

Chapter 1301: The Thirteen Swords

Two participants stood at the bottom of each flight of stairs, representing the last set of matches before the top ten were determined.

Jin He vs. Unseen Light. Wen Sansi vs. Wang Yi. Skinny Bro vs. Zhi Yi. Liquor Hero vs. Bai Mai. Shang Qing vs. Qiu Shi. Liu Tianmu vs. Lu Yin. Yao Xuan vs. Yōu Ye'er. Ling Gong vs. Xia Jiuyou. Yōu Qi vs. Wu Taibai. Xiao Qing vs. Bu Kong.

There were ten flights of stairs, which represented ten battles. The winners of each match would earn the glory of entering the top ten of ZENITH.

The audience had originally expected the next ten battles to be conducted consecutively like the previous round. However, the barriers of light at the bottom of the stairs disappeared at the same time, and everyone was shocked to see that all ten flights of stairs were now accessible. Everyone would be allowed to proceed up the steps at the same time, which meant that these ten battles would occur simultaneously.

Instantaneously, the screen in the sky separated into ten different screens in order to display all ten matches at the same time.

After an unknown amount of time, the barriers at the bottom of all ten flights of stairs disappeared, signaling that the path to the peak of Zenith Mountain had been opened. The participants could choose to climb up the stairs right away, or they could wait for a day, two days, three days, or even more. During the previous battles, no one had been able to do anything when Wang Yi and Li Zimo had waited multiple days before actually making a move. Thus, the current competitors would be even more entitled to taking their time.

From where he stood at the bottom of the stairs, Lu Yin lifted his head, and his eyes traced through the length of the stairs before him. Since all the stairs were accessible at the same time, then did the organizers want to speed up the contest to determine the ten finalists?

If Lu Yin's guess was correct, then the top ten might not be determined as straightforwardly as people expected. Matters might not be as simple as reaching the peak of the mountain.

This thought caused Lu Yin to subconsciously look over at Qiu Shi, only to see her indifferent expression. She did not even glance at the stairs.

At this moment, one of the ten screens up in the sky projecting the battles had already started projecting the scenes of a fight. Yōu Ye'er made the first move, and she had trapped Yao Xuan within her Encompassing Lockdown Array. Then, blood-red lotus flowers bloomed beneath her feet as she raised a hand, causing the flower's intangible shadows to shoot through the void, straight at Yao Xuan.

With Yao Xuan as her opponent, Yōu Ye'er immediately unleashed her strongest attack. She only had one shot. Her spiritual force, which even she knew was mediocre at best, would not be able to defend her from Yao Xuan's abilities. Earlier on, Yao Xuan's howl had nearly caused her to cough up blood.

This was the first showdown in the stair-climbing round, and it caught the entire audience's attention.

Even Lu Yin was closely watching the two.

Even though he was trapped within the Encompassing Lockdown Array, Yao Xuan was not at all concerned about Yōu Ye'er. Choosing to fight him even when his spiritual force had not fully recharged was still seeking death, as he could attack with his body's intangible form.

However, as the shadows of the Heart-killer Lotus drew closer, Yao Xuan suddenly felt his heart skip a beat. He instinctively dispersed his body into palm-sized celestial monsters that flew apart in random directions.

The shadows of the blood-red lotuses lost their target and vanished the very next instant.

Yōu Ye'er was utterly disappointed, as her attempt had failed.

The large group of palm-sized celestial monsters gradually drew back together and reformed into Yao Xuan. He had an upset look, as he had not expected Yōu Ye'er to be able to force him to shift out of his original form. His body was an embodiment of spiritual force itself, so reasonably speaking, he should not have felt threatened by her attack.

Although the Heart-killer Lotus's shadows had vanished, Yao Xuan did not notice that the blood-colored strings remained in the air and that they were dissipating very slowly.

As his body reformed, the celestial monsters also brought those blood-colored strings along as they merged into his body.

No one noticed this matter, aside from some people like Lu Yin and God Taiyi who had cultivated Truesight. They were able to see some foreign runes being incorporated into Yao Xuan's body.

Yao Xuan's spiritual force surged, just like when he had faced off against Xin Nü. It only took his howl one moment to envelop all of ZENITH mountain and immediately destroy the Encompassing Lockdown Array. Then, its full offensive might fell down upon Yōu Ye'er.

You Ye'er grew pale. She gritted her teeth as blood flowed from her ears. She was desperately trying to stop herself from passing out due to the vertigo assaulting her. Then, a wave of her hand caused Yao Xuan's expression to change to shock. A rosy, bloody color began to cover his body. This color did not come from his own blood, as his body held no blood, only spiritual force. Rather, the rosy color of his skin was due to the numerous microscopic crimson lotus flowers that were currently blooming within his body.

The blood-colored strings that had fused with Yao Xuan had become crimson lotus flowers that were now erupting from his body. Although he was not killed in one shot like Bai Ling, Yao Xuan was suffering terrible damage to his spiritual force that forced him to retreat a hundred meters.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Yōu Ye'er set up the Encompassing Lockdown Array once more. She then raised a hand, materializing a sword of star energy that she used to slash at Yao Xuan.

Yao Xuan was completely enraged. He could not accept that she had managed to injure him. What's more, this was the first time that he had ever been injured. His eyes focused on the sight of You Ye'er accelerating towards him, the tip of her blade just about to pierce him.

"You're asking to die!" As he spoke, Yao Xuan's pupils constricted to pinpoints. A soundless, invisible energy began warping the void, causing the air itself to seem to be bursting at the seams. The impact of this attack sent Yōu Ye'er flying.

She spit out blood while still in mid air, and all traces of blood faded from her body as she fell from the top of the mountain and landed at its foot. Her broken figure looked extremely tragic.

In the Inverse, Yōu clan felt bewildered as they all stared intensely at the base of Zenith Mountain where Yōu Ye'er had fallen while Madam Yōu's face went as white as a ghost. Yōu Ye'er's power far surpassed that of any other clan inheritor throughout the Yōu clan's entire history, and she alone had already surpassed the value of what her marriage would bring to the clan. She couldn't die!

Everyone had witnessed Yōu Ye'er's power, but Yao Xuan's strength was far more frightening. There was practically no way to counter his ability since his spiritual force was invincible.

Yōu Ye'er's defeat meant that the first contestant to enter the top ten had appeared. It was Yao Xuan, the crown prince of the Celestial Beast Empire.

Yao Xuan's victory had not been as effortless as what people saw it to be. Those blood-red lotuses had actually damaged him quite badly and caused him to grow wary. Yōu Ye'er had actually managed to injure him, and her battle technique had deeply disturbed him. He had truly wanted to kill her, so regardless of the consequences, it would be worth it as long as she was dead.

Although Yao Xuan had fought countless battles in the Human Domain for many years, he had never encountered a battle technique as disturbing as Yōu Ye'er's. Just who had created it?

The fight between Yao Xuan and You Ye'er might have felt short, but another battle had actually finished even more quickly. It was the battle between the Greenmen Duo's Skinny Bro and Zhi Yi.

The moment the barriers blocking the ten flights of stairs had disappeared, revealing the path towards the mountain's peak, Skinny Bro had surrendered. Although he looked like an idiot, he was not actually one. There was absolutely no room to even consider fighting when his opponent was one of the Daosource Three Skies. Fat Bro had also immediately admitted defeat when he had been matched up against Wu Taibai.

For the moment, Lu Yin could not afford to shift his attention anywhere else, as Liu Tianmu had already drawn her sword.

The screens across the universe were split into ten sections, and one of those sections was focused on the fight between Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu.

When Liu Tianmu drew her sword, at least half the population of the entire universe shifted their gaze and watched her.

Liu Tianmu, an inheritor of the Thirteen Swords and the strongest heir of the Sword Sect, was also rumored to be one of the most formidable members of the Ten Arbiters. Her making a move not only shocked the Inverse and Outerverse, but also the Astral Beast Domain, the Technocracy, and even the Sixth Mainland.

Additionally, innumerable viewers from the Neoverse were closely watching her every action. After all, she was the only powerhouse who had managed to injure Shang Qing during the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone.

However, Lu Yin had built up an even greater reputation for himself, as his fight with Yuhua Mavis had pushed him to an even higher level.

As far as many were concerned, Lu Yin was already one of the true top powerhouses. If another forecast of the top ten was arranged, then Lu Yin would definitely be listed within the top six.

A battle between Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu. The former represented the Outerverse's Great Eastern Alliance while the latter represented the Inniverse's Sword Sect. Their fight was truly symbolic of the rivalry between the Great Eastern Alliance and the various major powers of the Inniverse.

Almost everyone from the Inniverse was intently watching this particular battle.

More than half of the people competing to enter the peak of Zenith Mountain were also staring at the two.

"This is not the first time that you've faced the Thirteen Swords, but my version of the Thirteen Swords is different from Shaoqiu's." Liu Tianmu then raised her sword while looking straight at Lu Yin. Her sword shone clear, and its light illuminated the mountain peak.

Lu Yin looked up and replied, "I know. The Thirteen Swords may be one skill, but it differs depending on the individual."

Liu Tianmu tightly clenched the hilt of her sword. "In the past, I watched when you participated in the Tournament of the Strongest, but you're already standing right before me now. Be careful, as here comes the Thirteen Swords' First Sword."

The moment the last word left her lips, her sword slashed down at a diagonal angle. The Thirteen Swords' First Sword could intimidate even ghosts and spirits with just one attack.

This familiar scene seemed to take Lu Yin back in time to when he had still been at the Astral Combat Tournament, which was where he had first encountered Liu Shaoqiu and the Thirteen Swords. It had been a long time since Lu Yin had felt this excited where his entire being was vibrating, down to his cells.

Yuhua Mavis had made him experience the sensation of a draining power while Liu Tianmu gave Lu Yin a sense of a fierce danger. This was a very comforting feeling to him.

Clang!

A deafening noise was heard, and a shockwave spread out throughout the battlefield, tearing the void apart as a deafening howl entered everyone's ears. Liu Tianmu's First Sword had been flicked aside by Lu Yin's middle finger. Right after that, her domain shot past him, and a shrill noise was heard from above as she released the Second Sword.

Lu Yin flicked this attack away as well, stating, "It's pointless."

As he spoke, he raised a hand and lightly tapped out with yet another finger. This released an immense amount of force and a shockwave that tore back through the void. This violent shockwave was headed straight at Liu Tianmu.

Liu Tianmu slashed her sword sideways to redirect the shockwave before her domain suddenly shrank down. The swordsman as one with the sword, the sword as one with domain, the swordsman as one with domain, and finally, the swordsman, sword, and domain all as one.

This was the Fifth Sword.

Like a sword that had been summoned from beyond the heavens, this blade instantly teleported right in front of Lu Yin. He could only see a single longsword, and the tip of this blade became the center of attention for the entire audience.

The Thirteen Swords was not something that an average person could witness throughout their entire lifetime.

At that moment, the veil of mystery that shrouded the Thirteen Swords had finally been pulled back before the entire universe.

The only way that one could truly understand just how incredibly terrifying the Fifth Sword was was to be personally attacked by the sword.

Some distance away, Yao Xuan, Shang Qing, and Bu Kong all stepped forth to observe this battle.

The corners of Lu Yin's lips curled up. "Now this is more interesting."

As he spoke, he unsealed the fatesand within his body and released a large portion of his physical strength. Just like before, he gently tapped at the approaching sword with a single finger, but this time, the sword tip bent from the impact. Lu Yin then opened his palm and proceeded to slash at Liu Tianmu by using his hand as a blade.

This time, the power of Lu Yin's attack was certainly not inferior to the second punch that he had thrown against Yuhua Mavis. She had been able to block that punch, which had been thrown with Lu Yin's entire body and physical strength. However, Liu Tianmu was different, and she certainly would not be able to defend herself against this attack.

However, the Thirteen Swords was not just an offensive technique.

The Sixth Sword was a defensive sword stance.

The side of Lu Yin's palm had struck out, but it did not actually reach Liu Tianmu. His attack was perfectly countered by her Sixth Sword, but even though she had saved herself from being directly struck, Liu Tianmu was still sent flying by the enormous force behind Lu Yin's attack.

He clenched a fist and threw another powerful punch into the air, crushing the void and leaving behind black spatial cracks. The vibrations shaking the air had even started affecting the other participants, causing them to feel suffocated and have some difficulties breathing. The force of this punch was comparable to the third punch that he had launched at Yuhua Mavis.

Liu Tianmu forced her body to the side, rotating the sword as she moved. Its blade reflected rays of light that lit up everyone nearby, and it even shone upon the statue at the top of Zenith Mountain. The light was so bright that it blurred the images on the screens.

Tenth Sword: Star Slayer.

Speckles of starlight decorated the battleground as Liu Tianmu's sword qi rose exponentially. It felt like an eternity; the Tenth Sword was beautiful and ethereal, but also deadly.

Lu Yin's punch was forcibly dissipated by the sword qi, and the Cutting Star streaked towards Lu Yin while shredding the void.

Nine lined battle force, represented by purple-red lines covering Lu Yin's entire body, surged forth as he threw out another powerful punch. This attack eliminated the Cutting Star and still had leftover power that coursed through the air towards Liu Tianmu.

Liu Tianmu looked calm, and she swirled her sword once more. "Eleventh Sword: Core Splitter."

Across from her, Lu Yin's face twitched slightly. He had witnessed the Eleventh Sword before when Yōu Qi had used the power of someone named Liu Guai to attack Lu Yin with the Eleventh Sword. Back then, against the Eleventh Sword, Lu Yin had only been able to dodge aside with all his power, and even that had only been possible with a secret technique. He would have been done for if he had been even a moment late in fleeing.

Lan Si himself had been taken down by the Eleventh Sword as well.

Lu Yin was facing the Eleventh Sword once again, but he was still unable to see through it and counter it. Still, everything would be fine, as he did not believe that the Eleventh Sword could overpower him.

Core Splitter swept through the air, bypassing the concept of distance to appear right in front of Lu Yin. He frowned; the Eleventh Sword had actually managed to ignore the pressure from his fists; just where had this attack come from?

Chapter 1302: The Thirteenth Sword

Lu Yin was not alone in his confusion, as not even Shang Qing could fathom where the sword attack had come from. All the first Honor Chosen knew was that there were only two things that one could do against such an attack: avoid it in advance or resist it head on.

Yao Xuan exclaimed in surprise when he saw the Eleventh Sword. The Sword Sect really did live up to its reputation as the "King of Swords." Nowhere in the Neoverse or the Astral Beast Domain did anyone else possess sword techniques that could compare to the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords.

Many of the Sixth Mainland's cultivators were thoroughly shocked, as they had not expected the Fifth Mainland to contain a sword technique of such caliber.

Wang Yi's expression turned to one of awe. Origin's Crack, Origin's Crack... So this is what it looks like. How interesting...

In the past, Lu Yin would have utterly been powerless against this Eleventh Sword, and he could have only tried to dodge it preemptively. However, at this moment, that was completely unnecessary.

Once an individual's strength reached a certain level, forces that had once been unbearable would instead become ordinary. Even though Lu Yin still did not understand this sword technique, its power did not pose enough of a threat for him to bother dodging.

He raised a hand, and the purple-red lines above his hand from his nine lined battle force glowed brightly. With a single swift motion, he grabbed at the Eleventh Sword's sword qi and unleashed his Overlaying Stacks Path with a full 150 stacks. Under the terrified eyes of countless spectators, Lu Yin let out a low grunt as he hurled the Eleventh Sword's sword qi towards the distant Xia Jiuyou.

Farther away, another battle had erupted at the bottom of another flight of stairs. The fight between Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu no longer occupied the undivided attention of the entire audience.

The match between Ling Gong and Xia Jiuyou had started at the same time as Lu Yin's fight.

However, Ling Gong had been acting subdued and on the backfoot. Back in the Mountains and Seas Zone, Xia Jiuyou had sliced her Skycastle apart with nothing but his Triple Blade Will, and he had already seen all of Ling Gong's methods at that time. Her Skycastle, Soulsplitting Technique, and spear techniques had all been factored into Xia Jiuyou's calculations, and he had strategically suppressed her strengths right from the start.

Even if Ling Gong wanted to aim for mutual destruction by utilizing a clone from her Soulsplitting Technique, it would be futile.

Just when Xia Jiuyou was about to defeat Ling Gong with one more Yōu Reinforced Palm, the Eleventh Sword came flying at him from a distance, causing chills to run down his back. He hurriedly turned around and raised a hand to use the Triple Blade Will to block the approaching sword qi. Despite that, his body was still sent flying a few thousands of meters away after being struck by the Eleventh Sword, and even his wrist went numb.

He glared, furious, at where the sword qi had come from, and incidentally made eye contact with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced at Xia Jiuyou with cold eyes before simply ignoring him.

He had purposely sent the attack over that way. Even if Lu Yin was caught up in his fight with Liu Tianmu, he still had enough leeway to pay attention to his surroundings.

