking

continuously. Ye Nu's heart was feeling rejuvenated, even asking Ye Wei and Wang Wenshu not to say anything further, and not to interfere. It was all under control of Ye Wuchen, and the Ye family would take full responsibility if disaster were to happen... After all, Ye and Lin family had never been friends.

Chapter 60: Literary Competition - Preface

Lin Xiao said facing Long Yin, "Your Majesty, this competition should have ended a long time ago, but Lin Xiao would just like to shamelessly request some of Your Majesty's and the audience's time, and make a request."

"How is your wound?" Long Yin asked instead in a concerned tone.

Lin Xiao said with a grateful face: "Thank you for your concern Your Majesty, it is just a flesh wound, nothing serious. It will heal completely after a few days."

"Then I feel relieved. What is your request, might as well be forward with it."

"Yes!" Lin Xiao answered in a respectful manner then said, "I, Lin Xiao, for a long time have been a confident master of pen and sword. I am respected as Tian Long's most gifted scholar and Tian Long's best talent. But these are meaningless titles. Thinking myself the greatest among my generation, consequently has made me arrogant, immeasurably proud, but also lonesome. Today, after competing with Young Master Ye, I realized that there is always someone greater and more powerful than me. Before, I was ignorant and narrow-minded. Now, I am both ashamed and secretly delighted, seeing the others go hunting, one is excited by the thrill of the hunt. Young Master Ye not only has extraordinary skill, but also has incomparable wisdom, with sharp words and superior martial skills as well as great literary talent. In martial arts, I have been completely defeated, so I would like to compete in literary skills. I hope Your Majesty and Young Master Ye would agree."

TL: Seeing the others go hunting, one is excited by the thrill of the hunt - one gets inspired by seeing others practice their craft/do what they love

After speaking, his eyes looked brightly at Ye WuChen, his expression implying provocation.

Suddenly there was an exchange of whispered conversations. Who among the Tian Long Nation does not know of Lin Xiao's "Tian Long Number One Gifted Scholar" title? Even though his martial skills has reached great heights among his peers, considering Tian Long Nation's myriad of older generation masters, he is only regarded as an above average talent. But his wisdom greatly surpasses his martial skills, so much so that a number of great scholars from the older generations conceded their defeat in front of him, proclaiming that they have not witnessed such talent in their whole life and that there is definitely no other person like him. Whether the four arts (zither, Go, calligraphy, painting), verse, songs, or poetic essays, all of them he has highly perfected. His skill level simply reached an unimaginable degree of talent.

Obviously, he was using his highly regarded talents to save the face of the entire Lin family. Could the Young Master of the Ye family meet him head-on? In front of His Majesty and the people, declining Lin Xiao's invitation for challenge would mean victory for Lin family by default. If he accepted the challenge... would there be any hope of victory for the Young Master of Ye?

Long Yin nodded his head, "Two great talents testing their skills against each other would be marvelous to beyond beyond comparison. Even I am itching to get on with it. How can I not permit it. Everybody is aware of Lin Xiao's talents, and Wuchen's skills might also be out of the ordinary. Have you come to a decision, Wuchen?"

Ye Wuchen considered carefully for a little bit, then said in a helpless manner. "Since Your Majesty is expectant, I shall accept the literary challenge of Master Lin."

Judging by his expression and tone, it looks like the challenge was accepted not because of lack of better option, but because...of the emperor's eagerness. He appeared to have no interest in the challenge.

After giving his consent, the atmosphere around them became more enthusiastic. After all, an interesting spectacle was about to begin. Majority of the audience were excited to personally witness the great talent of Lin Xiao.

"Master Lin, how would you like to compete?" Ye Wuchen asked.

"I would like to know where Young Master Ye's expertise lies" Lin Xiao asked in return, with a moderate tone, yet anyone could hear the conceited implication of this tone. He really had full confidence in his own talent. Not only among his generation, but even among the entire Tian Long Nation. He believed it would be difficult to find another person his own equal.

