

Chapter 41: I'm About to Attack

At that moment, anyone would agree that Xu Xiaoshou really looked like some deity who had descended to the mortal world and fall in love with him.

To start with, he had impeccable looks and sported a regal air. The way he was standing holding a sword behind his back at that moment made a lot of girls fall for him.

"Oh man, I'm done for. Xu Xiaoshou is so cute!"

"Go to h*ll! Xu Xiaoshou is mine!"

Some of the girls were falling head over heels for him, but there were even more who had questions about him.

"D*mn, he sure knows how to make an entrance. Why is someone at Spiritual Cultivation Level Eight wielding a sword anyway?"

"Yeah, indeed. Isn't flying an ability only available at the Innate Stage? Did Xu Xiaoshou really get to that stage in just a single night?"

"Impossible. Just look at his aura. That's an eight right there."

"Wait, why is this guy... flying so slow?"

One of them mentioned this and everyone else slowly recovered from the awe that Xu Xiaoshou had inspired in them. All of them had puzzled looks on their faces.

Being able to ride one's sword and fly was indeed splendid, yet the speed at which he was flying...

Gosh, I can walk faster than you can fly!

If it wasn't for the wind blowing so strong today, his clothes wouldn't even be billowing.

Xu Xiaoshou simply flew at such a leisurely speed with his back to everyone else, as if only by moving at such slow speeds could he fully display his current state of mind.

"Just wait for it..."

"Why does he have his back facing us?" someone else asked.

Everyone had initially thought that Xu Xiaoshou was simply making an entrance and putting on airs, but then they discovered that something was off.

Not only was the kid flying excruciatingly slow, but the whole time he was flying his butt was facing everyone else.

It was as if he couldn't fly without facing backwards.

Mu Zixi, who was in the ring, curiously looked up and blinked her eyes at his antics. She felt as if Xu Xiaoshou was there to jest.

“Won’t you... get dizzy from flying backwards?”

Xu Xiaoshou, who was on his black sword, slowly turned his head around while casting “Hiding Pain,” doing his best to smile as he waved at the crowd.

His neck felt sore, as if he hadn’t slept right the night before.

Which was the reason why he was flying backwards and was flying so slow...

Deep down, Xu Xiaoshou was howling and shouting. He wanted to fly forward and zip about like a bolt of lightning.

But this stupid sword technique just wouldn’t let him!

He had worked on it for one whole night and found that the stupid black sword was only sapient when the tip of the blade was facing him.

He didn’t know the reason why he could no longer control the sword as soon as the tip was facing away from him. He tried hundreds of times before finally deciding to give up.

After that, he finally managed to stand on the black sword, wanting to just fly out of his place, when he shot right back into his room instead.

He was utterly baffled by how that particular Sword Soaring Technique worked backwards instead and had no choice but to turn around and fly with Hiding Pain activated.

It took him over two hours to fly out of his place all the way to Chuyun Peak.

Those two hours had taught him that there was yet another type of sickness brought about by disorientation.

Sword-sickness.

Bluurggghh.

He fought the urge to throw up and waved as though nothing had happened to the people around him.

While the process was nothing short of excruciating, the reward was indeed very, very lucrative.

Impressed, Passive Points +664.

Impressed, Passive Points +882.

Envied, Passive Points +441.

Envied, Passive Points +261.

...

That process of flying got him over 4000 Passive Points, and those points were taken from his brothers and sisters in training whom he met along the way.

But of course, those were previous records.

What was shown on the Information Bar at the moment was...

Suspected, Passive Points +563.

Ridiculed, Passive Points +446.

Belittled, Passive Points +337.

...

Yeah, the points shot by over 2000 all of a sudden.

As for the details...

“Whatever, so long as I still keep earning Passive Points, I guess,” he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou kept up his façade as best he could while ignoring the earlier half of what was showing on the lines in the Information Bar.

Below.

Xiao Qixiu was feeling rather dizzy watching Xu Xiaoshou and didn’t know what to say about him.

He had almost shouted for the kid to get down as soon as he saw him in the first place.

Yet, when he took a closer look, he’d realized that the kid had only acquired bits of Sword Telepathy the day before and was surprised that the kid had actually learned how to use it in just a single night.

That’s a genius right there!

He had only seen such a level of talent before in Su Qianqian.

The way the technique was put to use was nonetheless baffling...

But still, a Sword Soaring Technique used backwards was still a Sword Soaring Technique, no?

Yet, he also realized that Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t getting off of the sword after flying for quite a while and had actually taken to waving at the crowd instead.

“Oh boy, you’re not telling me that the kid doesn’t even know that he’s in the first match!” he thought.

Xiao Qixiu had finally had enough and shouted, “Xu Xiaoshou, you get down here and get on with the match already!”

Xu Xiaoshou looked below him and was startled. His sword wobbled.

“My gosh, I’m flying so d*mn high!” he thought.

“Coming, coming right up...”

The audience was having a good laugh. Fights aside, Xu Xiaoshou seemed to be able to bring joy to all around him every time he showed up.

“Oh my god, I thought that dude was so d*mn surreal flying on a sword! Yet, he’s flying backwards instead. Hahahahaha.”

“D*mn, you’re not telling me that he doesn’t even know how to tell his way around? Man, my stomach is hurting so bad now.”

“Xu Xiaoshou, go for it! You’re almost at the barrier, steady yourself!”

Encouraged, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou grinned, realizing that someone was actually cheering him on. He got excited and sped up at the barrier right away.

Crash!

Clang, clang!

That nightmarish noise that he’d heard over and over throughout the night was there yet again.

Due to having accelerated like that, he smacked right into the barrier all sprawled out. The black sword dropped to the ground after bashing against the barrier.

Ridiculed, Passive Points +224.

Ridiculed, Passive Points +446.

Ridiculed, Passive Points +654.

Xu Xiaoshou, “...”.

Mu Zixi, who was down there, grabbed her pigtailed as she looked up at the scene and almost burst out laughing.

She saw him slowly sliding down from the barrier from midair and shouted, “Windcloud Token!”

“How are you going to get inside without the token?”

“Hey, you hear me out there?...”

There was no doubt that he could hear her from inside the ring. Even if he couldn’t hear her, there were still a lot of people in the audience shouting the exact same thing.

It was only then that he awkwardly fished the token out of the ring hanging around his neck and got inside the barrier.

He finally sighed in relief after seeing the lines of ridicule in the Information Bar stop appearing.

“I was really in over my head,” he thought.

“I’d better make sure to master flying on a sword before ever doing this again.”

Xiao Qixiu glared at Xu Xiaoshou, who gave him an apologetic look before turning around and saying to Mu Zixi, “Sorry to keep you waiting.”

“Oh my, you’re so hilarious!”

Complimented, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou, "..."

"Okay, you're telling me that you couldn't see that she was laughing at me?" he thought.

"Get ready!"

Xiao Qixiu raised his right hand. Everyone immediately stopped joking around and became serious.

This was the semi-finals after all. Despite the rather hilarious entrance, the match itself would nonetheless be spectacular and have many things that everyone could learn from.

The audience all became quiet.

"The match begins!"

Xu Xiaoshou immediately became serious, manipulating sword will at his fingers and blasting beams of the sword at Mu Zixi.

He charged at her right after blasting said beams.

Mu Zixi was totally unfazed by the incoming blasts. She flung her pigtailed backward and grinned right away.

"Be careful, Xu Xiaoshou.

"I'm about to attack."

Chapter 42: Violent Girl

Xu Xiaoshou saw the girl's hands, which she'd been clenching, immediately extend right after she said this, and massive blasts of pitch-black particles came at him.

"What the hell?" he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou's spiritual energy inside burst right away, deflecting the pitch-black particles, and then he realized something.

"Seeds?" he thought. "There's actually someone weird enough to fight using seeds?"

He was puzzled and looked at the seeds spread all over the floor.

"Wait, hold on.

"Innate... wood elemental?"

He turned his attention to Mu Zixi again and seemed to once again recall that towering ancient tree that had shot a huge watermelon to the field.

"Seeds, ancient tree..."

Xu Xiaoshou's pupils contracted as he came to realize something.

"Precisely."

Mu Zixi seemed to know what he was thinking. She narrowed her eyes and grinned before clapping.

“Little trees, get him!”

Go go go!

Tens of ancient trees shot into the air in the blink of an eye and tried to blast him out of the barrier of the arena.

Pfft!

Blood sprayed in midair.

He felt his lower body shiver. The trees were so forceful they almost broke his spine and killed him on the spot.

“Damn, that was unexpected...” he thought.

He groaned in pain in midair. No one would have expected something like that to happen at the very start.

People usually fought using blades of some sort, yet that little girl used seeds instead.

“Innate-level trees. That impact... d*mn, that’s terrifying!”

He managed to somehow get in control of his body while still in the air and scrambled to summon the black sword to get away riding the blade.

However, a thick vine unexpectedly shot into the air and wrapped around him before pulling him down hard.

“Sh**!” he cursed right then and there. That was a weakness of fighting up close: one could be caught in their opponent’s combos right away.

Before he could even react, he felt his vision go black.

“What is going on?” he thought.

He was completely confused.

...

Xu Xiaoshou didn’t realize what was happening due to being caught in the middle of the action, but the spectators well knew what was going on.

As soon as he was sent flying, a massive array beneath him immediately shifted, making space right in the center.

Then, a thick vine immediately emerged out of a tree and dragged him into that ancient tree’s array.

“Everything is going as planned,” Mu Zixi thought to herself. She clenched her fists, shaking hard.

A booming rumble was heard as the trunks crashed into each other and twisted into a single entity, leaving only the crown swaying elegantly about.

The arena was silent.

The spectators' eyes twitched as they seemed to clearly hear the sound of Xu Xiaoshou's bones snapping.

"Gosh, the girl is really going overboard."

"Oh heavens, she smiles like an angel, but she sure as h*ll doesn't fight with the mercy of one..."

"Tsk, tsk, I never knew you were like this, Sister Mu... umm, no, Demon Mu!"

The ancient trees were crushed and twisted into a single entity, forming a single super tree formed from over a dozen trees mashed together. Everyone felt that Xu Xiaoshou was doomed and had become sustenance for the tree.

"Hehehe."

Mu Zixi seemed to smile even brighter. She found the tree of incredible thickness very cute.

She then turned around and ran, coming to the edge of the barrier.

"What is she doing?" everyone present thought, puzzled. Even Xiao Qixiu's pupils contracted. He sensed that something terrible was about to happen.

