

The Gods 211

Chapter 211 - Second Round of Group Stages

"It looks like you must have had various strange encounters that allowed to you to greatly reform your body. This is due to your good luck." Chu Yueli slightly nodded: "From now on, I believe that Qingyue will be more relieved. But..." Her gaze grew cold: "I hope you won't forget about the status of Frozen Cloud Asgard disciples and moreover, won't forget why Frozen Cloud Asgard permitted her marriage to you. I don't want you to harbor any intentions that you should not have just because you no longer have crippled profound veins."

Yun Che smiled indifferently and said: "Senior should be at ease. With respect to Qingyue, Junior only has unlimited admiration and gratitude. Junior would definitely not do anything that would ever inconvenience her."

Even though those words were meant to deal with Chu Yueli, but behind her back, they actually had a second meaning... To never inconvenience her, as for whether or not she would be inconvenienced, hmm...

Chu Yueli took a glance at Chu Yuechan. She knew that Chu Yuechan had an aloof nature and did not like to socialize with others. She immediately said: "Let's go."

"Yuanba, take good care of yourself and father." Xia Qingyue told Xia Yuanba in a gentle voice. A pair of beautiful eyes swept across Yun Che's face and then turned to leave with Chu Yuechan and Chu Yueli.

"Awhh... Big sis, I still have so many things to tell you ! "

Yun Che held back Xia Yuanba who was trying to chase after his sister and shook his head : "That's enough Yuanba, do not go over there. The day that she became a Frozen Cloud Asgard disciple, she could no longer be considered a member of the Xia family. Even after disciples of the Frozen Cloud Asgard Palace die, their bodies eternally remain within Asgard."

"Oh." Xia Yuanba nodded his head. No one could tell whether he really understood. His lips curled up in a laugh: "No matter, at least brother-in-law is still here. When big sis went there for two years, you already became so powerful. She will definitely be very happy."

"..." Yun Che was suddenly left speechless for a long time by Xia Yuanba's big heart.

"I heard that the ones leading the Frozen Cloud Asgard team this time, are the Fairy of Frozen Glass, Chu Yueli, and the Fairy of Frozen Beauty, Chu Yuechan, who has not made a public appearance in a long time. The one by Chu Yueli's side should be the Chu Yuechan who pulled the souls and plagued the dreams of uncountable handsome and outstanding youths in the past." Cang Yue walked over and said : "Too bad she's wearing a veil. I would really like to see how beautiful "Blue Wind's Number One Beauty", whom my father has been harping about for half his life, is."

"This Fairy of Frozen Beauty is as cold and aloof as rumored. Simply looking at her for a while makes me feel like my soul is getting frozen, giving me no confidence to go up and speak to her." Cang Yue gently petted her chest. Chu Yuechan's incomparably cold attitude left her an immeasurably deep impression. She carefully said: "However it's strange. It's rumored that she usually stays at the Frozen Cloud Asgard,

and has never left for a few years or even a few decades now. It's harder for someone to meet her than to ascend to heaven. Why did she choose to come to this particular ranking tournament?"

"...Perhaps the Frozen Cloud Asgard was too dull for too long so she came out to get a breath of fresh air." Yun Che randomly said, before sighing faintly in his heart. A while ago, he had been looking at Chu Yuechan continuously, hoping to catch her gaze. Even if his target was cold and unfeeling, any apathetic glance would do... but Chu Yuechan concentrated on her tasks from beginning to end and was as cold as an ice statue. The face behind the veil was serene and completely ignored his existence.

The way she was ignoring him was worse than if she simply had no feelings.

"But I still get the feeling that Chu Yuechan seems to be stealing glances at you." Cang Yue suddenly said.

"Stealing glances... at me?" Yun Che's mouth grew wide open: "She was clearly just standing there without even moving, how do you know that she's stealing glances at me?"

Cang Yue's small head was shocked. After thinking it through for a while, with an entirely serious face, she replied: "A woman's intuition."

Yun Che: "Pfft....."

"In this boundless universe, there just aren't any impossible miracles. Even a person who originally had completely crippled profound veins managed to show a shocking performance at this ranking tournament in not even two years. Looks like I had been staring at the sky from the bottom of the well when I stayed in Frozen Cloud Asgard for these past years.."

Chu Yueli sighed as she lamented. Clearly, Yun Che's dramatic transformation had given her a big shock.

"Elder sister, do you know of any method in this world that would let a person whose profound veins which had been destroyed since they were young, be completely restored?" Chu Yueli faced Chu Yuechan and asked. However, even after waiting for quite a while, she did not get a reply. Chu Yuechan looked straight ahead, the light in her eyes like the reflection of a clear pool of still water, completely without ripples. It seemed like she did not even hear what she had said at all.

"Elder sister?"

Chu Yuechan still did not respond.

Chu Yueli no longer said anything... Ever since Chu Yuechan suddenly left the palace half a year ago and came back, she suddenly seemed to have become a different person. Even as her younger sister who understood her the most, she could not guess what she was thinking at all.

Behind her, Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin gathered around Xia Qingyue on her left and right, having a private conversation.

"Junior Sister Xia, is that really your brother? The difference between you siblings is really great. You have such a soft and weak body but your brother is like a small giant."

“That Yun Che is the person that you married? It’s such a surprise to have met him here. However, he’s actually quite good looking... Junior Sister Xia, the reason you persisted in marrying him, was it because you actually like him just a little bit?”

Xia Qingyue gently shook her head: “The only reason I married him was to fulfill the promise my father made in the past and because of my gratitude about his father’s rescue that saved my life. Since I have already become a disciple of Frozen Cloud Asgard, how could I have developed feelings for him?”

Having said to here, her mind flashed to a scene of when she saw Yun Che for the first time. He was walking together with a maid who had an elegant air and a pretty face, and they were obviously quite close. Her heart suddenly felt just a tad uncomfortable... but this uncomfortable feeling was very slight, and it disappeared in a flash.

On the second and third day, the first round of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament continued.

In this first round of group stages, Yun Che was indeed quite lucky. In the group of fifty people that he was in, not only were there no disciples from the Four Major Sects, the strongest practitioner was only at the fifth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. But of the six disciples that were at the fifth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, he did not even meet a single one. Within three days, he fought twelve battles and the strongest expert he met was only at the fourth level of the Spirit Profound Realm... With his undefeated streak of twelve wins, he entered the top 300 ranking, entering into the second round of group stage matches.

This result was enough to make anyone drop their spectacles.

“Damn! Even though I admit that this person of the True Profound Realm is much stronger than expected, to even be able to fight with others of a higher realm, but to actually enter into the second round of the group stage with an undefeated streak... This is just too exaggerated.”

“This guy’s luck is just too good. The strongest opponent he met was just at the fourth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. My luck is not as good. Everyone I met was abnormally strong. If I was in his shoes, I would have an undefeated streak too.”

“Forget it. It’s easy talking about it, but getting it done is another matter. Why don’t you try fighting with someone at the third or fourth level of the Spirit Realm while you’re only at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm!?”

“...”

Without any suspense, Xia Qingyue and Ling Yun were also able to clear the first round of group stages with undefeated streaks. Of their twelve rounds, about half their opponents surrendered without a fight. The efficiency simply could not be any higher.

After the first round of group stages ended, Xia Yuanba pumped his fist and cheered. Cang Yue was beaming, and Qin Wushang could not contain his smiles any longer. Even though he was confident that Yun Che could make it into the second round of group stages, when it finally happened, he was still unable to control his emotions... Because this was the first time ever that the disciples representing the

Blue Wind Imperial Family made into the second round of group stages! The first time a disciple entered into the top three hundred rankings!

"I will immediately send news to the Emperor. He will be very happy upon receiving this news. Perhaps if his mood improves greatly then his health might make a turn towards improving." Qin Wushang said in an incomparably emotional way. Without waiting any further, he found a corner to send news to the Emperor.

"This is too wonderful Junior Brother Yun. You have established a new ranking record for disciples representing the Imperial Family. After Father receives news of this, he will certainly be very happy. If you could reach the top hundred ranks, then even if Father had to return to heaven, he could do so without any regrets... Junior Brother Yun, I sincerely thank you." A red flush filled Cang Yue's face. She gently held Yun Che's hand, as her brows curved into two beautiful crescent moons.

Yun Che was about to say something when he suddenly felt a faintly discernable killing intent drift across his face. With the smile not leaving his face, he gripped Cang Yue's hands and gently said: "Then... Senior Sister, how do you intend to reward me?"

"Ah? What kind of reward do you want?" Cang Yue blinked her beautiful eyes.

"I want Senior Sister... to kiss me." Yun Che slightly turned his face and grinned.

"Ah? Right here?" Cang Yue looked around in all four directions and a shade of pink spread across her absolutely beautiful face. Her lips puckered slightly. She suddenly moved forward, left a quick kiss on Yun Che's face, and then immediately lowered her head with her heart pounding fiercely.

Not far away, Fen Juecheng was looking at Yun Che and Cang Yue. From his hands came a "bang" sound. The second armrest of his chair had been broken in his fury.

"Big bro, what's the matter?" Upon hearing this sound, Fen Juebi turned his head to ask.

The flesh on Fen Juecheng's face spasmed. His face, which was originally handsome, now had a sinister air spread throughout. His eyes were filled with a shocking venom : "I'm going to chop this little bastard... in... to... thousands of pieces!!"

On the fourth day of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, the second round of group stages officially started. At the same time, the one thousand and two hundred disciples that were eliminated in the first round went to the secondary venue in the rear hills to compete for the rankings below the top three hundred. It was only that the ranking tournament at the secondary venue had a far smaller audience. Both the quality and atmosphere of the secondary venue could not compare to that of the main venue.

The second round of group stages was likewise held on the thirty little sword arenas. Even though the number of participating disciples were condensed to only three hundred, every person had to fight a full fifteen matches! At the same time, even though this round of group stages was still by "group matches", the competitors were no longer divided into groups. Everyone's opponent was no longer restricted to a small range and could be drawn from the entire set of disciples who had entered into the second round. This allowed the highest chance of making sure that everything was fair.

However, there was no such thing as absolute fairness. Even though the second round was not divided into groups, the opponent that was selected for every match was still something to watch out for. If someone originally had the ability to rank within the top hundred but was so unlucky as to encounter opponents from the Four Major Sects for all fifteen of his battles, then he could only cradle his head and cry in pain. There was no way to logically debate against that. And someone else, whose strength was only average but only met opponents who were below average, could manage to win all his battles.

Of course, the chances of either of these two extremes happening were very low. Everyone's fifteen matches were on the whole bound to be fair and equal.

"Sword Discourse Arena Number Seven, first match. Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che — versus —
— Thunderbolt Lightning Pavilion's Lei Zhentian!"

The battles at the thirty Sword Discourse Arenas proceeded at the same time. Yun Che's first opponent was already standing in front of him. With an incomparably stout body, he was only twenty years old but looked like a buff forty year old man. The weapons in his hands were two large round hammers.

The Yun Che who had exploded into the second round of group stages with an undefeated record naturally drew more attention. Looking at his next opponent, everybody's heart had exactly the same idea: This time, this Yun Che would lose for certain.

He could defeat opponents at the third level of the Spirit Profound Realm and opponents at the fourth level of the Spirit Profound Realm... but no matter how overpowered he was, there must be a limit, and this Lei Zhentian was the Young Pavilion Master of the Thunderbolt Lightning Pavilion from the Northwestern Reaches of the Mighty Jolt Region! His profound strength was at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm! The Twin Thunderbolt Hammers he held in his hands were sufficient to smash a large boulder into small pieces. If smashed onto a person's head it would directly turn them into pulp.

"Junior Brother Yun, do your best..." Cang Yue gripped the hem of her skirts with both hands and nervously mumbled.

Chapter 212 - Consecutive Victories!

Seeing that his opponent was Yun Che, Lei Zhentian was evidently startled for a moment, and then began to laugh out loud. "I didn't expect that my first opponent today was actually you, brat. Looks like this great dark horse, is about to become a dead horse soon. Reveal your weapon!"

"Then that will depend on whether you have the capability." Yun Che said indifferently.

If the opponent who said that was several levels higher than him, he would have been alright with it. However, the person who said this was someone who was only at the True Profound Realm; undoubtedly, he instantly went into a rage. Without saying anything more, he swung his twin hammers, creating two fierce and abnormal waves of wind which struck directly towards Yun Che's chest.

Lei Zhentian's Twin Thunderbolt Hammers weighed four hundred kilos each, but in his hands, they were incomparably light and nimble, and the roaring of the wind brought by the swings were especially deep and heavy.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Six incomparably fierce hammer strikes were entirely blocked by the back of Yun Che's hands. Those concentrated banging sounds were completely unlike the sound of impact between a heavy hammer and a human body and were more like the sound of a heavy hammer smashing onto a rock. When these six blows landed, shocked surfaced from Lei Zhentian's expression. With the Twin Thunderbolt Hammers that weighed a total of eight hundred kilos together, and adding his innate profound strength, they were actually blocked continuously by his opponent's bare hands!

And after blocking them, forget about injuries, there were not even reddened marks on his hands.

Is his body actually made of iron!?

I simply won't believe that you'll be able to continue blocking all of them!!

Lei Zhentian's gaze darkened. The profound energy in his entire body began to flow wildly and just like a blazing wheel of fire, his body began to spin at high speed. Like a fierce hurricane, he smashed his Twin Thunderbolt Hammers towards Yun Che, with each strike fiercer than the previous one.

Bang bang bang bang...

In a few breaths of time, dozens of crazy hammer strikes had landed, yet, still none of them had stained Yun Che's clothes; all of them were blocked by the back of his hands and wrists. The more Lei Zhentian struck, the more shocked he became. Finally, with a great roar, his sect's profound art exploded out instantly.

"Rumbling Thunderbolt!!"

