

INVINCIBLE 151

Chapter 151: Battle for the Academy's Number One

"How is this possible?!"

"How could this happen?! Rongguang and Liu Meijun's attack actually froze in the midst of moving!"

"What's really happening?!"

In an instant, there was nothing but questions running through the crowd's minds.

Their reasoning told them that this was something impossible, for what was taking place right in front of their eyes was too magical, too surreal to believe-- it didn't matter that they were witnessing it with their own eyes.

Including Zhou Teng of the inner courtyard, the pale-faced youth, and the other students behind them, all were shocked.

Right at that moment, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu shot up from their seats as they watched the golden rings move closer to Rongguang and Liu Meijun.

Their shock increased when they realized that both Rongguang and Liu Meijun's movements halted as if someone used a petrification spell on them, both remaining frozen in place.

Everything on the stage seemed to have come to a halt.

The airflow.

The lightning and the palm print.

The blue ice... even the wind was stopped in its path!

Sun Zhang, Xiong Chu, Zhou Teng, the pale-faced youth, and everyone else watching widened their eyes in disbelief. Their jaws dropped open wide enough to stuff an extra-large pear inside their mouths.

Considering Sun Zhang and the rest had such a reaction, the two being 'contained' by Huang Xiaolong felt it even more. Although Rongguang and Liu Meijun could not move physically, their consciousness was unaffected, and strangely, they could still talk.

Before many astounded eyes, Huang Xiaolong's palm prints landed on Rongguang and Liu Meijun.

Huang Xiaolong's left palm print struck Rongguang in the chest. Rongguang let out a muffled groan and his body flew back. However, when Huang Xiaolong's left palm print was about to hit Liu Meijun on her chest, he noticed her full, plump bosom. Instead of hitting her chest, he decided to subtly deviate the course a little and the attack hit her shoulder.

Liu Meijun was sent flying as well.

Both Rongguang and Liu Meijun were knocked away and fell from the stage area.

Landing on the ground, both of them stumbled back a few steps before steadying themselves.

The two of them lost!

When Liu Meijun steadied herself, she was switching between shock and embarrassment. Just now, Huang Xiaolong's palm nearly touched her bosom-- it was a close call!

The wind force brought by Huang Xiaolong's palm scraped past her upper body, raising a strange feeling inside of her.

A long time after Rongguang and Liu Meijun fell to the ground, the Holy Hall was still submerged in silence before cheers and applause filled the huge hall like a thunderbolt.

Thunderous applause resounded in the Holy Hall, and some of the passionate fangirls were screaming, shrieking their hearts out.

"Huang Xiaolong, you're such a freak!" One of the high-strung girls cried out, "But, I like it!"

"I love you~~~!"

The Holy Hall was submerged in wave after wave of these declarations of love.

Some of the fangirls even wanted to rush up the stage to Huang Xiaolong, but luckily there were Academy guards hindering them and maintaining order.

Below the stage, Chen Caixiu may have not been affected by the fervor, but her eyes were shining as they stared at Huang Xiaolong.

On the main platform, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were dumbstruck. Looking at the reaction of these frenzied female students, both shook their heads and exhibited wry smiles.

Some distance away from Chen Caixiu, Zhou Teng noted the spark in her eyes as she watched Huang Xiaolong. Zhou Teng clenched his fists tightly, the expression on his face was grim.

"Huang Xiaolong wins!" The judge announced amidst the screams coming from the fangirls.

Huang Xiaolong wins!

Another wave of applause resounded in the Holy Hall.

Standing on the stage, Huang Xiaolong was rendered speechless by the enthusiastic female students' response and smiled helplessly inside.

There were no singers or movie stars in the Martial Spirit World, but these female students were more terrifying compared to those fans in his old world.

The female students gradually calmed down, but the shock still lingered in the air and the crowd had not yet adjusted themselves.

The battle for the Third Year's number one was finally concluded.

Huang Xiaolong taking that spot was something no one ever imagined nor expected.

However, the main event was coming up next: the battle for overall Academy champion.

When the judge asked Huang Xiaolong if he wanted to challenge the inner courtyard's number one, Zhou Teng, for the overall Academy champion, his answer was: "Yes, of course!"

Once again, there was an uproar when the crowd heard Huang Xiaolong was going to challenge Zhou Teng for that number one spot.

Excitement rose in the Holy Hall.

Zhou Teng, the number one student of Cosmic Star Academy's inner courtyard, had advanced to peak late-Tenth Order one year ago, and he was someone infinitely close to a Xiantian realm expert.

Zhou Teng was perhaps the same level as Liu Meijun, however the gap in their strength was no secret. Half a year ago, Zhou Teng fought Liu Meijun and defeated her effortlessly.

In the upcoming battle between Zhou Teng and Huang Xiaolong, who would take the Academy's number one spot?

Everyone waited with bated breath.

On the main platform, Sun Zhang chuckled, "The next battle for the overall champion truly makes one look forward to it with anticipation ah!"

Xiong Chu agreed, "It has already been two years since anyone dared to challenge the inner courtyard's number one, and now, finally someone has the guts to challenge him this year! It's been quite a while since the annual competition was this lively!"

Below the stage the teacher for Third Year Third Class, Chen Xiaojing, felt rueful again and again.

Just an hour earlier, he was advising Huang Xiaolong not to act recklessly, to wait to challenge the class's first place next year...

Moments later, Huang Xiaolong and Zhou Teng stood on the stage.

"Big brother, fight!" Huang Min and Huang Xiaohai cheered for their big brother from below the stage.

Huang Xiaolong smiled and nodded at them, and then turned his attention towards Zhou Teng who stood opposite of him.

"You are Xie Wei and Jiang Hengyu's disciple?" Huang Xiaolong asked in an easygoing voice.

The people that used 'Tenth Order' qualifications as an excuse to hinder him from entering the inner courtyard included Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Cheng Fengli!

Zhou Teng was stunned for a moment at the sudden question: "Yes."

"You were the one that used Lin Han?" Huang Xiaolong's expression turned cold.

Zhou Teng snickered coldly, "So what if it was me? I just did not expect that that wastrel couldn't even take a punch from you!"

"In my eyes, you are no different from him: a wastrel!" Huang Xiaolong commented as if he was talking about the weather.

The brutal glint in Zhou Teng's eyes burst out. Bright light surged from Zhou Teng's body as a giant tortoise emerged behind him! The tortoise's shell was black, yet it reflected a greenish glow, and the moire patterns on the tortoise shell formed the word 'sage*'.

This was Zhou Teng's martial spirit, Blackshell Sage Tortoise!

Blackshell Sage Tortoise was not a superb talent martial spirit, but it was one of the top grade ten martial spirits that was infinitely close to a superb martial spirit existence.

Zhou Teng did not waste time. After calling out his Blackshell Sage Tortoise, he instantly soul transformed. A black light flashed and at the same time, a black shell similar to that of his martial spirit's appeared on Zhou Teng's back. On the surface of the black tortoise shell were black runic patterns that once again formed the word 'sage'.

Staring at Zhou Teng's appearance after his soul transformation, Huang Xiaolong was stunned for a second. A wry smile hung at the corner of his lips after seeing the transformation, he thought Zhou Teng really did look more like a 'tortoise' in this form. Moreover, Zhou Teng's looks were borderline ugly to begin with. His mouth was bigger than average, and he had a nose that was also bigger than average, which reminded Huang Xiaolong of the Undersea Dragon Palace's Prime Minister Turtle.

Zhou Teng's face flushed red when he saw Huang Xiaolong shaking his head and laughing after his soul transformation. The rage in his heart exploded! Although his martial spirit Blackshell Sage Tortoise's grade was infinitely close to a superb talent martial spirit, he had to admit that he indeed looked ugly after fusing with his martial spirit. This was a sore spot in his heart.

Zhou Teng leaped out. Everyone watched as he actually tucked in both of his hands and legs. His entire body rotated at rapid speed akin to a tornado that rose from the surface of the sea, rushing towards Huang Xiaolong.

"Seawind Tornado!"

Chapter 152: Three Elders' Ambush

Huang Xiaolong's expression was cold as he calmly watched Zhou Teng speeding towards him. Raising his right fist, Huang Xiaolong punched out a Collapse Fist at full force, sending Zhou Teng flying backward.

Zhou Teng spun backward like a limbless tortoise in the air, but he managed to land within the stage area, stumbling awkwardly.

In that split second, Huang Xiaolong's Wing of Demon spread out, and with one flap of the wings he was in front of Zhou Teng. A sharp light glinted in Huang Xiaolong's eyes as his palm struck out without mercy.

"God Binding Palm!"

A brilliant sphere-shaped palm image shot out and thrust towards Zhou Teng.

Zhou Teng was surprised but there wasn't enough time for him to dodge. In that moment, a black light flickered from the 'sage' word on the tortoise shell behind his back, and with a forceful twist, Huang Xiaolong's God Binding Palm fell atop the black tortoise shell.

Just as with Rongguang and Liu Meijun, all of Zhou Teng's movements became immobilized as he stood there.

Huang Xiaolong's silhouette blurred into action, appearing once again in front of Zhou Teng and attacking with another Collapse Fist at Zhou Teng's chest.

Blood spurted out of Zhou Teng's mouth like a fountain. His body fell to the ground outside the stage area.

Zhou Teng lost!

The spectating crowd was shocked on the spot, eyes staring foolishly at Zhou Teng's body on the ground. Zhou Teng actually lost? The inner courtyard's number one Zhou Teng actually lost so quickly to Huang Xiaolong!

Initially, everyone anticipated a long-drawn-out and intense battle between Huang Xiaolong and Zhou Teng... what an exciting scene that would have been! Reality was a disappointment, however. In fact, it was even more lackluster and dull than when Huang Xiaolong battled Rongguang and Liu Meijun.

It finally dawned on the crowd a short while later that the battle was really over.

Harsh sounds of jeering came from the surrounding crowd.

Basically everyone watching had a contemptuous smirk on their faces looking at the defeated Zhou Teng.

"This is the inner courtyard's number one? What a sucker!"

"That may not be true. Zhou Teng is indeed very strong, but unfortunately his opponent was Huang Xiaolong!"

Loud whispers of various discussions started around the stage.

Though it may have been low whispers, every word entered Zhou Teng's ears loud and clear. He got up from the ground, and a strong hatred and rage took over him as he glared at Huang Xiaolong. The murderous look in his eyes was unmistakable.

Humiliation!

He could not accept this! He would not accept this defeat!

