INVINCIBLE

Chapter 61: Eradicate the Marshal's Mansion?

The noise of arguing voices outside the storefront grew louder and Li Cheng could no longer ignore it—he finally stood up, saying "Xiaolong, Senior Fei Hou, please sit for a moment while I go out and handle the matter."

Huang Xiaolong shook his head, "We'll go out together." Since someone came to make trouble in front of the Li Family's silk shop, he was too embarrassed to sit and do nothing.

Hearing that Huang Xiaolong wanted to go out together with him, Li Cheng's heart swam with joy. Thus, the seven people stepped out of the inner main hall towards the shop's entrance.

When they came to the shop's front, they saw more than a dozen people wearing green-colored clothes smashing and throwing things belonging to the shop onto the floor.

This group of people was cursing angry words while destroying the shop's items.

"Is this what they call silk? All these are smelly cloth taken from garbage dumps, such terrible, foul smell! You dare to use this kind of smelly cloth to make our clothes, your mother, you must be tired of living!"

"Smash everything, no need to hold back!"

Some of the store workers that tried to stop these hooligans were treated with unruly punches and kicks. There were already six to seven workers groaning in pain on the floor, it seemed their injuries were not light.

"Stop! Stop your actions!" Confronted with this situation, Li Cheng yelled anxiously and had an ugly expression on his face.

The men in green clothing pretended they didn't hear him; but instead, it seemed as if they even exerted much more effort in their wanton destruction.

Li Cheng became furious, walked forward and was about to attack when suddenly, one of the green-clothed men flew towards Li Cheng with his arms spread out. His finger curled into claws aiming at Li Cheng—his atmosphere was quite strong, a late Seventh Order.

With the man coming at him out of nowhere, Li Cheng was shocked. As he raised his hand up to defend himself, a silhouette acted faster than him and used a palm to slap away the green-clothed attacker, who flew away screaming, landing on the shop floor with a bang. His body curled into a lump and from the look of it, he wouldn't survive.

The one who deflected the attack was one of the Marshal's Mansion Ninth Order guards.

The abrupt change in situation caused the other green-clothed men to pause their acts of destruction and look over in the guard's direction.

A middle-aged man, who seemed to be the leader of the group, glanced at his companion that was on the floor curling in pain, his face solemn. Then, his attention turned towards Huang Xiaolong's group.

"Who are you all? This is our Green Hawk Gang's matter, you had better mind your own business and not stick your noses into other people's problem!" The middle-aged man 'kindly' advised them in a sullen voice.

The group of men in green gathered behind the burly middle-aged man after they had stopped smashing things around the silk store.

"Green Hawk Gang!" Li Cheng's face lost its color.

Green Hawk Gang? Huang Xiaolong's eyes showed confusion and cluelessness. And at this point, a Marshal's Mansion guard stepped forward and said, "Young Master, this Green Hawk Gang in one of three biggest gangs in the Royal City. The gang leader, Jiang Wei is a Tenth Order warrior, and has good connections with some of the city's nobles."

One of three biggest gangs in the Royal City? Huang Xiaolong nodded his head, in simple terms these so-called gangs were similar to those mafia syndicates on Earth. However, since this Green Hawk Gang was said to be one of three biggest gangs, their forces didn't seem to be weak.

Huang Xiaolong looked at Li Cheng; in his opinion, the Green Hawk Gang shouldn't have any grudges with the Li Family. So, there was only one possibility: the other side got orders from someone.

"That's right, we are from the Green Hawk Gang, one of the three biggest gangs in the Royal City!" The middle-aged man declared arrogantly. His eyes moved from one face to the other and stopped on Huang Xiaolong's, glaring at him with a trace of viciousness, "Within the Royal City, not many people dare to injure our people!"

Huang Xiaolong remained aloof, "Speak, who instructed you to make trouble here?"

When the middle-aged man heard this question, his face was gloomy, "Punk, which family are you from? Your words and actions could bring annihilation to your entire family!"

This sentence wasn't just a false threat to frighten people; the families that went against the Green Hawk Gang in the Royal City didn't have happy endings.

After the middle-aged man said those threatening words, the four guards from the Marshal's Mansion behind Huang Xiaolong exchanged knowing glances and broke out in loud laughter.

Entire family's annihilation?

One such as the Green Hawk Gang wants to annihilate the Marshal's Mansion?

Even Huang Xiaolong couldn't resist shaking his head with a faint smile.

Seeing themselves being laughed at by the four guards from the Marshal's Mansion (but he didn't realize their identities), the members of the gang grew gloomier.

At this point, Huang Xiaolong turned to the four guards and said, "You guys, arrest them and find out who ordered them to make trouble here."

"Yes, Young Master!"

Hearing this, the middle-aged man's face looked ugly and was about to retreat, but it was already too late. The four guards from the Marshal's Mansion flashed from their original position and blocked their escape path—at the same time, they rained attacks on the group of green-clothed 'hawks'.

Pitiful screams sounded in the silk store.

This group of Green Hawk Gang members were mostly of the Fifth and Sixth Order strength; the middle-aged man was slightly stronger than the rest, but even he was still only a peak late-Seventh Order. How was he an opponent against the Marshal Mansion guards? In less than the time it would take to drink a cup of tea, the four guards had dealt with them, leaving them lying down on the floor.

One of the Marshal's Mansion guards, a Tenth Order Warrior named Wang Ning, stared at the middle-aged leader and a cold voice sounded, "Our Young Master asked, who gave the order for you to make trouble here?!"

The middle-aged man cried 'pei' and spat out some frothy blood, not answering the question.

Seeing this, Wang Ning sneered. His hands shaped into claws and grabbed the man's hands and gave both of them a twist, breaking the hands without mercy.

An agonizing scream came from the middle-aged man.

"If you would prefer not to have both of your legs suffer the same fate, you had better answer the question honestly." Wang Ning's cold voice sounded.

"I, I'll talk!" His face already turned deadly pale, his voice shook as he said, "More than ten days ago, a person came looking for our Green Hawk Gang's leader, and ordered him to do so, told us to come here and make trouble!"

"Ordered?" A light flickered in Huang Xiaolong's eyes. To be able to order the Green Hawk Gang's leader around, this person's identity definitely wasn't simple.

Who could this person be? Why target the Li Family?

Even the burly middle-aged man didn't know that person's identity, thus questioning him further solved nothing.

Huang Xiaolong looked at Li Cheng, and Li Cheng shook his head. He couldn't seem to figure out who his family had a grudge with that would be so bad.

"Could it be them?" Suddenly, Li Cheng's face paled and said to Huang Xiaolong, "Xiaolong, do you remember the day of my father's eightieth birthday?" As he said this, grief and resentment appeared on his face.

Eightieth birthday? Huang Xiaolong thought of the Old Patriarch Li, Li Mu's birthday banquet two years ago. The two mysterious people with poisonous snake martial spirits?

At that time, the other side sent Li Lu's elder brother, Li Feng's corpse, as a birthday gift.

Huang Xiaolong's head turned towards the Tenth Order guard, Wang Ning, asking him "Where is the Green Hawk Gang's headquarters located?" Whether or not this was ordered by those two mysterious people, things would be clearer if they asked the Green Hawk Gang's leader, Jiang Wei.

Since the Huang Clan Manor and the Li Family were old friends and this happened in front of him, he couldn't pretend not to see.

"Replying Young Master, the Green Hawk Gang's headquarters is in the south corner of the city, not far from here." Wang Ning quickly replied.

"Xiaolong, I'm going together with you!" At this time, Li Cheng recovered and stood up. The Li family had been searching for those murderers' whereabouts. Every time he thought of the way his son died, Li Cheng felt he would drown with grief.

Seeing Li Cheng's simmering anger, Huang Xiaolong nodded in agreement. He looked at Fei Hou and Wang Ning saying, "Bring him along, we're paying the Green Hawk Gang's leader a visit." A finger pointed at the burly middle-aged man on the floor.

"Yes, Young Master!" Wang Ning and the rest acknowledged respectfully

Thus, Huang Xiaolong, Li Cheng, and the others walked out of the silk store and headed towards the south side of the city, towards the Green Hawk Gang's headquarters.

Chapter 62: Poison Blood Palm

It didn't take too long for Huang Xiaolong and his group to arrive at the Green Hawk Gang's headquarters.

The Green Hawk Gang's headquarters was located on the south corner of the city so it was a little out of the way, but it covered a large area and was bigger than Xiaolong's Tianxuan Mansion by a few folds.

In front of the main entrance of the headquarters stood two huge stone hawk statues and both statues were entirely green.

But what surprised Huang Xiaolong was that there were no Green Hawk Gang members guarding the main entrance when they arrived.

One of three Royal City's biggest gang had no people guarding the headquarter's entrance! And the surrounding area was too quiet.

"As we go in, everyone be very careful." Huang Xiaolong reminded those with him.

"Yes, Young Master!" Everyone nodded—Fei Hou and the rest already noticed the strange silence in the air.

As the group neared the main entrance of the Green Hawk Gang's headquarters, Xiaolong smelled a faint trace of blood; although it was very faint, he was sure that it was blood.

As they got closer, they would occasionally come across trails of blood on the stone floor.

But despite that, there were no signs of the Green Hawk Gang's disciples, causing everyone to feel weird and creeped out.

Huang Xiaolong's brows furrowed.

Soon, they got to the main hall. An empty main hall, to be exact. But, on the golden throne center-piece was a middle-aged man with thick eyebrows wearing a hawk-patterned robe.

Xiaolong's group exchanged a look amongst themselves.

"He is the Green Hawk Gang's leader, Jiang Wei!" blurted out the Marshal Mansion guard, Wang Ning, when he saw the dead middle-aged man on the golden seat.

Huang Xiaolong quickly walked up, followed by the others behind him. Jiang Wei's corpse was sprawled on the chair and both of his eyes were shut tightly. There wasn't any breath left in him, but there was no blood or wound on his body that Xiaolong could see.