"Heh!"

The girl continued flashing that beaming smile of hers as she clapped her hands. Then she shouted in a cute voice, "Explode!"

The arena was silent for a moment.

Boooooom!

A massive mushroom cloud rose into the sky.

The tree exploded, immediately leaving a crater behind in the arena. The explosion was so massive that it even sent Xiao Qixiu, who was caught off guard, flying from the shockwave.

He quickly defended his body with spiritual source and steadied himself as he hovered midair.

Hsssss.

Everyone turned to look at the arena again. The middle-aged man and the audience gasped when they saw what had happened.

The tree that had wrapped around Xu Xiaoshou had been reduced to dust after the explosion, shooting everywhere.

However, the dust had quickly taken root after landing, coalescing into massive amounts of seeds before sprouting.

"Oh man... she really is trying hard to kill whoever she's fighting."

"My gosh, does she need to be that violent? Even if Xu Xiaoshou survives this, will he be able to take the next attack?"

Mu Zixi, who had just finished her explosive art in the ring, frowned slightly.

Knowing that her regular attacks wouldn't be able to defeat someone with an Innate-level physique, she'd really brought her best to the fight.

She'd taken it to such a degree that she'd even feared for her own safety when bringing about that last explosion.

Yet she was still able to sense through the seed that she'd secretly planted into him that the man was still alive.

"He's not dead?" she thought.

"Is this Xu Xiaoshou a cockroach or something?"

She was secretly frustrated, as she was able to sense through that very seed she'd planted that the life force in Xu Xiaoshou's body was still brimming.

"Hmm, maybe I could try that trick next."

The mushroom cloud finally dissipated altogether, and it was thanks to her not daring to get close for the time being that he was actually able to recover for quite a bit through Eternal Vitality.

But still, he was all covered in blood and many of his bones were broken.

That explosion was definitely more effective than what Liu Zhen had done back then. It was fortunate that the explosion hadn't taken place from the inside out, as he wouldn't have been able to even stand after that.

"That innate something is really something..."

First there was Zhao Qingteng's icy sword, and now there was Mu Zixi's ancient trees. Xu Xiaoshou really envied such innate elemental powers, as they were just too powerful.

He thought that if he had such powers, he wouldn't have been restricted to fighting up close and personal.

There were only so many ranged attacks one could do, so he refrained from charging at her right away, choosing to stand his ground instead.

Both of them were at a stalemate, and the audience was getting impatient.

"Is that Xu Xiaoshou really an idiot or something? Why isn't he attacking? Is he like waiting for the trees to sprout again?"

On the surface, both indeed looked like they had stopped moving altogether, yet the seeds spread by that explosion had all landed, covering the entire ring.

One could even say that Mu Zixi had all the advantage of terrain she needed at that moment.

Barrier of the Wood Element.

"Eat this, Xu Xiaoshou!"

Mu Zixi was in no mood to wait for long. She clapped her hands again, and the seeds cracked, sending trees shooting upwards.

Go go go!

Ancient trees shot out from the ground in all directions. It was no longer just a dozen or so trees in the ring. One could easily tell with one glance that there were over one hundred trees in the arena.

Worse still, that number was still growing.

The audience didn't dare to look at what was about to happen next. If another explosion happened, Xu Xiaoshou would definitely lose his limbs, even with an Innate-level physique.

He might even lose his head from the explosion.

"Huh?"

"What's that?"

"Xu Xiaoshou took out a scabbard?"

Everyone turned to look at him, feeling curious.

As the trees kept shooting up to the sky, Xu Xiaoshou moved as if he had eyes all over his body. His body flashed as he zipped in and out between the trees, moving as if he were a monkey.

He actually took out a scabbard after landing on a narrow spot on the ground that wasn't covered in seeds.

"Be careful," he said. The girl gave this warning to him each time she attacked him, so he now saw it fit to return the favor.

As soon as he finished saying this, all the seeds on the ground and the trees which had taken form all began to tremble as if they were running out of control.

He closed his eyes, and right then and there he felt as if he'd returned to the day before.

The garden is vast, and where shall the sword will go?

Mu Zixi opened her eyes wide. She was puzzled as to why she was unable to tell where all the sword will around her was coming from.

"From Xu Xiaoshou's sword?" she thought.

"Or the seeds on the ground?"

"Or..."

"Me?"

Mu Zixi sensed how ridiculous her thoughts had become, yet she was actually able to sense the sword will rising from above her head.

"Am I actually Xu Xiaoshou's sword?"

The girl shook her head, flapping her pigtails about as she dispelled that ridiculous thought from her mind.

Chapter 43: Xu Xiaoshou Bloomed

In midair.

Xiao Qixiu was thoroughly shocked. He'd thought the kid's "Sword Soaring Technique in Reverse" was already the greatest out of what Xu Xiaoshou had acquired, not realizing that said technique was but the beginning.

"Who was it who taught him 'All Things are Swords'?" he thought.

"Who in Tiansang Spirit Palace is more capable with a sword than me?"

"Furthermore..."

"I understand how 'All Things are Swords' is at work now, but how is it possible that even Mu Zixi is emanating sword will? Just what the hell is happening right now?"

"Do you even realize that she's human, kid?"

From Xu Xiaoshou's perspective, anything and anyone could indeed be a vessel for "All Things are Swords," but then again, he was still only half-way through his research.

Using his Spiritual Energy, he expelled the seed Mu Zixi had secretly planted in him, causing a startled expression to appear on her face, as she knew that her cover was blown.

Things around them continued to rumble. While Xu Xiaoshou was in a serene state, he was nonetheless all wrapped up by the trees.

While everyone was still anxiously waiting, he silently sheathed Hiding Pain in its scabbard.

And all the sword will around them dissipated all at once.

He seemed to have given up resisting and was letting the trees grow into a forest.

The audience was baffled.

"What the hell? That's it?"

"I thought he was prepping for some ultimate move, yet there wasn't even a single fart in the end."

"He gave up just like that? Well, good for him, I guess. Sister Mu may just go easy..."

Mu Zixi go easy?

What kind of a joke was that?

The girl saw Xu Xiaoshou sheath his sword and knew right away that something was off, yet she was unable to place what exactly was wrong. As such, she simply took the initiative to strike first.

"Here I come!"

She clapped her hands again, and over one hundred trees throughout the entire ring immediately rushed at Xu Xiaoshou.

Some in the audience had already closed their eyes, not wanting to see Xu Xiaoshou be reduced to mush.

Xu Xiaoshou was actually still utterly unfazed in the face of the howling, towering trees rushing at him.

He simply waited with his aura being still. He unsheathed his sword an inch before returning it to its sheath.

“What is he doing here?”

“Did he unsheathe his blade?”

“Did he just put his blade back?”

Despite being surrounded by the trees, there were still some who were able to see his movements through whatever gaps were left between the trees, and they were all very curious.

The very next second, all of the trees stopped moving, and a rumbling sound was heard. Mu Zixi was sent flying by a tree shooting up from beneath her.

Everyone was puzzled. What just happened?

Did Mu Zixi just go crazy all of a sudden?

Was that a misfire?

In the front row of the audience, Su Qianqian leaned forward and craned her neck, her eyes filled with wonder.

Others might not have seen what happened, but she, as someone with innate sword will, had clearly sensed it all.

The moment Xu Xiaoshou unsheathed his sword an inch, the blade immediately cut several falling leaves in half.

That was some utterly terrifying swordplay at work.

First, the All Things are Swords, then his will being given form, before all that ambient sword will returned to the scabbard.

He had unleashed a terrifying circular cutting power the instant he unsheathed his sword an inch.

As expected, the roots of all the trees that had suddenly been stopped in their tracks were cut down. After remaining in place for a brief moment, the remains of the trees nonetheless came crashing into each other above him due to inertia.

Boom!

Yet another massive mushroom cloud was seen.

Despite the one hundred trees all over the place at that moment, the mushroom cloud formed at that moment was an order of magnitude below the one before.

Hsssss.

It was only then that the audience realized that Xu Xiaoshou had actually cut down every single one of those trees with just one inch of his sword unsheathed.

“Oh heavens, this...”

“What a frightening rate of progress we’re seeing in Xu Xiaoshou here. That move was just awesome!”

“Wuwuwu, that move alone was enough to make me fall in love with him.”

Leaves fell all over the ring in shredded pieces.

Xu Xiaoshou unsheathed his sword and stood at the then pockmarked ring. The air of awesomeness that he was basking in was enough to daze anyone within sight.

But, despite having turned the tables in his favor in such a splendid fashion, he was frowning.

He’d performed that move with flying colors and was very satisfied with his own performance. He saw no reason why Mu Zixi would discover all that sword will he’d hidden so well.

Yet, just to evade that move, she opted to shot herself out of range with a tree instead...

Why?

Mu Zixi, who was hovering in midair at the moment, was still reeling from the shock, her heart continuing to race.

She wondered if she would’ve been decapitated if it hadn’t been for that seed she’d secretly planted in Xu Xiaoshou.

“D*mn you, Xu Xiaoshou. You dared pull something like that...”

“Alright, my turn for something big next.”

She threw a seed into the air above her. It burst in midair and immediately propelled her forward, sending her flying at Xu Xiaoshou.

The corners of Zhao Qingteng’s mouth twitched. This girl was really bold. Was him getting his chest pierced not enough of a lesson for her?

Everyone was puzzled by what was happening. Another one who dared to close in on Xu Xiaoshou?

To them, such a move was nothing less than a death wish.

Xu Xiaoshou’s eyes glittered. Close combat, eh? Perfect.

The ground beneath him crumbled as he launched a punch at her, but the other party’s counterattack baffled him.

Mu Zixi was actually clenching her fist and throwing a punch at him as well.

“What’s wrong with the brat?” he thought.

“Is she getting high from the fight or something?”

However, there was no mercy to be had in the match.

Despite the possibility of rendering her arm totally useless if his punch connected, he nonetheless put all of his might behind the attack, seeing no need to go easy at all.

Poof, poof, poof.

The expected sound of bones cracking wasn’t heard. Just when the punches were about to connect, the girl’s punch dissolved into a mass of vines that coiled all over Xu Xiaoshou’s body.

Forearms, shoulders, then everywhere else...

All of her body dissolved into vines and wrapped all around him.

Xu Xiaoshou felt like he’d punched cotton. It dissipated the force of his impact and sent him hurtling into the mass of vines instead.

“Hehe, over here.”