The Twin Thunderbolt Hammers suddenly smashed down at the same time with a pressure that was much stronger than earlier by several times. Yun Che frowned. He did not take the hit directly, instead, he retreated a distance of three body lengths. When the two hammers struck empty air, they suddenly smashed against each other. A bolt of lightning which contained a strong concentration of lightning energy was suddenly released, charging straight towards Yun Che's side.

Crack!

With a deafening screech, the bolt of lightning exploded as it made contact with the floor, causing a big portion of the floor to turn crisp black. As for Yun Che, he had already leaped far behind. When he landed, with a swing of his arms, he held onto the Overlord's Colossal Sword in front of him with his two hands.

For the first time in the Ranking Tournament, he finally revealed his heavy sword.

"The hell! What a big sword! So that's his weapon?"

"Is that the legendary heavy sword? He's actually using a heavy sword as his weapon? Can he actually swing it?"

The moment Yun Che brought out his heavy sword, it brought about a huge wave of astonishment and whispering voices. On the Sword Discourse Arena, Lei Zhentian's expression shook, because he realized that the moment Yun Che wielded his heavy sword, he had changed into a completely different person.

Heavy swords were excessively large; no matter the weight, or size, they were extremely difficult to wield. However, when Yun Che was wielding such a huge sword in his hands, it actually looked very fitting, and there was not even a hint of incoordination, as though the sword was birthed just for him, forming a single entity with Yun Che. It was not grabbed onto by his hands, rather, it grew from his hands, and was a part of his body in the first place.

The atmosphere around Yun Che had undergone an earthshaking change as well. Earlier, he saw that under Yun Che's calmness, there was a hint of mysteriousness but he had not possessed any sharp edges. However, the moment he brought out his heavy sword, it was as though he was looking at a towering mountain with an indiscernible peak in front of him. A thought of "basically no possible way of winning" quickly sprouted in his heart, causing him to grip onto his two hammers even more tightly. However, even after a long while, he did not dare to take a step forward.

Just what kind of freak is this... I had once tried a heavy sword-type weapon, but I was completely incapable of wielding it, hence, I could only give up on it. But this person, not only can he wield a heavy sword, his compatibility with the heavy sword could actually reach such an extent... With the heavy sword's characteristics, even if it's a genius, he would at least require hundred, or even hundreds of years to reach a realm as high as this...

As he thought of this, Lei Zhentian's back was drenched with even more sweat.

"Receive my blow!"

Yun Che wielded his heavy sword horizontally and with a flash of his body, he instantly closed the distance by fifteen meters. Lei Zhentian quickly regained his senses. With a loud roar, he poured all of his strength into his two arms, taking the blow head on... The heavy sword in his hands moved so quickly that it might be possible that his heavy sword was simply large in size while its actual weight was not that heavier than a light sword.

Only when the Twin Thunderbolt Hammers clashed against the Overlord's Colossal Sword, did Lei Zhentian realize that the thought he had in his mind was nothing but laughable imagination. A majestically large force that exceeded far beyond his expectations came from right in front of him, causing the hands he was wielding his two hammers with to momentarily numb. As though it had been blown away by a hurricane, his body was sent flying high in the air...

Bang!!!

Lei Zhentian struck heavily onto the profound energy barrier in the rear, tumbled down onto the ground, and he was completely in a daze. When he finally managed to stand himself up, his Twin Thunderbolt Hammers had long flown away from his hands.

"Do you still want to fight?" Yun Che lightly tapped his heavy sword on the ground. With the tip of the sword as the starting point, a fissure appeared on the incomparably hard floor of the Sword Discourse Arena. If he had not pulled out his heavy sword, Lei Zhentian could still stand up against him, however, the moment he wielded his heavy sword, Lei Zhentian simply turned into fodder.

It could be said that, when compared to his unarmed state, Yun Che's combat strength wielding his heavy sword was in a completely different realm.

Recalling the catastrophic strength he demonstrated earlier, although Lei Zhentian did not receive any substantive injuries, he no longer had the courage to continue the battle. With a bow, he softly said. "I admit defeat... Since you're able to wield a heavy sword which I am not capable of even after working so hard to do so, I'm well convinced about my lost!"

"Lei Zhentian admits defeat, Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins!!"

The people who paid attention to this match, who waited for Yun Che to lose terribly, were once again completely dumbfounded.

Even Lei Zhentian, had actually lost in the hands of a disciple from Blue Wind Imperial Family who only possessed the strength at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm!!

A result like this, could only be described 'incredible'.

In Yun Che's second match, his opponent was a spear-using practitioner with strength at the fifth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. This time, Yun Che wielded his heavy sword the moment the match started, and after three exchanges of blows, his opponent's spear was sent flying, and his opponent was sent flying as well after the fourth exchange...

"...Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins!"

Third match...

"...Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins!"

Fourth match...

"...Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins!"

Fifth match...

Sixth match...

Seventh match...

Eighth match...

.....

Yun Che's matches began to receive even more attention with each subsequent match, to the point when, the moment he stepped onto the Sword Discourse Arena, even if disciples from the Four Major Sects were competing on another Sword Discourse Arena, a large number of eyes would still immediately shift onto his Sword Discourse Arena. And then, they saw him obtain victory... victory... victory... another victory... and still another victory... Their expressions toward him would change over and over as well, startlement... astonishment... shock... horror... and at the end, they were basically numbed.

Every one of them still recalled the first day of the Ranking Tournament; that burst of laughter that resounded through the entire audience when Yun Che came up on stage for the Profound Strength Assessment. But now, he used one match after another, with each match capable of being crowned as

'impossible' and 'miraculous' victories, to respectfully give every one of those, who laughed at him, a resounding slap on the face in turn.

Whenever each match began, everyone would think that he would definitely lose that match, but he still turned out victorious... Everyone then began to feel like watching a match he would lose in, but they were still left disappointed. In the first round of group stages, Yun Che obtained complete victories in all twelve matches. Even during the second round of group stages, as each match went by, he still obtained victory in every one of them, not giving them the chance to see a single loss.

If he was at the peak of the Spirit Profound Realm, or a practitioner at the sixth or seventh level, then everyone would be shocked when he obtained successive victories, but they would not feel that it was unacceptable. But this Yun Che... His strength was merely at the True Profound Realm! A profound realm in which they thought was simply unworthy of participating in the Ranking Tournament.

Yet he swept through one Spirit Profound Realm absolute genius after another!

And he swept through their understanding as well.

As Yun Che accumulated victories, Qin Wushang's expression became more and more agitated as well. When Yun Che won his tenth match, he was so agitated that he stood up from his seat and momentarily teared up... Because with these ten victories, even if he were to lose all of the five remaining matches, it would still be enough to for him to place in the top hundred of the individual ranking! Blue Wind Imperial Family's group ranking, might even directly enter the top fifty as well!!

Not only did it break Blue Wind Imperial Family's history of never being in the top hundred of the Ranking Tournament, it was even a huge breakthrough!

Covering her lips with her two hands, Cang Yue's cheeks were also stained in tears. She looked at Yun Che who was walking down the Sword Discourse Arena. Her vision was become more and more blurry, and in her heart, she was screaming this over and over: 'Father, are you seeing this? Junior Brother Yun has carried us to the top hundred rankings... Father, your dream has truly been fulfilled. With this one vent of frustration, our Blue Wind Imperial Family will no longer be ridiculed by others... Father, are you seeing this...? Are you seeing this...'

Where there were happy people, there would naturally be angry ones as well. At the Burning Heaven Clan's seating area, Fen Juecheng's expression was sullen and his lungs were about to explode from anger. He was currently really regretting coming to the Heavenly Sword Villa personally. Otherwise, he would not be so angry to the extreme, because he was unable to personally take action, and had to suppress his rage so much that he felt like dying. He wanted to see Yun Che being ridiculed. He wanted to see him tortured by his opponents. Yet, what he saw was Yun Che taking the spotlight time and time again, while grabbing everyone's eyes time and time again; he even suppressed the spotlight of all the Four Major Sects' disciples.

These two rounds of small group matches, were basically his own personal performance matches!!

"Big bro, it's completely unnecessary for you to be so angry over such a small figure." Fen Juebi said slowly. "For him to be capable of winning up till now, I can only say that his luck is simply too great. In the first set of small group matches, he was basically allotted into the group with the weakest average strength... and in this second set of group matches, hehe, did you see all those trashy opponents he

encountered? Until now, his strongest opponent was only at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. If he had encountered any single disciple from the top ten sects, he would have been thrashed so hard his own mother would've been incapable of recognizing him."

"Hmph!" Fen Juecheng gave him a glare. "When you're at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm, were you able to defeat an opponent at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm!?"

Fen Juebi was momentarily at a loss of words, and then, he simply pouted his lips. "If you put it that way, then he's indeed a freak. But currently, I really wish to see him continue winning, until... he enters the top thirty-two."

Fen Juecheng's eyes flashed. "Are you saying?"

"Hehe! If he were to really reach the top thirty-two, enter the elimination matches, and unfortunately be matched up with me, tsksk..." Fen Juebi licked his lips, his expression revealing a smile like that of a poisonous snake. "I have a way to turn this freak into trash. The exhilaration from personally destroying a freak-level genius, big brother, you know of it as well, it's a wonderful sensation that cannot be described."

Chapter 213 - Qingyue Under the Moon

The wind was blowing loudly in the pitch black night. The moonlight was dull and the stars were sparse; it was prime time to secretly sneak around... Ah no, to secretly night crawl.

Tomorrow was the last day for the second round of the group stage. Yun Che, who won ten out of ten matches, had already secured his rank in the top hundred. Yun Che didn't even think of it as anything special himself, yet Qin Wushang was unbearably full of joy, and that laughing mouth of his had not closed from afternoon all the way till evening. Of course, Cang Yue was also terribly delighted, and when a beauty was delighted, it was naturally much easier to take action.

Perhaps, she would fall to him tonight.

As he thought to here, Yun Che instantly started to laugh lewdly. Just as he jumped off the bed and was about to head out for Cang Yue's room, the door to his room was suddenly knocked, and Xia Yuanba's voice came from the outside: "Brother-in-law, are you asleep yet?"

The time wasn't very late yet, but it was already very quiet outside. In order to not disturb him, Qin Wushang and Xia Yuanba would never visit him at night, unless there was some urgent matter.

Yun Che walked over to open the door: "Yuanba, what is it?"

"Oh, it's that big sis just came earlier, and wanted me to give this thing to you." Xia Yuanba took out a small spatial ring, and gave it to Yun Che.

"Your sister? Qingyue came over earlier?" Yun Che took the ring, and said in a surprised tone.

"Mhm." Xia Yuanba nodded: "Big sis said that you actually don't need these things anymore, but they are also useless to be carried around on her, and wants me to pass this on to you anyway."

Something that Qingyue my wife would give to me? What would it be?

Yun Che lifted the ring, and opened his inner vision... In the spacious spatial ring, there only existed three things.

A profound core. Its aura was thick and rich; it was clearly an Earth Profound Beast's profound core! A chunk of fist sized crystal that looked like purple-colored ice crystals... it was shockingly a Purple Veined Heavenly Crystal! And planted within a transparent jade bottle, was an eccentric grass with a twisted stem, seven sharp and long leaves, as well as a seven-colored brilliance flowing through its entire body...

Seven Profound Gem Grass!!

The inside of Yun Che's heart violently shook.

Seven Profound Gem Grass, Purple Veined Heavenly Crystal, Earth Profound Beast's profound core... These were clearly the three things that he had mentioned to Xia Qingyue back then, that could be used to heal his crippled profound veins at time.

Yun Che lifted his head up, and asked urgently: "How long has it been since Qingyue left?"

"Ehm, she just left a little while ago. Brother-in-law, you want..."

Before Xia Yuanba finished talking, Yun Che had already rushed out like a gust of wind, and instantly vanished before Xia Yuanba's eyes.

Xia Yuanba stood in front of the room's door, scratched his head with a innocent face, and muttered in a small voice: "Should I have told Brother-in-law right when Big Sis came..."

After exiting the courtyard, Yun Che stopped for an instant, and perceived the remaining threads of ice-cold aura with his incomparably sharp sense. Following the direction that the ice-cold aura had lead to, Yun Che went full throttle, and madly chased. Not long after, under the pitch-black curtain of night, a graceful figure in fluttering snow-colored attire appeared in his vision. He slowed down his footsteps, and quickly shouted: "Qingyue!"

The voice that came from behind made Xia Qingyue stop her feet. She quietly turned around, and her eyes met with Yun Che, who had chased here. In regards to Yun Che's pursuit, she did not seem to be very surprised. Her charming eyes did not waver, and her voice was soft and calm: "What matter does Sir Yun seek from this Qingyue?"

The form of address "Sir Yun" made the corner of Yun Che's mouth slightly cramp. He opened his mouth and asked: "Qingyue my wife, I want to ask you a question... Our marriage certificate that I passed over to you that day... is it still there?"

Xia Qingyue lifted her snow-white hand, and lightly stroked her ring. A sheet of flat and undamaged marriage certificate that was meticulously protected within a colorless crystal was taken out by her. With a lifting motion of her hand, the marriage certificate flew toward Yun Che, and landed in his hands... And this sheet of paper, was precisely the marriage certificate between him and Qingyue that was perfectly flawless and undamaged!

A kind of wordless moved emotion birthed in Yun Che's heart. The existence of this marriage certificate, perhaps could not prove that Xia Qingyue truly held some feelings toward him, but it proved that after the day he left, she protected his last bit of dignity with all her might.

At least, when her husband was in a perilous situation, she, as the wife, did not take the opportunity to forsake him, but had actually went through with the most sacred part of a wife's duty.

The existence of this marriage certificate, was also proclaiming that they had always been husband and wife, including now.