A thought flashed across his mind, and Huang Xiaolong raised his palm and hit the center of Jiang Wei's chest and the hawk-patterned robe exploded into pieces. With the robe gone, everyone saw Jiang Wei's naked chest that there was a muted green palm print. The flesh around the palm print had started to rot and numerous black-green lines spread out from the palm print towards other areas of the body.

"A very powerful poison palm strike!" All around everyone's faces were shocked.

"This should be the low-grade Earth rank battle skill, Poison Blood Palm!" Fei Hou added.

Poison Blood Palm!

Wang Ning and the three other guards swallowed loudly.

"Thirty years ago, one of our Luo Tong Kingdom's County Dukes and his entire household from top to bottom all died under this poisonous palm strike."

"Despite making all efforts to catch the killer, it was as if the murderer disappeared into thin air after that incident and has never appeared again since then. I didn't expect to come across this again now!" said Chen Yu who was another Tenth Order Marshal Mansion guard.

A County Duke was equivalent to a Huaxia province governor—a County Duke and an entire household and no less than a thousand guards were killed. The level of turmoil caused by that incident could be imagined.

A light flickered in Huang Xiaolong's pupils and the matter looked more complicated than he had thought. Jiang Wei being dead was beyond his expectation; moreover, he was killed by the Poison Blood Palm.

Could the person who killed Jiang Wei be the same one who ordered him to send disciples to make trouble at the Li Family's silk store? And is the killer one of the mysterious people that appeared during Li Mu's birthday celebration banquet?

"Young Master, how should we deal with him?" At this time, Fei Hou pointed at the middle-aged man, the leader of the group who made trouble earlier.

"Please, please, I beg you, don't kill me! Don't kill me!" The man looked uneasy, anxiously begging Huang Xiaolong for mercy.

Huang Xiaolong's sullen voice said, "Let him go."

Everyone was surprised but no one objected.

But the two Ninth Order Marshal Mansion guards said 'yes' respectfully, and released him.

"Thank you, thank you!" The Green Hawk Gang group leader was overjoyed, thanking Huang Xiaolong incessantly before fleeing away in panic.

However, the moment his figure disappeared from view, a loud wail was heard. Everyone was shocked as figures flashed out from the main hall in the next moment and found the middle-aged Green Hawk Gang man crumpled on the floor some distance away. Already dead from, the looks of it.

Xiaolong walked to the dead body and pushed away the clothes from the chest, revealing an imprint of a Poison Blood Palm strike.

Fei Hou, Wang Ning, and Chen Yu immediately scanned the area, looking alerted.

"Fei Hou, go check the surroundings!" said Huang Xiaolong as he stood up.

"Yes, Young Master!" Fei Hou said, and he leaped up to the rooftop, disappearing in a flash. A short while later, Fei Hou returned shaking his head at Huang Xiaolong and respectfully reported, "Young Master, the other party used a type of movement battle skill (similar to qi qong), and it was too fast and your subordinate was unable to catch up. In this subordinate's opinion, the other party is a peak late-Tenth Order expert!"

A peak late-Tenth Order!

Huang Xiaolong frowned, his usually clear voice sullen with disappointment, "Let us go back and talk."

Not long after they left the scene, the news about the Green Hawk Gang's leader, Jiang Wei, being killed spread with rapid speed in the Royal City, causing an uproar.

The Green Hawk Gang's leader was a Tenth Order warrior and had more than a thousand subordinates under him, yet he was killed. The topic was discussed in every corner of the city.

Night, the Tianxuan Mansion's main hall.

Huang Xiaolong was seated down as Fei Hou briefed Marshal Haotian about the details of what happened earlier in the day at the Green Hawk Gang's headquarter. And hearing it made Marshal Haotian look solemn.

"Haotian, arrange some people to protect Li Lu and Li Cheng." Huang Xiaolong said.

"Yes Sovereign, rest assured, I will make proper arrangements." Marshal Haotian answered with due respect, "This Subordinate will investigate this matter and capture the person!" Then, he hesitated for a second before continuing "Sovereign, your practice trip to the Silvermoon Forest in two days is too dangerous. Moreover, now that this kind of incident has happened; it would be best to have Fei Hou, Wang Ning, and the others to go with you!"

Despite Marshal Haotian's persuasion, Huang Xiaolong shook his head. "No need." If he ran into a Xiantian realm expert, the level of danger would be the same even with Fei Hou and the guards around. And his main purpose was to train—having them on this trip would be inconvenient.

"As for the Academy, please pass on information to Sun Zhang about my absence." He planned to train and stay in the Silvermoon Forest for five months; given that it was such a long period, of course, he needed to notify the Academy.

Marshal Haotian nodded and accepted the task.

A while later, Fei Hou and Marshal Haotian left.

Huang Xiaolong returned to his room and took out the cold jade bed. Once again, he sat cross-legged, trying to learn how to summon a single dragon martial spirit.

Time flies and two days came and went.

These past two days, Fei Hou had prepared everything that Huang Xiaolong would need in the coming five months and the sets of new clothes ordered from the Li Family's silk shop were personally delivered by Li Cheng.

In the two days' training, although he still couldn't summon his martial spirits individually, he had some headway. He believed he would succeed.

Within these two days, Li Lu came to visit Huang Xiaolong once at Tianxuan Mansion, bringing along Li Cheng. Naturally, she was depressed and sulky when she heard that Huang Xiaolong planned to go away and train in the Silvermoon Forest; however, before she left Tianxuan Mansion, Li Lu turned around and in a serious but resolute tone said to Huang Xiaolong, "Xiaolong, I will also work hard and cultivate to become a qualified wife for you!" After she made her declaration, she kissed Huang Xiaolong on the cheek.

Coming out from his room, Huang Xiaolong thought of the words Li Lu said yesterday and unconsciously, his hand rubbed the spot Li Lu kissed on his left cheek. Smiling bitterly to himself, he thought, this girl!

One hour later, Xiaolong had packed everything he needed into the Asura Ring and left Tianxuan Mansion, exiting the Royal City alone and walking towards the Silvermoon Forest.

This trip, although Fei Hou wasn't with him, he brought the little violet monkey along. With the little guy, he wouldn't feel dull and bored in the coming five months of hard training.

Chapter 63: Underground Giant Tree

Two months later, inside a cave somewhere within the Silvermoon Forest, Huang Xiaolong was sitting in a cross-legged position. Battle qi glowed in the cave for a long time when suddenly, the space behind him vibrated as a black dragon emerged, floating behind his head.

Seconds after this black dragon appeared, it disappeared with a flash and was replaced by a blue dragon. And the blue dragon also floated behind Huang Xiaolong.

Two months of persistence and hard work finally brought results! Huang Xiaolong could now summon his martial spirits individually!

That's right, a separate, individual summoning!

After two months in the forest, Xiaolong had grown stronger compared to when he left the Tianxuan Mansion, and even his aura changed. His battle qi cultivation had advanced from early-Sixth Order to the peak of the early-Sixth Order.

Moonlight shone down, resembling water, and the cave's surrounding was quiet.

In the cave, the black light and the blue light continued to flicker alternately.

About an hour later, the lights stopped flickering in the cave as Xiaolong sent his twin dragon martial spirits back into his body; his eyes opened and he stood up and walked out of the cave.

Outside the cave, in the quiet moonlit forest, he did not see the little violet monkey which made Xiaolong shake his head. This little guy surely took the opportunity to sneak out again while he was practicing.

Leaving the cave area, he jumped down while the Blades of Asura were already in his hands. His feet tapped the ground and his body leaped up— the blades in his hands swung out and blades' attacks fell downward, akin to a cluster of stars. Sometimes it was violent like an angry roaring storm, sometimes it was soft and gentle, minuscule and hard to detect by the eye.

An Asura's wail echoed and drifted in the air as if it had a mind of its own.

In the past two months, he had also focused on training the Tears of Asura and the level of power he could display had increased significantly.

With his progress and persistent training, Huang Xiaolong estimated that in six months' time he could achieve major completion for the Tears of Asura technique.

Suddenly, while Xiaolong was engrossed in training, the ground below him shook with "Hong! Hong! Hong!" sounds. Violent tremors snaked closer to his position.

Huang Xiaolong turned around and saw that some distance away, a huge thirty-meters tall gorilla was chasing a half-meter tall little monkey, and the gorilla and monkey were heading towards his direction.

The gorilla was in hot pursuit and his hands slammed down repeatedly on the ground, in an effort to smash the little monkey, but each attack was a failure. Just before the big palm would land a hit, the little monkey flashed and its figure avoided the danger of being squashed into mincemeat. This made the gorilla roar with fury.

Looking at the hilarious scene before him, Huang Xiaolong couldn't help but chuckle. This little guy!

The one being chased by the huge gorilla was the same little violet monkey that had sneaked out to play.

Every time Xiaolong focused his attention on training, the little violet monkey would run out. And every time it returned, there would be a big guy chasing behind him. This wasn't the first time the little violet monkey came back this way.

Sometimes, it really gave Huang Xiaolong a headache.

"Hoo Hoo Hoo!" From far away, the little violet monkey's eyes lit up when it spotted Xiaolong. Immediately, it quickly gestured at him, obviously saying there is work to do!

At this time, the huge gorilla launched another attack, its big palm slammed down at the little violet monkey.

"Bang!" A loud sound rang out and the spot where the little violet monkey was earlier sunk in with crushed stones scattered about, showing a huge palm shaped imprint. The little violet monkey jumped away clutching its butt; it turned and squeaked angrily at the gorilla. Just now, that big guy's attack nearly destroyed its small butt.

Huang Xiaolong shook his head while laughing at the little guy's actions; his silhouette flashed and when he reappeared he was already in midair with his blades, swinging at the huge gorilla.

