

### Chapter 31: Completely Refined

Half of his body felt like it was frozen in a vault of ice, while the other half felt like it was being dipped into a volcano.

Comfort and pain assaulted him at the same time. While his body was being destroyed by the scorching energy, it was doubly restored by the effects of the Red Gold Pill and Eternal Vitality.

The extreme energy of fire and ice intertwined as they entered his body. Xu Xiaoshou, who was merely the vessel of the energy, could only feel pain.

2

“Kekeke...”

2

Xu Xiaoshou’s teeth chattered. He had completely lost control over the energies. In fact, he could no longer control the Breathing Technique.

The energies that were coursing within his body tore past his meridians and instantly entered his energy reserve. His energy reserve sizzled, threatening to rip apart. The pain was enough to make a person go insane.

There was a charred smell in the surroundings. The grass Xu Xiaoshou was sitting on instantly died from the heat. Around him, the willow trees gradually changed from a tender green to yellow, then black, and the white jade railings around the lake were covered in a layer of soot.

The plump geese ran around in fright, as if the water in the lake was about to cook them alive.

In Xu Xiaoshou’s body, the scorching energy wanted to continue rampaging after it entered his energy reserves. However, the forceful activation of the Breathing Technique suppressed the scorching energy right after it had started burning again.

Xu Xiaoshou took out another Red Gold Pill and took a deep breath. The high instantly suppressed his pain and quickly repaired his ravaged body.

1

Buzz!

A red and gold ripple spread out into the surroundings, and the mud and grass around him were sent flying into the air. The willow trees bent and snapped, and some segments of the white jade railings exploded.

Gurgle, gurgle.

The water of Goose Lake was almost boiling. Bubbles rose to the surface, and dead fishes floated to the surface. The plump geese that had escaped the crisis gathered at a faraway corner, shivering.

The old man wearing a straw hat flew into the air and quickly dived into Goose Lake.

Xu Xiaoshou opened his eyes. Cold sweat mixed with his blood was dripping down his body. He couldn't help but pat on his chest.

"I survived...?"

The Infernal Fire Seed had become much smaller with his one breath, and his cultivation level had also increased considerably from his original Spiritual Cultivation Level Seven.

The scorching energy had been suppressed, and the injuries in his body were recovering at a visible rate. Xu Xiaoshou felt numb and limp.

The terrifying regenerative capabilities of Eternal Vitality and the Red Gold Pill that the Red Gold Pill absorbed were being displayed to their fullest.

1

Xu Xiaoshou wiped off his blood and sweat and noticed that other than his haggard expression and drained energy, his condition was no different from that of an ordinary person.

"Oh my God..."

"This regenerative capability is really strong!"

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't help but shiver when he thought about the pain he'd gone through just now.

Above his energy reserve, the Infernal Fire Seed now looked rather indignant. It had gotten much smaller, and its rate of destruction had been completely suppressed by Eternal Vitality.

Xu Xiaoshou took a few breaths of fresh air. Seeing that his body was gradually recovering, he clenched his teeth and sat up once again, a determined look in his eyes.

So what if it's painful!

He'd been tortured in his previous life. Furthermore, even though this process was extremely painful, the pain was only temporary. Since it would become a threat sooner or later if he left it alone, he might as well tolerate the pain now and completely refine the seed tonight!

4

He took out a Spiritual Cultivation Pill and inhaled it in one breath, restoring himself to peak condition.

With a ferocious look on his face, Xu Xiaoshou once again exhaled a large orb of red energy out of his nose and mouth. Even the air was rippling from the heat. Xu Xiaoshou swallowed the energy along with a Red Gold Pill.

Under Goose Lake, the old man held onto his straw hat and looked at Xu Xiaoshou in shock. Completely forgetting that he was underwater, he swallowed a few mouthfuls of water on accident.

1

He'd had an experimental mindset when he first heard that there was a person with an Innate-stage physical body in the Outer Yard and forcibly made the young lad swallow the Infernal Fire Seed into his body.

He might be able to create a fire-element genius if he succeeded. If not, it would only cost him a life if he failed. That was no big deal.

8

However, observing Xu Xiaoshou throughout the day had touched him a little.

This person, who wasn't able to tolerate the pain from the start, had managed to forcefully suppress the pain just with Red Gold Pills later during the day and even get into the arena to battle.

The crowd might mock him for taking drugs before the contest because his body was burned red, but he, a person who had also consumed the Infernal Fire Seed, knew how much pain this lad was hiding behind his smiles and jokes.

Thus, when this lad tried to extort Xiao Qixiu, he'd taken advantage of the opportunity and lent Xiao Qixiu ten bottles of the Red Gold Pills he'd refined.

1

He was shocked by the training that the young man was now going through at Goose Lake under the moonlight. That young man had given up a little on refining the seed and was starting to devour the energy in large gulps.

"Is he not afraid of death?" he thought.

The old man wearing the straw hat couldn't tolerate it any longer and wanted to stop Xu Xiaoshou. However, he didn't expect that while he was flying over to him that Xu Xiaoshou would manage to use a unique technique and his immense willpower to fight through the first wave of pain.

It didn't end there. He managed to sit up after just a few breaths...

He's going through it again!" he thought.

"What kind of monster is he!

"Does he not feel pain?"

The old man was shocked and felt like he'd unintentionally discovered a treasure. Just with his willpower alone, Xu Xiaoshou had immense potential.

He was going to get Xu Xiaoshou as his disciple!

5

The explosions around Goose Lake naturally attracted the attention of the law enforcers from the Spiritual Law Division, and a group of black-robed men soon appeared around the lake.

Xu Xiaoshou didn't even notice them.

“Back down!” The old man suddenly flew out of the lake. His temperature rose and instantly evaporated the moisture on his body. He pressed down on his straw hat. His voice was a little raspy.

The law enforcers stopped in their tracks and looked up to see a somewhat withered and ordinary figure under the clear, round moon.

However, some of the law enforcers felt the faint scorching energy emanating from that person’s body and were a little shocked.

“Vice-dean?”

1

“Elder Sang?”

The people in front looked at each other. They didn’t understand what was going on and were a little confused. “When did he come...”

The law enforcer leading the group slapped the head of the person who said this, and the law enforcer lowered his head and obeyed the order, quickly leaving.

“Yes!”

The people behind quickly followed the command, and all of the law enforcers disappeared in a flash.

Elder Sang took off his straw hat and stood atop the white jade railings.

The night wind ruffled his creased shirt and blew away the few strands of withered grass on his head. The plump geese gathered under his feet and cackled, desperately searching for a sense of safety.

However, there was only one man in his large, black eyes.

“Hah!”

Elder Sang smiled. It was impossible to know what he was thinking.

There was destined to be no peace at Goose Lake that night, and the white jade railing was in desperate need of repair.

Because... the scorching waves that were coming from the young man’s body in the distance had extraordinary destructive capabilities.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

...

Noon the next day the disciples of the Outer Yard lethargically entered the spectator seats.

“Darn it, were they renovating the spirit palace last night? The explosions were so noisy. Did you guys hear it?”

“It came from the direction of Goose Lake, right? My yard is near the area. It was extremely noisy. If not for the fact that nothing happened, I’d have thought an enemy had infiltrated the spirit palace.”

1

“What noise? My yard is also near Goose Lake!”

“How did you not hear it? Are you deaf?”

“Oh, oh, sorry. Now that I think about it, I have a soundproof barrier at home. Sigh, it can’t be helped that I’m rich.”

6

“... F\*\*\* you!”

2

Xu Xiaoshou also entered the Chuyun Platform with dark circles under his eyes, looking like another victim of the noise. No one knew that this person was the true culprit.

He hurriedly entered the waiting area and finally managed to feel at ease.

On an average day, his training usually consisted of sleeping in his yard. He didn’t have to worry about the noise he made disrupting his neighbors because of his soundproof barrier.

“However, this method instantly backfired when I trained at Goose Lake,” he thought. “I wonder if the noise I made affected my opponent or not...”

“If so, that would be great!”

The Infernal Seed had completely disappeared after his full night of refinement, and his cultivation level had also reached the peak of Level Seven.

1

He could advance if he wanted, but there was no need to.

1

Through the constant burning, Xu Xiaoshou had even managed to repeatedly consolidate what he’d learned from his past levels.

Now that he thought back on it, more people would’ve been moved by the process.

2

Xiao Qixiu continued the advancement matches for the top 16 candidates as if nothing had happened. Xu Xiaoshou gave the attendant a few instructions, then started to doze off.

“I’m so tired!” he thought.

He normally trained by breathing in his sleep. However, he’d gone two consecutive days without sleeping. He wasn’t used to it.

1

He soon fell asleep. In his dreams, an attendant was running toward him with two bottles in his hands. The attendant slapped him on both his cheeks.

2

“Slap!”

“Wake up. It’s your turn!”

2

### **Chapter 32: Autograph**

“Got shocked. Passive Points +1.”

1

Xu Xiaoshou abruptly sprang up, looked around, and realized that he was in the waiting area. He touched his face and looked indignantly at the attendant. “Why did you hit me?”

The attendant gave him an innocent look, and then gradually started to look confused.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the attendant’s hand. “Oh, there’s no pill bottles?” he thought.

“It’s your turn to battle!” the attendant said coldly.

Only then did Xu Xiaoshou realize that he’d been dreaming before and embarrassedly walked out of the waiting area.

“Xu Xiaoshou, good luck!”

“Xu Xiaoshou, hang in there!”

“Xu Xiaoshou, champion!”

He was shocked by the crowd’s cheers. The moment he walked out of the waiting area, he saw the entire crowd standing and cheering for him.

He froze. Of course, some people had cheered for him in the past, but a lot of people had put him down too. “Why is everyone cheering so hard for me today?” he thought.

“They didn’t even sleep well...”

He didn’t know that his consecutive victories over the rank-seven Wen Chong and the rank-four Zhou Tianshen, as well as his Acquired-stage Sword Will and Innate-stage physical body, had made him the favorite to win the entire competition.

“Got encouraged. Passive Points +442.”

“Got cheered for. Passive Points +665.”

“...”

The notification panel in his mind constantly refreshed, and Xu Xiaoshou happily waved his hands and slowly made his way into the arena.

“Passive Points: 44820.”

1

“Passive Points: 45611.”

“Passive Points: 46002.”

Xu Xiaoshou was smiling so wide that his eyes had narrowed to slits. Even though the process of refining the Infernal Fire Seed last night was arduous, he'd been greatly rewarded for it in the last few hours. It had given him nearly 20000 Passive Points.

And his Passive Points were still rising.

“Xu Xiaoshou, walk faster!” Xiao Qixiu said in an unfriendly tone.

Xu Xiaoshou immediately quickened his footsteps, and when he entered the barrier, it was silent and peaceful.

He now had a good idea why a barrier was needed during the Windcloud Competition.

On the other side of the arena was a girl wearing a pale yellow dress who looked rather delicate. She had a tightly-combed head of hair, and the corners of her eyes were curved upward. She was wielding a soft bone whip and was striking it against the ground with every step she took. She looked extremely energetic.