He heard the voice of the little girl behind him, and he turned around in fright, finding to his surprise that the mass of vines coiled all around him had materialized into a human shape behind him.

“Mu Zixi!” he thought.

“Is she a snake?”

“How did she manage to get behind me?”

“Get lost!”

Xu Xiaoshou used all his power to try and push her away, but to no avail.

Hmmphh.

He then felt a sharp pain in his kidneys. He glanced below and saw that her legs had turned into thorns and were stabbing into his midsection.

“Sh**! Don’t do anyth... arrghh!”

It was when he wanted to pull the thorns away that he found his shoulder joints had been pierced by roots, robbing him of any control he had over his arms and making them lay completely still.

“You parasite! Get off me!” Xu Xiaoshou panicked. He found this wretched way of combat utterly disgusting.

The only part of his body he could still move at the moment was his head, so he turned around and bit, but he missed the mark altogether.

“You dare say that I’m a parasite, huh?”

Mu Zixi was angered. She then pouted and said, “Bloom, then.”

Poof!

A red flower emerged from Xu Xiaoshou's head and swayed about, looking alluring.

"Hahaha!"

"Xu Xiaoshou bloomed!"

"Oh heavens, why is this so funny? Isn't this a battle? Can't you two be a little more serious?"

The audience erupted into laughter. Su Qianqian, who had been worried sick before the battle, had to cover her mouth to contain her laughter.

While everyone else was having a good laugh, Xu Xiaoshou was panicking, as his entire body had been paralyzed.

He was completely dumbfounded.

"When did another seed get into my body?" he thought. "And why wasn't I able to detect it?"

"Stealth at its finest indeed!"

It was bad enough that he had a flower blooming above his head. Worse still, that flower was continuously injecting paralytic toxins into his body, preventing him from moving at all.

By this point, he was basically meat on a cutting board.

He was confident that he had never underestimated his opponent. He'd even put that Blade-draw Technique he had developed the night before to good use. Yet, even still, his opponent had rendered him completely immobile all the same.

"Gosh, the girl is really d*mn frightening," he thought.

Chapter 44: Passive Victory

The fight was a deadlock.

Xu Xiaoshou, who had a flower coming out of his head, stood on the ground, not moving at all.

Mu Zixi, who was right behind him, had her legs stabbed into his midsection while her hands pierced through his shoulders. Her head with the pigtails was the only part of her body she could move.

Under the crowd's stunned gaze, she took a whiff of Xu Xiaoshou's aura.

Ohhhh.

"That's the taste I've been looking for!" she moaned, looking as if she were high.

That burst of vibrant life force that had been around since the start was very enticing to her, and she'd finally gotten her hands on him after doing all she could.

Who could resist it? Literally no one.

"Yum, here I go!"

Sh**!

Xu Xiaoshou felt a shiver run down his spine when he heard that. Despite being unable to see what was happening, he could nonetheless imagine what was going on.

Noooooo.

Chomp!

Mu Zixi bared her shiny canines and bit hard into the artery in his neck.

The spectators were all stunned and gasped at what she was doing.

“H*ll, is it alright to do that?”

“Isn’t the referee going to do something about it?”

Xiao Qixiu didn’t want to think about what was about to happen, but Xu Xiaoshou shot him a look.

“What does that mean?” he thought.

“Is he telling me to leave him be?”

“Or is he telling me to save him?”

“Whatever. Mu Zixi should know what she’s doing, and that kid, he needs a lesson anyway.”

He saw the satisfied look on the girl’s face and was able to sense the spike in her lifeforce in a short period of them.

Tsk, tsk.

Xiao Qixiu had had enough of it and decided to save Xu Xiaoshou.

But he was stunned when he saw the look on Xu Xiaoshou’s face.

Xu Xiaoshou.

“Why does he look like he’s enjoying this too, eh?” he thought.

...

He had indeed panicked in the beginning, as anyone would’ve at a vampire stabbing them in their kidneys. But he had quickly calmed himself down, realizing that Mu Zixi was actually sucking more on his lifeforce than his blood.

If he hadn’t already been paralyzed, the high almost would have had him moaning too.

But if there was one thing that he had more of than anyone else, it was lifeforce.

Eternal Vitality at the innate level meant that his lifeforce was practically inexhaustible. Lifeforce would burst from within as soon as he was injured—an effect deemed more insane than taking drugs.

As such, he watched how his lifeforce was sapped one second and then completely refilled the next.

If it wasn’t for the fact that such energies couldn’t leak out of the body, he would probably have even more left than what he had.

It was then that she noticed that something was off and wondered why the lifeforce in this guy just kept flowing without end.

If he were an average being, he would've already been rendered a dried corpse.

Yet, to tell her to stop at such a moment...

That would be asking for the impossible.

Her face was all red, as if she were drunk, and she was sucking on the lifeforce as hard as she could with a look that suggested that she was completely hooked.

There was just no stopping it.

It was worth noting that such a raging, vibrant lifeforce was utterly irresistible to Mu Zixi, who was of the wood element.

Some among the audience noticed that something wasn't right and wondered if something terrible would happen if she just kept sucking like that.

"What the hell is Sister Mu sucking at? Is it really just lifeforce? Is it possible for someone to have that much lifeforce?"

Some in the audience were frightened and wondered if Xu Xiaoshou would immediately be reduced to ash when Mu Zixi finally stopped.

"Wait, no. Take a look at his face. That kid's lifeforce seems practically limitless..."

"But well, how is this possible? Can someone with an Innate-level physique really be that powerful? Gosh, what a monster!"

"Huff... I don't know. I guess you could get an Innate-level body and find out for yourself..."

Someone then pointed at the ring and yelled, "Look! Xu Xiaoshou's moving!"

Xu Xiaoshou had indeed regained some level of mobility.

As time passed, he could sense that the girl behind him had evidently gotten drunk, because that "flower of paralysis" on his head wasn't working so well anymore.

Xu Xiaoshou kept quiet and did his best to wrestle control of his body back.

It didn't take long for him to begin moving his head slightly.

"Calm down," he thought. "Think. I can't let her find out."

Xu Xiaoshou rolled his eyes, and a smirk appeared on his face.

The Glow of Sharpness coalesced on his hair, which ended up enabling him to cut that red flower down after vibrating his head for a tiny bit.

"D*mn, why is the flower gone already?"

The spectators, who were far away, were obviously unable to see it, as even Xiao Qixiu, who was airborne at the moment, was unable to see the exact moment the flower dropped.

Yet everyone was able to see that Mu Zixi was finished.

It was obvious that the girl had gotten addicted. Her eyes were narrowed to slits as she sucked away, her teeth still sunken into his neck.

Xu Xiaoshou had managed to wrestle basic control of his body back, yet his shoulders and kidneys were still pinned, so he didn't dare to do anything rash just yet.

The Glow of Sharpness was put to work again as he sent it to those four parts and then shook.

Swoop.

All four thick vines that were lodged inside his body were immediately cut down.

He quickly twisted around, grabbing at Mu Zixi's neck, and had her controlled from behind.

"Uhh, let me go. I wanna suck more!"

She looked dazed—a testament that her will had been all but washed away by that raging life force. She flailed about, grabbing his hand, and was about to bite again.

He grabbed at her chin with his left hand right away and tilted her head high.

"Mmm, wet me woo..."

"Suu..."

"Gooo..." Mu Zixi mumbled in a dreamy state.

Requested, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou, "..."

'What do you mean 'requested?'" he thought. "She's been sucking my blood this whole time!"

He then looked up at Xiao Qixiu, trying to ask what was going on with her.

The look on Xiao Qixiu's face was just as puzzled as his. "Shouldn't Mu Zixi be attacking now?" he thought. "How come the tables got turned all of a sudden just like that?"

The one sucking was dazed while the one being sucked on was puzzled.

Does Xu Xiaoshou have some kind of poison in him?

This was the first time he'd seen someone's passive ability bagging said someone a win.

He then waved his hand and said, "The battle is o..."

Mu Zixi came to her senses all of a sudden and shouted, "Hold on!" Then she shook her head slightly.

"What's happening?" she thought. "Why am I the one being pinned by Xu Xiaoshou instead? What just happened?"

The girl looked like someone who'd just gotten sober, and she turned to look at Xu Xiaoshou with a puzzled look on her face.

"Let me go!"

Xu Xiaoshou stared at her and thought for several seconds before covering her mouth all of a sudden.

"No way."

"Mmmmm!"

"Hehehe."

"Mmmmm!"

"You wanna talk?"

Chomp. Mu Zixi bit him again.

Sh**, oww! He then yanked her hair upward and yelled, "Are you a dog or something?"

He hoisted her up and charged to the edge of the ring.

"What are you doing?"

The only thing in her eyes by this time was panic, and countless vines shot out of her body all of a sudden.

Xu Xiaoshou smirked. "You kidding me?" he thought. "You're mine now. Or do you think this Innate-level physique of mine is just for show?"

He then strangled her with his right hand.

Cough, cough.

Mu Zixi was immediately choked by her own spit, causing the vines to break off.

"Weettt meee..."

Boom!

He then threw the biting girl over the ring without a second thought, then walked away with great strides.

Then he wiped the drool off of his neck and smelled it, his face twisting into a grimace.

"Gosh, that stinks!"

Mu Zixi glared at him with teary eyes and almost climbed into the ring.

Cursed, Passive Points +1, +1,+1,+1,+1,+1...

Xiao Qixiu waved his hand, a rather tired look on his face.

"The battle is over. The winner is Xu Xiaoshou."

Chapter 45: He's Hopeless

"Wait, he won? Just like that?"

The audience was utterly confused, and even some of the fighters from the Inner Yard were puzzled by what they saw.

It was probably the most puzzling win in the history of the Outer Yard fights.

The one who'd lost was just as puzzled as the one who'd won.

"The first half of the fight was splendid, so why did things take a weird turn in the second half?"

"You done asking? It's Xu Xiaoshou, that's why. An outcome like that is actually pretty normal as far as Xu Xiaoshou's concerned..."

"Hahaha, I've watched all of the matches with him in it, and boy, the match isn't Xu Xiaoshou's if the outcome isn't anything less than weird."

"Yeah, but this is the semi-finals..."

Some still found the outcome totally unbelievable and were wondering why the semi-finals, which had been nothing short of utterly intense the past years, had ended so messily today.

Doubted, Passive Points +664.

Doubted, Passive Points +121.

No one knew what to think about the match.

Spectators aside, even Xu Xiaoshou himself was baffled by the whole deal.