"Huang Xiaolong, I'm going to kill you!" Zhou Teng suddenly lunged forward onto the stage and started to attack Huang Xiaolong.

The crowd was shocked at the abrupt turn of events, and all the whispers halted. No one expected that Zhou Teng would disregard Academy rules after being defeated by Huang Xiaolong. He had actually leaped back onto the stage and attacked Huang Xiaolong again?!

On the main platform, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu grew solemn watching this. Then, anger set in.

Watching Zhou Teng come at him with a crazed and frenzied look in his eyes, Huang Xiaolong's gaze turned icy and the Blades of Asura suddenly appeared in his hands.

“Wrath of the Nether King!”

Two slivers of light rumbled like bolts of lightning as they streaked out madly, akin to a thousand stampeding beasts!

Beams of radiant light flashed by.

Hit by Huang Xiaolong’s Wrath of the Nether King, Zhou Teng’s body shuddered from the impact and was sent flying with tragic screams echoing in the air.

“Zhou Teng!”

“Huang Xiaolong, you dare?!”

The moment Huang Xiaolong injured Zhou Teng, three silhouettes came piercing into the Holy Hall from outside. Arriving in front of Huang Xiaolong like a thunderbolt, all three of them aimed an attack at him at the same time.

Three powerful attacks roused a strong wind. Space rippled so strongly from the force that even the Holy Hall shook.

The people in the crowd turned pale.

Both Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu did not expect such a thing would take place.

“Xie Wei! Jiang Hengyu! Chen Fengli! You dare?!” Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu flew out, wanting to stop them. However, it was obvious to everyone that their actions were too late.

The three people making a joint attack on Huang Xiaolong were the very same three elders who objected to Huang Xiaolong’s admittance to the inner courtyard—Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli! Both Xie Wei and Jiang Hengyu were Zhou Teng’s Master.

Huang Xiaolong looked at these three people attacking him. The expression on his face remained calm and cold. They thought they had hidden themselves well enough, but in fact, Huang Xiaolong had noticed their presence from early on. At his current peak late-Tenth Order strength, his perception had enhanced greatly, extending over three hundred meters. Not even an early Xiantian realm expert could escape his senses.

Just when these three people’s attacks were about to hit Huang Xiaolong, a majestic echo of a dragon’s roar resounded, shaking the Holy Hall’s roof. Everyone saw a black Primordial Divine Dragon hovering behind Huang Xiaolong. In a split second, Huang Xiaolong soul transformed.

A layer of black dragon scales instantly covered the surface of Huang Xiaolong’s skin. Sharp dragon bone spikes grew out of his hand, similar to a daunting set of black thorns.

The black dragon head tattoo that emerged on his back roared towards the sky, emitting endless coercive might.

There were no whites in Huang Xiaolong’s eyes as they had suddenly turned an obsidian black. By this point in time, the three attacks arrived.

Those fully black eyes emanated iciness as they swept across the three people's faces. Then, his hands formed two fists, and he swung toward Xie Wei.

"Overconfident!" Xie Wei scoffed, running his battle qi as his fists also rushed out like a flash flood.

Bang! Four fists collided together, and in that instant, Xie Wei's face changed to shock, followed by fear.

"You!" Before he could finish, his arms bent and his arm bones splintered, piercing out from his flesh and skin. A painful wail rang out as he was thrown out just like his disciple Zhou Teng before him, crashing heavily to the ground outside of the stage.

Right at that moment, Chen Fengli and Jiang Hengyu's attacks landed on Huang Xiaolong's torso.

However, both were shocked when they discovered that the hand they used to hit Huang Xiaolong's torso felt like it struck an indestructible steel wall. Instead, the rebounding force began vibrating up their hand, bringing intense pain to their hand and arm!

"How about it? Surprised?" Huang Xiaolong's detached and icy eyes looked at both of them, but neither could react. He then sent both of his palms out faster than lightning, landing squarely on their chests.

Spitting blood as both of them were repelled, they fell outside the stage and rolled until they came to a stop beside Xie Wei's body.

The crowd watching this was stupefied at the turn of events.

From the moment Zhou Teng violated Academy rules and attacked Huang Xiaolong after losing, to the next moment Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli appeared, attacked and were then repelled by Huang Xiaolong, less time had passed than it takes to blink. This change was so fast and so sudden that no one processed it quickly enough to react. Perhaps it would be better to say that no one was able to accept what they had just witnessed!

Watching Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli injured by Huang Xiaolong birthed an indescribable shock in the hearts of every individual.

This trio were Elders of the inner courtyard!

Moreover, Xie Wei was a Xiantian First Order expert!

Although Jiang Hengyu and Chen Fengli were at peak late-Tenth Order, their strength was not something someone like Zhou Teng could compare to. Even so, these three people were defeated one at a time by Huang Xiaolong!

The most frightening thing of all was that Xie Wei, as a Xiantian First Order expert, actually had no power to resist Huang Xiaolong!

Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu who were rushing to aid Huang Xiaolong halted halfway, nearly falling down from midair as they watched Huang Xiaolong deal with Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli within the blink of an eye.

Rapidly stabilizing their balance, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu came over and stood on the stage.

Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu's eyes were sparkling, laced with a faint hint of awe as they looked at Huang Xiaolong. Yes, awe. This even included Sun Zhang who was a Xiantian Second Order expert.

Neither of them ever heard of anyone who could defeat Xiantian experts when they were at peak late-Tenth Order!

The gap between a peak late-Tenth Order warrior and Xiantian First Order expert may look negligible, but in actuality, the gap between the two levels of strength was like heaven and earth. It was even larger than when comparing an early Ninth Order warrior to a peak late-Tenth Order warrior. Therefore, it was simply impossible for a peak late-Tenth Order warrior to defeat a Xiantian First Order expert!

Chapter 153: Academy Number One

Below the stage, Third Year Class Three teacher Chen Xiaojing nearly dislocated his jaw as he stared dumbfoundedly at the three people—Xie Wei, Jiang Chengyu, and Chen Fengli—who were defeated by Huang Xiaolong.

The legs of the pale-faced youth and one of the inner courtyard disciples gave out from the sight of what had just happened to the extent that they nearly knelt on the ground.

Those students who ridiculed Huang Xiaolong for winning first place during previous years because his opponents were being lenient were shivering in their pants as if they contracted epilepsy, twitching unnaturally.

Silence permeated throughout every nook and cranny of the Holy Hall.

Watching Huang Xiaolong's silhouette on the stage, the young girls' hearts were jumping around like a naughty fawn, issuing sounds of *'putong putong'* like a wardrum in their ears.

If the sparkling lights from these girls' eyes were gathered together and launched, it would probably have the power to electrocute a boar to death.

After what seemed like a long time had passed, the Holy Hall broke out in an unprecedented thunderous applause and cheers.

By this point in time, Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli managed to get themselves up from the ground. The way the three of them looked at Huang Xiaolong was now full of fear.

The Huang Xiaolong that they never put in their eyes, a little rascal that in their opinion could not even win the class's first place was actually this monstrous!

Their faces were extremely ugly as the loud cheers and praises echoed in their ears.

"Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, Chen Fengli; the three of you actually ignored the Academy's established rules! As Elders, not only did you interfere with the competition between students, you even attacked Huang Xiaolong, a student of the Academy!" Sun Zhang was truly angered this time and reprimanded the trio.

Xie Wei looked at Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu, sneered and said, "So what? Sun Zhang, even if you want to expel us you must call for an Elders meeting first!"

As an Elder of the inner courtyard, regardless of their crime, they could only be punished after a decision was reached in the Elders' meeting. Not even Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were able to supersede the authority of the Elders and arbitrarily decide their punishments.

After having this pointed out, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu's faces turned sullen.

A proud complacent smile emerged on Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu and Chen Fengli's faces.

However, at that moment, Huang Xiaolong slowly walked towards them.

The proud beam on their faces stiffened and paled.

"Huang Xiaolong, what are you doing?" Xie Wei snapped at Huang Xiaolong while trying his best to conceal the fear he was feeling inside.

Jiang Hengyu also barked, "You actually disrespected an inner courtyard Elder. You even attacked and injured us! Just you wait, you'll absolutely be expelled!"

The fact of the matter was that the three of them had interjected in the Academy students' competition. They ambushed Huang Xiaolong in a three on one battle, and now they shamelessly argued that Huang Xiaolong had no respect for elders, injured them, and actually wanted to expel Huang Xiaolong from the Academy!

Huang Xiaolong's placid tone matched his expression, "Really? But, the three of you don't seem to have enough authority to expel me!"

To expel a student, whether they be students of the normal classes or the inner courtyard, it fell under Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu's responsibility and authority.

Xie Wei and the other two's minds went blank.

Just now, they indeed forgot about this matter.

Huang Xiaolong continued to approach the three of them.

Seeing this, Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli actually retreated in a flustered manner.

"Huang Xiaolong, you dare to ignore the rules?!" Xie Wei once again put up a brave front, trying to deter Huang Xiaolong, but it was all for naught. Before Xie Wei could finish, the ebony Wing of Demon on Huang Xiaolong's back flapped. In less time than it took to blink, Huang Xiaolong had reached Xie Wei, and a fist struck the right side of his face. Xie Wei's head nearly swung back from the impact, causing his entire body to fly out.

Next, Huang Xiaolong walked towards Jiang Hengyu and Chen Fengli as fear distorted their faces.

"Huang Xiaolong, use your words! If you have something to say, we can discuss it peacefully, don't act recklessly!" The two blurted out.

Discuss peacefully? Don't act recklessly? Huang Xiaolong sneered coldly. Palms slammed out, striking the two in the chest and sending them flying out at the same time.

The boiled up atmosphere in the Holy Hall instantly became quiet.

People from all directions were looking towards one spot.

Huang Xiaolong looked at the three people groaning on the floor, he slowly walked towards them again.

Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu exchanged a glance, neither spoke, immersing themselves in the comfort of watching a good show.

These three held the position of inner courtyard Elder for too long. With Prime Minister Wu Feng as their backer, they had never given the two of them any face. Thus, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were dissatisfied with them for a long time.

Xie Wei noticed Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu standing at the side with their arms folded across their chests and enjoying the show. He became exasperated and angered: "Sun Zhang, Xiong Chu, as the Principal and Vice-Principal of the Academy, how can you just stand and watch an Academy student attack an inner courtyard's Elder?! When the Elders' meeting is called, I will propose to have you two removed from your positions!"

Sun Zhang sniggered, "Oh really? Pardon me, I did not see anything."