He had seen that Ling Gong was being overpowered by Xia Jiuyou, so the Eleventh Sword had been Lu Yin's gift to Xia Jiuyou. Sadly, that was not enough to help her turn the tides, and Ling Gong was bound to be defeated.

Ling Gong also caught sight of Lu Yin's move and snorted at him before focusing back on her fight against Xia Jiuyou. This fight was definitely not in her favor, and more importantly, no one had managed to see through anything at all regarding Xia Jiuyou's Nine Clones Secret Technique, which was the scariest part.

The fact that Lu Yin had taken the time to mess with Xia Jiuyou not only pissed off Xia Jiuyou, but it also completely enraged Liu Tianmu. Realizing that Lu Yin had the capacity to watch others' fights while fighting against her was a huge slap to Liu Tianmu's face. Lu Yin was clearly looking down on her.

After barely dodging the shockwave from Lu Yin's fist by using the Sixth Sword, Liu Tianmu felt a numbness overcome half of her body, but Lu Yin still seemed completely unaffected. In a surge of rage, Liu Tianmu unhesitatingly unleashed the Twelfth Sword.

The Eleventh Sword was known as Origin's Crack while the Twelfth Sword was called Fathomless. Like the Eleventh Sword, this attack could not be read either, and it also disregarded any sort of distance. However, it was nearly a hundred times more powerful than the Eleventh Sword.

Lu Yin could definitely use one of the secret techniques that he had comprehended to shift himself away and avoid the attack, especially given his current strength. However, he did not do so.

Everyone had their own favored style of fighting. Lu Yin had experienced a great deal throughout his cultivation journey and when he had first heard of the Thirteen Swords. At the present moment, he was facing Liu Tianmu's Thirteen Swords, and his battle experience was incomparable to the past. Lu Yin had learned from his countless experiences and brushes with death, and he was not one to hide. Rather, he directly faced his obstacles.

He was going to overcome the Thirteen Swords head on.

The instant the Twelfth Sword appeared, a warning immediately rang out in Lu Yin's heart. He reflexively covered his entire body with his nine lined battle force and gathered his full strength before unleashing a palm strike with 250 Stacks. He was using Vacuum Palm, and it was about to clash with the Twelfth Sword: Fathomless, which had suddenly appeared from nowhere.

Sparks lit up and shot out everywhere. These specks of light filled the entire void in their battlefield, as every single spark was capable of tearing through the void. The power of these sparks, along with a powerful shockwave, swept through all of Zenith Mountain.

No one could determine just how powerful the shockwave from this clash of battle techniques would be, nor did they know where the sparks of sword qi had come from. At this moment, all anyone knew was that they were also about to be caught up in the aftermath of the battle between Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu.

These sparks of sword qi light fell upon Jin He's and Unseen Light's battlefield, and both of them hurriedly avoided all of the sparks.

Wen Sansi erected a barrier around himself as he warily observed from the distance.

The three streams of qi swirling about Shang Qing's body protected him from the force of the shockwave and the sparks of sword qi, but he still had a look of shock as he gazed at where everything had come. During the battle in the Mountains and Seas Zone, not even he had been able to react quickly enough to counter the Twelfth Sword, but Lu Yin was actually able to directly face off against such an attack.

On the first layer, Ku Wei's face blanched from fear, and he constantly moved to dodge the sparks.

The fish on Xi Qi's head began angrily swearing.

Yuhua Mavis stood in place, as the shockwave from the violent clash of attacks could not affect her. This was Lu Yin's strongest attack, Vacuum Palm, and she was already familiar with its power.

Little Arrow Saint had almost been killed by just one of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms, and not even the Secret Technique of Resurrection had been enough to save him. That showed just how powerful Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm was, not to mention after it was reinforced with his battle force and improved with even more stacks. On top of everything, he was confronting the twelfth of the Thirteen Swords: Fathomless.

The feeds shown on the broadcasts were all distorted. In the Innerverse, away from Zenith Mountain, Liu Qianjue's face was solemn. Elder Li sat beside the Sword Sect's master and exclaimed, "Within the younger generation, there is basically no one else who can take a full on attack from the Twelfth Sword. That Lu Yin really is a monster."

Elder Lianxin spoke up as well. "Throughout the history of the Sword Sect, there has also never been anyone who was able to comprehend the Twelfth Sword at such a young age. It would appear that all of these formidable characters are making their appearance in the current era."

Liu Qianjue sentimentally commented, "The times have changed. I remember being more than a hundred years old before I managed to cultivate the Twelfth Sword."

"If Liu Tianmu had been born a generation earlier, then the Sword Sect surely would've been able to enter the Neoverse," Elder Li said indignantly.

Liu Qianjue shook his head. The Sword Sect had shone the brightest in its entire history during the current age, after the passing of Progenitor Chen and the Rune Progenitor. If Liu Tianmu had not been born in this era, then she might not have become this powerful, as there had been no formcast models before this.

"I'm just hoping that Tianmu's Thirteenth Sword can overcome Lu Yin," Elder Lianxin added on.

Hundreds of thousands of Sword Sect disciples nervously watched the battle; the Thirteen Swords was their highest goal, and it could not fail.

In the Outerverse, Madam Nalan maintained a calm face, though her eyes revealed a bit of conflict. What she had dreaded had still ended up occurring; Lu Yin was facing off against the Thirteen Swords.

The Thirteen Swords had held its title as an unconquerable technique for far too long, and many had already become numb to its invincibility. However, seeing Lu Yin clash head on with the Twelfth Sword had reignited hope within the hearts of many. Perhaps he would be the one to shatter the legend of the Thirteen Swords.

There were even some cultivators from the Innerverse who hoped for the Thirteen Sword's legend to be demolished during ZENITH.

Liu Shaoqiu also wore a complicated expression as he stood atop Zenith Mountain.

Beneath a flight of stairs, the Twelfth Sword was shattered, though the force of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm had also been completely dissipated.

Lu Yin had initially believed that just his Vacuum Palm would be enough to completely crush the Twelfth Sword, but it was a shame that it was just barely enough to cancel it out.

Across from Lu Yin, Liu Tianmu's face became a bit paler. For Lu Yin to directly clash with the Twelfth Sword was something that not even Shang Qing had been able to do in the past.

Even Shang Qing had been wounded by the Twelfth Sword since he had been unable to endure and fully counter it, but Lu Yin had just smashed the Twelfth Sword apart with brute force. One needed more than just overwhelming strength to do this, as an impeccable timing was also crucial.

Other than their raw power, the most enigmatic and puzzling aspects of the Eleventh and Twelfth Swords was their ability to transcend space. These attacks were not moves that could be dodged by just anyone.

The fact that Lu Yin had been able to directly shatter the Twelfth Sword with a head on attack meant that his physical strength had surpassed the power of her Twelfth Sword. There was only one way left for Liu Tianmu to defeat this person: the Thirteenth Sword.

However, the chances of that sword succeeding were highly dependent on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was capable of unleashing more than one Vacuum Palm, and he was even able to use that technique at any time at all, which implied that he was capable of defeating Liu Tianmu whenever he chose, as it was impossible for Liu Tianmu to endure the power of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm.

It had to be acknowledged that there was almost no participant in all of ZENITH who could come out unscathed after being hit by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm.

That was something that many were keeping in mind, including Liu Tianmu herself.

Still, she calmly stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin intently stared back, wondering whether or not he should allow Liu Tianmu the chance to unleash the Thirteenth Sword.

If he was honest, even if he wanted to overcome the Thirteen Swords head on, facing the Thirteenth Sword was still a little intimidating. The Thirteenth Sword was completely different from the Twelfth or Eleventh Swords, as there was no way to block it. Even Shang Qing had been seriously damaged by the Thirteenth Sword after suffering a direct hit.

Distance was also not an issue for the Thirteenth Sword.

Lu Yin was also unable to weaken the Thirteenth Sword by using Truesight to erase some of the attack's runes.

The reason why Lu Yin had been able to fight against Yuhua Mavis head on was because he was able to observe her strength, and therefore, he was able to weaken it. However, the Thirteenth Sword was different.

Liu Tianmu was certainly inferior to Yuhua Mavis when it came to absolute power, but the Thirteenth Sword was truly incomprehensible, and that was its most terrifying aspect. Even if Shang Qing had released the full power of his Tri-Yang Technique, at best, he could only forcibly defend himself against the Thirteenth Sword.

Lu Yin had not needed to erase any of Liu Tianmu's rune lines when he was receiving the Twelfth Sword, but for the Thirteenth Sword, even if he wanted to, he was not capable of doing so. It was an extremely infuriating technique.

Lu Yin needed to secure the position of ZENITH's champion. His master had ordered him to do so, so he had to win. It would be bad if he ended up injured due to taking a direct hit from the Thirteenth Sword, and he would also suffer a terrible loss if he was expelled as Mister Mu's disciple due to his arrogance.

One shortcoming of the Thirteenth Sword was its long preparation time. Shang Qing had given Liu Tianmu the time that she needed when the two had faced off, but if Lu Yin was unwilling to do the same, then a single palm was all he needed to end this match. He could surely enter ZENITH's top ten without getting so much as a scratch.

At that moment, Lu Yin's eye caught sight of Shang Qing. Shang Qing was climbing up the stairs one step at a time, but Qiu Shi did not make any move to stop him.

Lu Yin's expression turned slightly grim. He was right—ZENITH's ten finalists would not be decided so easily. Qiu Shi's behavior indicated that she knew that she still had a chance since she was not showing any signs of fighting against Shang Qing. This most likely meant that she could challenge another one of the contenders for the top ten even as the loser of her own match.

Shang Qing seemed to feel Lu Yin's gaze, and he turned to look at Lu Yin. His eyes exuded a sense of arrogance that was mixed with a feeling of both indifference and contempt.

Did it matter if Lu Yin had defeated Yuhua Mavis? Did it matter if Lu Yin had overpowered the Twelfth Sword? Shang Qing could not care less about such things.

He was the only candidate who deserved to step onto the peak of Zenith Mountain. Even powerhouses like Bu Kong would have to bow down before Shang Qing.

Lu Yin frowned as he met Shang Qing's eyes; what a disgusting expression. With this thought, Lu Yin turned to look back at Liu Tianmu, and he asked, "Where's your Thirteenth Sword?"

The moment he uttered these words, the countless spectators instantly went silent. The Thirteenth Sword was coming.

The only people who had actually witnessed the Thirteenth Sword for themselves were those who had competed for the Cosmic Five in the Mountains and Seas Zone. They were also the only ones who knew that Liu Tianmu was capable of using the Thirteenth Sword even though they were unable to see through it or even slightly understand it.

Even Shang Qing, who was hailed as invincible within his generation, had been injured by the Thirteenth Sword.

Lu Yin was not the only one who was quick-witted, as everyone else had realized the same thing when they saw Qiu Shi's behavior towards Shang Qing. They were all hoping to see Liu Tianmu unleash the Thirteenth Sword so that they could quickly see the Thirteen Swords' trump card.

Liu Tianmu shut both eyes and cleared her mind of any extraneous thoughts. Her dedication to the sword was all that she had held onto; that dedication was her emotion. The Thirteenth Sword was the sword known as Emotion.

Mortal lives were characterized by familial ties, love, and friendship, but Liu Tianmu had never experienced any of that. She did, however, possess her own emotions, which only revealed themselves in her dedication for the sword.

A sword could be forged as long as emotion existed.

Chapter 1303: Is It Over?

In the Mountains and Seas Zone, Liu Tianmu had barely managed to materialize the Thirteenth Sword: Emotion, but even then, she had still severely injured Shang Qing. A year had passed since that time, and she had comprehended much more regarding the Thirteenth Sword.

The moment she opened her eyes, a light breeze swept out from the tip of her sword. It blew towards Lu Yin, Zenith Mountain, and everyone else as well.

Anyone who was touched by this breeze experienced a strange sensation. It was as if their bodies were completely vulnerable beneath Liu Tianmu's sword, as if her sword was hanging just above their heads.

Shang Qing paused on his way up the staircase and looked towards Liu Tianmu with a heavy expression.

He was the only person here who had endured a blow from the Thirteenth Sword, but even after all this time, he still had no idea how he could resist such an attack. The only solution that he could think of was to prevent Liu Tianmu from ever having the chance to unleash the Thirteenth Sword.

However, since the Thirteenth Sword had already been successfully unleashed, it was too late for Lu Yin to stop it even if he wanted to. Liu Tianmu could make the swords that everyone sensed descend upon their targets at any time.

This battle would be decided entirely on whether or not Lu Yin could endure while beneath Liu Tianmu's sword.

Shang Qing had been able to use his Tri-Yang Technique to do so, which also meant that he himself had not needed to move. However, what about Lu Yin? If he was badly injured by this attack, then how could he climb any farther in ZENITH? That would be a great pity.

Lu Yin stared intently at Liu Tianmu's face, and his pupils transformed into runes. He immediately began erasing some of her attack's runes, but his efforts were futile. Given his current mastery of Truesight, he was not able to weaken the Thirteenth Sword, though if Jin He or God Taiyi were the ones attempting to do so, they might be successful.

The Thirteenth Sword was already poised and in position. The moment the light breeze brushed past his cheeks, Lu Yin had known that he would not be able to stop this attack. Truesight was unable to weaken it, and the Yu Secret Art also could not divert it. He was not even confident that the Ce secret technique could dodge it.

If the Thirteenth Sword was not a truly unavoidable skill, then it would have never earned its legendary reputation of being invincible.

Did he regret pushing this matter? Maybe, but maybe not. He knew that he would have to face this attack sooner or later. Even if Liu Tianmu had not unleashed her Thirteenth Sword during ZENITH, Lu Yin believed that he would still have to confront it some time in the future.

However, Lu Yin was far superior to Shang Qing in one aspect: physical strength. If Shang Qing had been able to recover after taking a strike from the Thirteenth Sword, then Lu Yin would most likely be able to do so as well, though his combat power would definitely be affected.

With this thought, Lu Yin dropped his head and looked at his heart's location. Maybe it was time to make use of that. He should have already mastered that power, but even now, he had not been able to do so.

Countless people watched as Liu Tianmu's sword fell; the Thirteenth Sword had already been executed. Liu Tianmu stumbled. She lost all strength in her legs and nearly collapsed onto the ground.

During the battles in the Mountains and Seas Zone, she had immediately collapsed after unleashing the Thirteenth Sword, no longer possessing the strength to continue on. At the present moment, she was holding out much better than that time.

Then what about Lu Yin?

Once that thought occurred, innumerable eyes turned to look at Lu Yin.

Shang Qing had a grim expression. He himself had once suffered an attack from the Thirteenth Sword. He knew that it was invisible and unavoidable, so he was just waiting to see the full extent of Lu Yin's injuries.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin, and even Lu Yin himself began examining his own body. Was it over? Had the Thirteenth Sword already struck? Seriously? Then why had he not felt anything at all?

Lu Yin panicked and felt his neck before running his hands all over his arms. He could not find any injuries. His entire body was completely unscathed. Bewildered, he looked at Liu Tianmu in complete confusion.

Liu Tianmu met his gaze with a similarly confused expression. She was certain that her sword had struck true, one hundred percent certain. The Thirteenth Sword had undoubtedly stabbed Lu Yin through the heart, so what in the world was going on? A victim of her sword was not showing even the slightest reaction to her attack. Was his heart really fine?

The two of them stared at each other in utter bewilderment; one was certain that she had delivered a fatal blow while the other was fully aware that he was unharmed. What a paradoxical situation.

"You... was that your last attack?" Lu Yin asked in an uncertain tone.

"You're... fine?" Liu Tianmu was completely puzzled.

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Did you really attack just then?"

"Are you really alright?" Liu Tianmu also repeated her own question. From the day that she had been born to the present moment, she had always stood on top. In the Sword Sect, she was known as the First Senior Sister, the one who had comprehended the Thirteen Swords and the one with a peerless

talent. To the outside universe, she was one of the Ten Arbiters that held the lives of countless people in the palm of her hand. She was a figure to be revered.

Never once had she felt as lost as at this particular moment. Even when she had witnessed the true nature of the Tri-Yang Technique in the Mountains and Seas Zone, she had not been this disturbed. She literally lost all self-control at this moment, as Lu Yin's perfect condition after receiving her attack overturned everything that she knew and understood.

Even if Liu Tianmu's beliefs had been overturned, there was no need to mention how others were handling this outcome even more badly.

"The Thirteenth Sword already struck? That can't be."

"It did! Arbiter Mu said so herself."

"But how can Lu Yin be perfectly fine? His shirt isn't even wrinkled! This doesn't follow any sort of logic or reasoning!"

"Bro, are you seriously talking to me about logic right now?"

...

On Swords Peak, Liu Qianjue was also completely bewildered. He was certain that Liu Tianmu had delivered the Thirteenth Sword, so why had nothing happened to Lu Yin?

This situation left everyone dumbfounded.

Shang Qing stared closely at Lu Yin; was he really alright?