Seeing that Huang Xiaolong had started to attack, the little violet monkey stopped running and attacked the gorilla together with him.

This huge gorilla was a type of beast with a body as hard as steel. Not only did it possess a great amount of strength, its body also had a high defense; its hard skin was like a layer of iron and usually sparks broke out when normal iron weapons clashed with it.

Normally, was hard to come across a Steel Gorilla—one really had to wonder where the little guy ran into it.

Luckily, this Steel Gorilla had yet to breakthrough to Grade Seven and was still a peak late-Grade Six. With Huang Xiaolong's Blades of Asura, the hard, steel-like skin was like mud and in just a few minutes, its throat was slashed by his blades.

Blood spurted out and the Steel Gorilla crashed down to the ground.

After the little violet monkey was sure the Steel Gorilla could no longer move, it ran up to the corpse and his small hands began to search for battle trophies.

It clawed open the corpse's head and fished out a beast core and its mouth opened and swallow the beast core whole.

Huang Xiaolong couldn't figure out how the little monkey could distinguish between beasts that had cores and those that didn't; in general, it was rare for demonic beasts below Grade Seven to have a beast core. However, every demonic beast the little monkey provoked was guaranteed to have condensed out a beast core.

After the beast core went into the little monkey's stomach, Huang Xiaolong walked up to the corpse. Both of his hands formed into claws and he began sucking out the blood soul qi from the Steel Gorilla's corpse— he sucked it out and the black threads were absorbed into Huang Xiaolong's meridians through the veins in his hands.

When every trace of the Steel Gorilla's blood soul qi had entered Xiaolong's body, he leaped up and clawed at a big tree twenty meters away.

Moonlight disappeared from the area as if swallowed by darkness.

Two black claw imprints appeared in the air.

"Bang!" A loud sound resounded in the darkness. The big tree twenty meters away had two half-meter long marks with a half foot depth ripped out by Huang Xiaolong. This left two black claw prints on the tree trunk and the deathly aura of ghosts around the tree, exuding a dark energy that caused the tree's leaves to gradually turn yellow and then black.

Looking at the result of the Asura Demon Claw's first style – Lament of Thousands of Demons, Huang Xiaolong nodded to himself in satisfaction.

While training in the Silvermoon Forest for the past two months, not only had he succeeded in individually summoning his martial spirits, but all his battle skills had increased in power, including the Body Metamorphose Scripture.

He wouldn't have been able to progress at such speed if he remained training in the Tianxuan Mansion or the Academy.

Suddenly, the little violet monkey beside him squeaked.

"Are you saying that in this Steel Gorilla's lair you found some treasure?" asked Huang Xiaolong when the little monkey finished gesturing. The little violet monkey nodded its head; it turned around and beckoned Huang Xiaolong to follow it as it scurried off in the direction it first appeared from when it was being chased by the Steel Gorilla.

Roughly twenty minutes later, a boy and a monkey arrived at a section of lush forest and saw the entrance of an enormous cave.

"Hoo Hoo!" Entering the giant cave, the little monkey grew even more excited and it squeaked cheerfully. It was the first to rush in with Huang Xiaolong following from behind.

As they walked into the cave, a light scent wafted towards them.

And soon the fragrant scent became stronger as they went in deeper into the cave.

Some time later, Huang Xiaolong reached a spacious underground part of the cave that looked to be about a thousand square meters large. From the ground to the ceiling was a height of about thirty meters. In this underground cave, there was a giant tree, so big that it needed seven to eight people to fully hug the tree. Branches stretched in all directions of the cave and some roots were crawling along the cave wall.

Between the dense leaves of the giant tree were little sparkling lights.

Huang Xiaolong was dazed for a moment when he saw the giant tree, and soon it was followed by a feeling of ecstasy and disbelief, "This, this is a Cycad tree?!"

A Cycad tree bore a strange fruit called cycad fruit. For those who cultivate battle qi, not only could this fruit enhance one's battle qi, it also could enhance the physical body – from strengthening all the muscles and bones, the flesh, and even the internal organs. Eating cycad fruits on a long term basis could increase the body's defense, making it become as hard as steel, just like the Steel Gorilla. Common swords or blades would find it hard to penetrate through the skin.

"Hoo Hoo Haa!" At this time, the little violet monkey dashed towards the giant tree and was already climbing up the trunk; tiny hands plucked a cycad fruit and swallowed it whole with a 'gulu' sound.

Huang Xiaolong smiled. Sometimes he wondered if the little violet monkey's nose was a dog nose, probably its nose was even better than a dog's. If not, how could it smell out treasure fruits within a hundred li?

Note:

Cycad (possible) appearance

Chapter 64: Just One Sword Strike

Huang Xiaolong arrived under the huge Cycad tree and his hands enveloped with battle qi to claw at a cycad fruit. His left hand received the falling cycad fruit, then he brought it to his mouth and bit into it.

Instantly, ambrosia nectar filled Huang Xiaolong's mouth, and when he swallowed, warm energy flowed into his veins and meridians.

He quickly sat down and ran through the Asura Tactics to refine the energy from the cycad fruit.

As he refined the cycad fruit, Sixth Order netherworld battle qi started to surge, rolling and crashing in his meridians. At the same time, Huang Xiaolong felt faint traces of the cycad fruit's spiritual energy nourishing all the muscles, bones, and internal organs of his body, strengthening them and making them firmer.

One black and one blue dragon floated around Huang Xiaolong as the netherworld spiritual aura gushed down on him.

After he had broken through to the Sixth Order, the speed at which his martial spirits devoured netherworld spiritual energy had increased once again.

The night passed.

Rays of sunlight shining down from the mountain peaks fell on Huang Xiaolong's body, warming him.

Withdrawing the twin dragons back into his body, Huang Xiaolong stopped running the Asura Tactics cultivation technique and got up. Both fists suddenly punched out at a cave wall twenty meters away and left a foot deep mark.

The cave wall shook and lose rocks tumbled down.

This result caused his eyes to light up in excitement—this cycad fruit was truly something special. Just one night of cultivation had increased his physical power significantly and when attacking, the explosive power of his muscles and tendons had become a lot stronger.

If he continued to cultivate this way, by just relying on his physical body and its explosive power, he was already a level stronger when compared with warriors of the same level.

As he lowered his hands, Huang Xiaolong looked around the cave and noticed that the little violet monkey was refining the cycad fruit's energy while seated on one of the tree's branches. The little guy was a mystery: no matter what type of beast core it swallowed, it didn't need to spend time refining

them, but when it came to wondrous fruits like the Yang Fruit and cycad fruit, it did need to spend some time to refine them.

But, if it wasn't so, the little guy would be too much of a monster.

Seeing that the little monkey was still refining the cycad fruit, Huang Xiaolong did not disturb it and he walked some distance away to a spacious spot and called out the Blades of Asura and began to hone his Tears of Asura skill.

Time slowly passed this way.

Another month passed quickly.

In the past month, Xiaolong spent most of his time practicing in the underground cave; during the day, he focused on the Asura Sword Skill and the Asura Demon Claw, but at night, he swallowed a cycad fruit and cultivated his Asura Tactics and the Body Metamorphose Scripture.

Occasionally, Xiaolong would leave the cave with the little violet monkey to hunt demonic beasts together.

Huang Xiaolong had been swallowing a cycad fruit to aid his cultivation every day and after one month of nourishment, all his body's muscles, bones, and internal organs were stronger by more than a fold compared to a month before

Furthermore, in the last couple of days with the assistance of the cycad fruit, he had finally advanced to mid-Sixth Order.

Mid-Sixth Order!

In general, people who possessed grade ten martial spirits needed to cultivate for a year to a year and a half before they could reach mid-Sixth Order from early Sixth Order. Huang Xiaolong, however, only used three months' time to advance.

In the past thirty days, there had been a little more than a hundred fruits on the cycad fruit tree, yet Huang Xialong and the little violet monkey consumed more than half of the fruits.

On this particular day, while Huang Xiaolong was sitting cross-legged under the cycad tree, cultivating, footsteps of people entering the cave could be heard.

Huang Xiaolong was alerted and he stopped practicing.

And at this point, the voices were loud enough for Huang Xiaolong to hear.

"That cycad tree really grows in this underground cave?"

"It shouldn't be wrong. According to the Treasure Mirror's indication, that cycad tree should be in this cave! The nice scent we smelled earlier is definitely the cycad fruits' fragrance!"

The group of footsteps grew closer and louder.

From the voices, the newcomers were likely to be two people.

Huang Xiaolong stood up, and the little violet monkey scurried down the tree trunk and leaped onto Huang Xiaolong's shoulder; on its little face was a wary expression as it looked in the direction of the underground cave's entrance.

Not long after, two twenty-something-year-old young men arrived.

Both men wore light black-colored clothes and on their chests were the pattern of a mystical bird, showing that both men were disciples of the same sect.

On arriving at the underground cave, both men were surprised to see Huang Xiaolong and the little violet monkey. Apparently, they didn't expect to find anybody here, not to mention a little child and a monkey.

However, when they noticed the giant tree behind Huang Xiaolong, their eyes shone brightly, filled with mad ecstasy.

"Cycad tree!"

"There really is a cycad tree in this underground cave!"

One of them of broke out in loud laughter, "Haha, Wu Gan, I've already said the Treasure Mirror was right! The cycad tree is here in this underground cave and with these cycad fruits, we will be able to breakthrough to the Seventh Order!"

"You're right and at the end of the year's outer disciples' sect competition, we will be able to get in the top three!" responded Wu Gan, the thinner and taller one as he laughed loudly.

Both of them were talking and laughing, totally ignoring Huang Xiaolong, who looked like a harmless child and the little violet monkey.

In their eyes, these cycad fruits were already theirs.

Huang Xiaolong kept silent the entire time. He watched them with interest: from their clothes, he guessed these two should be the disciples of Nine Phoenix Valley from the neighboring kingdom, the Baolong Kingdom.

