

Refining 41

Chapter 41 –The Evil Star Duo

During the last three months, Qin Yu had crossed through tens of thousands of miles, killing a total of nine early demonic path Golden Cores, earning him the nickname of Evil Star. Although those he killed were only early Golden Core cultivators, this was still a loss that the demonic path wasn't able to withstand. So, they began to arrange an entrapment for him.

Qin Yu realized this would happen and by relying on an explosion of magic power as well as his Demon Body, he fled a thousand miles in a day, leading to him killing another demonic Golden Core today.

The ground beneath Qin Yu shattered as he shot up into the skies, instantly leaving the battlefield to an unknown region. Because he was in the region controlled by the demonic path, he had to be extra cautious because the slightest mistake would lead to imminent peril. The reason he was able to kill a total of 10 demonic Golden Core cultivators in the last three months was greatly reliant on making a quick strike before fleeing to another area.

An hour later, Qin Yu arrived at a lake. He crashed through the surface, diving down until he reached a giant boulder at the bottom. He formed seals with his hands and a glow appeared; the boulder disappeared to reveal a cave entrance.

Qin Yu stepped inside. By revolving his magic power, water evaporated from his body and his robes immediately dried.

The cave wasn't too large and was crudely hewn out. This was one of several bases that Qin Yu had created.

When Qin Yu chose his targets at the beginning, they had been at the early Golden Core realm. Qin Yu could fight those at the early Golden Core realm and he also had Blacksky Demon lying in ambush to help him. Still, there were always those particularly powerful existences, and after striking them down he would inevitably be injured. After those battles he needed a secure space to recuperate from his injuries.

As for the array formations needed to conceal the cave dwellings, they were formed from array discs that he had obtained after striking down a demonic Golden Core cultivator. These types of things could be activated by magic power and demonic power. After activating them, they could be easily arranged. This was simply one of the most useful tools for array formations.

Qin Yu sat down and swallowed several pills, restoring the strength he lost. Today had gone better than most and he hadn't been injured in the battle. Two hours later, he opened his eyes and pulled out the storage bag to check his harvests.

He couldn't help but express his thanks to the generosity of demonic path cultivators once more. After killing 10 Golden Core demonic cultivators he had obtained a massive amount of merit and they also filled up his bags. They were truly praiseworthy friends.

His only regret was that these demonic cultivators mostly used demonic treasures. Although he could use a drop of blood to become the master of them, it was still difficult to use magic power to stimulate them, thus he was forced to toss them into a pile.

And perhaps it was finally time for Qin Yu's fortunes to change, but the tenth Golden Core he killed finally produced some usable treasures: Cloudstep Boots, a magic tool capable of drastically increasing a cultivator's speed.

Qin Yu put them on for a test. His figure flashed and he arrived at the cave entrance, a smile on his face. Just as the name suggested, it was like he could step through clouds! With this treasure helping him his speed would be much faster than before, and if he superimposed it on the forbidden eruption of magic power form Gale Step, he might be able to compare to a late Golden Core cultivator.

He had to thank these wonderful demonic cultivators once more!

After tidying everything up, Qin Yu quietly made some calculations. After killing 10 demonic path Golden Cores and some Foundation Establishment cultivators, he should have accumulated around half the merit points needed to exchange for the Skythunder Bamboo. This wasn't the cultivator alliance deliberately inflating the price. Rather, the Skythunder Bamboo was truly an ancient spirit plant that was almost extinct, and it was even 800 years old! It could be called a priceless treasure.

With such a high price, there shouldn't be anyone else competing with him. After another three months of work he should have been able to collect the rest of the merit points. At that time he would be able to break into the Golden Core realm and his strength would rise several times over. Then, even if the entire Southern Empire was stirred into tumult, he could still protect himself.

Qin Yu smiled and prepared to cultivate at the bottom of the lake for several days. After cutting down a Golden Core cultivator the surrounding regions would definitely be more strict and cautious. It was best to avoid the limelight for the time being.

But after only a day, Qin Yu awakened from his cultivation. He rushed out of the cave entrance to see the lake's waters roiling above him. He muttered to himself, "There are actually people fighting right outside my door. I must take advantage of this to make a play..."

Zhu Bluecloud was utterly miserable. Under orders from the higher ups in the alliance, he came to this demonic path region in order to destroy an array formation and prevent them from obtaining something. He had completed his mission smoothly, but when he left he was discovered by a Golden Core cultivator and had been ruthlessly chased after.

With his fifth level Golden Core cultivation he wasn't afraid at all. A bit of effort should allow him to easily withdraw. But, Zhu Bluecloud never imagined that there were actually many high level demonic cultivators hidden in this area. By the time the third Golden Core cultivator started chasing after him, he could only escape.

They skirmished along the way, and when they arrived at this lake, Zhu Bluecloud was being besieged by four Golden Core demonic cultivators. If it weren't for his strong cultivation, magic tools, and potent body, he would have already been torn to pieces. Even so, he wouldn't be able to last for long like this. He thought to himself that his time had finally come!

The four Golden Core demonic cultivators could also see that Zhu Bluecloud was nearing exhaustion and their bloodthirst was galvanized. After this fellow had slaughtered so many masters of their demonic path, his death had finally arrived!

That was right. These four demonic Golden Cores thought that Zhu Bluecloud was the infamous 'demonic path Evil Star'. He could be said to be suffering in Qin Yu's place, because these four high level cultivators had originally come here to kill Qin Yu.

"Evil Star, prepare to die!"

"This is revenge for the fallen powerhouses of my demonic path!"

"Kill him!"

"Skin him alive!"

Zhu Bluecloud felt aggrieved but couldn't say anything. He wanted to shout out loud that they had found the wrong person, but he knew that this wouldn't save his life so he might as well save his strength instead.

The four demonic Golden Cores were increasingly frenzied the longer they fought. All of them wanted to be the one to kill the Evil Star. In addition, they gradually relaxed their guards as Zhu Bluecloud became increasingly tired.

The surface of the lake suddenly exploded. Qin Yu shot up into the skies, instantly locking onto the nearest demonic Golden Core. Spirit Stab erupted as his fist smashed out.

Bang –

A head was blown up in the air. Caught off guard, this demonic cultivator was killed on the spot!

At nearly the same time, another demonic Golden Core not too far away cried out in agonizing pain as his chest burst open. The black Corpse Sealing Nail pierced through his chest, ripping open a giant hole along the way.

In the blink of an eye, two demonic Golden Cores had died!

Zhu Bluecloud had been saved from death's door. Just as he was about to express his thanks, he saw Qin Yu's figure and froze.

Qin Yu shouted out, "One for each of us! Settle this quickly!"

After regaining his composure, boiling anger ignited in Zhu Bluecloud's chest. After being harassed by four of these bastards, it was finally time to show them what he was made of!

With a deep roar he activated a magic tool and instantly suppressed the demonic cultivator near him. His overwhelming magic arts blotted out the skies as he beat down the demonic cultivator; it wouldn't be long until his battle finished.

As the last demonic Golden Core saw the situation devolving he turned tail and ran. Magic power erupted within Qin Yu. The Cloudstep Boots released a flash of light as he shot forwards, leaving a series of afterimages in his wake.

In terms of speed, Qin Yu didn't fear anyone at all!

The demonic cultivator coldly sneered, completely unafraid. Using some unknown means, blood red flames ignited around him and his speed increased ten times over, immediately vanishing from sight. The 'fearless' Qin Yu's face darkened and he frowned as he helplessly watched the demonic Golden Core disappear from sight.

During these last few months he had smoothly handled everything, and if he locked onto a target they always died no matter how much they tried to run. At some unknown point during this he had developed a degree of arrogance, and the appearance of this demonic cultivator was like a slap in the face that shattered his smugness. There were countless lucky chances in this world and he was definitely not the only person with hidden cards in his hands. If he continued to keep this sort of arrogant perspective then sooner or later he would suffer for it.

Qin Yu looked towards the direction that the demonic cultivator ran off in. Although he had to thank this demonic cultivator for today's warning, Qin Yu would still kill him if he had the chance; he was very interested in this method that could instantly increase his speed by ten times over.

Flying back to the lake, he found that Zhu Bluecloud's battle had finished. The demonic cultivator he faced was smashed to pieces and his blood dyed the lake red.

"You wanted to be so rampant and skin me alive, well I tore you to pieces first! Try and chase me again!"

Qin Yu's lips twitched.

Zhu Bluecloud coughed twice, his expression awkward and hesitant.

Qin Yu waved his hand. "There's no need to thank me. Just hurry and leave. This place will soon be turned upside down by demonic cultivators."

With a light puff he drilled into the lake bottom. After taking away the array disc he shot out and vanished from sight.

Zhu Bluecloud let out a long breath of relief. He was known as someone who would rather die than lose face, so to have him lower his head to thank someone like this felt worse than cutting off his own flesh.

"Eh, this isn't right!" Zhu Bluecloud stamped his feet and cursed out loud, "Ning Qin you bastard, so I actually took the blame for you!"

Hearing the roar behind him, Qin Yu revealed a smile. His figure continued racing forwards close to the ground. After killing three demonic Golden Cores here it was definitely not wise to stay any longer.

With cautious movements and the black robe concealing his aura, Qin Yu passed over 3000 miles in two days. He casually killed several Foundation Establishment cultivators along the way and arrived at Billowing Wave City.

This great city had once been bustling with life, but now large tracts of its walls had collapsed and the remains were marred with traces of bombardments. It had clearly been ravaged by the flames of war.

He took out the Soul Burying Flag. With a thought, Blacksky Demon appeared. Demonic energy surged and a robe similar to the one Qin Yu wore appeared.

With Blacksky Demon in the front and Qin Yu in the back, the two of them openly walked into Billowing Wave City.

The demonic cultivators guarding the city watched them with awe. It was only when they disappeared from sight that they dared to straighten themselves.

The hierarchy of the demonic path was far more strict and demonic cultivators were often cruel and violent individuals. Killing low level demonic cultivators was a common occurrence, so it was clear that no one would dare offend the Golden Core realm Blacksky Demon.

Qin Yu had used this method several times to avoid the demonic path hunting him down. No matter how high level figures of the demonic path tried to find him, they never expected that he would openly wander about in a city that the demonic path controlled.

With Blacksky Demon in the lead he was able to easily find a place to live. The several demonic cultivators living there respectfully bowed and left on their own initiative. This was the ultimate rule of the demonic path – powerhouses came first!

Qin Yu rested here. He swallowed some pills and started to cultivate. At the same time, he controlled Blacksky Demon to enter the city and mingle amongst the crowds. Soon, he would lock onto his next target.

He didn't know why, but for the next several days he stayed in the city, he found that the mood was particularly tense. Golden Core cultivators left and arrived in pairs or more, and soon Qin Yu found out the reason. The demonic cultivator that managed to escape that day had spread out news about him so that the high level figures were now alert.

Blacksky Demon asked some questions, and soon enough he discovered what happened. The demonic cultivator who fled said that the 'Evil Star' was not just one person but was actually two Golden Core cultivators working together. One of them was the renowned Zhu Bluecloud from the righteous path alliance. As for the other one, he didn't know who they were. Even so, that person's strength was clearly above Zhu Bluecloud's as he was able to instantly strike down two demonic Golden Core cultivators.

Once this news spread, the demonic cultivators all cursed the righteous cultivators for being despicable bastards. They had actually sent out masters to sneakily kill them. They vowed that they would return this insult and would definitely kill Zhu Bluecloud and that other person! But even though they said they would take revenge, no one dared to underestimate this 'Evil Star Duo'. To fight four Golden Cores and kill three of them, that proved just how dangerous they were.

Because of this, Golden Core demonic cultivators formed teams when they left and they were also cautious in their movements. If they sensed anything wrong they would immediately call for help, making it so that Qin Yu had no idea where he should start.

"I cut the grass but didn't eliminate the roots and it really ended up harming me!" Qin Yu wryly smiled. He could only wait patiently for a chance to appear.

Several days later, before Qin Yu found a lone demonic Golden Core, he actually saw a familiar person through Blacksky Demon's eyes.

It was that demonic cultivator who had run away that day!

Within his room, Qin Yu's eyes flashed open. After a moment of thought, a chilling smile appeared on his lips.

Chapter 42 – Blood Escape Art

Billowing Wave City had been half-destroyed during the chaos of war, but because of the massive influx of demonic cultivators it had been restored to a degree of prosperity in a short period of time.

The restaurants and shops had been hastily repaired and the smell of fresh wood and paint still hadn't dispersed, but this didn't stop guests from coming in droves. After invading the Southern Empire with unstoppable force, most of the demonic cultivators had obtained a tremendous amount of wealth and their bags were filled with money as they drank and ate their fill.

Ten high level demonic cultivators had gathered in a room on the third floor of a restaurant. They were toasting the guest of honor, all of them flattering.

"Fellow daoist Sweeping Cloud fiercely fought the Evil Star Duo and managed to escape alive to spread news of this, preventing us demonic path cultivators from suffering even more. This is a truly honorable accomplishment!"

"It's lucky we have fellow daoist Sweeping Cloud, otherwise who knows how many lives we would have to pay until we found out this information."

"Come, come, let us raise a glass in respect to fellow daoist Sweeping Cloud!"

Sweeping Cloud Demon was only a third level Golden Core cultivator so when had he enjoyed such glory and respect from his peers? At this time his entire face was flushed red with alcohol and his smile was so wide it went from ear to ear.

As he was spouting some words of humbleness and waiting to take a drink after refusing a little, the room's doors were suddenly smashed down. A figure in a black robe locked eyes with Sweeping Cloud Demon and coldly said, "You despicable thief, you killed my wife and children and now that 20 years have passed, I have returned to seek your life!"

The boiling resentment in the man's voice left everyone stunned; they could feel the intense blood hatred in his words. The table of cultivators that were originally about to flip the table in anger began looking at each other in dismay. They easily deduced the reason why this person was here – Sweeping Cloud Demon had killed this man's wife and children and now he came to seek revenge.

A few of the originally unhappy demonic Golden Core cultivators shot a glance at Sweeping Cloud Demon, silently scolding him for being an idiot. To demonic cultivators, killing off a person's wife and children wasn't anything at all. After all, who here had never done something similar? But if you were going to do it you might as well do it cleanly, because now it had led to an annoying problem!

The black-robed figure's aura was pervasive and an invisible killing intent lingered around him. One could tell with a single glance that it wasn't a good idea to provoke him.

A demonic Golden Core cautiously said, "Brother Sweeping Cloud, this..."

Sweeping Cloud Demon was also confused. He had already forgotten about events that occurred 20 years ago. Had he killed someone's wife and children back then? Probably. But after a moment of

awkwardness, his complexion began to darken. This was the most magnificent moment of his life and yet someone actually came to seek revenge, and it was all because he hadn't processed matters cleanly. As a great Golden Core demonic cultivator, this left him feeling ashamed.

"Humph!" Sweeping Cloud Demon sneered, "If I killed your wife and children in the past, then I can kill you today! If you want to take revenge then come and get it!"

Seeing that they recognized each other, the demonic cultivators around the table stood up and immediately tried to help them reconcile their differences.

One urged, "Stepping into the Golden Core great dao isn't easy, and it is even more difficult for us demonic cultivators."

Another said, "Golden Cores all seize hundreds and thousands of beautiful women. If you lost your wife and children then you can just take another and have as many as you want."

Then someone harshly said, "Desperately risking your life for the dead is just stupid. We must face the vast sea of the present and welcome a better future."

The black-robed figure remained silent, as if he were about to attack. The several demonic cultivators glanced at each other, unsure of what to do. Although the demonic path had always been chaotic, slaughter between high level cultivators, especially Golden Cores, was expressly forbidden. This was particularly true because of recent events where Golden Cores had been killed off. If Sweeping Cloud Demon were to die here in battle, then all of them would be in a great deal of trouble.

"Come, come, come! Take a drink with Sweeping Cloud Demon and consider the grudges of the past as over. From now on let's all be friends!" A demonic Golden Core straightforwardly said. He brought two large bowls filled with good wine and even pulled the black-robed figure to the table.

The black-robed figure hesitated for a moment and then picked up the bowl.