God Taiyi was completely certain that Lu Yin was fine, as the bastard's runes had not changed in the slightest.

Within the deafening silence, Lu Yin stared at Liu Tianmu and asked, "Where did you strike me?"

"Your heart, on the left side," Liu Tianmu replied with a heavy tone.

As soon as he heard that she had targeted his heart, the first thing that Lu Yin thought of was the black and white mist. Had the Thirteenth Sword attacked the black and white mist? He probed the area around his heart but did not feel anything. The Thirteenth Sword must have been swallowed by the mist!

"What did you do?" Liu Tianmu exclaimed in disbelief. Even in ancient times, this situation had never occurred with the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords. In the past, when one of their sect masters had been devoured by a Cosmic Hou, the Thirteenth Sword had still managed to inflict serious damage upon the creature. It was unthinkable that a human could receive the Thirteenth Sword and emerge unscathed while a unique creature like a Cosmic Hou had been injured.

Lu Yin raised his hand and declared, "Your time in ZENITH is done."

After speaking, he unleashed a Vacuum Palm. Liu Tianmu was easily knocked off of the mountain's peak, falling down to the first layer.

Lu Yin had not used his full strength, as that would have certainly killed Liu Tianmu. He did not want to make things ugly between him and the Sword Sect.

However, no matter what, Liu Tianmu was sure to be in bad shape.

After defeating Liu Tianmu, Lu Yin deliberately turned and looked up at Shang Qing. He flashed Shang Qing a smile before starting to move up the stairs himself, heading straight for the peak of the mountain.

Shang Qing briefly locked eyes with Lu Yin, and he could not stop himself from revealing a hint of utter shock. Even when Lu Yin had defeated Yuhua Mavis, Shang Qing had not been blown away. But seeing Lu Yin conquer the Thirteen Swords had truly amazed the first Honor Chosen. Although there were no limits to Lu Yin's power, Lu Yin would still never be a match for Shang Qing no matter how strong he became.

Shang Qing's unshakeable confidence and contempt for his peers still remained the same.

Elsewhere, another fight was just about to end as well. This one was between Wen Sansi and Wang Yi.

Wen Sansi had been predicted to place twelfth in the final rankings, which was higher than Lu Yin's predicted placing. Wen Sansi's higher rating was almost entirely attributed to his innate gift of an impenetrable barrier, but that very same barrier had just been destroyed by Wang Yi.

Following a soft noise, Wang Yi zipped past Wen Sansi and shattered the barrier into pieces. Wang Yi just left a single comment with Wen Sansi. "That's a pretty impressive defense."

From the start of ZENITH to the present moment, Wang Yi had never spoken a single word. However, Wen Sansi's barrier had gotten Wang Yi to speak.

Mira, Michelle, and the Wen family in the Innerverse were all shocked to see the barrier shatter, because this meant that Wen Sansi had been defeated.

Wang Yi did not launch any follow-up attacks, simply proceeding to walk up the stairs.

Wen Sansi did not move. He simply turned his head to stare at Wang Yi, the depths of his eyes containing a certain astonishment that had never existed before. He had witnessed a one-of-a-kind battle technique that had given him an inexplicable feeling, as if he deserved his defeat. Just like his surname, Wang (King) Yi was the king of cultivators.¹ His battle techniques had reached a level that Wen Sansi knew he could never touch.

Even though Lu Yin had assisted Ling Gong once during her fight, she still ended up losing to Xia Jiuyou.

The combination of Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm and innate gift of echo was enough for him to defeat Ling Gong. She still remembered how, during the battle in the Mountains and Seas Zone, her Skycastle had been sliced in two by Xia Jiuyou's Triple Blade Will. During this most recent battle, Xia Jiuyou had continuously revealed bit after bit of his terrifying strength. The power of his Yōu Reinforced Palm was many times stronger than what he had unleashed in the Mountains and Seas Zone.

He had merged with all of his clones aside from Xia Luo, and at present, it seemed that Xia Jiuyou was gradually revealing an aura of invincibility that could even threaten Shang Qing.

Ling Gong felt helpless. Blood continued to drip down her left leg and flow behind her as her ruined Skycastle slowly faded from view. “The Lingling clan is known for being able to take and combine ten innate gifts into an unrivaled innate gift, but it takes a lifetime to cultivate just any one of these innate gifts. Such a combined innate gift is advantageous against regular cultivators, but when matched up with someone like Xia Jiuyou, it’s no use.”

She was not disheartened, for the key to the Lingling clan’s innate gift was in the merging itself.

The further her cultivation advanced, the stronger her innate gift would become. Ling Gong had known for a long time what her future path would be, and one day, her innate gift would not merely summon a Skycastle. Rather, it would be a grand Skycastle Fortress, or even the mythical Skyrealm spoken of by mortals.

The powerhouses like Wang Yi, Zhi Yi, Shang Qing, Lu Yin, Yao Xuan, and Xia Jiuyou all made their way up the flights of stairs one after another. There were only eight people left who were still desperately fighting.

While Lu Yin was making his way up towards the mountain's peak, he suddenly felt a chill at his back. He turned around and saw a streak of sword qi approaching him. The Eleventh Sword?

Lu Yin instinctively raised a hand and grabbed the Eleventh Sword before hurling it over at Xia Jiuyou. Then, he looked into the distance, where Yōu Qi was standing with those ever present illusory black flames still wrapped around his entire body. There was a book above the war flag that he always carried, and the pages of the book were slowly flipping around.

The Eleventh Sword had come from Yōu Qi, as he had once again borrowed a battle technique from another person.

Wu Taibai seemed highly amused by the entire situation.

Xia Jiuyou was in a foul mood at the moment, and the fact that Lu Yin had reflexively hurled the Eleventh Sword at him clearly showed that Lu Yin viewed him as an enemy. Most likely, there wouldn’t be anymore one-on-one competitions once ten people reached the mountaintop. Rather, it looked like it would be a battle royal. Even though Xia Jiuyou had the Nine Clones Technique that made him powerful enough to face anyone, it did not mean that he wanted to become someone’s target.

And yet, Lu Yin was already focused on Xia Jiuyou while he could do nothing about it, which was why Xia Jiuyou felt oddly frustrated.

“Wow, you’re actually able to borrow other people’s battle techniques? You just used the Eleventh Sword, so can you call out the Thirteenth Sword too? I’d like to see what it’s like,” said an intrigued Wu Taibai.

Yōu Qi looked both sullen and gloomy. He stared straight at Wu Taibai while the book above his head continued to flip through its pages and he clutched the spear in his hand.

Yōu Qi had traded blows with Wu Taibai several times already, but he had not gained any ground on him. Instead, Yōu Qi actually felt a faint sense of oppression each time they clashed, as though his ability to become immaterial was being restrained.

“You can keep pulling out other people’s battle techniques. I won’t stop you,” Wu Taibai offered.

The black flames shrouding Yōu Qi’s body sharply expanded, and the war flag disappeared. He then transformed into the only patch of darkness between the sky and the ground while specks of darkness formed a night sky above the spear that suddenly shot at Wu Taibai.

This was Burial Garden’s secret technique: Will. This technique drastically increased Yōu Qi’s attack power.

Wu Taibai was surprised, and he raised a hand while also releasing a martial print that struck the tip of the spear.

There was a clang, and Wu Taibai was sent flying back, shocking him. He had not expected Yōu Qi to be able to force him back.

The book above Yōu Qi’s head flipped through more pages while he called out, “There was once a powerhouse who lived in ancient times, and his honorable name was Liu Guai.”

After Yōu Qi finished speaking, there was a whistling sound as the Eleventh Sword was summoned again. Simultaneously, Yōu Qi seemed to completely merge with his spear. The patch of darkness surrounding the spear left all those who saw it numb, and all of Zenith Mountain went pitch black.

The power of this spear attack far surpassed the power that Yōu Qi had shown when he had fought against Lu Yin in the Mountains and Seas Zone. If Yōu Qi had possessed an attack this powerful back then, then Lu Yin would have been completely unable to block it.

Wu Taibai made no attempt to avoid this attack. Instead, he raised his right palm as the image of the Progenitor of Combat appeared behind him. A terrifying pressure descended upon all of Zenith Mountain, compelling countless people to almost drop to their knees out of fear. The Progenitor of Combat was a domineering character, and he had created a secret technique known as the Mountains and Rivers Imprint. Using this secret technique was almost equivalent to bringing out the entire Sixth Mainland and smashing it onto Yōu Qi. This secret technique was another attack that disregarded space and distance, which made it extremely similar to the Thirteen Swords’ Eleventh and Twelfth Swords. However, the key difference was that Wu Taibai was the one using this attack, which made it much stronger than Liu Tianmu’s Twelfth Sword.

Chapter 1304: Hidden Innate Gift

The Mountains and Seas Imprint clashed against the tip of Yōu Qi’s spear. The specks of darkness rapidly expanded and gradually covered the entire area, even spreading towards the Mountains and Sea Imprint.

Right behind the shockwave caused by this impact, the black specks crashed down towards the foot of Zenith Mountain like meteors, causing countless people to scream as they fled in terror.

Yōu Qi's spear had already cracked, but he still did not give up. Instead, he once again borrowed the Eleventh Sword and launched it at Wu Taibai.

Wu Taibai was essentially facing a joint attack from Liu Tianmu and Yōu Qi right now. Right before the Eleventh Sword was about to strike him, he raised his right hand and curled all five fingers. Just like Lu Yin, Wu Taibai grabbed ahold of the Eleventh Sword and threw it at Xia Jiuyou.

The crowd was stunned; it was understandable that Lu Yin had been able to grab the Eleventh Sword, as he possessed a physical strength that even surpassed Yuhua Mavis's. However, how had Wu Taibai managed to do the same? And more importantly, why did he also throw the attack at Xia Jiuyou?

Xia Jiuyou was speechless, and he hurriedly avoided the incoming attack. He then stared at Wu Taibai; did this fellow also have some sort of grudge against him?

Wu Taibai was actually not overly concerned with where he had thrown the Eleventh Sword. In the next instant, he tore through the void, disappearing briefly before reappearing right before Yōu Qi. Lu Yin's eyes snapped wide open. Yōu Qi's ability to turn immaterial was still a pain to deal with, so Lu Yin wanted to see what Wu Taibai would do next.

While this thought ran through Lu Yin's mind, his pupils transformed into runes as he carefully observed Wu Taibai.

Wu Taibai flashed over in front of Yōu Qi, and with a swipe of his hand, Yōu Qi's left arm was severed and fell to the ground and was engulfed by the black flames.

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp. He had noticed some runes gathering in Wu Taibai's palm, but what exactly had he just done?

No one had managed to see through Wu Taibai's actions with the sole exception of one person: Wang Yi.

Wang Yi stared at the scene in shock. He had not expected to witness a skill of such caliber in this place. So that's what the "Tai" in "Wu Taibai" means.

Yōu Qi had been defeated, surprising everyone who was familiar with Burial Garden.

The cultivators from the Sixth Mainland erupted in cheers. They did not care how it happened, and they were happy as long as their Daosource Three Skies won.

Wu Taibai's victory over Yōu Qi drew a lot of attention, but just a moment before that, at the same time as when Wang Yi shattered Wen Sansi's barrier, a fraction of the universe's audience shifted their attention over to a certain girl—Xiao Qing. Once they did so, they never looked away again. More and more people started to watch her battle, and it was entirely because she had managed to severely injure Bu Kong.

Not even Lu Yin had noticed that Xiao Qing had wounded Bu Kong, as he had only noticed Xiao Qing's battle after Wu Taibai secured victory. Lu Yin had been so focused on Wu Taibai's match that he had completely forgotten about Xiao Qing.

Xiao Qing was the true Realmking of the Sixth Mainland's Sage Martial Realm, and her opponent was Bu Kong, one of the Daosource Three Skies.

Most people had assumed that their match was pointless, like the one between the Greenmen Duo's Skinny Bro and Zhi Yi. However, for this battle, even the people from the Sixth Mainland believed it to be meaningless as one of the two contestants clearly held the upper hand.

At the bottom of a staircase, blood dripped down from Bu Kong's lips. He stared at the woman across from him in disbelief. She was actually capable of hurting him.

After the match between Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu, Shang Qing had continued making his way up towards the mountain's peak. It was believed to be a matter of fact that Bu Kong would also make his way up the stairs, but here he was, being held back by Xiao Qing.

It was perfectly normal for the Sixth Mainland's Realmings to challenge the Daosource Three Skies. Even though the Daosource Three Skies were a highly dignified trio, that did not mean that no one had ever dared to challenge them before. It was only one after another bloody battle that the Daosource Three Skies had constructed their remarkable reputation.

Bu Kong had not been concerned about his match with Xiao Qing, but he was suddenly forced to rethink this matter.

Boundless star energy descended, and Xiao Qing laughed cheekily. "If you're still thinking of injecting a sourcebox array into my body, it's useless against me."

As she spoke, she twirled some strands of her hair around a finger on her right hand. Then, when she raised her hand, dozens of hair strands flew out at Bu Kong.

Bu Kong's expression stiffened; this was the same technique that had managed to injure him earlier. Although they looked like ordinary strands of hair, each and every strand contained a martial print.

It was simply extraordinary.

Martial prints had been created by the Progenitor of Combat, and they were meant to act as a shortcut for cultivators from the Progenitor of Combat's Territory to raise their strength. Like the Progenitor of Bloodlines' Territory's bloodlines or the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory's secret techniques, every cultivator from the Progenitor of Combat Territory cultivated a martial print. It was common sense that every person was only allowed to cultivate a single martial print.

In contrast, Xiao Qing had melded a martial print onto each strand of her hair, causing the power behind each strand of hair to rise immensely. Any single strand of her hair was enough to make the other Realmings cower in fear, and when dozens of hair strands were fired out at once, then even the formidable Bu Kong would be caught by surprise. The impact had caused him to cough up blood.

More importantly, Xiao Qing had discovered Bu Kong's secret method of dispersing a person's star energy.

The sourcebox array that he had comprehended was called Bind. As its name suggested, it could keep anyone within the array fixed in place. Like what had happened during the fight in the Cosmic Sea, this sourcebox array could defeat a large number of powerhouses at the same time, and as his comprehension of the array deepened, Bu Kong had stopped using it to stun all his enemies within a specific area. Instead, he injected it straight into his target's body to freeze their star energy, which then caused it to disperse.

That was how he had dispersed Lei Nü's star energy reserves in one go.

When it came to mastery of star energy, Bu Kong actually could not compare to Wu Dan, but Bu Kong was more successful in battles than Wu Dan. This sourcebox array was the secret behind Bu Kong's success, but Xiao Qing had managed to completely see through it.

Lu Yin stopped in place on the stairs. He no longer continued walking up the stairs, instead turning to focus on Xiao Qing.

She had actually been able to understand the secret behind how Bu Kong had dispersed his enemy's star energy? Lu Yin had only learned of this matter from Xia Luo, as Lu Yin had not been able to figure it out for himself by just observing Bu Kong. Surprisingly enough, Xiao Qing had seen through it. A person like her could only be described as someone who was incredibly meticulous.

While seeing Bu Kong constantly avoid Xiao Qing's attacks, Lu Yin's expression turned solemn, and he was reminded of when they had all been searching around the Daosource Sect's ruins together. Back then, he had already known that Mr. Bai and Xiao Qing were not average people despite his limited interactions with them.

Two of the final twenty contestants in ZENITH actually turned out to be the same people: Wu Taibai of the Daosource Three Skies and a Realming from the Sage Martial Realm.

The more Lu Yin thought about it, the more convinced he became that Wu Taibai and Xiao Qing had actually already known about each other's identities the moment they had traded blows after passing through that door! That blow had not been as simple as it seemed.

One strand of hair after another went flying out towards Bu Kong. He raised his hand in an attempt to decompose Xiao Qing's innate gift, but he instead ended up being restrained by the martial prints. Every single strand of Xiao Qing's hair contained a martial print, which was unbelievable. Even the Progenitor of Combat would have been shocked to see this!

Bu Kong was certain that, other than the Progenitor of Combat, the person with the deepest understanding of martial prints was the woman right before him. Even the Sage Martial Realm's Imprinters had never heard of anyone being able to utilize martial prints to such a level, and it was possible that not even Wu Taibai was able to do so.

Outside the barrier formed by the blackhole that isolated the Starfall Sea, the Progenitor of Combat looked towards Zenith Mountain, and shock flashed through his eyes.

Wu Taibai was his own disciple, but at this moment, the Progenitor was deeply impressed by Xiao Qing. This girl was using the martial prints that the Progenitor had created with such skill that she did not need anything else to suppress a disciple of the Progenitor of Secret Arts to the point where he was not even able to counterattack.

At that same moment, the Progenitor of Secret Arts was also observing the battles on Zenith Mountain. His expression remained unchanged even when he saw Bu Kong being suppressed. No one knew what the Progenitor was thinking about.