The Nine Phoenix Valley was quite a powerful force in the Baolong Kingdom and could be considered as one of the kingdom's top forces.

After laughing for a while, Wu Gan and the other disciple finally stopped and turned their attention to Huang Xiaolong.

"What do we do with this kid?" Wu Gan asked, "How did he get here? Did he get separated from his family's elders and arrived here by accident?"

The other Nine Phoenix Valley disciple, Chen Yun, sneered, "Why care about how this kid came here? No matter what, this secret cannot be leaked; the cycad tree bears a hundred fruits or so every year and with these fruits, within ten years, our cultivation can reach the Eighth Order!" After he said that, he walked towards Huang Xiaolong.

Ten meters away from Huang Xiaolong, Chen Yun unsheathed his long sword as he looked at Huang Xiaolong, saying, "Kid, initially your luck wasn't bad to actually find this place, and from the looks of it, you have eaten quite a number of cycad fruits, how was the fruit's taste? Delicious? Too bad you bumped into us, and now everything here belongs to us!"

"And the only thing left for you is to die!"

The long sword in Chen Yun's hand suddenly stabbed at Huang Xiaolong's throat.

"Don't worry, with just one sword strike, you won't feel any pain!"

Just when the long sword in Chen Yun's hand was about to stab into Huang Xiaolong's throat, it stopped midway. Chen Yun's face stiffened as he looked on with disbelief: the tip of his longsword was pinched in between two fingers.

While he was still stunned, Huang Xiaolong flashed and disappeared. A cold light blade edge slashed past.

Chen Yun's body remained rigid still as both of his eyes slacked and slowly dimmed, then his body fell to the ground.

"You're right–just one sword strike, it won't be painful." Huang Xiaolong said; his expression cold.

Chen Yun's body fell to the ground and only then did blood start to seep out from his throat.

"Chen Yun!" Not far away, Wu Gan shouted when he saw his comrade tumbling to the ground. By this time, Huang Xiaolong had already started moving in his direction.

"You!" Wu Gan's expression changed for the worse; full of fear, he stepped back unconsciously. Till this very moment, he still couldn't believe that Chen Yun actually died at the hands of the ten-year-old child before him.

Like him, Chen Yun was a peak late-Sixth Order!

Chapter 65: Return to the Royal City

"Who exactly are you?" Wu Gan was frightened as he looked at the approaching Huang Xiaolong and he blurted out the question.

"Who I am is not important," said Huang Xiaolong as he kept walking closer, pressuring the other man as he moved forward with an indifferent expression. In Huang Xiaolong's opinion, who he was truly wasn't important because he and this person would not meet each other again.

Wu Gan detected the killing intent in Huang Xiaolong's words and Wu Gan abruptly turned around and his body became like the wind, already escaping towards the entrance of the cave tunnel.

But, he had just gotten there when a figure blocked his path. In front of him, a burst of a fierce aura swirled towards Wu Gan, making him retreat in fright.

Retreating to his original spot, he saw that it was actually the little monkey who had blocked his path!

Seeing the person retreat to the original spot, the little violet monkey grinned and squeaked, making Huang Xiaolong smile. This Nine Phoenix Valley disciple might not have understood what the little monkey said, but Huang Xiaolong did: the little guy was basically saying—you want to run, you must first ask, I, your Monkey Father's claws first.

Although Wu Gan can't understand the little violet monkey, the mockery in the blue pupils needed no explanation. Furious at being made fun of by a little animal, Wu Gan fully released his battle qi and summoned his martial spirit.

Huang Xiaolong was surprised; this Wu Gan's martial spirit was a toad type demonic beast, but the only difference was, this martial spirit had a tail at its end.

"What kind of martial spirit is this?"

Although Huang Xiaolong had read a lot of books relating to martial spirits in the Cosmic Star Academy, he still wasn't able to recognize this martial spirit. However, in the Martial Spirit World, martial spirits exist in countless forms and there were also many variational martial spirits such that even a Saint level warrior who had a thousand year lifespan wouldn't necessarily know either.

After summoning his martial spirit, Wu Gan suddenly swung his sword towards the little violet monkey.

"Sunset on the Long River!"

Sword rays shot forward as if sinking down into the ground and, while the sword rays looked gentle, they contained an endless murderous aura.

When the little violet monkey saw the attack, he grinned and, instead of retreating, it leaped forward and both of its sharp claws struck out. Claw prints overlapped and space fluctuated.

Huang Xiaolong stood there, he had no inclination of joining the fight. He could see that the Nine Phoenix Valley's disciple hadn't yet advanced to the Seventh Order; since he had not advanced into the Seventh Order warrior, then the little guy could handle it on its own.

And it proved to be true when a short while later, the little violet monkey's claws turned Wu Gan's chest into ribbons, blood spurting out instantly.

Looking at the claw marks on his chest, Wu Gan was shocked and angry at the same time.

Without wasting a moment, the little violet monkey rushed up again.

"Animal, you are looking for death!" Wu Gan swung his sword in anger and the sword rays looked like a rotating sun, shining brightly and forcing the little violet monkey to retreat a step back. Then, Wu Gan flashed and once again tried to escape from the cave opening. But, how could Huang Xiaolong who was watching all this at the side allow Wu Gan to run away? With a shift of his body, Huang Xiaolong was already blocking the path of the escapee.

"F*ck off!" Wu Gan roared at the top of his lungs and his sword struck out with anxiety.

Huang Xiaolong looked coldly at the other party and the Blades of Asura appeared in his palms as his icycold voice sounded, "Tears of Asura!" He leaped up and the blades slashed down.

Before Wu Gan's frightened and frantic eyes, many, many blade rays appeared and turned into a violent, thunderous rainstorm that stretched sixty meters wide and enveloped him.

Huang Xiaolong landed back on the ground and retrieved the Blades of Asura into his arms.

The rays of blade light dissipated and so did the angry thunderstorm.

Wu Gan fell to the floor, his eyes still showed emotions such as fear, despair, and dismay. From head to toe, Wu Gan was covered with blood-filled holes, which looked like it was penetrated by drops of sharp rain.

Pierced through by over a hundred holes, it was a horrible way of dying.

On the ground, from Wu Gan's body suddenly came the cry of an Asura, lasting only for a single moment before it vanished.

Watching his opponents expressions of fear, despair, and dismay, Huang Xiaolong's cold voice rang out, "Indeed, the Cycad fruit's taste was quite good, too bad you have no chance to taste it."

Wu Gan stopped moving.

The truth was, even if the two of them hadn't planned on silencing him, he still wouldn't have let them leave the place alive.

Just as both young men had said earlier, the underground cycad tree was a secret that could not be allowed to leak out.

Although a cycad fruit was incomparable to the Yang fruit Huang Xiaolong had taken years before, this still was a cycad tree that could bear more than a hundred cycad fruits every year!

This made the value of this cycad tree much higher than the Yang fruit!

With this cycad tree, in the future, Huang Xiaolong could come back here to cultivate two months every year. More importantly, with these cycad fruits, his parents, Huang Peng and Su Yan, had the possibility to advance further in their cultivation. Also, his little sister Huang Min's martial spirit was going to be awakened soon and these cycad fruits could help to lay a better foundation for her.

Of course, not to mention his little brother, Huang Xiaohai, too.

A while later, Huang Xiaolong cleaned up the area and dealt with the bodies—on the two bodies, he 'found' some gold coins, a Battle Qi Dan, and a book called the Treasure Mirror.

Flipping through the book, Huang Xiaolong found that it wasn't some cultivation technique or battle skill manual, but a book introducing a variety of the world's rare and wondrous treasures, the places they might grow, their uses and benefits.

Of course, the book just introduced and mentioned possible places these rare treasures could be found, but they were just possibilities. It still required individuals to actually go and search for it.

After he took care of the two corpses, Xiaolong picked all of the cycad fruits from the tree and placed them in the Asura Ring before leaving the underground cave with the little violet monkey and venturing deeper into the Silvermoon Forest.

More than a month had passed since the underground cave incident.

Somewhere in the Silvermoon Forest near a lake. The green water of the lake made people feel relaxed and there was a naked boy swimming in it. The boy was, of course, Huang Xiaolong.

Although only ten years old, his body was already well-proportioned and muscular. And in these four months, he had grown taller again, a little over five feet tall.

Suddenly, a little monkey head emerged from the water. The little violet monkey emerged from the water and it gave a squeak as its hands splashed water in Huang Xiaolong's direction.

Huang Xiaolong laughed wickedly, his body twirled to the side avoiding the water attack and his palm hit the water.

One man and one monkey were playing in the lake.

Half an hour later, Huang Xiaolong and the little violet monkey swam to the shore, dried up, and he put his clothes back on.

It's been more than four months, time to go back! Huang Xiaolong thought to himself— he had just enough time to rush back to the Luo Tong Kingdom's Royal City to participate in the Academy's year-end competition.

After four months of grinding in the Silvermoon Forest, Huang Xiaolong had reached peak mid-Sixth Order and could break through to the late-Sixth Order at any time.

Thus, Huang Xiaolong and the little violet monkey journeyed back in the direction of the Royal City.

Ten days later, Huang Xiaolong and the little violet monkey appeared before the Luo Tong Royal City's huge city gates. Looking at the words stating 'Luo Tong Royal City' there was an indescribable feeling in his heart.

Luo Tong Royal City, I'm back!

Passing the gates into the city, the back of one man and one monkey gradually disappeared from view.

However, Huang Xiaolong went straight to Cosmic Star Academy instead of returning to the Tianxuan Mansion.

Chapter 66: Should Be A Tie

When Huang Xiaolong arrived at the Cosmic Star Academy's main square, he ran into Li Lu.

"Xiaolong!" Li Lu had spotted Huang Xiaolong from far away. Feeling delighted, she ran into Huang Xiaolong's arms same as always and hugged him. He smiled bitterly as the square's passerby turned to look at them.