Sweeping Cloud Demon coldly sneered, feeling his dignity rapidly rising. So what if I killed your wife and children, aren't you being a good little boy trying to make peace with me right now? He casually picked up the wine bowl and said, "Be careful with your words from now on. If it weren't for the many fellow daoists here then I wouldn't have been so merciful!"

The people around the table frowned. For better or worse, this fellow was a Golden Core and these words were a bit too overbearing. If he were provoked into doing something then things would become much more troublesome. Luckily, the black-robed figure raised his head and drank the wine. With this, everyone felt a bit better, but they also unconsciously developed a bit of contempt.

This person was just too spineless!

Sweeping Cloud Demon was even more satisfied with himself. He drank the wine, thinking to berate this person a little bit more so that everyone knew he wasn't someone easy to provoke.

However, no one imagined that the black-robed figure who had endured everything so far would suddenly attack. He smashed his fist into Sweeping Cloud Demon, sending him crashing backwards and destroying the table.

"I will never be friends with you. After this fist, our enmity is cleared!" The black-robed figure tossed out these last words, shattered the window and disappeared.

The demonic cultivators in the room curled their lips. Since he had attacked he shouldn't have fled so quickly. To attack and then run away without taking responsibility, what sort of hero was that? As for the so-called enmity, that was just laughable!

Mm? Something was wrong. For better or worse, Sweeping Cloud Demon was a third level Golden Core. Even though he had been punched out of the blue, he should have moved by now.

As the several demonic Golden Core cultivators turned to look, their complexions all changed. Sweeping Cloud Demon's neck had completely twisted around.

And, a fellow with a thick yin chill surrounding him was pulling out the storage bag from his chest.

"Insolent!"

"Stop!"

The sound of startled roars echoed out and powerful auras erupted. But, the killer didn't give them the chance to attack. With a smile, he dissipated in a puff of black smoke.

"This is bad, we've been had!"

"They are working together!"

The several demonic Golden Cores rapidly reacted. But as they rushed out of the restaurant, none of them could see the black-robed figure.

"Chase him!"

"We can't let him escape!"

With enraged shouts, the several people rushed out of the city.

After a moment, Qin Yu emerged not too far away from the restaurant. Although he didn't have any fluctuations of demonic energy around him, the killing intent left one feeling dread. This sort of killing intent could only happen when a person was stained by the aura of recklessly slaughtering others, and it made him seem more like a demonic cultivator than the demonic cultivators around him. He smoothly left the city.

As for the crowd of demonic Golden Cores who had gone to chase after the killer, they had long since disappeared somewhere.

A few dozen miles away from Billowing Wave City, a figure flew in front of him. His billowing demonic energy revealed his status as a Golden Core.

Qin Yu revealed a bit of surprise.

"Halt!" The man shouted. Indeed, the demonic cultivator blocking his way was one of the Golden Cores from the restaurant. His eyes were cold as he asked, "What are you so afraid of?"

Qin Yu shook his head again and again.

“If you don’t speak the truth then just see how I’ll deal with you!” The Golden Core demonic cultivator reached out to grab Qin Yu, but Qin Yu started flying towards him. The demonic cultivator felt his heart skip a beat as a calm voice suddenly sounded out in his ears, “I was afraid that you would run away.”

Bang –

A fist fell. With loud crackling sounds, bones shattered and the demonic cultivator’s chest caved in. He cried out for help but Blacksky Demon appeared right behind him, twisting his neck in an overly exaggerated manner.

Quickly looking around, Qin Yu put away Blacksky Demon and shot into the skies. Soon afterwards, several Golden Core demonic cultivators arrived. As they saw the corpse of their dead companion they stomped their feet in anger but no longer dared to continue chasing.

Soon, news spread of the ‘Evil Star Duo’ appearing in Billowing Wave City and even killing two Golden Cores. Sweeping Cloud Demon’s death stirred up a wave of anger, and it was even considered a provocation against the entire demonic path! The high level figures of the demonic path issued a strict order that Zhu Bluecloud and his cohort had to be killed at all costs!

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In a cave, Qin Yu held onto a jade slip he obtained from Sweeping Cloud Demon’s storage bag, his entire face smiling. “This Blood Escape Art is simply tailor-made for me!”

This technique used a secret skill to stimulate and combust one’s blood energy, allowing one’s speed to increase by ten times over! Qin Yu had swallowed countless pills so his mortal body was tyrannical to begin with, and after cultivating the Demon Body, his blood energy was inconceivably potent. Sweeping Cloud Demon could at most use this ability three times before he reached the limit that his body could withstand, but Qin Yu could use this technique 30 times over without any problems.

From this point on, with the Blood Escape Art in hand, there wouldn’t be anyone capable of catching Qin Yu unless they were a Nascent Soul. Roaming the battlefield and obtaining merits would become even easier.

Laying down the array disc to conceal his aura, Qin Yu went into seclusion without leaving, using an entire month to learn the Blood Escape Art. With a flick of his sleeve he took away the array disc and left the cave. His feet rose and he shot into the skies. In the next moment blood red flames surrounded him and his speed increased by ten times. He was like a falling meteor as he vanished across the horizon!

The Southern Empire was located in a region with mild weather, so the differences between the four seasons weren’t too obvious. The forest grew green and lush all year long, and the forest in front only seemed ordinary.

All of a sudden a deep roar sounded out and the earth trembled. If one stood high in the air, they would discover that a massive clearing had appeared deep in the forest. Vast tracts of trees had been destroyed, twisted into powder and dust. The surrounding 3000 feet seemed as if it had been utterly overturned without a single intact space. Large numbers of animals howled in terror and fled into the distance.

Qin Yu slapped away a panicked wild dog that ran towards him. Because of the collision his chest began aching and his innards tumbled as he spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion extremely ugly. By his side, half of Blacksky Demon's body had been destroyed. Luckily, he wasn't a living material being, so he would be able to restore himself as long as he returned to the Soul Burying Flag for some time.

If it hadn't been for Blacksky Demon covering his body and Qin Yu using the Blood Escape Art to flee, then that Golden Core demonic cultivator would have likely dragged Qin Yu down to hell with him when he blew himself up. Even Qin Yu's Demon Body wouldn't have been able to escape the force from a Golden Core's self-explosion.

Thinking about it, Qin Yu felt a cold sweat form on his forehead. He never thought that a demonic cultivator wouldn't care about their soul being destroyed as they blew up their Golden Core! After putting away Blacksky Demon, Qin Yu swallowed several pills and continued running away. His thoughts raced; something strange was going on.

Half a month later, Qin Yu was able to use Blacksky Demon to find out that the high level figures of the demonic path had issued a kill order against him. He knew that he would no longer be able to continue his hunt. These high level demonic cultivators had clearly gone insane. If he was surrounded by several of them and they all blew themselves up at once, there was no way he would be able to escape.

When he rescued Zhu Bluecloud he had killed two demonic cultivators, then there was Sweeping Cloud Demon in Billowing Wave City and the unlucky one he had encountered outside the city. Adding onto the one that just blew himself up, a total of 15 demonic path Golden Cores had died beneath Qin Yu's hands. Although it still wasn't enough to exchange for the Skythunder Bamboo, it was best to consider his own safety first. There would always be more chances to earn merits in the future.

Like this, Qin Yu withdrew from the battlefield. 10 days later he quietly crossed the 30,000 miles and returned to Canyonwell City. Here, the righteous and demonic paths battled back and forth. Canyonwell City was able to use the terrain advantage to withstand the violent onslaughts of the demonic path, and the battles scorched the land.

It was only now that the various factions of the Southern Empire were able to steady themselves. After the initial panic and chaos, they began to hold firm their grip and fight back.

Qin Yu took out the identity card from his waist. After examining it and making sure nothing was wrong, he was allowed to enter the city. Without delay, he soared directly to the alliance station. Although the Skythunder Bamboo was difficult to exchange for, there was still the chance that someone would take it before him.

The battle stage.

As the war continued and the hearts of the people started to calm down, many cultivators gathered here to fight and enjoy themselves. On the stage right now, two Foundation Establishment cultivators were violently battling each other, drawing applause from the crowd.

With a loud and dull thump, a sword-wielding cultivator was sent flying off the stage. He tumbled onto the ground, and although he hadn't been injured his complexion was still ugly.

He coldly snorted and walked away. He nearly ran into the person behind him and viciously shouted, "Are you blind? Make way!"

Just as he was about to push this person out of the way, he froze. The entire crowd around the battle stage had fallen silent and countless people stared with wide eyes, as if they had seen ghosts. The sword cultivator's heart shrank and his face paled. He wasn't stupid so he naturally realized the sudden changes occurring around him. This person was only at the sixth stage of Foundation Establishment, did he have some great background or something?

Just as his thoughts were racing, figures flashed in front of him. Seven or eight cultivators had rushed forwards, bowing, "Greetings, Lord Ning Qin."

Ning Qin...

The sword cultivator suddenly stiffened!

Chapter 43 – 15 Rings

More and more people came forward to bow until they completely obscured Qin Yu from sight. Although the sword cultivator couldn't see him, he was still dripping with sweat. To directly crush a Golden Core in frontal combat, the fame of the Kong Family's Foundation Establishment Exalted was undoubtedly the hottest topic in Canyonwell City in recent times. It was also a topic that many people loved to talk about. Although he had just arrived he had heard the stories countless times already. Thinking of this, the sword cultivator nearly cried.

Qin Yu didn't think that there would still be people recognizing him after several months passed. Since these people all came up to him with smiles, he could only respectfully nod in surprise. However, those people who thought well of him were surprised at his response. Could it be that Lord Ning Qin thought their martial talents were up to par, and if so, should they take advantage of this chance to become his disciples?

Realizing the sparkle in everyone's eyes, Qin Yu didn't give them the chance to speak. He directly stated, "I have some matters I must attend to. You can all leave for now."

Everyone was disappointed but they didn't dare to disobey. They quickly drew backwards.

As the crowd parted they revealed the still frozen form of the sword cultivator. Many people stared at him with admiration. You stupid boy, hurry up and move!

The sword cultivator turned even paler as more sweat streamed down his face.

Qin Yu stepped around him and directly entered the alliance station.

He didn't cause difficulties nor did he glare; he simply walked through like passing clouds and wind.

Everyone revealed looks of surprise and admiration. Indeed, this person was truly worthy of being Lord Ning Qin. Not only was he broad of mind but he was willing to walk around that embarrassed fellow without stirring up trouble. As everyone thought back to the day where Qin Yu had raced through Han Beishan's supernatural powers to grasp his throat and then jump off the platform, they felt he was even more worthy of praise. Qin Yu seemed to emit a comfortable heroicness from head to toe.

Lord Ning Qin was simply our generation's idol!

There were several cultivators exchanging items in the Merit Department. Identity cards were being checked, merit points were being transferred, documents were being issued; the entire hall was simply a chaotic mess.

Suddenly, outside the hall of the Merit Department, a purple bell began to ring on its own. The deep bell ring was enhanced by an invisible strength. In the blink of an eye it spread far and wide until it enveloped the entirety of Canyonwell City.

This was a merit service bell that had been refined especially by the cultivator alliance in order to strengthen their sense of unity and honor. When a person who cut down a demonic Golden Core cultivator entered the Merit Department, the bell would automatically ring throughout the entire city.

Everyone within the Merit Department turned to look at the entrance with awe. If a person could kill a demonic Golden Core then they were inevitably a great figure within the alliance. At this time, another ring of the bell sounded out. Everyone's complexion changed once more. This great lord had actually killed two Golden Core demonic cultivators!

And soon after, there was a third ring, a fourth ring, a fifth...

Dong...

Dong...

Dong...

The bell's sound shrouded the entire city, leaving countless cultivators stunned. They all looked towards the alliance station, confused. Could the merit service bell have broken?

At the battle stage.

Numerous Foundation Establishment cultivators had gathered here to privately discuss how to become Lord Ning Qin's disciple. As they heard the bell ring on without end, their expressions began at respect, turned to shock, became expressionless, and finally they started to curse in hushed whispers.

"The Merit Department is too unreasonable. They can't just ring the bell whenever they want!" An old veteran Foundation Establishment cultivator indignantly said, drawing approval from those around him.

Suddenly, another person asked, "Do you think it is Lord Ning Qin?"

The crowd fell silent, everyone scared silly by these words. But then they subconsciously rejected this.

"Isn't that impossible? There's already been over 10 rings of the bell, meaning that over 10 demonic Golden Core cultivators have been cut down. Lord Ning Qin is strong, but he shouldn't be strong to such an abnormal degree."

"Definitely. There must be a mistake."

"Haha, it must be a coincidence that Lord Ning Qin arrived at the same time. He must be surprised too."

As everyone began to calm down, they subconsciously glanced towards the entrance of the Merit Department. As they thought back to the day where Qin Yu had instantly defeated Han Beishan, they felt their hearts begin to waver. Could it...really be him?

As the bell rang out over 10 times, all the cultivators in the Merit Department felt their faces flush red. A female cultivator stormed up and said, "I must inform the lord to fix it!"

She couldn't wait any further, otherwise the Merit Department would lose any face they had.

She hurried out, but as she was about to step through the hall doors she suddenly froze where she was. She stared blankly at the scene before her: the giant merit service bell glowed with a sparkling purple light, emitting a vast and boundless ringing without end. A black-robed cultivator stood beneath the bell, a frown on his face as he looked at the large bell with doubt.

The female cultivator only saw his profile. Although he looked ordinary, there was some inexplicable attraction emanating from him. Her face blushed faintly red as she looked at him with rapt attention: Foundation Establishment, sixth level.

She relaxed. But before she could wonder why she felt relieved, her face blushed even redder and she said in a flustered voice, "Hey you, hurry up and get out from beneath that bell. It's broken so it might fall down and hit you." She had taken Qin Yu as the culprit who had caused a problem with the bell. She felt this was both funny and incredulous.

Qin Yu revealed a look of understanding. No wonder the bell had started to randomly ring by itself. He quickly moved forwards and cupped his hands across his chest, "Thank you for the warning, fellow daoist."

At this time, the bell stopped ringing.

It had rung 15 times.

She saw his face; he couldn't be any more ordinary than he was. So, why in the world was there such an intense attraction coming from him? The female felt her cheeks burn hot. She lowered her head and said, "What are you here for?" But just as she said that she stiffened. Why would anyone come to the Merit Department? What a stupid question she had asked.

Qin Yu laughed. He looked at this nervous and clumsy woman who seemed overly tense and lightly smiled, "I came here to look at the hundred treasure list."

Seeing that he didn't seem to have noticed her current state, the woman's heart calmed down and she finally looked up. They met eyes, and as he waited for her to regain her composure, a young cultivator working at the Merit Department walked forwards to greet him.

With heavy disappointment, she ruthlessly glared at the youth for not minding his own business. She wanted to help him but was afraid that she would be too obvious, so she simply stood to the side. As for informing the lord about the problem with the merit service bell...well, it was already fine right now!

Qin Yu asked for the newest hundred treasure list. The battlefield against the demonic path took place over a vast area and there was an alliance branch division in every city, each with the jurisdiction to

exchange for treasures. Thus, if he wanted to determine whether or not the Skythunder Bamboo was still available, this was the most accurate place to do so.

The youth in front of him had an expression of barely concealed hostility. Qin Yu was shocked for a moment, but as he thought of the female cultivator who nearly fainted just now, he smiled and thought little of it. He probed the jade slip.

Tenth rank, Skythunder Bamboo.

Fortunately, no one had taken it first.

Qin Yu brightly smiled, but the youth's complexion across from him became even uglier. The youth couldn't help but acknowledge that even though this fellow had ordinary looks, his smiling face was just far too attractive! For a large fellow to smile so beautifully, there was definitely something wrong with him!

"What else do you want? We are very busy here!" These rough and tough words actually revealed a little lack of self-confidence. This was a typical performance from a young, hormone-driven youth.

Qin Yu smiled. He laid down the jade slip and turned to leave.

The female cultivator was suddenly anxious. She glared at the youth and then blushed as she said, "He's a bit irritable because we've been so busy recently. I hope fellow daoist doesn't blame him."