Bland expressions painted the faces of countless cultivators from the Sixth Mainland. Who would have dreamed that a Realmking would be able to force one of the Daosource Three Skies to the point of doing nothing but dodging? This was a battle to be recorded down in history.

Bu Kong finally reached the point where he was sick of the constant attacks. As dozens of hair strands pierced through the void and were just about to strike him, he raised a hand. "Time Reversal Technique."

Xiao Qing had used martial prints to prevent Bu Kong from using his innate gift or dispersing her star energy, along with many other possible actions. She had far too much hair, and each and every hair strand contained a martial print. Nobody could withstand such an assault.

After the Time Reversal Technique was unleashed, the strands of hair that should have struck Bu Kong suddenly vanished. He repeatedly attacked the void with one hand, building up multiple layers of star energy. Before long, the entire battlefield had been encapsulated in star energy. Who cared if people knew exactly how he was dispersing his opponents' star energy? It was still pointless as long as they were unable to defend themselves against it.

Xiao Qing closely observed her surroundings. She was a Lockbreaker herself, and although she had neither become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker nor cultivated her star energy control to the Worldliness realm, she was still able to see through star energy.

By spreading his star energy everywhere, Bu Kong hoped to sneak his sourcebox array into her body and then forcibly disperse her star energy that way. Xiao Qing would not be able to stop such a move, so she randomly tapped a strand of her hair, which transformed into a sword. That was the Azure Silk Swordsmanship.

There was a whoosh as a gush of sword qi slashed a horizontal line across the air. It cut through the layers of star energy and headed straight for Bu Kong.

Bu Kong lifted a hand, intending to destroy her technique with his innate gift once more.

Although Bu Kong's ability to use his innate gift of undoing was being suppressed by Xiao Qing's martial print, it was also fair to say that Xiao Qing's Qing Strand Sword was simultaneously being suppressed by Bu Kong's innate gift.

An endless amount of star energy covered Xiao Qing's eyes in an instant—the star energy inside her body was already out of control.

Bu Kong sneered. "It's over!"

He waved a hand to finish things.

Xiao Qing's eyes went wide in indignation, and she charged towards Bu Kong. Her star energy suddenly leaked out from her body, creating visible ripples that floated off into the distance. It even sent a slight vibration through Zenith Mountain.

At that moment, Xiao Qing was only about five meters away from Bu Kong.

Bu Kong turned around with a look of contempt on his face as he waved his palm towards Xiao Qing. "Time Reversal Technique."

Without any star energy, Xiao Qing was no different from a lowly ant before Bu Kong, and he could easily kill her with a slap.

Xiao Qing came within three meters, two meters, and then one meter of Bu Kong. All of a sudden, a feeling of alarm rang out within Bu Kong. Right in front of him, he saw Xiao Qing and her long hair flying through the air. The tips of countless hair strands were ruthlessly shooting towards Bu Kong. His pupils constricted, and he saw innumerable martial prints fill his vision. If this attack struck true, he would certainly suffer a tragic outcome.

Bu Kong instinctively summoned the Progenitor of Secret Arts' imprint behind him, and its majestic aura enveloped the battlefield, forcing all of the Xiao Qing's hair strands to stop for a moment. That one moment was all that Bu Kong needed to escape.

Sadly, he was unable to get away.

A moment was a considerable amount of time for Bu Kong, but even if his speed was not taken into account, he had already set up a Fixed Stakes sourcebox array in the area. Thus, even if he did not manage to escape, Xiao Qing would still be immobilized.

However, for all of Bu Kong's calculations, he had still missed one important detail: Xiao Qing's innate gift of slowing.

Ever since her numerous hair strands had struck Bu Kong, Xiao Qing had already planted her innate gift, and she was easily able to control when it activated.

In that instant, the power of her innate gift of slowing materialized, and Bu Kong's movements suddenly became unimaginably slow, and all he could do was helplessly stare at the countless strands of hair that were about to pierce through his body. As soon as they made contact with him, the martial prints detonated, and the terrifying force blew Bu Kong off of the mountain peak, where he fell all the way down to its base.

No one had expected Bu Kong to be defeated by a cultivator from the Sixth Mainland, even if she was the Sage Martial Realm's Realmling.

There were three territories and nine realms in the Sixth Mainland, and of the nine major realms, the Sage Martial Realm had always stood amongst the top three when it came to their Realmling's power. That had applied to Sword Scholar in the past, and even more so for Xiao Qing, who had defeated Sword Scholar. Her level of skill was so formidable that she could even make the Daosource Three Skies think twice before acting.

It did not matter if Bu Kong's fall to the bottom of the mountain had been because of his own complacency; this was Zenith Mountain, and there was no room for second chances.

Having cast Bu Kong off the mountain, Xiao Qing was the victor of this fight.

Bu Kong violently crashed into the foot of the mountain and coughed up a mouthful of blood. His clothes were all torn and tattered, and his body was in such great pain that it felt as though he had been ripped apart.

He had been struck by as many martial imprints as Xiao Qing's strands of hair.

After being attacked by such a large number of martial prints, and especially when the cultivator launching them was a Realmling from the Sage Martial Realm, meant that the attack's final impact had been powerful enough to tear apart even the Little Arrow Saint's stacked arrow attack.

Even if Bu Kong had been able to hold out and heal himself with the Secret Technique of Resurrection, he would not be able to get back to the top of the mountain anytime soon. He needed at least half a day's worth of time to recover.

Bu Kong looked up at Xiao Qing. He had been defeated. To think that he had truly been defeated. Even now, he could not believe that he had lost, especially since he had never even been able to use the Power Transfer Secret Technique. That woman had truly hidden a lot up her sleeves, and anybody would meet a tragic end the first time they encountered her innate gift.

It was great. Everything was just fine. Even if she became the champion, Bu Kong planned to make her pay later once they returned to the Upper Realm.

Xiao Qing let out a sigh of relief at the bottom of the stairs and then smiled. She had actually managed to beat Bu Kong, though partly through ambush. She had never revealed her innate gift until this battle, and she was finally seeing the fruits of her labor.

From this point on, however, it would become a bit more difficult for her to seize victory by using her innate gift like this.

Chapter 1305: The Final Ten

Xiao Qing raised her head and looked up at the few who already stood at the top of their own flight of stairs. None of them was someone who should be trifled with, were they?

Lu Yin shot an intense stare at Xiao Qing from the top of the stairs. He could not comprehend just how she had been able to control that many martial prints. Furthermore, Lu Yin knew that Bu Kong's slowed movements at the end of their battle had to have had something to do with Xiao Qing. Had that been her innate gift? Or had that been a battle technique?

Regardless, the majority of the audience had not yet registered the fact that Bu Kong had been defeated.

The effects of the last battle rippled down and affected the various large bookmakers, and many of them just simply disappeared with their money.

The crowd of cultivators from the Sixth Mainland were too shocked to even speak. One of the Daosource Three Skies had been defeated, and it was like someone had taken away their shelter from a storm.

Wu Taibai smiled at Xiao Qing and said, "Congratulations."

Xiao Qing thanked him and looked up at Lu Yin. "Do me a favor, will you? Let me stay on the stairs a bit longer."

Lu Yin let out a small laugh and shifted his focus over to Zhi Yi.

That one of Daosource Three Skies glared at Xiao Qing with true hostility. As the Daosource Three Skies, she, Bu Kong, and Wu Taibai were not only fighting for the opportunity that would be received by winning ZENITH, but were also paving the way for the Sixth Mainland to overpower the Fifth Mainland in the future. Bu Kong's strength was without question, but the fact that he had been defeated by Xiao Qing through her ambush tactics had destroyed their initial plans.

This woman had managed to defeat Bu Kong by sneak attacks, but her strength would prove inadequate if she tried to match up to the others.

Trouble was brewing.

Far away, under another flight of stairs, Jin He and Unseen Light were fighting.

Both of them were part of the Ten Arbiters, so seeing them together was something that was both familiar and new. Their battle had garnered a great deal of attention from people.

However, many were even more curious about the match between Bai Mai and Liquor Hero, where things were truly rather creepy.

Liquor Hero had used a drop of wine to successfully trap Bai Mai.

As a bug that had fed off of the corpses of Progenitor level powerhouses, Bai Mai was able to eat anything, and nothing could stop it. Even Yao Xuan was wary of Bai Mai due to the carrion bug's ability to eat even spiritual force.

Yao Xuan was fully confident that anyone matched up against Bai Mai would have a hard time.

Not only did Bai Mai possess a mouth with teeth that could eat through everything, it also had unparalleled defense. From how Yao Xuan saw things, Bai Mai's physical defenses were certainly comparable to Wen Sansi's barrier.

The crown prince had once traded blows with Bai Mai before heading to ZENITH, and Bai Mai had been difficult to beat; extremely difficult. Yao Xuan's greatest struggle had been injuring Bai Mai, and that beetle the size of a fingernail had been a troublesome opponent even for him.

However, Bai Mai had just been trapped by a single drop of wine.

Liquor Hero was blurry-eyed as she snickered while Bai Mai frantically scurried about within the drop of wine like it had gone crazy. Drops of wine would appear in whichever direction it tried to flee, and slowly, the drop of wine that encased it formed something like a maze suspended in the air. No matter how Bai Mai tried to find its way out, its efforts were futile. All its scurrying did not help it find an exit.

Others stared in awe, but the ones who were able to truly comprehend what they were seeing felt chills instead.

That was Creation-level manipulation of star energy. Though Bai Mai appeared to be trapped inside a droplet of wine, it was experiencing something that was more like being in another world altogether. It was an utterly terrifying scene that seemed to disturb even Shang Qing.

It was not that Liquor Hero's abilities surpassed Shang Qing's, but that her control of star energy was absolutely freakish. She was doing something that should not be possible for any youth, and Liquor Hero was guaranteed to far outstrip any other contestant's control of star energy, and that included Shang Qing.

If Bai Mai were given more time, its ability to consume everything would surely allow it to break out of the drop of wine, but naturally, Liquor Hero did not give the carrion bug the time it needed. Through Liquor Hero's deliberate guidance, Bai Mai gradually descended Zenith Mountain, and eventually arrived at the foot of the mountain. By the time the drop of wine was fully consumed, the insect had already been defeated.

Liquor Hero had not used force to defeat Bai Mai, but instead had simply led it onto the path of defeat. Bai Mai had become a puppet that Liquor Hero had controlled.

Yao Xuan's expression turned cold. To think that such a method existed that countered Bai Mai. The bug had just been too unlucky, for if its opponent had not been Liquor Hero, but someone else, then it likely would not have suffered such an embarrassing loss. Even if had faced Shang Qing, Bai Mai would have had more opportunities to display its power.

Alas, bugs were bugs, and bugs were brainless.

Liquor Hero was still in a drunken haze as she staggered towards the stairs.

At this moment, the only pair still fighting to determine a victor was Unseen Light and Jin He.

Unseen Light's attacks from his forcefield were weakened by Jin He's Truesight, and earlier in their fight, and Unseen Light's Black Coffin Secret Technique had also not managed to cause even the slightest bit of harm to Jin He.

Jin He had unleashed his strongest attack that he had used to defeat Fan Shun while using Truesight to diminish the power of the Black Coffin until it reached the point it could simply be ignored.

Secret techniques were created by Progenitors, and the Black Coffin had come from the Sixth Mainland's Ancestor Black. It was an incredibly strong and deadly secret technique, and yet this formidable secret technique had been reduced to nothing by Truesight.

There were ranks among Progenitors as well, and Ancestor Black had barely been considered a Progenitor level powerhouse from the Sixth Mainland, and he might not even have been as powerful as the current three Progenitors. Truesight, however, was something that had come from the Rune Progenitor, who had been a truly terrifying powerhouse whom history had not dared record. His remnant spiritual force had been what had counter-attacked the Sixth Mainland during their invasion, and had forced the Sixth Mainland to recognize the terror that such a peerless legend had risen from the Fifth Mainland.

According to what many knew, the Rune Progenitor and Progenitor Chen had been allies, and Ancestor Black had died at the hands of Progenitor Chen.

Once Truesight reached the Perception stage, it was able to completely disregard the Black Coffin Secret Technique, and also rendered all of Unseen Light's methods futile. On the other side, Jin He was still able to produce more weapons and power vessels to use to attack.

Still, it was still extremely hard for Jin He to seize victory because Unseen Light's predictive abilities left Jin He unsure of where to focus his attacks. This was the reason why the two were still at a stalemate despite fighting for so long.

One was up against the nigh-unbeatable Truesight, while the other did not know where to attack since the opponent could predict attacks.

Jin He tried to close the distance between him and Unseen Light, but failed despite his greatest efforts.

When fighting against Fan Shun, Jin He had exposed some of his strength, and even if the audience was not able to understand what he had done, Unseen Light knew better than to allow Jin He to get close no matter what.

"You're so cautious," Jin He complained while keeping his eyes on Unseen Light. Jin He's long hair fell across his shoulders and flowed with the wind.

Unseen Light had opened his eyes and his domain had enveloped all of Zenith Mountain. Above their heads, an enormous forcefield had taken the form of Unseen Light himself and was attacking Jin He with a move of Unseen Light's hand.

Jin He frowned. "That's pointless."

As he spoke, ripples appeared before him, and the attack from the forcefield was immediately weakened the moment it came in contact with the ripples.

Unseen Light's domain was useless against Jin He, but still Unseen Light did not give up. He continued launching one attack after another with the intention of wearing Jin He out. Jin He had been injured during his earlier match with Fan Shun, and so a battle of endurance would not be to his advantage.

Lu Yin and the rest stopped watching the ongoing battle, as they all already knew just how strong the two Arbiters were.

Zhi Yi was the first person to reach the mountain peak. A large statue stood tall in the distance. She looked up at it and wondered whose face would appear on this statue in the end.

At that moment, Shang Qing appeared from another direction. He stood quietly in place also stared at the statue. Despite his typical calm disposition, he was also eager to see the statue take his image.

Before long, Yao Xuan, Lu Yin, and a few others slowly gathered at the peak. They all silently stood at the top of their stairs. At this moment, nine people had reached the top of Zenith Mountain.

There was only one spot remaining. The moment the fight between Unseen Light and Jin He was decided would be the moment that the top ten of ZENITH would be finalized.

There was no place to hide at the top of the mountain, and the nine people at the peak could fight anyone they wished, unlike before. This also meant that the battle within the top ten could end up as either one-on-one fights, or an open battle.

There was a whoosh as a large barrel of wine was thrown at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin caught it and Liquor Hero shot him a grin. "Drink up."

Lu Yin laughed. "You're still drinking at a time like this? You're already in ZENITH's top ten!"

Without giving any indication of caring, Liquor Hero simply tilted her head back and chugged down her wine.

Yao Xuan gave a light laugh. "Getting drunk isn't too bad; at least you won't be able to feel pain anymore."

Liquor Hero lowered her wine barrel and looked at Yao Xuan as she chuckled. "Little bro, you know your stuff. What's up? Do you also have a past you can't let go of?"

Yao Xuan furrowed his brows; this woman had completely misunderstood him. He had been referring to the pain that was felt after being punched by someone. Why did he always end up being misunderstood?

Wu Taibai looked at Lu Yin and asked, "Brother Lu, what did the Thirteenth Sword feel like?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "I can't remember."

"It's a shame that that person wasn't able to borrow the power of the Thirteenth Sword," Wu Taibai said regretfully.

Lu Yin smiled lightly. "You still might be able to experience it yourself."

Wu Taibai was caught by surprise. "Is that so?"

"Deaf-mute Bro, are you looking to take the champion's seat? I can help you," Xiao Qing offered as she flashed Lu Yin a radiant smile.

Multiple people turned their heads when they heard what she had just said. Zhi Yi frowned and she coldly stared at Xiao Qing. "No one will think you're a mute even if you keep your mouth shut."

Xiao Qing antagonized the other woman, "Why? Is that something you're unhappy about? Looks like the Daosource Three Skies aren't that much after all."

Zhi Yi grew furious.

Xiao Qing turned over towards Wu Taibai and said, "Mr. Bai, I was not referring to you. I could never beat you."

Wu Taibai smiled. "Don't worry. We Daosource Three Skies also fought our way up, and if we lose, we get pulled out."

Lu Yin approached Xia Jiuyou. "How many clones have you merged?"

Everyone who heard Lu Yin's question paid attention.

Xia Jiuyou indifferently replied, "That's none of your business."

Lu Yin pressed, "Can't be that Xia Luo's the only one left, right?"

Xia Jiuyou looked Lu Yin dead in the eye and said, "You only shared a brief friendship when classmates with Xia Luo. The true reason you're stopping me from merging with him is because you're afraid of the full power of the merged nine clones."

Shang Qing's voice was heard from the distance, "I would love for all nine clones to be merged as one so I could witness the invincible technique of ancient Progenitor Chen. But sadly, you fall far from Progenitor Chen's standards."

Xia Jiuyou's eyes grew cold. "I'm still enough to deal with the likes of you."