Did not see? Xie Wei, Jiang Hengyu, and Chen Fengli choked in anger seeing Sun Zhang actually lie without blinking. At this moment, they had just received a taste of Sun Zhang's shamelessness!

Huang Xiaolong came to a stop in front of them; the three of them struggled to stand up.

Just as they managed to get up, each was sent flying again with kicks from Huang Xiaolong.

Crashing to the ground, Chen Fengli was clutching at his chest with a hideous grimace.

"It's broken!" He hissed.

Huang Xiaolong's kicks were performed with great force and contained a trace of the Asura Sword Skill's frigid qi, torturing the three of from within.

Watching the three once revered experts jerk in pain on the ground, the disciples from the inner courtyard, such as the pale-faced youth, became ashen with horror.

At this time, Sun Zhang finally spoke, "Xiaolong, let me deal with the three of them." After all, he could not really stand and watch Huang Xiaolong really kill them without doing anything, especially when there were so many students present.

Everyone's eyes were watching.

Huang Xiaolong nodded.

The truth was, he never planned to kill the three of them.

However, after this, even if they didn't die, they were basically half crippled.

Just now, Huang Xiaolong sent the Asura frigid cold qi into their Qi Sea. Even if they could suppress it for the time being, they would not be capable of expelling it from their bodies.

With this, the Academy's annual competition drew to a close.

Huang Xiaolong won first place in Third Year Class Three, Third Year first place, and overall Academy number one!

Next year, Huang Xiaolong will represent the Cosmic Star Academy in the Duanren Empire's Imperial City Battle.

Imperial City Battle!

The event ended and the prizes were awarded. Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu presented two Spirit Dans to Huang Xiaolong, and as everyone was leaving, they requested for Huang Xiaolong to stay behind and gave him another two high Grade Five Spirit Dan.

In all the previous years they had always given him one pellet, but this year, Huang Xiaolong actually received two!

High Grade Five Spirit Dan. Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were rarely willing to take these for their own cultivation, so it goes to show how much emphasis they were putting on Huang Xiaolong.

Both of them hoped Huang Xiaolong would enhance his strength as much as possible before the Imperial City Battle began.

Before Huang Xiaolong left, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu said, "Xiaolong, although you are at a stage where after you soul transformed you were able to defeat Xie Wei, you must know the number of students that participate in the Imperial City Battle every year come from thousands of different kingdoms. Those that are stronger than Xie Wei are not scarce in number. Some of them possess talent and strength that does not lose out to you. Remember well, never underestimate an enemy."

Xiong Chu also provided some advice, and the content was roughly the same as Sun Zhang's since he hoped Huang Xiaolong would not let the win go to his head, causing him to grow arrogant and impertinent.

Moments later, Huang Xiaolong left the two of them.

Xiong Chu watched Huang Xiaolong's back as he walked away, comforted and lamenting at the same time, "I wonder what result Xiaolong can get during the next Imperial City Battle?"

Sun Zhang responded seriously, "Top ten shouldn't be a problem, but number one might be a little far. One must realize, the amount of monstrous geniuses in Duanren Empire is no small number."

When Huang Xiaolong stepped into Tianxuan Mansion, the entire mansion broke out in cheers and liveliness.

This year, not only did Huang Xiaolong snatch the individual year's first place, he even won the Academy's overall number one!

Representing Cosmic Star Academy in the Duanren Empire Imperial City Battle meant representing the Luo Tong Kingdom when participating, and this was the highest honor and glory! In the past, Huang Peng and Su Yan dared not even dream of such a possibility.

Chapter 154: Internal Force Breaks Through Xiantian Level

Huang Xiaolong's victory in the Academy overall championship allowed the guards and servants of Tianxuan Mansion to bask in some of the limelight. Everyone stood a little taller and more proud.

At the Tianxuan Mansion's front entrance, red firecrackers were lit and people on the street joyfully watched the explosions for more than an hour.

On the same night, Tianxuan Mansion held a big celebration banquet, and almost all of the big and small forces within Luo Tong Royal City came bearing congratulatory gifts. From top to bottom, everyone in the Tianxuan Mansion was in a joyous mood.

The next morning, even King Lu Zhe himself made a visit to the Tianxuan Mansion. Tagging along with him was his son, Lu Kai.

King Lu Zhe spoke many nice words of encouragement to Huang Xiaolong and generously rewarded him with three high Grade Five Spirit Dan as well as many other valuable herbs and elixirs. Just like Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu, King Lu Zhe hoped Huang Xiaolong would enhance his strength a little bit more by consuming these things before he participated in the Imperial City Battle.

The stronger Huang Xiaolong was, the better his chances at achieving a higher ranking in the Imperial City Battle. As the King of Luo Tong Kingdom, the generous reward bestowed by the Duanren Emperor corresponded closely with Huang Xiaolong's result!

Before he left, Lu Kai patted Huang Xiaolong's shoulder playfully saying, "I really have to give it you, damn, and there I was, asking if you were planning to get the Third Year Third Class's first place before the competition. I didn't expect you to go ahead and grab the Third Year's first place, and even the overall Academy championship!"

Huang Xiaolong laughed, "Didn't you also take the Second Year's first place?"

Lu Kai grinned sheepishly, and then he moved closer to Huang Xiaolong's ear, saying in a barely audible whisper, "Bro, you should pay more attention, I can see that Chen Caixiu is a little interested in you." He instantly hopped away and fled after leaving his best friend with a friendly warning.

Huang Xiaolong shook his head with a wry smile while watching Lu Kai's fleeing back.

This rascal!

The celebration banquet in Tianxuan Mansion continued for three days straight. It was what Huang Peng and Su Yan wanted and Huang Xiaolong had no intention to stop them. As long as his parents were happy, he didn't mind.

During these three days' time, Huang Xiaolong did not practice any of the Asura techniques. Instead, he concentrated on the Body Metamorphosis Scripture.

Huang Xiaolong's Body Metamorphosis Scripture practice had reached Stage Nine: The Azure Dragon Flexing Its Claw, and it was at its limit. It was possible for him to break through to stage ten at any time now.

After three days of celebration, Tianxuan Mansion returned to its usual calmness.

Once the celebration was over, Huang Xiaolong activated the God Binding Ring and entered the ancient battlefield. Next, he swallowed down the spirit dans from the Academy's prizes and also King Lu Zhe's reward, then started practicing.

After the New Year, they would set off to Duanren Empire for the Imperial City Battle, hence, increasing his strength was crucial in the interim.

Therefore, this year, Huang Xiaolong did not give the high Grade Spirit Dans to his parents and planned to use them himself.

Adding the spirit dans from the Academy competition and the ones rewarded by King Lu Zhe together, there were seven pellets in total!

One low Grade Five Spirit Dan, one mid-Grade Five, and five high Grade Spirit Dans!

Huang Xiaolong took one pellet each day.

On the first day, he swallowed the low Grade Five Spirit Dan, and so it went until the last of the high Grade Five Spirit Dans were consumed.

On the seventh day, Huang Xiaolong took and refined the last of the pellets. After refining seven spirit dans, not only did Huang Xiaolong's battle qi increase, it even boosted his internal force.

Although his battle qi wasn't enough to step into the Xiantian realm, it brought him infinitely closer by a single step.

Half a month went by.

The cloudy night sky turned the silvery moonlight hazy.

Huang Xiaolong stood in the yard with his legs spread apart, both hands clenched into fists in a guard position close to his waist. Then, his left hand punched out, fingers bent like hooks downward as his upper torso kept turning towards the left side while breathing in a set rhythm continuously.

Spiritual energy rumbled as it gathered towards Huang Xiaolong and was absorbed into his body as he breathed in and out. Above his head, the spiritual energy gathered in a shape resembling three flower blossoms.

While he was continuing to adjust his breathing, Huang Xiaolong's body suddenly trembled. A radiant light shone from his dantian which was situated below his navel. Next, a hot stream of energy burst out from Huang Xiaolong's dantian like scorching fire, shaking the airflow in the entire yard.

At that time, every person in Tianxuan Mansion felt the strong vibrations of the energy and its terrifying pressure.

Fei Hou's yard was one of the closest to Huang Xiaolong's yard. Fei Hou had been practicing his battle qi at the time when the sudden enveloping pressure startled him. He looked in the direction of Huang Xiaolong's yard and shock was replaced by jubilation, "Could it be, Sovereign is having a breakthrough to the Xiantian realm?!"

Breakthrough to the Xiantian realm!

Once one breaks through to the Xiantian realm, they would be acknowledged as one of the strongest experts of a kingdom! One's status and identity in the kingdom would rise to prominence.

In the yard, the fire-red glow spun and rotated endlessly in Huang Xiaolong's dantian. The internal force inside the dantian suddenly evaporated upward, and in the next second, the internal force gathered again, condensing into a drop of liquid and falling to the bottom of his dantian. His dantian became abundant with vibrating energy.

Once his dantian had fully converted into a liquid form, Huang Xiaolong slowly stopped his controlled breathing, bringing his hands and legs back to the center, all the while the joy shining in his eyes was evident.

His internal force finally broke through to the Xiantian realms level!

Although it didn't include battle qi, Huang Xiaolong could still be considered as a Xiantian expert just based on his internal force alone.

At this time, Fei Hou hurried into the yard from outside, coming to a stop in front of Huang Xiaolong with a brilliant smile on his face, "Sovereign, you broke through to the Xiantian realm?"

"It can be considered so," Huang Xiaolong nodded with a smile, "It's my internal force that reached the Xiantian stage."

Fei Hou was stunned for a second before offering his congratulations, "Congratulations Sovereign for breaking into the Xiantian realm." After practicing the Liquid Thunder Arts, Fei Hou understood that internal force advancing into the Xiantian level was just as important as battle qi breaking into the Xiantian level.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, and then said, "Run your battle qi and take one of my full force attacks."

Fei Hou blanked for a moment at the request. Nodding, a strong flickering light rippled as Fei Hou ran his battle qi in all seriousness.

Seeing that Fei Hou was ready, Huang Xiaolong raised his hand and used an Ethereal Palm on Fei Hou. The palm attack was quiet and surreal, appearing in front of Fei Hou in a split second; although Fei Hou was prepared, he was still shocked. Swiftly, he punched out with a fist of his own, colliding directly with Huang Xiaolong's palm.

"Heart Shattering Fist!"

Bang!

Fist and palm crashed together and the impact caused a loud blast to resound in the yard. The airflow turned into a violent, spinning gale, causing chairs and other things to tumble around.

Fei Hou's body strongly shook, forcing him to stumble backward a total of five steps whereas Huang Xiaolong retreated three steps.