"That time, you didn't have the power to protect this marriage certificate, so you passed it on to me. Now, I believe you already have the strength to protect it, so it should be returned to you anyway." Xia Qingyue said in a light voice.

"Then, do you remember what I said, when I gave the marriage certificate to you?" Yun Che asked in a very quiet voice as he carefully put away the marriage certificate.

Xia Qingyue: "..."

"I said at that time: 'If you still want to continue being my wife, then protect it; if you want to obtain complete freedom, then destroy it'...." As he spoke to here, Yun Che made a self-mocking laugh: "Actually, when I left that day, I had always thought that your choice would be to destroy the marriage certificate. Because, no matter if it's for your father's promise, or repaying the debt of gratitude toward Uncle Xiao Ying, the person you ought to marry was Xiao Ying's son. However, you had already known that I wasn't even Xiao Ying's son at all, and was only a 'bastard that was picked up' in their mouths. You totally could have destroyed the marriage certificate, as well as our name as husband and wife in a right and proper way, and then cleanly enter Frozen Cloud Asgard. Why did you choose to instead, protect this marriage certificate?"

Xia Qingyue's charming eyes looked straight at Yun Che's, and did not have even a tiny bit of the intention of avoiding anything. The expression in her gaze was completely tranquil. After these one and half years in Frozen Cloud Asgard, Yun Che clearly felt that Xia Qingyue's entire disposition had changed so much that it was as if heaven and earth had flipped. In those few days that they lived together after marriage, her gaze was indifferent, cold, and even a little bit loftiness and immaturity was hidden within. But now, the coldness in her eyes was completely replaced by apathy, and was as unfeeling as tranquil water, without the slightest of perturbation. The aura of her energy, however, had become bone-chilling cold.

Other than Frozen Cloud Arts, the Frozen Cloud Asgard's core profound arts also included Frozen Heart Arts. The latter, could make one calm the heart, and empty the mind. To the extremes, one could achieve a state of truly having no desires, and look disinterestedly upon all life and death, victory and defeat, ambitions, as well as any good and evil in the world...

However, could a human without desire and pursuit, still be considered "human"?

"Qingyue cannot answer this question."

"Why can't you answer?"

Xia Qingyue said quietly: "Because what Qingyue thought that time, is already now forgotten. Perhaps, it is because the fate of us as husband and wife had yet to be finished."

As she said the words "Fate as husband and wife", these few words that were supposed to carry a sense of sentiment, were spoken with indifference, and without any hint of drifting emotions. And this kind of

indifference, gave Yun Che an uncomfortable feeling of suffocation. The Xia Qingyue of the old days was like an aloft ice lotus situated on a snow mountain. Even though the him that time was disabled and insignificant, he still had the incessant intention to probe and tease, and the desire to conquer and pluck her. If not for the unforeseen event that happened after, if given enough time, he firmly believed that he would succeed if they were under the same roof day and night.

But the Xia Qingyue now, gave him a feeling comparable to the bright moon that hung atop the blue sky; still impeccable as always, but was already extremely far away from him, to the point that it was impossible to reach.

Ahhh!! This Frozen Cloud Asgard place, is really harmful!!

As he thought about how Chu Yuechan, who had lived together with him for five months, still left resolutely even after XXOOing, along with the changes in Xia Qingyue... Yun Che's heart instantly boiled with an impulse to destroy Frozen Cloud Asgard.

Taking in so many peerlessly beauties, yet turning them into otherworldly beings unstained by the desires of the world... It was virtually a place that all men, no matter human or god, would be angry towards in their hearts!

Yun Che's chest rose up and back down. After calming his state of mind, he said with a peaceful tone: "Thank you for finding me the Seven Profound Gem Grass, Earth Profound Beast's profound core, and Purple Veined Heavenly Crystal. I know that even if it's Frozen Cloud Asgard, to find all three of these within one and half years would not be that easy. Moreover, you were only a newly entered disciple."

"No need for thanks," Xia Qingyue's voice was light yet graceful: "Compared to your favor of opening all of my profound entrances, these, can't be considered much."

"Me opening your profound entrances, was only expending a few drops of sweat. But you finding all these things for me, was not as simple as just expending a few drops of sweat. However, I indeed should not say thank you, since we are husband and wife." Yun Che slightly smiled.

Xia Qingyue: "..."

"May I ask you three questions?"

"Please ask." Xia Qingyue did not refuse.

It had gone deeper and deeper into the night. Even though there were only a few sparse stars in the sky, the round moon was extraordinarily brilliant, and generously poured down its bright moonlight. But as it shone on Xia Qingyue's body, these flawless and beautiful moonbeams, could only be reduced into the unnoticeable background. Emanating a kind of indescribable and suffocating beauty, the Xia Qingyue under the moonlight was as if a goddess had descended from the heavens. Seeing this figure that was beautiful to the point of almost illusory, to say that Yun Che's heartbeat did not increase in pace was impossible. He slowly took a breath in, and asked: "In Frozen Cloud Asgard, did you live well?"

"Very well. The Asgard Mistress, Master, Senior Masters, Junior Masters, as well as all the Junior and Senior Sisters all treated me very well." Xia Qingyue answered in a very succinct manner.

“Mn, then that’s great.” Yun Che nodded: “Second question. I had wanted to know this answer a long time ago. However, at that time, you did not tell me... I want to know, when we married, exactly what realm was your profound strength already at?”

The Yun Che at that time was absolutely sure, that Xia Qingyue’s profound strength was definitely not the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm that was shown on the surface. However, the rank of her profound strength at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm was known throughout the entire city, and no one had ever questioned it. Even those of the senior generation, who had strength far surpassing Elementary Profound Realm, thought her as only in the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm. It was as if her true strength was hidden with some kind of special method. As for the reason to hide it, Yun Che understood that very well. In a little place like Floating Cloud City, a 16 year old at the pinnacle of the Elementary Profound Realm was already a number one genius recognized by the masses. If the profound strength she exhibited was of the Nascent Profound Realm, or even the peak of the Nascent Profound Realm, it would definitely instigate an unpredictable uproar.

This time, Xia Qingyue did not refuse, and directly answered: “When I was twelve, I met Master. At the age of thirteen, I broke through the Elementary Profound Realm, and stepped into the Nascent Profound Realm. Fourteen, I broke through Nascent Profound, and entered the True Profound Realm. After my marriage with you at the age of sixteen, I was at the pinnacle of True Profound Realm, just like you right now.”

Yun Che: “...!!!”

Chapter 214 - The True Beginning

Yun Che was silent for a long time with only shock in his heart.

At that time, even though he was absolutely certain that Xia Qingyue’s profound strength was not just at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm, he only surmised that her true profound strength was at the Nascent Profound Realm, and at most, the peak of the Nascent Profound Realm. Never would he have expected that the Xia Qingyue then, was actually the same as the current him, at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm! And was only at a distance of a step away from the Spirit Profound Realm.

It was something the him at that time would never imagine. Because to a little Floating Cloud City, reaching the pinnacle of the True Profound Realm at the age of sixteen, was even more mythical than myth.

If she had immediately announced her sixteen year old self’s profound strength to be at tenth level of the True Profound Realm at that time, that kind of sensation, would not merely be in just a Floating Cloud City, but also deeply startle the surrounding cities, including the Blue Wind Imperial Family. If that happened, it would be fundamentally impossible for Xia Qingyue to even think about comfortably staying within Floating Cloud City.

It was also no wonder that Frozen Cloud Asgard would choose Xia Qingyue. Her innate talent, was actually at this shocking level!

“So that’s how it is. I suppose your Master was afraid that your profound strength was just too universally shocking, so she used some kind of method to help you cover it up and let your profound strength aura be only at the tenth level of the Elementary Profound Realm. Right?”

Xia Qingyue nodded slightly.

“Third question.” Yun Che looked straight at Xia Qingyue with a bit of an assertiveness in his gaze: “I want to know, in this period of time you’ve been at Frozen Cloud Asgard, have you ever, once in awhile, thought about me?”

“...” Xia Qingyue became silent. After a short while, she turned around and softly said: “It is already getting late. There are still matches tomorrow, it’s best to rest early. Qingyue should also return now.”

When she finished speaking, without waiting for Yun Che’s response, she was already shifting away with light steps. After her snowy clothes started to float lightly, her figure was already moving further and further away at a fast pace... without the slightest hesitation.

Yun Che did not chase after her. He sucked air in and softly yelled out in a voice loud enough for her to hear: “After tomorrow, I will definitely enter the last thirty-two ranking battles! If we meet during the Round of Thirty Two, I hope that you will not go easy on me!!”

His voice slowly swept outwards and Xia Qingyue’s silhouette, had already disappeared from his line of sight.

Sixth day of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, which was also the last day of the second round of group stages.

The focus of most of the gazes, was still upon Yun Che’s matches. Everyone wanted to see how far this person with the lowest profound strength amongst numerous disciples, who was a freak level super dark horse, could possibly go in this ranking tournament.

Since yesterday’s ten consecutive wins in the second round of group stages, Yun Che’s victories within the group stage had not stopped, rather, it continued on after every match within each and every shocked shout.

Eleventh match:

“...Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che wins!”

Qin Wushang tightly gripped both hands in excitement, itching to wave his hands in the air and shout loudly without the slightest of elegance.

Twelfth match:

“...Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che wins!”

Qin Wushang stood up in excitement with trembling lips. As both his hands shook, it was as if he did not know where to put them.

Thirteenth match:

“...Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che wins!”

Even Qin Wushang's black beard started to shake as he continued to repeat himself: "Top fifty... Top fifty... Top fifty..."

Top fifty in the individual ranking was a position that he did not even dare to even wish for! His long time wish was the same as Cang Wanhe's, and he only wished for their power ranking to be in the top hundred. And now, Yun Che alone, had already let the entire Imperial Family obtain a rank so high it was not known how many times higher it was from their original goal... He could imagine how excited this would make Cang Wanhe feel when he received news of this.

.....

Fifteenth match, which was also the last match:

"...Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins!"

"Blue Wind Imperial Family's competing disciple Yun Che, second round of group stages, complete victory in all fifteen matches, directly advances to tomorrow's elimination rounds!"

The referee declared these achievements with a type of incomparable amazement when looking at Yun Che... Fifteen consecutive victories. In the previous ranking tournaments, even though there were very few disciples outside of those belonging to that of the Four Major Sects who had accomplished this, it wasn't like there weren't any who had not done it before. But, obtaining fifteen consecutive victories with a profound strength at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm...

A single phrase wildly surged inside the referee's heart... What kind of cosmic joke was this! Have I gone crazy or did the entire continent already go mad!

Aside from Yun Che, Xia Qingyue, Ling Yun, Fen Jin, Xiao Kuanglei, and other disciples within the Four Major Sects also finished with complete victories in the second round of group stages, which meant that they too, did not need to be ranked and could directly advance into tomorrow's elimination rounds.

"Complete victory... top thirty-two... Even if he were to place last in tomorrow's elimination rounds, his individual ranking would still be at thirty second place..." It had been a while since Qin Wushang's bottom had touched his seat. He was so excited that he was essentially incapable of sitting down as he continued to rave deliriously, with each of his words carrying a deep vibrato. At this moment, he deeply felt that he was currently dreaming, and was also deeply afraid that this was merely a dream...

In contrast, Cang Yue was much more tranquil. After all, unlike Qin Wushang, she did not carry the burden of always seeing the previous ranking tournament's dismal performance results that brought along such humiliation, resentment, and unwillingness. She also had never constantly dreamed, and wished for a day of one day being this proud with elation. Seeing Yun Che knock down every opponent that came his way, while reaching an even greater height that evoked a higher cry of surprise from the entire audience, she was inwardly joyous, proud, and completely filled with a sense of satisfaction. As she thought back to the time when she had first gotten acquainted with him in New Moon City and all the little details that came after that, she unwittingly, began to smile.

He is a person who has always brought hope, nice surprises, and miracles...

Meeting him, is my lifetime's most fortunate of miraculous encounters.

“What a truly unforeseen outcome. I originally thought that I was already overestimating him, but I didn’t expect that I was still greatly underestimating him. He actually entered the top thirty-two with a sweeping victorious performance. For a True Profound Realm to obtain such an accomplishment is the first of all historical precedents, and is also something that is fundamentally impossible to happen again in the future.” Ling Yuefeng lamented with sincerity as he watched Yun Che walk down the Sword Discourse Arena after fifteen consecutive victories.

“Mn.” Ling Yun nodded slowly.

“However, for him to obtain such a result, we also have to say that a large portion of that is due to good luck. After all, in the second round of group stages, he had never come across anyone from any large sects; especially, disciples from our Four Major Sects. Otherwise, it is fundamentally impossible for him to continuously keep up his consecutive victories. But if we put this aside, for him to have reached this point with strength only in the True Profound Realm... this younger generation will surpass us in time.”

“Father, for one to defeat an opponent of a higher level, there are only three possible reasons why. One of them, is when one’s innate talent of using of profound energy is so high that they are able to bring out a power that’s double their own profound strength. The second, is when one’s profound arts and techniques are so strong that they are able to completely crush their opponent. The third, is when one’s innate talent is astonishingly superior with a special nature, like an innate divine strength, a hardened body, a sharp perception, and so on. The majority that appear amongst all these are those who have crushingly strong profound arts and profound techniques... Father, can you tell what kind of profound art he is using?” Ling Yun cautiously asked.

Ling Yuefeng actually shook his head: “I am completely incapable of seeing through his profound art. No matter his freestyle martial arts or his use of the heavy sword, the profound energy that he releases is incomparably fierce. It directly releases and retracts; the feeling it gave me was instead more like pure profound energy, without the existence of any profound arts. However, the strength of this pure profound energy far surpassed the limit of the True Profound Realm... To be able to triumph over opponents across such a big gap, is also the first I’ve seen in my life. Seems like, after the match, it’ll be necessary for me to find him for a little chat.”