"Such confidence. It seems like the Nine Clones are really amazingly formidable. Why don't we just take this guy down first?" Xiao Qing smiled brilliantly.

Xia Jiuyou glared at her, barely resisting the urge to stab her. She was blatantly sowing discord.

Lu Yin was of the same mind. "I agree. The Nine Clones Technique is a formidable battle technique created by Progenitor Chen. Who knows what type of special power nine clones generate after they're all merged into one. Don't let that guy steal the championship from us without us even realizing it."

"Leave him to me," Shang Qing said calmly.

Xiao Qing pouted. "Hey, you're the one we should target first!"

Yao Xuan had been keeping his eyes on Lu Yin this entire time, as he had not forgotten Skymender's mission.

Lu Yin had also been wary of Yao Xuan from the very beginning. The fellow had a troublesome character and would surely target Lu Yin.

As the group chatted with each other, Unseen Light and Jin He's match finally ended.

In the end, Jin He lost. The damage he had suffered from fighting Fan Shun had been considerable, so he was not able to defeat Unseen Light after their fight became an endurance competition.

Step by step, Unseen Light made his way up the stairs and arrived at the peak of the mountain. At this moment, the top ten of ZENITH had been decided, and they were: Unseen Light, Wang Yi, Zhi Yi, Liquor Hero, Shang Qing, Lu Yin, Yao Xuan, Xia Jiuyou, Wu Taibai, and Xiao Qing. Four of the individuals who had most famously been predicted to end up among the final ten had been defeated before reaching the final stage. They were Bu Kong, Yuhua Mavis, Bai Mai, and Qiu Shi.

The predicted rankings were quite impressive since they had managed to accurately predict six of the ten finalists.

At this time, the Inverse was particularly excited, because of the final ten in ZENITH, three were members of the Ten Arbiters. Two people from the Inverse had managed to make it to the top ten, and also two of the Sixth Mainland's legendary Daosource Three Skies had reached the final stage, while only one contestant from the Astral Beast Domain and one from the Technocracy had lasted to the end.

When looking at the numbers, just as many people from the Inniverse had reached ZENITH's finals as from the Sixth Mainland; how could the Inniverse not be thrilled?

The Ten Arbiters essentially represented the Inniverse.

If it were not for the earlier round of the competition when four of the Ten Arbiters had been matched up against each other, there surely would have been more of the Ten Arbiters among the top ten.

Chapter 1306: Lighting The Joss Stick

In the entire universe, across both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, countless people had their eyes focused on one broadcast. The various screens above the mountain had merged into one, and there was only one scene being shown. It was the peak of Zenith Mountain, the place directly beneath the giant statue.

At this moment, the plaza symbolized the most elite stage in the entire universe.

This was a stage that not even the Ten Arbiters' Liu Tianmu and Ling Gong, or one of the Daosource Three Skies, had managed to step onto.

Everyone was so nervous that they held their breaths. The top ten of ZENITH had been decided, so now, the Pinnacle Youth would be determined. Whose face would be branded on that statue?

Ordinary people were simply planning to enjoy the exciting battles as they watched the ten finalists duke it out. However, the high rollers were biting their nails since the outcome of this final round would determine their fate.

The fact that Lu Yin had entered the top ten had already bankrupted an entire group of gamblers, and the same had happened when Bu Kong had been defeated. The gambling scene of ZENITH had already led to quite a number of murders outside of the competition itself.

The results of ZENITH were tied to many people's fates.

Everyone expected the next round to be the competition that determined ZENITH's final champion, and guesses were flying everywhere as to what form this round would take.

However, against everyone's expectations, a joss stick suddenly appeared above the peak of the mountain, and at the same time, another one appeared behind the ten finalists. The joss sticks ignited and started giving off smoke.

The audience was confused.

"Those who remain at the top of Zenith Mountain after the joss sticks have finished burning will be crowned the top ten." A loud voice resonated throughout Zenith Mountain, the same voice that had been heard at the start of ZENITH. At this moment, people were hearing the voice for the second time.

At that moment, no matter if they were at the foot of the mountain, at the bottom of the stairs, or on the first, second, or third layers, everyone understood what the voice meant: this was another chance for them to charge up to the mountain's peak and replace the ten who were already there.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. He had already known that it would not be this simple to become one of the top ten. ZENITH's top ten would all receive some sort of fate-altering reward, and clearly, that reward would not be easily given. Without an extreme level of strength and luck, one would not be able to go against their fate. Thus, they should not even dream of grabbing hold of this opportunity without the ability.

This simply meant that ZENITH's top ten would not be determined simply by slowly fighting to the peak of the mountain.

ZENITH's top ten had to possess true power that separated them from all others. In earlier rounds of the competition, luck had played a factor as well. For example, if Bai Mai had not faced Liquor Hero, but rather someone else, then the top ten might have been different. ZENITH's top ten had to be invincible.

The time that it took a joss stick to burn? That was neither too long nor too short an amount of time.

If one looked down from the peak of the mountain, then all the people across the mountainside were aiming to replace those at the top, but the most dangerous opponents were those already at the peak. No one at the peak was forbidden from making a move against their peers on the mountaintop.

The plaza at the top of the mountain was large, and each of the ten had taken their own section.

All ten of them were able to see the excitement and anticipation in the eyes of those down below, but not all of them were targets of those further down the mountain. For instance, Shang Qing was someone who no one dared to challenge or even look at, and the same was true of Wang Yi, Yao Xuan, and Lu Yin.

There were a few youths who had already shown that they possessed unfathomable power.

Shang Qing was the most intimidating of all, as just the name "Progenitor Chen" was enough to scare the crowd into silence.

Lu Yin was the person who had shown the most exciting performance so far; both Yuhua Mavis and Liu Tianmu had been extremely strong opponents, but Lu Yin had still managed to defeat them. Surely no one still dared to challenge him after his string of impressive victories.

Qiu Shi struck first. She had made no attempt to fight against Shang Qing when they had been paired up at the bottom of the staircase. Instead, she had been waiting for this moment. After all, she was the Cosmic Sect's top disciple; how could she just give up without a fight?

Her target was Zhi Yi. Qiu Shi immediately attacked this member of the Daosource Three Skies.

On the first layer, Star Devourer opened his eyes and growled angrily at the sky before ferociously dashing up.

Yuhua Mavis also looked up at the mountain peak. She had no intention of abandoning the opportunity that would be given to ZENITH's top ten. With this thought, she leaped up and charged up the mountainside. Her eyes were locked onto Wu Taibai. She had seen him do the same as Lu Yin and grab the Eleventh Sword. Watching him throw that attack to the side had piqued her interest.

On the second layer, Toolwielder began his dash towards the top as well. He felt indignant over his defeat at Wang Yi's hands.

As for the third layer, Lan Si made his move, as well as White Silkworm.

Not everyone had the courage to challenge the ten who had already reached the peak of the mountain, and only a handful were daring enough to do so.

At the foot of the mountain, Bu Kong looked up to glare at Xiao Qing. How dare that sly wench ambush him!

Elsewhere at the bottom of the mountain, Bai Mai had finally finished consuming the drop of wine, and he started flying straight at the mountaintop with a buzzing noise.

Qiu Shi was the first person to make a move against a participant on the mountain peak, and her target was Zhi Yi.

No matter what former grudges might have existed in the past, at this moment, the entire universe was watching Zenith Mountain, and certain matters had already been made clear: Qiu Shi would choose either the Astral Beast Domain's Yao Xuan or one of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies as her target.

Zhi Yi was not surprised that she had been targeted, though she was not certain why the three Progenitors would allow ZENITH to be held in this system that was clearly disadvantageous for the Sixth Mainland. Regardless, there was nothing that she could do about it at the moment.

As 932 stars emerged and revolved around Qiu Shi's body, they gradually surrounded the entire mountaintop. Not only Zhi Yi, but Lu Yin and Shang Qing were also within range of the stars.

Zhi Yi did not hold anything back either. She released her Vitality Qi in a surge that swept across the peak of the mountain.

As Vitality Qi and the Cosmic Art clashed atop the mountain peak, the collision dragged in the others who had not been involved in the fight.

Unseen Light, Xia Jiuyou, Xiao Qing, Liquor Hero, and Wu Taibai all retreated one after another.

At that moment, Shang Qing raised a hand and sent out a stream of qi at Xia Jiuyou. Shang Qing had mentioned earlier that he wished to see the true power of the Nine Clones Secret Technique for himself, and he had meant it.

Xia Jiuyou raised his blade and unleashed a powerful slash that tore the qi stream apart. However, the stream of qi quickly reformed and continued on shooting towards Xia Jiuyou.

Below them, Yuhua Mavis was still climbing up the mountain. When she got close enough, she cocked her right arm back and threw a powerful punch in Wu Taibai's direction, her attack causing the entire mountain to tremble.

Wu Taibai instantly moved to evade the attack instead of taking it head-on.

The shockwave of Yuhua Mavis' punch brushed past Wu Taibai and continued on towards Qiu Shi and Zhi Yi, who were already caught up in a heated battle. Fearing Yuhua Mavis's power, both women quickly dodged the shockwave.

A terrifying roar was ahead across all of Zenith Mountain. It was Star Devourer. Judging from his drastically smaller size, it was clear that his fight against Shang Qing had left behind lasting damage. Combined with when Star Devourer had been struck by Bu Kong's Time Reversal Technique, it seemed that Star Devourer had come to understand the disadvantages of a massive body.

Star Devourer opened four of his eyes, and a large amount of power emerged before forming a tornado that raged towards Lu Yin. Apparently, Star Devourer had taken interest in Lu Yin long ago.

Lu Yin frowned. After defeating strong powerhouses like Yuhua Mavis and Liu Tianmu, he had not expected anyone outside of the ten who had reached the mountaintop with him to have the courage to move against him.

He was surprised by the power in Star Devourer's attack. As expected of the most physically powerful creature of the Astral Beast Domain, even Lu Yin felt that his strength paled in comparison. The power that the beast wielded after opening four eyes was practically the same as what Lu Yin could use after unsealing all of his fatesand. However, the beast was still able to grow exponentially stronger by opening his fifth and sixth eyes.

It was common sense to counter an opponent's shortcomings with one's strengths, which was how Shang Qing had easily defeated Star Devourer. He had not used power, but rather a terrifying technique that had summoned Progenitor Chen's clone. The power of that blade technique was enough to make a person's scalp go numb, as it represented the invincibility of Progenitor Chen.

Lu Yin was aware of his own skills, and he knew that he did not have an invincible technique like Shang Qing's. However, Lu Yin also had no intention of trying to overpower Star Devourer. With Star Devourer's violent attacks approaching, Lu Yin chose to retreat.

To engage in a contest of strength with an astral beast was nothing glorious, but losing would be absolutely embarrassing.

Lu Yin managed to avoid the tornado formed from Star Devourer's power, and it raged into the distance, affecting almost half of the youths atop the mountain as it passed.

Zhi Yi was furious. First, she had almost been struck by the shockwave from Yuhua Mavis's punch, and now, this dumb beast was about to ruin things for her.

Liquor Hero was caught up in the chaos as well. She sprinkled out some drops of wine, which absorbed the tornado that was passing by. The whole thing looked truly magical.

With a loud bang, the mountaintop cracked open. Star Devourer opened his fifth eye and roared at the sky once again as he swung his enormous tail at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised a hand and instantly attacked Star Devourer's body with a Vacuum Palm. For creatures that were shaped like wolves, the abdomen was usually the softest part. Thus, one hit should send Star Devourer off of the mountain and below the stairs.

Lu Yin felt a pair of cold eyes glare at him from behind, causing him to immediately abandon all thoughts of attacking. He felt a blade approaching him, and it was from Xia Jiuyou. Before Lu Yin could recover

and take a defensive position, his vision had changed, and he was greeted with a sword attack from Zhi Yi composed of her Vitality Qi. Lu Yin cursed under his breath; he had swapped positions with Qiu Shi due to her Star Transference secret technique.

Zhi Yi had not expected Lu Yin to suddenly appear, but it did not matter, as both Lu Yin and Qiu Shi were Zhi Yi's enemies. Actually, Lu Yin was an even better target for her.

Upon seeing the approaching sword attack formed from Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi, Lu Yin raised a hand. It was immediately shrouded with lines of nine lined battle force. Then, with a clanking sound, he forcefully received the sword attack head-on with his arm, the impact cracking the ground beneath his feet. He then threw a Vacuum Palm at Zhi Yi with his right hand

The Vacuum Palm struck the Sky Dipper barrier that covered her body, and the attack sent Zhi Yi flying off of the mountain. Her organs had been deeply stirred by the attack, and she was overwhelmed with shock. What a terrifyingly powerful attack!

Not many people in all of ZENITH could disregard Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm. Even though Zhi Yi had managed to protect her body with Sky Dipper, his Vacuum Palm still was not something that she was capable of simply enduring.

When Qiu Shi swapped positions with Lu Yin, she appeared right where Lu Yin had been standing. She had timed it very carefully, making sure to use her secret technique right after Star Devourer was subdued by Lu Yin. At that moment, Qiu Shi had immediately swapped places in order to take the upper hand in her fight while also getting revenge on Lu Yin for dragging her down back in the Mountains and Seas Zone's tablet world. A woman's vengeance was something that could fester for a long time.

However, she had underestimated Lu Yin's bad reputation. Right after Star Devourer was defeated, Qiu Shi was attacked by Yao Xuan's spiritual force when she took Lu Yin's place.

Yao Xuan had fully intended to attack Lu Yin. However, he had not expected Qiu Shi to suddenly swap places and take the spiritual force attack in Lu Yin's stead.

Yao Xuan's spiritual force could be acknowledged as the strongest in all of ZENITH, and although Qiu Shi did not exactly have weak defenses towards spiritual force, she still almost lost her footing from the attack that came out of nowhere, and her face went pale.

Off in the distance, Yao Xuan felt slightly confused; what had happened to his target?

Qiu Shi looked up to stare at Yao Xuan. The surrounding stars gathered to form the Celestial Sword, and she began to resolutely attack Yao Xuan.

Yao Xuan thought that Qiu Shi was aiming her sword at him, and that was indeed what she was doing. However, the instance before the Celestial Sword struck, Qiu Shi once again used Star Transference to swap places with Lu Yin. A moment ago, Lu Yin had sent Zhi Yi flying with a Vacuum Palm, and now, he had returned to his original position.

He was extremely upset, as he felt like he was being manipulated like a puppet.

Speaking of which, that Star Transference secret technique was too convenient.

The round had only just begun, but the intense battles that had erupted everywhere completely terrified the audience watching the livestream. Almost simultaneously, they saw the strongest physical attack, the strongest spiritual force, the Cosmic Art, Vitality Qi, secret techniques, and even more. Even if Enlighteners from the older generations joined in this battle, they might not be able to hold their ground against these young monsters.

Those who had chosen not to fight, such as Unseen Light or Xiao Qing, also scrambled to get out of the messes that they kept being dragged into.

Beneath the statue, the faint image of a celestial demon appeared above the mountain peak and released a horrifying scream at Lu Yin. Yao Xuan was once again trying to attack Lu Yin, and the spiritual force attack covered all of Zenith Mountain.

Lu Yin had seen Yao Xuan's attacks before, and he had always been on guard against the Celestial Demon's spiritual force attacks. The moment the image of the celestial demon appeared behind Yao Xuan, Lu Yin had already set up the Inception Array. This sourcebox array protected a person's spiritual force and kept it as sturdy as a boulder.

When Yao Xuan had defeated Xin Nü by using his Celestial Demon's Howl, not only had he crushed her, but the attack's peripheral effects had also injured a large number of other people. No one was capable of disregarding Yao Xuan's spiritual force.

A ripple of waves instantly spread through the area. It was materialized spiritual force, and the sight of it stunned even Mu En and the other senior powerhouses. The Celestial Demons were truly terrifying.

The battle atop the mountain instantly stopped. Qiu Shi's stars, Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi, and Yuhua Mavis' punch that had just been about to be thrown all froze in place. Everyone was suffering from the effects of Yao Xuan's spiritual force eruption.

Chapter 1307: Fairness?

This was the power of the Celestial Beast Empire's Crown Prince. Yao Xuan was capable of stopping everyone's attacks for a moment all by himself.

However, Lu Yin had not been affected by Yao Xuan's spiritual force. His Inception Array along with his own strong spiritual force allowed Lu Yin to completely disregard Yao Xuan's Celestial Demon's Howl. In a flash, Lu Yin vanished and reappeared right in front of Yao Xuan. Under Yao Xuan's shocked gaze, Lu Yin stretched out a hand. He was not going to unleash his Vacuum Palm this time; Yao Xuan was a creature of pure spiritual force, so a Vacuum Palm would not have any effect on him. Instead, Lu Yin wanted to get closer to Yao Xuan's body and verify some thoughts that he had. Lu Yin did not believe that Yao Xuan was actually able to attack without a physical form.