"I'll follow as you wish. Since you are the one who suggested the literary challenge, you should be the one to decide." Ye Wuchen countered the air of arrogance by standing his ground. A lesser man would refuse to give his competition any sort of advantage. If one intends to win, at least let their opponent be sincerely convinced to concede without any complaint.

"If that is the case, then let us allow His Majesty to make the decision?"

Ye Wuchen nodded, expressing his consent.

Lin Xiao turned around and said, "In order to be fair, Lin Xiao would like to boldly request His Majesty to host the competition between the two of us. Verse, songs, poetic essays, or the four arts (zither, Go, calligraphy, painting), are all acceptable!"

"Hoho! This was my intention. I will decide your competition. Literary challenge is different from martial skills challenges, numerous factors are involved. A single challenge couldn't simply determine the winner and loser. I will give you three stages of competition, the one who wins two stages is the winner. Is that acceptable?" Long Yin said laughing, showing great interest in the competition to follow.

"As Your Majesty commands." Ye Wuchen and Lin Xiao said at the same time. At this time, they both had the same unusual thought --- two stages would be enough. It will not likely proceed to the third stage.

"OK!" Long Yin nodded, slightly knitting his brows, thinking deeply for a moment and said, "My original plan after witnessing this competition was to go to the lakeside of the West City for a tour, then make a painting there as a passionate pastime. I happen to have brought two complete set of painting tools. Since this is the case, your first stage of competition is painting!"

Long Yin clapped his hands. The two attendants seated behind him immediately stood, each of them holding a very huge painting board made of sandalwood as well as different kinds of tools. They proceeded towards Ye Wuchen and Lin Xiao, raised the painting board, spread across the painting paper, painting brush and all kinds of inks, then left them to the two gentlemen before stepping down and retreating to their seats.

Painting in public...The people extended their necks, patiently waiting. Their thoughts secretly praising the emperor for having the forethought of bringing painting tools in his journey.

“This... this can’t be right, Chen-er had been sickly since he was small. He has never learned painting.” Wang Wenshu once again got anxious, she never cared about competitions, but she could not bear seeing her precious son lose his reputation in front of so many people.

Ye Shuiyao wanted to say something but halted. Fixing her gaze on Ye Wuchen, waiting for him to reveal his true colors. Today, she was once again trying to understand her brother, the one who she knew since birth.

“Don’t worry. No matter how crushing his defeat will become, after today, his fame will surely spread across Tian Long Nation! How’s that for defeat. We of the Ye family do not need those conventional poetry and essay anyway.” Ye Wei said confidently, his face bore no signs of being anxious but instead showed pride.

“You said it right.” Ye Nu also nodded. He evidently believed that Ye Wuchen was not even the least bit well-matched with Lin Xiao for literary competition. But, so what? Allowing Lin Xiao to take initiative suggesting literary competition clearly means that they’ve been pressured to rely on this last resort to regain their reputation. For Ye Nu, who had been fighting in the blood-soaked battlefield for many years, he looked down upon those scholars who had been nesting in their homes, reciting poems and essays. Heavenly Star was a continent that highly respected martial skills.

“The competition has not even started yet, and you’re already trying to absolve your grandson. If that’s the case, why don’t you admit defeat beforehand, isn’t that better?” Lin Kuang sneered at him.

“Your second brother is my grandson’s grandson, which also makes you my grandson’s grandson. When the elder is speaking, the younger generations have no right to interrupt.” Ye Nu snorted coldly.

“You!” Lin Kuang was furious. As he was about to stand up to argue, but he recalled the current situation. He forcibly suppressed his anger and refused to look at Ye Nu.

“There’s no limit on the content of the painting; you can paint whatever you like. But the time will be just for a quarter of an hour! After a quarter, whether you’ve completed or not, you must stop painting.” Long Yin said.