He actually had to attribute his victory to that bite from Mu Zixi. Otherwise, who was to say what the final outcome would've been.

If it hadn't been for that greedy bite from her, causing her to be paralyzed long enough for him to throw her off of the ring, he might've been the one to bite the dust.

But then again, like it or not, that was reality.

He straightened up, then gestured at the crowd as he walked, feeling very pleased with himself as he checked on the Passive Points he earned from all the doubt cast on him.

Very nice.

The barrier shut out information from the outside once he walked into the waiting area, yet lines kept popping up all the same.

Doubted, Passive Points +2.

Doubted, Passive Points +2.

"..."

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at the two staff, who were standing frozen in place, and flashed an awkward grin.

Walking forward with a win, leaving the question marks behind in the dust...

The man who'd gotten into the finals thanks to his passive skills got into his changing area, where he washed himself and his clothes of all that dirt and bloodstains before returning to the chair to meditate.

Xu Xiaoshou took out a piece of Spirit Crystal and sniffed it, thinking back on the fight.

He had to admit that Mu Zixi was indeed powerful.

This was a girl who'd opened his eyes to other avenues of combat. He was thoroughly impressed by different ways combat could take place at Innate levels.

"Zhao Qingteng, Mu Zixi..."

"Well, I guess Zhou Tianshen could count," he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou started looking forward the growth he would experience after getting to the Innate Stage.

In his mind, he imagined that he probably would no longer be limited by those passive skills and could truly shine and beat countless others out there.

"But then again," he thought, "I'm probably limited because I wasn't able to collect more useful passive skills because I didn't have enough time."

His eyes narrowed as he figured that it'd been too short of a time since he acquired the Passive Skill System.

Despite having earned Passive Points in a frenzy the whole time, he hadn't been able to get more than six Passive Skills, which had barely managed to get him to the finals. That had definitely been hard work.

His level and number of skills could possibly get higher if he were to be given more time, so much so that he'd be okay with not gaining any Innate Elemental Powers.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded furiously. "Yeah, that makes sense."

The two staff members stuck close to the corner of a wall and whispered among themselves, "There he goes again..."

Xu Xiaoshou was exasperated by the two's antics.

"You guys really have no idea that I've gained Sense eh?" he thought.

"Hmph."

He turned around and took out a Spiritual Cultivation Pill, took a deep whiff, and rapidly recovered.

The best plan he had at the moment was actually to head out and watch Mo Mo fight, but his injuries from fighting Mu Zixi were rather grievous.

While Eternal Vitality alone was capable of healing his injuries, it would still take time. As such, he simply closed his eyes, shutting the outside world out, and devoted his energies to recovery.

A staff member came over and woke him up a while later.

“The match is on?”

“Not yet.”

The staff member then handed him a letter. “This is from Elder Qiao.”

His eyebrows twitched. What was so important that it needed to be delivered in a letter?

“Well, makes sense, I guess,” he thought. “Elder Qiao’s probably watching the battle now and couldn’t come here personally, so he had to send a letter. It probably only got to me because an elder delivered it.”

He then tore the envelope open. There were only two words on it:

Sealing Technique.

Woff.

Spiritual Energies burst and burned the letter, and he lapsed into deep thought.

“What does ‘Sealing Technique’ mean?” he wondered.

“Does this have anything to do with my fight with Mo Mo in the finals?”

“The only thing that would have anything to do with this are the upcoming finals, and there’s no doubt that my next opponent will be Mo Mo.”

“Come to think of it, I don’t think anyone has seen what that Outer Yard big sister can actually do...”

“She threw everyone she fought out of the ring with just several strikes. Does that have something to do with ‘Sealing Technique’ here?”

“Is that some kind of Innate Elemental Power as well?”

“How does this sealing thing work by the way? Sealing one’s Spiritual Energy?”

That letter had apparently brought him more questions than answers, so he simply stopped thinking about it altogether.

If it was something that worked by sealing Spiritual Energy, then the technique would technically not be of any use against him.

He’d hardly ever used Spiritual Energy in all of his fights so far, with the exception of the four moves of the Fleeting White Clouds.

Even if he were to be short on Spiritual Energy, he could easily take out a Spiritual Cultivation Pill and bring the fight to a standstill for half a second, which would give him enough time to recover. So he saw no need for concern.

“Call me when the final match is on,” he said to the staff member, and closed his eyes again to work on his sword will.

The staff member agreed to it and sat down to have tea again.

However, before the staff member could pick up the cup, it started shaking, and sword will rose all of a sudden, causing the tea inside to spill.

The two staff members looked at each other, speechless.

Cursed, Passive Points +2.

The corners of Xu Xiaoshou's mouth lifted upward slightly as he closed his eyes to train, causing the cup to shake even harder.

Cursed, Passive Points +2, +2, +2, +2

...

Whack!

At the edge of the ring, Mo Mo launched a palm attack and sent her stout opponent flying out of the ring. Xiao Qixiu's voice was then heard.

The audience was in awe. Everyone had suprised looks on their faces, yet, at the same time, they found the outcome reasonable.

"Yet another show of slapping her opponent out of the ring with her left hand alone. Gosh, Sister Mo really... is just too powerful."

"Yeah, even in the semifinals no one was able to corner her well enough to make her use her right hand that's cradling that bronze cauldron. That is really something indeed."

"By the way, what's in that pot anyway? I've never seen her use it for anything."

"No idea. Probably just something to keep her right hand from doing anything else, just to give her opponents hope..."

"Hmm... she's indeed powerful. I wonder if Xu Xiaoshou will be able to force her to use both of her hands..."

Mo Mo stood in the ring with her white garb billowing.

Strictly-speaking, she had features so plain that she looked nothing more than ordinary.

Yet, due to all of those achievements of hers, no one could afford to ignore her.

Zhang Xinxiong had a funny look on his face as he tilted his head and said, "This Mo Mo girl is formidable. If I were at the same early stage of Innate Origin Court Level as her, I probably wouldn't even be able to beat her."

He then paused and added, "Drawing the fight out, that is."

Liu Zhen was surprised.

He spoke so highly of some girl who was so plain-looking, yet during the fight between Xu Xiaoshou and Mu Xizi, he hadn't said a word.

"So, you're saying that if we were to fight Sister Mo, we'd have to end it quickly?"

Zhang Xinxiong nodded and answered, "Definitely. Every attack of hers comes with some special effect capable of decreasing her opponent's powers. It's a rather strange ability. I'm not quite sure what it is."

"Some Innate Elemental Power that she possesses, I guess?"

"Perhaps..."

Liu Zhen was rendered silent, wondering what kind of a special ability it could be.

The most awakened powers among the fighters at Innate Stage was the power of the five elements. The more extraordinary such elements turned out to be, the more difficult said opponent would be.

But then again, the prerequisite was that the possessor of such powers was familiar with their uses. Otherwise, it'd simply be better to pray that one would acquire one of the mainstream five instead.

Mo Mo was one such genius out of the ordinary. That eerie ability of hers to reduce her opponent's powers, coupled with her agile moves, enabled her to reign supreme as soon as the fight was drawn out.

Liu Zhen recalled the battle in the breakout match with Xu Xiaoshou and said, "Brother Xiong, what do you think of the upcoming final match?"

"Innate Level Physique eh..."

Zhang Xinxiong shook his head as he recalled the hilarious figure of Xu Xiaoshou riding on his sword backwards, and giggled.

He was unable to fathom just how someone like that had been able to make it to the final fight.

He wondered if that kid was probably one of those so-called "lucky ones."

He shook his head slowly and said, "Xu Xiaoshou... he's hopeless."

Chapter 46: The Terrifying Right Hand

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned.

In the first round, he'd had to fight multiple opponents. During the preliminary round, he'd had to take down both Liu Zhen, a Level 10 cultivator, and Wen Chong, who ranked seventh on the Windcloud Board. Then, in the advancement round, he'd been pitted against Zhou Tianshen, who was but a step away from breaking through to the Innate Stage, and Zhao Qingteng, who had reached the Innate Stage...

Even more, it'd turned out that Zhou Tianshen had an Acquired-stage Blade Will, and Zhao Qingteng, an Acquired-stage Sword Will!

In the mid-finals, he'd had to face off with the "parasite" and "vampire" Mu Zixi...

In fighting his way through the Windcloud Competition, he'd had to overcome arduous obstacles and take down powerful foes. The hardships he'd endured had been immense, and the labors he'd suffered arduous.

Xu Xiaoshou was convinced that he was the most unfortunate man in this world.

"Look at Mo Mo," he thought. "She only needed one hand to fight all her matches."

“What a heart-breaking, despairing juxtaposition...”

Feeling a sudden coolness on his cheek, Xu Xiaoshou slowly woke up and saw a helpful attendant cleaning his face for him. He was moved by the gesture.

“Is it time for the finals?”

“Yes,” the attendant briefly replied, flinging the rag back into his basin. His eyes followed Xu Xiaoshou as the latter strode into the distance.

“How laid-back must a person be to catch a nap right before the finals?” he thought.

“Impressed, Passive Points +1.”

Suddenly, Xu Xiaoshou whirled around and gave the attendant a fright. The latter shoved his basin behind his back and hid the rag from Xu Xiaoshou’s view.

“What’s up?”

“What do you want?”

Xu Xiaoshou looked bemused. He summoned Hiding Pain and then, with his back toward the door, leaped into the air.

The black sword slowly glided through the air. Atop the blade stood a man who looked every bit the young and dashing gentleman.

The attendant stared in silence.

“Cursed, Passive Points +1.”

“Why does the young man have to turn away from his sword before jumping onto it?” he thought.

“Couldn’t he have gotten onto it the normal way?”

“Doesn’t he know he might give someone the wrong idea by looking at them like that?”

Xu Xiaoshou was incredulous. Had he just been cursed for no reason at all?

He had a niggling feeling that there was something wrong with the two attendants in his waiting area. It was all right though. After this round, he probably wouldn’t ever see them again.

He waved goodbye to the two losers who had only managed to grant him two Passive Points.

... ..

“Ridiculed, Passive Points +449.”

“Suspected, Passive Points +224.”

“Impressed, Passive Points +3.”

Xu Xiaoshou cheered up as soon as he stepped out of the waiting area. With the Windcloud Token in one hand, he vigorously turned his head from side to side, displaying his sincerest smile to all.

Where the crowds were, there lay his battleground.

Look at those Passive... ..

Hmm?

How come only three people were impressed with him?

These mere mortals who couldn't even fly—what gave them the right to ridicule him?