Lu Yin's hand went straight through Yao Xuan's body, and the moment he made contact with the crown prince's body, even Lu Yin's Inception Array started quaking. Piercing his hand through Yao Xuan's body was no different from being attacked by a massive amount of spiritual force, and it nearly caused the Inception Array to crumble.

Yao Xuan's pupils instantly constricted, and he stared at Lu Yin, who was no more than half a meter away, in surprise. How was it possible for a human to defend themselves from his spiritual force attack?

Yao Xuan believed that he had already rated Lu Yin's spiritual force quite highly, but it appeared that the Celestial Demon had still underestimated the human.

Lu Yin's hand went right through Yao Xuan, but it was of no use. Next, Lu Yin looked up and used Daynight Praise.

An immeasurable amount of spiritual force assaulted Yao Xuan, causing his vision to change to the familiar sight of the Celestial Beast Empire. Yao Xuan saw all of the astral beasts respectfully kneeling before him in a limitless crowd. Somewhere far away, an incredibly enormous astral beast quietly slept; was that Progenitor Wushang?

All of a sudden, Progenitor Wushang's eyes opened, and his claws struck down. It looked as though he wanted to tear Yao Xuan to shreds.

Yao Xuan's pupils shrank to pinpricks, and he said, "I remember now. This is one of the Daynight clan's battle techniques. To think you, Lu Yin, have managed to cultivate one of the Daynight clan's techniques."

As he spoke, Yao Xuan's body vanished. Right after that, a large celestial demon appeared in the air and let out a prolonged howl that filled the sky. The vision of the Celestial Beast Empire, the countless massive beasts, and even the sight of Progenitor Wushang disappeared at this moment.

Lu Yin retreated multiple steps back across the mountain peak, and his face went pale due to the failure of Daynight Praise. He had managed to drag Yao Xuan into an illusion, but the crown prince's spiritual force was simply far too strong, and he had eradicated Lu Yin's battle technique. In other words, Lu Yin had gained nothing from his attack at all.

If Lu Yin's spiritual force had been at the same level as Yao Xuan's, then Daynight Praise would have been enough to severely injure the crown prince or maybe even finish him off.

It was not that Daynight Praise was lacking as a battle technique, but rather that Lu Yin's insufficient spiritual force had given Yao Xuan an opportunity to extricate himself from the technique.

Yao Xuan had broken out of Daynight Praise, but it had not been easy for him either. He had used up a large amount of his own spiritual force.

As the crown prince stared at Lu Yin, Yao Xuan's face betrayed his wariness. "If you've even managed to learn the Daynight clan's battle techniques, then you really are the most talented of all humans."

After speaking, he opened his mouth once more to unleash his Howl.

Spiritual force rippled out in waves that spread through the area. Lu Yin continued to protect himself with the Inception Array, but the others were not so lucky.

The most unfortunate person was Zhi Yi. She had ended up being dragged into everyone else's battles. Meanwhile, Qiu Shi quickly evaded the attack. Speed was meaningless against cultivators of the Cosmic Art; Qiu Shi had almost instantly evaded Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack.

A countless number of people beyond the mountain were shocked senseless when they saw the chaotic battle that had broken out atop the mountain top. Any one of the attacks that had been unleashed was easily able to eliminate the powerhouses that many in the audience admired and held great hopes for.

Anyone able to persevere through this chaotic brawl and secure their position among the top ten would have thoroughly convinced everyone watching ZENITH. Those few would be the true top ten.

ZENITH was not an ivory tower, just like the battle for the Astral Tower. This was a place where the future leaders of the universe would be decided, and the victors would be true powerhouses forged through blood and hellfire.

Yao Xuan continued to stare at Lu Yin in confusion and shock; that man had once again blocked his spiritual force attack. He had never expected any one of his peers to be able to fend off his spiritual force, much less a human. Yao Xuan's beliefs had been completely overturned at this moment.

Another unlucky person was Toolwielder. The moment he had reached the top of the mountain, he had immediately moved to launch an attack against Unseen Light. Toolwielder had been injured so badly by Wang Yi's attack that the Realming had almost been forced to drop out of ZENITH. Still, no matter what it took, he still wanted another try at entering the top ten.

However, Toolwielder had run into Yao Xuan's spiritual attack right when he reached the peak. By coincidentally passing by behind Lu Yin, Toolwielder had essentially become a target for Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack, with the same focus as Lu Yin. Thus, Toolwielder had simply collapsed.

After Toolwielder passed out, a dark shadow enveloped the peak of the mountain. Star Devourer had appeared once again, and this time, all six of his eyes were open. His immense strength was so absurd that the surrounding space was warped, and countless spatial tears spread out into the void in all directions, affecting everyone nearby.

Zhi Yi and Qiu Shi both moved to avoid Star Devourer's destructive power.

The giant astral beast raised both of his front legs high, preparing to aggressively stomp at Lu Yin. Lu Yin was incredibly annoyed, and his eyes slackened as he unleashed Daynight Praise once again.

The scenery changed before Star Devourer's eyes, and he suddenly saw one planet after another appear. Excited, he dashed towards them to devour them. However, the planets ended up transforming into numerous Star Devourers that were far larger than him, and they all charged forward with bared fangs.

This was the first time that Star Devourer had ever felt fear, but he had no time to fully reflect on this new emotion, because at that same moment, his body was being torn to pieces. His blood formed a river that flowed through outer space.

Star Devourer let out a pained cry. The leg that had been just about to stomp down on Lu Yin did not land, and the giant astral beast's body wobbled before collapsing to the ground.

Oh no, Yao Xuan thought to himself. He lifted a hand, and a large amount of spiritual force materialized in front of Lu Yin before immediately exploding. "Force Explosion," Yao Xuan muttered under his breath.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, but just as he was about to move away, he felt all of his strength suddenly leave his legs. His vision began to spin, and the Inception Array shattered. Lu Yin felt dizzy, and he almost lost his footing. A large celestial demon appeared behind Yao Xuan once again, and it released its shrill Howl to resonate across the entire mountain peak.

Lu Yin turned around with cold eyes. His body suddenly vanished as he used his Teleportation Formation. When he reappeared, he was next to Zhi Yi and Qiu Shi, where the Celestial Sword was clashing with Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi.

Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack rang across the mountain peak once more.

In response, the Progenitor of Bloodline's imprint appeared behind Zhi Yi, and her Sky Dipper moved to block the spiritual force attack. Across from her, Qiu Shi disappeared and traded places with Yao Xuan in order to escape from the Howl.

Lu Yin's icy gaze scanned the bottom of the steps leading to the plaza at the top of the mountain. He had been about to evade Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack with the Ce Secret Technique, but his runes had weakened at the most crucial moment. Jin He had ambushed Lu Yin.

Seeing Lu Yin looking at him, Jin He was all smiles, and he just mouthed two words. "Take care."

Suffering a sneak attack in the middle of such a chaotic mess, not to mention one that had weakened him, had essentially forced Lu Yin into the abyss.

Lu Yin had always wanted to find an opportunity to deal with Jin He. His one chance so far had slipped through his fingers in the Mountains and Seas Zone, but he intended to get rid of this problematic guy once and for all here.

Yao Xuan had traded places with Qiu Shi, and he had ended up being struck by his own spiritual force attack. However, that was not an issue for him. Rather, the fact that Qiu Shi had swapped positions with him had pissed him off.

However, Yao Xuan still saw Lu Yin as his most important target. Lu Yin had been marked as a special target by Skymender himself, and all the astral beasts had a mission to eliminate Lu Yin. Even if Yao Xuan was the Celestial Beast Empire's crown prince, he had no desire to disobey Skymender's order.

Suddenly, countless strands of hair stabbed through the void from the side. Tiny martial imprints were branded into each strand of hair as they shot across the mountaintop.

Yao Xuan frowned, and he twisted to the side to avoid the attack. There were far too many strands of hair. Xiao Qing had launched this attack at Starsibyl. However, Starsibyl's divination had allowed her to evade the entire attack before it had even been launched. Thus, the hair strands had missed their target, instead raining down upon the other contestants.

When Lu Yin saw Yao Xuan avoid the strands of Xiao Qing's hair, an idea sprouted in his mind. Logically speaking, since Yao Xuan was an embodiment of spiritual force, he should have been able to remain in place and allow the hair to pass through him. So why had he deliberately avoided them?

If Yao Xuan had only moved aside once, then it could have been attributed to instinct, but seeing him repeatedly dodge meant something else entirely.

Bu Kong had finally arrived at the top of the mountain, and he glared straight at Xiao Qing with bloodshot eyes. Xiao Qing simply shrugged and told Starsibyl, "Someone tougher's shown up, so you should go and find another opponent."

Starsibyl also saw Bu Kong, and apprehension flashed across her eyes.

The moment he arrived, Bu Kong summoned the imprint of the Progenitor of Secret Arts and raised a hand to use the Time Reversal Technique. A horrifying aura filled the entire area, even causing the fierce collisions between Vitality Qi and the Cosmic Sect's various techniques to destabilize.

No one had expected such an intense fight to break out atop the mountain.

Star Devourer once more reached the top, which caused Lu Yin to arch a brow. Surprisingly, the creature was still able to move after being struck by Daynight Praise. It was no wonder why the beast was a unique lifeform; he was incredibly resilient.

Having learnt his lesson, Star Devourer had become far more cautious of Lu Yin, and unlike his usual silence, he spoke to Lu Yin. "Human, fight me with your strength!"

Just as Lu Yin was about to respond, a towering tree appeared some distance away. Its shadow enveloped the entire mountaintop, and it even sheltered the massive statue. But the next moment, the tree disappeared, and an emblem of green leaves appeared on Yuhua Mavis's forehead. This was the Mavis family's battle technique: Infinite Power.

With a pang, Yuhua Mavis punched at Wu Taibai, acting particularly aggressively.

Wu Taibai had activated his secret technique the moment Yuhua Mavis threw her punch out. An incredibly large power crashed down upon Wu Taibai's Mountains and Rivers Imprint, creating large waves of clouds that rolled out in all four directions. The impact between the two attacks was about to explode across the mountain's peak, and the effects would even spread outside of Zenith Mountain.

The various planets surrounding Zenith Mountain started to turn unstable, and some of the spacecraft even directly disintegrated.

At the bottom of Zenith Mountain, the surge of power formed a falling wave that caused everyone beneath the Explorer realm to instantly cough up blood.

If Yuhua Mavis and Lu Yin had fought with pure physical strength, then Wu Taibai fought with his battle techniques. Infinite Power was a battle technique that constantly sucked in star energy and ravaged the area around the user without restraint. It dragged everyone else who had been in the middle of their own battles atop the mountain into its effect.

Lu Yin waved his right hand through the air. He was very familiar with this particular power, but unfortunately, it was weaker than his own. Compared to Star Devourer, the strength of this technique was actually an entire level weaker.

Star Devourer's body size had shrunk even more, and he was now no more than a few meters tall. He was still aggressive as ever, and he charged towards Lu Yin with all six eyes open. The sky and the ground both trembled as a surge of energy came from Infinite Power. Star Devourer's matchless strength was indeed superior to Yuhua Mavis's.

However, Lu Yin did not plan on fighting against Star Devourer with just strength. Although Star Devourer was very fast, his speed was not so overwhelming that Lu Yin could not dodge.

After Lu Yin easily evaded Star Devourer's attack, Howl swept over the entire mountaintop once again.

This howl echoed across Zenith Mountain, forcing a large number of people to cover their ears as they groaned from the pain. The spiritual force attack even diffused out of the mountain itself and into outer space.

Enlighters from everywhere appeared to block the attack.

However, when an elder with a power level of 400,000 spat out blood after being struck by the spiritual force attack, the other Enlighters all went pale.

This was just a fierce battle among youths, but would an Envoy actually have to step up to take the collateral damage from their attacks?

Yao Xuan, Yuhua Mavis, Star Devourer, Wu Taibai, and Lu Yin were all powerhouses who possessed the power to affect participants on other parts of the mountain, and they were the ones who had truly stirred up ZENITH.

Jin He no longer had any time to try to launch sneak attacks against Lu Yin, as God Taiyi was busily hunting Jin He down. God's Origin had sworn to eliminate all traitors.

Unseen Light had also made a move, and he was targeting Zhi Yi. The animosity between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands ran deep. Thus, all the Fifth Mainland cultivators like Unseen Light were looking to eliminate all of the Sixth Mainland cultivators from ZENITH.

In the Upper Realm, in the western region of Chaos Flowzone, countless people from the Sixth Mainland expressed their rage.

"They're actually ganging up on us! Those people from the Fifth Mainland are truly shameless! They don't dare to take on our Daosource Three Skies in a one-on-one."

"What would the three Progenitors think of this? We ask the Three Progenitors to step forward and keep the Fifth Mainland in check."

"We ask the Three Progenitors to keep the Fifth Mainland in check."

...

Zhi Yi was not the only one being besieged. People had also ganged up on Lu Yin and Xiao Qing, who was facing a joint attack from Starsibyl and Bu Kong. Xiao Qing was in imminent danger, and were it not for Starsibyl taking Bu Kong's grudge against Xiao Qing into consideration, then Xiao Qing would have been eliminated right then and there.

In the Neoverse's Honor Zone, Arch-Elder Zen scoffed with a complicated expression. "A joint attack is unfair? How laughable! Being ganged up on is commonplace in this sort of competition. Only those who possess the ability to break out of such a siege qualifies to fight for Destiny. Otherwise, they'll only face a tragic end."

This was a logic that many did not understand; only those like Arch-Elder Zen, Highsage Grandmaster, and the Three Progenitors would.

Chapter 1308: Channeling Diagram

Cultivation was not a game. It was fighting against heaven for one's life, and there was no such thing as fairness.

The brawl at the top of the mountain at the end of ZENITH was truly the essence of the entire event. Only by standing out during this chaotic battle could anyone truly qualify to seize the opportunity being offered to them. This was an opportunity to possibly become a Progenitor, and even the three Progenitors coveted such a chance.

Star Devourer rushed over, but Lu Yin just avoided the beast again. Infuriated, Star Devourer turned his head and continued to charge Lu Yin. Meanwhile, Yao Xuan stared at Lu Yin and launched another Pitch Whistle spiritual force attack. He could not believe that Lu Yin's spiritual force had managed to last this long.

Lu Yin constantly recited the Stonewall Scriptures as he tried to find a way to defeat Yao Xuan. It was impossible to attack the crown prince with spiritual force, as his body was made up of pure spiritual force. It would be very difficult to win in that manner. Lu Yin needed to find a way to leverage his physical strength, but Yao Xuan could nearly compare to Yuhua Mavis in terms of strength, which made things even more difficult.

Out of everyone in ZENITH, in Lu Yin's opinion, the most difficult opponents of all were Shang Qing, Wu Taibai, Yuhua Mavis, Qiu Shi, Yao Xuan, and possibly Wang Yi.

The Celestial Demon's very body was made of spiritual force, which made him incredibly difficult to defeat.

Yao Xuan was also feeling helpless at this moment. Although he still had plenty of energy, he could not launch infinite attacks. He did not know how long Lu Yin could last for, but after Lu Yin was defeated, it would be quite difficult for him to deal with all the others.

If they were at war, then Lu Yin would definitely deal with other people first, such as Zhi Yi and Wu Taibai. However, ZENITH was a competition, and Yao Xuan was a huge obstacle to him taking the championship.

Roar!

Star Devourer let out a roar as he crashed into Lu Yin again. But this merely annoyed Lu Yin. He lifted a hand and released a Vacuum Palm that was reinforced with nine lined battle force.

All six of Star Devourer's eyes snapped wide open as he attacked.

With a bang, the mountaintop cracked, a terrible force tore through the void, and it rippled past Zenith Mountain. It visibly split space in half in the surrounding area.

At the top of the mountain, Bu Kong and the others were blasted back by the power.

Unseen Light, Liquor Hero, Zhi Yi, Qiu Shi, and the others all pulled back. Under the suppression of this power, they all felt breathless.

Wang Yi stared at Lu Yin, his eyes growing brighter and brighter.

The top of Zenith Mountain looked like it was trembling, and Lu Yin set a hand upon Star Devourer's forehead. One human and one astral beast sank deep into the ground, constantly releasing their physical strength.

Star Devourer grew excited. "Human, you're really impressive."

Even as he spoke, his power continued to rise.

Lu Yin's expression froze, and his pupils transformed into runes as he erased a portion of Star Devourer's runes. This confused Star Devourer, but he just increased his strength once more. At the same time, Yao Xuan's spiritual force incessantly attacked Lu Yin, preventing Lu Yin from using Daynight Praises to deal with Star Devourer. Yao Xuan simply wanted to have Star Devourer fight Lu Yin to the death.

Lu Yin was tenacious, had an amazing domain, and also wielded overwhelming physical power. When his sourcebox array and secret techniques were also thrown into the mix, even Yao Xuan found Lu Yin to be an exceptionally difficult opponent. Thus, he intended to cooperate with Star Devourer to take Lu Yin down.

