

Forty Millenniums of Cultivation

Chapter 31: I'm No Salted Fish!

Geoffrey_, Lacent

Li Yao cried out deep in his heart, "this is bad". Internally, he asked himself how could he ever take the cruel tempering training of an ancient cultivator guild from 40,000 years ago to be the norm.

He had to keep in mind that in the dream of grandeur, the hundred smelting guild had several hundred low-level workers who were unable to endure the torment and died, crossing over to the afterlife.

The Hundred Smelting Guild was one of the more lenient and benevolent among the major ancient guilds. Several thousands of people would die each year if it were one of the harsher guilds. The Hundred Smelting Guild's training could be considered a trifling matter.

Needless to say, in regards to the demonic cultivator guilds, the creation of each strong individual came with it, the sacrifice of ten-thousand weaklings.

The Ancient Cultivation Civilization was this ruthless.

"Hic. Teacher Sun, I took a good look at it again. Your infernal special training program of death truly comes from the depths of hell. It's super deadly and super terrifying~ I'm so scared that I won't be able to finish it!" Li Yao spoke tongue in cheek.

As an old man, Sun Biao was very much experienced. How could he not see that Li Yao was putting on a show? He was agitated into rage. With a sneer, he said, "Okay, kid. No need to shoot off talking big. Change into training clothes. First, try it out by doing 10 sets of squats."

Sun Biao got up. He felt out a set of training clothes that had an utterly old-fashioned design from the dust-packed corner of the cultivation field. He tossed it over towards Li Yao.

"Squats? My favorite!" Li Yao warmed up for a bit. He took off his school uniform, changing it for the dust-smelling, old-fashioned training clothes. His eyes gave off a glow as he giggled and spoke.

His current strength was bizarre and astonishing, so what he was least fearful of was squats, bench, and other strength training exercises. In just a moment, when he shows his maximum strength, he will certainly cause the old fogey to have eyes bulging from their sockets!

He walked up to the rusted squat rack and thought for a moment. He flung out two iron plates from the mound of Olympic plates and ferociously pounded them onto the bar.

The squatting weight was... 300 kg!

"Indeed, 200kg of weight is too light. It wouldn't have any effect on tempering my body. I often use 300 kg as a warm up so I'm used to it. It won't be a problem right, Teacher Sun?" Li Yao clashed a light laugh with Sun Biao, exposing his snow-white teeth.

"Of course, it's fine. I'm just scared that you might regret it later~" Sun Biao also gave a laugh, exposing tawny teeth.

"It's no more than 300 kg. Twenty sets can be done by a single breath. What's there to regret from?" Li Yao spat some saliva into his palms and rubbed his hands together to a burning hot state. He grabbed the bar with a death grip and lifted it onto his solid traps. Suddenly, power was sent through his pair of feet as he lifted the weight up. Then...

He felt his body tighten up. The training clothes, which were originally loose, seemed to awaken with a life of its own, suddenly contracting and transforming into a layer of tenacious leather. It bound him completely!

At the same time, an absolutely powerful bizarre strength exploded down, like a giant mountain striking down and smashing his skull. Suddenly, he was smashed to the ground!

"I forgot to mention, small bastard. This set of training clothes was an artifact that I used for training a dozen years ago. I call it 'Give Up'. It possesses many magical abilities. The first of which is the ability to create a gravitational field. Wearing these clothes is like wearing a several hundred pound set of armor. Let's see, right now you're bearing 200 kilograms of weight on your body!" laughed Sun Biao nastily.

200 kg of weight. Plus the 300 kg of weight on the barbell. That's a total of half a ton. Li Yao was not prepared for that weight. Of course, he was firmly squashed.

"How despicable. But, five... five hundred kilograms is still nothing special!"

Li Yao was smashed into seeing stars. He gritted his teeth unwaveringly. He braced his hands tightly and veins, thick and solid, popped out on his arms. The bones in his entire body creaked randomly as he stiffly straightened his back. He grasped the barbell once again, spread his feet apart, lowered his hips, and got up with complete stability.

One repetition of the standard squat... was completed!

With a total weight of... 500 kg!

In the dream of grandeur, I had to endure several dozen years under the Titan. His methods were crueler than yours by a hundredfold, you dying old geezer. You think this is hard enough to stop me? You're dreaming!" cried Li Yao in his heart. He once again squatted down to a deep position to prepare for his second rep.