Ling Yun glanced at his father with a slight surprise. From his birth until now, it was actually the first time he had see his father show such curiosity towards a youth. However, Yun Che did indeed have such qualifications.

After the second round of group stages, the sect’s disciples were directly ranked out using the number of wins. Among them, the top thirty-two disciples in the rankings would proceed to the last elimination round on the main Sword Discourse Arena tomorrow. Disciples below the one hundredth rank, as well as rank thirty three to one hundred, would respectively be transferred to different secondary arenas, and progress to the ranking battles between their ranks.

The elimination round, was the last stage of the Ranking Tournament, as well as the core existence of the entire Ranking Tournament. Because, among over one thousand and five hundred participating disciples, these were the decided strongest thirty-two people! Who represented the pinnacle of the Blue Wind Empire’s younger generation’s strength! Even though the elimination round only had thirty-two people, it would last for an entire five days, longer than any round of group stage matches. The arena

would also no longer be the small Sword Discourse Arenas, and would instead be the enormous central Main Sword Discourse Arena.

The next morning, as the sky was just barely lighting up, the Sword Discourse Arena in the Heavenly Sword Villa was already clamoring.

The final event of Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, the Round of Thirty Two, had finally begun!

An enormous profound stone was temporarily erected in the center of the Main Sword Discourse Arena, and the names of the thirty-two people who had entered the Round of Thirty Two, as well as the sect they belonged to were displayed on top. Amongst these thirty-two names, the twelve disciples from the Four Major Sects were all present without any exceptions.

But in the history of this Ranking Tournament, this was a sight that was most common. If even one were to be missing from there, it would instead be abnormal. The great disparity between the Four Major Sects and the other sects, could be glimpsed at from this. And so, there was another name for this last Round of Thirty Two, called the "Four Major Sect's Showdown Battle", which by name, wasn't exaggerated in the least.

"I had never thought even in my dreams, that there would be a day our Blue Wind Imperial Family's name would actually appear on it." Looking at that enormous profound stone in the arena, Qin Wushang's complexion actually carried a deep devoutness within. He was excited to the point of being unable to sleep at all last night, and to also come here so early in the morning. His feeling of excitement could not be suppressed no matter what.

Every single name on the profound stone was more breathtaking than the last, and the name of the sects was also more astonishing than the last. Qin Wushang believed, that Yun Che's steps in this Ranking Tournament would be stopped here, because none of the last thirty one could be compared to the opponents he had encountered before. But even if he were to lose on the first round, the gains from this Ranking Tournament would already far surpass the original expectations; there was already nothing he was unsatisfied about.

"Participating disciples of the Round of Thirty Two, please come to the stage and draw the lot for battle order!"

There was only one judge during the entire Round of Thirty Two, and that would be Ling Wugou. Following Ling Wugou's loud cry, thirty-two people came up one by one and drew their own battle number.

"Junior Brother Yun, what number... Ah? It's actually... Number one!"

Cang Yue took the plate in Yun Che's hand. The number on there, was shockingly, a large "One".

Which is to say, that in today's match, Yun Che would be the first to take the stage!

"If I'm first, then I'm first. Saves me from impatiently waiting anyway." Yun Che said nonchalantly.

"Yun Che, it is already very very impressive of you to be able to enter the Round of Thirty Two." Qin Wushang said: "However, in the Round of Thirty Two, every single opponent would be extraordinary.

Especially the Four Major Sect's disciples; you have never met them before, and simply do not know their dreadfulness at all. So, in today's matches, if you feel that you cannot win, it is not shameful at all to surrender early. You have already created a miracle that has shocked the entire audience, so you definitely should not try to flaunt yourself. Otherwise, it would be bad if you, by any chance, receive malicious injuries from the opponent. It is already enough for you to reach here in this year's ranking tournament. The next ranking tournament, would be your true stage."

Yun Che nodded: "Palace Chief Qin, be at ease. I will definitely advance when I need to, and when I ought to retreat, I won't brainlessly overexert myself either."

"That's good then." Qin Wushang nodded while smiling.

Gripping his own number plate while looking toward the gigantic central Sword Discourse Arena in front of him under rows after rows of gazes with variant intentions, Yun Che truly felt that this current round in the ranking tournament, was not at all the finish line that Qin Wushang had expressed...

Instead, it was the true beginning!!

Chapter 215 - Fighting Xiao Nan

After all thirty-two remaining people selected their numbers, their battle order appeared on the Profound Stone.

Once the order was released, it instantly caused a large debate amongst the audience.

The thirty-two contestants were split into two groups of sixteen. Every match, one contestant would be eliminated. The two victors of the groups would eventually face off in the finals to decide who will be the champion.

However, the two groups that the participating disciples had been separated into were far too different in terms of their strength!

The finale of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament would usually turn into a ranking tournament for the Four Major Sects. It was always the case for the past hundred years, and would undoubtedly be the same this time as well. When comparing the strength of the group, simply comparing the quantity and quality of disciples from the Four Major Sects would be sufficient.

In the second group, there were seven disciples from the Four Major Sects. They were: Heavenly Sword Villa's Young Villa Master, the one who everyone was certain would be victorious, Ling Yun. Frozen Cloud Asgard's Shui Wushuang, Wu Xuexin, Xia Qingyue were all in the same group. The last three were Xiao Sect's Xiao Kuanglei, Xiao Zhen and Burning Heaven Clan's Fen Jin!!

The main disciples in the Four Major Sects, were all gathered in the second group!

Needless to mention Ling Yun, who was in the third level of the Earth Profound Realm and looked down upon the whole crowd. Shui Wushuang, Wu Xuexin, Fen Jin, Xiao Kuanglei, and Xiao Zhen were all at the ninth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. All their profound strengths lost to Ling Yun and they all had a chance to obtain second. The lowest, Xia Qingyue, was also in the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm.

Looking at the first group, there were five contestants from the four main sects. However, all of them were either not their main force and were all their second or third tier. The contestants were Heavenly Sword Villa's Ling Feiyu and Ling Jie, Xiao Sect's Xiao Nan, and Burning Heaven Clan's Fen Juebi and Fen Yuange.

Among them, only Ling Feiyu was in the ninth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, the others: Fen Juebi was in the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. Ling Jie being the youngest, was only in the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. Xiao Nan and Fen Yuange were also young and had only come for experience; respectively, they were only in the sixth and seventh level of the Spirit Profound Realm.

The difference in the two groups was really overwhelmingly huge!

"The difference in strength between the two groups can't be this huge? This is the first time a Ranking Tournament has such an overwhelming difference in strength between the two groups, right?"

"Such an overwhelming difference has never happened before. However, this was all based on the number randomly 'selected' by each contestant. We can't do anything even if such a situation happens. We can only say that those who were split into the first group were very lucky. Any disciple from one of the main sects in the second group could trash the entire the first group."

"No matter what happens, the victor would no doubt be Ling Yun."

"That's great, the group Junior Brother Yun is in has very little top class opponents." Cang Yue said happily as she saw the battle order.

Qin Wushang also smiled and nodded: "Not very little, there are practically none. It looks like Lady Luck has been shining down on us all this time. If our good luck continues, Yun Che's progress might not stop at the top thirty-two. He might even progress to the top sixteen! If that really happens, it would really be a miracle amongst miracles."

"The first match is brother-in-law's, his opponent... Ahhh, it's Xiao Sect's Xiao Nan! Wahh, it's the Xiao Sect... Ugh, however, he is only in the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. Brother-in-law has already been numerous opponents at that level. He can definitely win this match for sure!" Xia Yuanba said full of anticipation.

"No," Qin Wushang was not as optimistic: "Although at the same level, a disciple of the Four Major Sect's strength far exceeds one of another sect. Despite being only the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, it wouldn't be weird if he could beat an eighth level Spirit Profound Practitioner from another sect. That is also why he was able to enter the top thirty-two with this kind of profound strength... Yun Che, don't be careless. If it becomes too tough, remember what I said before."

"Yes." Yun Che replied.

On the Sword Discourse Arena, the profound stone that has displayed the battle order was kept by Ling Wugou and said loudly: "The battle order of the thirty-two contestants has been decided and the first match shall begin soon. The contestants are: Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che and Xiao Sect's Xiao Nan. Please prepare yourself and come onto the arena within sixty breaths of time!"

Yun Che did not hesitate at all. He stood up and walked towards the Sword Discourse Arena immediately. Behind him came the nervous cheers of Cang Yue and Xia Yuanba... After all, who he was going to face was a disciple of the Four Major Sects!

“Nan’er, go, this opponent should be an easy victory for you. However, it is only ‘should be’ and not ‘for sure’. Remember what Grandfather always says, no matter who the opponent is, never underestimate him.” Xiao Wuji reminded Xiao Nan.

“Yes, Grandfather.” Looking at Yun Che who was already on stage, Xiao Nan also stood up, breathed in slightly and lifted himself high, jumping across several tens of meters before landing gently on the Sword Discourse Arena, standing face to face with Yun Che.

“Yun Che... This name, why do I have the feeling that I have heard it before.” Seeing the two on stage, Xiao Wuji knitted his brows and spoke to himself.

“Xiao Nan’s first opponent is actually a dark horse that only climbed so far due to good luck. Heh, what luck. If he loses this, it would put shame upon the family.” Xiao Kuanglei muttered under his breath at the side.

On stage, Xiao Nan had already taken out his weapon. It was a jade sword that gave off a cool glow. The jade sword was called Wind Spirit Sword and it was a Earth Profound Weapon. With sword in hand, he signalled towards Yun Che: “Xiao Sect Sword Sect’s disciple Xiao Nan, please guide me!”

Because of Xiao Kuangyun, Yun Che already had a very bad impression of Xiao Sect. However, Xiao Nan was obviously completely different from Xiao Kuangyun. He looked determined and was very courteous. Even though he faced an “extremely weak” opponent, he still viewed him with caution and did not appear to underestimate him by any means. Yun Che nodded and took out his Overlord’s Colossal Sword: “Blue Wind Profound Palace’s disciple Yun Che... Please guide me... Elder Ling, no need to wait sixty breaths, we can start immediately.”

“Good!” Ling Wugou nodded: “Round of 32, 1st Match — Begin!”

Once Ling Wugou finished speaking, the originally noisy arena suddenly became silent as everyone focused on the Sword Discourse Arena. However, they were not looking at Xiao Sect’s Xiao Nan but instead, at Yun Che. The difference in profound strength between the two parties in this matchup were rather exceptional but no one jeered, nor did anyone look down upon Yun Che. No one could say for certain that he would definitely lose. Every time someone said that during one of Yun Che’s matches, Yun Che would leave them embarrassed until their ears were red and amazed at the end.

Now, even more people wanted to know whether Yun Che, who was able to breakthrough to the top thirty-two with only a profound strength at the True Profound Realm, was able to create another miracle and beat this disciple from the Xiao Sect.

Hoping to see a dramatic finale, in certain aspects, was a part of human nature.

On the Sword Discourse Arena, after Ling Wugou finished speaking, a fierce storm was released from Xiao Nan and the Wind Spirit Sword’s bodies. The storm surrounded his body and revolved around him. Although the storm was not strong, it was extremely sharp. It was as though there were numerous

swords dancing around him. Even those seated far away from the center of the Sword Discourse Arena could feel an unexplainable form of scary sharpness in the air.

Despite the audience's reactions, Yun Che however, was unfazed when he looked at Xiao Nan. Neither he nor his sword moved and it did not seem as if he had any intention to attack first.

"Receive my attack... Extreme Wind Slash!!"

The sword in Xiao Nan's hands pointed forward, and instantly, all the storm that had been surrounding him turned into the silhouette of several swords, causing wind, so sharp that it even frightened the audience, to blow towards Yun Che. Wherever the wind went, it tore apart the sturdy Sword Discourse Arena into pieces.

The might of the sword caused everyone in the arena to be cry out in surprise.

"Uwaahh... Such, such scary swordsmanship!" Xia Yuanba said in surprise, his face full of fear. Even an Elementary Profound Realm practitioner like him could clearly see the might of that sword.

"One of the advantages of the Four Major Sects is that their profound arts and techniques are very powerful! With one slash, an opponent of the same level who does not belong to one of the Four Major Sects would not be able to receive the attack!" Qin Wushang said in a dignified manner.

"Quick, dodge!" Cang Yue shouted in a nervous manner.

The storm and the sword silhouettes attacked simultaneously but Yun Che still remained still as though he had already been scared silly. Only when the storm and the sword silhouettes approached, blew up his hair and shirt violently, did he finally move... One second ago, he seemed as immovable as a mountain. One second later, he suddenly seemed like a volcano that had just exploded.

All fifty four profound entrances opened and his berserk profound strength loudly exploded in an instant. The Overlord's Colossal Sword in his hand welcomed the storm of sword silhouettes with a sweep. Bringing along a huge maelstrom of power, it heavily clashed onto the storm of sword silhouettes.

BANGBANGBANGBANG...

The violent clash was so loud that it made one wish to be deaf. One swing from the heavy sword seemed like it had released a malevolent dragon. With its incomparably strong body and claws, it attacked the storm of sword silhouettes. As it collided, the storm of sword silhouettes released by Xiao Nan were shattered layer by layer, and eventually disappeared completely... However, the heavy sword's power did not disperse continued onwards, bringing along raging winds which struck Xiao Nan's body, causing him to almost fall back due to the suffocating attack.

Wh... WHAT!?

Xiao Nan's two hands and soul trembled at the same time as his face revealed a strong sense of disbelief.