3

Li Cenjing, Spiritual Cultivation Level Ten.

As usual, Xu Xiaoshou wanted to say something, but he didn't expect the young lady to interrupt him. She said mischievously, “Giving up before the battle is a great disrespect to your opponent. Running away without battling...”

3

“Oh, what comes after that...”

“Forget it.”

Li Cenjing curled up her soft bone whip and tapped her head as she said, “Xu Xiaoshou, I've seen you battle. You are very impressive!”

“Can I get your autograph later?”

3

“Got admired. Passive Points +1.”

Xu Xiaoshou rubbed a hand over his head, embarrassed. He didn't expect there to be a fan amongst his opponents. He quickly swallowed the sarcastic comment that he'd been about to say and nodded in agreement.

Li Cenjing's expression immediately turned cheerful, and she chuckled.

Xiao Qixiu expressionlessly waved his hand. "Battle, start!"

1

Xu Xiaoshou played the gentleman and signaled for his opponent to attack him first. He didn't expect Li Cenjing to raise her hand and blink her large eyes.

"I admit defeat!"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression darkened. "You stole my line just now, and now you're going to admit defeat?" he thought. "What kind of fan are you? Don't you know what I really need is Passive Points?"

Li Cenjing saw the change in his expression and quickly explained, "Zhang Fei is still lying down in the Spiritual Medical Division and can't even fight in the placement battles. I don't want to fight you. I want to fight in the placement battles!"

Xiao Qixiu didn't even have time to finish swallowing the mouthful of water in his mouth. He hurriedly raised his hand and announced, "The battle is over. Xu Xiaoshou is the victor!"

The spectators instantly started murmuring amongst themselves. They hadn't expected someone to give up during a top-16 battle. Wasn't that the same as giving up on the rewards that were to come?

"How boring. Why didn't she fight properly? I wanted to see Xu Xiaoshou's performance!"

"I think Li Cenjing is rather wise. She's only Level Ten. She wouldn't have been able to defeat the Level Seven Xu Xiaoshou. Conserving her strength now for the placement matches later is quite smart."

"Puu, listen to the nonsense you're spouting..."

Li Cenjing, who'd just admitted defeat, scampered over to Xu Xiaoshou and handed him a spiritual pen. "Autograph!" she said excitedly.

1

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

"Huff!"

"Hold it in, she's a fan!" he warned himself.

"Where do I sign?" Xu Xiaoshou's said gently.

Li Cenjing generously extended her hand with her palm facing upward. Her fingers were slender. She said, "Oh, here!"

She deviously glanced in the direction of the spectator seats. The crowd seemed to be in an uproar, but the two of them couldn't hear anything in the arena.



Outside, a girl sitting in a front-row seat was manically roaring, "Stop it right there, Li Cenjing! Xu Xiaoshou is mine!"

1

"Kekeke!"

Li Cenjing shot her friend an ugly look, a smug expression on her face. "Hmph, see what happens when you don't train properly?" she thought. "All you can do is stay outside and be envious of me.

Xu Xiaoshou wasn't shy. He grabbed her hand. It was soft and warm.

He finished his autograph in a few strokes and said, "Don't admit defeat when you encounter anyone else in the future. It's very disadvantageous."

1

"Yes, yes, it's not disadvantageous."

Even though Li Cenjing was usually rather brazen, she couldn't help but blush when Xu Xiaoshou grabbed her hand in front of all these spectators. She was, after all, only a 16 to 17-year-old teenage girl.

6

The numb, itchy feeling his skin gave her almost made her pull her hand back, but she fought the impulse and answered softly, "Thank you!"

The young lady turned to run after she got the autograph, as if she were escaping.

"Hey, your spiritual pen..." Xu Xiaoshou immediately called out.

3

The young lady didn't even look back. "You can have it!"

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at Xiao Qixiu. The middle-aged man was repeatedly shaking his head, his eyes filled with emotion as he thought back on past memories. He didn't even rush Xu Xiaoshou out of the arena.

1

All Xu Xiaoshou could do was put the spiritual pen in the ring hanging around his neck.

Outside, the girl sitting in the front-row seat went crazy when she saw this. She rushed toward Li Cenjing, who'd just gotten out of the arena, with red eyes. Even the attendants couldn't stop her in time.

"Li Cenjing, today is your death day!"

"Look at my otherworldly flying kick!"

"Don't. Look, are you still going to kick me?"

"Hng hng hng, I'm so envious. Chop off your hand and give it to me!"

2

“...” Xu Xiaoshou walked out of the barrier and glanced at the notification panel. He couldn’t help but feel faint.

“Got despised. Passive Points +333.”

“Got despised. Passive Points +333.”

“What’s going on?” he thought.

“Even though no blood was drawn, shouldn’t they be praising and encouraging me for winning the battle?”

“What happened to all of you? You were still cheering me on before I got into the arena, and then the next instant you dislike me?”

“Heh, humans!”

Xu Xiaoshou forced a smile onto his face and waved at the crowd in an attempt to salvage the situation.

“Got despised. Passive Points +886.”

1

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

In the waiting area.

Xu Xiaoshou squatted on the resting chair. The atmosphere outside was intense. He could no longer sleep.

At this point in the competition, he’d already successfully placed in the top eight.

According to the schedule, he still had one battle to fight today, and if he was victorious, he would compete for the championship tomorrow.

“Will I become champion...” he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t so sure.

He might’ve felt more confident of becoming champion if he hadn’t encountered Zhou Tianshen yesterday. Zhou Tianshen, who was at the peak of the Acquired-stage, already had such terrifying battle capabilities, so there was no telling how strong the Innate-stage fighters would be.

Xu Xiaoshou twirled the cup in his hands, a little dazed.

The Innate Stage was a general title.

It consisted of three levels: Origin Court, Occupied Void, and Upper Spirit.

After the first ten levels of the Spiritual Cultivation process, a Spiritual Cultivator would gain an understanding of the natural laws and open up an Origin Court near where the deities resided. If successful, they would awaken their Innate Elemental Power. That was the Innate-stage.

As for what the Innate Elemental Power was exactly, there was an infinite variety of them, and they differed from person to person.

It could be one of the five basic elements, or it could be a concept. For example, the stream of ice that Zhao Qingteng conjured with his sword, or Zhou Tianshen's Blade Will...

What Xu Xiaoshou was afraid of most was this:

Even though his passive skills could be used as Innate-stage Spiritual Techniques, they had their limitations.

At the very least, he didn't have the Innate Elemental Power, which meant he didn't have a strong guarantee to win compared to the true favorites to win the competition.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at his energy reserve and couldn't help but smile bitterly.

The spiritual strength in his energy reserve was pitch-black and saturated with scorching energy. This was the reward he'd gotten from fighting for his life yesterday night. However, it was still lacking compared to a real Innate Elemental Power.

"Sigh!"

Xu Xiaoshou let out a frustrated sigh. He had wanted to use his strength to achieve the top spot during this competition. Now, it looked like his dream was too unrealistic.

He looked into his mind again.

"Passive Points: 48226."

### **Chapter 33: Acting Up Again**

Xu Xiaoshou currently had five Passive Skills, three of which had reached the Innate-stage. The remaining two were at Level Six and could be leveled-up.

If he set aside 10000 Passive Points to have a reserve, he'd still have a whopping 38000 Passive Points that he could use.

He had obtained three Passive Keys when he got Eternal Vitality. Thus, Xu Xiaoshou purchased seven keys, intending to make ten consecutive draws with the wheel.

He put his palms together and silently prayed for good fortune.

The red wheel in the merchant interface was still covered in fog. Xu Xiaoshou placed the keys into the slot one by one.

He hesitated a moment, then decided to shout as usual, "RNGesus, bless me!"

3

Bad luck can be reversed with rituals!

This was something Xu Xiaoshou had always believed in.

The two attendants in the waiting room heard Xu Xiaoshou's shout and looked at each other at the same time. "It's here again!"

The two of them went to the corner, and one of them squatted while the other stood. They silently observed Xu Xiaoshou with looks of curiosity.

The squatting attendant hit the attendant above him with his head. "Go prepare the resuscitation equipment."

1

"Wait, let me have a look too!"

"Quickly, what if something happens later?"

Xu Xiaoshou was squatting on the rest chair, and his gaze fell on the notification panel.

"Better luck next time!"

"One extra key!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"One extra key!"

"Better luck next time!"

Thump!

Behind the wall, the two attendants looked at Xu Xiaoshou, who seemed petrified in his praying state, fall headfirst onto the ground. They both looked like they'd expected this to happen.

The standing attendant immediately turned to retrieve the medicine and equipment, while the other attendant immediately rushed out. While he ran, he thought about whether mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was needed here or not.

Xu Xiaoshou, who had fallen to the ground, suddenly turned his head to look at them. "What are you doing?"

The two attendants pouted and slipped into a daze. The attendant who had put on heatproof gloves and had two bottles of medicine in his hands stopped in his tracks.

"You're fine?" the two attendants exclaimed in shock.

"Hehe, why wouldn't I be?"

Xu Xiaoshou laughed coldly. It was getting harder and harder to get anything from the system. He'd been prepared for this. At least this time he didn't faint from shock.

He waved his arm at the two attendants and said, "You're making a mountain out of a molehill. Go back first!"

"Oh, okay!"

The two attendants turned back to look at Xu Xiaoshou every three steps. "His body doesn't seem warm today," they whispered to each other. "So there's probably no need to wear heatproof gloves."

1

"Who knows. You should keep them on."

Xu Xiaoshou watched the two attendants disappear behind the wall, and his expression immediately twisted. He abruptly clutched his heart.

"It's toying with me!

"This broken system. That's another 10000 Passive Points down the drain."

1

Even though he'd been prepared for the outcome, it still fazed him, as it would anyone.

"Hehe, two keys for 10000 Passive Points..."

He remembered that the first time he spun the wheel, he'd gotten Sharpness and another key with just three keys, but now?

Hmph!

Xu Xiaoshou once again purchased eight keys to make it a nice round number, then stabbed one of the keys fiercely into the red wheel's hole.

There are still nine keys...

Stab it in again!

Continue...

"Hah! RNGesus bless me!" Xu Xiaoshou roared in fury. He looked furiously at the notification panel, as if concentrating harder would give him better items.

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

"One extra key!"

"Better luck next time!"

"Better luck next time!"

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Obtained Extended Passive Skill: Sense!”

5

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

With a boom, the rest chair he was sitting on was instantly crushed. Xu Xiaoshou was so excited he lost control of his Innate-stage physical body and hit his head on the ceiling.

“It feels good... Urgh!”

Pieces of wooden shrapnel fell onto the ground, and Xu Xiaoshou’s face crashed into the ceiling.

The two attendants behind the wall looked at Xu Xiaoshou, who was propping his hands against the ceiling and trying his best to pull his head out of the hole he’d created, and glanced at each other.

1

“He’s generous, but he’s definitely sick in the head.”

“Yes, yes!”

“After all, we took the medicine from him. Let’s repair the chair and the ceiling later. We don’t need him to pay.”