Suddenly, it was like a bolt of lightning hacked into his soul. Li Yao felt that all 720 acupoints in his body simultaneously conducted with a strong current of electricity. The shock caused his hair to puff up and his eyes to go white. With a blood-curdling shriek, he fell once more to the ground. The barbell slammed heavily into the squat rack with a "Bang!", causing rust to randomly explode off and dust to fly into the air.

"The second ability of 'Give Up' is the ability to produce a powerful electric current. It has short intervals of 3-5 seconds and long intervals of 2 minutes per shock, bombarding against your body's acupoints. It will stimulate your cells into becoming stronger and purify your body and mind so it can be reborn completely. Tsk tsk tsk tsk. This is a cultivation treasure that anyone would dream of using! The only thing is the small bit of minor pain that comes with it. You can still handle it, right?" Sun Biao was beaming with smiles as he asked.

"You, you're joking! Of... of course, I can handle this!" Li Yao's lips were bitten into a bloody mess. He lay on the ground, panting for breath for a long time before he was able to crawl back up with utter difficulty. His right hand was shaking and trembling. He felt for the barbell with a difficulty incomparable.

His fingers hadn't even touched the barbell when the assault of an unbearable pain came striking once more! This time, the pain wasn't that of a strong electric current but that of extreme heat!

It was like his entire body was tossed into a volcano. He was struggling in the incomparably hot magma, causing his skin to be roasted and his blood to flow at racing speeds as boiling molten iron!

Then in the next second, the scorching heat suddenly dissipated. In its place was bone-penetrating freezing chill that practically caused even his brains to freeze into an ice cube. He was completely unable to take a breath or think a thought!

He felt the blazing heat and the freezing cold alternate three times before it gradually faded away. Before Li Yao could even screech miserably, an electric current attacked his acupoints once more. It tore through his body, causing him to twitch involuntarily!

"This is the final magical ability of 'Give Up'. It produces an illusionary attack of a blazing heat and a freezing cold every minute. Be at ease. This targets the deepest and most mysterious part of your mind — it's all an illusion. It won't cause harm to a single hair on your body. Instead, it tempers your mental strength by breaking open the depths of your mind. If one day you become a cultivator, it can also allow you to absorb greater

amounts of spiritual energy, increasing your cultivation speed by many factors over other people.”

A trace of disappointment flashed on the old fogey's face when he looked at Li Yao's painful appearance of rolling all over the floor. The old fogey laughed to himself and yawned. He said lazily, “Okay~ I've had my fun. Go ahead and change clothes. These clothes weren't prepared just for you. All you need to say the three words 'I give up' and it will automatically remove itself from you. It won't torment you any longer.”

“Give up?”

Li Yao lied on the ground for a long time. He breathed and breathed, gasping like whale stranded ashore.

At last, he got up inch by inch, like a rusted metal puppet. With extreme difficulty, he placed the barbell on his shoulders, stiffly raising 200 kg of weight. The high electric current and the illusionary blazing heat struck! He exploded out with his second squat rep!

“That's two!” Li Yao howled out like a beast from the depths of his throat.

He had sounded this battle howl quite frequently in the depths of the Artifact Graveyard.

Sun Biao went “Yi?” in surprise. A trace of shock flashed from within his eyes. Immediately, he sneered, “You only did two reps. One set has exactly 10 whole reps!”

“THR... THREE!” Li Yao's teeth were clenched, The sound of rusted metal against metal filled the spacious training room.

Four! Five! Six! Seven! Eight! Nine! Ten!

A whole 10 reps of squats while wearing this bizarre clothing “Give Up” caused Li Yao to use up the last of his strength. He pushed out 10 reps of squat with perfect form without a trace of slack!

“I... I did it!” Li Yao's head was dizzy and his vision was faded. His pair of ears rang with tinnitus and blood rushed wildly from his entire body to his brain. His heart was beating incomparably violently, seeming to practically rip open his chest and leap out.

He lay sprawled under the squat rack, unable to get his body to make a single movement. He stared blankly at the dazzling crystal essence lights on the ceiling. He felt unable to control even a single finger.

Sun Biao's figure emerged in the edge of his vision with a face of amazement that could not be concealed. The old fogey spoke with a sound that contained some shivering, “Kid, you're good, right?”