When facing Yun Che, he had not underestimated him. Although the strike just now was not his finishing move, it was already one of his strongest sword skills. When he executed the skill, he did not believe that Yun Che could face it head on. He thought that he could only avoid with all his might. With that

belief, he clutched his sword's hilt firmly and stared at Yun Che, waiting to chase after him, lightning quick, once he tried to avoid the strike. After catching him unprepared, he would then attack him relentlessly in order to gain an advantage and finish him off quickly.

Never did he expect that Yun Che did not avoid the strike, but take it head on... And with only a single swing, he completely took down his attack!

"He actually... received it!"

"Is this Yun Che really only in the True Profound Realm? This swing of Xiao Nan, even if it was me, I cannot take it head on!"

The surrounding people were all nearly numb with shock. Yun Che seemed like a monster to them. Time and time again, he displayed the impossible in front of their eyes. Especially the members of the Xiao Sect who knew that strike. Their faces all turned pale.

Yun Che stepped forward, called upon all the profound strength within him, and swept the heavy sword forward. After a split second, an extremely frightening storm brew atop the Sword Discourse Arena. Within the storm, Xiao Nan could neither breathe, nor could he even open his eyes. The sword that he had originally swept out was quickly withdrawn... Because all of his instincts told him that Yun Che's strike possessed the ability to crush mountains and crack the earth. If he were to take the attack head on, he might be severely injured or worse, lose his life.

Before he could comprehend how a True Profound Realm profound practitioner was able to execute such a scary attack, he gathered his profound strength onto his feet and jumped several tens of meters into the air to avoid the storm. He stopped at the highest point in midair, and suddenly, rounds and rounds of ripple-like water surrounded him. Behind him, a giant green colored eagle silhouette appeared and proudly spread its wings to fly.

Xiao Nan flew down. As he was flying, his whole body merged with the silhouette of the giant green eagle, and he seemed like descending mighty eagle. He pointed his sword forward. While bringing along an incomparably sharp aura, he thrusted towards Yun Che's chest. The sword was extremely sharp, and the air seemed to have been split apart like waves.

The sword that came from above was extremely sharp, and from several tens of meters away, Yun Che felt the scary sensation of his chest had been pierced. However, the him who wielded a heavy sword, definitely would not back down against a normal sword. He remained unfazed and swung both his arms towards the sword above him.

The might of the heavy sword could move mountains and turn oceans. Wherever the heavy sword pointed, slight distortions appeared within the empty air. Yun Che's first strike was instantly avoided by Xiao Nan. But this time, he was in midair. Even if he wanted to avoid it, it was not possible. But when facing Yun Che's berserk strike head on, he did not look the least bit nervous as a cold determined radiance flashed past his eyes.

The giant eagle silhouette at his rear suddenly spread its wings as a light green glow emitted from the Wind Spirit Sword.

RIIIIIP!!

The storm brought about by Yun Che was cut apart by Xiao Nan under a distinct ripping sound. It seemed as if a stream had been directly split into two and scattered to both sides.

The Wind Spirit Sword that had cut the storm brought along a sharp aura that continued onwards, piercing straight towards Yun Che's left shoulder.

"Ah!!!" Cang Yue cried out in alarm, and her complexion instantly paled.

"What? What... What kind of sword technique is that? He... He cut apart his profound energy!" Qin Wushang's expression paled as well.

"Although there were some scares, it still went according to plan. Victory has already been decided." Looking at the sword that pierced Yun Che, Xiao Sect's Xiao Kuangyu faintly laughed.

Chapter 216 - Complete Victory

With a slash of his sword, he sliced apart Yun Che's force blast. Then, as he stabbed towards Yun Che's shoulder, the corner of Xiao Nan's lips curved slightly upwards... The sharpness of this sword was enough to penetrate through fine steel. He was ten thousand percent sure that the moment this blow landed, Yun Che's shoulder would be easily skewered.

He felt his Wind Spirit Sword slice apart the force produced by Yun Che, slice apart the profound energy protecting his body and his clothes, and then, he stabbed onto his body. The curve of his lips slowly grew larger, but in an instant later, his expression stiffened completely.

As his Wind Spirit Sword stabbed into his flesh, blood scattered from Yun Che's left shoulder. However, the Wind Spirit Sword was also fixed in that position, and was no longer able to pierce half an inch deeper, as though that half-a-finger width of flesh, was basically an indestructible ten thousand year old profound iron!

Wha... What!? Xiao Nan was utterly shocked, as if he was unable to believe his own perception.

And Yun Che's explosive counter-attack also came at this moment. As his heavy sword moved, the surrounding air within the space of thirty meters was stirred by the strong horizontal swing. The violent airflow caused the hairs on Xiao Nan's entire body to stand on end. Without even thinking, he pulled his sword out with his quickest speed, and leapt back with all his strength, retreating a distance of about thirty meters. Then, he heavily panted, as he looked at Yun Che's shoulder with an expression filled with shock.

On Yun Che's left shoulder, a small stain of blood was slowly spreading on his clothes, but this spread had stopped just a few seconds later. From the bloodstain, his injury did not look serious, and the wound had already stopped bleeding completely... The corner of Xiao Nan's eyes constantly twitched. He had almost put in his all in that one attack, and an Earth Profound Weapon had even been used to coordinate with that strike. The incomparably sharp Wind Spirit Sword, when used to pierce head-on, even a giant rock, or steel, would be easily penetrated like a piece of tofu. However, this same sword did not penetrate through his body, and even his bone was left untouched... His attack had only caused a simple flesh wound.

It was not just him; even the entire audience, including the Ling Wugou who had seen the entire exchange the most clearly, had an expression filled with disbelief. All of them had personally witnessed

Xiao Nan's full-powered strike piercing onto Yun Che's body. As for the sharpness of the sword, even if the target were to protect himself with a profound energy defense at the peak of the Spirit Profound Realm, there was still a possibility of being penetrated through. But, Yun Che, who simply had only had the strength at the True Profound Realm, had evidently received a mere flesh wound.

"What's going on?" The smile on Xiao Kuangyun's face fell, and asked with a frown.

"... It's definitely because Yun Che's wearing some sort of armor! That's the only explanation possible!" Xiao Kuanglei said.

Naturally, Yun Che was not wearing any sort of armor on his body, and had only a single thin layer of clothes. Although his protective profound energy defense was only at the True Profound Realm, his body had the protection of the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha, and earlier, he had even refined the Dragon God's blood within his body — That was not just blood from any ordinary dragon, but the blood of an actual Dragon God! Currently, Yun Che possessed a part of a dragon's bloodline power and physical body strength, and was already completely not inferior to an actual True Dragon... And, could an Earth Profound sword wielded with the profound energy at the Spirit Profound Realm, be able to penetrate through the body of a True Dragon?

Of course not!

Forget about Yun Che using his True Profound Realm's profound energy to protect his body, even if he did not have that layer of profound energy, and was simply standing defenseless while allowing Xiao Nan to attack him, Xiao Nan should throw away the thought of using his Wind Spirit Sword to penetrate Yun Che's body.

"Not a bad sword." Yun Che glanced at the wound on his left shoulder with a calm expression, and said with a praising tone. This strike, had given him a sound warning as well. One main reasons why the Four Major Sects were large and strong, was because of the strong profound arts in their sects. Although this Xiao Nan before him was considered to be at the bottom in terms of strength among the participating disciples from the Four Major Sects, he should definitely not be careless. If not for the tyrannical defenses his body had, if it was someone else, that person would have already suffered really terribly from that strike.

With nothing more to say, Yun Che stepped forward, and slashed his sword.

Following the trails of the slashing heavy sword, as though the airwaves produced were given actual forms, the space slightly distorted as the airwaves charged towards Xiao Nan. Xiao Nan quickly regained his senses from the shock earlier, stared head-on at the approaching waves, and slashed out his Wind Spirit Sword consecutively, producing a heavy storm of sword silhouettes to quickly scatter the incoming blasts of air... But, Xiao Nan had to slash a total of more than twenty times to completely disperse the force created by one of Yun Che's simple slashes. This truth, once again tightened Xiao Nan's heart.

In the earlier two rounds of small group matches, he had once paid attention to Yun Che's matches, and had simply given a snort of contempt to each and every one of those sect disciples who was easily defeated by Yun Che.

And now, only after personally exchanging blows with him, did he clearly understand why those people would always be defeated so quickly... Because he had now understood that a terrifying might was hidden in every single one of Yun Che's simple sword strikes.

He had only exchanged a few blows with Yun Che, but the consecutive shocks he had received was already causing the mental barrier in his mind to soon collapse. He once again looked at Yun Che and the gigantic pitch-black sword in his hands as a terrifying seed of "victory was basically impossible" sort of thinking quickly grew in his heart.

"Hawk of the Storm!!"

Xiao Nan took a deep breath, and sword energy began to surge towards the top of the Wind Spirit Sword; every single thread of that energy like a sharp steel needle capable of piercing deep into one's bones. He gave a long howl, leapt high in the air, and thrust towards Yun Che's head with his sword. Yun Che, however, did not even attempt to dodge or avoid the attack, and simply took the incoming Wind Spirit Sword head-on with a swing of his sword...

Boom!

The airwave brought about the heavy sword actually brought along a dull explosive sound. Even though Xiao Nan had already personally experienced that terror of Yun Che's airwaves, he was still greatly frightened. A green light flashed on his body, and with a quick spin of his body, he shifted his direction of attack to Yun Che's feet. However, like a fluidless shadow, Yun Che's heavy sword quickly slashed down, forcing Xiao Nan to have no other choice but to retreat with full force, and barely escape the danger.

Xiao Nan was very definite that if he had been swept by the windstorm caused by his opponent's heavy sword, getting away with heavy injuries would have been the least that could've happened!

From the heavy sword's terrifying strike, Xiao Nan was able to imagine how heavy that heavy sword was. And, when wielding such a big sword, the movements of the user would be correspondingly slow, and both openings and energy consumption would be especially large. So then, the best tactic against it would naturally be using speed to pin the opponent down, and find an opening to undergo a sure-kill attack.

Xiao Nan's profound energy attributes were that of "Wind" and "Lightning", and among the two, he trained in "Wind" the most. "Heavenly Eagle Art" was a type of mysterious profound art capable of allowing the user to gain a large boost in his physical speed. Initially, Xiao Nan had used a speeding-increasing profound movement skill, and a light and swift sword technique to deal with Yun Che. However, he quickly realized that even when Yun Che was wielding such a heavy sword, his speed was not even the least inferior than his, even when he had activated his profound movement skill... This was still fine, but even the speed of his sword-wielding was completely above his. Even though he was incapable of producing several numbers of slashes in an instant, from idling to completely releasing his sword and from releasing to pulling his sword back, all of these happened in the shortest moment, causing people to feel that there was basically not the slightest hint of heaviness in the sword.

Xiao Nan attacked dozens of times, and all of them were forced back by one of Yun Che's casual swings. Not only were the attacks ineffective, Xiao Nan had to tiredly retreat time and time again, so as to prevent any dangers from falling upon him.

Although the might of heavy swords was enormous, there should still be a large weakness as well, right!? Why did this person not have a single opening even when he is using such a heavy sword... Xiao Nan's forehead was drenched with sweat. Then, he secretly smiled with gritted teeth.

"Heavenly Eagle Limitless Strike!"

Xiao Nan leapt high in the air, the silhouette of an eagle appeared behind him, and with an aerial strike, he pierced towards Yun Che's chest... This was the strike he used earlier to scatter Yun Che's force blast. In his heart, he knew very clearly, the reason why he managed to deal a blow to Yun Che the first time was due to the element of surprise, and the second time would hardly be effective as the first. However, the longer he faced Yun Che, the more he felt a deep sense of powerlessness in his heart. What he could rely on, was only this strike.

RIIP~~~~~

The Wind Spirit Sword sliced apart air and sliced apart space, bringing about an ear-piercing screech as it fell. This was a strike capable of even slicing apart a blast of energy. Since he had experienced it previously, Yun Che should dodge it immediately, and counter-attack from the side. However, Yun Che still stood at his original position without any intentions of moving away. He fiercely lifted up the Overlord's Colossal Sword, and said indifferently. "Why don't you try slicing apart this blow of mine!!"

In this strike, Yun Che used sixty percent of his strength. If we were to call that earlier strike a fierce gale, then, this strike was an absolute hurricane. With Xiao Nan's strength, he was capable of cutting through the fierce gale. However, when faced with a hurricane, being shredded into pieces was the only possible conclusion.

The Wind Spirit Sword's sword energy and force were completely dissipated cleanly in an instant, and a trembling buzzing sound was produced by the sword's blade. Xiao Nan's expression paled. His down-swooping body suddenly spun and turned as he wildly poured out all of the profound energy in his body, but he was still unable to completely defend himself against the force brought about by Yun Che's strike. His profound defenses weakened bit by bit, and in the end, they finally collapsed completely. The force of energy that had yet to be dissipated, blasted onto his body, and caused his entire body to violently tremble.

Xiao Nan landed onto the ground thirty meters away. His face was entirely pale, and a mouthful of blood was discharged outwards as it slowly slid down the corners of his lips.

At that moment, the entire arena was in complete silence, and all six people from the Xiao Sect stood up with horrified faces.

Yun Che did not take the opportunity to deal another blow, and simply stood at his original position... And at this moment, everyone was shocked to realize that, during this entire match, his two feet had been at the same position the entire time, and had not moved a single bit!!

Xiao Nan's expression was frightening as he heavily panted. However, on the other side, Yun Che's breathing was steady, and his calm expression was unbroken. He completely did not look fatigued at all. The corner of Xiao Nan's lips moved, and in the end, his hand still drooped down onto the ground...

"You're much stronger than I had imagined... I admit defeat." Xiao Nan said dejectedly.

“You’re a little stronger than I had imagined as well.” Yun Che smiled slightly, glancing at the wound on his left shoulder.

Hearing Yun Che’s words, Xiao Nan actually had a faint feeling of satisfaction in his heart, and even the dejectedness from his tragic loss had lightened quite a bit. He raised his head, and gave Yun Che a smile.