“Yes, yes!”

“Sigh, he’s a decent man. What a pity he’s only half useful...”

1

“Yes, yes!”

12

Xu Xiaoshou was halfway through pulling his head out of the ceiling when he suddenly stopped moving. The two attendants behind the wall became a little anxious.

“He can’t pull it out?” they thought. “Does he need help?”

1

Xu Xiaoshou could naturally pull his head out of the ceiling if he wanted to. He only froze because even though he couldn’t see anything with his head stuck inside the wood, he’d managed to “see” the two anxious figures of the attendants behind the wall.

1

More accurately, the faint outline of every figure within a several-mile-radius had appeared inside his mind.

5

Xu Xiaoshou could even discern the emotions of these two people.

This was...

“Sense!”

Xu Xiaoshou was elated. This passive skill was too powerful. He could conjure the image of his surroundings in his mind. Not only would this prevent his enemies from assassinating him, but he’d even be able to peep on young girls...

16

Cough, cough.

It’s a great technique!

“Can you come down?” a concerned voice questioned from below.

2

The hazy image in his mind told him that the attendants had brought a ladder over. Xu Xiaoshou nearly fainted. This was a trivial matter. Why did they have to bring a ladder?

He quickly pulled his head out of the ceiling and jumped down. Then, he waved his hand to signal that they didn’t need to go through all that trouble.

The two attendants sighed, feeling exhausted.

They’d never encountered such a weird candidate before. He would have bouts of insanity and mutilate himself. He would jump around. He had every devious technique imaginable in his arsenal, and frequently showed off his antics.

1

The two of them had silently brought out the ladder, and now they were silently taking the ladder back. It was as if they’d lost the ability to talk.

“Got cursed. Passive Points +2.”

Xu Xiaoshou hit his head. “There’s only the two of you here,” he thought. “Do you have to be so obvious?”

He found another chair and squatted on it, then immediately purchased ten Skill Points and used them all on Sense.

“Sense (Acquired Lv. 2).”

“...”

5

“Sense (Innate Lv. 1).”

The visual range in his mind expanded to nearly ten meters. This was decent. What shocked Xu Xiaoshou even more was that the image had become much clearer.

6

Xu Xiaoshou closed his eyes, and the formerly mosaic-like image became much clearer. He could even clearly see the two squirmish attendant’s heads against the wall behind him.

1

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly turned around and looked them in the eye.

“Bang!”

“Clank!”

The two attendants abruptly pulled their heads back and accidentally knocked each other. They toppled the teapot on the table and whispered to each other in shock, “Does this Xu Xiaoshou have eyes on the back of his head?”

“Darn it, that scared me to death. How did he know that we were looking at him?”

“Shhh!”

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. Whatever the two attendants were doing and saying... It was all presented clearly in his mind!

In the past, he would’ve noticed the two attendants spying on him. However, he wouldn’t have heard what they were talking about or seen their movements.

This situation was akin to him having a surveillance camera in the back of his head that could present the image directly into his mind.

2

“My God!” Xu Xiaoshou said, as if he’d seen Wen Chong launching another surprise attack on him. However, this time he wouldn’t need to turn his head around. He could just directly kick his foot backward and tear his opponent into two with his Innate-stage Sharpness.

3

“It’s another sinister technique...” Xu Xiaoshou was very excited.

His Passive Points had reduced by 20000 in an instant, but he still had 20000 points left. He clenched his teeth and decided to go all out and purchased nine keys.

Along with the key he’d gotten previously, he now had 10 keys left!

“I’ve never tried spinning the wheel again after obtaining something. What if I get consecutive skills...”



Xu Xiaoshou calmed down his wildly beating heart and carefully slotted the keys into the red wheel.

“Hah! RNGesus bless me!”

Make it rain even harder than last time!

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“One extra key!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“Better luck next time!”

“One extra key!”

Boom!

Clank!

“Ah...”

The teacups in the two attendants’ hands trembled from the deafening roar behind the wall and almost spilled over.

The two of them looked at each other and gulped down their tea. They moved quickly.

One of them put on the gloves again and grabbed the medicine. The other pouted as he put up three fingers...

Two!

One!

“Charge!”

“Speed!”

“He’s acting up again. Secure him!”

The next second, another fearful voice rang out, “Oh f\*\*\*! What are you guys doing?”

“F\*\*\* you, shut up!”

“Urgh...”

### **Chapter 34: Hello! Goodbye!**

Xu Xiaoshou was washing his hands.

If he hadn't clasped a hand to his mouth at the critical moment, he would've had his first kiss in this life.

1

“Got cursed. Passive Points +2.”

“Got cursed. Passive Points +2.”

The two attendants were grabbing their bellies and rolling around on the ground in pain. They'd both been kicked by Xu Xiaoshou, and it definitely did not feel good.

Of course, these two people, whose bright idea had been to bring a ladder over to try and save him, had limited cultivation levels, so Xu Xiaoshou knew to hold back.

Boom!

At this moment, an explosion was heard from the main arena. A spiritual tree had crashed through the barrier and was growing toward the sky. It tossed a muscular figure out of the arena.

2

“The battle is over, Mu Zixi is victorious!”

The crowd was in an uproar. The sudden rapid growth of a spiritual tree had shocked them.

“Oh! My honey, that's too incredible! Inn... Innate?”

1

“To think that Junior Mu is also an Innate-stage fighter. She's only been in the spirit palace for a year, right? And these are the abilities of someone who's just entered the Windcloud Competition for the first time?”

“Genius... No, demon!”

“Ren Chong is so pitiful. He's Level Ten and has a Lesser Forged Body, but can only end his journey in the top eight.”

“It's so tall, he must've been sent flying ten meters up... Oh f\*\*\*, Ren Chong is falling. There's someone on the ground right where he's going to fall. Is that... Xu Xiaoshou?”

1

“Careful!”

Xu Xiaoshou was gently rubbing the back of his palm to get rid of the stains when a black dot suddenly barged into his mind that... seemed to be coming from the sky?

“What’s going on?” he thought.

To think that it destroyed the mini barrier around the waiting room!

“Got ambushed. Passive Points +1.”

Xu Xiaoshou cackled. He was no longer the Xu Xiaoshou of the past.

With a backhand grab, Xu Xiaoshou grabbed onto something that felt like a watermelon. It was also a little spiky. He took a closer look at what he’d caught...

1

Oh f\*\*\*!

It was a human head!

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. He quickly loosened his grip and reflexively struck it with his knee.

Boom!

A dull thud rang out, and Ren Chong was once again sent flying high up into the air. This time, Xu Xiaoshou had forgotten to hold back and might have even used more force because of his shock.

The crowd helplessly looked on as Ren Chong fell from heaven to hell, then from hell back to the mortal world before slamming onto the ground and spitting out a mouthful of blood. The crowd burst out laughing.

“Haha, I can’t take it anymore. Why did Ren Chong run into Xu Xiaoshou of all people? What kind of sins did he commit in the past? Xu Xiaoshou has an Innate-stage physical body. Wouldn’t getting kneed by Xu Xiaoshou break all of his ribs?”

2

“What a pitiful man. He was beaten up twice in one battle.”

“Xu Xiaoshou’s reaction time was great just now. It looks like he learned a retaliation technique after getting ambushed by Boss Wen the last time. He can pierce a person’s heart or grab their head now. Tsk tsk!”

The spectators were chattering amongst themselves, and Xu Xiaoshou gained a few Passive Points now that the barrier had been broken.

“Got admired. Passive Points +32.”

4

“Got praised. Passive Points +17.”

Medical personnel quickly ran past Xu Xiaoshou. They didn’t forget to glare at him before leaving, as if he were the one who’d made Ren Chong faint.

“Got despised. Passive Points +4.”

Xu Xiaoshou felt indignant. He'd been in the middle of washing his hands, and then trouble fell toward him from the sky. Who knew that it was a man!

It was lucky he didn't crush the watermelon in his hands just now.

"Got hated. Passive Points +1."

"Got hated. Passive Points +1."

"Got hated. Passive Points +1."

"..."

The notification panel was updated with a few lines, and Xu Xiaoshou became a little confused. He only gained one point with every notification. This rapid refresh rate...

He abruptly looked in the direction Ren Chong had fallen. Indeed, Ren Chong had been resuscitated by the medical attendants and was glaring at him, a spiteful look on his face.

"Oh wow!" he thought.

"You were sent flying out of the arena and even tried to ambush me, and now you're blaming me?"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression darkened. He flicked off the water on his hands and quickly walked over to him.

"Got suspected. Passive Points +1."

"Got suspected. Passive Points +1."

Ren Chong's gaze started to waver. "Xu Xiaoshou is walking over here..." he thought. "What does he want to do?"

The two attendants behind Xu Xiaoshou saw that something was off. They understood Xu Xiaoshou all too well.

They quickly rushed forward to stop him. "What do you want to do? Don't be rash!"

"He's injured. He's a patient!"

"I can sense that he resents me," Xu Xiaoshou snarled.

Ren Chong became flustered. "How did you sense that so well?" he thought to himself.

He quickly grabbed onto the medical attendant's hand. "Don't save me for now. Xu Xiaoshou... He's walking over!"

The four medical attendants looked at Xu Xiaoshou at the same time, a murderous look in their eyes. Xu Xiaoshou forced a smile and said, "Hehe, it's fine, I was merely concerned and wanted to see if this man had gotten crippled or not."

"No need for your concern. I'm good!" Ren Chong shivered. He grabbed tightly onto the medical attendant's hand and bitterly pleaded, "I request for a change of location for my treatment!"

“Hehe...” Xu Xiaoshou warmly laughed.

“Xu Xiaoshou!”

“Zhao Qingteng!”

Xiao Qixiu’s voice suddenly rang out, interrupting the small incident in the waiting room. The pairing had been completed.

The crowd fell silent after the names were announced. Then, a collective gasp was heard. Everyone was filled with anticipation for this battle.

Xu Xiaoshou froze. Zhao Qingteng?

Rank two of the Windcloud Scoreboard?

An Innate-stage fighter?

“Is it finally here?” He sighed melancholically, but he already knew that he’d likely encounter an innate-stage fighter in his battle for a spot in the top four.

“Got mocked. Passive Points +1.”

“Got mocked. Passive Points +1.”

The notification panel got updated constantly again, and Xu Xiaoshou instinctively looked at Ren Chong. Sure enough, the man had a gloating look on his face.

Who could tolerate that?

He was resenting and mocking him. How far was he going to go?

“So what if it’s Zhao Qingteng,” he thought. “It’s not like he’s guaranteed to win against me, so why is he mocking me?”

Xu Xiaoshou tossed the attendant’s hand to the side and charged forward.

“Oh f\*\*\*, Xu Xiaoshou, what are you doing!” Ren Chong was flustered.

“Xu Xiaoshou, stop!” The medical personnel quickly dodged to the side, afraid that they’d be hit by an Innate-stage physical body. “This is a casualty. What are you trying to do?”

Ren Chong looked fearfully at the four white-robed angels. They ran away?

1

“Take me with you!”