Qin Yu shook his head, "I understand."

His casual and understated manner, his broad mind and honesty, all of this caused the woman's heart to quicken. She quickly tossed out another topic, "Did fellow daoist come in to determine whether an item you wanted was still there?"

There was no problem in revealing this. Qin Yu nodded and smiled.

The female cultivator relaxed. She hurried said, "In truth, fellow daoist can use a portion of your merit points to reserve items on the hundred treasure list. Then, even if someone takes out more merit points to exchange for the item, we will still try to inform you and also retain the item for seven days."

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. "There's something like that? Then I definitely have to put in my reservation."

The youth who found him displeasing to the eyes coldly snorted, "For the items on the hundred treasure list, you have to have at least 30% of the merit points required before you can make a reservation. The higher the rank, the more merit points are required, so you had best calculate how many you have before you embarrass yourself!"

The female cultivator gnashed her teeth, "Just shut up!" With a bit of worry on her face she said, "With my current level authority, the most I can do is lower the minimum amount of merit points required by 10%. If it's too much, even I am helpless to do anything about it."

The youth felt as if he had been struck in the chest and he nearly started crying.

Big sister, your favoritism is too blatant!

What about me? What do I do!?

Qin Yu laughed and rejected her offer. "It's no problem. I have enough merit points, so please help me reserve the tenth ranked item on the hundred treasure list."

The female cultivator's heart skipped a beat. If this person could collect half the merit points required for an item on the hundred treasure list, that meant they were immensely skilled. Her voice became even gentler as she said, "Great. The tenth rank on the hundred treasure list, I will help you reserve it immediately." She turned and waved, "Shanshan, quickly bring out the reservation book for me."

Seeing her close friend stare at her with dull and wide eyes, she stomped her feet and angrily said, "Just what are you looking at? Hurry up and bring it over!"

The youth sneered, "Skythunder Bamboo? Fellow daoist, are you sure you didn't speak incorrectly, or perhaps you came to our Merit Department to stir up trouble!"

"There's no mistake." Qin Yu lightly said, "What I want to reserve is the tenth item on the hundred treasure list, the Skythunder Bamboo."

Within the Merit Department, everyone's complexions turned strange. From Qin Yu's earnest expression, they didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. A mere sixth grade Foundation Establishment cultivator...to think he dared babble such nonsense!

The youth laughed out loud. "Do you know how many merit points are required to exchange for the Skythunder Bamboo? Did you know that up until now, there hasn't been a single person that has reserved or exchanged for any of the top ten ranked items on the hundred treasure list? It's like you don't know how great the heavens and earth are!" The youth was simply too excited that this person was far too stupid. In order to show off he had done something so ridiculous, and now was the perfect chance to rip off his mask and reveal his true appearance to his junior-apprentice sister!

The youth took deep gasping breaths as he waited for Qin Yu to feel ashamed or maybe argue back in return. However, he was actually ignored.

Qin Yu took out his identity card and passed it to the female cultivator. "Could you help me determine the amount of merit points I have?"

Ziqing, the female cultivator, was stunned, "You...you really want to reserve the Skythunder Bamboo?"

Qin Yu nodded, "Yes."

The youth fumed so much that flames seemed to leap out from his ears. He grabbed the identity card and said, "I will help you convert the merit points. I want to see just what skill you have to be so arrogant!"

Several nearby exchanging cultivators looked at Qin Yu with admiration in their eyes. In order to court a woman, this fellow was willing to go the distance! However, his current actions were unwise. He would likely have to draw back in shame after this.

Ziqing bit her lips. She wanted to stop him so that he didn't publicly shame himself, but she couldn't find a reason. She looked at him, not blaming him. This fellow was truly able to see through her thoughts. He actually used such a method to draw her attention.

But what would he do now? He was going to embarrass himself!

Ziqing looked at Qin Yu. As she saw his calm expression, she actually didn't feel any loathing or disgust in her heart. Rather, she thought that he was very interesting. This fellow's skin was incredibly thick. He was actually still continuing with his plan as if nothing would go wrong. Did he want her to remember him using this method? As she thought of this, her face blushed red and her heart began racing in her chest.

Oh no, if he waits a little and asks me out for a private meeting later, what should I do? Should I...agree? Or should I be a little stubborn? Mother always said that men were quick to change their hearts, and if something was too easy to obtain they wouldn't cherish it.

A cry of shock interrupted Ziqing's daydream. She looked up in panic like a little beast that had been caught stealing food. She discovered that around Qin Yu, everyone was staring at him with wide eyes, completely dumbfounded. Her heart shrank as she slowly turned around. She saw that in front of the youth, the merit point stone was shining with a deep purple light, so luxurious and noble that it left one staring in awe.

Chapter 44 – Meeting Zhang Zhang again

Purple...

A sudden emptiness grew in Ziqing's heart.

Qin Yu asked, "How many merit points do I have?"

The youth subconsciously gulped, feeling as if he had turned to wood. He stammered out, "167,000 points..."

Everyone within the hall stiffened as if they had been struck by thunder. They stared at the youth, as if wondering if he had read the number incorrectly.

The youth aggrievedly said, "It's true, it really is!"

The heated gazes on him left his insides writhing.

Qin Yu asked, "Is it enough to reserve the Skythunder Bamboo?"

"It's enough..." The youth blanched, his eyes wide, looking like a little white bunny seeing a wild wolf. His intestines were already blue enough with regret.

Qin Yu nodded, "Reserve it."

"Y-yes!" The youth suddenly regained his composure. As he discovered that Qin Yu didn't mean to create any difficulties for him, he seemed to come back to life. He hurried away, almost racing, and used only half the usual time to return with a certificate respectfully held in both hands. "My Lord, after you obtain the remaining amount of merit points you can use this to complete the exchange."

Ziqing paled and her ears began to hum. She never thought that her judgment would be so good. In fact...it was too good. She was no longer wavering, because she now realized that the two of them didn't exist in the same world to begin with.

A young girl's ignorant puppy love, a little bit sweet, a little bit pure, had died like this.

This was the reality of a brutal world!

Qin Yu spared her a faintly apologetic look. After taking the certificate he turned to leave.

A figure flashed just outside the entrance and Zhu Bluecloud strode into the hall. His eyes brightened. I knew it was you...you finally returned!" He wanted to say the slightly disrespectful 'boy', but he caught the word as it was on the tip of his tongue and swallowed it back down. He didn't want to admit it, but after recent events, he had developed a certain admiration towards Qin Yu.

To recklessly journey through the regions of the demonic path and cut down 15 Golden Core demonic cultivators, earning the infamous title of 'Evil Star' and even causing the high level figures of the demonic path to act in fury...he really wanted to cut open Qin Yu and see what this young fellow was hiding! Beneath that shell of skin, could there be some white-haired old monster lurking about? Or how was this all possible?

"Greetings, Elder Zhu!" Everyone in the Merit Department began to bow in a hurry.

Zhu Bluecloud waved his hand, "Let's go, I have something I'd like to ask you."

Qin Yu frowned. "I'm a little tired. I'd like to rest."

"Hehe, that's not up to you!" Zhu Bluecloud laughed twice and then lowered his voice, "Don't force me to reveal your status as that Evil Star, otherwise the demonic path will definitely try to become more intimate with you."

Qin Yu's frowned deepened.

Zhu Bluecloud smiled in smug satisfaction. "Let's go."

And at this time, a few figures walked into the Merit Department. The one leading them was an elegant and scholarly middle-aged cultivator. The man smiled, saying, "Brother Zhu, it's been a long time since I've been graced with your presence."

Qin Yu's expression suddenly froze.

Standing behind the middle-aged cultivator, Zhang Zhang was a bit puzzled as she looked at Qin Yu. She hadn't missed his momentary change in expression. Does he know me? But as she carefully thought about it, she didn't recognize him at all.

Zhu Bluecloud exchanged several words with the middle-aged cultivator. Then, with a glance behind him, he bid his farewells.

Qin Yu followed without question.

Zhang Zhang looked back at him. A familiar feeling tickled her mind, causing her to furrow her eyebrows.

At her side, Zhang Huo's face darkened. "Zhang Zhang, that person dared to be rude to you, I will go and teach him a lesson!"

Before Zhang Zhang could respond, everyone in the Merit Department looked at him as if he were a raving idiot.

Zhang Chengzu felt his heart skip a beat. He turned and scolded, "Shut up, don't speak recklessly!"

After the Zhang Family left the Merit Department, Zhang Chengzu thought for a moment. He asked, "Zhang Zhang, do you know that person?"

Zhang Zhang hesitated for a moment before shaking her head.

At the battle stage –

Seeing Zhu Bluecloud and Qin Yu leave, a ninth level Foundation Establishment cultivator couldn't suppress his curiosity any longer. He asked out loud, "Are there any fellow daoists here who have a friend in the Merit Department? Could you help me ask a question to unravel the puzzle in my heart?"

"Yes, yes, I just wanted to ask that too!"

"If it were anyone else, I might consider this question a joke. But since it concerns Senior Ning Qin, I can't help but be a little flustered."

"I feel the same, I do!"

A female cultivator stood up, "I have a junior-apprentice sister who works at the Merit Department. I can go and return quickly."

After a long time, when everyone thought she had forgotten halfway, the female cultivator returned. She was pale, with an absentminded look in her eyes.

As if she had been frightened silly.

....

Zhu Bluecloud lived in an opulent and elegantly designed garden. The scenery was quiet and tranquil. He stood on the side of the lake, asking, "Did you take a liking for the miss of that family?"

Qin Yu didn't even bother to glance at him.

Zhu Bluecloud didn't lose his temper. He continued, "That's your old lover, isn't it? Don't try to deny it; I have very good eyesight, so you can forget trying to lie to me."

Qin Yu said, "If you only want to dig into my private life, then I'll simply bid my farewell here."

"Wait there!" Zhu Bluecloud clenched his teeth. "Since you're in such a hurry, let's get down to business. Did you know that I was dragged into becoming the 'Evil Star Duo' with you? I can't even take half a step out of Canyonwell City these days, because there are tens of thousands of demonic cultivators all clamoring to take my head! How do you think we should settle this?"

"I saved you."

Zhu Bluecloud stamped a foot. "I've been suffering in your place for you!"

"I saved you."

"Just shut up. Did you think that's how I see it? If you did such a good deed then why did you have to drag me underwater with you!?"

Qin Yu flippantly said, "What are you trying to say? I don't understand at all. Also, I saved you."

Zhu Bluecloud started to gasp like a cow. But, he seemed to think of something and immediately calmed down. A happy smile crossed his face. "Ning Qin, you might have wanted to hide your skills so you can pretend to be a pig as you eat the tiger, but let me tell you that that has become a dream! Weren't you puzzled why that bell outside the Merit Department was ringing so much earlier?"

Qin Yu's complexion changed.

Zhu Bluecloud laughed. "That is the merit service bell. Whenever someone kills a demonic Golden Core cultivator, it will ring throughout the entire city. Just then, it rang a total of 15 times, meaning 15 Golden Cores. No wonder the high level figures in the demonic path have been so breathless with anger that they issued out a kill command for you." As he thought about how he had been drawn into this mess, his complexion darkened before immediately becoming brighter than it was before. Just where can you hide now? Come with me together so that we're all exposed to the wrath and hatred of the demonic cultivators!

Qin Yu's complexion turned cloudy. He really wanted to grab onto the fellow who set up the merit service bell and give him a good punch to the face. He had wandered the demonic path regions for months without being caught, and yet he was somehow exposed here today.

Seeing Zhu Bluecloud's smiling face, Qin Yu coldly humphed before turning to leave. He knew that his identity could no longer be kept a secret. Even if the alliance issued a ban on all news, there were demonic path spies placed in the city who would certainly send this information out. Fortunately, he had already prepared countermeasures.

As he turned the corner, Qin Yu suddenly stopped and turned around. "Are you thinking that I am the same as you right now, so you're feeling happy about it?"

Zhu Bluecloud's smile froze. "What do you mean?"

Qin Yu said, "I mean that you are far too naive." He pointed a finger at his own face and then walked away.

Zhu Bluecloud was stunned for a moment. Then, he began to fume and curse out loud, "Despicable, you are a despicable bastard!"

Hearing the wild calls behind him, Qin Yu started to smile. Perhaps things like fate truly existed between people in this world. Just like the Zeng Zhongxiu that he met in East Stream Town, he also had a very good impression of Zhu Bluecloud. This fellow might be a bit grumpy and stubborn, but he was actually quite interesting.

If there was a chance, they could even become friends.

But soon, Qin Yu regretted his own thoughts. He really wanted to chase Zhu Bluecloud out of his life!

This was because this fellow had a hidden attribute of extreme nagging and gossip!

"Ning Qin, have you heard about the Western Ridge Sect's old man Liu? If you haven't, that's no problem, I can tell you everything you need to know. That old fellow is over 300 years old but actually married some 18 year old girl from the Rainbow Sect not too long ago. I wonder whether or not that old

waist of his will break off in bed or not. Hehe, you might not know, but that old fellow still tries to pretend he's so virtuous in front of everyone else.

"Ning Qin, what do you want the Skythunder Bamboo for? Hey, don't look at me like that. I'm a Disciplinary Elder of the alliance, so I have the right to look up certain information. Rest assured that I have no intention of taking it from you, well, in truth, I also don't have that many merit points. I just want to remind you that the Skythunder Bamboo isn't easy to raise. It has extremely strict standards for its environment and care, so wouldn't it be an utter tragedy if you were to exchange for it and then accidentally kill it?"

"Ning Qin, the red carp in my family's lake have been tossing about recently. I called someone in to examine them to see if they were sick, and can you guess what the real reason was? Hehe, that's right, they are in heat! That's right, these red carp can actually enter into heat. This is the first time that I have ever seen fish in heat. The veterinarian that I spoke to said that this might be because the atmosphere in Canyonwell City is very tense and nervous right now, and that created a feeling of crisis in the red carp, where they are all rushing to lay eggs and give birth to offspring."

This was too much!

Even if he were ignored, Zhu Bluecloud could still talk endlessly in front of a person for hours on end without seeming as if he would ever stop.

This continued for days since they left the Merit Department!

As Qin Yu was wondering whether or not he should quietly move away, Zhu Bluecloud finally brought him some slightly useful news.

"There's finally some entertainment!" The fellow said, full of excitement. "This is the most recent news. The demonic path has attacked Canyonwell City without any result, so they have decided to issue a letter of challenge to decide the ownership of the city through three battles. If the demonic path loses they will voluntarily retreat 300 miles and not make any attacks for the next half a year!"

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. "Are there any merit points to earn?"

Zhu Bluecloud looked at Qin Yu as if thinking 'what a smart boy'. "There are, there definitely are, a great deal of merit points!" The three battles would each respectively be at the early Golden Core realm, middle Golden Core realm, and late Golden Core realm. Every victory would earn a person 30,000 merit points, the same as killing three demonic path Golden Cores.

Qin Yu smiled.

Zhu Bluecloud glanced at him. "What, do you want to participate?" If you beg me to help you with a pleading expression, then I guess I will be magnanimous and help you this once.

Qin Yu said, "Since they let you disclose this information to me, they naturally would give me the qualifications to participate."

Zhu Bluecloud curled his lips, disappointment etched all over his features. "You're too sharp. How boring, too boring!" But in his heart, he was secretly invigorated. As the one facilitating this matter, the

alliance would reward him for doing so. Hehe, Ning Qin, oh Ning Qin, no matter how wily you are, you're still drinking this old man's foot washing water.

Qin Yu shook his head. "Don't get so excited that you laugh your head off. If you convince me to participate, the alliance will definitely give you some advantages. But, since I need merit points, I'll just go along with it. I'm fine with this as long as you don't think up some vile and disgusting thought as if I'm drinking your foot washing water or something."

Zhu Bluecloud's complexion changed. His mouth dropped open, "You can read minds?"

Qin Yu's face darkened. "Zhu Bluecloud, did you really think of foot washing water?"

"No, no way! I, um, I have some matters to attend to so I'm leaving first. Goodbye!" He turned and left.