“Xiao Nan surrenders. Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che wins... He will enter the elimination round’s Round of 16 tomorrow!”

When this result came out, the Sword Discourse Arena which was silent for a period of time, was once again replaced by hustle and bustle. Every single pair of eyes watched Yun Che, who was safely walking down the stage, until their eyes became vertical... That’s right! This person, who had the weakest profound strength out of all the participating disciples there, had once again easily defeated a Xiao Sect disciple, and charged into the top sixteen!

“Little brother Nan, don’t be dejected. If he had not worn a high-grade armor, you would have won with your second strike. Unfortunately, I belong to Group Two, otherwise, I might have been able to exact vengeance for you.” Xiao Kuanglei patted on Xiao Nan’s shoulders, and consoled him.

“No.” Xiao Nan shook his head. “He was not wearing any sort of armor at all. He had basically blocked that strike completely with his own body. His body, was as though it was made of steel!”

“What!?” Xiao Kuanglei frowned. He made eye contact with Xiao Kuangyu, and both of them revealed shocked expressions.

“Junior Brother Yun, are you alright? Is your injury heavy?” The moment Yun Che came down, Cang Yue went over to greet him with an expression filled with worry and anxiousness. In her hands, she was holding onto a large amount of medicine and Profound Recovery Pellets, which she had prepared long beforehand.

“I’m fine.” Yun Che laughed without a care. “It’s just a flesh wound, and it has already stopped bleeding. It doesn’t need to be treated with any medicine, it will be fully recovered before the sun sets.”

These words were definitely not Yun Che’s exaggeration. Since he had reached the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha, a light wound like this would recover to a sufficient degree in just a few minutes.

However, Cang Yue would naturally not be relieved from her worry so easily. In the end, Yun Che was still dragged by her to a side. She carefully applied some medicine on his wound and wrapped a roll of bandage around it.

On the Sword Discourse Arena, the second match had already begun.

The two competitors were respectively, Ling Jie from the Heavenly Sword Villa and Mu Xiongyi from the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress. The former was at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, while the latter was at the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. Based on profound levels alone, the latter was the strongest disciple outside of the Four Major Sects!

Chapter 217 - Bullying to an Intolerable Extent

Outside of the Four Major Sects, if there was a need to choose a fifth sect, then the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, whose name shook throughout the North, had the most right among the various sects. The Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress had two supreme techniques — one was the “Heavenly Spear” and the other was the “Thunderfire”. This time, the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress had also lived up to its reputation with two disciples in the final thirty-two rankings, and both disciples were also at the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. Their average strength was far greater than the general level of the ranking tournament and out of all the competing sects, it was only weaker than the Four Major Sects.

His first opponent in the Round of 32 was a member of the Four Major Sects, so there was originally a tight feeling in Mu Xiongyi’s heart. However, looking at Ling Jie, who was only sixteen and only at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, he let out a large sigh of relief and laughed in a pleased way: “Hehe, this Ling Jie is clearly here to gain experience for the next ranking tournament. This match is mine to win.”

“It’s better to be cautious. The strength of Heavenly Sword Villa’s disciples cannot be judged simply by their level of profound strength.” Mu Xiongyan, who had also entered the top thirty-two ranks, said in a low voice.

“Haha! Relax big brother. If I can’t even defeat a child at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, I may as well kill myself with a stab of the spear... I’m going now!”

Mu Xiongyi jumped up onto the Sword Discourse Arena with a loud shout. With a swing of his stout right arm, a bronze longspear that was nine foot long came dancing out and pointed at Ling Jie: “Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress of the North’s Mu Xiongyi. Please guide me!”

“Good speech, good speech.” Ling Jie did not display any of the nervousness one might have when facing a strong opponent, but rather replied with a face full of laughter. Then, he slowly withdrew his weapon — Space Splitting Sword. This sword was a high-grade Earth Profound Weapon that he just obtained from the Sword Management Terrace a month ago. Even though it could not compare to the incomparably rare Sky Profound Sword, among Earth Profound Weapons, it was definitely one of the best of weapons with a might that inspired awe.

“Elder Ling, we can start now.” Ling Jie said.

“Good!” Ling Wugou nodded : “Heavenly Sword Villa’s disciple Ling Jie — versus — Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress’ Mu Xiongyi, match start!”

Mu Xiongyi attacked first. Without any restraint in his movements, a spear shot out in a straightforward manner. With a sharp swish sound in the air, the spear point pressed towards Ling Jie’s throat like a suddenly striking snake. Ling Jie’s eyes narrowed. The Space Splitting Sword directly struck out towards the longspear in a piercing movement. The bursts of clattering and banging sounds of the profound energy collisions reverberated through the air. The shadow of the sword and the tip of the spear struck together tens of times within a few breaths as a sound like thunder jolted the ears of those present.

The sword was like a fierce tiger. The spear was like a poisonous dragon. The struggle between dragon and tiger grew ever more intense. There were a few hundred strikes in the blink of an eye, and in the deadlock, neither side could prevail over the other.

“This Ling Jie is really outstanding. To think that he can compete against an opponent whose profound strength is higher than his by two levels for so long without going into a disadvantageous position.” Cang Yue could not resist praising.

Yun Che’s gaze left the Sword Discourse Arena and said in a calm manner: “Senior Sister, it’s actually the opposite of what you said. It should be said that Mu Xiongyi is very outstanding. He can actually face so many of Ling Jie’s sword strikes. However, the critical point is that Ling Jie is being lenient. Otherwise Mu Xiongyi would have lost long ago.”

“Ah?” Cang Yue blinked her beautiful eyes, as her entire face filled with surprise.

Yun Che had fought against Ling Jie before. Even though it was only for the short extent of three sword strikes, it was enough for him to generally have a rough idea about Ling Jie’s true strength. He slowly said: “Heavenly Sword Villa’s sword is strong at “sword intent”, not simply just the sword forms activated by profound strength. Right now, Ling Jie is only relying on sword forms and can fight on par with Mu Xiongyi who is two levels higher than him in profound strength... If Ling Jie unleashes his sword intent, Mu Xiongyi will inevitably lose very quickly.”

Yun Che’s words were quickly fulfilled. After the sword clashed with the spear a few hundred times, Ling Jie appeared to have lost his patience. The gaze in his eyes changed ever so slightly, and the sword shadows he struck became more fleeting. In the end, the sword shadows could not really be seen any more, and there was only a faint glimpse of the small afterimages that were neither here nor there.

If a third party saw this change, they would only feel surprised, but Mu Xiongyi felt as if his opponent had suddenly changed into someone else. Everytime he struck his spear out with his full strength, it made a swishing sound. However, when it struck Ling Jie’s sword, it no longer made a loud reverberating sound as before; it only made a soft “ding” sound and then the force he put into his spear disappeared with no hope of it ever returning. He could not guard against the way his force had just disappeared. The empty feeling in his thrust made him very uncomfortable. Even more shocking was the fact that his eyesight could no longer grasp the whereabouts of Ling Jie’s sword shadows. Even the swish of the sword could no longer be heard, as if the sword in Ling Jie’s hands had mysteriously disappeared.

Mu Xiongyi did not panic and no longer paid any attention to Ling Jie’s sword shadows. He released all his profound strength reserves. His spear force became even fiercer. As fast as a light beam, the nine foot long spear was like an angry flood dragon, flying and wriggling at the same time.

However, against his expectations, Ling Jie was not forced to retreat by his spear force that had grown stronger by several folds. With a flick of his wrists, the Space Splitting Sword was like an agile snake that could twist and turn. It penetrated the fierce profound energy storm, piercing through several layers of spear shadows and directly pierced Mu Xiongyi.

Riiip... Riiip...

Mu Xiongyi’s profound energy defense was easily torn apart. Accompanied by an extreme pain were two more wounds across the front of his chest which were deep enough to see bone... and Mu Xiongyi was completely unable to comprehend when Ling Jie was close enough to attack his chest.

Mu Xiongyi’s heart was greatly shocked. With a loud roar, he struck a blow strong enough to annihilate a thousand soldiers and forced Ling Jie to dodge far away. He jumped forward high in the air. Strength

filled his right arm, and he fiercely tossed the spear. The long spear momentarily transformed into a comet that was as fast as lightning. It shot towards Ling Jie with a shockwave that alarmed the audience.

“It... It’s the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress’ ultimate technique... Heaven Raising Spear!”

Separated by a distance of several tens of meters, the spectators could clearly feel the awesome power of this spear strike. Anyone hit by this spear strike, even if they were at the peak of the Spirit Profound Realm, would probably have to throw half their life away.

Ling Jie quickly retreated but did not fully evade. Under the gasps of countless people, he struck out against the incoming long spear with a single sword maneuver...

Ding!!

There was no loud clashing sound. When the Space Splitting Sword met the long spear, only the faintest of humming sounds could barely be heard.

“A good performance of the Redirection Arts!” Ling Yuefeng nodded in praise as a rare content expression filled his face.

“Little Jie is not only far more talented than I was, his courage is also not bad. When I was at his age, I absolutely would not have dared to do that.” Ling Yun said while grinning.

A torrential amount of sword intent flooded out, firmly sucking in the long spear that was filled with explosive profound energy. Following that, the Space Splitting Sword led the long spear in a huge semi circular arc in front of Ling Jie. This time the spear point of the Heaven Raising Spear technique reversed in direction and shot towards the dumbstruck Mu Xiongyi.

Bang !!!

Scattered stone chips and dust flying about the Sword Discourse Arena. The long spear was fiercely nailed below Mu Xiongyi’s feet. The entire body of the spear burrowed into the stage, causing a tear that was several feet in length.

Mu Xiongyi retreated two steps back and sat on the floor on his butt as cold sweat seeped from his forehead. If the previous spear’s direction had just been aimed a bit more forward, then his body would have an additional hole.

“I... I admit defeat.” Mu Xiongyi no longer had the will to do battle. His chest heaved up and down as he trembled with fear.

“Hehe, you let me win.” Ling Jie withdrew his sword. He was very pleased with himself.

“Heavenly Sword Villa’s Ling Jie wins, and will enter tomorrow’s Round of 16!

This result was out of many people’s expectations, but even more people felt that it was only natural. Yun Che stroked his chin and said to himself in a low voice: “Likewise from the Four Major Sects and also of the same level of profound strength, but yet their true strength has such a huge gap... well deserving of the Heavenly Sword Villa.”

The two people he was talking about were naturally Xiao Nan from the Xiao Sect and Ling Jie from the Heavenly Sword Villa. Both of them were at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm and yet the gap between their true strength was unnaturally large.

The Round of 32 continued to proceed. In one morning, the matches in Group One were completed. In the afternoon, the matches Group Two began. If one does a direct comparison, the matches in Group Two was much more intense and exciting than the matches in Group One. This was because the overall strength of Group Two was much higher than the overall strength of Group One.

It was evening when the Round of 32 came to a complete close. The sixteen participants for the following day's elimination round had all been decided. Of the Four Major Sects, other than Xiao Nan, who had been defeated by Yun Che, the other eleven disciples all entered into the top sixteen, fully occupying two thirds of the top sixteen.

The arrangements for the following day's Round of 16 was also displayed on the profound stone in the middle of the Sword Discourse Arena after the end of today's competition.

The opponent Yun Che would face the following day came from the same Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress in the North as the opponent Ling Jie had faced today — Mu Xiongyan.

"From today's competition, you could see that Mu Xiongyan's specialty is completely different from Mu Xiongyi. Mu Xiongyi specializes in the 'Heavenly Spear' while Mu Xiongyan specializes in 'Thunderfire'. Thunderfire is much harder to cultivate than the Heavenly Spear but its power also far exceeds that of the Heavenly Spear. The ranking tournament allows the usage of any weapons, including firearms! Mu Xiongyan whose body carries the Thunderfire, hides tens of different firearms and bombs on his person. His attacks come in innumerable succession, and even break apart defenses that are completely prepared... Tomorrow, you must be sure to be careful!"

In today's match, Yun Che had once again scored a huge victory, undoubtedly causing Qin Wushang to be over the moon with happiness. However, upon seeing that the next day's opponent was Mu Xiongyan, he could not help but be concerned... Compared to Mu Xiongyan, he would, on the contrary, prefer that the opponent was someone from the Four Major Sects, because this Mu Xiongyan's attack methods was just too frightening. Just being slightly inattentive might lead to becoming a cripple. In the off chance that that happened, this star that shone so brightly for the Blue Wind Profound Palace would inevitably be dimmed.

"Rest assured Palace Chief Qin, I will not be injured so easily. Also," His eyes flashed as he grinned: "Tomorrow, I will win as always. Just you watch!"

"Haha, good!" Qin Wushang laughed. Yun Che still had not finished the next match and he noticed that he had once again underestimated Yun Che. He now no longer thought that it was certain for Yun Che to stop at this step, but was instead full of hope and expectation. He wished to see how far he could go... Could he enter the top eight... Or maybe even break the Four Major Sect's "monopoly" and obtain the shocking glory of entering the top four!

At the end of today's competition, the four from the Blue Wind Profound Palace returned to their courtyard. There were already three people awaiting them here. More accurately, they were waiting for Yun Che alone.

Of the three, one was a middle aged man with an imposing manner. The other two were youths who had appeared in today's competition venue. One was the Mu Xiongyi who had been defeated by Ling Jie. The other had defeated his opponent and entered the next day's Round of 16. He was Yun Che's match for the next day, Mu Xiongyan.

Having seen Yun Che, that middle aged man straightforwardly walked as quick as a comet in big steps and said to Yun Che: "I am Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress' current Fort Master Mu Tianbei. At the risk of being presumptuous, I have an important matter to discuss with the honorable Young Master Yun."