Xu Xiaoshou picked up Ren Chong, who’d lost the ability to move, a look of self-blame and regret on his face.

“Whatever your name is, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have hit you. But it’s all right. I know how to connect bones. And I also have a lot of Red Gold Pills, so I can guarantee that you’ll be fine!” Xu Xiaoshou said, his tone somewhat nasal, as he felt toward Ren Chong’s rib bone.

“Oh f\*\*\*, don’t touch me!”

“Save me. Where are the medical personnel? Don’t leave me here alone! Take me with you!”

“Sss~”

“Ahhhh...”

The medical personnel huddled with the waiting area attendants, and they all trembled when they saw Xu Xiaoshou attempt to connect Ren Chong’s bones while taking out a pill.

He must be a demon!

...

A young lad wearing a pale green silk robe walked down the main arena. She had exquisite features that looked as though they were carved from jade. She was rather cute.

7

Her long ponytail shook as she looked around, as if searching for a target. Then, she skipped toward Xu Xiaoshou and reached out to pat him on his head.

“Xu Xiaoshou, Elder Xiao is calling for you.”

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t look at her. “Wait a moment. I’m connecting his bones!”

The young lady tilted her head, extremely curious.

She saw Xu Xiaoshou manically pressing on Ren Chong’s wounds while letting him sniff on a pill and was startled by the act. She pointed at Ren Chong and said, “He’s dying!”

“It’s fine. The Red Gold Pill is regulating his breathing. He won’t die.”

“You’re letting him sniff the pill instead of eating it? What use is there in that?”

Xu Xiaoshou froze when he heard these words. “That’s right,” he thought. “This person doesn’t seem to have the Breathing Technique...”

3

Blood was foaming from Ren Chong’s mouth, and his eyes had rolled into the back of his head. He looked like he was halfway to the afterlife. Xu Xiaoshou quickly fed him the pill.

3

Naturally, he managed to connect Ren Chong’s bones. It turned out he had the skills after all. However, he couldn’t do much about Ren Chong’s pain.

“Xu Xiaoshou! Get up here!” Xiao Qixiu’s furious roar assaulted his ears.

Xu Xiaoshou trembled, and he turned around to see the delicate appearance of the green-robed lady. She was the person who had called him earlier.

“You are...”

“Mu Zixi.”

The green-robed lady tilted her head. She was very friendly. “Hello, Xu Xiaoshou.”

“Oh-oh.”

Xu Xiaoshou had no time to waste, and quickly ran toward the arena. “Hello! Goodbye!”

1

Mu Zixi was speechless.

“Got cursed. Passive Points +1.”

### **Chapter 35: Judge, He’s Cheating!**

The battle for a spot in the top four. The third match.

Zhao Qingteng stood with his sword slanted downward. He was looking up into the sky. He seemed proud and cold.

The air seemed to become colder just from him standing there. There were even snowflakes falling around him.

Xu Xiaoshou poked his head into the barrier and shivered. The temperature inside the arena was many times colder than the temperature outside.

“Is this the Innate Elemental Power?” he thought to himself. He already knew that Zhao Qingteng had ice elemental abilities. However, he only truly realized how terrifying an Innate-stage fighter was now that he was facing one in the flesh.

Zhao Qingteng was affecting nature with his powers. How was that not terrifying!?

There was an adjustment period after the candidates entered the arena. Xiao Qixiu took rather good care of Xu Xiaoshou. Even though this lad was always very tardy, Xiao Qixiu still gave him the time he needed to prepare.

Xu Xiaoshou extended his hand, and the snowflakes in the air landed on his palm. It looked silent and elegant.

The crowd was smitten. A light snow was falling on the three men in the arena, and the scene looked like something right out of a painting.

“Judge, he’s cheating.”

The crowd was still immersed in the picturesque scene when Xu Xiaoshou suddenly pointed at Zhao Qingteng on the other side and said in fury, “The battle hasn’t started yet, and he’s already influencing the environment. That isn’t fair!”

The snow in the air seemed to stop somewhat, and Zhao Qingteng finally looked at Xu Xiaoshou.

“Got mocked. Passive Points +1.”

“Oh my!” he thought.

“You’re mocking me?”

Xu Xiaoshou indignantly glared back at Zhao Qingteng. “Who’s afraid of who?” he thought.

Xiao Qixiu knitted his brows. What Xu Xiaoshou said made sense. However, in the middle of a battle, who would care about this little bit of snow?

“What do you want me to do about it?”

Xu Xiaoshou chuckled. “I’m a little cold. Get him to stop the snow!”

He was acting a little over the top, but he wasn’t taking this match lightly.

Who knew what kind of abilities these snowflakes had? Maybe Zhao Qinteng could sense his opponents’ positions when the snowflakes touched them, or maybe he was charging up for a powerful move...

Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t so careless as to give an Innate-stage fighter an advantage when he was battling one. Didn’t that mean that he’d already lost half the battle?

The crowd was a little displeased when they saw this. Some of the spectators agreed with Xu Xiaoshou, seeing that he was acting out of caution, but most of them thought that Xu Xiaoshou was being too nitpicky.

It was just a few pieces of snow. Did he have to do that?

“I can’t stop it,” Zhao Qingteng said, his voice icy.

“That’s not good...” Xu Xiaoshou spread his hands and said, “You specialize in casting techniques at long range, while I specialize in close-range combat. On top of that, you’re cheating. So how will we go about fighting each other?”

Even an arrogant person like Zhao Qingteng couldn’t help the corners of his mouth from twitching at being repeatedly accused of “cheating.” “What exactly do you want to do?” he asked.

1

“Why not open the barrier and get the sun to shine on us?” Xu Xiaoshou suggested.

Xiao Qixiu staggered. “Get the sun to shine on us?” he thought. “You’re trying to get the thousands of spectators to watch you sunbathe?”

“Letting the sun shine on us is impossible. Since you’re suggesting a close-range battle, how about we close the distance a little?” Xiao Qixiu inquisitively glanced at Zhao Qingteng.

Zhao Qingteng nodded. Xu Xiaoshou was elated and thought, “He took the bait!”

“How much is a little?” Xu Xiaoshou continued asking.

Xiao Qixiu could no longer tolerate this lad. He was pushing it!

“Any distance you like.” Zhao Qingteng’s gaze turned cold, and he continued saying in a weighty tone, “The spectators outside are waiting. Let’s start soon!”



“Any distance?” Xu Xiaoshou raised an eyebrow.

In a flash, he arrived in front of Zhao Qingteng. Their noses were almost touching.

“Is this distance alright?” Xu Xiaoshou exhaled.

Zhao Qingteng was scared by the sudden increase in temperature. His pale skin became a little redder. He felt his heart thump wildly, and staggered backward a few steps, hesitating for a long while...

3

“It’s fine!”

The spectators were going insane. A few female disciples were repeatedly shouting “no.”

5

Zhao Qingteng’s abilities and cold attitude made him the poster boy for the phrase “arrogant and cold.” He was the white knight in the hearts of every female disciple in the Outer Yard.

If this were any other match, many people would’ve been in support of Xu Xiaoshou. However, since Xu Xiaoshou’s opponent was Zhao Qingteng, all of the supporters had rallied to his side.

“Get away. Who permitted you to get close to my Brother Qingteng?”

“You can’t agree to his request. Hng hng hng, Brother Qingteng, quickly put some distance between you.”

“Oh my, so things can be done this way. I’ve learned! I’m going to train well. I want to get that close to Brother Qingteng...”

The two candidates in the arena were within one step of each other and were staring deeply into each other’s eyes.

Xiao Qixiu raised his hand at an opportune moment. “Battle, start!”

As soon as he announced this, Xu Xiaoshou’s jovial expression immediately disappeared, and with a serious face, he landed a punch on Zhao Qingteng’s body amidst the falling snow.

Boom!

Ice shrapnel exploded everywhere. Xu Xiaoshou had hit something solid, but he could tell that he didn’t hit Zhao Qingteng.

“This is...”

A clone, teleportation, or substitution technique?

1

Many thoughts instantly flashed through Xu Xiaoshou’s mind. Within the radius of Sense, he saw the snow behind him move, and Zhao Qingteng appeared behind him.

2

Zhao Qingteng, who had just appeared, didn't attack right away. Instead, he chose to put some distance between them.

He raised a finger to indicate something, then calmly said, "You fight decently."

"Got praised. Passive Points +1."

Xu Xiaoshou felt as though he'd just been mocked. He was completely clueless as to how Zhao Qingteng had left. The fake Zhao Qingteng that he'd punched had transformed into an ice sculpture under the falling snow and shattered.

It was incredibly mysterious...

Xu Xiaoshou also pretended to be nonchalant. "You also hide well. I'm guessing that it has nothing to do with this snow. Otherwise, you'd really be cheating."

Zhao Qingteng was stoic. Xu Xiaoshou secretly felt that it was a waste. His face was so expressionless he couldn't read his next move.

He stared at Zhao Qingteng as if nothing was happening as he started expanding the radius of Sense to its maximum, and the formation and fall of every snowflake clearly appeared in his mind.

His instincts told him that he couldn't disregard the snow.

This was snow that only appeared when he was battling Zhao Qingteng. He'd never seen Zhao Qingteng use this technique in the past.

Zhao Qingteng's blue Ice Stream Sword had an extraordinarily wide blade. Zhao Qingteng slowly lifted it, and the snow in the air seemed to tremble slightly.

Xu Xiaoshou took out Hiding Pain. He knew that close-range combat would be impossible unless he could dispel Zhao Qingteng's technique.

At the Innate Origin Court Level, Zhao Qingteng's spiritual strength would've already evolved to become a spiritual source. Zhao Qingteng injected his spiritual source into the Ice Stream Sword, and the sword crackled as ice crystals formed on the blade.

Whoosh!

A blade sliced through the air, and an icy chill assaulted Xu Xiaoshou. He decided to tilt his body to the side to avoid the attack.

The chilly air didn't touch his body, but it released a terrifying frost when it near him, and the cold severely limited his movements.

1

Xu Xiaoshou finally understood why no one could avoid Zhao Qingteng's Ice Stream Strike.

"Sss~"

Xu Xiaoshou shivered. His body was so numb that he could no longer hold onto his sword. He had no way of blocking the second sword aura, so all he could do was barely lift Hiding Pain.

There was no collision, no explosion...

Under the shocked gazes of the spectators, Xu Xiaoshou got turned into an ice sculpture.

“Oh f\*\*\*! Even Xu Xiaoshou met the same fate. He got frozen in just two attacks?”

1

“Zhao Qingteng is too strong. He used the Ice Stream Strike against all of his opponents, but Xu Xiaoshou has an Innate-stage physical body, so... Ice Stream Two Strikes?”

2

“Is there such a big difference between the ten levels of Spiritual Cultivation and the Innate-stage?” he thought. “I’m dumbfounded...”

Zhao Qingteng’s expression was still nonchalant. He struck with his sword as if he were facing the rest of his opponents. It was just that Xu Xiaoshou was equivalent to two people.