Lu Yin moved his right foot, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath him as he tried to move himself with the Ce secret art.

However, Lu Yin had not noticed Xia Jiuyou approaching him. "Xia Secret Art: Nullify."

The Xia family's secret technique was able to dissolve all secret techniques, and it was extremely oppressive. During the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone, Xia Jiuyou had used this secret technique to deal with Lei Nu's Discipline, and at this moment, he had stopped Lu Yin's secret technique .

Lu Yin had many enemies, and at the top of Zenith Mountain, those who hoped for Lu Yin's death were not only Yao Xuan, Zhi Yi, and the others that hated the Human Domain. There was also Xia Jiuyou. Only by eliminating Lu Yin would Xia Jiuyou find it easier to merge with Xia Luo.

Xia Jiuyou felt no hatred for Lu Yin; he was merely a ruthless person who intended to eradicate all obstacles in his path.

The perfect timing of the Xia family's secret technique shocked Lu Yin. His Ce family secret technique disappeared, and he was unable to evade the attack as he had planned. A hand shot through the air and slammed into Lu Yin's chest.

Everything had happened in an instant, and there was no time for Lu Yin to even try to raise his own strength, and neither did he have a chance to use the Teleportation Formation, as he could not arrange it fast enough.

All six of Star Devourer's eyes were red, and even a domain could not stop the beast.

The countless people in the Great Eastern Alliance who were watching the broadcast grew nervous.

All of the people on Earth prayed.

Outside of Zenith Mountain, the senior powerhouses emerged one by one, all of them focused on the display above the mountain.

In the Cosmic Sea, Highsage Leon roared, "Xia family!"

In the Neoverse, in an Azure Mansion, Ming Yan's face went pale.

In Aeternus Nation, the Ghost Monkey's mouth fell open. Seventh Bro.

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Lu Yin's domain was only able to delay Star Devourer for a moment, but during that moment, a thought flashed through Lu Yin's mind. Star energy emanated from his body, and it quickly moved to form a sourcebox array: the Channeling Diagram.

The Channeling Diagram used sourceboxes as nodes to set up a world of star energy. The stronger the sourcebox's danger zone, the larger the array would become. Additionally, the one who set up the array would be the master of the world that they had created, and they would be able to see through every single movement of star energy within this world.

Lu Yin had assumed that the Channeling Diagram had been given to him by Astral-10's Trialmaster to help him during his time as a gatekeeper. However, when Lu Yin had instinctively used his domain to resist Star Devourer's attack, Lu Yin had noticed that the external force had compressed his domain to the point of shattering. Since the Channeling Diagram was able to set up a world where Lu Yin was able to freely manipulate his star energy, then why wouldn't he be able to similarly manipulate an opponent's power?

Star Devourer's six eyes were all red. With just a bit more, he would finally kill this human. Star Devourer was not very intelligent, but he did place Skymender's orders as high priorities. Thus, all six eyes were staring hard at Lu Yin's right arm—Star Devourer had to capture Lu Yin's tamed beast.

Suddenly, Star Devourer felt like something was very wrong; his strength was growing stronger and stronger, but Lu Yin's expression was quickly returning to normal.

The Channeling Diagram appeared around Lu Yin, and star energy formed channels that continuously dispersed Star Devourer's strength. First there was one channel, then a hundred, and then a thousand as the numbers of channels kept climbing.

The channels of star energy redirected the force of the incoming attack, turning into countless channels of energy streams that flew out in all directions, guided by the star energy under Lu Yin's control.

From a distance, the power of Star Devourer's attack was being scattered into countless channels in front of Lu Yin before disappearing.

The channels suddenly pierced through Yao Xuan, startling him.

Additionally, a channel shot towards Zhi Yi, pushing her back along with her Sky Dipper.

A channel also shot towards Qiu Shi, and she raised a hand in response. Her Celestial Sword fell down and tore through the channel, but that released a massive force that forced her several steps back.

A channel also shot towards Yuhua Mavis, and she raised her hand to directly confront the channel. Upon contact, her hand flinched, and visible ripples of power spread out. Yuhua Mavis was surprised; what was this power?

Xiao Qing, Wu Taibai, Bu Kong, Shang Qing, Xia Jiuyou, and everyone else—everyone was being attacked by the power being redirected by Lu Yin's Channeling Diagram. This was not his original intention, as he had just wanted to deal with Star Devourer's attack, and Lu Yin had not even thought about who might end up being affected.

The people at the top of the mountain were still alright, but a dozen channels also fell down to the first layer, where Ku Wei screamed, "RUN!"

Xi Qi's face went pale, and the fish on top of her head kept flapping its fins. "Swim away! Swim away!"

The Little Leaf King raised a hand and caused the star energy to transform into leaves. The surface of the channel approaching him transformed into green leaves, but the power of Star Devourer contained within it still slammed into the Little Leaf King and smashed him down the mountain in a miserable manner.

Jin He, God Taiyi, Nightqueen Yanqing, Hui Santong, and many more suffered from being struck by the channels.

On the second and third layers, the same scene played out. Dozens of channels had even reached the foot of Zenith Mountain.

A Star Devourer truly did have infinite strength. Even as time passed, countless channels continued to spread out as Lu Yin ceaselessly diverted the power of the astral beast's attack in every direction.

At this moment, Lu Yin understood the true power of the Channeling Diagram. No sourcebox array was simple. Lu Yin was very curious about the Trialmaster's strength. Lu Yin only had a basic understanding of this array, and yet he was able to divert Star Devourer's limitless strength. Thus, what was the Trialmaster capable of doing?

A figure appeared in the distance and raised a hand before a palm shot forward. It was a Vacuum Palm. Lan Si had arrived.

Lan Si's Vacuum Palm hit Star Devourer's abdomen, and the attack moved the beast back tens of meters.

Seizing this opportunity, Lu Yin dissolved the rest of Star Devourer's attack.

After that, Lu Yin turned and stared straight at Xia Jiuyou. Lu Yin's hand moved, and Xia Jiuyou's pupils instantly shrank. He fled even as a knife appeared in front of his body. There was a ringing sound as Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm broke the knife, blasted Xia Jiuyou hundreds of meters back, and forced a mouthful of blood out of him as he flew away.

Not everyone had Star Devourer's physical strength, and Xia Jiuyou did not have nearly enough physical power to receive one of Lu Yin's full-powered Vacuum Palms. In fact, it was already amazing that Xia Jiuyou had managed to endure it at all.

Star Devourer roared and turned to look at Lan Si. The beast raised his right paw and smashed it down. A hurricane-like force roared out and struck Lan Si.

The Arbiter raised a hand and released a series of Vacuum Palms in response, which dissolved Star Devourer's attack.

Lan Si had lost to Yuhua Mavis, and it had looked like a miserable defeat. However, it was really a matter of who Lan Si was compared to. When it came to combat strength, although Lan Si had fallen far behind Lu Yin and Unseen Light, Lan Si was still a top powerhouse. Thus, he was capable of challenging Star Devourer, though it was indeed impossible for the Arbiter to actually win.

He was Lan Si, the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist. He was not some nobody.

Buzz!

The fingernail-sized Bai Mai slammed into Lu Yin at this moment. It was the smallest competitor in ZENITH, and it was impossible for ordinary people to even see it.

However, Lu Yin had been paying attention to the bug all along. When Bai Mai had made its move, its massive number of rune lines had been as dazzling as a torch in the night to Lu Yin.

As Bai Mai approached, Lu Yin slapped a hand through the air, sending Bai Mai flying.

However, Lu Yin's attack was useless. Although the force of his Vacuum Palm could send Bai Mai flying, it could not harm the bug.

Buzz!

The sound approached him once again.

Yao Xuan's eyes narrowed. Bai Mai was a carrion bug, and it was truly frustrating to be targeted by such a creature.

Lu Yin also realized that this type of bug was very difficult to fight against, as even his Vacuum Palm was ineffective. What the hell? It was no wonder why this creature was able to parasitize even Progenitors.

But fortunately, even carrion bugs had a nemesis.

Lu Yin looked over at Liquor Hero. "Do me a favor and take care of this bug."

Liquor Hero's face was red, as she was drunk. However, after hearing Lu Yin's request, she raised a hand and threw out a droplet of wine at Bai Mai.

Yao Xuan's expression changed. Bai Mai could not be destroyed, and it was very difficult to defeat him, but Liquor Hero could easily trap Bai Mai with her Creation realm star energy control. She was the only one who perfectly countered Bai Mai out of everyone. She was Bai Mai's only nemesis among the people present.

This turn of events prompted Yao Xuan to immediately bombard Liquor Hero with a spiritual force attack, but Lu Yin appeared in front of her with the Ce Secret Art. He stared at Yao Xuan intently. Neither of them could focus on striving for the championship at this time, so they both focused on taking the other down.

Daynight Praises.

In a starry sky, countless astral beasts knelt down in front of Yao Xuan, and he became the lord of the Celestial Beast Empire. Off in the distance, massive beasts that stretched across the entire sky could be seen.

"So you still want to use the Daynight clan's illusions to try to deal with me." Yao Xuan sneered as he watched a massive beast before him raised a paw and smashed it down. The crown prince responded by opening his mouth and letting out a violent howl.

Chapter 1309: Lu Yin VS. Wang Yi

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Lu Yin and Yao Xuan stood across from each other. Both of them had started fighting with their spiritual force.

When Yao Xuan made his move, Lu Yin's Inception Array appeared, and he also started reciting all of the Stonewall Scriptures within his mind. As he did so, the scriptures seemed to appear behind him like an illusion, as if it were something from beyond the sky. What's more, it prevented Yao Xuan from breaking through Lu Yin's Daynight Praises.

The giant beast within the illusion smacked Yao Xuan towards a planet with a paw. The crown prince was smashed through the center of the planet and into outer space on the other side.

Yao Xuan was horrified; how was this possible? He had clearly broken free from this technique just a few moments ago.

His eyes flared, and his body disappeared as he took the illusory form of a huge celestial demon. He then opened his mouth and emitted a terrifying sound that destroyed the countless astral beasts before him. At this moment, Progenitor Wushang was Yao Xuan's enemy.

Progenitor Wushang's paw fell down once again, the Stonewall Scriptures still filling the area.

Yao Xuan was sent flying once again, and his injuries grew even worse.

Atop Zenith Mountain, Yao Xuan's face went pale, and his body grew unstable. He almost collapsed while his entire body became somewhat transparent.

Inside of his transparent body, one could see a very small celestial demon. It was around as large as a dust mote, and it was quietly curled up in an out of the way location. It was very cute with its pocket-sized body. But at this moment, a trace of blood had appeared at the corner of the celestial demon's mouth.

Outside Zenith Mountain, a rumbling sound spread out from atop the white skeleton. "The prince had been injured! How can that be? That human is actually able to injure the crown prince with his spirit force!"

"That human has already defeated Tian Hou, and he has produced many miracles."

"He must be eliminated. Otherwise, he will become a great enemy for our Celestial Beast Empire."

...

There was a bang as a shockwave shook the entire mountain top. Lu Yin and Yao Xuan simultaneously moved back, and as Yao Xuan retreated several meters, his body became more and more transparent, and his face grew ever more pale.

Lu Yin, on the other hand, pulled more than ten meters back. His mind had gone fuzzy, and blood was oozing from his ears.

The shockwave swept across the entire mountaintop, and everyone shook their heads. All the battles had momentarily paused, as everyone had been affected by the powerful clash of spiritual force attacks.

This reckless confrontation had injured both Lu Yin and Yao Xuan, but the Celestial Demon had ultimately come out on top. Both his techniques and power regarding spiritual force were superior to Lu Yin's, leaving Lu Yin unable to measure up.

"You want to defeat me, but that's impossible. Let's see how you block this next attack," Yao Xuan sneered as he stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "It doesn't matter. Spiritual force isn't the only thing that can block your attacks, so go for it."

Yao Xuan was stunned, and he was uncertain if Lu Yin was speaking the truth or merely bluffing. Yao Xuan still remembered the voices that he had heard while within the illusion, and those voices had scared him to his soul.

All of the other battles had been disrupted by Lu Yin and Yao Xuan's fight. Then, Wang Yi, who had not made a single move so far, suddenly shot forward and pierced through Yao Xuan's body. Despite being made from materialized spiritual force, Yao Xuan still coughed up blood that spilled onto the ground.

He had been severely injured by Wang Yi's attack, and his body had actually been torn open. However, Wang Yi's target had not been Yao Xuan, but rather Lu Yin.

Nearly a month had passed since the start of ZENITH, and during that entire time, Wang Yi had barely spoken a single word. No matter who he fought, he had been completely indifferent and ignored everything. Many of his opponents had not been unknown people, like Toolwielder, Yao Gu, and Wen Sansi. They were all famous throughout the universe, but they had all been defeated by Wang Yi. This was the first time that he had taken the initiative to attack, and it was also the first time that he looked excited.

The moment Wang Yi moved, the entire universe shifted their attention to him. He was the most mysterious existence in all of ZENITH. The Technocracy itself was synonymous with mystery, and Wang Yi's strength made him even more riveting.

He had never been the first to attack, but when he finally did so, Yao Xuan had been instantly injured.

When Wang Yi moved, an unprecedented sense of danger filled Lu Yin's mind. His scalp went numb. Without thinking, his nine lined battle force immediately covered his body, his pupils transformed into runes, and 726 revolving stars suddenly appeared around him. All the while, he quickly moved back.

The facts proved that Lu Yin had made the right decision, as Wang Yi directly appeared in front of Lu Yin the next moment. The stars revolved around Lu Yin, making everything visible, but even then, Lu Yin was

still only able to see a blur. Only with both the Cosmic Art and Truesight was he barely able to avoid the attack. Then, Lu Yin's hand rose up to release a Vacuum Palm.

Wang Yi's eyes lit up. "Interesting, Bear Stalwart."

Boom!

Two palms collided. The air churned, and the sky above Zenith Mountain shattered. This shockwave was no weaker than the one resulting from Lu Yin's clash with Star Devourer.

Lu Yin was shocked; this person was actually able to block his full powered Vacuum Palm!?

The corners of Wang Yi's mouth curved up. "When it comes to strength, you are not the strongest human."

After that, he turned his body to the side and bent his right arm before letting out a low growl. "Four Arts: Bear Stalwart."

There was a bang as another explosion rang out, and Lu Yin's eyes went wide. His pupils flickered as he hurriedly weakened the runes of Wang Yi's attack. This was an upgraded Vacuum Palm.

An even stronger shockwave swept out, encompassing the entire mountaintop. It was much stronger than before.

An incomparable suppression fell upon the peak of the mountain. Everyone looked up, and many people's mouths fell open. The sky had shattered—this last collision had shattered the entire sky.

Nearby, Star Devourer was getting excited. This was the kind of battle that he dreamed of—pure strength.

On the other side, Yuhua Mavis' pupils shrank; how was there actually another human who had the physical strength to match Lu Yin's? This person was surnamed Wang?

Across from Yuhua Mavis, Wu Taibai gave Wang Yi a strange look. As expected, Wang Yi had used the Four Arts. He was from the Wang family.

Wang Yi smiled. "You're pretty good, so don't die."

He then raised his left hand. His five fingers made a strange gesture that resulted in many vague marks reminiscent of a spider web covering Lu Yin. "Four Arts: Pearl."

In an instant, all of Lu Yin's strength disappeared. His scalp went numb; his power was gone? But before he could form another thought, his body was slammed into the ground by Wang Yi's right hand while Lu Yin released his star energy to form a Channeling Diagram.

Countless channels appeared and shattered the ground before scattering off in all directions, looking like a series of exploding fireworks. The channels fell down from the top of Zenith Mountain, and many contestants hurriedly avoided them, terrified.

Lu Yin had assumed that, after comprehending the Channeling Diagram, all physical power would be practically useless against him, but he had been wrong. The reason why his Channeling Diagram could divert Star Devourer's power was because Lu Yin had a nearly equal amount of strength, which allowed

him to endure. But this time, his strength had mysteriously vanished all at once, and although his Channeling Diagram had appeared, it only managed to last for an instant before being overwhelmed by Wang Yi's incredible power.

Wang Yi pressed a palm against Lu Yin's chest. "All done? Let's go again."

The loss of strength had momentarily disoriented Lu Yin, but he had more than just physical strength at his disposal. For example, there was Daynight Praises.

Wang Yi was dragged into an unavoidable illusion, but just a moment later, he freed himself. Still, that moment was enough for Lu Yin to escape with the Ce secret technique, allowing him to move thousands of meters away.

Wang Yi slowly stood back up and glanced at his right hand before looking back over at Lu Yin. He then declared, "You really are worth beating."