"Okay, everyone is looking," Huang Xiaolong persuaded.

Only then did Li Lu let go of him.

In the few months they had been apart, Li Lu had grown taller; her small face's features had become even more delicate and her dimples when smiling were even more mesmerizing. Intelligent and bright looking eyes showed cuteness and mischief.

Li Lu's looked down shyly from being stared at by Huang Xiaolong and a trace of a red blush appeared on her cheeks.

"Xiaolong, tomorrow is the class end year's competition so you must be careful of Jiang Teng." Seconds later, Li Lu raised her head and said to Huang Xiaolong, "After he was beaten by you last time, Jiang Teng was healed by the Principal and Vice-Principal. He has been training madly for the past few months and has advanced quickly. His current strength is already at peak late-Fourth Order!"

The peak late-Fourth Order? Huang Xiaolong was a bit surprised.

He didn't expect that little punk would break through to the peak late-Fourth Order so soon.

Suddenly, Huang Xiaolong frowned a little and his eyes squinted when he noticed Jiang Teng was heading his way with a group of students tagging behind him.

Li Lu noticed Huang Xialong's frown, she turned around and her expression changed. Immediately, she hid behind Huang Xiaolong as if she was afraid of Jiang Teng.

Watching Li Lu's reaction, Huang Xiaolong's frown grew deeper.

Stopping in front of Huang Xiaolong, Jiang Teng glanced at Li Lu hiding behind Huang Xiaolong and the corner of his mouth curled up in a cruel sneer. He looked at Huang Xiaolong saying, "I heard someone say that you're back and I didn't expect it to be true. Huang Xialong, tomorrow is the class competition and this time, I will make you feel regret, regret forever!" At this point, he pointed a finger at Li Lu and spat the words out, one by one, "At tomorrow's class competition, I want to see if you can save her like last time!"

When Jiang Teng said this, his eyes shone with a fiery fierceness, and it was obvious to everyone present how high the level of animosity Jiang Teng felt towards Huang Xiaolong.

The last time, it was on this very spot that Huang Xiaolong defeated him in the public eye, turning him from the Academy's most talented genius in a hundred years to the Academy's laughing stock.

That incident spread through the entire Royal City and was treated like a juicy piece of gossip at the dinner table.

These past five months, he lived under mocking eyes and was ridiculed every day and he hated Huang Xiaolong for it! His hate spread to everyone and everything related to Huang Xiaolong!

Every single day during these past five months he trained like a madman—everything was for defeating Huang Xiaolong in front of the Academy in the class competition, to cruelly crush Huang Xiaolong!

Looking at Jiang Teng's full of hatred face, like he (JT) wanted to swallow him (HXL) alive, Huang Xiaolong was indifferent as usual, "Tomorrow? No need to wait until tomorrow, summon your 'sick cat' martial spirit out now."

'Sick cat' martial spirit?!

The lackeys behind Jiang Teng had a look of anticipation on their faces towards a good show.

Huang Xiaolong's remark made Jiang Teng turn red with anger and a sharp, cruel light flickered across his eyes, "Good! Huang Xiaolong, since you asked for it, then there's no need to wait until tomorrow—I will cripple you now!" After he finished saying that, his battle qi's dazzling light broke out from his body and his martial spirit, the Sacred Bright Tiger, emerged.

Jiang Teng's energy aura increased exponentially – first Fourth Order, then mid-Fourth Order to late, then it reached peak late-Fourth Order. Suddenly, it surged again and reached the Fifth Order!

"Fifth Order! Isn't Jiang Teng a peak late-Fourth Order? Heavens, he actually broke through to the Fifth Order!"

"This is too horrifying! Not even half a year has passed, and he already passed the Fourth Order and advanced into the Fifth Order!"

Everyone present was shocked, including Li Lu.

The rumors around the Academy said Jiang Teng had advanced to the peak late-Fourth Order; however, not one person knew that Jiang Teng actually reached the Fifth Order!

Jiang Teng's body burst out in full blast; hearing the shocked gasps and whispers around him, his heart bloated with pride. For the end of the year's competition, to astound the whole Academy, he who had reached the peak late-Fourth Order went all out and swallowed a treasured elixir his family had kept for more than a hundred years, and forcefully broke into the Fifth Order.

"Huang Xiaolong, are you shocked that I am now a Fifth Order?" Jiang Teng stared at Huang Xiaolong and sneered, "I don't believe you can reach my level!" In normal terms, even if Huang Xiaolong possessed a grade eleven martial spirit like his, it was impossible for him to have the same achievement.

From Jiang Teng's point of view, unless Huang Xiaolong took some precious elixir like he did, at the most Huang Xiaolong would be a peak late-Fourth Order.

However, the probability of that was almost nil.

Ruthlessness flashed in Jiang Teng's eyes, "Last time, you gave me fifteen palms! This time, I will return to you thirty palms, one hundred palms!" When Jiang Teng finished saying that, he suddenly leaped out and his fist struck out aiming at Huang Xiaolong. This attack contained all the hate he had been suppressing for the last five months.

"Tiger Flame Palm!"

"Tiger King reappear!"

A huge tiger and paw print pierced through space.

Out of sight, in a corner some distance away, stood Xiong Chu and Sun Zhang. Both were surprised at the strength Jiang Teng had revealed; clearly, the two of them hadn't expected Jiang Teng to have advanced to the Fifth Order in such a short period of time. The truth was, they had gotten to the square early on, and had seen everything that happened from the beginning, but neither had the intention to interfere.

Xiong Chu sighed, feeling comforted, "Jiang Teng truly did not disappoint us. In just five months, he has come this far. At first, I thought Huang Xiaolong would secure the first place in the class competition, but now, it seems it may not be so."

Sun Zhang's eyes looked deep and said: "I have been very curious about Huang Xiaolong's martial spirit and this time, with Jiang Teng's Fifth Order strength, he could probably force Huang Xiaolong to call out his martial spirit!"

"Principal, who do you think will lose and who will win?" Xiong Chu asked out of curiosity.

Sun Zhang's voice was deep and somber, "It should be a tie."

Huang Xiaolong stood on the same spot watching the fierce paw print aiming for him— his expression was cold, but he didn't move much. A single palm pressed against the void and the Ethereal Palm already struck out towards the Tiger Flame Palm.

Jiang Teng, who was in midair when he launched the attack, felt a tyrannical, irrepressible power surge at him like a mighty wave.

"Hong!" A loud crash rang out and Jiang Teng was akin to a small pebble hitting the great waves, and his body shook and flew out frantically from the impact.

Taking advantage of the time it took Jiang Teng's body hit the ground, Huang Xiaolong's body flashed and reappeared right below Jiang Teng. Cold eyes flickered as another palm struck the falling body.

"Stop!"

Both Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu shouted at the same time; two silhouettes rushed forward with rapid speed, but it was still too late.

Another one of Huang Xiaolong's palm hit Jiang Teng squarely in the chest. And with a muffled blast sound, Jiang Teng crashed to the ground from mid-air. Tremors traveled across the square ground as spider-line cracks spread out from where Jiang Teng landed.

Like a dead dog, Jiang Teng laid on the ground, limbs twitching and his opened mouth issuing a low groaning sound.

Two people came down from the air; Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu finally arrived, and when they saw Jiang Teng lying down on like a dead dog, their expressions ashened. Hastening towards Jiang Teng, both of them quickly ran their battle qi, transferring them into Jiang Teng's body to rescue him, just like last time.

The lackeys who came with Jiang Teng and the passerby were immensely frightened by Huang Xiaolong.

Several students who were on good terms with Jiang Teng ran away in fear, not daring to stay a moment longer in the square.

After smashing Jiang Teng down to the ground with one palm, Huang Xiaolong landed and sent the other side a cold look. This time, he was heavy handed, for he wanted to let his opponent thoroughly understand the gap that exists between them. Otherwise, the other side would always find opportunities to swagger foolishly in front of him in the future.

Chapter 67: The Academy's Annual Competition Begins

To the side, Li Lu was in a daze, rooted to the spot. Her gaze fell on the twitching body smashed down by Huang Xiaolong on the ground and she didn't react for a very long time.

Huang Xiaolong was actually so strong!

In the last five months, she had been practicing diligently and thought she might have closed some of the distance between herself and Huang Xiaolong. However, she didn't imagine the gap to reach such a degree!

At this point in time, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu stopped infusing battle qi into Jiang Teng's body and got up while wiping away the sweat on their foreheads. Fortunately, they acted quickly; if Huang Xiaolong 'gave' Jiang Teng a dozen palms continuously like last time, without a doubt, Jiang Teng would truly be wasted and crippled!

The two let out bitter smiles.

At first, they thought the fight would come to a tie; but once again, things turned out like the last time!

Facing Huang Xiaolong, Jiang Teng lost in just one move!

And he lost so miserably!

Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu had complicated expressions as they faced Huang Xiaolong; the surprise this little guy gave them was a little too big, but all was well—their hearts' tolerance was strong enough to take it.

"Er, Xiaolong, your actions towards this little guy is too heavy handed every time," Sun Zhang commented while smiling at Huang Xiaolong.

Looking back at Sun Zhang, Huang Xiaolong's expression stated 'I don't really care' and said, "If there's nothing else, I'm going back." He turned around and left directly after throwing out the sentence.

Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu's mouth opened and closed, wanting to say something to Huang Xiaolong; in the end, no words would come out and they could only watch Huang Xiaolong take Li Lu away with wide eyes.

After the two small figures disappeared, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu exchanged a glance and shook their heads

When Huang Xiaolong's shadow was gone from the Academy square, in a distant corner, Xiong Meiqi slowly walked out into the light with a complicated expression on her face as she looked in the direction Huang Xiaolong took as he left.

Just like Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu, Xiong Meigi was at the Academy square early on and saw everything.

After leaving the Academy, Huang Xiaolong and Li Lu went to Tianxuan Mansion.