At the thought, Xu Xiaoshou's black sword rose further into the heavens, as if complying with his desire to put a greater distance between himself and those mere mortals.

"Ridiculed, Passive Points +541."

"Ridiculed, Passive Points +623."

Hmm?

This was an unexpected boon.

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes shone with glee as he rose further into the heavens.

"Ridiculed, Passive Points +777."

That was incredible...

One more time!

"Ridiculed, Passive Points +864."

Not bad. Not bad at all!

Keep this up...

"Ouch!"

Suddenly, he felt something bump against the top of his head...

They were in the skies. Had he just gotten himself into an aviation accident?

Xu Xiaoshou looked up.

The look on Xiao Qixiu's face was as dark as a storm cloud. His right hand gripped the long sword behind his back as he said in a deadpan voice, as if he were speaking to a dead man, "Go on, keep flying. Don't worry, you can go much higher than that."

"I can't believe it! It's the esteemed and venerable judge himself!" he thought, nearly dying from fright.

Heavens!

Xu Xiaoshou smiled sheepishly as he plunged back into the barrier.

"Hahaha! That Xu Xiaoshou! I can't believe him!"

The spectators nearly fell over with laughter. No one else could drive Elder Xiao as mad as Xu Xiaoshou.

On the other side.

Mo Mo had not left the arena at all. Instead, she'd rested onstage, naturally witnessing Xu Xiaoshou's advancement through the tournament.

Her lips curled upward into a smile. "Xu Xiaoshou, I've been watching you since the first round of the tournament. You have a..." She deliberated for a long moment before finally deciding on the appropriate description. "A great sense of humor."

"Praised, Passive Point +1."

Xu Xiaoshou kept staring at her bronze furnace. To be more precise, he was staring at her right hand, which was cradling the bronze furnace.

"It's so pretty!"

The unexpected compliment brought a blush to Mo Mo's cheeks. This was the first time someone had called her pretty to her face.

She was deliberating if she should return the compliment when she heard Xu Xiaoshou hastily add, "I meant the bronze furnace."

Mo Mo didn't say a word.

Xu Xiaoshou scratched his head then. He had a feeling that he shouldn't have said that.

"You're pretty too, of course. Pretty in a different way."

Mo Mo remained silent.

"Cursed, Passive Points +1."

Xu Xiaoshou was incredulous.

"What's going on?" he thought. "I complimented her on her beauty. Why did she curse me?"

"Women!"

He stepped forward, seemingly drawn toward the bronze furnace. He looked as if he would really like to touch it, yet found such a thought inappropriate. Finally, he couldn't help himself and blurted out, "Can I take a look at that?"

Mo Mo looked as if she wanted to say something. In the end, she stuck her hand out and handed the bronze furnace over.

If someone else had asked, he would have had to keep dreaming, but this guy...

Forget it. He had kind of complimented her just now. She was going to take his words as a compliment.

A quick look wouldn't hurt.

Having gotten Mo Mo's permission, Xu Xiaoshou stepped forward and grabbed her right hand with his soft, warm fingers.

"You..."

Mo Mo yanked her hand away, as if she'd just been shocked by a jolt of electricity, leaving the bronze furnace cradled within Xu Xiaoshou's palm.

Xu Xiaoshou stared at her in shock. He lowered his eyes, his gaze falling on her right hand. That was when he seemed to realize what had just happened.

"I'm so sorry. That was rude of me. I was simply drawn to the bronze furnace. I didn't mean to suggest anything else..." he apologized profusely.

"...don't worry about it."

Mo Mo sighed in relief and shrugged slightly. The young man looked really earnest. It had probably been an accident.

The spectators were bewildered by the two contestants' interactions. Why were they being so polite?

They had complimented each other. Their hands had touched. Why didn't they just hold hands and announce their joint victory as well as the end of the tournament?

"What are they up to? Why isn't the fight starting?"

"What's the hurry? Xu Xiaoshou is allowed his rest. Besides, he's just taking a look at a bronze furnace. Don't watch if you're not willing to wait!"

"What's so attractive about that bronze furnace?"

"Hehe, a mystical artefact that never leaves the hands of our number one cultivator on the Windcloud Board? I'd like to have a look at it too!"

Xu Xiaoshou couldn't do anything about what those spectators thought or felt. He pretended to seriously study the bronze furnace as his heart raced wildly inside his chest.

He was right!

His senses had been right!

From the moment he stepped into the arena and his Sense enveloped the entire area, he had somehow detected an extraordinary and terrifying power within the barrier.

After a long search, he had finally locked onto the bronze furnace resting in Mo Mo's right hand.

But Sense couldn't discern clearly without physical contact. In order to touch her right hand, he had slowly but surely lured Mo Mo into his trap and finally gotten what he had set out to get.

As soon as they touched, he had distinctly felt the power dwelling within Mo Mo's right hand and how it was many times more powerful than the spiritual energy residing in the rest of her body...

It was at least ten times more powerful!

And it excluded any other powers that he couldn't identify.

What the hell...

What kind of monster was she?

Mo Mo had gotten into the finals by only fighting with her left hand!

Xu Xiaoshou began to panic. He had a feeling that the opponent before him belonged in an entirely different league incomparable to the likes of Zhao Qingteng and Mu Zixi.

He recalled the contents of Elder Qiao's letter.

The Sealing Technique...

"This is scaring me. Does she have an entire arm sealed within her eye or something?"

Chapter 47: I'm Not Going to Joke Around Anymore!

Xiao Qixiu raised his right hand above his head, signaling that the two of them could now get into position.

Xu Xiaoshou calmly returned the small bronze furnace to Mo Mo before putting a significant distance between the both of them.

"Aren't you a close-range fighter?"

Mo Mo looked baffled as she watched Xu Xiaoshou retreat to the edge of the arena.

She pointed to herself. "So am I," she said, implying that they could engage in close-range combat.

Xu Xiaoshou laughed weakly. Close-range combat?

Was she joking?

He pulled out his sheath and shoved Hiding Pain into it. Then, after some thought, he unsheathed his sword. "Actually, I'm a swordsman."

Mo Mo was silent.

"You're an Innate-stage fighter, and an incredibly powerful one at that. Why don't you let me go first and have a few stabs at you?" Xu Xiaoshou asked unabashedly.

Everyone on the bleachers rolled their eyes. Just look at that. Was that what a decent human being would say?

Did he have no shame at all?

They didn't expect Mo Mo to nod.

"Of course."

"Haha, thanks a lot!" After another short pause, Xu Xiaoshou added. "Let's keep our distance!"

Xiao Qixiu couldn't take it anymore. Xu Xiaoshou was really pushing it!

He waved his hand. "The match starts now!"

Mo Mo extended her hand, inviting Xu Xiaoshou to make the first move.

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned. He'd thought she was just joking...

But she'd kept her word. What an honest woman!

He had to teach her a lesson. She had to learn that in this world, honest folks didn't live long.

Xu Xiaoshou shut his eyes, and white clouds slowly started to take shape in the sky. The wind slowed to a whisper, and alongside it was the soft hiss of moving sand.

"Sword Web Style!"

He focused all his attention on that singular stroke of the blade.

The move was an enhanced version of the original Sword Web Style. The beams of light unleashed by the sword no longer cast a two-dimensional web of crisscrossing blades. Instead, these blades of light intersected from all corners to weave a three-dimensional elongated cocoon.

Even if his opponent possessed Zhao Qing-Teng's technique and could appear in another location by switching places with something else, they would still suffer the relentless assault from this web of intersecting blades as long as they didn't reappear behind him after his teleportation.

There was no hint of fear on Mo Mo's face as she gently inhaled a wisp of sandalwood incense from her bronze furnace.

Slowly, she reached out her left hand, and countless afterimages of that very hand instantly appeared.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

A series of crisp, clear, strange sounds rang out.

Every time her left hand tapped on a glowing blade, the latter would vanish into thin air. The hundreds of blades in the web were all intercepted by her!

The sight made Xu Xiaoshou cringe.

"What the hell..." he thought.

"She isn't human!"

"Does she know the Glow of Sharpness too?"

Xu Xiaoshou recognized the spiritual technique that Mo Mo had unleashed. It was an ordinary spiritual technique that belonged to the Outer Yard, and was called the "Spirit Snatching Hand."

But how could someone have attained such mastery over the Spirit Snatching Hand...

How could someone's hand move so quickly that it left afterimages in its wake? In fact, how could anyone catch a blade's beam with their bare hands?

The Spirit Snatching Hand was meant to be a close-range spiritual technique!

"My turn!" Mo Mo's calves tensed momentarily before she sprung forward.

Xu Xiaoshou was weeping with fear inwardly. She had the Sealing Technique. He wasn't interested in exchanging punches with her at all!

Beams of light shot at Mo Mo, but they hardly slowed her down, and she was soon within arm's length.

He mustn't allow her to touch him!

Xu Xiaoshou cranked up Sense to the fullest and brought Hiding Pain into play, displaying for the first time the close-range swordsmanship that he had kept buried deep inside his head.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Yet another round of extraordinary clashes rang loudly in the air.

Xu Xiaoshou could sense Hiding Pain weaken with every hit that Mo Mo gave. After exchanging a dozen blows, he realized that Hiding Pain was whimpering.

Damnit!

A look of pain appeared on Xu Xiaoshou's face. If they kept this up, his sword might just end up irreparably damaged!

"I'll give you what you want! Close-range combat it is!"

He placed Hiding Pain back in his ring. With a sudden step aside, he dodged an incoming punch, locked his fingers around Mo Mo's wrist like a vice, and sent his own fist flying at Mo Mo's chest.

Thud!

An experienced fighter, Mo Mo had instantly pulled her bronze furnace in front of her chest to block the blow. Regardless, the punch from an Innate Level Physique still managed to send her flying a dozen feet away.

"He did it!" The spectators rose to their feet excitedly.

This was the first time they'd seen someone exchange punches with Mo Mo and come out on top. What was even more incredible was how Xu Xiaoshou had driven Mo Mo into fighting with her right hand!

"An Innate Level Physique is truly formidable. Keep it up, Xu Xiaoshou!"

"Keep going while you're ahead! Clinch the championship with a single shot!"

"Something's not right. Look, Xu Xiaoshou looks terrible..."

The two fighters were standing on opposite sides of the arena. They had somehow put a considerable distance between them.

Xu Xiaoshou cradled his fist, looking as if he were suffering from a terrible bout of constipation.

There was no doubt that that was the Sealing Technique...