Fei Hou actually retreated two steps more than Huang Xiaolong!

Fei Hou was dumbstruck when realizing this result.

In that exchange just now, he actually fell at a slight disadvantage!

He had been in the Xiantian realm for the last few years, and all these years, he had always been taking the Fire Dragon Pearls and practicing Liquid Thunder Art with diligence. Comparatively, his battle qi cultivation was even stronger than some Xiantian Second Order warriors. However, all this was irrelevant for he just lost to Huang Xiaolong... the Huang Xiaolong who had just broken through to the Xiantian realm for less than an hour's time!

Furthermore, neither of them summoned their martial spirit. If Huang Xiaolong summoned only his black dragon martial spirit, relying on the suppression of a higher grade martial spirit towards his Silver River martial spirit, all in all, he was no match against Huang Xiaolong.

While Fei Hou was still in a daze as these thoughts went through his mind, Huang Xiaolong's silhouette blurred and continued with his second attack.

Seeing this, Fei Hou was jarred back to his senses, making a move of his own.

The longer they sparred, the more the shock inside Fei Hou increased because he noticed Huang Xiaolong seemingly grow more powerful as time wore on; his attacks became stronger, faster, and more precise.

"Can Sovereign's Instant Recovery innate Martial Ability also be applied to the internal force?" Fei Hou thought to himself. He was aware Huang Xiaolong Instant Recovery innate Martial Ability could restore exhausted battle qi.

After exchanging more than a dozen moves with Huang Xiaolong, and just when Fei Hou could no longer go on after being pushed to the limit, Huang Xiaolong suddenly stopped. Instantly, the pressure Fei Hou felt diminished greatly, allowing him to catch a breath.

In the next few days after that, Huang Xiaolong sparred everyday, training with Fei Hou and Marshal Haotian. While sparring, all three of them summoned their martial spirit. Fei Hou was not Huang Xiaolong's opponent, but against Marshal Haotian, Huang Xiaolong needed to soul transform with his black dragon martial spirit. Even when adding the Asura Sword Skill, innate martial spirit's ability, Golden Linglong Body, and Asura Physique, he could only come to a draw with Martial Haotian.

Even so, it was more than enough to jolt Fei Hou and Martial Haotian's concept of reality.

Chapter 155: An Engagement between Huang and Guo Family

Marshal Haotian was a Xiantian Second Order expert, and not an average second order expert at that, yet he was still unable to execute a swift win over Huang Xiaolong.

This was the scariest point of all!

Furthermore, what was Huang Xiaolong's age? He would soon be seventeen after the New Year in ten days, right?!

Marshal Haotian was someone that had over a hundred years of cultivation experience!

Though Huang Xiaolong's battle qi was still in the peak late-Tenth Order stage, if his battle qi also advanced into the Xiantian realm, it was possible that Marshal Haotian might not even be Huang Xiaolong's opponent at that time!

On this day, Huang Xiaolong was training in the yard with Fei Hou and Marshal Haotian when his younger sister suddenly burst into the yard, calling Huang Xiaolong out.

"Big brother, Mom and Dad called for you at the main hall." Huang Min said, and a peculiar blush tinged her cheeks after saying so.

"Calling me to the main hall? What's the matter?" Huang Xiaolong felt it was odd watching his sister's reaction, thus he asked.

Huang Min's head bowed so low that the tip of her nose nearly touched her chest, "Guo Tai is here."

"Guo Tai?" Huang Xiaolong was surprised, and then he chuckled; no wonder his little sister would come to call for him in person. Normally, his mother and father would send a servant to inform him if they were looking for him.

"Big brother, let's go quickly, people have been waiting for half an hour in the main hall." Huang Min stressed, and she swiftly dragged Huang Xiaolong by the hand towards the main hall.

Huang Xiaolong had a powerless expression on his face as he looked over at Fei Hou and Marshal Haotian, "Let's end today's sparring here, we'll continue again tomorrow."

"Yes, Young Lord!" Both of them acknowledged respectfully.

Huang Xiaolong walked to the main hall 'led' by Huang Min pulling him by the hand.

Even before he entered the main hall, the amiable laughter and the sounds of talking could be heard. Other than his parents and younger brother, Huang Xiaohai, there was a voice of a young man he had never heard before.

When Huang Xiaolong and Huang Min walked into the hall, everyone inside looked over in their direction. When the unfamiliar young man saw Huang Xiaolong, he practically jumped up from his seat. It was clear from his mannerisms that he was extremely nervous.

The young man had clean cut features, arched brows, and a rounded button nose; all in all, a dashing young man. When compared with Huang Xiaolong, that young man exuded a less dominant aura, more of one with gentlemanly elegance and refinement.

This young man was Guo Tai.

Guo Tai knew of Huang Xiaolong's fame. When he first met Huang Min, he had no idea that Huang Min was Huang Xiaolong's younger sister, and he did not deliberately have Huang Min's identity and background investigated. Two months ago, Guo Tai was greatly shocked when Huang Min told him that her Big Bro was Tianxuan Mansion's Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong was Luo Tong Kingdom's renowned number one monstrous genius that his father spoke of often, telling him to make Huang Xiaolong his goal.

Watching as Huang Xiaolong and Huang Min walked in, a clumsy and nervous Guo Tai quickly took a few steps forward, calling out: "Big brother!"

Guo Tai was actually the same age as Huang Xiaolong but he was younger by two months, so he followed Huang Min's example and called Huang Xiaolong big brother.

Under normal circumstances, Guo Tai, as a member of one of Duanren Empire's big families and grandson to the current Guo Family's Patriarch, would not feel so nervous even when meeting a Duanren Empire's Duke, but Huang Xiaolong was an exception.

This was because Huang Xiaolong was someone he worshipped.

Huang Xiaolong looked at Guo Tai, nodded slightly and said with a faint smile, "Take a seat."

"Thanks Big brother." Guo Tai returned to his seat.

Huang Xiaolong and Huang Min also sat down.

Huang Xiaolong's seat was lateral to his parents' seat whereas Huang Min sat in the seat next to Guo Tai.

Studying Guo Tai opposite of him, Huang Xiaolong nodded inwardly in satisfaction. From his first impression, the impression this Guo Tai gave him was not bad... at least he showed none of the noble children's unwarranted proud arrogance and impudence.

The few of them continued to talk happily in the main hall with bouts of cheery laughter ringing out from time to time.

At first, Guo Tai acted a little reserved. However, as time wore on with the jokes and laughter, he gradually relaxed, but his respect and idolization towards Huang Xiaolong was evident in his words and actions.

"Big brother's Academy competition some months ago, I was there with my father." Guo Tai recalled enthusiastically, "After we came back, my father praised Big brother endlessly saying Big brother is truly a talented genius, and not even the Academy's three inner courtyard Elders were his opponent!"

This brought laughter out from everyone.

Soon, it was time for lunch, and Guo Tai stayed to have a meal with the Huang Family. After lunch, Huang Min and Guo Tai went out together.

In the main hall, after the two of them had left, Huang Peng asked Huang Xiaolong, "Xiaolong, what do you think about Guo Tai?"

Although in Martial Spirit World, children's marriages were decided by parents', major decisions related to Tianxuan Mansion were mostly decided by Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong laughed, "As long as the little girl is pleased."

Since his little sister and Guo Tai mutually liked each other and Guo Tai himself was not a bad character, Huang Xiaolong would naturally not do something like splitting a pair of mandarin ducks [1].

Huang Peng and Su Yan exchanged a glance, and Su Yan said, "Then, in another few days, your father and I will accompany your sister to make a trip to the Guo Mansion to meet Guo Shiyuan. If Guo Shiyuan agrees, then we will set down this marriage!"

At the end of the year, Huang Min would turn sixteen. Being engaged at sixteen and married at eighteen was a usual practice in Martial Spirit World.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, "Mom and Dad can decide."

After accompanying his parents for a while, Huang Xiaolong returned to his yard and continued to practice.

His internal force had advanced into the Xiantian level so he now needed to strive for his battle qi to break through to the Xiantian realm as soon as possible.

If his battle qi also broke through to the Xiantian realm, then Huang Xiaolong was confident he could take first place in Duanren Empire's Imperial City Battle!

Duanren Institute's new term started in the ninth month, and there were eight months until next year's Imperial City Battle. Thus, Huang Xiaolong had eight months to further enhance himself before the Imperial City Battle.

Nine days came and went.

Once again, Tianxuan Mansion was basked in a festive mood with a flurry of activities. This year, there were many more joyful occasions that it had when compared to previous years.

Not only was it due to Huang Xiaolong being the overall Academy Champion, and the fact that he would be representing the Cosmic Star Academy in the Duanren Empire's Imperial City Battle, but it was because Huang Min and Guo Tai's marriage was set!

A few days ago, Huang Peng, Su Yan, and Huang Min paid a visit to Guo Shiyuan at the Guo Mansion. Guo Shiyuan was delighted, thus Huang Peng and Guo Shiyuan had their children's wedding set down.

Listening to the cheerful hustle and bustle up and down Tianxuan Mansion, Huang Xiaolong did not practice like he usually did.

In roughly ten days, Yu Ming and Zhao Shu would arrive in Luo Tong Royal City. At that time, he would be journeying to Duanren Empire, and when passing by Baolong Kingdom, Huang Xiaolong decided to first annihilate the Big Sword Sect, Martial Ning Family, and Clear Cloud Pavilion!

On the other hand, after Huang Xiaolong injured Xie Wei and the other two people, the Elders had a meeting and all three people's Elder position were removed. Even though this happened, there was no reaction from Prime Minister Wu Feng's side.

"I hope Wu Feng, that old fogey, has tact." Huang Xiaolong hoped. If that old fogey deliberately provoked him again, he didn't mind first squashing Wu Feng before destroying Big Sword Sect.

The New Year had finally arrived.

Auspicious snow[2] fell.

Sounds of laughter could be heard coming from every corner of the Tianxuan Mansion.

On the First Day of New Year, the Huang Family visited the Guo Mansion. Originally, Huang Xiaolong did not plan to go, but Huang Min pestered him so he had no choice but to comply.

The Huang Family's arrival was warmly received by the pair of father and son, Guo Shiyuan and Guo Tai, especially towards Huang Xiaolong, causing Huang Xiaolong to feel somewhat awkward and uncomfortable.

There was a reason why Guo Shiyuan agreed to the marriage between his son and Huang Min. At the moment, the Huang Family's status may not be on par with their Guo Family, but he valued Huang Xiaolong. With Huang Xiaolong's talent, he would absolutely be a great character of Duanren Empire in the future.