On the way, Li Lu finally recovered from her shock and started to chatter away with Huang Xiaolong, gossiping about the interesting events of the past five months in the Academy.

Looking at the cheerful 'chatterbox' Li Lu, he smiled. He liked to see the dimples on Li Lu's face when she smiled.

"Young Master, you have returned!" When Huang Xiaolong and Li Lu arrived at the Tianxuan Mansion, Fei Hou was going out when he saw Huang Xiaolong. Delighted, Fei Hou rushed up and greeted him.

Huang Xiaolong stepped up and patted Fei Hou's shoulder, affirming "Yes, I'm back! Let's first go inside and talk."

Coming into the main hall, the three people sat down.

After sitting down, Huang Xiaolong inquired about the progress of Tianxuan Mansion's armed forces and Fei Hou answered one by one. Fei Hou explained that he went to the slaves market a couple of times and purchased a few new slaves; so now, including Beastman Boli and the others, there was a total of sixty-eight slaves in the Tianxuan Mansion. After undergoing his training, all the slaves had acquired a certain level of foundation in the Luohan Fist supplied by Huang Xiaolong.

When Fei Hou brought these slaves back, each of them had some battle qi foundation in them, and after five months of his training, they could already use the Luohan Fist against enemies. The weakest one was on par with a Fifth Order warrior, and the strongest amongst them was Beastman Boli who could fight against a Sixth Order warrior.

Listening to Fei Hou's answers, Huang Xiaolong nodded with satisfaction at the speed of the progress.

At this time, Fei Hou hesitated a little before continuing, "Young Master, tomorrow is your Academy's class competition. I found out the strongest First Year this round is called Lu Kai. And this Lu Kai was already a peak late-Sixth Order last year and he has probably stepped into the Seventh Order by now!"

"Lu Kai?" Huang Xiaolong's brows creased into a furrow: Seventh Order?

Below the Tenth Order, there were two bottlenecks – one was the Fourth Order and the other was the Seventh Order. Once a person advanced to the Seventh Order, the exponential increase in strength was unimaginable, definitely not what a peak late-Sixth Order could rival.

If that Lu Kai really had broken through to the Seventh Order, tomorrow's First Year class competition would be somewhat troublesome.

"That's right, ah, Xiaolong, I've often heard our teacher, Xiong Meiqi, mention him. Three years ago, he was a late-Sixth Order, and he has always taken the first place at our Academy First Year's competition for the past three years. He has never lost even once; also, he's our Luo Tong Kingdom's prince!" Li Lu added after Fei Hou.

"Oh, Luo Tong Kingdom's prince?" Huang Xiaolong was a little surprised at the information.

"Yes, Young Master!" Fei Hou said, "The Luo Tong Kingdom's King, Lu Zhe, is very attentive towards this son, and I also heard the King will attend tomorrow's Academy matches."

"King Lu Zhe will come to watch the competition." Again, Huang Xiaolong was surprised; it seemed that the Luo Tong Kingdom's ruler attached great importance to this son.

"Moreover, this Lu Kai has some relation to Young Master." Fei Hou continued to elaborate, "The bet between Young Master and Zhong Yuan five months ago, does Young Master remember? If Young Master takes the first place for the First Year's competition, the Principal will expel him from the Academy. Lu Kai is *Zhong Wangfei*'s son!"

Zhong Wangfei's son!

This time, Huang Xiaolong was truly shocked.

Zhong Wangfei was Zhong Yuan's elder sister. This meant that Lu Kai was Zhong Yuan's nephew and Zhong Yuan was Lu Kai's Uncle.

Lu Kai, Huang Xiaolong repeated the name once in his heart.

Seventh Order huh? Looks like the First Year competition tomorrow will be a little more meaningful.

"Young Master, in fact, it doesn't matter even if you can't take the first spot in the First Year's competition. Young Master is still very young, only ten years old, whereas that Lu Kai is already nineteen!" Seeing Huang Xiaolong in deep thought, Fei Hou assumed Huang Xiaolong was worried about the competition tomorrow, so he spoke some words of comfort.

Sovereign's talent can be described as monstrous and was strong compared to others of the same age, but in Fei Hou's opinion, it was still too difficult for him to win against a Seventh Order warrior.

On hearing Fei Hou's words, Huang Xiaolong laughed lightly; waving his hand and changing the topic, he asked Fei Hou about his progress in the 'Liquid Thunder Arts.'

And Fei Hou answered truthfully.

"Oh right, I have something for you two." Some time later, Huang Xiaolong remembered something and took out ten pieces of cycad fruit.

"These are cycad fruit!" Staring wide-eyed at the cycad fruit in Huang Xiaolong's palm, Fei Hou exclaimed out loud in surprise. When Li Lu heard what Fei Hou said, her eyes too opened wide in surprise.

"Yes, these are cycad fruits." Huang Xiaolong smiled and said, "The little guy found it while we were training in the Silvermoon Forest."

At this moment, the little violet monkey (who was seated beside him) squeaked proudly, both tiny hands gesturing. He obviously was showing off in front of Fei Hou and Li Lu. The little violet monkey's cute actions made the three people in the hall burst out in laughter.

But, finding these cycad fruits was something that one can be proud of.

Huang Xiaolong divided the fruits and gave Fei Hou and Li Lu five each.

A short while later, Fei Hou and Li Lu left the main hall. Huang Xiaolong also left and went to his courtyard to practice the Asura Demon Claw.

Not long later, Marshal Haotian got the message that the Sovereign was back from the Silvermoon Forest and quickly went over to Tianxuan Mansion from the Marshal Mansion. Marshal Haotian also mentioned Lu Kai to Huang Xiaolong with a worried tone.

It seems not only the Academy's teachers and students, even Fei Hou and Haotian, don't believe I can get the first place ah, Huang Xiaolong thought to himself inside.

Night slowly descended.

Moonlight shone brightly over the land.

Huang Xiaolong sat cross-legged on the cold jade bed as the twin dragon martial spirits greedily devoured the netherworld spiritual energy.

One night passed peacefully just like that.

Replaced with warm sunlight, the day of Cosmic Star Academy's annual event – the day of the class and year competition had finally arrived.

Chapter 68: King Lu Zhe

On the day of competition, it was sunny and Huang Xiaolong came out from his room and saw Fei Hou waiting for him respectfully in the yard.

When Huang Xiaolong, Fei Hou, Wang Ning, and the three Marshal Mansion's guards arrived at the Academy square, a sea of people already gathered on the Academy grounds.

Because today was the Academy's annual class and year competition, the Academy's authorities had specifically allowed each student to bring their families or servants to enter the Academy and watch the competition.

Of course, each student could only bring up to five people.

Coming onto the Academy grounds, Huang Xiaolong and his group of six headed straight to the Holy Hall.

The Academy's Holy Hall was a few times bigger than the front square; even if tens of thousands of people were crammed inside, it wouldn't feel crowded at all.

"That's Huang Xiaolong!"

"He is this year's new batch student, Huang Xiaolong? I heard Jiang Teng already broke through the Fifth Order but was nearly 'wasted' by him yesterday!"

When the crowd saw Huang Xiaolong stepping into the Holy Hall, a buzz erupted amongst the people around. Huang Xiaolong, although a new student, was already famous throughout the Academy, to the point even the older students and teachers all recognized him.

Ignoring the hush-voiced discussions around him, Xiaolong came to a corner of the hall and stood with Fei Hou and the four guards.

"Xiaolong!" At this time, a pleasant and surprised voice cried out. Huang Xiaolong turned to look and saw a happy Li Lu running towards him. Huang Xiaolong smiled at Li Lu.

"I heard this time, not only the King is coming to watch the competition, Marshal Haotian is also coming!"

"Marshal Haotian is also coming? The rumor flying around is, that super-abnormal monster Huang Xiaolong is Marshal Haotian's illegitimate son, don't know if this is true or not?"

Once again, the crowd roared with this piece of news.

Listening to these people's words in his ear, Huang Xiaolong couldn't help but smile in bitterness.

Suddenly, Huang Xiaolong felt a cold, piercing stare on his body; turning around towards the source, Huang Xiaolong saw Zhong Yuan standing in a group of people.

In front of Zhong Yuan stood an imposing young man around eighteen to nineteen years old, encircled by a group of flattering students of both genders. From the looks of it, this young man should be the Prince of the Luo Tong Kingdom, Lu Kai. Also, he was the strongest First Year student according to everyone.

At this point, Lu Kai felt Huang Xiaolong's gaze and two sets of eyes met midair.

"He is Huang Xiaolong?" Lu Kai's mouth opened and asked to no one in particular.

"Yes, he is that Huang Xiaolong!" Zhong Yuan stepped up and replied immediately.

Lu Kao nodded; his expression was the same the whole time, completely unperturbed.

As time flowed, the number of people gathering in the Holy Hall became more and more, and some time later, from outside the Holy Temple sounded a loud voice announcing, "The King, the Marshal and the Principal have arrived!"

King Lu Zhe, Marshal Haotian, and Cosmic Star Academy's Principal, Sun Zhang, arrived together!

Instantly, Huang Xiaolong and everyone else in the hall turned around to look at the entrance. At the entrance, a middle-aged man wearing a light yellow dragon robe walked majestically and strode into the Holy Hall under the protection of a group of bodyguards. Without a doubt, that middle-aged man was the Luo Tong Kingdom's King, Lu Zhe, and half a step behind him was Marshal Haotian, and the Cosmic Star Academy Principal, Sun Zhang.

With King Lu Zhe's arrival, the crowd quickly saluted, and the crowd began to noisily chatter in the Holy Hall.

"Haha, everyone rise, stand up!" King Lu Zhe stepped up to the specially prepared guest of honor main platform and sat on the main seat. Marshal Haotian and Principal Sun Zhang sat on each side next to the King.