“I, I’m good. I just need to rest for a bit. I still need to do... 9 sets!” Li Yao’s mouth hooked into a smile as he laughed with a laugh that was uglier than crying.

Sun Biao was silent for a moment. He shook his head as he said, “Kid, just give up. I’ve already said that these clothes weren’t meant for ordinary people to use. You can’t possibly wear it and complete 10 sets of squats... There’s still 90 reps to go! Come on then, say ‘I give up’ and have the clothes removed.”

Li Yao swept his gaze across Sun Biao, and he stared once more at the dazzling lights on the ceiling.

Under the refraction of his tears and sweat, those lights turned incomparably bright.

He suddenly realized why the name of this artifact was ‘Give Up’.

It’s because its greatest ability was not the ability to produce a gravitational field of several hundred kilograms, nor its intense electric current assault, nor the blazing heat or freezing cold mental illusions.

Actually, it was pretty simple, ordinary, and easy, stemming from the three words “I Give Up”.

All it would take is for Li Yao’s lips to touch and use the lightest of lightest sounds to say the three words, “I. Give. Up.” to be able to remove this set of training clothes. He would escape from the weight, from the electric current, and from the illusionary mental inhuman persecution. And...

He would lose the courage to wear this set of clothes — for all eternity.

Will... he give up?

The first set of squats had already depleted all the strength in his body. Every strand of muscle, every sliver of vein, every cell in his body was squeezed dry. He felt that he lacked the strength to even go take a piss.

He still had nine sets to go. A whole entire 90 reps of squats. He would have to endure through an onslaught of bearing 200kgs, electric assaults, and illusionary mental attacks. He would have to raise the 300 kg barbell and continuously squat down, get up, and straighten his back.

For a whole 90 reps.

This ought to be fundamentally impossible, right? Even if he grits his teeth and use all of his strength to complete the two sets with all his might, three sets, four sets, five sets, sixth sets, seven sets, eight sets. Any moment during those sets, he could completely collapse, forcing him to say the three words “I give up”.

And so since this is the case, why doesn't he just give up now?

It's so easy. All he would need to do is touch his lips together, with a light vibration of his vocal cords, and with a slight opening of his mouth. I. Give. Up. And half a second later, he would be free and relaxed.

"I... Give..." looking at the dazzling lights on the ceiling, Li Yao spoke each word softly.

But within the dazzling lights emerged forth a string of dazzling memories.

"These clothes... weren't meant for ordinary people." Sun Biao had said in this manner.

But am I... an ordinary person?"

"An ordinary person... would not carry memories from a previous life upon birth. They wouldn't remember any sort of messy 'earth' affairs, right?"

"An ordinary person... wouldn't possibly be able to wrest control from and survive against the tyrannical cultivator, Ou Yezi, of 40,000 years ago, and instead, engulf Ou Yezi's memories, right?"

"These two events, whichever bastard would have one of these things happen to them would not be considered an ordinary person. As for me, I've experienced both phenomenon!"

"Then... am I going to... in the face of these training clothes that weren't meant for the ordinary person.... Give up?"

Li Yao suddenly withdrew his line of sight from the ceiling lights, shrinking into the depths of his pupils, and transforming into a needle-sharp stellar glow.

"Teacher Sun... am I allowed to listen to music?" he suddenly spoke lightly.

"Listen to music?" Sun Biao never expected that Li Yao would ask this sort of question. He was distracted for a great amount of time before saying, "Sure, if you want."

"Okay, give me 30 more seconds."

Li Yao laughed lightly, closed his eyes, and stuffed the "Tone Bell" artifact crafted by the Sounds of Wonder Guild into his ears.

Lu Yinxi resounded greatly with a voice in his ears that seemed to be able to pierce through the entire galaxy. Her voice immediately vibrated within the depths of his soul:

"After the raging waves and stormy seas, I stagger onward with all my might!"

“My heart fears not the striking of thunder for the lightning shall illuminate the path ahead!”

“I am completely different from you!”

Li Yao abruptly opened his eyes.

The size of the needle-sharp stellar glow in his eyes had already disappeared. In other words... His pair of eyes were filled completely with the stellar glow!

And then, he said a sentence that caused Sun Biao to be at a loss for words: “I... am no salted fish...”