Chapter 156: Zhao Shu and Yu Ming's Arrival

Almost immediately after returning to Tianxuan Mansion from the Guo Mansion, Huang Xiaolong activated the God Binding Ring and entered the ancient battlefield to cultivate.

For the time being, Huang Xiaolong concentrated on practicing his Asura Tactics instead of his battle skills, such as the Asura Sword Skills, Asura Demon Claw, Golden Linglong Body, and God Binding Palm, among others.

For Huang Xiaolong, strengthening his battle qi and breaking into the Xiantian realm was the only goal at the moment.

These battle skills were supplementary!

Moreover, his battle skills' power would not enhance much in one year's time.

As long as he was successful in breaking through to the Xiantian realm with his battle qi, his strength would increase by leaps and bounds.

Other than Asura Tactics, Huang Xiaolong allocated two hours every day to spar with Fei Hou, and if not with Fei Hou then alternatively with Marshal Haotian.

While sparring with these two mighty Xiantian experts, Huang Xiaolong's control and understanding in battle qi deepened.

Another nine days passed.

On this particular morning, Fei Hou and Haotian were beaming as they walked into Huang Xiaolong's yard, reporting: "Sovereign, Master gave word that he and Zhao Shu will arrive in one hour's time!"

"Oh, one more hour!" Huang Xiaolong was happy hearing this and drew in a deep breath, "Let's go to the Royal City gates!"

Huang Xiaolong might be the Asura's Gate Sovereign, but Zhao Shu was a Saint realm expert. With Zhao Shu arriving, it was common sense to Huang Xiaolong that he should go receive him at the city gates.

"Yes, Sovereign!" Fei Hou and Haotian answered. Neither one felt it was weird that Huang Xiaolong wanted to go and receive Zhao Shu at the city gates.

Even someone as exalted as the Duanren Emperor must show courtesy when meeting a Saint realm expert, moreover, Zhao Shu wasn't some ordinary early Saint realm expert.

Therefore, Huang Xiaolong stepped out of Tianxuan Mansion together with Fei Hou and Haotian and headed towards the city gates, waiting for Yu Ming and Zhao Shu's arrival.

Thinking they would soon be able to meet a Saint realm expert, both Fei Hou and Haotian were excited and their palms began to sweat from nervousness. As a Xiantian realm expert, both enjoyed immense respect and high-class treatment in the kingdom, especially Haotian, but before a Saint realm expert, crudely speaking, they were nothing. If this was the past, they wouldn't even have the qualifications to meet a Saint realm expert.

Not long after the three of them arrived at the city gates, two silhouettes appeared from the mountainous path in the distance.

Watching as these two silhouettes grew closer, three pairs of eyes lit up when they noticed Yu Ming!

Yu Ming was seen riding slightly behind a burly, robust man that appeared to be somewhere around his fifties. Both of them were riding on beast mounts that looked similar to a rhinoceros, but the difference was that these beast mounts had no tails. Instead, there was a sphere with a lustrous glow that resembled flames.

The distance between them and the city gates was still quite far, yet Huang Xiaolong, Fei Hou, and Haotian already felt the terrifying pressure emanating from that middle-aged man.

Huang Xiaolong knew this middle-aged man had to be the Asura's Gate Left Custodian, *Zhao Shu!*

The beast mounts Yu Ming and Zhao Shu were riding moved seemingly slow, but in fact were extremely fast. In just a few breaths, Yu Ming and Zhao Shu were within a several hundred meter range of Huang Xiaolong's position.

Upon closer inspection, Huang Xiaolong noticed that Zhao Shu's eyes were round and large, akin to an Iron Eagle's: sharp, cold, and unfathomable.

While Huang Xiaolong was observing Zhao Shu, Zhao Shu was doing the same to Huang Xiaolong. From the details of Yu Ming's report to him, he already guessed this tall youth of no more than twenty should be Old Sovereign's personal disciple, the one with the Asura Ring—Huang Xiaolong.

The three people waiting walked up to the approaching two.

Yu Ming and Zhao Shu dismounted from their beasts.

"Asura's Gate Elder, Yu Ming greets Sovereign!" Yu Ming said respectfully as he dropped before Huang Xiaolong, saluting on bended knee and in proper form.

On the other hand, Zhao Shu approached and bowed respectfully, and said to Huang Xiaolong "Asura's Gate Left Custodian Zhao Shu, greets Sovereign!"

In Asura's Gate, Saint realm experts only needed to bow in greeting to the Sovereign.

“Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Elder Yu Ming, please rise!” Huang Xiaolong swiftly moved forward to excuse them from such salutes.

At this time, Fei Hou and Haotian also came forward speedily, saying their greetings with great respect to Zhao Shu, “Asura’s Gate disciple Fei Hou (Haotian) greets Left Custodian Zhao Shu!”

Zhao Shu nodded and let them rise.

Then, Fei Hou and Haotian turned towards their Master, bowing respectfully: “Master!”

Yu Ming nodded.

Without much of an exchange of words, everyone turned and headed in Tianxuan Mansion’s direction.

On the way, Zhao Shu said to Yu Ming, “These two disciples of yours are not bad.” Zhao Shu could easily see that both Fei Hou and Haotian’s physiques and other aspects were much stronger than other warriors at the same level.

Yu Ming quickly replied respectfully, “Left Custodian Zhao Shu praises them too highly!”

The truth was, even Yu Ming himself was startled at the changes he saw in Fei Hou and Haotian.

However, after hearing Zhao Shu’s words of praise, Fei Hou and Haotian were actually apprehensive rather than overjoyed.

At this point, Haotian admitted honestly, “Left Custodian, the truth is, we could achieve this level of cultivation all thanks to Sovereign’s generosity.”

“Oh?” This revelation was unexpected for Zhao Shu and Yu Ming.

Huang Xiaolong smiled, “I didn’t do much except pass the both of them a set of cultivation techniques. Their achievements are the results of their own hard work.”

Huang Xiaolong’s words may have seemed modest, but at the same time, it indirectly confirmed what Haotian had just said.

This raised a strong curiosity in Zhao Shu and Yu Ming towards the cultivation techniques Huang Xiaolong passed to Fei Hou and Haotian.

A short while later, the group of people reached Tianxuan Mansion.

Back in Tianxuan Mansion, on the way to the main hall, the group of five ran into Huang Peng and Su Yan, and Huang Xiaolong solemnly introduced Zhao Shu and Yu Ming’s identities to his parents.

Especially so when he was introducing Zhao Shu to them.

Though it was not the first time Yu Ming came to Tianxuan Mansion, Huang Peng and Su Yan had never met him prior to this. Hearing Huang Xiaolong state Yu Ming was Fei Hou and Haotian’s Master, both were astonished.

Even though Huang Xiaolong did not clearly say Zhao Shu’s identity when he introduced them to his parents, Huang Peng and Su Yan were awed when detecting the seriousness from their son’s voice.

Their first reaction was to greet, "Senior Zhao Shu, Senior Yu Ming!"

Huang Peng and Su Yan were Huang Xiaolong's parents, Zhao Shu and Yu Ming dared not display any superior attitude and greeted Huang Peng and Su Yan in return.

Knowing their son had matters to discuss, they left the main hall to avoid disturbing them.

After Huang Peng and Su Yan left the hall, Huang Xiaolong inquired about what happened to Yu Ming in the last few years. If Yu Ming was not delayed, he would've returned to Luo Tong Kingdom six years ago.

Yu Ming quickly reported the events that happened to him these past years.

When Yu Ming left Snow Wind Continent, he needed to cross a place called Death Sea Gorge to return to Star Cloud Continent. While passing through Death Sea Gorge, he encountered a terrifying whirlpool, sucking him into another unknown space within Death Sea Gorge and became trapped inside of it for six years!

Six years later, a spatial crack formed which provided an opportunity for Yu Ming to escape.

Huang Xiaolong was flabbergasted hearing this.

Yu Ming was delayed for six years because of this?

A wry smile escaped Huang Xiaolong's face; he wasn't sure if he should say Yu Ming was lucky or unlucky. At that time, he thought Chen Tianqi found out about him and that Yu Ming was then locked up by him.

Fei Hou and Haotian were also dumbfounded hearing their Master's experience.

Understanding Yu Ming's reason for the delay, Huang Xiaolong changed the topic, "Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Elder Yu Ming, have you ever heard of a Heavenly Treasure called God Binding Ring?"

"God Binding Ring!" Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were shocked at the sudden mention.

Chapter 157: The God Binding Ring's Previous Master

Watching the strong reaction coming from Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, Huang Xiaolong was sure they had heard about the God Binding Ring.

And sure enough, Zhao Shu spoke up, "Sovereign, the God Binding Ring is one of the top ten Heavenly Treasures and is placed at number six."

"Number six!" Huang Xiaolong's eye slit up and was delighted within.

Prior to this, he had guessed the God Binding Ring was higher than the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, but he did not expect it would be number six on the Heavenly Treasures List.

There was a vast chasm separating the strengths and power provided by each Heavenly Treasure on the list. The higher the rank, the larger the gap, which in turn meant that it would increase the owner's power exponentially the higher ranked the treasure was.

And the God Binding Ring was actually three ranks higher than the Linglong Treasure Pagoda!

“Left Custodian Zhao Shu is right.” Yu Ming took over the explanation at this point, “Sovereign, the Heavenly Treasure, God Binding Ring, once appeared in Martial Spirit World somewhere around three thousand years ago, triggering a period of terror. At that time, the master of the God Binding Ring was someone named Lin Shengjie. He was the Lord of an evil sect, favoring slaughter and massacre by nature, which invoked the wrath of numerous forces of Martial Spirit World who decided to join hands and besiege Lin Shengjie. Although Lin Shengjie was very powerful, under the continuous attacks of so many forces, he was still killed in the end. Even the evil sect that he built was annihilated overnight!”

“Lord of an evil sect, Lin Shengjie?!” Huang Xiaolong was taken aback. The previous master of the God Binding Ring being the Lord of an evil sect truly came as a surprise to him.

“Yes.” Zhao Shu said, “At that time, Lin Shengjie was at the peak of the Ninth Order Saint realm with one foot into the God Realm. The number of Xiantian and Saint realm experts under him at that time were innumerable. In that joint attack of Martial Spirits there were many forces. Although they successfully killed him, they also lost half of their experts in that battle!”

“A peak Ninth Order Saint realm master!”

“Half of their experts!”

Huang Xiaolong’s understanding was once again jarred.

And there was that realm—God Realm!