After the three 'biggest' people were seated, the rest of the nobles followed suit and sat down.

Not long after everyone had taken their seats, Sun Zhang stood up and made a short speech about the competition and the rewards. At the mention of rewards, Sun Zhang raised his voice, "Apart from the

usual rewards, the King is generous enough to add one million gold coins and a set of an early Earth grade cultivation technique for all first place winners of the Year category."

One million gold coins!

An early Earth rank cultivation technique!

The crowd broke out in an uproar, eyes hot with burning desire.

Even Huang Xiaolong was surprised. One million gold coins wasn't some spare change, and it was even coupled with an early Earth rank cultivation technique. In the Luo Tong Kingdom, this was not something that could be bought even with gold coins.

Xiaolong's eyes squinted. If he took the First Year's first place, in addition to the rewards, there was still the Earth rank battle skill that Sun Zhang promised him; then, would he be getting one Earth rank cultivation technique and one battle skill?

An Earth rank cultivation technique and battle skill were useless to him. But, it could be passed to his parents and his little brother and sister; nonetheless, learning an extra battle skill was an advantage.

"Then, let the competition begin!" Sun Zhang glanced at the crowd and finally declared.

After Sun Zhang finished his announcement, the hall fell into a brief moment of silence, and then the class competition began.

Cosmic Star Academy had a total of three class years, so the competition was held in three different places.

However, only the winner of each class was eligible to contest in the year category competition. Thus, every class of each year needed to compete.

The First Years had the most number of classes, a total of fourteen of them and Xiaolong was in the last class, the fourteenth class.

In the class level competition, not all the class students would battle it out. Instead, the class teacher would nominate the strongest two people to compete, and the winner was considered as number one. Of course, if there was someone who disagreed with this, they could also challenge the winner.

In Class Fourteen of the First Years, undeniably, the two strongest people would be Huang Xiaolong and Jiang Teng. But, yesterday Jiang Teng was almost crippled by Huang Xiaolong; from the injuries, without ten days to half a month's rest, it would be hard for Jiang Teng to get out from the bed. So, left with no choice, Xiong Meiqi could only nominate Huang Xiaolong and another student called Chen Tong...

However, this student called Chen Tong just recently advanced into the Fourth Order. The moment Chen Tong walked up to the stage, he immediately threw in the towel. This result stunned everyone speechless, but no one found it surprising. Even Jiang Teng who possesses a grade eleven martial spirit and broke through to the Fifth Order was nearly wasted by Huang Xiaolong, not to mention a new Fourth Order Chen Tong?

Chen Tong's concession was considered a smart move on his part, knowing one's limitations.

With Chen Tong's action, no one else in Class Fourteen dared to challenge Huang Xiaolong. Thus, by default, he became the class winner without moving a finger.

When Xiong Meiqi announced Huang Xiaolong's victory, her face was full of complex emotions as she looked at Huang Xiaolong standing up on the stage.

While Class Fourteen's winner was already announced, the other thirteen classes were still in progress; therefore, when Xiong Meiqi made the announcement, everyone exclaimed in surprised gasps.

On the honored guests' platform, King Lu Zhe also noticed the situation around Class Fourteen's stage; watching Huang Xiaolong, King Lu Zhe said to Marshal Haotian, "He is Huang Xiaolong? A young hero in the making, ah; Haotian, during our time, when we were ten or so, we were just a Fourth Order warrior right?"

Marshal Haotian laughed and said, "It is so, King."

Lu Zhe nodded and looked the other way where his son, Lu Kai, was. His eyes showed a spoiled love and he smiled, "I heard some say Huang Xiaolong had a bet with Zhong Yuan, wanting to get the first place in the year competition. Later, probably he will come against Kai'er."

Although Lu Zhe spoke in such a manner, his demeanor was relaxed; apparently, he did not believe Huang Xiaolong was his son's rival to fight for the first place. After the class competition, the contestants for the year competition would draw lots to determine their next opponent. One after another, till the end, the year category winner would come out and in Lu Zhe's opinion, Huang Xiaolong would be eliminated halfway, having no opportunity to play against his son.

Noticing King Lu Zhe's smile, Marshal Haotian already saw through his thoughts; smiling, Marshal Haotian did not say anything.

A while later, all fourteen classes from the First Year category had been determined with their representative winner. Then, the next event would be the fight for the First Year champion.

Chapter 69: Not Necessarily

"Now, the class competition winners please step up and draw a stick!" Vice-principal Xiong Chu announced up on the stage.

Huang Xiaolong, Lu Kai, and twelve others walked up to draw sticks.

Huang Xiaolong picked the stick labeled number four.

Number four, Huang Xiaolong's opponent was the winner from Class Four, a student called Yang Mingwei. Yang Mingwei was seventeen years old and entered the Academy eight years earlier than Huang Xiaolong. During those eight years, he already reached late-Sixth Order.

Late-Sixth Order!

Li Lu's face turned a little white when she saw that Xiaolong actually drew the stick with the number four.

"Xiaolong, why don't you..." Feeling worried, Li Lu doesn't know what to say.

"It's alright." Huang Xiaolong smiled at Li Lu; he knew what Li Lu wanted to say, but couldn't articulate.

Walking up the stage, Huang Xiaolong and Yang Mingwei came up to each other, face to face.

Yang Mingwei had very fair skin and facial features which were considered handsome; staring at Huang Xiaolong, he laughed and said, "Huang Xiaolong is it? I didn't expect my first opponent would be you. I heard yesterday you defeated Jiang Teng who broke through Fifth Order, and almost injured him to the point of being crippled! However, the current you is still not my opponent, it's better if you give up voluntarily."

"Is it?" Huang Xiaolong was unaffected by the words; he could tell this Yang Mingwei did not have the intention to mock him, he said those words out of 'kindness' to persuade him to throw in the towel.

"Make your move." Huang Xiaolong looked at the opponent and finally spoke.

Yang Mingwei was stunned for a second at Huang Xiaolong's words and shook his head, "Since your heart doesn't want to give up, then you'd better be careful!" A bright, dazzling light broke out from his entire body after he was done talking. With a flash, Yang Mingwei was already standing in front of Huang Xiaolong and his fist punched directly at Huang Xiaolong's chest.

Seeing this, Huang Xiaolong lifted his hands and stuck out a Luohan Fist move.

"Hong!" sounded as Yang Mingwei shook and retreated a few steps back, before managing to steady himself.

The crowd was sent into a daze.

"You, a Sixth Order? How is this possible?!" Yang Mingwei found it hard to accept as he looked at Huang Xiaolong. Shaking the right arm that had just clashed with Huang Xiaolong's fist, it was still trembling and becoming numb.

After everyone recovered, they sucked in a breath of cold air and a frenzy swept through the crowd.

"This Huang Xiaolong, he actually already reached the Sixth Order! How old is he?!"

"Even Yang Mingwei was pushed back!"

"What a monster, this is too terrifying!"

Even on the main platform, King Lu Zhe, Principal Sun Zhang, Vice-Principal Xiong Chu, and the others' eyes almost protruded out.

Unbelievable, especially Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu were shocked agape, looking extremely dramatic and funny.

Yesterday in the front square, it already shocked Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu greatly when Huang Xiaolong defeated Jiang Teng before their eyes; they thought Huang Xiaolong was probably a late-Fifth Order warrior, or at most a peak late-Fifth Order, but now, even a Sixth Order warrior, Yang Mingwei, was pushed back by Huang Xiaolong!

What kind of thing was this?

After the feelings of shock passed, Sun Zhang and Xiong Chu's body trembled with excitement; in their hearts, they had to tamp down their impulse to rush up towards Huang Xiaolong and embrace him.

While everyone outside of the stage was in shock, Huang Xiaolong looked at Yang Mingwei, saying "Use all your strength." Huang Xiaolong could tell Yang Mingwei held back on the first attack. Otherwise, he couldn't have pushed back against Yang Mingwei that easily.

Yang Mingwei stared at Huang Xiaolong; the earlier contempt disappeared completely and was replaced with a somber expression. The one attack just now knocked him awake and Huang Xiaolong was qualified enough to be his opponent.

"Okay, I take back my words." Yang Mingwei said, "You are qualified to be my opponent. Huang Xiaolong, I will use all my strength and ability to battle you, and I also hope that you will do the same in this fight!"

Finishing his declaration, a brighter and more dazzling light burst out from his body compared to the first time. Behind him, the silhouette of a man emerged—a gigantic man wearing battle armor sitting in a lotus position.

This was Yang Mingwei's martial spirit!

A man!

To be more exact, it was an ancient race!

Yang Mingwei's martial spirit was a type of ancient race martial spirit, the Immoveable Bright King Tribe. According to legend, in ancient times, the Ancient God Clan abandoned many of the other living races and the Immoveable Bright King Race was one of them.

It was a race type martial spirit, and in general, race type martial spirits were considered as high grade martial spirits.

In fact, Yang Mingwei's Immoveable Bright King martial spirit was a top grade ten martial spirit.

But obviously the fourteen classes' first place student possesses a top grade ten martial spirit; without such a level of talent, taking first place was an impossible task.

Summoning his martial spirit out, a golden ring appeared behind Yang Mingwei and with a flash, a fist shot out at Huang Xiaolong.

With the incoming attack, Huang Xiaolong's body blurred away and his fist punched out, meeting the other fist straight on.

Battle qi surged causing the space to contort.

Once again, Yang Mingwei was pushed back by Huang Xiaolong.

Seeing this result, the crowd was shocked.

The person who possessed the Immoveable Bright King martial spirit, after calling it out has an unimaginable physical strength and defense, a level higher than another same order warrior. However,

Huang Xiaolong still could push Yang Mingwei back: does this mean Huang Xiaolong's physical body was stronger than Yang Mingwei? Also, even now, Huang Xiaolong has yet to call out his martial spirit.