Watching him leave, Qin Yu relaxed. At least he would have some peace today. Since the alliance had Zhu Bluecloud visit him, then this matter should have already been determined in advance. Soon, he would be able to obtain the 30,000 merit points and nearly have enough to obtain the Skythunder Bamboo.

Several days later, Zhu Bluecloud visited, bringing with him details that the righteous and demonic sides had settled on. The battle would occur at Hidden Wind Valley, 30 miles outside the city. It would be best two out of three, and after stepping on stage, one's life or death would depend on their own destiny.

This wasn't much different from what Qin Yu thought it would be like.

Chapter 45 – The Righteous and Demonic Convocation

Zhu Bluecloud solemnly said, "Qin Yu, you must be clearly aware that this time, this battle between the righteous and demonic paths involves not just Canyonwell City, but also the morale of both sides. This will influence the entire Southern Empire battlefield. As far as I know, the high level figures of the demonic path have already dispatched powerhouses, each one an amazingly strong individual of their generation. This battle isn't as simple as it appears on the surface!"

He hesitated for a moment. "You are strong, that is true, but that doesn't guarantee you a win. With your skills, you can obtain 30,000 merit points by spending a bit more time and effort, so there is no need for you to take on such a great risk. If you aren't willing to participate, I can explain this to the alliance. They won't be able to force you."

Qin Yu smiled, his heart warming. "For you to be so anxious, you should already have some understanding of the situation. Who is the demonic path sending over?"

Zhu Bluecloud never doubted his intelligence. He sighed and said, "If you don't withdraw, then the one you will be facing is the number one genius of the demonic path's younger generation, Army Breaker. He broke into the Golden Core realm at 27 years of age, and although he is only at the first level of Golden Core, he once killed Golden Core cultivators at the Foundation Establishment realm. Now, his strength has reached a terrifying degree. He can only be described as unfathomable."

Qin Yu's heart chilled. In the world of cultivators, realms were extremely harsh dividers. A superior cultivator would normally possess absolute power over a lower cultivator. To fight within realms was rare, and to fight beyond realms was even rarer. As long as one could achieve this, they would be

considered a chosen pride of heaven. These types of individuals possessed incredible talent, physiques, methods, or perhaps had a mind-boggling destiny upon their bodies. But no matter who they were, these types of people were extremely difficult to deal with.

However, he maintained a calm appearance. Although his heart stirred, it was far from forming waves. He had also killed Golden Cores at the Foundation Establishment realm, and he had killed more than one!

Looking at his expression, Zhu Bluecloud revealed a bit of worry. He shook his head, "I know that you wouldn't withdraw. You're a crazy psycho who wandered through the territory of the demonic path and recklessly slaughtered your way through, so why would you fear a little demon boy." He turned, "Come on, let's go to the alliance. There is some classified information about Army Breaker that might be useful to you."

Qin Yu nodded, "Alright."

Confidence didn't mean arrogance. Army Breaker was definitely powerful, so if he had information about him ahead of time, he would be much easier to deal with.

At the alliance station.

The one responsible for receiving Ning Qin was a seventh level Golden Core cultivator named Jiang Yuanhao. Although his actions showed he had a higher status than Zhu Bluecloud, he remained polite to Qin Yu and his bright smile didn't dim at all. After Qin Yu asked for information concerning Army Breaker, he immediately handed over a jade slip and sat to the side. His elegant and graceful demeanor left one stunned.

Qin Yu expressed his thanks and took the jade slip. He carefully looked through the information. After a long time, he closed his eyes. Countless bits of information gathered and sifted through his mind as he began to summarize the basic form and condition of Army Breaker.

His magic power was deep, his mortal body was potent, he had demonic treasures in hand, and his divine sense was also keen...Qin Yu subconsciously frowned. He felt that this person was a bit familiar...but then, he was immediately surprised. Wasn't this person just a copy of him!?

How many coincidences, lucky chances, and perils did he have to survive in order to forge his current cultivation? Army Breaker had this strength and had even broken into Golden Core earlier. His experiences might not be any less and he was definitely more difficult to deal with than expected.

30,000 merit points. Was this really worth the risk? But just as this thought formed in Qin Yu's mind, he immediately pushed it down. The true meaning of cultivation was to change one's life. If he retreated today, this would shake his mind and leave behind hidden dangers in his heart.

Qin Yu opened his eyes. With a solemn expression, he slowly said, "From this day forwards I will enter seclusion without leaving, until the day the fight happens."

Jiang Yuanhao relaxed and his smile brightened. "Of course. Fellow daoist Nign Qin can cultivate in the alliance station. No one will disturb you."

Qin Yu rose up. "There is also another issue. In this battle, I won't be using the name of the Kong Family's Exalted Ning Qin on stage."

"That's no problem." Jiang Yuanhao readily agreed. "Allow me to lead fellow daoist to the seclusion area."

Zhu Bluecloud followed behind, his eyes sweeping past them both.

Qin Yu didn't say anything. He faintly nodded, his expression calm and confident.

Army Breaker, so what? Who was stronger, who was weaker, they would find out after fighting!

The alliance training area was heavily guarded and there was also a giant array formation laid down that gathered spiritual energy. One only had to pay a minor fee in order to obtain a cultivation chamber that ensured absolute safety. It was a widely praised system.

With Jiang Yuanhao leading the way and Zhu Bluecloud accompanying him, Qin Yu naturally received a respectable reception. The man in charge of the training area personally opened the most advanced cultivation chamber for them.

Coincidentally, the Zhang Family's group was also at the training area and they seemed to be waiting for someone to leave seclusion. The arrival of Jiang Yuanhao caused a great stir that drew everyone's attention. But, Zhang Zhang's gaze actually fell on Qin Yu. She didn't know who this ordinary youth was, that he would be personally led here by great figures of the alliance.

At this time, Zhang Chengzu walked out from the training area with a smile plastered on his face. After several days he had advanced to the third level of Golden Core, so he was naturally in a cheerful and satisfied mood. As his eyes fell on Zhang Zhang and the others and just as he was about to wave to them, he suddenly stopped. He turned and saw Jiang Yuanhao and the others, and after a brief moment of hesitation he moved over to greet them. He cupped his hands across his chest, "Fellow daoist Jiang, fellow daoist Zhu, fellow daoist Sun, it's good to see you here."

His smile was bright and friendly, as if he were trying to become closer friends. But besides Zhu Bluecloud who turned and greeted him, the other two simply nodded and continued speaking to each other.

Zhang Chengzu's smile wavered as he felt the cold attitude emanating from the two. Not knowing whether he should remain or stay, he was left in an awkward situation.

Zhang Zhang watched her father receive a cold shoulder from afar. Her cheeks flushed red and her eyes burned, but she bit her lips and refused to cry.

Qin Yu noticed this. After a moment of hesitation, he cupped his hands across his chest and said, "Greetings, fellow daoist Zhang."

Jiang Yuanhao was faintly startled. He looked at Qin Yu, his calm gaze fathomless. After a moment, he smiled and said, "Fellow daoist Zhang, I believe we met several days ago."

Zhang Chengzu was surprised. He quickly said, "Yes, yes, when I first came to Canyonwell City, I saw fellow daoist Jiang one time before." His eyes fell on Qin Yu, confused but also gratified.

The cultivator surnamed Sun who was responsible for managing the training area also smiled and exchanged a few words. This left Zhang Chengzu flustered with excitement, and he even thought they would become closer in the future.

Although he wanted to stay and chat a little longer, Zhang Chengzu tactfully bid his farewells and left. The Zhang Family cultivators all watched with elation. As they saw their Patriarch approach, they all bowed, awe and reverence in their eyes.

That was Jiang Yuanhao and Sun Siyuan! They were absolutely high level figures in the alliance, people all of great renown. To laugh and chat with their Patriarch, just what sort of treatment was that? That was an incredible honor!

Zhang Zhang's face was full of smiles. "Congratulations Father!"

Zhang Chengzu smiled. He subconsciously turned around and saw people leave after the cultivation chamber was prepared. Zhu Bluecloud also personally led Qin Yu inside. After seeing this, his heart skipped a beat but he didn't say anything. He quickly led everyone away from the training area.

After returning to their residence, all that remained were father and daughter. Zhang Zhang couldn't but ask, "Father, Senior Jiang and Senior Sun were so friendly to you. Once this news spreads out, it will be to your advantage, so why do you look so unhappy?"

Zhang Chengzu ruefully smiled. "My daughter, do you really think that Jiang Yuanhao or Sun Siyuan see your father in their eyes? The reason they spoke to me today was all to give face to someone else." He reiterated how Qin Yu had spoken up for him.

Zhang Zhang gasped. "He only has a Foundation Establish cultivation, not much stronger than I am, so how can he have so much face..."

Zhang Chengzu's eyes brightened. "That's right! Foundation Establishment cultivation, Foundation Establishment cultivation, I should have thought about this sooner. It must be him, it definitely must be him!"

"Who is Father speaking of?"

"The Kong Family's Exalted, Ning Qin!"

Zhang Zhang sucked in a deep breath. "It was him!" Although she had come to Canyonwell City not too long ago, she had heard this name repeated many times, as well as all the praise that followed it.

"I should have realized this sooner. Besides him, no one else has such face that characters like Jiang Yuanhao and Sun Siyuan would change their attitudes for him." Zhang Chengzu uttered in a low whisper.

Zhang Zhang cautiously said, "Father, Lord Ning Qin is strong, but he might not necessarily be able to affect the likes of Senior Jiang and Senior Sun, right?"

Zhang Chengzu forced a smile. "Of course he can. Zhang Zhang, do you remember several days ago when the merit service bell rang 15 times in a row?"

Zhang Zhang's eyes widened.

“That was him. The alliance issued a gag command for all information concerning this, but your father just happened to unintentionally learn of it.” Zhang Chengzu shook his head. As he thought back to how they had bumped into each other just outside the Merit Department and how he had missed a perfect chance to draw closer to him, he began to feel regret.

But, why would Ning Qin help him?

Zhang Chengzu’s gaze fell onto his beloved daughter. He suddenly asked, “Zhang Zhang, do you really not know Ning Qin?”

Zhang Zhang shook her head, “I don’t.”

Could it be that Ning Qin was interested in Zhang Zhang? Zhang Chengzu felt his heart quicken. This was a reasonable explanation, and if it were true...after a moment of thought, he didn’t say anything further. He thought to himself that if this were true, Ning Qin would definitely follow this up with something else, and he could continue with this line of thought then.

.....

Six days later, the Righteous and Demonic Convocation arrived at Hidden Wind Valley. Perhaps coming from some unknown inspiration, or perhaps it was because of some whispers from Zhu Bluecloud, but Jiang Yuanhao sent an invitation to Zhang Chengzu. In his shaking excitement, Zhang Chengzu brought Zhang Zhang as well as several of his most outstanding disciples to attend.

Surprised at Jiang Yuanhao’s invitation, Sun Siyuan’s welcoming smile and the whispers of the alliance army cultivators couldn’t be considered too cold or apathetic. Rather, for Zhang Chengzu, he was burning with elation, as if he had finally stepped into the inner circle after endless trials and tribulations. He busied himself with socializing with as many people as he could.

Compared to the performance of the elders, the juniors were much more simple and rude; they simply didn’t place the Zhang Family in their eyes. Zhang Zhang was able to feel the burning heat from the enthusiastic gazes of some juniors, and in her shame and anger she decided to draw a line between them, leading her group to enjoy the scenery around the camp area instead.

The terrain of Hidden Wind Valley was filled with twists and turns, and within, there were even more cracks and pathways that interwove with each other like an endless spider web. Even if wind blew in it would find it difficult to come back out, thus the name of Hidden Wind Valley. The red and exposed rock walls had been eroded and bleached throughout the years, lending a desolate and wild atmosphere to the land.

Zhang Zhang was immersed in her thoughts, a bit depressed. Zhang Huo and the others were all jubilant, deliberately trying to cheer her into a better mood as they accompanied her through the alley.

“Zhang Zhang, look at these dozen or so cracks that spread through the walls. When you look from afar, doesn’t it look like a big bear looking for food?” Zhang Huo smiled, waving his hand about. But in the next moment, he froze.

From the cracks in the wall across from them, several cultivators suddenly shot out. As they appeared, one could feel the cold yin chill aura emanating from their bodies.

Demonic path cultivators!

Zhang Zhang quietly whispered, "Big Brother Zhang Huo, let's leave."

Zhang Huo regained his composure and quickly nodded.

But at this time, the demonic cultivators noticed their presence. One of them flashed forwards, suddenly blocked their way.

Golden Core!

Zhang Huo's heart shrank. "Senior, what is the meaning of this?"

The Golden Core demonic cultivator's gaze was cold and dark. "I should be the one asking you what you are trying to plot by breaking into the area controlled by my demonic path?"

Zhang Zhang quickly turned. The maid next to her sputtered out in panic, "Miss, we haven't crossed the boundary!"

"Servant girl, are you trying to say that I am spouting nonsense?" An icy killing intent rushed forwards, leaving Shao Shao deathly pale.

Zhang Huo clenched his teeth, "Senior, isn't doing this a disgrace for someone of your status?"

The Golden Core demonic cultivator sneered. "Shut up. You don't have the qualifications to speak in front of me. Hurry and give an explanation, otherwise none of you will be leaving here today!"

Zhang Zhang prevented Zhang Huo from speaking further. She respectfully bowed, "Junior greets senior. Today, we juniors were simply enjoying the scenery, and accidentally wandered into the area controlled by the demonic path. I ask that senior show leniency and forgive us this one time."

Chapter 46 – Enemies Meet

The Golden Core demonic cultivator settled down a bit. "This little girl understands courtesy and custom; I like that. However, mistakes must be punished. Come, follow me back for questioning, and once you clearly explain yourself then you will be allowed to leave."

Zhang Zhang stiffened. She naturally couldn't agree to this demand, otherwise if she were to truly enter the region of the demonic path then she wouldn't be able to explain herself even if she had 100 mouths. Moreover, she could see something in the depths of this old demon's eyes that made loathing and disgust rise into her throat! She took a deep breath and said in a soft voice, "Senior, with the status of us juniors, today's events won't cause any trouble at all. If you let us go we can just pretend none of this happened. Wouldn't that be great?"

Li Yunmo's eyes wavered. "Very well. I can allow them to leave, but you must stay here!" He couldn't let this piece of meat go away once it was so close to his mouth.

Zhang Huo grew angry. "You old demon! My family's honorable master is a high level figure within the alliance. If you dare to take advantage of our miss then you will never escape disaster!"

Bang –

A flick of the sleeve sent him flying away. Li Yunmo's eyes were fierce and brutal, "I also want to know just how your family's master will cause a disaster for me!"

"Stop." A gentle voice rang out, filled with warmth. Liang Taizu walked forwards with his group in tow. "Draw back. Don't be rude to this lady."

Li Yunmo respectfully followed his command.

Liang Taizu swept his eyes around and sighed inwardly with admiration. Because of the laws that Li Yunmo cultivated, he normally didn't hold attraction towards women, so Liang Taizu was surprised that this occurred. But Zhang Zhang's beauty surpassed his expectations. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, "My subordinate was rude and accidentally frightened miss."

Zhang Zhang was shaken. This old demonic cultivator had an aura as deep as a pool and confining as a prison; he was the strongest powerhouse here. So who was this youth? He actually held such authority!

"Senior didn't trouble us. Sir speaks too seriously."

Appreciation glowed in Liang Taizu's eyes. "Miss is truly forgiving, so I don't want to make things awkward anymore. But, my subordinate already stated that one of you must stay behind, so I ask miss to leave one of your maids here and then you can all safely leave."

Behind Zhang Zhang, the complexions of the two girls paled.

Shao Shao was panic-stricken. As she glanced to her side and saw the pale and anxious expression of the girl standing beside her, she calmed down. She thought to herself that since she had accompanied her miss since she was a child, it was impossible for her to be abandoned with the relationship they had. Everyone else around her also had a similar idea. Their eyes glanced at her and although some people felt regret, they didn't say anything. Otherwise, would someone willingly stay behind in her place? What a joke!

Gu Ling'er bit her lips, pleading in her eyes.

Zhang Zhang forced a smile. "Sir..."