Above the Saint realm was God Realm?!

This was his first time hearing about this. So, the realm above the Saint realm was called the God Realm!

Zhao Shu continued, “The battle that year was truly full of blood flowing like a river.” Then, Zhao Shu suddenly smiled at Huang Xiaolong at this time, saying “That year, Lin Shengjie died under the Old Sovereign’s hand.”

“Master?” This piece of information was outside the bounds of Huang Xiaolong’s expectation.

Zhao Shu nodded, “Old Sovereign was a peak late-Eighth Order Saint realm master at that time and joined in the siege on Lin Shengjie.” As he was saying this, Zhao Shu’s tone suddenly mellowed down as if remembering something, “Lin Shengjie died on the Snowless Mountain if I’m not mistaken.”

Huang Xiaolong looked at Zhao Shu.

“At that time, Duanren Empire had yet to come into existence, but now, that Snowless Mountains is located within Duanren Empire’s territory. However, it has been more than three thousand years, and the exact location of the Snowless Mountains would be hard to determine.” Zhao Shu went on, “After Lin Shengjie died that year, the God Binding Ring became a masterless item, and many forces coveted it. Man and resources were spent in search of it, yet until today there was no news about anyone finding it.”

Huang Xiaolong’s emotions were surging.

Snowless Mountains... Could that be the mountain range that surrounds the Enlightenment Lake of Yuwai Kingdom?

It must be!

Otherwise, it would be exceedingly difficult to explain how the God Binding Ring had appeared at the Enlightenment Lake.

Another issue that caught Huang Xiaolong's attention was his Master, Ren Wokuang. Three thousand years ago, his Master was a peak late-Eighth Order Saint realm master. Then, before Master disappeared, which was around sixty years ago, how high had his strength reached?

Could Master have reached the God Realm?!

If indeed he advanced into God Realm, then how did he die?

Someone killed him?

Who could possibly have the power to do so?

Wait! There is a possibility that Master did not die! Suddenly, this thought flashed across Huang Xiaolong's mind. All this time, he had presumed his Master Ren Wokuang was dead, what if it wasn't so? He just went somewhere? Just like the people from Asura's Gate had been saying all along, he was just missing.

"Sovereign, why did you suddenly ask about the God Binding Ring?" At this time, Yu Ming suddenly asked.

Everyone in the hall turned to look at Huang Xiaolong.

"To be honest, I have the God Binding Ring!" Facing everyone's puzzled expression, Huang Xiaolong spoke frankly. Since he asked Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, he did not plan to conceal the matter from them.

With regards to the matter about him acquiring and refining the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, he was one hundred percent certain that Yu Ming mentioned it to Zhao Shu. Since Zhao Shu knew he had the number nine Linglong Treasure Pagoda, adding one more treasure to the list wouldn't make much of a difference.

"What?!" The four people were shocked and they all immediately shot up from their seats, which of course included Fei Hou and Haotian. Both of them were in the dark and had no idea that Huang Xiaolong also successfully acquired and refined the God Binding Ring.

Before the four pairs of shocked eyes, Huang Xiaolong summoned the God Binding Ring.

Watching the golden ring that exuded an aureate glow hovering silently above Huang Xiaolong, all eyes fell on the God Binding Ring that was floating in the air.

It was as if there was an inexplicable allure coming from the aureate glow, captivating their minds.

Zhao Shu was hit with waves of emotions. A year before, when Yu Ming returned to the headquarters and reported to him regarding Huang Xiaolong, describing in detail about Huang Xiaolong's superb talent twin martial spirits and the fact that he refined the Linglong Treasure Pagoda, both he and Zhang Fu were astounded. Now, he was seeing it with his own eyes: another Heavenly Treasure, the number six God Binding Ring was owned by Huang Xiaolong!

The excitement in Zhao Shu's heart was hard to contain.

The two Heavenly Treasures on the list, number nine and number six were refined by Huang Xiaolong. On top of that, Huang Xiaolong had superb talent twin martial spirits, so his achievements in the future were hard to imagine!

"Sovereign invincible throughout!" After a long time, Zhao Shu repressed his excitement and suddenly knelt down in salute towards Huang Xiaolong.

"Sovereign invincible throughout!" Yu Ming, Fei Hou, and Haotian reacted, and followed suit, kneeling down in salute towards Huang Xiaolong, lauding the long unheard phrase.

Invincible throughout!

Huang Xiaolong looked helplessly at the four people that suddenly knelt down in salute.

"The four of you, stand up." Huang Xiaolong could only tell them to stand after the fact.

"Thanks to Sovereign!" Zhao Shu was the first one to rise, followed by Yu Ming, Fei Hou, and Haotian.

After that, Huang Xiaolong asked Zhao Shu and Yu Ming what they knew about the God Binding Ring, as well as matters related to Asura's Gate.

Zhao Shu and Yu Ming hid nothing and spoke everything they knew about what was asked.

Gaining an understanding of the information regarding the God Binding Ring and Asura's Gate, Huang Xiaolong said to Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, "Ten days later, we're setting off to Duanren Empire."

"Sovereign wants to go to the Imperial City?" Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were surprised.

At this point, Haotian interjected, "Left Custodian Zhao Shu, Master, Sovereign won the Cosmic Star Academy overall championship, so he will be heading to Duanren Empire to participate in the Imperial City Battle!"

"Participating in the Imperial City Battle?!" Both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming's eyes widened in disbelief.

Imperial City Battle of the Duanren Empire, both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming had heard a little about it. In the Star Cloud Continent where they came from, the empires also held something like a battle or competition amongst its geniuses.

But, wasn't Sovereign only seventeen this year? At seventeen, he could snatch the Academy champion title and represent the Academy in the Imperial City Battle of Duanren Empire?

"Sovereign, you already broke into the Tenth Order?" Yu Ming ventured cautiously.

In Yu Ming's opinion, for Huang Xiaolong to be the Academy overall champion, he must at least be a Tenth Order warrior.

How old was Huang Xiaolong at the moment? This young man was practically still a boy, which made it hard for Yu Ming to believe. Even Zhao Shu was looking at Huang Xiaolong suspiciously.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, "Two months ago, I advanced to peak late-Tenth Order, now, just half a step more and I will be able to break through into the Xiantian realm."

Two months ago, peak late-Tenth Order!

Only half a foot and he could break through into the Xiantian realm!

Zhao Shu and Yu Ming's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets before a sharp intake of air could be heard coming from them. A seventeen-year-old peak late-Tenth Order warrior? No, wait! Two months ago, that means, Sovereign was still sixteen, right?!

Chapter 158: Journeying to Duanren Empire

Hearing in person that Huang Xiaolong was half a step from breaking into the Xiantian realm, both Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were greatly shocked in their hearts. But then again, Huang Xiaolong did not mention that his internal force had already reached a level comparable to a Xiantian realm expert's strength. Perhaps if Zhao Shu and Yu Ming knew that the Xiantian Second Order Haotian was no longer an opponent for Huang Xiaolong and exceeded Fei Hou in strength, they would be dumbstruck like wooden chickens!

With all of that said and done, it was decided that Zhao Shu and Yu Ming would stay in Tianxuan Mansion.

Ten days later, both will be accompanying Huang Xiaolong to Duanren Empire.

During these ten days, Huang Xiaolong tasked Fei Hou with a lot of things in preparation for this journey to Duanren Empire; he wasn't sure when he would be able to return to Luo Tong Kingdom. Therefore, there were many things to prepare.

The Nine Tripod Commerce's direction and management, his parents and younger siblings' future... these things all required advanced preparation from Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong planned to settle in Duanren Empire's Imperial City in the future, and for that, the Nine Tripod Commerce's headquarters needed to be relocated as well.

After Huang Xiaolong established himself in the Duanren Empire, his plan was to bring the Huang Family over.

Ten days quickly passed.

Most of his time was spent going over the plans with Fei Hou about the preparations, as well as practicing Asura Tactics.

At the moment, there were roughly ten thousand Stage Ten beast cores inside the Asura Ring, enough to nurture Huang Xiaolong's cultivation for the next ten years.

Ten thousand Stage Ten beast cores might sound like a huge amount, but for the current financial power of Nine Tripod Commerce, this much was nothing.

The current Huang Xiaolong need not hunt for beast cores himself for cultivation.

With his crazed practicing regimen, Huang Xiaolong's battle qi enhanced on a minuscule level in these ten days.

Today was beautiful and sunny with an occasional breeze blowing.

Outside the big city gates of Luo Tong Royal City stood a group of people.

Other than the members of Huang Family, Luo Tong King's Lu Zhe and his son, Prince Lu Kai, as well as Cosmic Star Academy's Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were all present to send Huang Xiaolong off.

On this journey heading to Duanren Empire's Imperial City, Huang Xiaolong did not bring many people with him. Other than Zhao Shu and Yu Ming, there was only Fei Hou.

The four stood close to one another in a row.

Haotian was Luo Tong Kingdom's only Marshal, bearing high status and responsibility. Hence, Marshal Haotian could not journey to Duanren Empire with Huang Xiaolong. Moreover, the Luo Tong Kingdom and Tianxuan Mansion's security needed him here.

Luo Tong's King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the rest didn't recognize Zhao Shu and Yu Ming standing beside Huang Xiaolong. But Sun Zhang had seen Yu Ming before, so when he saw Yu Ming this time, Sun Zhang was surprised and he hurried forward, greeting Yu Ming respectfully: "Senior Yu Ming!"

Hearing Sun Zhang cry out the 'senior' towards the unassuming middle-aged man standing behind Huang Xiaolong, King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the others were astounded.

Sun Zhang briefly explained Yu Ming's identity to King Lu Zhe, Xiong Chu, and the rest. When they heard that Yu Ming was Marshal Haotian and Fei Hou's Master, all had the same shocked expression and hastened to greet Yu Ming. All of them were aware that Marshal Haotian's Master was someone infinitely close to the terrifying existence of the Saint realm!

Yet, when all realized Yu Ming referred to Huang Xiaolong as 'Young Lord', drops of sweat bubbled out from their foreheads, including Sun Zhang's.

There was another thing these people noticed—Yu Ming's respectful demeanor towards the other just as unassuming middle-aged man, Zhao Shu.

Marshal Haotian and Fei Hou were uneasy in front of this man, like naughty children being found guilty, fidgety.

But, this Zhao Shu also called Huang Xiaolong, Young Lord.

A short while later, Huang Xiaolong, Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, and Fei Hou moved further away on their beast mounts. Even after a long time, King Lu Zhe, Sun Zhang, Xiong Chu, and the rest were still standing in the same spot watching Huang Xiaolong's silhouette in a daze.