Mu Tianbei had a boorish appearance. There was a naturally deep arrogance about him. After all, in the stretches of the frozen north, the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress was indubitably the dominant power. As its Fort Master, it could be said that he could even cover the sky with one hand there, and no one could disobey him. Within the boundaries of the entire Blue Wind Empire, the reputation of the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress was basically only second to that of the Four Major Sects.

He came up and directly asked Yun Che. As for Qin Wushang who was by his side and even Princess Cang Yue, he did not even give them a single glance. He was the kind of arrogant person who believed himself to be beyond the laws and even beyond Heaven. A frown appeared on Qin Wushang's forehead but he did not say a thing. Yun Che moved forward and asked: "So it is the reputable Fort Master Mu. What does Fort Master Mu have to discuss with this Junior?"

"It is very simple," Mu Tianbei looked directly at Yun Che: "I have witnessed Young Master Yun's performance in the ranking tournament for a few days and my heart sighs in admiration. Regarding Young Master Yun's natural talent and strength, even if it was among the Four Major Sects, there are few disciples who can match up. To remain with just a trifling Blue Wind Profound Palace is simply like burying a pearl. How about joining my Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress?"

As soon as these words came out, even if Qin Wushang had an even better self restraint, he would still be agitated to a great fury. It was one thing to undermine your foundations, but this Mu Tianbei went as far as to do this in his and Princess Cang Yue's presence. He did not even disguise his contempt for the Blue Wind Profound Palace and did not even give any regard for the Blue Wind Profound Palace or the Imperial Family. It was simply bullying to an intolerable extent.

Chapter 218 - A Quick and Decisive Battle

Even though Mu Tianbei was "inviting", his tone of voice was filled with arrogance and coercion, with a great deal of implication that him inviting you to join the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress was because he was thinking better about you and you should gratefully accept with tears down your face. The disdain toward Blue Wind Profound Palace was more so extremely heavy. Yun Che felt the rage steaming up from Qin Wushang who was beside him, and replied with a slight smile: "I'm grateful that Fort Master Mu thinks highly of me, but I believe that Fort Master Mu already knows, that I, Yun Che, am a disciple of the Blue Wind Profound Palace. I do not have the thought of leaving for the time being, so toward Fort Master Mu's gracious invitation, I can only refuse."

Mu Tianbei answered without any change in expression: "Young Master Yun, it is of course a good thing for you to have such persistence. But before you make the decision, you ought to think it through; Blue Wind Profound Palace is all but a mere profound cultivating ground for the ordinary, and amongst the

great profound practicing forces in the empire, it can't even be ranked as average. If not for the Imperial Family's prestige, they simply aren't even worthy to be called the bottom. When it comes to heritage, resources, and arts, the difference between my Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress and them is as great as difference between heaven and earth! Not to mention that it would be impossible for a bright pearl like you to improve much within the mere Blue Wind Profound Palace, in the end, you will perhaps also be reduced to mere ordinary beings like them."

"Mu Tianbei! Watch your words!" Qin Wushang spoke with a furious tone.

"But Palace Chief Qin, were any of my words mistaken?" Mu Tianbei finally bothered to take a glance at Qin Wushang, and spoke with a contemptuous laugh: "After all these years, had Blue Wind Profound Palace ever nurtured up a memorable top-rated disciple? As for Junior Yun, he ought to have come from elsewhere, no? Junior Yun's performance is truly stunning, but too bad, he isn't something that your Blue Wind Profound Palace is qualified to keep! It would instead ruin and bury this genius who has the potential to rise into prominence in the future! But it would be different if he came to my Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress. We'll provide him with the best resources and the finest inherited arts. After three years, I, Mu Tianbei have enough confidence to make him reach top three ranks in Ranking Tournament, and make him famous in this world. Young Master Yun, a person ultimately lives his life for himself. Don't obstruct your own prospects and future for the so-called 'personal loyalty'. Such an insignificant Blue Wind Profound Palace, isn't worthy of a place for you to stay in at all.

Qin Wushang's fury wildly grew. He wished that he could just ignore his manners and break into a cussing fight with Mu Tianbei. But at the same time, the inside of his heart was also wildly thumping, afraid that Yun Che would really be poached away by them like this. Because he could not deny that the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress' power far surpassed Blue Wind Profound Palace. To put it more bluntly, the two's power and conditions are not in the same level at all. If Yun Che really went to the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, it was unknown just how many times better his profound cultivating conditions would be.

However, Cang Yue did not have this kind of worry at all. She slightly smiled and said: "Even though Yun Che is a disciple of the Blue Wind Profound Palace, the original intent of the Blue Wind Profound Palace's establishment is to provide a cultivation ground for countless young profound practitioners in the empire, and does not interfere with the disciple's freedom to leave or stay. Fort Master Mu's words are already clear enough; if Yun Che's heart is to be moved by this, and he is willing to leave the Blue Wind Profound Palace to join your Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, we definitely will not interfere."

"Hahahaha!" Mu Tianbei laughed loudly: "Good! As expected of the legendary Blue Moon Princess. Not only are you as noble as the rumors, you are also quite bold as well! Young Master Yun, you have heard that clearly, right? It doesn't matter if they don't agree to it. As long as you are willing to join our Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, I wouldn't care what happens, even if the entire Blue Wind Profound Palace all storm in to stop it."

"Ha, there is absolutely no need for Fort Master Mu to think of it like that." Yun Che laughed faintly as his gaze scoured over him: "The Blue Wind Profound Palace only allows disciples to stay until the age of twenty so I'd have to leave sooner or later. But even if the Blue Wind Profound Palace expels me right now, I still would never join your Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress. It is not because I think your Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress is weak in power. But with a Fort Master that doesn't even know

what respect is and doesn't even understand human speech leading the sect, even if its strength was even more powerful, it would still be a merely third-rate place full of hot air. It is better for me to not go."

Once those words came out, the atmosphere instantly froze.

When Qin Wushang, who was originally filled with fury, heard that, instead of not being angry anymore and feeling carefree, he was rather frightened. Never would he have thought that Yun Che would dare to speak out in this sort of way when facing Mu Tianbei, who was renown throughout the country. As for Cang Yue, she was only slightly surprised because she understood Yun Che... who would never be afraid of offending anyone! Truthfully speaking, with how fast this satisfaction came, there was no need to silently endure this. He would never submit to humiliation.

Mu Tianbei had thought that there was a chance Yun Che would reject him, but he never would have thought that this little junior would have the impertinence to speak such insolence, and even bring along such humiliation in his words. He creased both his brows as his complexion darkened: "Young Master Yun, what did you say earlier? It seems as if I did not hear that correctly..."

"I said, with a Fort Master that doesn't even know what respect is and doesn't even understand human speech leading the sect, even if its strength was even more powerful, it would still be a merely third-rate place full of hot air. It is better for me to not go." Yun Che confronted Mu Tianbei's oppressive gaze with a face full of smiles as he took his sweet time to repeat his words once more: "I'm sure that this time, Fort Master Mu has heard me correctly?"

As if there was a lump of air in his chest that had just exploded, Mu Tianbei's fury surged to its peak as his facial muscles convulsed. Even though Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress could not measure up to the Four Major Sects, there was still no one who would dare provoke them and most couldn't even wait to suck up to them. But now, a little junior had actually mocked him, the grand Fort Master, in front of him without restraint nor any changes in expression! He said in a low voice with a ferocious gaze: "Good... Very good..."

"The feeling is mutual." Yun Che was incomparably tranquil: "You look down on my Blue Wind Profound Palace, and I also hold your Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress in contempt. This just happens to make us even. If Fort Master Mu has nothing else to discuss, you may go back now. The matter of me joining Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress, you mustn't bring it up in the future. In my eyes, Blue Wind Profound Palace is ten million times better than Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress. Don't even mention you, the Fort Master, personally asking me, even if the entire sect kneeled in front of me, I would still never agree to your offer."

There was no trace of politeness in Yun Che's succinct few words as he returned the contempt and mockery Mu Tianbei had towards the Blue Wind Profound Palace back at him. When it comes to Yun Che's feelings towards the Blue Wind Profound Palace, he actually did not really have such strong feelings for it. Even if he was expelled, he still would not think much about it. It was not because of Blue Wind Profound Palace that he had fearlessly counterattacked, but rather, Cang Yue.

If this wasn't Heavenly Sword Villa, a place where one could not willfully attack however they want, Mu Tianbei would definitely have immediately killed Yun Che. Too angry to smile, he firmly fixed his gaze at Yun Che: "What a good little arrogant junior. You truly have opened my eyes! I had originally taken pity

on you because of your talent and was thinking of asking Yan'er to go easy on you tomorrow. But it looks like you do not care about your life at all!! When tomorrow comes, I'd like to see if you still have the strength to be arrogant in front of me... Let's go!!"

Mu Tianbei snorted loudly before flipping his sleeve to turn and leave. Mu Xiongyi and Mu Xiongyan followed right behind him. Right when they were about to leave the courtyard, Mu Xiongyan turned around to glance at Yun Che, and revealed a sinister smile.

Yun Che's counter mockery naturally negated some of Qin Wushang's great pleasure. He was extremely moved by Yun Che but he was even more worried than before. He sighed softly: "Yun Che, you were too impulsive earlier. You can straightforwardly refuse him, but there was absolutely no need for you to offend him. Since this happened, tomorrow's match, sigh..."

"Rest assured Palace Chief Qin," Yun Che indifferently laughed: "In this ranking tournament, I only have one true opponent. There is no way that I would lose before meeting this true opponent. As for tomorrow's Mu Xiongyan, forget about him endangering me, he doesn't even have the qualifications to make me use my true strength."

After night had passed, a new day had begun. New matches were also imminent. It was early morning, but the entire Sword Discourse Arena was already jammed packed with people waiting for the Round of 16 to begin. As of now, this Blue Wind Ranking Tournament's match progression still conformed with the norm. If one must speak of anything unusual that had happened, it would be Yun Che, the super dark horse.

As for the ranking tournament's final results, that was already predestined inside everyone's heart long ago, during the first day's Profound Assessment Ceremony... First place would inevitably belong to Ling Yun. Second, third, and fourth place, would still be a fight between Frozen Cloud Asgard, the Xiao Sect, and Burning Heaven Clan. Any other sects simply did not have the qualifications to enter the rivalry.

The Round of 16 was destined to be much more exciting and tense than yesterday's Round of 32.

Round of 16, first match: Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che — versus — Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress' Mu Xiongyan.

Before Mu Xiongyan went up on stage, Mu Tianbei ordered him in a low voice: "Cripple him Yan'er!" One night had passed but his fury still had not dissipated. After becoming Fort Master, Yun Che was the first person who dared to insult him out loud, and that made the grudge he bore be bone-deep.

"Rest assured Father. I won't even let him think about standing up ever again." Mu Xiongyan grinned as he casually said that.

On the Sword Discourse Arena, Yun Che and Mu Xiongyan stood on opposing sides. Mu Xiongyan slightly narrowed his eyes and sneered with a light casual stance, as if the Yun Che in front of him was a mere prey that was already in the clutches of his hands. Yun Che however, was a field of tranquility.

Last night, Qin Wushang had spoke to him in detail that the Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress was divided into the Heavenly Spear Sect and the Thunderfire Sect. The Thunderfire Sect was capable of transforming profound energy into thunderfire, while simultaneously detonating it, bringing out an

extremely tremendous lethality. At the same time, the Thunderfire Sect had also always passed on various different kinds of manufactured high-grade firearms and controlling capabilities. More than a dozen different types of dangerous firearms were concealed on the bodies of every Thunderfire Sect disciple, even so much that there were probably more than several tens of incomparably dangerous types that one could not completely defend against.

In regards to transforming profound energy into thunderfire, Yun Che didn't really care about that at all. But he was incapable of estimating how powerful the firearms on Mu Xiongyan's body really were. His countless life and death experiences told him that if anything was unable to be discerned, especially one of dangerous origins, the safest move he could make when facing Mu Xiongyan would be to completely strangle something that could become dangerous in the shortest time possible.

So to him, this match was destined to be a match in which the outcome would be decided within the blink of an eye.

"Match start!!"

As soon as Ling Wugou's voice fell, Mu Xiongyan raised both his hands and spread open all ten fingers. Ten purplish-red colored lightning balls instantly condensed atop his fingertips. The sound of its crackling discharge would make one shudder with fright. He looked at Yun Che with a ferocious smile: "Yun Che, prepare to howl a good one under my Thunderfire!! I'll let you remember the price of insulting my Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress for your entire lifetime!!"

Yun Che did not reply. While tightly holding onto the heavy sword, his silhouette flashed. Like a strong blast of wind, he charged straight at Mu Xiongyan.

Mu Xiongyan moved both his hands. The ten Thunderfire balls of condensed profound energy flew at Yun Che with different trajectories. Yun Che nevertheless did not dodge or flee, and directly forged onwards. This action caused Mu Xiongyan to sneer:

"Then die... Explode!!"

BOOM BOOM BOOM...

Ten Thunderfire balls simultaneously exploded, and the devastating Thunderfire's radiance momentarily drowned out Yun Che's silhouette. Before Mu Xiongyan had even begun to laugh, he unexpectedly discovered that in the instant the Thunderfire balls exploded, Yun Che's silhouette had disappeared from that spot.

Afterimage!?

Right after that, he suddenly detected the flash of a shadow from the corner of his eye. Yun Che had suddenly appeared at his side, and was not even two steps away from him. If another person were to switch places with him, even if they could react quickly to guard against it, they would inevitably fumble. However, not only did Mu Xiongyan not panic, he instead, laughed grimly. He did not move at all as he suddenly instigated his profound energy. Three purplish-red colored arrows suddenly shot out from his shoulder, flying straight at Yun Che's face.