Lu Yin was completely stunned. With his current strength, he was confident that he could even challenge the ancient Progenitors with the same cultivation realm as him, which was why he was willing to go up against Shang Qing. Despite that, Wang Yi had repeatedly overpowered Lu Yin in just a few brief moments. Wang Yi had unimaginable speed and strength, and he also had some sort of ability that could banish all of Lu Yin's physical strength—that unexplainable ability was not something that Lu Yin could cope with.

Lu Yin's instincts had been right; Wang Yi really was one of the most powerful participants in ZENITH, and he was definitely far more dangerous than Yao Xuan.

When his strength returned, Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. He had been afraid that it would take a long time for his strength to return, which would force him into a passive stance against Wang Yi.

The two had only fought for a moment, but that exchange had already shocked everyone, including the top powerhouses like Yuhua Mavis and Shang Qing.

They were both aware of Lu Yin's strength, but they had just watched Lu Yin be completely suppressed by Wang Yi. The terror of this mysterious person was only being revealed at this moment. More importantly, Wang Yi had also just pierced through Yao Xuan's body and severely injured the Celestial Demon.

"I'm curious. How did you cultivate to this level in this universe?" Wang Yi asked as he stared at Lu Yin in surprise.

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat. This universe? "What does that mean?"

Wang Yi did not elaborate. "Be careful. I'm about to attack again."

After that, his body suddenly disappeared. This was not because he had shifted into the void, but rather because his speed was too fast. This was a pure speed that was even faster than a spacecraft.

The feeling from before returned. An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved away. This time, he did not even try to get a clear look of Wang Yi's movements. Last time, he had barely been able to see a blur, and that had been with both the Cosmic Art and Truesight.

Lu Yin was already very fast, but he had never tried to use the Ce Secret Art so quickly before. He pushed himself to move even faster than when he had fought against Yōu Qi and his Eleventh Sword. Despite Lu Yin's speed, he was still caught by Wang Yi's right hand. Lu Yin's body appeared a hundred meters away in an empty section of the plaza. Right after that, the space beyond Zenith Mountain that was in front of Wang Yi's attack suddenly split open, and the spatial tear swallowed many spaceships.

Several Enlighters fled in terror, but even they failed to escape.

Wang Yi's attack had reaped many lives.

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Star Devourer was unlucky enough to have been struck by the attack. His body was halfway bisected, and his blood painted the mountaintop.

A bloody aura spread out as everyone else suddenly stopped fighting and turned around to look at Wang Yi in amazement.

Wang Yi let out a breath. He looked at Lu Yin, and the corners of his mouth curved up as a hint of bloodlust entered his eyes.

Lu Yin did not hesitate at all and immediately retaliated with a Vacuum Palm.

Wang Yi's gaze grew sharp, and the Vacuum Palm swept past his body before releasing its power against Zenith Mountain. Lu Yin's attack had missed.

Vacuum Palm was known to be an invisible attack, and even a top expert like Xia Jiuyou would struggle to detect it, making it nearly impossible to evade. Despite that, Wang Yi had easily dodged it. Then, he reappeared right in front of Lu Yin. "Four Arts: Celestial Blade."

After he spoke, his entire body twisted in an unnatural manner, and his attack suddenly shifted. For no reason, he suddenly attacked in the direction of Zhi Yi and Qiu Shi.

Zhi Yi's Sky Dipper was instantly torn through, and her body was cut in half. Qiu Shi was also not in a good shape. She had instinctively used Star Transference to swap places with Wen Sansi, but Wang Yi's Celestial Blade had still opened up a huge, bloody, hole in her abdomen. Wen Sansi was even unluckier, as he had suddenly appeared right in front of the blade. But fortunately for him, in order to resist the attack that Lu Yin had diverted with his Channeling Diagram, Wen Sansi's barrier had already been up.

Although Wang Yi's Celestial Blade sliced through the barrier, it was still stalled for a moment, allowing Wen Sansi to dodge aside.

The Celestial Blade also sliced through the sky above Zenith Mountain, and just like before, the space above the mountain was shattered.

Outside Zenith Mountain, many of the spacecraft pulled back, no longer daring to be as close to the mountain as before. They felt that the battle there had made the surrounding area incredibly dangerous.

Everyone remained silent. Every time Wang Yi made a move, he seemed to be able to stun everyone speechless.

With a simple wave of his hand, he had split Zhi Yi in two, severely wounded Qiu Shi, and shattered Wen Sansi's barrier. Wang Yi's attack power was far beyond what most people could even comprehend.

Countless people were shocked; just how much of a freak was this person? Was he really a youth?

Chapter 1310: The Invincible Progenitor Chen

Wang Yi's matchless attacks shocked everyone, but he had also been struck by Lu Yin's counter, which had blasted him a thousand meters away. As he slowed down, there was a clear palmprint on his abdomen—he had been struck by a Vacuum Palm.

Wang Yi's face remained calm as he looked at Lu Yin. "A sourcebox array."

All of the fingers on one of Lu Yin's hands were bent at awkward angles. He had set up a Teleportation Formation around him in anticipation of Wang Yi's attack. With the array, Lu Yin had wanted to teleport Wang Yi away, but Lu Yin had not expected Wang Yi to twist his body in such a bizarre manner during his attack. That strange movement had actually avoided the sourcebox array's power, allowing Wang Yi to launch a smooth attack.

The Teleportation Formation had even succeeded in shifting the Giant Emperor away, but it had not managed to move Wang Yi at all. Fortunately for Lu Yin, the Teleportation Formation had managed to divert Wang Yi's attack.

A shockwave swept across the top of Zenith Mountain, carrying a light scent of blood as it passed by everyone.

Lu Yin looked into the distance. There, he saw Qiu Shi holding her stomach as it dripped blood, Wen Sansi's pale face and shattered barrier, as well as Zhi Yi, who had been split in half.

One of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies, their peerless young powerhouses, had been cut in two. Her renowned Sky Dipper had not managed to stop the attack for even an instant.

Everyone in Upper Realm in the western region of Chaos Flowzone were stunned speechless as they stared at their screens. They had just seen Zhi Yi be cut in two, and her blood was spilling out, forming a stream. Had one of their Daosource Three Skies actually died?

No one dared to believe that Sky Zhi had died so miserably.

Off in the distance, Shang Qing's eyes shone with a glint that had never appeared before.

Wu Taibai frowned; as expected of a member of the Wang family.

Bu Kong, Xiao Qing, and the others from the Sixth Mainland were all stunned. They understood Zhi Yi's strength the best, but she had actually been cut in two here.

In the Neoverse's Honor Zone, Arch-Elder Zen was focused on a screen and staring intently at Wang Yi. "Wang. One of the primeval surnames, but is this a coincidence or not? Is he really from that family?"

At this moment, Zhi Yi, who should have been dead after being bisected, suddenly reformed her body, and her wound recovered while countless people watched on in horror.

If not for her pale face and the puddle of blood still on the ground, no one would have believed that she had just been lying on the ground in two pieces just a moment ago.

Zhi Yi's face showed how upset she was as she stared at Wang Yi. If not for her having absorbed a specific bloodline from the Progenitor of Bloodlines and mastering a secret technique that allowed a person to be reborn from a drop of blood, she would have died just now. This Wang Yi had actually shattered her Sky Dipper with a single attack, and this overwhelming power left Zhi Yi trembling in fear.

Upon seeing Zhi Yi recover, many people from the Sixth Mainland heaved sighs of relief; how could one of the Daosource Three Skies die so easily?

Wang Yi did not care at all about Zhi Yi, as he only had eyes for Lu Yin. "Not bad, but unfortunately, that's still not worthy of your surname."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. "You know about the Lu surname?"

The corners of Wang Yi's mouth curved up. "I'll tell you if you beat me, but unfortunately, that'll never happen."

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp, as this bar felt ridiculously high.

Wang Yi had managed to pierce through Yao Xuan's body, and he had also instantly broken out of Daynight Praise. This proved that his spiritual force was amazing, and Lu Yin had already seen Wang Yi's unbelievable strength and speed. In fact, he had just endured a full powered Vacuum Palm, which proved that his physical power was truly unmatched.

Wang Yi was truly a very difficult opponent, but more terrifyingly, he might not have even revealed his full strength yet.

However, Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm had not been completely ineffective. Lu Yin could clearly see Wang Yi's rune lines, and they had noticeably decreased after he was hit. Vacuum Palm was a truly powerful attack, and even a unique lifeform like Star Devourer had been injured by it.

As long as his Vacuum Palm was effective, Lu Yin had hope of victory. This was because, above his Vacuum Palm, he still had his Seventh Bro Finger.

Although Wang Yi's attack power had shocked everyone, the results of his attack were also terrifying, as his attack had not ended the battle.

The match between Yuhua Mavis and Wu Taibai was also in full swing at this moment.

Bu Kong no longer targeted Xiao Qing. After all, they were both from the Sixth Mainland, and their grudges had to be temporarily set aside.

Instead, Bu Kong set Qiu Shi as his target. Just a moment ago, Wang Yi had struck Qiu Shi with an attack, which gave him an opportunity to eliminate Qiu Shi.

Meanwhile, Unseen Light continued to attack Zhi Yi.

Lan Si was still holding Star Devourer back.

Starsibyl was facing Xiao Qing on her own.

Down on the first layer, Jin He was being attacked by God Taiyi.

Liquor Hero had trapped Bai Mai.

Lu Yin made the first move this time, and he struck out at Wang Yi with another Vacuum Palm, but Lu Yin's opponent was simply too fast. Wang Yi instantly disappeared, and when he reappeared, he also waved his hand horizontally. His Heavenly Saber rendered all defenses useless, as it had even instantly shattered Wen Sansi's barrier.

Wang Yi possessed the physical power to defeat Corpse Beast even after the corpse king underwent a third transformation.

As for Wang Yi's speed, Lu Yin could only rely on the Teleportation Formation to deal with it. Lu Yin knew that the Cosmic Sect had already noticed that he had used their Teleportation Formation, and that would cause more troubles for him in the future.

Although the Teleportation Formation could not move Wang Yi himself, it still was not something that he could simply ignore. His Heavenly Saber fell down once again. This time, he cut down at the first layer and Liu Tianmu.

Liu Tianmu immediately countered, and the Twelfth Sword struck the Heavenly Saber. Her sword qi was torn apart, but she evaded the attack and looked up, her shock clear on her face. It was no wonder how this person had managed to cut Zhi Yi in two.

Four Arts: Bear Stalwart against the Vacuum Palm.

There was a bang, and it was followed by several more collisions. Wang Yi was hit by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, but he had already prepared himself to take it. His right hand wielded a Heavenly Saber while his left hand released a Four Arts: Bear Stalwart. Zenith Mountain shook, and massive cracks starting at the peak ran down the mountain. Countless people felt their scalps go numb.

The battle between Wang Yi and Lu Yin was definitely the highlight of the day.

Perhaps their fight was stimulating everyone else, but Wu Taibai's eyes were also full of bloodlust. An invisible force boiled on the surface of his body as he reached out and grabbed Yuhua Mavis's fist with a single hand. She stared at him with horrified eyes as he lifted her up and smashed her down onto the first layer.

Yuhua Mavis had not expected Wu Taibai to also have such terrifying physical strength. First, there had been Lu Yin, then Wang Yi, and now, it was Wu Taibai. When had it been so easy for humans to raise their physical strength to such levels?

The Mountains and Rivers Imprint crossed the top of the mountain and then slammed into Yuhua Mavis.

In response, an enormous divine tree appeared behind Yuhua Mavis, and she gritted her teeth, roared fiercely, and threw out a punch.

Wu Taibai's eyes snapped wide open. He jumped up and used his Mountains and Rivers Imprint with a single hand to counter Yuhua Mavis's punch.

The entire first layer rumbled before cracking. Yuhua Mavis's strength was eroded away by an unspeakable and overwhelming power. After a moment, her right sleeve tore open, blood spilled out, and then her body slammed into the ground with a loud bang.

At this moment, a shockwave blew past the two of them, and Wu Taibai turned to look elsewhere. As he turned around, he saw Liu Tianmu attacking him. She actually wanted to attack Wang Yi, but right as she launched her attack, Wu Taibai had overpowered Yuhua Mavis. Thus, Liu Tianmu had changed targets.

As he felt the sword qi from the Thirteenth Sword, Wu Taibai's whole body filled with excitement. He was completely different from the elegant young Mr. Bai that Lu Yin had first seen. Wu Taibai's entire demeanor suddenly changed.

Wu Taibai stared at Liu Tianmu. Come! The Thirteenth Sword!

The hilt of Liu Tianmu's sword moved, and the Thirteenth Sword was released.

Many people stared at Wu Taibai, as he was the third person to be attacked by the Thirteenth Sword.

Blood dripped down from the corners of Wu Taibai's mouth, and he lowered his head. He had been injured. It felt strange that he had been injured, but this was the power of the Thirteenth Sword.

Liu Tianmu fell down. She had reached her limit, as unleashing two Thirteenth Swords had been too much for her to handle. Exhausted, she finally collapsed to the ground.

Wu Taibai wiped away the blood dripping down the corner of his mouth, but he did not look over at Liu Tianmu. The Thirteenth Sword was very powerful, but unfortunately, Liu Tianmu had not raised it to a high enough level yet. Instead, Wu Taibai turned his attention to the fight between Lu Yin and Wang Yi, which was very exciting.

Beneath the surface of the ground, Yuhua Mavis struggled to move her body. Helpless, she looked at Wu Taibai and observed the energy flowing off of his body. This special energy had suddenly appeared and caused his strength to transform. There was a terrible power hiding within him.

Upon thinking this, Yuhua Mavis jumped up.

Wu Taibai had returned to the peak of Zenith Mountain before Yuhua Mavis returned, but she was following close behind him.

Wu Taibai frowned. Although this woman could not break through his Divine Martial Armor, she was not weak by any means. The members of the Mavis family also had an innate gift that allowed them to control others, and it would not be easy for him to defeat Yuhua Mavis quickly.

I didn't expect this place to gather so many powerhouses. This isn't much different from this season's Yuanlun Festival. I made the right choice to come here, as this place is the start of everything. This is where the oldest inheritances originate from, and although those inheritances have been cut off, there are always traces left.

Wang Yi, Lu Yin, Yao Xuan, Wu Taibai, and the other powerhouses revealing their strength had caused everyone to forget about one person: Shang Qing. He had been universally recognized as the most powerful participant in ZENITH, but he had been passive for too long during this brawl.

But Shang Qing had never intended to keep a low profile. When he first arrived at the Mountain and Seas Zone, he had challenged all of the experts that he had encountered, determined to prove the invincibility of his Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi. Then, he had been appointed as the gatekeeper of the central checkpoint. No matter who had appeared in ZENITH—whether it was the Daosource Three Skies, the Celestial Beast Empire’s crown prince, unique lifeforms like Star Devourer, or even Lu Yin, Qiu Shi, Yuhua Mavis, and previously unknown experts—no one had managed to enter Shang Qing’s eyes.

He had been standing quietly at the top of the mountain for too long.

At that moment, Xia Jiuyou cried out, “Ancestor!” as his blade flashed with a light that lit up the mountain top while blood fell. A massive gash had appeared on Xia Jiuyou’s body as he slammed into a staircase. With that, the light disappeared and reappeared in front of Unseen Light. The Arbiter was able to predict attacks through his forcefield, but there had to be something that he could read before he could make a prediction. This blade's attack had appeared without any precursor, and thus, it was impossible to predict. Unseen Light barely had any time to release his forcefield as the attack reached him. As a result, Unseen Light was smashed back down to the first level just like Xia Jiuyou.

The knife flashed once again, and this time, the attack appeared in front of Zhi Yi. Her expression changed drastically, and danger filled her mind as she felt an intense sense of danger. The Progenitor of Bloodline’s imprint appeared, and for the first time in ZENITH, Zhi Yi used her innate gift of Scarlet Pupils even as her Vitality Qi appeared to defend her against the knife.

Blood dripped to the ground. Zhi Yi was also cut and smashed down to the first layer by the knife, and another corner of the mountain was sliced away.

Right after that, the light of the knife appeared before Liquor Hero. Xia Jiuyou, Unseen Light, and Zhi Yi. It only took a single moment for everyone to be attacked, and by the time the knife arrived at Liquor Hero, only three seconds had passed since the illusory Progenitor Chen had appeared with the knife.

Liquor Hero raised her hand, and a drop of wine appeared in front of her. The glint of the knife dimmed slightly, but she was still struck. The blow nearly severed Liquor Hero’s arm, and she fell back a hundred meters, though she did not fall down to the first layer.

The next person targeted by the knife was Qiu Shi, but Qiu Shi and Wang Yi suddenly switched places at the last moment. Wang Yi had not expected to suddenly appear in front of the knife, but he simply raised a hand in response. "Four Arts: Celestial Blade."

There was a bang as two incomparably sharp attacks sliced through the void. After clashing, they continued traveling with an unprecedented momentum, shooting out past Zenith Mountain. Accompanying the clash of these two attacks was a terrible pressure. Toolwielder struggled, and Xiao Qing was forced down the mountain top and to the first layer.