However, the other party did have an Innate-stage physical body. Perhaps his Ice Stream Spiritual Source that could freeze the body of a Spiritual Cultivation Level Ten fighter to death might not be able to freeze Xu Xiaoshou to death...

Zhao Qingteng glanced at Xiao Qixiu. He saw that he had no intention of moving to save his opponent and became sure of his conjecture.

He was going to continue attacking!

### **Chapter 36: One Willing To Hit, The Other Willing To Get Hit**

Zhao Qingteng didn’t approach Xu Xiaoshou. Instead, he lifted his Ice Stream Sword and looked up as he muttered, “Galaxy!”

“Whoosh...”

The snow on the ground instantly floated and swirled up into the air before shattering to become a sword aura.

Zhao Qingteng’s attack seemed to tear open the galaxy, and it sliced toward Xu Xiaoshou amidst the hovering snow.

The sword behind Xiao Qixiu’s back trembled, and the judge looked startled.

Acquired-stage Sword Will!

To think that it was an Acquired-stage Sword Will!

5

In the previous battle, there was Zhou Tianshen’s Acquired-stage Blade Will, and now there was Zhao Qingteng’s Acquired-stage Sword Will.

“Is this Xu Xiaoshou the key to unlocking the secrets of winning?” he thought to himself. “How does he expose all of his opponents’ trump cards?”

Zhou Tianshen hugged his sword while sitting in the spectator seats, looking worried.

To think that it was a Sword Will!

“Faced with a Sword Will, how can Xu Xiaoshou, who’s trapped within an ice sculpture, defend himself?”

“Is Xu Xiaoshou, who defeated me, about to be taken down by Zhao Qingteng in three moves?”

“Then won’t I be...”

He hit himself hard on the head, no longer able to sit still.

On the other side, Mu Ziqi grabbed her pigtailed. She was standing on a chair in the waiting room, craning her neck to see how strong Xu Xiaoshou, who hadn’t cared to greet her, really was.

1

In the end, she saw that he’d become an ice sculpture the moment the battle started.

Elder Qiao sat silently in the spectator seats. This was the second time he’d come to watch Xu Xiaoshou’s battle, and it was also the second time he’d felt that he should go and console Xu Xiaoshou after the battle.

1

Under the crowd’s gaze, the galaxy-like sword aura sliced the target into two.

The sword aura flashed past the arena, and the ice sculpture immediately exploded.

However, the crowd was shocked to find that the ice sculpture hadn’t been cut by the Sword Will. Instead, an arm had sliced out from inside the ice sculpture, breaking it from the inside.

Zhao Qingteng’s eyes narrowed. “An arm?” he thought.

The arm had a transparent glow about it, as if the flesh of the arm had a spiritual quality and was made out of treasures. The arm grabbed onto the fiercely approaching sword aura.

Everyone was shocked. It grabbed the attack?

Clang...

A piercing sound rang out. Xu Xiaoshou looked as though he’d just been reborn, and jumped out of the ice sculpture.

He somersaulted in the air, then tossed the Galaxy Sword Aura back at Zhao Qingteng!

“Oh f\*\*\*!”

Zhou Tianshen, who was outside the arena, was shocked, and his eyes almost bulged out of their sockets. This scene was extremely familiar.

In their battle, Xu Xiaoshou had reversed his Deity Mountain-Lifting Technique with his sword technique, which had ultimately led to his defeat.

In just the one day he hadn't seen Xu Xiaoshou, he didn't expect him to now be able to reverse his opponent's techniques without even using his sword.

"Grabbed onto a sword aura with his bare hands?" he thought, incredulous.

"Are you kidding me?"

Xu Xiaoshou knelt weakly onto the ground and trembled as he slowly expelled the chilly energy in his body.

Fleeting White Cloud Two: Modified Sword Style!

3

That's right. This was the Sword Will attack that he'd learned during his battle with Zhou Tianshen yesterday. It was just that Xu Xiaoshou had executed it with his Glow of Sharpness.

1

He gathered the transparent glow on his arm and turned it into a blade. Its sharpness was comparable to that of Hiding Pain.

Snow fell in the arena. The crowd was dumbfounded.

It would've been fine if Xu Xiaoshou had used his sword. However, Xu Xiaoshou had grabbed onto the sword aura with his bare hands, which shocked everyone beyond belief. Even Zhao Qingteng was unable to react for a moment.

The sword attack sliced toward Zhao Qingteng, and Zhao Qingteng narrowly managed to avoid it. The Galaxy Sword Aura blasted onto the barrier instead, causing it to ripple, and the barrier was almost torn apart.

"Terrifying!"

Everyone was shocked and couldn't believe that Xu Xiaoshou had been able to grab onto such a ferocious attack. At the same time, the Innate-stage physical body rose in their estimations.

There was frost on Xu Xiaoshou's face, and his lips had turned purple. He'd clearly been severely frozen. However, the wound on his palm that he'd gotten from the sword aura made him feel wide awake.

The scorching energy in his energy reserve spread through his body and quickly dispelled the cold, which was a pleasant surprise.

"I'll take his life now that he's weakened!" he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou didn't let the opportunity to launch consecutive attacks slip by. He immediately grabbed onto Hiding Pain after throwing the sword aura out.

A moment later, he gracefully sliced his sword through the air, and his Sword Will immediately pressed onto the surroundings.

Fleeting White Cloud One: Sword Web Style!

He'd thought up these names for two attacks while frozen, and during that time he'd also thought about how to use them!

He, Xu Xiaoshou, knew more than just close-range combat.

Zhao Qingteng had just avoided his own Galaxy Sword Aura when he saw the web of swords pressing toward him. He immediately sliced forward with his Ice Stream Sword, and the clashing of swords rang out in the arena as they hit.

Creak, creak, creak!

Streaks of red blood appeared on Zhao Qingteng's white robes.

The reality was that Xu Xiaoshou's Sword Will had become more powerful after refining it over the course of his battles.

Even though Zhao Qingteng also had an Acquired-stage Sword Will, he couldn't defend against Xu Xiaoshou's intensive barrage of attacks.

The next second, Zhao Qingteng gave up resisting, and the web of swords sliced past his body. Zhao Qingteng's ice sculpture appeared once again, and it instantly crumbled from the attacks of Xu Xiaoshou's sword.

It appeared!

The unknown substitution technique!

Xu Xiaoshou had been prepared for this. His Sense had constantly been concentrating on the movements of the snow. Sure enough, he saw some of the snow in one area abnormally stagnate.

It's there!

The crowd watched in shock as Xu Xiaoshou shot a palm toward the air beside him, and they grew so anxious that they almost cursed at Xu Xiaoshou.

However, the next instant, Zhao Qingteng appeared where Xu Xiaoshou's palm had struck!

"Oh, God!"

The crowd became confused at that moment. What was going on?

Xu Xiaoshou had hit Zhao Qingteng. One of them was willing to attack, while the other was willing to get hit?

2

Zhao Qingteng's expression changed. He knew that his opponent had seen through his Snow Traversing Technique with his attack just now.

Xu Xiaoshou's ability to analyze the battle was terrifying!

Caught off guard, Zhao Qingteng couldn't even lift his Ice Stream Sword. All he could do was meet Xu Xiaoshou's palm with his own.

Xu Xiaoshou snickered.

He twisted his right palm and made the Glow of Sharpness circle it. His palm instantly transformed into a claw as it pierced fiercely into Zhao Qingteng's comparatively tender palm.

Rip!

Blood sprayed into the air. Zhao Qingteng had already conjured an ice mirror so their palms would collide, thus defending himself against the attack. However, how would that stop the Innate-stage Sharpness?

The claw directly ripped apart the ice mirror and left five bloody holes in Zhao Qingteng's palm!

Xu Xiaoshou finally understood the difference between a palm strike and a claw attack. Now that his Sinister Skeletal Claw had landed, his opponent would be left with one finger if he pulled his hand back.

His opponent would be left with his shortest finger!

However, Xu Xiaoshou held back. It was just a thought. He didn't really do it.

Even so, Zhao Qingteng's face contorted with pain, and his body instantly disappeared.

This time, he didn't dare be careless. He immediately shifted his body to the furthest point away from Xu Xiaoshou. Xu Xiaoshou naturally couldn't catch up to him.

"There really was a problem with this snow..."

Xu Xiaoshou chuckled. He turned to look at Xiao Qixiu. "I already told you that he was cheating, but you didn't believe me. If it was me, I would've immediately judged that he'd lost."

Xiao Qixiu pouted but didn't say anything.

The crowd was shocked. To think that Xu Xiaoshou was the first one to make Zhao Qingteng bleed during the Windcloud Competition. No one had expected this.

"So Zhao Qingteng's teleportation technique was really done through moving around in the snow as Xu Xiaoshou said?"

1

The spectators all had odd looks on their faces. If that were the case, then Zhao Qingteng really had cheated.

No one would've thought it inappropriate if Zhao Qingteng had made the snow fall before the battle started to add to his charisma. In fact, they would've even been envious of his ability.

But, because the snow was connected to a technique that required charging up or a technique that was done in secret, his actions sparked the crowd's ire.

At that moment, people started switching sides. It was clear that Zhao Qingteng's actions didn't sit well with them.

"Do your best, Xu Xiaoshou! I know that you're the best."

"Xu Xiaoshou, defeat Zhao Qingteng and I'll bear you a child!"

9

"Xu Xiaoshou! Ahhh, you're so handsome!"

Zhou Tianshen looked over in shock, only now realizing that he had unknowingly left the arena to observe the battle. Was the crowd always so fierce?

### **Chapter 37: That Sword Technique, Too Powerful!**

In the arena.

After using the Snow Traversing Technique to shift his position, Zhao Qingteng didn't stop at all. While Xu Xiaoshou was speaking, he crossed his palms and instantly made a dozen hand gestures.

3

Xu Xiaoshou immediately felt that the situation had taken a turn for the worse.

It was undoubtedly a powerful attack. Zhao Qingteng had taken advantage of the split second he was distracted.

"Liu Zhen, I've disappointed you. I've committed the grave taboo of underestimating my opponent!" he thought.

He immediately flew forward. Unfortunately, they were too far apart for him to close in on his opponent in time.

Xu Xiaoshou took a whiff of a spirit crystal and recovered a little of his spiritual strength. Then, he gracefully slashed his sword outward.

1

Sword Web Style!

Zhao Qingteng disregarded the sudden assault of the sword web and shot his blood palm toward the air.

"Formless Great Cold!"

He only picked up his Ice Stream Sword to defend against the sword web after he was done doing this.

Zhao Qingteng's flesh got cut open amidst the barrage of attacks.

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't even imagine just how terrifying the attack Zhao Qingteng wanted to complete even at the risk of death was. A second later, the snow within his Sense was awakened by the spiritual seal in the air, and they slowly rose into the air.



1

The crowd rubbed their eyes. There'd already been a thick layer of accumulation on the ground, but now the inside of the barrier had become completely white after the snow was awakened. They couldn't even see the figures inside the arena.

"Chi!" Zhao Qingteng cried out, and the sword aura in the area sliced through the air.

In that instant, every snowflake exploded with a stern sword aura, as though tens of thousands of swords had risen into the air.