Liang Taizu's attitude was relaxed. "Miss, don't make me take back my promise."

As despair filled Gu Ling'er's heart, she could no longer keep back her tears; they began to drip down her cheeks.

Li Yunmo licked the corners of his lips. He pointed a finger, "Young master, I believe that maid is quite good. She has a fresh taste like pears in rain!"

Zhang Zhang stiffened.

Everything already seemed decided.

But in the silence, a touch of black appeared from a crack in the valley. It was a youth, and although his appearance was extremely ordinary, his eyes were as fathomless as the sea.

"How lively!"

A cold voice spread into everyone's ears.

Zhang Zhang turned to look. What entered her eyes was a strange face, but from the way he walked and the way he spoke...she couldn't be wrong, it was him! It had to be him!

Joy surged from the depths of her heart. She quickly bowed, "Greetings...my lord."

The Zhang Family members and the demonic cultivators across from them all revealed puzzled expressions at the same time. He was just a mere Foundation Establishment cultivator. Could he be capable of changing the current situation?

Li Yunmo's complexion changed. His dark and dreary gaze fell upon the black-robed youth and he turned to whisper several words into Liang Taizu's ear.

Liang Taizu's eyes brightened. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath before opening them once more. A smile lifted his lips. "What a familiar taste. It seems we meet again." He swept his eyes around, "Where is the Grandmaster? I still haven't forgotten the benevolence of the lesson he taught me."

The black-robed youth remained expressionless. "I have no idea what you are speaking of."

Liang Taizu smiled. "It doesn't matter if you don't know. We have plenty of time, so how about returning to my camp for a talk?"

The black-robed youth said, "Liang Taizu, this is the Righteous and Demonic Convocation, a manifestation of the will of the high level figures from both sides. No matter how distinguished your status is, if you do something like destroying this meeting, you will inevitably pay a price for your actions. The status you hold today was hard to come by, so carefully consider just what your next move will be."

Liang Taizu's smile widened. "You seem to know a great deal, but as long as you stay behind, just who will know that I was responsible?"

The black-robed youth looked at the old man across from him. "You can try."

The old man slowly looked up. His aura sharpened, like an invisible blade that could split apart the heavens and earth!

Liang Taizu's stared carefully at every slight change in Qin Yu's expression. He lifted his hand, "Uncle Sea."

The old man lowered his head and became unnoteworthy once more.

Liang Taizu said, "As the Grandmaster's disciple, I should spare you a bit of face. Since you decided to meddle in today's events, I will let things go for now. But, I am becoming increasingly annoyed by you, so from now on you had best not appear before me again, otherwise I will definitely kill you."

The demonic path cultivators turned and left.

Woosh –

The sound of breaking air roared like a hurricane as Zhang Chengzu's figure appeared from nowhere. He worriedly asked, "Zhang Zhang, are you alright?"

Zhang Zhang's eyes reddened. She forcefully held back her grievances and said, "It was thanks to Senior Ning Qin helping us that the demonic path cultivators retreated."

Zhang Chengzu hesitated for a moment. "Fellow daoist Ning Qin?"

Qin Yu was left helpless. Why was it that everyone he met possessed extraordinary sensor abilities? He nodded, "Please keep my identity a secret, there are still some matters I must attend to. Farewell." He glanced at Gu Ling'er and left.

Zhang Zhang wanted to speak but wavered. Looking at Ning Qin's departing back, she was left confused. Although his looks were ordinary, his behavior and cultivation were all beyond reproach. Without lifting a finger, he was able to force the demonic path powerhouses to retreat, showing his great majesty and dignity. If such a Ning Qin were to appear in the spring of a young girl, he would be a slayer of hearts.

Everyone's reactions were caught in Zhang Chengzu's eyes. A smile bloomed on his face. In his opinion, since Ning Qin helped out today, this proved just what he was thinking...and, the key point was that Zhang Zhang didn't appear to dislike him. If they could marry, even if this meant his Zhang Family would lose a daughter, it would be a great blessing for them all.

For some unknown reason, Zhang Chengzu suddenly thought back to the 'verbal engagement' she had with that one boy and his smile became brighter than the sun.

His daughter was currently a direct disciple of the Rainbow Sect. She had cultivated for three years to enter the Foundation Establishment realm and her martial talent and appearance were both top rate, just like a heavenly angel. Now, she had finally encountered a stroke of good fortune, so how could that country boy hick ever have dreamed of trying to marry Zhang Zhang?

As Zhang Huo informed him of this matter, he had thought it had been a bit too cold and callous, but at this moment, he felt that it was the right choice to make! She was Zhang Chengzu's daughter; not everyone had the right to think of her.

...

Li Yunmo had an unwilling expression. "Young master, although that boy changed his appearance, the marking aura on his body cannot be wrong. He definitely still has the storage bag with him, so why didn't we take this chance today to grab him?"

Liang Taizu waved his hand. "Do you think that with just his Foundation Establishment cultivation he would dare to be so insolent in front of me? Especially with Uncle Sea there."

Li Yunmo was startled. "Are you saying that the Grandmaster has already reached Nascent Soul?"

Liang Taizu nodded. "Even if there is only a 30% chance I still cannot take the risk. Otherwise, the fury of a Nascent Soul is enough to reduce us all to ashes."

"But..." Li Yunmo hesitated.

Liang Taizu smiled. "The storage bag is in his hands and the materials for the Demon Body cannot run away. During this Righteous and Demonic Convocation, we will look for a chance to kill him. However, we will need to be victims in this plan. If he tried to kill us and was killed by us in self-defense, then even if his master stepped into the Nascent Soul realm he still wouldn't be able to do anything to us.

Otherwise, even if he is a Nascent Soul, he would be hunted down by my demonic path for the rest of his life.”

Li Yunmo shot a glance at Deepsea Demon, heartfelt admiration in his voice. “Young master is so wise!” So, it turned out that Deepsea Demon had already pledged loyalty to the young master.

Also, his young master was a demon amongst demons. In terms of bloodline, potential, character, methods, he excelled in all aspects. He was likely to become a Saint Lord of the demonic path in the future.

Such a person was naturally worthy of following.

“This subordinate will immediately go and find that man’s whereabouts!” Li Yunmo quickly left.

Liang Taizu suddenly said, “Uncle Sea?”

Deepsea Demon’s expression was calm. “In the surrounding 100 miles, there is no Nascent Soul.”

Liang Taizu smiled. “Very good. Then we will continue with our original plan. After this meeting, I want to ensure that there is no other junior within the demonic path that can compare with me again!”

....

The meeting arrived on schedule.

In a valley with steep walls on both sides, a large number of viewing stands had been carved into the rock. The righteous and demonic cultivators sat distantly across from each other, observing the battlefield.

Although they restrained each other, the aura they exuded clashed into a great column that impacted into the highest heavens, stirring up wind and causing clouds to change color.

In the rear, the great armies of the righteous and demonic factions had gathered, their momentum imposing as they looked down at Hidden Wind Valley.

The battles began.

The first match.

Liang Taizu stood in an unremarkable position. He turned and said, “Go.”

A dark and swarthy cultivator from the rear walked forwards. He respectfully bowed and said, “I ask young master to look after my wife and children.”

Liang Taizu solemnly said, “The demonic path will not forget your devotion.”

The swarthy cultivator shot into the skies with a single step and landed on the stage. He roared, “I am the demonic path’s Mountainshake Demon, a seventh level Golden Core cultivation. Who dares to fight me!?”

The deep roar was like grating metal as it swept through the audience. Several great figures from the alliance viewing area frowned as they turned their heads to look.

Jiang Yuanhao explained, "The alliance chose the location where this meeting would take place, and the demonic path would choose the order of the battles." He turned and earnestly said, "Brother Ku, the demonic path will show no mercy. You must be careful!"

Ku Ah lowered his head, revealing nine circular dots created by incense scars. He brought his hands together in prayer, "For the trillion lives of the Southern Empire, this monk will do his best."

The high level figures of the alliance all cupped their hands across their chests and bowed.

There were no buddhist sects within the Southern Empire. Ku Ah was an ascetic monk that originated from the outside world and possessed a buddhist cultivation that was unfathomably deep. He was a man of character and integrity, and his choice to take on this risk for the good of the people was a choice worthy of admiration.

Calmly stepping forwards without the least bit of magic power, Ku Ah walked onto the stage. He sung a brief buddhist chant before saying, "The invasion of the demonic path has resulted in endless slaughter and mayhem, and retributive karma is bound to return to you. However, boundless though the sea of bitterness may be, those who repent can still find salvation in the nearby shores."

Mountainshake Demon laughed, "My demonic path carves a road of massacre through the world. We were originally born from slaughtering and plundering the world, so if you want me to lay down my butcher's blade then come and kill me first!"

Bang –

Demonic energy shot up into the skies, billowing like pitch black smoke, ominous and malevolent, filled with dark power as it swept out through the world. With a loud explosion, the red valley stones broke apart as cracks proliferated without end. Mountainshake Demon rushed forwards like a raging bull. The ground he passed over was unable to withstand the terrifying pressure and began to collapse all around him. From above, it was like an open scar was being torn through the land.

Ku Ah lifted his palms up and thrust them out together. Bright buddhist light shined and thousands of buddhist phantoms appeared, each one glaring down with wrathful judgment in their eyes!

Mountainshake Demon crashed into this light and thunderclaps filled the air as if mountains were colliding into each other. Buddhist phantoms collapsed once after another, unable to resist the overbearing momentum. His body overflowed with astonishing killing intent, like an ancient demon that trampled over all beings.

In the alliance viewing area, the juniors cried out in alarm, their eyes filled with shock and fear. They never thought that Mountainshake Demon would be so violent and fierce.

But those like Jiang Yuanhao all had calm expressions, none of them panicked. Rather, there was a faint happiness blooming from deep in their eyes. Although it appeared on the surface that Mountainshake Demon had obtained the upper hand, that damaged buddhist light didn't dissipate, but instead rapidly gathered itself and reformed. As Mountainshake Demon broke inside, he was caught by the layers and layers of buddhist suppression.

For buddhist factions, their cultivation laws were ones of incredible patience and astonishing stamina. To send the crude and savage Mountainshake Demon onto the stage, he would be lacking the longer he continued.

Unless an accident occurred, this fight was already won.

Jiang Yuanhao and the others all revealed smiles.

But in the next moment they all shot up, their smiles frozen on their faces.

“Hahaha!” Mountainshake Demon wildly laughed. “Foolish monk, since you want to enlighten me then follow me to the yellow springs!”

His body rose up by a foot and blood vessels began bursting out from beneath his skin. Chaotic energies started gushing from his disintegrating body.

Bang –

A heaven-shaking explosion caused the ground to collapse. From all around, dust soared into the heavens and the viewing platforms of both sides cracked as countless stones came crashing down.

Rumble rumble rumble –

Endless thunderclaps rang in the air.

On the alliance viewing platforms, all the high level figures were left deathly pale!

Chapter 47 – The Mighty Army Breaker

Mountainshake Demon exploded.

As a Golden Core that was igniting all the magic power within his body, the force produced from this self-explosion was terrifying. It ravaged and devastated everything within the destructive range.

Qin Yu’s pupils shrank and his complexion darkened. He had experienced a Golden Core demonic cultivator blowing himself up before so he was well aware of how dangerous it was. But, the demonic cultivator who tried to perish together with him that day had only been at the early Golden Core realm, whereas Mountainshake Demon was at the late Golden Core realm. Ku Ah was stronger than Mountainshake Demon and his buddhist cultivation methods gave him the advantage in battle, but against the ruthless suicidal explosion, even he seemed extremely fragile.

Whoosh –

Jiang Yuanhao rushed onto the battlefield. With a wide wave of his sleeves, strong winds rose up and scattered the dust and dirt, revealing the horrifying picture hidden beneath. The earth was torn asunder and marred with deep pits that were over a dozen feet deep. The entire area for several miles outwards had sunk by an entire foot, and the ground had been flattened and cracked like broken glass.

Ku Ah had fallen down, his monk robes soaked in blood. He had countless wounds and even white bones showed. From the alliance viewing platform, everyone revealed expressions of rage as they were barely able to hold themselves back. The only fortunate thing was the weak fluctuations of Ku Ah’s chest that proved he was still alive.

Jiang Yuanhao roared out in anger, "Despicable!"

From the demonic path viewing platform, a demonic cultivator stood up. "In a battle of life and death, everything is decided by the heavens. All methods can be used to kill your opponent, and dying with your enemy is a heroic matter, so how is it despicable? This match will be decided by our agreement and considered a tie."

With boundless demonic energy infused in his voice, the cold and sharp words spread throughout the entire Hidden Wind Valley.

On the alliance viewing platform, a sixth level Golden Core cultivator suddenly paled as sweat began to drip down from him. This person was supposed to be the participant for the second match. "Everyone..." He hesitated as he spoke, but the meaning behind his words was crystal clear.

The complexions of the high level alliance figures sank, yet none of them could say half a word of comfort. The demonic path had chosen to use unbelievably cruel and brutal methods. If someone were to take the stage, the result could be imagined.

Jiang Yuanhao brought Ku Ah back so he could be treated by the alliance healers. Covered in blood, he walked over and found out what was happening. He raged, "Grandmaster Ku Ah has no relation to my Southern Empire yet he was willing to take the stage, but you are a true cultivator of the Southern Empire and yet you have thoughts of withdrawing!"

Shame rose on the man's face. He lowered his head, not saying anything further.

"Brother Jiang, calm your anger. The demonic path's methods were far more ruthless than imagined so it is inevitable that fellow daoist Lin gave birth to thoughts of withdrawing in a moment of panic."

"That is true. You and I never thought that the demonic path would be so vicious. It seems that we fell for their trap in this battle."

"We need to think about what to do now. If no one is willing to step on stage, that doesn't mean we can admit defeat, right? If we do, the morale of the alliance army will collapse."

Jiang Yuanhao's anger stagnated in his chest. He was the person in charge of this Righteous and Demonic Convocation, and in the end, he was also responsible for everything that occurred here. His complexion became even uglier. After an emergency meeting, the high level alliance figures came up with a countermeasure. Still, this countermeasure was far too unusual, and even though everyone agreed that it was the only way to proceed, none of them wanted to speak up about it.

Their eyes fell on Zhu Bluecloud.

After obtaining a jade slip from the high level alliance figures, Zhu Bluecloud's complexion turned gloomy. He cursed beneath his breath and braced himself.

"Ning Qin...ah, I really have no face to say anything. Take a look yourself. If you don't want to then just refuse it. I will support you the entire way!"

Qin Yu took the jade slip. After several breaths of time, he gave it back. "I understand."

Veins popped up on Zhu Bluecloud's forehead. "What do you mean you understand? You are going to agree to this? The demonic path is even willing to self-destruct themselves; this is proof that they are willing to do anything it takes to win. If you step on stage then your life will be in certain peril!"

Qin Yu's heart warmed. While he wasn't too happy with the choice that the alliance's high level figures made, this battle involved not just the war between the righteous and demonic factions, but also his own tempering. Today, his will had reached the peak of possibility. He could not take a single step backwards, otherwise a flaw would exist in his mind from here on out.

"Rest assured that I will win."

Zhu Bluecloud's heart skipped a beat. He didn't know what Qin Yu was thinking, and only thought that Qin Yu and Grandmaster Ku Ah were the same in that neither of them wanted the people of the Southern Empire to perish beneath the torment of the demonic path. Even as he was ashamed of himself, respect and awe gushed out from his heart. He brought his hands together in respect and said, "Brother Ning, I will wait for you to return in triumph, and then we will drink through the night!"

He turned and walked away.

A jade slip was soon brought to the demonic path viewing platform. As Liang Taizu received it, a bright smile grew on his face.

Li Yunmo respectfully said, "Young master's plan was truly ingenious!"

Gratification flashed in Deepsea Demon's eyes. He felt more and more that he had chosen the right person. Liang Taizu really did have a high chance of becoming the demonic path's Saint Lord.