They had barely touched. In fact, she hadn't even hit him. Xu Xiaoshou could sense that a good half of his spiritual strength had been sealed after his punch landed.

He would have been fine if that had been the end of it, but he had then realized...

...that his physical strength had been sealed as well!

In fact, he could no longer cloak his fist in the Glow of Sharpness!

Xu Xiaoshou was beginning to panic. They'd only exchanged one hit. If this match were like any other match with any other opponent and they'd exchanged hundreds or even a thousand blows...

The seals still would've rendered him as helpless as an adult-sized baby!

An utterly powerless baby!

"How terrifying! Why does such a horrible Innate Elemental Power exist in the first place?" Xu Xiaoshou was silently quaking in his boots.

Mo Mo had her head slightly lowered as she cradled her right fist with her left hand. The tear that Xu Xiaoshou's Glow of Sharpness had ripped across her hand was healing at an extraordinary rate.

"I knew it..." She frowned as she lapsed deep into thought.

If Xu Xiaoshou had witnessed this sight, he would've gasped at how alike they were. In fact, he might've even concluded that the speed at which his opponent was healing surpassed his.

But he was currently consumed by fear and was cowering like a coward. He chose not to go on the offensive.

"I suppose I have no choice but to use my sword..."

Xu Xiaoshou turned his gaze inwards, feeling the dying need to level up after their first exchange of blows.

Passive Points: 28766.

He unsheathed Hiding Pain once more, and his Sword Will flooded the arena, making it shake.

"Sword Technique Expertise (Acquired Lv. 9)."

"Sword Technique Expertise (Acquired Lv. 10)."

An ocean of knowledge flooded his brain. Xu Xiaoshou felt as if he could destroy the entire world with the knowledge that he now possessed.

Yet, after scouring through it, he found that there was no way of getting out of his current predicament.

"Oh man..."

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath and sheathed Hiding Pain, his hand remaining firmly clasped around the hilt of his sword.

Mo Mo had pulled her wandering mind back to the present moment. He stared at her with a serious look on his face.

"You're really powerful!"

"So are you." Mo Mo smiled softly.

"Praised, Passive Point +1."

A serious look came into Xu Xiaoshou's eyes. "I'm not going to joke around anymore."

"That makes two of us."

Xu Xiaoshou exhaled softly.

"Sword Technique Expertise (Innate Lv. 1)!"

... ..

The spectators grew impatient as they watched the two fighters stop their fight once again for a chat.

It was then that sudden tremors rippled across the Chuyun Platform and its ten thousand seats. The earth shook, and the mountain swayed.

"What's going on?"

"Is it an earthquake?"

Everyone's faces turned pale as they started to panic. Xiao Qixiu looked puzzled and wary. Before he could say anything to calm everyone down, the sword on his back shot into the sky.

The man was shocked.

He wasn't the only one. Sharing in his confusion were the more than two thousand spectators in the crowd. Anyone bearing a sword found their swords humming in unison before sliding out of the sheath of their own will and dashing into the skies, only to hover in mid-air.

"Clang, clang, clang..."

Under the azure skies, thousands of swords vibrated violently. The piercing whine of their metallic keening threatened to burst everyone's eardrums.

"That's..." Everyone's eyes were filled with Incredulity, and their gazes simultaneously landed on the handsome young man in the arena.

His right hand was splayed across the hilt of his sword, and his back was slightly hunched. He was staring unblinkingly at his opponent.

The sight sent alarm bells ringing inside Mo Mo's head. She charged at Xu Xiaoshou with the ferocity of a tiger racing down a mountain.

"Boom..."

At that very instant, a terrifying power erupted from Xu Xiaoshou and flung Mo Mo aside.

His Sword Will rose with the clouds and surged heavenward. Amidst a cacophony of cracks and crackles, the barrier shattered.

The visible, snow-white Sword Will pierced the stratosphere and shot straight into the heavens.

Led by the Sword Will, thousands of spiritual swords formed a river of blades in the sky above Xu Xiaoshou, streaming in circles before shooting outwards like fireworks.

With a thunderous explosion, swords flew across the skies, crashing from the heavens, and returned to their masters.

“Heavens!”

“An Innate-stage Sword Will?”

A hot flush reddened Xiao Qixiu’s face while waves of coldness coursed through his body.

He stared at the young man in the arena and the storm that his Sword Will had summoned with a look of utter disbelief. Yet, he couldn’t not believe his eyes.

Xu Xiaoshou’s Sword Will had thrown Mo Mo off her earlier charge, viciously tearing into her and transforming her into a bloody, bleeding mess. Mo Mo did not pay any heed to that though. Her eyes were shining brightly as she stared at Xu Xiaoshou.

“Is that an Innate-stage Sword Will?”

Xu Xiaoshou reveled in the terrifying power of his Sword Will and fought against the desire to unsheath his own sword.

After a moment of contemplative silence, he nodded slightly.

“I guess so.”

Chapter 48: The Shackles of Heaven and Earth

The Acquired-stage Sword Will could achieve resonance with all swords within a mile. The Innate-stage Sword Will could achieve resonance with all swords within ten miles.

When everyone’s swords returned to their sheaths, still resonating, everyone came to realize that they had just witnessed the Innate-stage Sword Will.

“Heavens, I’m about to go crazy. Did Xu Xiaoshou attain the Innate-stage Sword Will?”

“How is that possible? He’s making me die with envy!”

“How does this guy keep surprising us like this?”

The spectators were so beside themselves with excitement that some even jumped onto their seats, but they were quickly slapped by the person sitting behind them.

“Shit, am I dreaming?” The person who’d just smacked another spectator slapped himself on the cheek next before gasping aloud in pain.

“A swordsman with an Innate-stage Sword Will appears once every hundred years. Su Qianqian got her Innate-stage Sword Will a year ago, and now Xu Xiaoshou’s got his too?”

“Is that for real? What is the world coming to...”

“It’s gone mad! It’s gone absolutely mad!”

In the arena, the fight had unexpectedly been interrupted by the emergence of Xu Xiaoshou’s Innate-stage Sword Will. Nevertheless, it still had to go on.

Mo Mo didn't interrupt Xu Xiaoshou as he advanced in level. Of course, if she had, Xiao Qixiu wouldn't have let her.

She was the champion fighter in the Outer Yard, whereas Xu Xiaoshou was an Innate-stage swordsman. It was obvious who was more highly regarded out of the two.

Even after the Sword Will emanating from Xu Xiaoshou faded away, the two fighters still didn't move.

Mo Mo was a little puzzled. She hadn't moved, because she wanted to wait for Xu Xiaoshou to finish leveling up. But Xu Xiaoshou was done leveling up and still hadn't made a move. What was he up to?

"Is he grinning to himself?" Mo Mo stared. Xu Xiaoshou's hand was still on the hilt of his sword, and a dazed look had settled on his face. He looked like an absolute idiot.

Xu Xiaoshou was going mad with glee.

He hadn't expected the Sword Will's ascent into the heavens to pierce through the barrier. The torrent of points he'd received was unbelievable!

"Suspected, Passive Points +674."

"Suspected, Passive Points +1876."

"Impressed, Passive Points +1940."

"Impressed, Passive Points +1120."

"... .."

The slew of Passive Points was a profound narration of the emotional rollercoaster the spectators had experienced as they journeyed from doubt to shock and finally, to inevitable respect.

That single breakthrough had raked in nearly ten thousand Passive Points!

He had traded a thousand Passive Points for ten thousand Passives Points and vast amounts of knowledge on swordsmanship. He had but three words for the trade: what a bargain!

Notifications continued to appear as Xu Xiaoshou lost himself in happy thoughts, although the figures were getting lower...

Hmm?

Why had everyone begun to view him with suspicion...

He broke out of his reverie, turned around, and saw everyone staring at him as they would an idiot.

"Are you done?" asked Mo Mo.

Xu Xiaoshou was momentarily rendered speechless. Had they...been waiting for him to level up and return to the present?

Good god. He had just embarrassed himself!

Fortunately, Mo Mo was a decent person and hadn't sneaked up on him and attacked him.

Well, his Information Bar would have notified him of her sneak attack anyway...

Xu Xiaoshou exhaled. "I'm done. Let's continue the fight!"

A glint of a blade flashed across Xu Xiaoshou's eyes just as Mo Mo was about to make her move.

"Fleeting White Cloud Four: Blade-Draw Technique!"

In the past, he would've had to glimpse an inch of his blade before he could unsheath his sword.

But now that he had advanced to the Innate Stage, his control over his Sword Will had drastically improved. The speed at which Xu Xiaoshou unsheathed his sword was quicker than the naked eye could see.

Dust swept through the air, and when the spectators finally caught a glimpse of the glowing blade, it had already appeared right in front of Mo Mo.

Clank!

Xu Xiaoshou's eyelid twitched. It was that sound again.

That blade was his Innate-stage Sword Will distilled and condensed, yet somehow Mo Mo had caught it barehanded!

Regardless, even though she'd caught the blade with both hands, he was consoled by the sight of her struggling and being driven back by the force of it.

But as she slowed down the blade's advance, she slowly but surely drained the snow-white sword until it lost its luminance.

"That Sealing Technique's got to be some kind of cheat!" Xu Xiaoshou gasped in shock.

He wasn't going to give Mo Mo the chance to counterattack, though.

Blade-Draw Technique!

With a flip of his palm, and amidst numerous gasps from the spectators, he sent another white glowing blade slashing at Mo Mo.

The latter's hands were busy. How was she going to block his second blade?

Xu Xiaoshou could see victory within his reach. Just to be safe though, he slotted Hiding Pain into its sheath once more.

"Dear lord, is Xu Xiaoshou mad? Why isn't he stopping?"

Xu Xiaoshou didn't care what the spectators thought. Following the second blade, he got ready to unleash the third.

"Clink!"

A crystalline sound resounded in the air. The sword was out, but he didn't see a glowing blade at all.

Xu Xiaoshou's expression darkened. He checked his energy reserve and realized that he'd been sucked dry of spiritual strength.

"D*mnit!" He raised his fists and charged forward.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the arena.

Xu Xiaoshou's first blade had driven Mo Mo to the edge of the arena. Seeing that the second blade was about ready to lop her head off the next moment, she suddenly opened her mouth and took a deep breath.

"Hnn!"

She swallowed the second blade!

"Clank!"

Then, with a smack, she shattered the first blade as well!

Everyone got up to their feet in utter disbelief. Xu Xiaoshou jumped, shocked, and the young man, who'd been charging forward with his fists raised, instantly turned tail and ran.