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded. This Zhao Qingteng was vicious!

As it turned out, Zhao Qingteng had caused the falling snow at the start not only to facilitate his Snow Traversing Technique, but also lay the foundation for this Formless Great Cold.

The entire sky was covered with snowflakes that contained sword aura. With Zhao Qingteng's command, the snowflakes intertwined and created a boundless sword glow within the barrier.

Not only did the attack instantly crumble Xu Xiaoshou's barrier, but it even penetrated his Innate-stage physical body.

Xiao Qixiu's expression turned grave. Even though this terrifying Innate-stage spiritual technique was called the Formless Great Cold, every piece of falling snow had taken the form of a lethal sword with the intention of killing him!

1

Would Xu Xiaoshou be able to survive against this technique?

2

The crowd suddenly saw blood spraying outward at a point within the snowy-white barrier.

That was where Xu Xiaoshou was!

Xu Xiaoshou clenched his teeth tightly. He'd even closed his eyes. If he hadn't, even his eyeballs would've been pierced through by the Sword Will-infused snowflakes.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!

Every snowflake was like a tiny sword that was sharp without parallel. Even his Innate-stage physical body couldn't defend against the attack, and countless bloody holes instantly appeared on his body.

Xiao Qixiu was ready to take action. He would definitely be the first to take action the moment Xu Xiaoshou showed any inclination of giving up.

Zhao Qingteng panted. He had used all of his trump cards. This technique had expended a great amount of his spiritual source, but Xu Xiaoshou could still stand the attack?

Was an Innate-stage physical body really that strong?

He clenched his teeth and flew forward. He shot his palm toward Xu Xiaoshou.

“Is he mad?”

Why would Zhao Qingteng choose to engage in close combat when the situation was very much in his favor? Wasn't he afraid that Xu Xiaoshou would turn the situation around when he got close?

“That's not right!” Someone suddenly stood up. “That's the Dark Ice Sealing Palm! That's a spiritual technique at the peak of the Innate-stage. Xu Xiaoshou is done for!”

“Dark Ice Sealing Palm?”

Even Elder Qiao was shocked. He knew that this spiritual technique could even be ranked amongst the top few in the Inner Yard.

He clutched onto his sleeves tightly. Xu Xiaoshou was in grave danger!

Furthermore, Xu Xiaoshou was still doing battle against the Sword Will-infused snowflakes and couldn't tell his left from right. The Eternal Vitality had been activated to its fullest extent and was constantly restoring his body.

Penetrated, repaired...

Repaired, penetrated...

The pain Xu Xiaoshou was going through now was comparable to that which he'd gone through when refining the Infernal Fire Seed.

1

“Got attacked. Passive Points +1.”

“Got attacked. Passive Points +1.”

“...”

Thousands of notifications immediately appeared in his notification panel, which showed how insane the barrage of attacks of the Sword Will-infused snowflakes was!

1

Xu Xiaoshou was holding on by sheer willpower alone. His Sense told him that Zhao Qingteng was attacking him with a palm. He finally had no choice but to use his Skill Points.

“Sword Technique Expertise (Acquired Lv. 7).”

“Sword Technique Expertise (Acquired Lv. 8).”

A large stream of information instantly flooded into his brain. Xu Xiaoshou seemed to have found a way to break apart the technique.

He fought back the pain he was feeling and raised Hiding Pain. Then, he infused his immense Sword Will into the blade of his sword. He was risking it all on this attack!

Whoosh!

Hiding Pain rapidly sliced through the air, and the blade of the sword erupted in flames. However, Zhao Qingteng had been prepared for this. He tilted his head, and the spiritual sword only pierced into his shoulder!

The sword kept flying forward from the momentum, and it pierced through the barrier and flew toward the horizon under the crowd's stunned gaze.

The crowd no longer had time to care about the spiritual sword. Zhao Qingteng continued pushing his palm forward despite the pain radiating from the wound in his shoulder.

On the other hand, Xu Xiaoshou...

He was all out of moves!

"Dark Ice Sealing Palm!"

Boom!

As the cry fell, the Sword Will-infused snowflakes that were assaulting Xu Xiaoshou at a rapid rate suddenly stopped.

The area in front of Zhao Qingteng, which included the area where Xu Xiaoshou was in as well as the arena behind him, immediately got frozen in ice under Zhao Qingteng's terrifying palm.

Half the arena had gotten frozen in ice!

2

The crowd was silent. It was a block of ice that was larger than a house. It was too startling.

The crowd froze.

Then, the crowd realized in shock that the attack wasn't over!

They saw Zhao Qingteng finally heave a sigh of relief. He was covered in blood. He brought his hands together and shouted, "Seal!"

Boom!

A soft explosion rang out. Under the crowd's incredulous gaze, the block of ice that occupied the larger half of the arena rapidly shrunk, tightening around Xu Xiaoshou.

Finally, the ice block stopped at Xu Xiaoshou, who had his hands raised in the air.

"Oh f\*\*\*!"

Everyone's eyes almost bulged out of their sockets!

For such a large block of ice to instantly become this small. Wouldn't the density of the ice cause anyone who was sealed inside to become an ice fossil?

Was there any chance of survival? Zhao Qingteng might've been too heavy-handed!

Was Xu Xiaoshou dead?

Xiao Qixiu took a deep breath. He sensed that something bad had happened.

The saying still rang true. What judges feared the most were techniques that decided the battle in a split second.

If he saved Xu Xiaoshou, it would be the same as prematurely helping Xu Xiaoshou admit defeat. Xu Xiaoshou wouldn't thank him for that. However, if just looked on from the side, he'd be helplessly looking on as the candidate welcomed his death. What was he to do in this situation?

He could only slowly raise his hand. "The battle is ove..."

Whoosh!

At that moment, the sound of something tearing through the air rang out and interrupted Xiao Qixiu's words.

Everyone looked at the sky, confused. They saw Hiding Pain, which had pierced through Zhao Qingteng's shoulder and vanished into the horizon from the momentum, fly back toward the arena at supersonic speeds.

Zhao Qingteng looked back in fear to see the black dot instantly enlargen as it flew at him and pierced through his chest, landing fiercely into Xu Xiaoshou's ice sculpture.

1

"Puuu!"

Zhao Qingteng's body arched over, and he abruptly spat out a mouthful of blood that contained pieces of his organs.

1

Xiao Qixiu had been slow to charge forward to stop the sword, as he didn't expect the sword to come back.

Hiding Pain had stabbed into the ice sculpture and was buzzing excitedly, filled with a spiritual quality.

Xiao Qixiu's eyes were filled with shock. This is...

Sword Telepathy?

To think that Xu Xiaoshou had touched the doors of the Innate-stage Sword Will!

Outside the arena, Zhou Tianshen excitedly stood up. He looked at Hiding Pain, which was trembling constantly, and felt his body burn with fighting spirit.

That sword technique was too powerful!

It was too powerful!

It was ten times more powerful than Xu Xiaoshou was yesterday!

Elder Qiao froze. He'd never expected that after just a Death Seclusion, Xu Xiaoshou would improve so drastically in just the few days he hadn't seen him!

This was unimaginable!

In a waiting area not far away, an attendant was helping Mu Zixi, who had fallen from her chair, up onto a new chair. This green-robed lady's mouth had turned into an "o" shape, and she'd almost pulled out her pigtails.

Crack, crack!

The ice sculpture cracked under the sword's trembling.

The wounds on Xu Xiaoshou's body had been frozen, and he felt like even his soul was trembling.

The only reason why he could still hold onto his last breath was because Eternal Vitality was too powerful!

He walked out of the ice sculpture with trembling lips, and his body helpless slumped onto the ground.

"What kind of sword technique is that!" Zhao Qingteng looked incredibly indignant.

Xu Xiaoshou trembled as he slowly exhaled a breath of chilly energy.

"The White Cloud Sword Technique."

"Got doubted. Passive Points +1."

12

### **Chapter 38: Save Zhao Qingteng First**

Thud!

Zhao Qingteng's knees buckled, and he fell face-first onto the ground, unconscious.

Hiding Paid had pierced completely through his chest, leaving behind a wound as large as a fist. His blood flowed down him like a waterfall, instantly dyeing the arena red.

4

"Help him!" Xu Xiaoshou immediately shouted at Xiao Qixiu when he saw how dumbfounded everyone was.

The judge waved his arm, and medical personnel immediately charged into the arena and surrounded both Xu Xiaoshou and Zhao Qingteng.

Xu Xiaoshou saw the four familiar faces around him. Weren't these people the ones who'd saved the big watermelon during the previous match?

"Don't worry about me. Save Zhao Qingteng first!"

Xu Xiaoshou grew anxious when he saw the medical personnel fiddle with their bags and grab their scalpels, and quickly pointed to the other side. "He has a hole in him. And he's an Innate-stage fighter. He's more important."

“You’re important too!” the medical attendant said with honor.

2

It was their job to save people, if the person they had to save was sick in the head.

“Got concerned for. Passive Points +4.”

Xu Xiaoshou looked a little hesitant when he saw them start threading their needles.

Saving people was naturally a good thing. However, the problem was he didn’t need saving!

During the battle with Zhao Qingteng, only the Formless Great Cold and the Dark Ice Sealing Palm had really dealt any damage to him.

However, those attacks had already passed!

The Sword Will-infused snowflakes created by the former had stabbed into him and basically turned him into a beehive. However, because of Eternal Vitality, he only sustained superficial damage, and his injuries healed almost instantaneously after the Sword Will-infused snowflakes stopped raining down on him.

The latter attack had instantly compressed him into a block of ice. An average person’s soul might’ve even gotten frozen by the attack. However, he’d just consumed the Infernal Fire Seed, and he also had an Innate-stage physical body as well as Eternal Vitality...

Truthfully speaking, the damage inflicted onto him by the Dark Ice Sealing Palm was lesser than that of the Formless Great Cold.

“I really don’t need it...” Xu Xiaoshou said weakly.

The four medical attendants glared at him. “Who here didn’t see you get beaten half to death?” they thought. “Look at your clothes. They’re all dyed red!

“Look at your face. It’s covered in patches of green and blue. It’s clear that you’ve been quite severely frozen.”

“Alright...”

Xu Xiaoshou gave up resisting, and the medical attendants raised their needles and scalpels and immediately touched Xu Xiaoshou’s body.

“Got doubted. Passive Points +4.”

The next instant, the medical attendants all stopped what they were doing at the same time and looked at Xu Xiaoshou in shock.

“This...”

How was this possible?

This person must be a monster. Zhao Qingteng’s barrage of attacks just now only did this little damage to him?

Furthermore, the life force emanating from his body was never-ending, which was ridiculous. It was even more ridiculous than him consuming a Red Gold Pill.

There was nothing to treat him for!

Even though he was bleeding all over...

How could this be...

Could the Innate-stage physical body really be this powerful?

Xu Xiaoshou spread his arms and stood up. Even though the surface of his body was still purple from being frozen, he'd recovered his mobility during this brief period of time.

"I already told you that I didn't need treatment, but you guys didn't believe me!"