“What did you say?” Sun Biao thought he had misheard. What salted fish?

Li Yao didn't hear the old geezer's question under the bombardment of the wild music; he was completely immersed in his own world. He spoke in whispers, “Perhaps I was a salted fish in my dream since I had given up in various situations. I dried up. I withered. And gradually, I turned into a salted fish. Turning into an ordinary person.”

“But me. I am no salted fish. I... absolutely will not give up!”

Li Yao stood up. 300 kg of weight was on his shoulders. An electric current ran all over his body. A screaming freezing chill and a devastating magma ran through the depths of his mind.

Yet still, he griped onto the barbell. His strength was very great, for even the hard steel creaked under his palm.

“The second set of squats starts now!”

The cultivation field, covered with the dust of several years, resounded once more with roars like the raging waves and stormy seas. A boiling fervor surged in waves of heat!

Chapter 32: He's a Monster!

Geoffrey_, Lancet

Sun Biao had a somewhat dazed expression as he saw Li Yao act in this wild and crazed manner. The muscles in Li Yao's entire body were torn with one rep after another. Sun Biao's thoughts flew back to a time a dozen years ago; he sunk into old memories.

The reflection of Li Yao's figure in the depths Sun Biao's pupils seemed to gradually be overlapped by a tall, lofty figure, becoming a different person.

Only when a chirping sound came from the lower right corner of the hologram, accompanied by a faint vibration on his wrist, did the old fogey awaken from his thoughts. He swallowed some spittle, moistening his somewhat dried throat. He withdrew himself to a corner so that Li Yao couldn't see him and he opened up the e-crane instant messenger function.

The image of a clear and elegant figure appeared, mixed with a chilling air, in the center of the hologram.

"Old Sun. Sir, I see that you have already taken that child away. I truly thank you sir for your actions this time!" Si Jiaxue expressed her gratitude with utmost sincerity.

Sun Biao chuckled saying, "My dear little Xue. You even went through your father to come seeking for this old geezer. What more can I say? However, in the end, what is the relationship between you and this kid? Why do you want to help him?"

Si Jiaxue frowned slightly. It seemed that she was very unwilling to be associated with Li Yao. She explained seriously, "Old Sun, there's not even a trace of a relationship between me and this little scoundrel. There's only the matter of me entrusting him, a few days ago, with the repair of an old model crystal processor left behind by my grandma. It was because of this that Helian Lie, the mad dog that he is, created a disturbance with this scoundrel. In the end, this matter came forth because of me. So of course, I should not allow him to be bitten by mad dog Helian Lie; otherwise, wouldn't people have misgivings dealing with me?"

With the raising of his eyebrows, Sun Biao adopted a mischievous expression, "So it's that simple eh? It's not that dear little Xue has fallen for this kid right?"

"Him? Preposterous!" Si Jiaxue couldn't help laughing.

Sun Biao did not expect this response. He said speechlessly, "Even this outrageous kid is not enough for you. My dear little Xue, your standards are uncommonly high!"

Si Jiaxue lightly laughed and changed the subject. The elderly and the youth chatted idly for a few sentences. Sun Biao cut off communications and raised his head once again, hearing Li Yao roaring himself hoarse:

"THE SEVENTH SET. STARTS NOW!"

"This monster! It can't be! Can he truly wear 'Give Up' and complete 10 whole sets of squats?" Sun Biao's astonishment was enough to cause tingling in his scalp, scratching his head as he pondered. After a short moment later, he found a name from his address book and sent out an e-crane message.

Soon, a virtual crane flew out from the lower right corner of the hologram. Its wings extended and it transformed into a projection of a clear 3D figure of a person. To be exact, it was Fiend Blade Peng Hai.

Peng Hai was lying down in a relaxed comfortable manner in a bathtub. A large plate of fruit floated in front of him. Peng Hai was in utter pleasure as he soaked in his bath.

Peng Hai laughed as he said, “Old geezer, I was just about to ask if you wanted to grab dinner tonight and ask about a certain person in the meantime. Do you know if our Crimson Nimbus Second has had any sort ‘Monster-level’ student graduate within the past few years?”