Liang Taizu was able to sense this change in attitude and was left even more satisfied. Deepsea Demon was the most powerful of his subordinates, and if he could compel true loyalty from him then that would be a tremendous harvest. And most importantly, this Righteous and Demonic Convocation was the first great task he had been assigned. If he could complete it then he would be able to solidify his current position and even further his influence in the demonic path. This would build a steady foundation for his future.

Up until now, everything had been in his grasp!

By throwing away Mountainshake Demon he was able to ruin the righteous faction powerhouse Ku Ah and also lock in their final victory. Everything had been taken into account. Of course, everything was based upon the premise that they would win the third match. But, with Army Breaker personally going on stage, was there anyone from the righteous faction alliance that could possibly be his match?

Liang Taizu waved his hand. "Agree to their request. The second match is a draw; begin the third march." He rose up, "Brother Army Breaker, I'll have to trouble you."

Army Breaker opened his eyes, a swift and sharp killing intent flashing through them. Although he wasn't too tall, he was like a mountain that blocked out the skies, leaving one shivering in fear.

"After this matter, I no longer owe you any favor."

Liang Taizu smiled. "Of course. I am looking forwards to meeting you in the future struggle for Demon Monarch."

“Humph!” With a deep cough, Army Breaker soared up and crashed into the valley like a meteor. His arrival was a crash that sent a shockwave sweeping outwards. He raised a finger, “Who wants to die!”

His billowing voice echoed in the air.

In the presence of such power and momentum, cultivators on the demonic path viewing platform all began to applaud and cheer.

Li Yunmo’s complexion turned ugly, “Young master, this person is a powerful opponent!”

Liang Taizu’s smile didn’t dim. “He might be strong but he’s little more than a brute. He is not worthy of worrying over.” To be able to send Army Breaker onto the battlefield, that was the foundation of his plan today.

But his smile suddenly froze. He slowly straightened from his relaxed posture, his eyes narrowing.

Li Yunmo quietly shouted, “Young master, it’s him!”

Liang Taizu’s eyes began to cloud over with uncertainty. He had thought that everything today was going to go along the prescribed path, but now a shadow began to cover his heart.

“Young master, there is no need to worry. Within the Southern Empire, whether it is the righteous or demonic paths, there is no one at the early Golden Core realm that can defeat Army Breaker.” Deepsea Demon lightly said.

Li Yunmo diabolically grinned. “That boy is seeking death. This is the perfect chance to use Army Breaker’s hand to kill him.”

Liang Taizu calmed down. He nodded, “Let’s watch.”

The events of East Stream Town had been only three years ago, yet that little Foundation Establishment boy of back then was now at the Golden Core realm, and even dared to take the stage after Mountainshake Demon’s self-explosion. He definitely had to have some sort of trump card in his hands.

With his thoughts racing, Liang Taizu’s heart wasn’t as calm as he seemed on the outside.

Qin Yu flew out from the viewing platform. The high level alliance figures knew his true identity, and they were all looking at him with eyes mixed with shame and anticipation. Liang Taizu may have decided to lock in the final victory and defeat in this third match, but so had they.

The audience was immediately riled up. They began to whisper in abundance.

“Who is that fellow?”

“I’ve never seen him before.”

“He is seeking death.”

And other such curses.

Sitting on the edge, Zhang Zhang’s heart was left in chaos. She never imagined that he would be the person fighting in the third match. Now that things had reached this point they could not be changed, so she could only pray from the depths of her heart that Lord Ning Qin would return safely.

Zhang Chengzu's complexion paled. He had been watching as a wonderful fate was about to fall onto his daughter. After that, not only would she have someone dependable to rely on, but the Zhang Family would also benefit.

But then he saw Ning Qin step on stage. His opponent was Army Breaker! The demonic path's Army Breaker!

He glanced at Zhang Zhang and sighed. Although Ning Qin was strong, this battle wasn't in his favor. The only thing he could be happy about was that Ning Qin hadn't truly exposed any intent toward his daughter, nor had their relationship made any substantial progress.

Shua –

A light scattered and Qin Yu landed on the ground.

Army Breaker stormed forwards. Rumbling demonic energy stirred around him and a blood red demonic seal appeared above his head. Ghosts and skeletons howled and shrieked from atop the seal, the aura horrifying and suppressive.

Without a word, he attacked with the intent to kill!

Qin Yu was expressionless. He lifted his hand and the sound of ripping air followed his movements as a great blade seemed to appear, slashing down on the ghost seal and tearing away at it.

The clang of metal and metal filled the air and with a scream, the ghost head was severed off and sent flying away. Army Breaker's pupils shrank; he thought to himself that this was indeed a powerful enemy! The righteous faction alliance had also decided to place their chances of victory and defeat on the third match so he had already anticipated that his opponent would be strong. Because of that, he wasn't startled at all and soon composed himself.

No matter who his opponent was, since they encountered him, the result would be the same.

Bringing himself close, Army Breaker roared and punched out his fist.

At the same time, a black light flew out. It circled behind Qin Yu, viciously stabbing towards him!

Bang –

Two fists collided. Army Breaker stuffily coughed and was forced backwards, each step causing the ground to shatter beneath him.

Qin Yu also drew backwards, an aching numbness spreading from his arm to his entire body. As his face paled and he lagged for a moment, the black light gathered behind him almost stabbed through his back!

Woosh!

Another black light flew out. With a light 'ding', the two black lights flew backwards. Qin Yu lifted his hand to reveal a black nail lingering atop his fingertip.

Army Breaker's face darkened. "Corpse Sealing Nail!" The demonic treasure he threw out hovered in front of him, looking like a fang that emanated incredible killing intent. Even so, there was a part of it that had cracked, and that was exactly where it had collided with the Corpse Sealing Nail.

From the demonic path viewing platform, several Golden Core demonic cultivators rose up, their faces filled with shock.

Liang Taizu sighed. "Fellow seniors, there is no need to worry. I already know of his identity and he has nothing to do with my demonic path, so killing him will not provoke any needless troubles."

Several old demons still had glowering expressions. As they thought about how a cultivator from the righteous path alliance could actually control a Corpse Sealing Needle, they still had incomparably gloomy complexions.

Liang Taizu stood up and moved towards the stage. "Brother Army Breaker, there is no need to be wary. If you can kill this man, I will guarantee that from this day on, the Corpse Sealing Nail will belong to you."

"Apprentice Nephew Liang..." An old demon began to angrily say.

Liang Taizu didn't even turn his head. "Today's Righteous and Demonic Convocation is managed by me. I hope that all our fellow seniors can support my decision."

Deepsea Demon stood up and a terrifying aura erupted from his body.

A light flashed in the eyes of several old demons and they fell silent.

Liang Taizu didn't reveal anything on the surface, but he actually clenched his fists within his sleeves. To promise away the Corpse Sealing Nail today and offend powerhouses of the demonic path was not in his original plans at all. But at this time, he couldn't worry about having too many scruples. Qin Yu's performance had left him stunned. If he didn't incite Army Breaker to use the limit of his strength in this battle, his plan might fall short and fail. At that time, all the arrangements he made would seem ridiculous and foolish. Disregarding whether or not he could keep his current status, it would even immensely damage his future plans.

It was only after taking countless risks and rising above them that he was able to have his current status. He could not accept any failure today!

Army Breaker's eyes shined. Liang Taizu's condition was enough to move his heart.

The one who held a Corpse Sealing Needle was an Exalted of the demonic path. Not only did they have a venerated status but they were a lord above others. If he could obtain it, then he could rid himself of the limits of his lowly background and achieve greatness.

Taking a long and deep breath like a whale sucking in water, Army Breaker's chest began to bulge outwards. Crackling sounds emitted from bones throughout his body and his robes began to move on their own. His aura tumbled like boiling water and his eyes started to turn red.

"Die!"

Before his voice fell, Army Breaker shot forwards, a series of afterimages following behind him.

Hum –

The viewing platforms of both sides were sent into an uproar!

No one imagined that someone like Army Breaker who possessed potent demonic energy, a powerful mortal body, demonic treasures, and a sharp divine sense, would actually have hidden such incredible speed!

If both sides in a battle showed similar strength but then one side suddenly revealed a surge of speed, what would be the result? Everyone watching already knew the answer to that.

Bang –

Zhu Bluecloud smashed down a hand, breaking apart the table to his side.

Zhang Zhang bit her lip, her face pale.

Zhang Chengzu sighed inwardly. In the end, he couldn't escape!

Chapter 48 – Who Said I Was Defeated?

The high level alliance figures paled. Once Ning Qin was defeated then they would have to hand over Canyonwell City to the demonic path with bitter smiles. It had been a difficult path for the alliance to find a foothold in the war, but to lose would mean all their efforts would be wasted, and as a result the situation in the Southern Empire would teeter on a precarious ledge. They began to regret agreeing to this meeting, however, it was too late for these thoughts.

“Congratulations young master, this game has already been decided!” Li Yunmo happily said.

Deepsea Demon revealed a bright smile.

Several old demonic cultivators smiled and relaxed, their worries eased. As long as Canyonwell City was smoothly captured, then Liang Taizu would take credit for this and rise to greater heights. Although they might be a bit dissatisfied, they could only suppress their thoughts.

As of now the result had already been determined.

Liang Taizu felt the strings binding his heart loosen. He looked at Qin Yu from afar and smirked, “In the end, you will die in front of me.”

Qin Yu raised his arms. In the critical moment he blocked Army Breaker's iron fists and was sent crashing backwards, his face pale white.

“It's useless. I have already activated my bloodline, so how many fists can you block?” Army Breaker coldly asked. “To have forced me to use my full strength, you can die with pride.”

Qin Yu flicked his arm, scattering the numbness. He chuckled, “This is your trump card? It's not much at all.”

Army Breaker didn't show any expression. “A sharp tongue is useless. I don't want to waste any more time; I'll finish things here and now!”

Whoosh –

He exploded forwards once more, the terrifying killing intent leaving the heart shaking!

Bang –

A fist crashed onto Qin Yu's chest. But, Army Breaker's complexion changed because Qin Yu hadn't resisted at all, instead allowing this fist to fall. Just as he was about to retreat, an iron-hard grip caught his wrist. Qin Yu lightly stated, "Caught you!"

Bang –

A fist punched out!

Army Breaker roared. Ignoring the attack, he savagely punched out once more.

At nearly the same time, the two fists crashed into the other's chests. Like the beating of a great drum, deep moaning sounds emanated from the bones of the two opponents. Crushed stone and dirt rose up from all around, submerging their figures. All that was left over was the sound of constant strikes, as if informing everyone outside just how brutal a melee was being conducted within!

The demonic path fell silent, their faces darkening. They never imagined that Qin Yu would use such a simple and barbaric method to break down Army Breaker's speed advantage. But if a person was fast then their fists were also fast. Even if both parties possessed potent mortal bodies, the one to win in the end would be the one who struck out with the most punches. Thinking of this, the demonic path cultivators felt a bit more at ease. Even so, they couldn't help but secretly praise Qin Yu's ruthless decision.

If he hadn't been utterly ruthless to himself then Army Breaker's speed advantage would have been more than enough to overwhelm him; he would never have needed to draw them both into this swamp of death. Just how was this person like a righteous path cultivator? This was exactly the style of the demonic path! Unfortunately, he would die here today!

If one's speed was fast then their fists would be fast. The difference in strength and body weren't too great either. This was just as the demonic path cultivators thought, but they had miscalculated something.

Bang –

Bang –

With a sunken chest, thick and viscous blood began to flow out from all the orifices of their head. This was the sign of one's inner organs beginning to break down. Every breath was accompanied with burning pain, as if they were being torn apart.

Army Breaker's eyes widened. He wanted to ask, 'How come you haven't died yet?' He punched out three times for every one punch of Qin Yu's. At the start, Qin Yu spat out blood and seemed as if he would die at any moment, but now Army Breaker was also severely wounded and was vomiting blood. Even so, their fists didn't weaken in the least. Every fall of their fists caused their bones to tremble and loud cracking sounds to rise up. This was the sound of their bodies collapsing.

As time dragged on, the originally confident Army Breaker began to feel a sense of horror overtake him. He felt that he had fallen into a trap from the very start. How could a righteous path cultivator be like

this and possess such a dreadful mortal body? Army Breaker didn't want to believe this and he didn't want to face an outcome that was different from what he had expected. He could only wildly punch out and try to strike down Qin Yu.

But his body began to tire and the strength behind his fists started to rapidly decline.

And what was most horrifying of all was that his opponent's strikes were still coming in stable and steady, heavy and overbearing, each one seeming as if it would blow open his chest.

Army Breaker finally determined that he had fallen into a trap. Anger and unwillingness blazed in his eyes, yet he couldn't change his own destiny. He never thought that he would die here. At this moment, the incomparably bright future he had imagined suddenly lost all glory in his heart.

His pupils began to dim. But in the next moment, they lit back up with an unprecedented brilliance. Since he was doomed to die here, then he might as well pull Qin Yu down with him! His aura suddenly turned wild. But in the next moment he stuffily coughed. It was like iron needles had been stabbed into his mind, causing his body to stiffen.

He wasn't the only one with a powerful soul!

Bang –

A fist crashed into a face and a head exploded. Red and white goo splashed out onto the ground and a headless corpse rolled to the floor.

It was over.

The thunderous sounds dissipated. The faint smell of blood filled the senses. Everyone knew that the third match had already been decided.

Everyone on the demonic path viewing platform had joyous expressions as they celebrated their victory, as well as expressions of relief. They knew what the sudden wild fluctuations of energy meant just then. Luckily, Army Breaker was a step faster and killed his opponent before he had a chance to explode, otherwise it might have been hard to determine a victor from this third match.

He was truly worthy of being the number one junior of the demonic path with such formidable strength. They didn't know where the righteous path alliance had found such a freak, but in the end he had died to Army Breaker.

Wonderful!

This was simply too wonderful!

The alliance side was deathly silent. Everyone had dark and gloomy expressions.

Zhu Bluecloud's eyes were blood red. His body shook. "You bastard! You died! You actually died!" He regretted that he didn't drag Ning Qin away. Otherwise, with his talent and potential, there was a great likelihood he would have reached Nascent Soul in the future.

Sorrow rose from the depths of Zhang Zhang's heart. Her eyes were bloodshot with tears and she felt empty within, so bereaved that she found it hard to breathe.

Zhang Chengzu sighed. "Ning Qin was too negligent. Although he was strong, he was still a bit away from comparing to Army Breaker. If he had refused to take the stage then he wouldn't have suffered such a fate. The young are brave, hah, perhaps the young are too brave!"

"Father!" Zhang Zhang cried out.

Zhang Chengzu shook his head. "Okay, father won't say anything, I won't. Don't be sad, your sorrow will pass." He rejoiced once again that nothing significant happened between Zhang Zhang and Ning Qin, otherwise this would have been a giant problem.

Liang Taizu let out a deep breath. He rose up and straightened himself, his smile so bright that he seemed to illuminate the valley. He turned and said, "Victory and defeat has been decided. From this day on, Canyonwell City will belong to my demonic path."

"Hahaha!" An old demonic cultivator laughed, "Apprentice Nephew Liang is truly a young hero. Today you have done a great deed. Your future will surely be limitless!"

Liang Taizu cupped his hands across his chest, "Senior's praise is misplaced. This junior's methods are still immature and crude. Today's victory is all due to the advice given by the fellow seniors here." This credit was his and no one could take it away, but saying some meaningless words would satisfy others and it wouldn't cost him anything at all.

And indeed, the smiles of the old demons widened. They all praised Liang Taizu for being a dragon amongst men.

Finally, someone coughed and interrupted. "Since victory and defeat has been decided, notify the cultivator alliance to fulfill the agreement."

"Great! I really want to see just what sort of complexions some old friends across the valley have at this very moment." Another old demonic fellow cackled.

After several modest declines, the old demon with the highest cultivation was chosen. He tossed Liang Taizu an appreciative glance and stepped forwards, proudly shouting, "Now that victory and defeat has been decided, when will you withdraw from Canyonwell City?"

The alliance side fell silent.

Although they knew they had lost, hearing these words still caused the high level alliance figures to feel as if a giant stone were being pressed down on their chests. After all, to hand over Canyonwell City was to ruin all the progress that the alliance had made. It was unknown just how much more effort they would need to put in to find a foothold once more. Or perhaps...they would be utterly routed by the demonic path from this point on!