Xu Xiaoshou pointed at Zhao Qingteng. "Go and save him quickly. Hiding Pain should have avoided his vital areas, so he won't die from this."

2

The four medical attendants were extremely hesitant. After being shocked by Xu Xiaoshou's Innate-stage physical body, they were clearly at a loss for what to do.

"I'll tell you the truth. That person didn't even deal any damage to me during our battle!

"Go and save him quickly!

At the same time, the medical personnel on the other side had completed their treatment, and all of them got excited.

"He's awake!"

"That's great... Oh?"

The crowd wasn't excited for long. Zhao Qingteng's expression suddenly darkened after he woke up, and he fainted once again.

"Got cursed. Passive Points +1."

The four medical personnel on the other side glared at Xu Xiaoshou, their eyes filled with murderous rage.

"Got attacked. Passive Points +4."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

...

"Got admired. Passive Points +666."

2

"Got admired. Passive Points +888."

1

As expected, Xu Xiaoshou received several notifications in the notification panel the moment he stepped out of the barrier.

Xu Xiaoshou saw the crowd rise to applaud him, and he happily waved his hands in reply.

“Oh?”

He suddenly saw Elder Qiao and Zhou Tianshen. The both of them were giving him a thumbs-up, and they almost charged down to give him a warm hug.

“Got praised. Passive Points +2.”

Fortunately, this was the third match, so the spectators weren’t allowed to come down to the arena. Otherwise, there would’ve been a manly hug.

3

Xu Xiaoshou smiled at them in reply. However, he was filled with confusion on the inside.

He could understand why Elder Qiao would come and watch his match and encourage him. But why was Zhou Tianshen here?

Had he become a fan after their battle?

Xu Xiaoshou returned to the waiting area. Even though it was already late in the day, Xu Xiaoshou didn’t immediately return to his manor.

After the arena was cleaned up, Xiao Qixiu no longer had to draw names, as there were only two contestants left in the battle for the top four.

Mo Mo!

3

An Innate-stage expert!

The person ranked first on the Windcloud Scoreboard!

In terms of ability, she was undoubtedly the strongest disciple in the Outer Yard!

Xu Xiaoshou had stayed behind, as he wanted to observe Junior Mo, who he had a high chance of facing in tomorrow’s battle.

In the arena, Mo Mo was dressed in a green robe, and her skin was fairer than snow.

She had a small bronze furnace in her hands that was burning purple sandalwood. Mo Mo, being an Innate-stage fighter who had a pure, ethereal demeanor, completely eclipsed her opponent.

1

Xu Xiaoshou was looking forward to the match.



However, there was no excitement or thrills from the moment the match started. In just a few seconds, Mo Mo's opponent, who was at Level Ten, was sent flying out of the arena in two strokes.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

That darned Innate-stage fighter!

He angrily turned around and left the waiting area.

...

The path forked in two in the forest. One led to Goose Lake while the other led to his manor.

The former represented mystery and the unknown, while the latter represented comfort and relaxation.

Xu Xiaoshou chose the latter without hesitation.

What a joke. He'd just spent a great deal of effort to resolve the ordeal involving the Infernal Fire Seed, so why would he go to Goose Lake? To eat another seed?

5

He wouldn't do it even if he wanted to die. It was too painful!

Xu Xiaoshou returned to his manor and lay down on his bed after taking a shower, and an indescribable sense of comfort washed over him.

Xu Xiaoshou took out a Spiritual Cultivation Pill and took a whiff.

"Sss~"

It was double the pleasure!

The upgraded Breathing Technique had been strengthened, and he inhaled the entire pill in one breath. Fortunately, he'd already been trying his best to resist the high.

Even so, he still slipped into a daze from the sudden rush. Then, a wave of spiritual strength coursed through his body, and the tides of his energy reserve rose.

His body trembled...

He had broken through...

Spiritual Cultivation Level Eight!

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded.

He'd spent a great deal of effort to suppress his cultivation level after he finished refining the Infernal Fire Seed yesterday. In the end, he'd stopped paying attention for a moment and achieved a breakthrough...

"Forget it. Let it be fast."

"Perhaps my speed is nothing in front of true geniuses," Xu Xiaoshou consoled himself and stopped caring about the situation. After all, he could consolidate his cultivation level even while sleeping.

He willed the notification panel to appear in his mind.

Passive Points: 18882.

“Hm, it’s a little less than it was before.”

Xu Xiaoshou was a little disappointed, even though he’d somewhat expected such a result.

Without the Infernal Fire Seed giving him a Passive Point every second, he’d only gained roughly 4000 to 5000 Passive Points from the thousand-man crowd during his match.

And that was even after getting hit by Zhao Qingteng’s Formless Great Cold. Otherwise, he would’ve gotten 1000 to 2000 fewer Passive Points.

“The Infernal Fire Seed...”

Xu Xiaoshou started to miss that item. However, the fire seed was a time bomb that could go off at any moment, so it was best not to think about it...

However, perhaps he might be able to control it...

Xu Xiaoshou stroked his chin as he deliberated, then finally did away with that bold thought.

Rather than think about the Infernal Fire Seed, he might as well mull over what intentions that detestable old man had had when he got him to swallow the item.

### **Chapter 39: Strange Sword Technique**

Nighttime.

Stars dotted the sky.

Xu Xiaoshou had only slept until the middle of the night before waking up again.

He didn’t wake up because he was nervous about the semi-finals tomorrow. Definitely not!

He grabbed his sword and stepped into the yard.

He silently stood in the yard. The wind was quiet amidst the cicadas and frogs, and Xu Xiaoshou was even quieter.

“Now is a good time to practice my sword techniques...”

Xu Xiaoshou thought back to the sword techniques that he’d learned over the last few days.

Sword Technique Expertise was completely unlike his other passive skills. It wasn’t at all like Strengthen or Sharpness, which had directly granted him new abilities. Instead, Sword Technique Expertise gave him insight into other abilities.

Xu Xiaoshou had to consolidate these insights on his own.

He slowly closed his eyes.

At this moment, everything in the yard seemed to tremble slightly.

The fake mountain, the spiritual pool, the newly-built house...

2

He thought back to Zhao Qingteng's Formless Great Cold, which was the technique that had made the greatest impression on him during the entire tournament.

But not just because of how powerful or high-level the technique was.

It'd made a deep impression on him because it was the first time he'd seen someone separate their Sword Will from their body and imbue it into snowflakes.

This way of using Sword Will had widened his horizons.

Yes, he was secretly learning his opponent's technique now.

He was stealing Zhao Qingteng's Formless Great Cold.

Even though he couldn't conjure snow, would he be able to imbue his Sword Will into other natural objects since Zhao Qingteng could imbue his into the snow?

The wind blew past him, and Xu Xiaoshou seemed to become one with his surroundings. The pebbles on the ground started to tremble violently.

1

Patter!

Patter!

Xu Xiaoshou abruptly opened his eyes. The pebbles suddenly rose into the air as if they were floating snow, and his Sword Will soared.

"Hah!"

He slashed his sword forward. The scene of a crashing snowy mountain appeared in his mind, as though his attack had severed the environment!

Within his field of vision, the pebbles vibrated violently before crashing onto the ground.

"Hm..." he thought.

"That's all??"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression darkened. Why was it so different from what he'd imagined?

"Huff!"

"Fortunately, no one saw that..." he thought.

"Otherwise, I would've embarrassed myself."

2

He calmed himself down slightly and realized that it wasn't easy to secretly learn from someone.

However, this kind of sword technique that could imbue natural objects with his Sword Will seemed to have a lot of potential.

"At its core, it's also a way to battle with Sword Will..."

Xu Xiaoshou lifted his sword and paced around, his thoughts running wild under the dark sky.

This kind of training method felt similar to the time when he'd mulled over how to battle without using spiritual techniques and fight purely using his Sword Will.

"Move according to your heart's desires? Move as one with the sword?"

An image appeared in his mind. Multiple opponents were falling as fallen leaves rose into the air. It was then replaced with the image of a strike of a sword gathering tens of thousands of swords back to the source.

What kind of imagery would he reach if he continued on this path?

Xu Xiaoshou was a little moved. He knew that he didn't have great talent. After three years, he'd only managed to learn one stroke from the White Cloud Sword Technique.

2

However, he'd gained a better understanding of the Sword Will following the appearance of the Sword Technique Expertise.

Since that was the case, couldn't he try walking down this path?

The mainstream method of a swordsman was to pair his Sword Will with spiritual techniques to unleash terrifying damage output.

However, what Xu Xiaoshou thought to do was to battle purely using his Sword Will.

This was a path that was destined to be different from the rest. He didn't know if he would ultimately stray from the correct path or forge his own style within the mainstream.

"Sigh!"

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head. The latter was too difficult. He should take it one step at a time!

"Let me first think about how I should approach the semi-final tomorrow..."

His Innate-stage physical body had been exposed to the world. Everyone knew about it. He would lose half the initiative if his opponent put distance between them.

Only Hiding Pain could turn the tide of the battle in his favor tomorrow...

Xu Xiaoshou had an odd look on his face. Why does the topic always return to my Sword Will no matter what I think about?

He fell into deep thought.

He'd managed to create many different patterns of Fleeting White Clouds after the technique was magnified by his Sword Will.

Sword Web Style, Modified Sword Style, Reverse Sword Style...

The former two felt natural. It was the natural application of his Sword Will. As for the Reverse Sword Style...

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Hiding Pain in his hand.

This style had been the result of a stroke of inspiration in the middle of a crisis during his battle with Zhao Qingteng. It was more about combining his Sword Will with the sword itself.

During that time, he felt that Hiding Pain had come alive!

"Sword Telepathy?"

That also seemed like a way of imbuing Sword Will into another object. However, Hiding Pain was closer to him, which was why it worked.

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly had an idea: he could imbue Hiding Pain with his Sword Will and launch a counterattack. However, was that all he'd be able to do?

No!

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes flashed. If he could perfectly control Hiding Pain with his Sword Will, wouldn't he master the legendary Sword Soaring Technique?!

Even...

Flying on a sword?!

2

Flying was something only an Innate-stage fighter could do. He was only Spiritual Cultivation Level Eight. Wouldn't the crowd be extremely startled if he managed to fly on his sword?

"Let's try it out!"

Xu Xiaoshou recalled his battle in the afternoon and infused his Sword Will into the blade of Hiding Pain.

"Buzz..."

A long howl was heard, and Hiding Pain started to tremble slightly.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. The black sword in his hand didn't feel like an inanimate object. It seemed to have some form of spiritual intelligence.

"Great!" he thought.

"This means I've already developed a relationship with it."

Xu Xiaoshou tossed Hiding Pain and pointed upward with two fingers.

"Rise!"

He seemed to see a vision of the black sword soaring in the air, but the sword behaved like an ordinary sword and fell onto the ground after he threw it.

Clank, clank, clank!

Xu Xiaoshou's expression was dark as charcoal. The black sword constantly struggled on the ground, as if it'd been forcibly used by someone.

"That's not right," he thought. "It wasn't like this in the afternoon!"