"What the hell!" he thought.

"She's a monster!"

"She doesn't even possess an Innate Level Physique, yet she swallowed my Sword Will!"

"How did she manage to avoid being cleaved in half from the inside?"

Mo Mo appeared to be in excruciating pain. Forcibly sealing her opponents' attacks must be draining for her too.

Xu Xiaoshou froze momentarily in the middle of his retreat, as he'd clearly realized this.

He charged at Mo Mo again.

The crowd was perplexed.

"There must be a flurry of thoughts in Xu Xiaoshou's head right now. So, is he going to make a charge or not?"

"Hahahaha! Well, I completely understand how he feels..."

"If it were me and I'd just seen my opponent swallow my Innate-stage Sword Will, I'm quite sure I would jump right out of the arena from sheer fright."

Xu Xiaoshou had raised his fists and turned around. But it was too late.

Mo Mo had recovered from her pangs of agony. She decided not to think about the blade that she had just swallowed and instead began to swiftly form a series of hand seals.

Xu Xiaoshou's eyelids twitched violently at the sight. The last time something like that had happened, he had ended up being riddled with holes by Zhao Qingteng's Formless Great Cold.

Now...

Xu Xiaoshou surged forward like a bolt of lightning and threw his fist forward. They were but an inch apart!

Mo Mo stared at the face that was barely an inch away from hers before abruptly pulling her face away, putting another inch between the two. She thrust her palms together.

“World Sealing Chains!”

He had been that close. He had been one step away from determining who died and who lived. Xu Xiaoshou knew that he had missed his chance.

He was right...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Eruptions thundered in the air as both corners of the skies and the earth split apart. Out of the enormous, gaping black holes black chains as wide as a human head shot out and wrapped around and shackled Xu Xiaoshou’s four limbs.

Bam!

With a forceful yank that threatened to rip Xu Xiaoshou’s limbs apart, the chains went taut.

Xu Xiaoshou thought he was going to be torn apart right there and then. Without his Innate Level Physique, he would become four separate body parts instead of a whole human being!

Blood would be flowing unceasingly from his broken and mutilated body...

Xu Xiaoshou panicked. He looked around and found himself bound in mid-air by heavy chains that stretched from two sides of the skies as well as the ground. Spreadeagled, he had become a sitting duck.

What manner of sorcery was this?

Xu Xiao was on the verge of tears. Were Innate-stage spiritual techniques supposed to be this powerful?

This was terrifying!

Xiao Qixiu frowned. He hadn’t come across such a spiritual technique before, but he was certain that it didn’t belong to the Spiritual Library Division.

Mo Mo must have chanced upon it under fortuitous circumstances.

Seated amongst the spectators, Zhang Xinxiong appeared solemn. The World Sealing Chains had honestly caught him by surprise. “This is at least a Master Stage spiritual technique...”

“Who exactly is this Mo Mo? Where did she come from?”

Liu Zhen was flabbergasted. The Master Stage?

A Master Stage spiritual technique was a rare beast hardly seen, even in the Inner Yard!

Bound by chains and hanging in mid-air, Xu Xiaoshou struggled to get free. He unleashed the Glow of Sharpness from every part of his body, yet failed to break a single link in the chains.

“I’m finished...”

“This doesn’t make sense at all. Why can’t I break this with my Innate-stage Glow of Sharpness?”

Xu Xiaoshou felt incredibly cold as he hung in mid-air. It was so, so cold...

Mo Mo had begun to form her hand seals...

“No, don’t!” cried Xu Xiaoshou inwardly.

He was suddenly overcome by the urge to pee...

Somebody, save him!

Chapter 49: Atmosphere Changed Again

Her jade-like fingers danced as she completed the complicated hand seals, and Xu Xiaoshou felt the temperature of the chains rise.

“Smelt!” Mo Mo softly chanted, and lava erupted from the four openings by the sky and quickly flowed down along the chains.

“Oh my god, is that really okay?”

The audience was dumbfounded. They were all at the Acquired Stage, so none of them could understand an Innate-level battle.

If an ordinary Spiritual Cultivation Level 10 were to fight in his place, he’d probably be defeated in an instant!

Xu Xiaoshou also felt a little troubled and pleaded, “Please, spare me!”

Mo Mo ignored him and further fired up her power. In a flash, the lava covered Xu Xiaoshou’s body.

“Ah!”

Xu Xiaoshou subconsciously let out a heartwrenching scream, but then realized suddenly that it wasn’t that painful and stopped screaming.

What was going on?

Why did this sensation give him a sense of déjà vu?

He suddenly thought of the situation at Goose Lake when he’d tried to cultivate the Infernal Fire Seed. The seed had burned him from the inside. That was the real pain!

This lava was invading his body from the outside, and, frankly speaking, it was nothing compared to the Internal Fire Seed. Although it was painful, it wasn’t painful enough to make him cry out in pain. Hence, he immediately regained his cool.

At most, it looked really horrifying to be covered in it.

Crack.

His body was burned through but immediately recovered. This lasted for quite some time in a cyclical fashion. Besides the pain he had to endure, this move actually didn't deal any substantial damage to Xu Xiaoshou!

"Heh, this is no big deal!"

Xu Xiaoshou was amused, but his reaction made him look like a masochist, as he was in fact being dealt an extreme sentence of death by burning.

Even though he was smiling, the spectators that were present in the arena couldn't totally relate, and even Xiao Qixiu looked very stern and serious.

"How many challenges has Xu Xiaoshou overcome to reach these heights today? How can he not feel the lava burning him?!"

"Objectively speaking, he has my respect. Those who work their way up to acquire the Innate physical body are indeed tenacious and determined monsters."

"Phew... Xu Xiaoshou really had more than just luck to reach this new height today!"

Su Qianqian covered her eyes, as she couldn't bear to see him suffering. She didn't dare to open her eyes.

Zhang Xinxiong looked indifferent, and it was hard to tell his current emotional state, but he had stopped teasing Xu Xiaoshou.

"Impressed, Passive Points +666."

"Cared, Passive Points +888."

"..."

Shocked, Mo Mo stared at him on the ground.

Nobody knew better than her how hot this lava could get, yet Xu Xiaoshou took it as if it was an ordinary cold shower.

She looked over at Xiao Qixiu, as she couldn't bear to increase the heat anymore.

The judge in the void shook his head. Nobody could stop such a man with true tenacity and perseverance from attaining victory.

Xu Xiaoshou was still able to withstand it, so how could he intervene in the battle and stop it abruptly?

"Phew..."

Mo Mo clenched her teeth and doubled the temperature of the lava!

A hint of a pitch-black mixture suddenly appeared in the crimson lava, and this muddy liquid instantly flowed into Xu Xiaoshou's clothes.

"Ugh!"

A pained expression finally came over Xu Xiaoshou's face. This sudden increase in temperature surpassed what he had experienced last time.

No, he could not let this go on, or he would really die!

His eyes darted as he remembered the cultivation method he'd used that day. Why not...

Cultivate and incorporate this lava into his body?

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes lit up, and he decided to tolerate the pain to absorb the lava!

His chest quaked as a Red Gold Pill emerged. Xu Xiaoshou bit it in one bite and sucked onto it hard.

"Zzzzzzz."

That surging hot energy instantly melted Xu Xiaoshou's mouth and nose, but they were recovered the next moment.

Another gush of burning energy had been incorporated into his energy reserve and was completely assimilated.

"It's doable!"

Xu Xiaoshou was thrilled and recklessly continued doing this.

Everyone was shocked when they saw this. It was...

Bloody!

The sight made everyone choke up and fall dead silent. In their hearts, everyone couldn't help but cheer for Xu Xiaoshou.

Mo Mo couldn't bear it anymore.

Xu Xiaoshou could bear it, but she as the aggressor couldn't take it anymore. This was just too cruel.

"This isn't how I, Mo Mo, do things!"

"But..."

"If World Sealing Chains couldn't defeat him, must I use that..." Mo Mo subconsciously caressed her right arm.

Xu Xiaoshou noticed it!

His leg trembled. Lava couldn't even move him an inch, yet Mo Mo's subconscious action almost made him kneel.

What was she thinking? Breaking the seal?

What nonsense!

"Stop!" Xu Xiaoshou roared angrily.

Mo Mo looked up, surprised that he knew what she was thinking.

“That shouldn’t be the case...” she thought.

“Never mind that. Let’s free him of this suffering soon!”

Mo Mo’s left hand started making a complicated combination of hand seals.

Xu Xiaoshou felt terrible. “Please, don’t do that,” he thought. “I’m not worthy of that!”

He didn’t know what was sealed within Mo Mo’s right hand, but she was already so incredibly powerful, even with her seal in-tact, so breaking the seal would mean...

Things would take a major turn for the worse!

“What can I do, what can I do...” Xu Xiaoshou started brainstorming, as he had to stop her!

His gaze suddenly fell on the four chains that were restricting him...

Xu Xiaoshou closed his eyes.

The next moment, thousands of spiritual swords, that had been sedated just a moment ago, started vibrating again.

Xiao Qixiu was shocked. “This dude...”

“He learned ‘All Things Are Swords’ just like that?”

“Is he a monster? He just learned “Reverse Sword Subduing” in the afternoon!”

Ring.

Thousands of spiritual swords levitated again, and Xu Xiaoshou breathed out burning air as he controlled every sword’s consciousness.

Soon, he felt a special sword aura...

It was that uncultivated sword aura that Mo Mo had swallowed just now!

Xu Xiaoshou frowned, as he sensed a kind of complicated energy suppressing this sword aura and preventing it from unleashing its power.

But...

“Reverse Sword Style!”

Xu Xiaoshou pulled suddenly, and Hiding Pain on the ground teleported toward his hand!

He abruptly stopped the pulling, and the black sword fell onto the ground.

The audience was dumbfounded, confused by his action. However, the next moment, they all saw that something was wrong with Mo Mo.

Her left hand, which was making the hand seals, was interrupted. Her face was flushed, and her torso was swelling, as if something was about to burst out of it.

“Xu! Xiao! Shou!”

Mo Mo knew right away that he was pulling some tricks and was infuriated. She could only stop making hand seals and start suppressing the sword aura.

“Hehe!”

Xu Xiaoshou seemed to have found the solution. “Reverse Sword Style!”

The black sword stood up but was interrupted before it could fly, falling to the ground once again.

At the same time, Mo Mo’s body quaked momentarily but soon calmed down. She was frowning, and let out a sigh of relief.