Several young female cultivators began to weep and cry.

But then, a calm yet slightly hoarse voice spoke up from the fading cloud of dust. "Who said....that I was defeated!"

The world seemed to fall silent at this moment. Time seemed to freeze. Everyone began looking towards the battlefield with dull and confused looks, their eyes filled with shock and disbelief.

Pa –

Pa –

The sound of footsteps rang out. The tall figure of a youth gradually appeared, stepping out from the dust and into the eyes of all present. He cut a distressed figure and his robe was broken all over, but his eyes were steady and tranquil. He looked up towards the alliance viewing platform and cupped his hands across his chest, "I did not fail my mission!"

A collective gasp of cold air rose up, as over a thousand eyes watched this wondrous sight.

The blood of the alliance side cultivators reignited. They erupted into deafening cheers.

Zhang Zhang quietly sobbed with joy. Her heart was filled with a single thought: he was alive! He was still alive! After experiencing the waves of life and death, her heart rising and falling, without her noticing it, she had fallen even further.

Although Zhang Chengzu was happily surprised, he was still a bit embarrassed. Luckily, he turned down his voice when he had spoken just now, otherwise his words would have been too jarring. Ning Qin had struck down Army Breaker, and this was an unbelievable level of strength. To have such a person as a son-in-law, he could sleep with a smile.

On the demonic path viewing platform, the atmosphere was so cold and silent that the air almost froze. The old man who had just told the alliance to hand over Canyonwell City turned and maliciously glared at Liang Taizu, his face so dark and gloomy that it was nearly black. His voice was chilling as he gnashed out his words from between clenched teeth, "Liang Taizu, you had best give me an explanation!"

He turned and shot into the skies, disappearing without a trace.

Although the remaining old demons hadn't yet left, their complexions were similarly cold, forming a stark contrast to how they had looked at Liang Taizu just a moment ago. They had lost Mountainshake Demon and also Army Breaker with his infinite potential, but in the end they had failed...what ridiculous words 'dragon amongst men'! Whoever said that had better stand up so they could kill him now!

Li Yunmo suddenly yelled out, "He is at the Foundation Establishment realm and is not a Golden Core! This is an early Golden Core realm competition, so the results are invalid!"

Zhu Bluecloud rushed down into the battlefield. He looked over Qin Yu and saw that he was alright. Then, he heard these words and was immediately enraged. "What ridiculous nonsense! My Brother Ning likes to play the pig to eat the tiger, so what about it? And to come up with the Foundation Establishment realm? I will Foundation your face! If your demonic path's Foundation Establishment cultivators are so fierce, then bring one out and we'll see!"

Li Yunmo wanted to continue arguing, but several cold glares locked onto him. He looked up and saw that high level figures of the demonic path were looking at him with ruthless gazes and he was so frightened that he swallowed his words.

Although the demonic path was cruel and ruthless, they weren't completely unreasonable. A loss was a loss, and to accuse others of hiding their aura was simply shameful. Of course, the reason they

acknowledged this defeat was because Ning Qin had used the strength of the early Golden Core realm when he fought Army Breaker, otherwise they would have been angered by now.

And those old demons would never have imagined that Li Yunmo had somehow managed to hit the truth and find the only loophole that could overturn the result of this battle. As long as they had Qin Yu prove he had a Golden Core cultivation then the truth would become known.

Liang Taizu roared out, "Return!"

Li Yunmo quickly drew back.

Shua –

Demonic light flashed. Liang Taizu leapt out from the stands and onto the valley floor.

Zhu Bluecloud was vigilant. "What? Are you breathless with anger? You want to tear apart any pretense of face!?"

Liang Taizu didn't reveal any expression. "A loss is a loss, and the demonic path will not renege on their words. But, there are some words I must say to him."

Qin Yu waved his hand and Zhu Bluecloud drew back. Still, Zhu Bluecloud had an expression that completely forbade any unreasonable actions.

"I don't care what you call yourself, nor do I want to know. But, I really want to kill you. From the moment I laid eyes on you, I wanted to kill you. And it seems my intuition was right. You have truly become my unlucky star. In my life, I have failed twice, each worse than the one before, and all of it because of you. Perhaps when the third time comes I will die to your hands. So to stop that, I will kill you first."

Liang Taizu suddenly smiled. He lowered his voice to a whisper. "Do you remember when we met earlier? Everyone thought that you helped because of Miss Zhang Zhang, but I know that it was all for that little girl. Her name is Gu Ling'er, right? I was originally thinking that I would do something about it after obtaining Canyonwell City, but you have allowed me to experience what unprecedented defeat tastes like, and I am not happy about that at all.

"So, I will soon make a move. I want you to watch as she suffers tragically and dies slowly. I guarantee that I can accomplish this perfectly."

Qin Yu was silent for a long time. Then he said, "You want to force me to attack you and ruin this meeting."

Liang Taizu shook his head. "You're a smart boy, so you wouldn't do something so stupid. All I want is a chance to kill you. Give me this chance, and I will let her off. What about it?"

Qin Yu looked up. "Alright."

Zhu Bluecloud anxiously shouted, "Ning Qin, do you know what you are saying!?"

"My mind has never been so clear." Qin Yu looked at Liang Taizu, "Three days from now, if you are still here then I will go to your camp."

Liang Taizu grinned, "I await your arrival."

Chapter 49 – Sudden, Violent, Death

With this, the Righteous and Demonic Convocation came to an end. The demonic path kept their end of the agreement and agreed to officially withdraw 300 miles in three days and not initiate any provocations in the battle for the next six months. As for the reason why it was three days later, that was the will of the high level demonic path figures. They wanted to personally witness the downfall of the man who had been the cause of their defeat!

Jiang Yuanhao's complexion was as dark as water. "What nonsense! How could Ning Qin agree to going towards the camp of the demonic path? There is no way I will agree to this!"

"The demonic path loathes fellow daoist Ning to the marrow of their bones. If he steps into their camp, isn't that the same as a sheep entering the tiger's lair?" Another high level alliance figure bitterly muttered.

"Could it be that he is being forced? If he can tell us then the alliance will do everything in our ability to help him through this difficult time."

"That's right! Zhu Bluecloud, you have interacted with fellow daoist Ning the most, so how could you just watch helplessly on as he walks to his own death? You should be urging him to change his mind."

With these words, Zhu Bluecloud suddenly became the target of everyone's ire. As he sensed the harsh eyes on him, he bitterly smiled, "I have already spoken my lips ragged but nothing works. This is a matter that involves Ning Qin's personal matters, so he will go no matter what. There is no need for everyone to waste your efforts."

Jiang Yuanhao frowned. "Is there really no other way?"

Zhu Bluecloud shook his head. He thought for a moment and said, "Ning Qin told me to have the alliance make preparations early, but I am not too sure what he meant by that."

The expressions of Jiang Yuanhao and the others changed. There were far too many meanings behind these words, and thinking further about them left one's heart shaking. But how was this possible? He was planning to step into the camp of the demonic path. There was no way anyone below the Nascent Soul realm would be able to cause trouble. But, Ning Qin wasn't someone who spoke nonsense. If he said this, did he really have something he could rely on?

"Did fellow daoist Ning Qin really say this?"

Zhu Bluecloud said, "I wouldn't make up words like this."

Jiang Yuanhao looked up and stared at the area where Qin Yu had gone into seclusion. He suddenly said, "Very well, then I will no longer hinder him. I hope that fellow daoist can withdraw safely." He turned, "Everyone, we should also make our preparations."

The high level alliance figures started to whisper amongst themselves. However, Qin Yu's performance so far had been too shocking, making them all believe that he truly might be able to accomplish something earth-shaking. In the end, it was better for them to have a bit of faith in him.

They all left in a hurry.

After everyone left, Zhu Bluecloud let out a breath of relief. He ruefully smiled, "To step into the demons' lair by himself, it will be hard for him to stay alive, much less create great waves of any kind. Yet, I find myself actually believing something will occur. I think there might be a problem with my head."

...

Zhang Zhang stood up in welcome. She anxiously said, "Father, how is it?"

Zhang Chengzu's complexion was gloomy. He slapped the table. "Blind with arrogance, he doesn't know how vast the heavens and earth are. I have misread him!"

"Ah!" Zhang Zhang cried out in alarm. "Senior Ning Qin really plans on going?"

Zhang Chengzu coldly coughed, "Jiang Yuanhao, Si Siyuan, and many other high level alliance figures tried to change his mind, but he was completely unmoved by their arguments. Not only that, but he had Zhu Bluecloud send out a message to the entire alliance to make preparations early? What sort of preparations? Does he really think he can waltz into the demonic path camp and stir up chaos and destruction!? Just from killing Army Breaker his ego has inflated beyond control. It's fortunate that nothing has happened between you two, otherwise even if nothing were to occur today, you would still have been drawn into some mess in the future."

Zhang Zhang blushed with anger. "Father, what nonsense are you saying? Your daughter was only trying to thank Senior Ning Qin for the help. I have no other...no other meaning."

"Good! Even if you have some other idea, hurry up and forget it. Ning Qin isn't a person you can entrust the rest of your life to. Just pretend that you've never seen him before. Humph! In any case, there's no chance he will return alive anyways!" Zhang Chengzu flicked his sleeves and left.

Zhang Zhang's mouth opened and closed multiple times, but in the end she didn't say anything. She was left puzzled beyond belief. Why would Senior Ning Qin purposefully walk down the road to death? Could it be as her father said, and he had simply inflated his own ego too much? If so, then this was far too disappointing.

Three days later.

Qin Yu left his room. Waiting just outside, Zhu Bluecloud quickly welcomed him. "Ning Qin, now is the time to change your mind!"

"I must go." Qin Yu shook his head. "Have a little confidence in me. Since I said I'll be fine, I'll be fine. Remember, you still owe me a drink."

Zhu Bluecloud shook his head. "I hope you don't regret this."

Qin Yu smiled. He tapped his feet and shot into the skies. He soared over Hidden Wind Valley to the other side, where the demonic path was camped.

Countless eyes at the alliance station watched him go. Many watched with admiration, but even more watched with confusion and regret. With such a wonderful future awaiting him, why would he go into

the demons' lair alone? This was no different from seeking death, and no one could figure out just why he chose to do so.

Zhang Zhang bit her lips. She watched from afar, a dazed look in her mind. It was unknown just what she was thinking.

"Humph! My father said that Ning Qin is overly arrogant. Just by winning a single decisive battle his hubris grew without bounds, and now he will suffer a great misfortune!"

"My family's old ancestor also said this. He said that Senior Jiang and the others went to persuade him, but Ning Qin couldn't be convinced at all. He even told the alliance to make preparations early for some reason. He simply thinks too highly of himself; he doesn't know when to stop!"

"Success has muddled his mind. Just look, by the time he feels regret, it will be too late!"

The taunts and mockery of the juniors caused Zhang Zhang's heart to waver even more. Could it be as her father had said, and Ning Qin had just become too arrogant?

Suddenly, another young girl said, "I heard a rumor that was supposedly inadvertently revealed by Senior Zhu Bluecloud. The reason Ning Qin chose to enter the demonic path camp alone is that he was threatened by the demonic path's Little Monarch, Liang Taizu. It seems that this threat was related to some woman."

"How is this possible? I don't recall hearing that Ning Qin was intimate with any women."

"This is definitely just a baseless rumor! Ning Qin is already at the Golden Core realm and can enjoy 500 years of prosperity, so how could he discard his life for a mere woman?"

"That's right, this is just nonsense!"

Zhang Zhang's figure froze. She didn't hear anything else that followed. A buzzing filled her mind, followed with echoes of what she had heard.

The reason Ning Qin chose to enter the demonic path camp was because they had threatened a woman.

This must be it!

He had journeyed through the domain of the demonic path, crossing tens of thousands of miles to cut down demonic Golden Core cultivators. He possessed strength, character, and had endless methods at his disposal, so how could he possibly grow overly confident just because of a single victory?

But if this were true, who was Ning Qin risking himself for?

Zhang Zhang's heart began to race. As she recalled what happened before the battles began, how Ning Qin had forced Liang Taizu and his group to retreat, she subconsciously covered her mouth as tears started to flow from her eyes.

It was her! It was definitely for her!

And what left Zhang Zhang most heartbroken was that from beginning to end, Ning Qin had never mentioned that he had done any of this to gain her favor.

Silently, without anyone knowing, he had endured rumors and slander to block the wind and rain for her, shielding her from all threats.

With this knowledge in mind, Zhang Zhang could easily guess what had occurred. When Liang Taizu flew into the valley that day, it was to threaten Ning Qin! And determining this wasn't difficult at all, because there had been other people present there at the time. Zhang Zhang turned and flew away, soon finding a worried Zhu Bluecloud.

"Senior Zhu, may I ask if Senior Ning Qin went to the demonic path camp because of a woman?"

Zhu Bluecloud subconsciously sighed. "It's true; he is just a fool of the heart. No matter how I warned him it was useless. He actually wants to go to their door and give them a chance to kill him..." He suddenly shook his head and regained his composure. He vigilantly asked, "How do you know?"

With tears streaming down her face, Zhang Zhang flew away.

Zhu Bluecloud stood there stunned.

Uh...this seemed to be a misunderstanding. But after thinking about it some more, he didn't chase after her. There was no point in explaining things clearly to her. Not only would it leave her so ashamed that she wouldn't be able to lift up her head, but he didn't even know if Ning Qin could safely return.

Zhang Zhang cried her eyes out, her heart so pained it nearly burst out from her chest. It was for me! It was all for me!

As Zhang Chengzu saw the appearance of his most beloved daughter, he was shocked. "Zhang Zhang, what happened to you? Did someone bully you? Father here will make them pay!"

"Father!" Zhang Zhang cried out loud and threw herself into his arms. "He did this for me. He went to the demonic path camp for me. I misunderstood him, you all misunderstood him!"

Zhang Chengzu's face stiffened. "What are you saying, Zhang Zhang?"

"Lord Ning Qin only agreed to enter the demonic path camp and give them a chance to kill him because Liang Taizu threatened him with my life! Father, I am sad, I am so sad!"

The Zhang Family and other cultivators there were all stunned. They had all been wildly judging Ning Qin's arrogance, but they never thought that there would be such a twist in the story.

He was willing to die for Miss Zhang Zhang? Shao Shao was affected with emotion, and by her side, even Gu Ling'er started to cry.

"Ling'er, don't cry. We should be happy that miss was able to find someone that loves her so much. And Lord Ning Qin might not necessarily die. He might be able to survive!" Shao Shao said, trying to console her.

Gu Ling'er wiped her tears away, but she couldn't fully wipe them clean. Not only was her heart moved, but she also felt some inexplicable pain. When she was rescued by Lord Ning Qin, she had felt an incomparable familiarity with him, as if she knew him. But, she never mentioned this because she was afraid of being mocked by others. With eyes dimmed by tears, she looked towards the direction that he

had vanished in, the sorrow growing heavier in her heart, the pain as heavy as the day her mother left her.

“Brother Yuanhao, do you really think that Ning Qin can stir up chaos in the demonic path camp?” An old man asked, his eyebrows deeply furrowed.

Jiang Yuanhao was silent for several moments. “I don’t believe it, but it’s always better to be careful about such things...what I hope is that he can return alive.”

The surrounding several peopled sighed and shook their heads. Although they didn’t say anything, this already proved what they were thinking.

To come back alive? That was easier said than done!

Shua –

Qin Yu landed outside the demonic path camp. Several demonic cultivator guards regarded him with icy glares, but there was actually a bit of admiration deep within their eyes. The leader walked forwards, “My lord, the Little Monarch is already waiting for you. Please follow me.”

There was respect in his words and tone.

“Lead the way.”

Stepping into the demonic path camp, countless cold gazes instantly locked onto him. The chilling killing intent left one’s heart shaking. Qin Yu frowned for a brief moment before immediately composing himself.

This performance left many demonic cultivators arching their eyebrows upwards. What incredible killing intent. Such a character could not be allowed to freely grow. They had to ensure he died here today.