King Lu Zhe may have acted this way, but the impact Lu Kai felt was greater. Lu Kai stood dazedly, his mind remained as vacant as a blank sheet of paper.

Seeing neither King Lu Zhe nor anyone else making a move after what seemed like half a day, Huang Peng cautiously spoke, "Your Highness, shall we return?"

Only then did King Lu Zhe, Sun Zhang, and the others wake from their daze.

King Lu Zhe was startled at the sudden sound, and quickly covered it up, "Right, right, Brother Huang Peng, let us return."

Brother Huang Peng?

Huang Peng was also startled... but it was due to the reference. The Luo Tong Kingdom's King actually called him brother? Did he hear correctly? If this was the Huang Clan Manor in the past, Huang Peng would not even dare to dream about this, not even if it was just letting it out as a fart.

"Your Highness, I dare not. Your Highness, after you!" Huang Peng hastened to reply.

Huang Peng knew King Lu Zhe calling him brother was due to his son, Huang Xiaolong, but Huang Peng dared not assume to be brothers with the King of Luo Tong Kingdom.

Although Huang Peng courteously made way for King Lu Zhe, the King himself insisted on walking parallelly with Huang Peng, warmly holding Huang Peng's arm as they made their way into the city.

Watching King Lu Zhe holding Huang Peng's arm, neither Sun Zhang nor Xiong Chu felt it was ludicrous or funny. Instead, they were envious. And the target of their envy was not Huang Peng, but King Lu Zhe himself!

Returning to the Royal City, King Lu Zhe did not rush back to the palace, but rather decided to pay a visit to Tianxuan Mansion. In Tianxuan Mansion, King Lu Zhe chatted enthusiastically with Huang Peng for several hours before making his way back to the palace.

Personally seeing King Lu Zhe off from Tianxuan Mansion, Huang Peng felt like he was dreaming while he watched the disappearing back of the kingdom's ruler.

This person that treated him so warmly and full of enthusiasm while holding his arm caused goosebumps to rise on Huang Peng's skin. Was that really the same Luo Tong Kingdom's King Lu Zhe?

Though it was true, Huang Peng still had trouble believing it.

After returning to the palace, King Lu Zhe summoned Marshal Haotian.

Marshal Haotian entered the palace, and after discussing some matters related to the kingdom's borders and army, King Lu Zhe paused with hesitation, "Marshal, can this King ask you something regarding one matter?"

"Your Highness, please ask." Marshal Haotian said. He didn't know what King Lu Zhe wanted to ask, but he could more or less guess what it was about.

Just as Marshal Haotian expected, King Lu Zhe asked, "That... what is that Zhao Shu's identity?" King Lu Zhe was even a little nervous waiting for Marshal Haotian's answer.

"This one doesn't dare reveal Senior Zhao Shu's identity. But, I can say that Senior Zhao Shu's strength is much stronger than my Master's."

Much stronger?!

Lu Zhe was dumbstruck.

Haotian's Master, Yu Ming, was an existence infinitely close to the Saint realm. Someone much stronger than Yu Ming... didn't that mean that Zhao Shu was...? King Lu Zhe's face paled slightly. Thinking of the

possibility, he shivered and broke out in a cold sweat, nearly falling off of his dragon throne. King Lu Zhe felt his heart beating madly.

Zhao Shu was actually a- ?! He halted his own train of thought.

What about Huang Xiaolong then? What is Huang Xiaolong's true identity?! Even someone like Zhao Shu called him Young Lord!

Cold sweat dampened Lu Zhe's back. At that same time, he was immensely happy that he treated Huang Peng 'warmly', becoming 'brothers' with him. If he offended Huang Peng somehow, causing Huang Xiaolong's ire, just a simple fart from that Zhao Shu was enough to annihilate the entire Luo Tong Kingdom.

"Carry out this order: confer the rank of Grand Duke to Huang Peng, it will be a hereditary title." Lu Zhe recovered his senses, and quickly ordered the eunuch next to him: "Also, make Su Yan a First-rank Lady! [1]"

The eunuch was shocked, "Your Highness, this doesn't seem right, does it?"

In the entire Luo Tong Kingdom, there were only three Grand Dukes, and all of them were conferred during the founding of the kingdom.

Now, conferring Huang Peng with the title of Grand Duke for no rhyme or reason would cause the entire hierarchy of civil and military ministers to raise strong opposition.

But, just as the eunuch spoke, Lu Zhe's palm slapped across the eunuch's face, sending him flying.

"Are you the King, or am I the King?" Lu Zhe spat the words coldly.

Chapter 159: Passing Through Southern Cliffs City

Being struck so suddenly, the eunuch's face turned deathly pale and he quickly kowtowed again and again, begging for mercy, "This servant be damned, this servant be damned!"

Not long after that, the news of King Lu Zhe conferring Huang Peng with the title of Grand Duke spread throughout the Royal City, and the entire city boiled into commotion.

"Huang Peng? Huang Xiaolong's father? Even if Huang Xiaolong represented our Luo Tong Kingdom and won first place in Duanren Empire's Imperial City Battle, King Lu Zhe can't just confer such a high noble title as Grand Duke to Huang Peng, right?!"

"That's right. Moreover, that Huang Xiaolong has yet to win first place! Huang Xiaolong hasn't even broken through to the Xiantian realm, who's to say he will even stay alive until the end in the competition!"

"Did King Lu Zhe lose his marbles after being kicked in the head by a donkey?"

From the top of the social ladder to the very bottom, frenzied discussions took place between all of the large and small scale forces.

Even the commoners residing within the Royal City walls felt their King had gone crazy.

In the palace's main hall.

Both civil and military ministers filled the huge hall.

Marshal Haotian stood at the leading position on the military side, and standing at the same position opposite Marshal Haotian was a tall, robust old man with a full head of white hair who appeared to be in his eighties. This eighty-something year old fellow was the leader of the civilian faction, Prime Minister Wu Feng.

"Your Highness, conferring Huang Peng with the title of a Grand Duke is highly inappropriate."

Highly inappropriate!

Perhaps amongst the many numerous ministers of the kingdom, only Prime Minister Wu Feng and Marshal Haotian would dare to speak in such manner with King Lu Zhe.

"That's correct, Your Highness. Since the founding of our kingdom, only three people had the honor of being conferred with the title of a Grand Duke and each one of them performed great meritorious deeds towards the founding of the kingdom!" A civil minister stood out and said.

Following his example, more and more ministers spoke, which eventually led to most of them voicing their objections.

"Enough!" Just as another minister objected, Lu Zhe, who had been quiet the entire time suddenly stood up from his throne. One finger pointed at Wu Feng and the ministers behind him, snapping loudly in frustration, "All of you are blabbing dogfarts! Dogfarts in every word! I-am-Luo-Tong-Kingdom's King, I get to say who gets conferred as Luo Tong Kingdom's Grand Duke!"

All the ministers were struck speechless.

The palace's main hall seemed crushed by a thick silence.

Dogfart?!

The perpetually dignified and calm King Lu Zhe actually behaved like a commoner thug on the streets, cursing at them and calling their words dogfarts?

While the Luo Tong Kingdom's King was arguing about Huang Peng's Grand Duke title, Huang Xiaolong's small group of four had cut through Big Dawn County and arrived at one of Luo Tong Kingdom's borders.

On the way, Huang Xiaolong also received news that Lu Zhe wanted to confer his father, Huang Peng, with the title of a Grand Duke, but he couldn't be bothered with it. For him, whether his father had the title of Luo Tong Kingdom's Grand Duke or not was moot.

When he settled down in Duanren Empire, he planned to move the Huang Family over to the Imperial City.

Half a month later, they arrived at Luo Tong Kingdom's most southern border, Southern Cliffs City.

Arriving in Southern Cliffs City, Huang Xiaolong suddenly thought about the scene of the last Castellan of Southern Cliffs City, Wei Yang, and his concubine's death. After Wei Yang died, the new Castellan who replaced him was named Sun Qing.

Before being promoted to this post, Sun Qing was a general guarding one of the kingdom's borders. A subordinate of Marshal Haotian's subordinate's subordinate.

By the time Huang Xiaolong's group entered Southern Cliffs City, it was already late. Thus, Huang Xiaolong decided to stay in the city for one night and continue his journey the next day.

Huang Xiaolong did not bother Sun Qing with his stay in Southern Cliffs City.

The four of them simply chose a passable inn close to the Castellan Manor called Warm Fragrance and rented four rooms for the night.

The night gradually deepened.

The surrounding was quiet with most of the people asleep.

Clear moonlight shone down like rippling water.

Huang Xiaolong was meditating in his room when suddenly, a light footstep sounded from the rooftop.

Huang Xiaolong was alerted and stepped out of his room. Searching for the source of the disturbance, he detected two black-clothed men with masked faces jumping over rooftops. And with agile leaps over the walls, the two black shadows snuck into the Castellan's Manor.

When Huang Xiaolong came out of his room, Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, and Fei Hou also came out from their rooms.

"Sovereign, do we...?" Zhao Shu took a step forward and asked.

Huang Xiaolong's voice sounded solemn, "First wait and see what's going on."

At this point, the two black-clothed men that snuck into the Castellan Manor came to a stop at a certain courtyard building. Standing there, one of the men quickly removed something from the clothing overlapping his chest that looked like a tube. Positioning the tube, the man blew into it. After some time, the other man jumped into the room and exited while carrying a sack over his shoulder.

Cautiously giving the surrounding a glance, the two men bypassed the Castellan Manor's patrolling guards and leaped over the walls, carrying the sack away from the manor.

Huang Xiaolong and the rest saw the two men's actions clearly. Judging from their actions, these two men rendered the person in that room unconscious using some drug and abducted them.

"Zhao Shu, Yu Ming, the two of you wait here; Fei Hou and I are going to have a look." Huang Xiaolong said.

"But!" Zhao Shu and Yu Ming were reluctant.

"Don't worry, it's just a few small shrimps, they won't be any problem." Huang Xiaolong reassured them.

"Yes, Sovereign!" Both of them relented.

Thus, Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou leaped out, following the two men quietly from behind.

Originally, Huang Xiaolong had no interest in meddling in these affairs.

However, since these people dared to trespass into the Castellan Manor to abduct a victim, Huang Xiaolong's curiosity was piqued, wanting to see what these people were up to.

Huang Xiaolong vaguely guessed that this event wasn't as simple as it seemed on the surface.

Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou followed the two black-clothed men the entire time, and an hour later, the two men entered an abandoned, dilapidated courtyard on the northern side of Southern Cliffs City.

Inside the courtyard, six people stood waiting. Seeing these people, Huang Xiaolong immediately took notice of their sect uniform: it belonged to Big Sword Sect.

Big Sword Sect!

"Senior Brother Wei!" At this time, the two black-clothed men called out towards one of the young men, putting the sack down on the ground.

That young man asked, "Where is the person, did you bring them?" His eyes swept over the sack on the ground as he said this.

"Senior Brother Wei, don't worry, Sun Qing's daughter is right inside here." One of the black-clothed men grinned and pointed at the sack, "She will probably wake up in an hour's time."

Hearing this, the young man laughed, "Not bad." He walked towards the sack and untied the knot, revealing the pretty face of a seventeen to eighteen year old girl.

"After my father was killed, I didn't expect they would give Sun Qing, that old fellow, the chance to seize the Castellan's position. Since he doesn't know what's good for him, refusing to cooperate with our Big Sword Sect... Sun Qing, your youngest daughter is quite the beauty! Tonight, I will enjoy myself, and have a taste of your daughter." That young man laughed wretchedly, "If you refuse again, then next will be your eldest daughter!"

The other disciples were looking enviously at that young man.

Huang Xiaolong was surprised as he observed this young man some distance away. He was the son of the previous Southern Cliffs City Castellan that he killed? The son that joined Big Sword Sect, Wei Xiaodong?

On the other side, Wei Xiaodong turned towards the several Big Sword Sect disciples with him saying, "All of you leave, keep an eye out." Evidently, he was anxious to 'deal' with Sun Qing's daughter in this dilapidated courtyard.

"Yes, Senior Brother Wei!" The disciples answered.

Just as their voices ended, another voice sounded suddenly. It came about too suddenly, and Wei Xiaodong's body shuddered from being startled. Turning around, he saw a young man around seventeen to eighteen walking in their direction with a middle-aged man behind him.

Wei Xiaodong stood up quickly, and his eyes glared furiously at the two black-clothed men, "Can't you do something right for once!" The two 'guests' surely tailed these two.

The two black-clothed men cast down their heads, not daring to utter any sounds.

Chapter 160: Heavily Surrounded by Soldiers from All Directions

Wei Xiaodong observed Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou for a moment before walking up to them with several Big Sword Sect disciples behind him.

“Who are you?” Wei Xiaodong asked as he looked directly at Huang Xiaolong.

As he asked this, his eyes signaled the two men in black, and they proceeded to secure the sack and hid it from view behind them.

Huang Xiaolong noticed the two black-clothed men’s actions, but he did not mind it. Looking at Wei Xiaodong, he said, “The person who wants your life!”

The person who wants your life!

Wei Xiaodong’s heart tightened; on the surface, however, he chuckled, “I think you’re joking, right? We’re Big Sword Sect’s disciples.”

“Look at me, do I look like I’m joking with you?” Huang Xiaolong shrugged nonchalantly, “Big Sword Sect disciples are exactly the ones I want to kill.”

While Huang Xiaolong was talking, Wei Xiaodong’s hands suddenly waved out towards him, countless cold darts whistled through the air, shooting at Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou. These cold darts shone with an eerie green color underneath the moonlight. Clearly, these cold darts were coated with toxic poison.

Watching this, Huang Xiaolong sneered, and both he and Fei Hou raised a palm at the same time. With a slight push forward, a gust of violent wind deflected the cold darts, slamming them down to the ground.

Seeing this result, Wei Xiaodong paled slightly. Without a word to the several Big Sword Sect disciples, he turned around and fled.

Without missing a beat, Huang Xiaolong’s body blurred into motion and appeared right in front of Wei Xiaodong. Wei Xiaodong formed a fist and punched out, but Huang Xiaolong raised a hand and firmly grasped Wei Xiaodong’s fist in his palm, then exerted a little pressure. The crackling of bones breaking rang out and Wei Xiaodong’s scream split the quiet surrounding.

With Huang Xiaolong’s current strength, a little squeeze could crush a thousand-year-old tree, not to mention Wei Xiaodong’s fist.

Crushing the bones in Wei Xiaodong’s fist, Huang Xiaolong threw him back to the original spot he was in.

The several Big Sword Sect disciples also issued painful screams from being attacked, and in the blink of an eye all of them were ‘taken care’ of Fei Hou, including the two men in black.

The thick scent of blood filled the air, assailing the nose.

Wei Xiaodong smelled the scent of blood coming from the Big Sword Sect disciples and fear crept up his face. Ashen-faced, his backside fell to the ground, sliding across the soil, “Don’t, don’t kill me, I, I can give you anything!”

“Can give me anything?” Huang Xiaolong mocked, “What can you give me?”

Wei Xiaodong blanked.

“Beg, I beg you, please let me go, I can do whatever you want me to!” He quickly pleaded, head knocking loudly on the ground repeatedly.

Huang Xiaolong’s cold voice ridiculed him, “You’re wussier than your father.”

“My father?” Wei Xiaodong dazed for a second at the sudden mention of his father.

“It’s you!” Wei Xiaodong’s eyes widened in shock.

“I’m the one that killed your father, don’t you want to avenge your father?” Huang Xiaolong incited him.

Different emotions flickered across Wei Xiaodong’s face, but in the end, he squeezed out a smile saying, “This brother must be joking with me.”

Huang Xiaolong shook his head. Calling out the Blades of Asura, he no longer bothered to talk nonsense; both hands swung out and two icy sharp rays of blade lights slashed out. One slit across Wei Xiaodong’s throat, and the other drew blood from his eyebrows.

Wide-eyed, Wei Xiaodong tumbled to the ground with blood seeping into it.

“Sovereign, what do we do about the girl?” Fei Hou asked. A finger pointed toward the sack containing the Southern Cliffs City Castellan’s daughter.

“Bring her back first.” Huang Xiaolong said, sounding solemn.

“Yes, Sovereign!”

A while later, Huang Xiaolong and Fei Hou disappeared from the dilapidated courtyard, bringing Sun Qing’s daughter with them.

Soon, they returned to the inn with Fei Hou carrying Sun Qing’s daughter.

Seeing them come back with a girl, Zhao Shu and Yu Ming asked Fei Hou what took place. Fei Hou respectfully recounted the events to the two seniors.

At that moment, Sun Qing’s daughter regained consciousness, and when she saw four strange men in the room, she bolted up from the bed, frightened, “Who are you all? What do you want to do?!”

Huang Xiaolong looked over at Fei Hou, Fei Hou understood and briefly described the events of the night.

After Fei Hou finished, Sun Qing’s daughter relaxed a little, but she did not let go of her wariness towards Huang Xiaolong and the three men. It seemed she did not fully trust Fei Hou’s words.

“You can go back now.” Huang Xiaolong spoke.

Whether the other party believed them or not, Huang Xiaolong didn’t care, it was a moment of curiosity and coincidence, after all.

“I can go back?” Sun Lin repeated doubtfully, and then she cautiously walked to the door. Taking two steps, she looked over her shoulder at the four men before leaving.

She walked out from the room, then out of the inn, yet nothing happened, allowing her to release a sigh of relief as she hurried off.

Coming out onto the streets, she bolted back to the Castellan Manor.

At this time, people within the Castellan Manor had noticed Sun Lin's disappearance and all hell broke loose.

"Lin'er, what happened?" Sun Qing saw his daughter walking in through the entrance, his stretched nerves relaxed as he asked anxiously.

Sun Lin broke out in tears as she repeated through sobs what Fei Hou said to her father.

"Big Sword Sect!" Rage exploded in Sun Qing's eyes hearing what she said: "They think we're so weak to be bullied!"

"Castellan, I think there's a problem with those four people." At this time, the manor's steward stepped up and pointed out, "According to what the other party said, they saw two black-clothed men abduct little Miss, yet why didn't they stop them at that time? Why did they wait until little Miss was brought to an abandoned dilapidated courtyard before rescuing her?"

Sun Qing's brows furrowed deeply.

"What little Miss said came from the four people, we don't know the actual truth of what actually took place." Steward Liu Wen added: "Who knows if there were really any Big Sword Sect disciples. It is also a possibility that they were the ones that abducted little Miss and then pushed the matter onto Big Sword Sect before letting little Miss come back!"

A sharp light flickered in Sun Qing's eyes as he looked over his shoulder to a guard behind him, "Four of you go to the north side of the city, and search to see if there are any Big Sword Sect disciples' corpses; the rest of you, follow me to Warm Fragrance Inn!"

"If what they said is true, then it's fine!"

"However, if those four people truly planned all this deliberately and pushed the blame onto Big Sword Sect...!" The sharp light in Sun Qing's eyes deepened.

Not long after, the Castellan Manor guards surrounded Warm Fragrance Inn.

Nearby commoners were awakened by the ruckus.

Inside one of the rooms, Fei Hou said to Huang Xiaolong, "Sovereign was right, that Sun Qing doesn't believe we saved his daughter."

Huang Xiaolong nodded.

The fact that Sun Qing didn't believe what happened was something very normal.

"Sovereign, should this Subordinate handle the situation?" Yu Ming took a step forward, asking. If it was any other person, they would not believe it so easily as well. Huang Xiaolong waved his hand with an unperturbed manner, "No need."

Suddenly at this time, the room door was broken open, and the Castellan Manor's guards rushed inside with fierce expressions on their faces, followed by Sun Qing in the full grandeur of his Castellan robes.

When Sun Qing walked into the room, his sullen face abruptly turned blank, and it stayed blank for quite a while as he stared at Huang Xiaolong.

Two years ago, Sun Qing once followed a general to the Marshal Mansion in Luo Tong Royal City to report military matters to Marshal Haotian. At that time, he was just a low-ranked soldier, and he didn't even qualify to enter the mansion, thus he stood outside the entrance. From far away, he caught a glimpse of Huang Xiaolong. Despite that, that scene stayed clear in his memory up to this day. The respectful demeanor Marshal Haotian had for the same young man in front of him was unmistakable. After that time, he asked around and found out that young man was Huang Xiaolong.

"Huang, Young, Young Master Huang!" Sun Qing snapped back to reality with an ashen face, and his legs went soft at the knees, "It, it was Young Master Huang that saved my youngest daughter?"

He actually brought an army to encircle Huang Xiaolong? If...if Marshal Haotian got wind of this, what would be his ending? He had heard that even their Luo Tong King referred to Huang Xiaolong's father, Huang Peng, as brothers!