After his attack made Yang Mingwei retreat, Huang Xiaolong's body flashed again, appearing before Yang Mingwei and a palm struck against his chest.

"Immoveable Bright King Golden Ring!" At the same time Huang Xiaolong's palm met Yang Mingwei's chest, a sharp edge flickered across Yang Mingwei's eyes as the golden ring behind him enveloped his entire body, rotating nonstop to create a defense circle. When Huang Xiaolong hit the golden circle, it felt like his palm hit on an iron wall.

"You won't be able to penetrate my defense circle!" Yang Mingwei looked at Huang Xiaolong and said, "Only the Seventh Order and above can break open my golden ring!"

Immoveable Bright King Golden Ring!

This was the ability of Yang Mingwei's martial spirit after evolving from breaking through the Fourth Order.

Casting the Immoveable Bright King Golden Ring, only an enemy of the Seventh Order or higher can break his defense.

"Can't penetrate your defense?" Huang Xiaolong was indifferent as usual. "Not necessarily!" Then, the palm on Yang Mingwei's chest suddenly pressed down and a seemingly gentle energy seeped into the golden ring and into Yang Mingwei's body.

Eyes wide in shock, Yang Mingwei trembled and fumbled backward till the end of the stage before coming to a stop. Blood spilled down from the corner of his lips.

The crowd was in an uproar seeing this scene.

"You, what kind of battle qi is that, to break through my Immoveable Bright King Golden Ring's defense!" Yang Mingwei questioned, finding it hard to believe such a thing happened.

This was the scary point of the Ethereal Palm; even across walls, the Ethereal Palm's attack could still reach the other side of the wall without a problem.

Huang Xiaolong didn't bother to answer and, in a flash, he once again appeared in front of Yang Mingwei and a second palm shot out. Shocked, Yang Mingwei was too late when he thought of dodging; the palm struck the target and Yang Mingwei fell out of the stage.

Yang Mingwei lost!

Eyes fell on Yang Mingwei and the crowd was unable to react for a long time. Moments later, confusion swept all four directions of the stage – Yang Mingwei was defeated! Moreover, it looked like Huang Xiaolong won easily without exerting much effort. He didn't even call out his martial spirit.

Chapter 70: Unwilling To Throw In The Towel Without A Fight

Yang Mingwei stood below the stage for a long time, not moving. Not even the commotion amongst the crowd could attract his attention as he stared blankly at the Immoveable Bright King Golden Ring on his body.

The Golden Ring that he was extremely confident in was so useless before Huang Xiaolong.

Until this moment, he still couldn't accept this fact.

Yang Mingwei's expression was like the dark, cloudy sky.

"This round, Huang Xiaolong wins!" Yang Mingwei regained his senses when the presiding teacher announced the result. With a complicated face, he looked at Huang Xiaolong and said, "I admit I lost this time; next year's competition, however, I definitely will defeat you!"

"Next year?" Huang Xiaolong repeated the words nonchalantly and shook his head.

Base on his cultivation speed, by the end of next year, he probably would have broken through to the Seventh Order. And at that point, he would be advancing to the Second Year Class. So, when next year's competition is held, if Yang Mingwei remained in the First Year class, he would have no opportunity to battle against Huang Xiaolong.

Seeing Huang Xiaolong shake his head, Yang Mingwei misunderstood his meaning, thinking that Huang Xiaolong felt too much disdain to battle him again.

"Huang Xiaolong, what do you mean?" Yang Mingwei was angered.

Huang Xiaolong turned around and walked down from the stage, "We'll talk if you manage to enter the Second Year class next year."

Yang Mingwei was stunned by the reply as he stared at Huang Xiaolong's back.

Advance to the Second Year class next year?!

Huang Xiaolong's words meant...? Both of Yang Mingwei's eyes widened in shock when he realized the meaning behind them.

On the guest platform, King Lu Zhe was watching Huang Xiaolong and laughing lightly he said to Marshal Haotian "Didn't expect Huang Xiaolong to reach this level of strength! Truly out of my expectations."

"Yes, this one feels the same," Marshal Haotian smiled and agreed amiably. He knew Sovereign had broken through to the Sixth Order, but the strength Huang Xiaolong had displayed earlier still surprised him.

Initially, he had thought even if the Sovereign managed to win, it would be after a difficult and intensive battle, but in reality, it was the opposite.

Honestly, the ease which Xiaolong defeated Yang Mingwei also startled Fei Hou a little.

Not long after Huang Xiaolong defeated Yang Mingwei, the battle results from the other seven stages with the First Year battles also came in.

Since the next round had seven students, an odd number, one of the students was exempted and directly eligible for the next round's competition. This spot, however, wasn't determined by drawing sticks but was decided by the Vice-Principal, Xiong Chu.

And the one Xiong Chu picked was Lu Kai.

Lu Kai was widely recognized by the students and teachers as the Academy First Year's number one person, so there was no objection from the crowd about Xiong Chu's decision. And like that, Lu Kai proceeded to the next round's competition smoothly.

For next round opponent, Huang Xiaolong drew the number six stick.

Number six was First Year Class Six's Hu Dong, and his strength was weaker compared to the previous Yang Mingwei – a peak mid-Sixth Order. Thus, there was no suspense to the battle and the same scene repeated itself. Huang Xiaolong defeated Hu Dong effortlessly.

Standing below the stage, Lu Kai quietly watched Huang Xiaolong's and Hu Dong's battle, his face not showing any of his thoughts.

The truth was he was calm on the surface, but in his heart, waves of shock hit him, just like everyone else present.

At first, his thoughts were similar to his father's; Huang Xiaolong wouldn't have the opportunity to battle against him and would very likely be eliminated halfway through the process. In reality, not even Yang Mingwei is Huang Xiaolong's opponent.

Deep in his heart, Lu Kai felt tangled. Between the many princes in the Luo Tong Kingdom, without a doubt, he possessed the highest talent of all of them; thus, he was the most loved by his father. Despite that, the talent that he was so proud of crumbled to nothing when compared to Huang Xiaolong's.

On the other hand, Zhong Yuan who was standing behind Lu Kai, his facial expressions became twisted watching Huang Xiaolong defeat Yang Mingwei and Hu Dong like it was nothing.

A short while later, the second round of the First Year's competition had ended. Huang Xiaolong and two other students successfully entered into the third competition.

It was unknown whether it was done intentionally or not, but the stick Huang Xiaolong drew was number three: a Class Three student called Chen Qiang. Once again, Huang Xiaolong did not meet with Lu Kai.

However, Chen Qiang's strength was recognized by the collective First Years, and he was the number two student after Lu Kai, a peak late-Sixth Order. Like Yang Mingwei, Chen Qiang also possessed a top grade ten beast type martial spirit, the Longarm Water Ape.

Although Chen Qiang was much stronger than Yang Mingwei, he ended up losing to Huang Xiaolong like the previous opponents, without releasing his martial spirit even once.

Seeing Chen Qiang lose to Huang Xiaolong, the people around the stage were stupefied.

In the end, it came down to the final round between Lu Kai and Huang Xiaolong battling for the first place spot amongst the First Year!

No one imagined that it would come to this; it would be Huang Xiaolong who would be the competition for Lu Kai to grab the title. Prior to this day, the new and older students had talked about this, and everyone agreed at that time that it would be Chen Qiang up on that stage against Lu Kai.

But now, it was the new student, Huang Xiaolong, standing there instead.

Two people stood on the stage, sizing each other up. Both were quiet and neither spoke.

Below the stage, silhouettes tensed up as silence filled the place.

Li Lu fixed her stare on Huang Xiaolong and Lu Kai on the stage and her small hands clenched nervously, a layer of thin sweat on her palm.

"You surprised me." At long last, Lu Kai spoke and cut through the thick silence. "But, you should realize you cannot win over me! Just give up and throw in the towel!"

Hearing Lu Kai's words, Huang Xiaolong calmly retorted, "Just now, Yang Mingwei said the same thing to me."

In the end, Yang Mingwei lost miserably!

Lu Kai heard the hidden meaning of Huang Xiaolong's words and did not get angry; instead, he smiled faintly saying, "However, I'm not Yang Mingwei!" And his battle qi broke out in full force, without holding back. An energy stronger than both Yang Mingwei's and Chen Qiang's swept out from Lu Kai's body.

"Seventh Order! Prince Lu Kai really did break through to the Seventh Order!"

"Based on Prince Lu Kai's strength, the First Year competition's first place is already in his hands. How can Huang Xiaolong win against Prince Lu Kai in this situation?!"

"If it was me seeing Prince Lu Kai's Seventh Order strength, I would have already raised my hands in surrender! This Huang Xiaolong actually dares to stand on the stage— too overconfident. Stubborn persistence to save face!"

Below the stage, a flurry of discussions was taking place.

Of course, those jealous of Huang Xiaolong couldn't resist ridiculing Huang Xiaolong, their voices full of sarcasm.

Huang Xiaolong's expression remained the same as those ugly words entered his ears, looking at Lu Kai on the opposite side: Seventh Order? This was within Huang Xiaolong's expectations so Lu Kai revealing his Seventh Order strength came as no surprise.

"How is it? Do you still want to fight?" Lu Kai looked at Huang Xiaolong.

"Make your move." Huang Xiaolong's calm voice sounded, unhurried.

Lu Kai didn't expect to get such an answer and was taken aback; knowing that he was a Seventh Order, Huang Xiaolong still dared to fight him? He knew Huang Xiaolong was indeed strong, but he and everyone present can see that he's just a peak late-Sixth Order.

The Seventh Order was a dividing line. No matter how strong a Sixth Order warrior is, it's impossible for them to win against a Seventh Order. This was a well-established fact.

Could this Huang Xiaolong want to use his Sixth Order strength to smash this fact?

Lu Kai stared at Huang Xiaolong and nodded his head seconds later, "Since you're unwilling to give up, then I will personally make you." After he said that, Lu Kai released the martial spirit from his body.