If it weren’t for the fact that it was Liang Taizu who had invited Qin Yu here today, then some demonic path powerhouses definitely wouldn’t have been able to hold themselves back and would have tried to kill Qin Yu already.

The demonic cultivator leading the way came to a stop outside a massive round tent, decorated in black and white. He cupped his hands across his chest, “The Little Monarch is here. Please enter, my lord.”

Qin Yu stepped in.

Pa –

Pa –

Liang Taizu clapped his hands with admiration. “Fellow daoist is truly brave. Come, sit down.” He leaned against a reclining chair, calm and languid as if everything were in his control. Deepsea Demon stood at his side, his eyes closed in meditation as if he were a piece of dead wood.

Qin Yu remained standing. He coldly said, “I don’t need to sit. I have already arrived. Can you guarantee that you won’t cause any problems for her in the future?”

A light flashed in Liang Taizu's eyes. "It looks like this woman is extremely important to fellow daoist. I must say that I truly am curious as to what your relationship is. Of course, this doesn't matter. The result is the most important thing, right? I swear that this is a matter only I and Deepsea Demon know of. After today, no matter what the outcome is, there won't be a third person who knows, otherwise we will suffer the fatal punishment of 10,000 demons!"

Qin Yu turned and looked at Deepsea Demon.

Deepsea Demon opened his eyes. He faintly said, "The young master's words are also my vow."

Qin Yu nodded. "Good." Before his voice fell he flicked his sleeve. The Corpse Sealing Nail turned into a beam of cold light as it shot towards Deepsea Demon.

Deepsea Demon's eyes exploded with a sharp light. "You are courting death!" He raised his hand and billowing demonic energy erupted, caging in the Corpse Sealing Nail.

But at this time, his complexion changed.

Bang –

The Corpse Sealing Nail exploded. The terrifying strength tore apart the demonic energy, shaking Deepsea Demon and forcing him backwards.

At the same time, Qin Yu's figure hurtled forwards. Blood red flames ignited on his body as his speed increased ten times over. He arrived in front of Liang Taizu before the blink of an eye and smashed his fist outwards.

Bang –

A head was smashed apart, sending red and white goo splashing outwards.

The demonic path's Little Monarch Liang Taizu – had died!

Chapter 50 – Exchanging for the Skythunder Bamboo

"Ahh!" Deepsea Demon became unhinged with rage. "You killed Liang Taizu! You actually killed Liang Taizu! I will turn your bones to ashes!"

The aura of an eighth level Golden Core wildly erupted, blowing apart the entire round tent like it was made of thin paper and sticks. Qin Yu was sent flying backwards, blood spurting out from his nose and mouth. A terrifying demonic energy slashed at the point between his eyebrows, leaving behind a vicious wound that revealed white bone beneath. If it weren't for his powerful Demon Body, this strike would have killed him where he stood!

With pain tumbling in his chest and stars in his eyes, Qin Yu roared and shot into the skies. Winds whipped up around him, shattering his mask and unraveling his appearance-changing technique.

Deepsea Demon screamed, "You cannot escape!"

Bang –

Billowing demonic energy shot into the skies.

At this time, the entire demonic path camp was in chaos. Deepsea Demon's roars had spread throughout the camp, leaving everyone with a cold chill creeping over their bodies.

After Liang Taizu's headless corpse was found, angry flames burned in the eyes of the old demons. In the camp of the demonic path with numerous powerhouses all around, the Saint Son of the Seven Slaughter Demon Sect had been killed – a candidate for the demonic path's Saint Lord! Even with their status, all of them would be punished!

"Stop him!"

"Pull out his soul and refine it!"

"He will never experience reincarnation!"

Amidst the roars, old demons rushed into the skies to join the chase.

Jiang Yuanhao looked up towards the direction of the demonic path camp. Several terrifying auras had erupted, all of them releasing a cruel killing intent. Even with his cultivation, he couldn't help but feel a cold chill shiver pass through his heart. Thoughts began to rise in his mind. What had Ning Qin done that the demonic path would be so angered...?

Woosh –

Woosh –

A blood red figure soared through the heavens with more than 10 demonic flames following close behind.

Jiang Yuanhao's pupils shrank. He shouted out, "Raise the array!" Luckily, he had made preparations early. A simple defensive array shot into the skies and countless golden runes sparkled.

In the blink of an eye, the blood red figure passed through the barrier. With the identity card of the alliance army, Qin Yu naturally wouldn't be stopped by the array.

Deepsea Demon smashed out his fist. Mighty demonic energy formed a great wave that smashed into the array formation. Golden runes trembled and collapsed.

"Cultivators of the Southern Empire, if you stop me from killing that man I will never let this rest!"

Dense roars echoed through the heavens and earth.

Jiang Yuanhao sneered. "If you storm your way here then the alliance must rise to meet their enemy. Or do you think we're in the wrong here?"

"Humph!" Deepsea Demon howled. "Once I kill that bastard, I will deal with all of you then!"

Bang –

Demonic energy erupted as he chased the blood red light.

Woosh –

Woosh –

Over a dozen terrifying demonic auras passed over the alliance station.

Soon, alliance scouts passed over an emergency report. Within the great tent of the demonic path camp, Ning Qin had cut down Liang Taizu!

All of the alliance cultivators were stunned.

At the demonic path camp...in the great tent...he had directly cut down...this Ning Qin, he was truly heroic!

Jiang Yuanhao laughed out loud. The Righteous and Demonic Convocation had already ended, and this matter had been deliberately provoked by Liang Taizu as a matter of personal revenge; it wouldn't influence the alliance at all. More importantly, this would be the second crushing of the demonic path's morale. Perhaps their invasion of the Southern Empire would be completely routed because of this!

Ning Qin, as long as you can survive then the Southern Empire will definitely have a place for you in the future.

Zhu Bluecloud's face was full of smiles. It seemed that the entire situation was under Ning Qin's control, so what was there to worry about? Who cared if demonic path powerhouses were chasing after him? They could eat his dust!

"Little brat, so this is what your real appearance was all along. Heh, I must say you're a bit handsome, but compared to me you're still lacking."

Zhang Chengzu's face stiffened. He felt as if his lips had been slapped swollen and he was being slapped again and again. Liang Taizu had actually been killed, and not just that but Ning Qin had managed to escape the demonic path's camp! He was simply far too monstrous a genius! He suddenly rejoiced that no one heard his words, otherwise he would have truly regretted it once Ning Qin heard about them.

No. He definitely had to pass down a strict command so that no one could mention this matter again. Fortunately, his daughter had good judgment and extraordinary luck. The first man that she took a liking to was actually splendid to such a degree. And, the key point was that Ning Qin also liked her! Haha, this was too wonderful!

Zhang Chengzu turned to say something, but he saw Zhang Zhang's stunned expression. The two maids beside her also had the same look. He quickly said, "What is it? Ning Qin is alive and well. Zhang Zhang, you should be happy about this, so why do you have such an appearance?"

Before Zhang Zhang spoke, tears began to flow from her eyes.

"Don't cry!" Zhang Chengzu was shocked. He turned and admonished, "What did you two say to the miss?"

Shao Shao gulped. "This...this person...is someone miss knows..."

Zhang Chengzu's eyes brightened. "Are you speaking of Ning Qin? I thought Zhang Zhang's behavior was a bit strange. So, it turns out you already knew each other. That explains everything. After all, love at first sight is rare. This is good, this is great! This means he has liked you all along."

Zhang Zhang cried harder.

Zhang Chengzu was left flustered, "Shao Shao, what's the matter!"

Shao Shao didn't dare to speak further. Thinking of the past, her face paled further. "Master, Ling'er also knows him. Allow her to speak."

"Ling'er, speak!"

Gu Ling'er looked up to glance at the miss. She timidly said, "The one who flew over us was Big Brother Qin Yu..." The little girl was filled with joy. No wonder she felt that he was so familiar. It was because Ning Qin was Qin Yu.

She recalled Ning Ling, that fairy-like big sister. And as she thought of Big Brother Qin Yu's pseudonym, she was elated. So, it turned out that Big Sister Ning was her big brother's true love. For them to meet each other in this world was a match made in heaven.

But soon Gu Ling'er was worried. If Big Brother Qin Yu liked Big Sister Ning, then what about Big Sister Zhang Zhang? Wasn't she too pitiful? Of course, this little girl didn't know what happened at the Zhang Mansion, so she continued to believe that Zhang Zhang was good friends with Qin Yu.

Zhang Chengzu frowned. Qin Yu...this name was a bit familiar, but he definitely wasn't an important figure, otherwise he would have remembered.

Suddenly his eyes widened and his breath turned loud and heavy. He spun around, his eyes raving as if he could eat someone.

Zhang Huo felt a creep crawl up his scalp. "Honorable Master, it is him."

It was like a blow to the head. Everything in Zhang Chengzu's field of vision began to darken. He swayed several times before he managed to compose himself. Then he roared, "It's impossible! How could this be!?"

Zhang Zhang wiped her tears away. "Father, you don't have to say anything anymore! It's him!" She gnawed at her lips so much that the skin almost broke. She continued, "When Senior-apprentice Brother Zhang Huo was speaking with him, I was hidden away, so I wouldn't mistake it."

Zhang Chengzu's complexion paled. He pointed a finger at his daughter, and then pointed at Zhang Huo and the others. "What have you all done!?"

He actually forgot what had happened with Qin Yu a while ago, and how he had been satisfied with Zhang Huo's actions.

There was an old saying: Do not bully the poor, do not laugh at the young. Today, perhaps the entire Zhang Family finally understood what these words meant.

Zhang Zhang cried harder, her heart filled with shame and regret. As she remembered how she had been so cruel to Qin Yu and how he still helped her, she felt too remorseful to show her face.

Zhang Chengzu suddenly said. "This isn't right. You treated him like that and yet Qin Yu did all of this. Perhaps this means that he really likes Zhang Zhang, perhaps this means there is a chance to fix this!"

A sliver of hope grew in Zhang Zhang's eyes. Could it really be like this?

But at this moment, Zhu Bluecloud arrived. He swept his eyes around, frowning a little, not too interested in the Zhang Family's affairs. He directly asked, "Who is Gu Ling'er?"

Zhang Chengzu forced out a smile. "What is Brother Zhu here for?"

Zhu Bluecloud said, "I was tasked by fellow daoist Ning Qin to bring Gu Ling'er away."

Gu Ling'er was happily surprised. "It really was Big Brother Qin Yu!"

Zhu Bluecloud's eyes flashed. He laughed, "That's right, it was Qin Yu!" His appearance, name, cultivation, all of it was faked. Brat, you are too amazing!"

His smile was kind and gentle. "Your Big Brother Qin Yu really is good to you. In order to deal with Liang Taizu's threat against you, he stepped alone into the camp of the demonic path. But I never thought he would conveniently kill Liang Taizu along the way. Haha! This is too exciting!"

Zhang Zhang stiffened!

So, it turned out that it was all for Gu Ling'er.

Of course. Ever since he was a child, Qin Yu was someone with pride embedded into his bones. After being wounded by her, how could he like her anymore?

Shao Shao and Zhang Huo kept quiet.

Zhu Bluecloud frowned. What was going on with the Zhang Family and why did they all have weird expressions? However, he immediately realized what had happened. Zhang Zhang seemed to have misunderstood that Qin Yu had done all of this for her, and only realized the truth now. Sufficient to say, they were likely all embarrassed.

Zhu Bluecloud coughed. Without a change of expression, he said, "Brother Zhang, I have to bring Gu Ling'er away. You don't have any problems with that, right?"

Zhang Chengzu bitterly shook his head. "Do as you wish."

Zhu Bluecloud nodded with satisfaction. "Gu Ling'er, come with me."

Gu Ling'er revealed a bit of reluctance.

Zhu Bluecloud quickly said, "Qin Yu is worried that you will be threatened by the demonic path again. Only by leaving with me can I ensure your safety."

If so, then Gu Ling'er could only comply. With an apologetic expression, she said, "Miss, Big Brother Qin Yu, he...I have to go."

Zhang Zhang squeezed out a smile. "Ling'er, if you see Qin Yu again, please pass on my thanks to him. Also, tell him I was mistaken in the past, and ask him to forgive me."

After she finished speaking she couldn't bear it any longer. She ran away, crying.

Zhu Bluecloud brought Gu Ling'er and left.

Zhang Chengzu angrily sent Shao Shao away to look after the miss. He gloomily eyed everyone else and coldly said, "Concerning this matter, I hope that it never spreads out, otherwise there will be a heavy punishment for everyone!"

Zhang Huo and the others rapidly nodded.

....

Xu Wei and Tao Jie were frozen. Their minds and expressions were locked into a mix of shock, daze, awe, and confusion, leaving them looking quite strange.

After a long time, Tao Jie gulped. "Junior-apprentice Brother Xu, he...he is...Junior-apprentice Brother Qin Yu."

The two of them had outstanding talent and clean backgrounds. Some time ago they had been picked up as disciples by a wandering Golden Core cultivator, allowing them to witness today's scene here.

Xu Wei's lips moved, but all that came out was a sigh. His straight waist seemed much more bent than before. Originally, he thought that by desperately cultivating for these past three years, sooner or later he would be able to catch up to him.

But Qin Yu had already become so powerful?

Xu Wei had a faint premonition that he would never be able to compare to him for the rest of his life. He would only be thrown further and further away, until he couldn't even see his back anymore.

....

Deepsea Demon wildly galvanized his demonic energy. The speed of a late Golden Core erupted to its limit. But, he could only stare helplessly on as the blood red light grew further and further away, until he vanished into the distant horizon.

"How detestable!"

He roared and punched out a fist, breaking apart a mountain top, his complexion incomparably ugly. In the next moment, demonic path powerhouses began to arrive one after another. With pale faces they gasped for breath. As they glanced at one another, they could see the frenzied bewilderment in each other's eyes.

You are a righteous path cultivator! It's fine if you have the demonic treasure Corpse Sealing Nail, but you even cultivated the top escape technique of the demonic path, the Blood Escape Art. Are you a demonic cultivator or are we demonic cultivators!?

That was all fine. But who didn't know that what accompanied the Blood Escape Art's terrifying speed was a terrifying consumption? A Golden Core cultivator's blood energy would be burnt away in moments, so how come that wasn't occurring to you?

Was there still any justice in this world!?

....

Blood red light howled forwards at an unbelievable speed. Strong winds followed in its wake, tearing down treetops and sending waves through the forest.

Suddenly, the blood red light scattered to reveal a black-robed cultivator. He fell atop an ancient tree and turned around. After making sure he was safe, his pale face revealed a smile. The Demon Body together with the Blood Escape Art was indeed a powerful combination. Even a late Golden Core cultivator chasing him down with all his strength eventually had to withdraw.

This cultivator was Qin Yu.

He swept his eyes around. His figure flashed over several ancient trees as he vanished deep into the forest.

Five days later.

Qin Yu shot out from a cave entrance, overbrimming with blood vitality. The losses caused by the Blood Escape Art had been completely restored. He looked around, determining his location. Then, he stepped forwards and shot into the sky.

Two days later Qin Yu appeared outside a large city. The cultivators within were all happily smiling, still excitedly talking about their great victory at the Righteous and Demonic Convocation.

The most talked about subjects amongst the countless cultivators were the direct defeat and death of Army Breaker as well as the death of Liang Taizu within the demonic path camp. Because of this, the name of Ning Qin spread throughout the entire Southern Empire!

It could be imagined that as long as Qin Yu revealed himself, he would become the focus of all attention and receive the highest level of reception. In fact, within any sect of the Southern Empire, he would obtain a prominent position, becoming a vital figure wherever he went. But, he seemed to not hear or care about any of this at all. He wrapped himself up in his black robe and soared directly towards the city's alliance station.

Merit Department.

"I have already made a reservation in advance. Please help me complete the exchange." Qin Yu lightly said from beneath his black robe.

An hour later, the black robe turned to leave. Every cultivator within the Merit Department rose up to bid him farewell. By the time the high level alliance figures obtained the news and arrived, Qin Yu had already used the Blood Escape Art and left the city. With countless shocked gasps, he vanished in front of everyone's eyes.