"Could it be that I didn't throw it with enough force?"

1

Xu Xiaoshou picked up the sword and once again imbued it with his Sword Will. Then, he fiercely tossed the sword.

Whoosh!

Flames surrounded the body of the sword as it shot toward the horizon!

Xu Xiaoshou cheered. Sometime later, he sensed the excited Sword Will again and immediately summoned his sword back to him.

With a whoosh, a black dot appeared on the horizon, fiercely slashing toward Xu Xiaoshou.

Xu Xiaoshou was startled. He wasn't encapsulated within an ice sculpture. Wouldn't he become a second Zhao Qingteng if he got hit by the sword?

Thinking about this, he quickly jumped, wanting to stand on the sword's blade and fly into the air.

In the end, Hiding Pain was too fast. It slipped past under his legs and instantly tripped him.

Boom!

Clang!

The two of them fell onto the ground at the same time, and the surroundings became dead silent.

"Darn it, I don't believe this!"

"Again!"

Xu Xiaoshou tried out the technique again. He was definitely going to master the legendary Sword Soaring Technique tonight!

In the end...

Boom!

Clang!

"We continue!"

Boom!

Clang!

...

Stubbornness is a kind of poison. The night sky troubled Xu Xiaoshou.

Sometime later, when Xu Xiaoshou threw the sword again, he finally realized that the black sword wasn't psychic.

The only time the sword became truly excited was when it flew to its limits and was called back by Xu Xiaoshou.

In other words, the "Reverse" in the Reverse Sword Style meant that the black sword was only truly psychic during the reversal process.

This made Xu Xiaoshou fall silent for a long while as he tried to understand what the difference between throwing the sword and having it return was.

But he couldn't figure out the reason.

"This darned Reverse Sword Style..."

"I should've called it the Sword Soaring Technique!"

Xu Xiaoshou decided to skip the throwing the sword step, and pointed the tip of the sword toward himself and imbued it with Sword Will.

"Buzz!"

The body of the sword immediately started to get excited, and Xu Xiaoshou immediately felt the life within the sword.

He turned the sword around and pointed it toward the sky.

"Buzz..."

The life force reduced to just a sliver.

He turned it again.

"Buzz!"

He turned it again.

"Buzz..."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

"What kind of principle is this?" he thought. "It only has spiritual intelligence when it's aimed at me?"

1

"I think you want to kill your master!"

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't believe this and continued turning the sword around.

“Buzz!”

“Buzz...”

“Buzz!”

“Buzz...”

Xu Xiaoshou’s expression darkened, and he angrily tossed Hiding Pain. “Darn it,” he thought. “There’s something wrong with this sword!”

Whoosh!

The black sword once again flew toward him.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

Cursed others. Passive Points +0!

#### **Chapter 40: Oh My, Did I See A Deity?**

Noon the next day.

The Tiansang Spirit Palace ushered in its yearly hot event. The champion of the Windcloud Competition was going to be determined today.

Not only were the disciples and elders of the Outer Yard here to watch the match, but even a few Inner Yard disciples who had the time also came to have a look at the battles.

The crowd’s emotions were so high they were about to explode.

The people who’d come early to reserve seats saw the influential figures of the spirit palace in front of them.

To the left were the elders of the Spiritual Affairs Division, Spiritual Medical Division, and Spiritual Military Division...

There were also a few unknown people who rarely showed themselves. They were elders who looked like elders but weren’t really elders...

To the right were the people ranked in the top hundred, top ten, and top five of the Windcloud Scoreboard...

These were all people who had lorded over the arena with unparalleled authority since the very start. They were all now sitting in the spectator seats, obediently waiting for the competition to start.

A female disciple had come to reserve a seat last night. Currently, Zhao Qingteng was sitting to her left and Zhou Tianshen to her right.

She cupped her face and looked around her, then fainted from bliss.

The people around her were so envious that their eyes almost fell out of their sockets.

“Wow, she fainted. Send her for treatment quickly. I’ll take care of her seat for her.”



“My God, who are these people. Senior Du, Senior Ling... They’re all ranked within the top ten of the Windcloud Scoreboard!”

“Quick, look! That’s the Inner Yard’s... Su Qianqian?”

“Where? Where?”

The exclamation immediately attracted everyone’s attention. The Inner Yard’s Su Qianqian was a legendary figure in the Tiansang Spirit Palace.

She was the most powerful genius of the Su family in the Tiansang Prefecture of this era. She broke through to the Innate Stage when she was thirteen, and when she was fourteen she acquired the Innate-stage Sword Will. She wielded one of the twenty-one most famous swords in the continent: the Epitaph of City Snow. She was the personal disciple of the Spiritual Law Division’s Xiao Qixiu...

Any one of these titles would cause an average person to tremble, but someone with all of them was sitting right before their eyes!

Su Qianqian was dressed in white exercise gear, and her snow-colored giant sword was lying horizontally across her thighs. She was swinging her feet from side to side, unfazed by the crowd.

She looked around but ultimately pouted in disappointment, as she didn’t find Brother Little Beast, who she wanted to see.

“How unfortunate we can’t see the senior from the Inner Yard. I heard that she adores Su Qianqian and is always by her side.”

“That’s right, that’s right. Senior Rao is my goddess. Not only does she have an otherworldly appearance and impressive figure, but her abilities are also the cream of the crop. It’s a pity that we cannot witness her splendor. Sigh!”

“Oh, I think I’ve seen the person you’re talking about. She came during the group stages...”

“You must be dreaming. How would Senior Rao have time to come walk around in the Outer Yard? You must have dreamt it!”

“I really saw her!”

“Tsk~”

The crowd huddled together to look at the scene before them, constantly pointing out famous people from the Inner Yard that they recognized and whispering to each other.

To them, this was a rare scene not regularly seen, even during the past year.

It was only because the Outer Yard had a lot of break-out talents this year, with four Innate-stage fighters and Xu Xiaoshou, that many of the people from the Inner Yard had come to watch the match.

“Oh God, it’s Zhang Xinxiong! He’s one of the Inner Yard Thirty-Three, a living boss!”

“Inner Yard Thirty-Three? Oh my, where, where?!”

The crowd hurriedly looked around. They looked in the speaker's direction and saw a man with an overbearing aura not far away.

Zhang Xinxiong looked 27 to 28 years old and had a full beard. He looked extremely masculine.

He was very tall. He was a head taller than the rest of the crowd, even though he was sitting.

He was dressed simply in a light-colored shirt with a jacket draped over his shoulders.

Even so, under the sunlight, everyone could still see the alarming outline of his muscles hiding underneath his shirt.

"My God, he's too handsome. He's a true man!"

"I'm in love, I'm in love!"

This famous person from the Inner Yard didn't sit in the front row. Instead, he sat near the middle of the spectator seats. Beside him was Liu Zhen, who had been severely injured by Xu Xiaoshou in the past.

Liu Zhen was also a burly man, but he looked like a tiny bird sitting beside Zhang Xinxiong.

"The person who killed Ah Chong, Xu Xiaoshou. Which one is him?" Zhang Xinxiong asked.

"Let me find him..." Liu Zhen respectfully replied. His gaze swept past several of the waiting areas before he finally shook his head. "I don't think he's come."

"Hah, he sure is calm. Is he going to arrive last..."

Zhang Xinxiong laughed lightly. There was no emotion in his voice, but the people around him felt that there was something strange here.

Ah Chong...

That wasn't a name someone in an ordinary relationship with Wen Chong would call him.

"I heard that Boss Wen knew someone from the Inner Yard. Could that person be Zhang Xinxiong?"

"I think so. If that's true, isn't Xu Xiaoshou in trouble? He killed Wen Chong!"

"My God, I seem to have seen Xu Xiaoshou's doomsday..."

A ripple spread through the crowd after just one sentence. Everyone lowered their voices and discussed the situation.

"You can't say it like that. Zhang Xinxiong is one of the Inner Yard Thirty-Three. Why would he attack a Spiritual Cultivation Level Eight fighter? Wouldn't that sully his status?"

"However, being marked isn't a good feeling!"

"You think too much. Even if Xu Xiaoshou managed to become the champion, he might not be able to enter the Inner Yard because of his cultivation level."

"Furthermore, he still has to fight Mu Zixi and Senior Mo. Just getting into the top three would be decent."

“But he has an Innate-stage physical body!”

“So what if he has an Innate-stage physical body? Is there a future in that? You’ve seen an Innate-stage physical body, but have you seen a Master-stage physical body?”

The crowd fell silent.

The level above the Innate Stage was the Master Stage. There was a sliver of hope for a Spiritual Cultivator to reach the level where they could open up sects and schools. As for the physical body...

It was too difficult!

Some might not have even heard of it, much less seen it!

In the panel of judges.

Xiao Qixiu gulped the contents of his cup down and flew into the arena, instantly attracting the crowd’s attention.

“The time has arrived. The semi-finals will start now!”

He activated the array token with his spiritual source, and the screen flickered, then froze. Two names in stark red were printed across the middle of the screen.

“Xu Xiaoshou!”

“Mu Zixi!”

The crowd instantly erupted into exclamations.

The first match of the semi-finals was already a battle between fighters with Innate-stage abilities, which was something everyone was looking forward to.

One of them had broken through to the Innate Stage despite only being in the spirit palace for a year. Her potential was almost as high as Su Qianqian’s.

The other had an Innate-stage physical body and had defeated Zhao Qingteng yesterday, which proved that he had the ability to stand up against Innate-stage fighters!

The doors of the waiting room were opened. Mu Zixi was dressed in pale green. She skipped toward the stage, as if she wasn’t at all worried about the battle that was to come.

Every step she took oozed youthful vitality, and the crowd couldn’t help but like her.

“She sure lives up to her reputation as Junior Mu. An Innate-stage fighter... is always so dependable!”

The crowd looked at the other side. That was Xu Xiaoshou’s waiting area.

Thud!

The doors opened.

Two attendants steeled their nerves and walked out. They spread their arms open to signal that Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t there.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

“Why is it those two people? Where’s Xu Xiaoshou?”

“Oh, my God! Why did that guy disappear again!”

“Why is he always this tardy during important events. It’s already the semi-finals. Can he not make us worry...”

“Hey you, where did Xu Xiaoshou go?”

The two attendants were dazed. “Don’t ask us,” they thought.

They’d arrived at the waiting area early to wait, but the candidate didn’t show.

They sent people to look for him in his yard but only saw many sword marks on the ground and didn’t manage to find him.

Just where did Xu Xiaoshou go?

Xiao Qixiu’s expression darkened. He wanted to scream again.

Suddenly, the sword behind his back trembled. He abruptly turned around and looked at the horizon.

The crowd also noticed this, and all of them raised their heads.

They saw a sword glow coming from far away. It was as if a sword deity had descended upon this world. On the sword was a figure whose robes were swaying in the wind.

That clean, pure demeanor. That otherworldly form...

“Oh God, did I just see a deity?” they thought.

No...

Everyone looked more closely, and their eyes almost fell out of their skulls.

Oh my!

Xu Xiaoshou???