“Monster-level? There weren’t any sort of special saplings in the past few years. Everyone was pretty normal and ordinary. I need to really think about this! Oh! Let’s put this matter on a hold for now. I want to tell you some explosive news... Do you still remember the clothes I specifically crafted for you a dozen years ago? ‘Give Up’?” Sun Biao rubbed his hands, wanting to give Peng Hai a scare.

The muscles on Fiend Blade Peng Hai’s face twitched as he recalled back to the unbearable memories of past events. He said with rage through gritted teeth, “Of course, I remember! You dead old geezer! You actually crafted such a vicious artifact! No wonder you were formerly known as the ‘Degenerate of the Cultivators’, you scum!”

Sun Biao laughed mischievously as he was actually quite fond of this nickname. He said impatiently, “This set of clothes has been tossed in the corner and laid there ever since you graduated. I never used it at all. But today, there has been a student who put it on!”

“What?”

Fiend Blade Peng Hai really was shocked into paralysis. With an expression that didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, he said, “Dead geezer, you have a way too mischievous heart. This type of thing isn’t something that you should give someone to wear willy-nilly. This is something that will torture someone into having a mental breakdown!”

Sun Biao was somewhat embarrassed. He grumbled, “At first, I saw the kid running too wildly. I just wanted to knock him off his high horse and give him a little taste. After two minutes, he would cry for his mom and dad and remove the clothes like a good boy, right? Who would have imagined that once this kid had a taste of it, he still wanted more! Not wanting to remove it after wearing it! And he also did 7 sets in a breath of time... That’s not right, it was eight sets of 300 kilogram squats!”

Fiend Blade Peng Hai asked astonished, “Crimson Nimbus Second actually has this kind of cultivation genius? How come I didn’t know? Don’t tell me he’s not a third year, but a first or second year?”

Sun Biao extended a finger, lightly swaying it. “Nope, he’s not a cultivation genius.”

“Not a cultivation genius?” Peng Hai frowned.

Sun Biao squinted his eyes and said in complete seriousness, “Think back to those times when I crafted ‘Give Up’. You were only 14 years old, but your Actualization Quotient had already hit 100%! You were able to connect to the essence of heaven and earth and draw spiritual energy into your body. You had a strong body, and your mental strength was firm. So, you were able to cross this ordeal of ‘Give Up!’”

Sun Biao paused, breathing in and out. It seemed that even now he dared not believe the sight he’d seen. Sun Biao continued, “And this kid will already be 18 years old this year with a maximum Actualization Quotient of 60%. And his fleshly body is still completely that of a child’s. He’s using his fleshly body paired with his monstrously thick level of mental fortitude to forcefully withstand ‘Give Up!’ Your kind is a cultivation genius that can hardly be seen once every hundred years. But this kind of person can only be described from head to toe as... a monster!”

Fiend Blade Peng Hai was moved. He never thought that his teacher would hold this kid in such a high regard. He was also interested. “Old geezer, send me a recording to watch?”

“No problem. Oh, that’s right. I have a recording of a fight he just had. I’ll send them both for you to watch. Although from a strength perspective, he’s still at the fighting level of a child, but in regards to his battle awareness and his usage of his surroundings... Hehe. I’ll say something that will make you mad. It seems that he’s more suited than you for inheriting my title of the ‘Degenerate of Cultivators!’” Sun Biao laughed vulgarly as he sent over a few videos.

“Why would I be mad~? I currently walk amongst the circle of cultivators, and I’ve never dared to be recognized as the succeeding disciple of the ‘Degenerate of Cultivators’. Otherwise... I fear that every minute there will be a group of justice seeking, demon beheading, devil exterminating, knights coming to cause harm to the circle of cultivators. I’m exactly looking for someone who can really inherit your legacy!”

Peng Hai giggled as he received the videos. He opened them indifferently.

The more he watched, the straighter he sat, and the more astonished his expression. A wisp of cheer flashed in the depths of his eyes.

“How is he? Not bad right? I don’t have any impression on any sort of monster-level graduate you’re looking for. Anyway, in the past dozen years, the only small monster that’s been able to shock me into stupefaction is precisely this one kid! Why don’t you come over if you’re interested and chat with this little bastard?” Laughed Sun Biao.

“No need. You go and chat without me. Later, I will ‘talk’ with him all night long and chat until daybreak!” Fiend Blade Peng Hai said, beaming with smiles. His smiling expression was extremely vicious.