Luckily, Xu Xiaoshou couldn’t multitask now...

However, was that really the case?

“Reverse Sword Style!”

The black sword stood...

“Stop!”

Dang...

“Ugh!”

Mo Mo’s body shook again as she looked up, finally realizing something.

The audience was still shocked, but they seemed to have realized the same thing...

“Can’t it be! Xu Xiaoshou?”

“Oh my god, that’s a little cheap!”

Xu Xiaoshou also realized something. Heck, not only had he realized it, but he had even come up with the idea!

“Reverse Sword Style... Stop!”

“Reverse Sword Style... Stop!”

“Dang!”

“Dang!”

“Ugh!”

“Ugh!”

Mo Mo was shocked twice in a row, and she was completely bushing. “Xu Xiao...”

“Reverse Reverse Reverse!”

“Stop Stop Stop!”

“Dang Dang Dang!”

“Ugh Ugh Ugh!”

Mo Mo’s whole face turned red, even her neck. She was both ashamed and angry at Xu Xiaoshou!

“Xu...”

“Reverse Reverse Reverse!”

“Stop Stop Stop!”

“Dang Dang Dang!”

“Ugh Ugh Ugh!”

The finals battle’s atmosphere changed abruptly, and everyone was completely puzzled. Xiao Qiqiu stumbled and fell from the sky.

“Ha!”

Xu Xiaoshou couldn’t help but lose his cool as he listened to Mo Mo’s rhythmic burping, and he finally burst into bloody laughter.

“Cursed, Passive Points, +1, +1, +1, +1, +1, +1...”

Chapter 50: You’re Leaking Gas

Mo Mo’s spasmodic “ugh” and the constant shaking of her body made her look rather scary.

However, she also looked ridiculous at the same time.

Xu Xiaoshou believed that he had good control over his emotions and usually wouldn’t burst into laughter, unless he really couldn’t help it.

That was equally true for the audience. At first, nobody dared to laugh, as she was the Outer Yard Senior Sister and at the top of the honor roll!

However, after Xu Xiaoshou started laughing, it caused a chain reaction.

The initial shock disappeared from people’s faces, and they gradually erupted into laughter.

“Oh my gosh, Xu Xiaoshou, he has my respect. He’s toxic, eh. Hahaha!”

“I can’t take it anymore. I’m dying of laughter. I’m seeing another side of Senior Sister Mo. She’s so cute!”

“Haha, I can’t bear it, really. I’m sorry. Let me laugh first, hahaha...”

“Hehahahaheheha!!”

Such unique laughter had suddenly taken over the entire battleground. Everyone was stunned.

“What the heck. Who laughs like that? It’s strange!”

“Shut up. Look behind you.”

That person turned around and saw Elder Qiao’s expressionless face, and he almost peed his pants.

Oh god, he was done for!

To his surprise, Elder Qiao pointed at the arena and yelled, “There he goes again! Xu Xiaoshou’s a psycho, right!”

“Hehahahaheheha!!”

“Ha!”

“Hahaha!”

No one could contain their laughter anymore. Half were laughing at the battle, while the other half was laughing at Elder Qiao, which was a rare occasion, as none of them would usually dare to laugh at him.

A new wave of passive points was registered on the information bar. Most were from people respectfully mocking him, but more were from people’s disdain and curses.

Xu Xiaoshou was amused. This was the benefit of having no barrier. He could see the updates in real-time, which felt really good.

On the other side.

Mo Mo had planned on reserving her strength, but after Xu Xiaoshou’s humiliating trick, she was now determined to unleash her right hand.

She forced herself to endure the weird feeling in her body and continued to choppily make hand seals, which were actually connecting.

“What the... that actually works.”

Xu Xiaoshou was caught off guard and realized that he couldn’t fool around anymore. If he didn’t treat her seriously, she would definitely kill him here.

“Reverse Sword Style!”

“Ugh!” Mo Mo endured it and stared at Xu Xiaoshou, her eyes blazing with anger, but her hands didn’t stop making hand seals.

However, this time, Xu Xiaoshou also didn’t stop.

The black sword swiftly flew over, and right before it penetrated his chest, Xu Xiaoshou used his mind to put it inside the space ring.

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he was a genius for thinking of using the ring around his neck.

After getting rid of Hiding Pain, which had tried to devour its owner, he now could finally unleash his full potential.

“Innate Sword Will fully activate!”

Mo Mo's body trembled violently as she felt herself lose control of the sword aura within her body.

So Xu Xiaoshou hadn't exhausted all of his strength?

"Ugh!"

She finally caved in and vomited a mouthful of blood.

With a mouthful of blood, she could no longer suppress the seal, and a sky-shooting sword will started rising from her.

Xiao Qixiu, who was standing at the edge of the arena, was numb.

"Xu Xiaoshou..."

"Has he really cultivated the skill 'All Things Are Swords' to the point where he can even forcefully control a human?"

"What kind of a weirdo is he!?"

Strictly speaking, Xu Xiaoshou wasn't controlling a human. He was controlling the sword aura within Mo Mo's body.

It had originally belonged to him and was as dear to him as Hiding Pain, so how could he fail to summon it?

After Mo Mo lost control of the sword aura, not only did the sword will rise from her body, but the white Innate sword aura was also released.

"Tsk!"

The seven apertures on her head and four limbs started releasing a horrifying sword aura. The sharp sword will then immediately cut her, causing her to bleed profusely.

Mo Mo had really underestimated him. She didn't know Xu Xiaoshou's control of the sword will was so powerful.

Usually, people who'd acquired "All Things Are Sword" would definitely be able to learn Innate Sword Will, but those with Innate Sword Will weren't guaranteed to learn "All Things Are Sword!"

This wasn't a spiritual technique, but a real realization of a state of mind. It was tremendously difficult to get to that.

It seemed like Xu Xiaoshou was the only weirdo who'd learned "All Things Are Sword" while he acquired Innate Sword Will.

"Tsk!"

As the horrifying sword aura leaked out, Mo Mo was sent flying into the air by the recoil.

In the air, their eyes met. One of them was chained up in the void, while the other was literally a portable sword aura projector...

The only similarity they shared was that both of their limbs were spread wide, and they were both drenched in blood.

“Hehe!” Xu Xiaoshou chuckled. “You’ve finally gotten a taste of what I feel!”

“Let go!” Mo Mo said with much difficulty.

“I didn’t chain you up. And, on top of that, you started this first!”

Xu Xiaoshou blinked and added, “Why don’t you let me go first?”

“Impossible!”

“Hehe! That’s my line too!”

The two looked at each other in silence, both with stubborn looks on their faces.

Xu Xiaoshou stayed quiet for a while longer before suddenly saying, “Junior Sister Mo, stop struggling. You’re leaking gas...”

Mo Mo was puzzled for a moment before she became so enraged she felt she might faint.

“Xu Xiaoshou!

“I will kill you!”

“Threatened, Passive Points, +1.”

The audience below them erupted into hysterical laughter. Although both of them were in a terrible state, Xu Xiaoshou had made it difficult for the audience to sympathize with them.

Blood was spurting out of them!

Was their blood infinite!?

Mo Mo was hesitant, as she didn’t possess an Innate body. She’d only been able to last until now all thanks to the tremendous life force released from her right hand to heal her.

However, she knew that “it” felt tired.

“Fine!”

“I agree that I’ll let you go first!” she said through clenched teeth, and made a hand seal, stopping the lava immediately.

“Oh!”

Eternal Vitality instantly healed most of his body, and Xu Xiaoshou moaned with relief.

Mo Mo then said, “It’s your turn!”

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath, enjoying the hard-earned moment of peace.

“I’m sorry. I can’t control the sword will, actually...”

Mo Mo: ???

“Cursed, Passive Points, +1.”

She waved her hand, letting the lava flow again.

“What the heck. You’re cruel!”

Xu Xiaoshou seized the moment to thrust his chest out and lift the ring high.

Hiding Pain reemerged and started hovering in the sky.

When the sword handle was facing his forehead, Xu Xiaoshou used “Glow of Sharpness” and concentrated his power onto his forehead, then banged the sword handle.

Klink!

The black sword was forcefully fired toward the sky.

In the spectator seats, Qing Teng realized...

It was the sword that had defeated him that day!

Everyone understood Xu Xiaoshou’s intentions, and they all sat up straight to see how the battle would proceed.

How could Mo Mo ignore that?

However, her body was still releasing sword will, and it was nearly impossible for her to move her hand.

Even so, she still started making hand seals.

“It’s too slow...”

Xiao Qixiu shook his head. Even if Mo Mo had a horrifying ultimate skill up her sleeve, she was constrained by the complicated hand seals.

If she were fighting against an ordinary person, this wouldn’t be a problem.

However, she was facing Xu Xiaoshou the weirdo, who happened to be a talented young man that could capture every detail of the battle!

It felt like that night when Hiding Pain had flown to an extremely far distance. Xu Xiaoshou felt excited.

“Come!” he thought.

“Devour your owner. I’m giving you the chance today!”

“Reverse Sword Style!”

Mo Mo didn’t give up, even as the sound of something slicing through the air came from behind her, and Hiding Pain came up and impaled her in the chest!

This wasn’t all. Everyone witnessed the black sword continue to thrust forward with Mo Mo on it and pierce cleanly through Xu Xiaoshou’s chest.

The world fell dead silent.

The void of the finals, four gigantic chains covered in lava, a black sword dripping with blood with two people on it...

This sight would probably be etched into the spectators' minds forever.

"Xu Xiaoshou... He's really determined... He really could harm himself..."

"I'm tearing up. It looks really painful..."

In the void, the chains looked transparent, as if they would disappear at any second.

"Ugh!"

Xu Xiaoshou vomited blood on Mo Mo's head.

Pain! It was a heart-piercing pain!

However, he wouldn't have been able to stop Mo Mo from unleashing her right hand if he hadn't gone to such lengths.

"Ugh!"

Mo Mo also vomited blood on Xu Xiaoshou. She didn't possess an Innate body, so she passed out on Xu Xiaoshou's chest.

Some people's eyes teared up at the sight, some were bedazzled, but most were stunned.

Bang!

The chains finally disintegrated, and Xu Xiaoshou hugged Mo Mo, who had lost consciousness and fallen from the void.

"Bang!"

Xu Xiaoshou withdrew the black sword and carried Mo Mo in both of his hands, then fed her a red gold pill.

"The battle has ended. The winner is Xu Xiaoshou!"