"Ah——"

The entire Sword Discourse Arena erupted in cries of alarm. Cang Yue was even more nervous as she shrieked. It was at such a close distance, and was also a head-on collision that was completely unexpected which shot out three Thunderfire arrows. Even if one was an immortal, it was not definite as to whether or not it was possible to dodge past it.

Whoosh!!

While still in the radiance of the Thunderfire balls, three Thunderfire arrows had already launched straight at Yun Che, and completely passed through his face...

It was another afterimage!!

Mu Xiongyan immediately opened his eyes wide. Before he had yet to recover from his astonishment, an incomparably hot heatwave attacked from overhead...

“Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!!”

Boom!!

Like a fierce hawk, Yun Che swooped down from the sky and ruthlessly attacked his back with a scorching berserk strike. A huge lump of flame exploded within the loud noise, blotting out the sky while covering the earth...

Up until now, this was the first time Yun Che had executed Star God’s Broken Shadow. The second stage’s triple shadow chaining could be said to be as unfathomable as ghosts and gods. Likewise, it was also the first time he had used a Phoenix Flame technique... They were all used to finish the battle in the shortest time possible to avoid any possible unstable factors.

Inside the blaze that soared to the sky, Mu Xiongyan’s protective profound energy was shattered as if thin ice. He sputtered out a large mouthful of fresh blood and fiercely flew outwards. Then, he knocked against the profound energy barrier and rebounded back to the floor. The fire on his body did not die out. Instead, it continued to rage and burn, burning his clothes, flesh, and the various tens of hidden firearms on his body...

BANG BANG BANG BOOM BOOM BOOM...

When the firearms caught on fire, they all crazily exploded on Mu Xiongyan’s body, splitting his skin open and flesh apart, making his mutilated flesh hard to discern. His wretched scream was like the mournful shrill of a banshee. Yun Che withdrew his heavy sword and looked at him with a pitiful gaze as he secretly muttered to himself: These firearms that were supposed to be used against me, you should just go enjoy them yourself!

Chapter 219 - I’m an Expert in the Same Field

“Yan’er!!”

Mu Tianbei’s expression paled as he flew straight down towards the Sword Discourse Arena. Ling Wugou quickly stepped forward as well, extinguishing all the flames on Mu Xiongyan with his profound energy.

With the extinguishment of the flames, Mu Xiongyan’s tragic state was displayed to everyone’s eyes. His entire body was charred black, a large portion of his flesh erupted apart with blood splattering

everywhere, his white bones were even revealed on his pair of shoulders and knees. A large half of his hair was burnt, and his face was even blurred from the blood and exposed flesh... 'Tragic' was not even a suitable word to describe his current state.

But since the firearms on Mu Xiongyan's body self-destructed because they were ignited by flames, and not by profound energy, the power of the explosions were not really large. Although Mu Xiongyan suffered extremely serious external injuries, his internal injuries were actually quite light, at least, he would not be crippled. However, to fully recover his serious external injuries, it would probably take a very long time. And, there would be countless of ugly scars left around his entire body... including his face.

Mu Tianbei charged through the profound energy barrier, arriving in front of Mu Xiongyan's body. After inspecting his wounds, he heaved a sigh of relief, and then, glared at Yun Che with extreme hatred. However, he did not utter a single word. Carrying Mu Xiongyan, whose entire body was dripping with fresh blood, he walked down the Sword Discourse Arena. Mu Xiongyan's current tragic state, was basically caused by the hidden firearms on his body. Under everyone's attentive eyes, if he were to cause Yun Che any trouble, he would simply be looked down upon by everyone on-site. And, Ling Wugou was on the stage as well, so he could not possibly do anything to Yun Che. Without a choice, his heart filled with silent rage and hatred as he went down the stage. However, the killing intent directed at Yun Che, was as cold as the freezing abyss.

"Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che wins! He shall advance to tomorrow's Quarterfinals!"

After Mu Xiongyan was brought down the stage by Mu Tianbei, Ling Wugou loudly announced the outcome of the match.

According to the progression of the previous Blue Wind Ranking Tournaments, the further the progression of matches, the stronger the participating disciples were. Every battle would become even more intense, and the time taken for each match would naturally be longer as well. This was the first match of the Round of 16. Everyone wished to find out if this ultimate dark horse, Yun Che, could actually once again turn out victorious in this match, and dreamily enter the Quarterfinals. There were many people willing to believe that he would have the possibility of obtaining victory once again, however, they absolutely would not think that, he would actually win so quickly, and so easily.

This duel ended the moment it just began. It was so quick, they did not have the time to even react. Only after Ling Wugou announced the results, did they accept this unbelievable reality in the midst of their astonishment.

After defeating Xiao Nan, who was at the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, the previous day, Yun Che had once again defeated Mu Xiongyan, who had strength of the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, in just a few seconds the following day. Although Mu Xiongyan's tragic state was due to the explosion of the firearms on his body, people who were wise enough were able to clearly see that even without the explosion of the firearms, Mu Xiongyan had already been thoroughly defeated.

Those two strange and unpredictable afterimages, and that surprising and overwhelming fire blast attack... The strong experts on-site, in their astonishment, had once again realized that they had completely and utterly underestimated Yun Che. Back then, when Yun Che was obtaining his

consecutive level-skipping victories, he had actually been hiding his true abilities, and only until this match, did he reveal a tip of the iceberg, so as to obtain a quick and decisive victory.

“There’s actually such an individual within our Blue Wind Empire, who even I can’t clearly fathom the limits of. Every single time I thought he had already reached his limits, he would always once again astonish me.” Ling Yuefeng stood up with shock revealed on his calm face. “To actually be able to unleash such power while just being at the tenth level of the True Profound Realm, forget about the Blue Wind Empire, I have never heard of someone capable of doing this in the entire Profound Sky Continent. Just what kind of monster is he!? And just which supreme individual is his master? That master of his is actually capable of bringing up such a disciple!”

Ling Yuefeng’s exclamation, naturally gave Yun Che an extremely high evaluation. Ling Yun slightly frowned, and suddenly asked. “Father, the movement skill he used earlier, just how did he accomplish it? When one uses profound energy to move his body, it will not only bring about obvious ripples of profound energy, there will be obvious differences between the afterimage and the actual body as well. However, he formed three images, yet, I did not even feel a hint of any profound energy ripple, and, these three images were completely identical, and it was basically impossible to distinguish them from the real one. I have never seen such a strange profound movement skill.”

Ling Yun’s words caused Ling Yuefeng to momentarily enter a state of silence, and then, he shook his head. “Your father was not able to clearly distinguish them as well.”

“What!?” Ling Yun’s eyes turned towards Ling Yuefeng as a hint of shock flashed past his face.

“That guy actually won again, and he’s actually capable of manipulating fire! Big bro, were you able to distinguish what kind of flames he was playing with?” With a sway of his left hand, a ball of flames burned at top of Fen Juebi’s palm. Looking at the ball of flames, he slowly asked.

“Hmph, it’s nothing but the lowest level of profound flames. To actually play with fire in front of us, the Burning Heaven Clan, he’s basically underestimating us.” Fen Juecheng’s expression sank, saying with disdain.

Fen Juebi blew at his palm, directly extinguishing the ball of flames. He then said with a beaming smile. “Big bro, there’s no need to be angry. In contrast, this is actually a very good thing.”

“A good thing?” Fen Juecheng frowned.

“Did big bro forget? After claiming his victory in this match, who do you think is his opponent tomorrow?” Fen Juebi’s voice was low, and his smile had begun to grow even more sinister.

Fen Juecheng’s eyes turned, and then, his expression slightly changed. “It’s you!”

“That’s right, hahahaha.” Fen Juebi began to laugh wildly. “I didn’t expect that. I was not able to encounter him in the small group matches, but I’m actually going to encounter him in the elimination rounds. This world is simply too marvelous, it’s basically a present bestowed by the heavens to me and big bro. Let me personally end this so-called genius. I shall forever leave my shadow in the heart of the person who dares to offend big bro.”

The Round of 16 started off with a duel that exceeded everyone’s expectations, and immediately after, the second match was also one that shocked the audience. Ling Jie easily defeated an opponent who

was two levels above him with just a few strikes, similarly ending the match with lightning speed. There were merely four to five exchanges of blows during the entire process.

Third Match: Fen Juebi easily obtained victory.

Fourth Match: Ling Fengyu won.

Fifth Match: The opponent surrendered, Ling Yun instantly obtained victory.

Sixth Match: Shui Wushuang fought with Wu Xuexin of the same sect, after an exciting battle, Shui Wushuang won by a slight margin.

Seventh Match: Xia Qingyue won.

Eighth Match: Xiao Kuanglei fought with Xiao Zhen of the same sect, and won by a slight margin.

Thus, the Round of 16 concluded, and the top eight in this Ranking Tournament were determined. The Quarterfinals' match arrangements tomorrow were also revealed on the center of the profound stone after the conclusion of the Round of 16.

First match: Blue Wind Imperial Family's Yun Che vs Burning Heaven Clan's Fen Juebi.

Second match: Heavenly Sword Villa's Ling Jie vs Heavenly Sword Villa's Ling Feiyu.

Third match: Heavenly Sword Villa's Ling Yun vs Frozen Cloud Asgard's Shui Wushuang.

Fourth match: Frozen Cloud Asgard's Xia Qingyue vs Xiao Sect's Xiao Kuanglei.

As the Ranking Tournament progressed, the eight people who were determined, represented the strongest powerhouses of the current young generation of the Blue Wind Empire. Among these eight, there were a total of seven disciples from the Four Major Sects. Yun Che, the only one who did not belong to the Four Major Sects, was evidently particularly dazzling.

The history of the finale of the Ranking Tournament turning into a power struggle between the Four Major Sects had once again recurred, while Yun Che had undoubtedly become the most unnatural existence in this Ranking Tournament. The moment he entered the top thirty-two, his name was destined to be spread far and wide after the Ranking Tournament. And the Blue Wind Profound Palace was finally able to vent out their frustration because of him, allowing them to regain their honor, and drew more practitioners to join them.

"Entering the top eight also means that we have secured our qualifications to enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm after the Ranking Tournament. This simply feels like a dream." Returning to the courtyard, Qin Wushang looked towards the sky, and sighed continuously. This was indeed an outcome which he had never even dreamed of.

"Heaven Basin Secret Realm? What's that?" Xia Yuanba asked curiously.

"It is rumored to be an independent space opened up by a mysterious expert from the Ancient Era. Countless of opportunities and treasures are hidden inside. It opens up once every three years, and people who enter the Secret Realm will always obtain great rewards." Cang Yue said with great

yearning. "Palace Chief Qin, after the Ranking Tournament concludes, you will be able to enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm with Yun Che. That's great."

"That's right." Qin Wushang smiled. "Unfortunately, good fortune did not fall on Palace Chief Dongfang, he actually did not follow us here this time. He had always dreamed of being able to investigate the legendary Heaven Basin Secret Realm at least once. But, speaking of which, even I didn't think that Yun Che would actually be able to get this far..."

He deeply looked at Yun Che, and said. "Challenging someone with a higher level of profound strength is not uncommon, but defeating someone with strength at the late stage Spirit Profound Realm with just the strength at the True Profound Realm, I have never heard of such a thing. I don't know what method you used to accomplish this; it might be your talent, or it might be the opportunities you have gotten, but what I can confirm is that after this Ranking Tournament, your name will spread throughout the entire Blue Wind Empire, or even, the entire Profound Sky Continent. Are you prepared for this?"

"It can't be that exaggerated, right?" Yun Che said casually.

"No! It will only be more exaggerated than what I described. If you obtained victory with oppressing profound strength, then that will simply be some new news to know about. However, obtaining consecutive victories with just the strength at the True Profound Realm, this has completely broken history, and has even exceeded everyone's understanding. Currently, all of the sects, including the Four Major Sects, are already targeting you, investigating your personal history, looking for all the information regarding your life. After the tournament, there will definitely be many people inviting you to join their sects, like what Mu Tianbei did. I possess no authority to intervene in your decision to stay or leave, but, I hope that you can remember this. No matter who you're facing, do not offend that person like how you did yesterday, because every person you offend, may bring about a danger to yourself that can explode at any time. Yesterday, you made it difficult for Mu Tianbei, and today, you even seriously injured his son, Mu Xiongyan, he will definitely not simply leave this matter at it is. Within this Heavenly Sword Villa, he does not possess the guts to act against you, but after the tournament, Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress might possess the qualifications to enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm as well. When that time comes, I doubt they will not take the opportunity to exact vengeance."

"I completely understand what Palace Chief Qin is trying to say. Although I have never been afraid of offending others, I have never casually offended others as well. If Mu Tianbei did not ridicule our Blue Wind Profound Palace nor mock the Blue Wind Imperial Family yesterday, I would not have made things difficult for him either. Seriously injuring Mu Xiongyan was intentional as well. But, since I have already done it, I will not regret it. If he wishes to exact vengeance, then I will take responsibility for it." The corner of Yun Che's lips moved, curving up to a dangerously cold smile. "Who shall suffer under whose hands has yet to be determined."

Knowing that he was unable to persuade Yun Che, Qin Wushang simply sighed, and said. "You must definitely be cautious in tomorrow's match. Although Fen Juebi's level of profound strength is the same as Mu Xiongyan's, he is someone who has inherited the profound arts of the Burning Heaven Clan, his abilities can be said to be a few levels above Mu Xiongyan's. And, this person, Fen Juebi, is ruthless, brutal, and likes to humiliate his opponents. The reason why Fen Juechen left the Burning Heaven Clan and was so focused on exacting vengeance on Fen Juebi, was due to the huge shame he received after

being defeated by him. When you're exchanging blows with him, you must definitely, definitely, be careful."

Fen Juecheng's expression, which was filled with killing intent, flashed past in Yun Che's mind. Smiling coldly, with a voice which only he could hear, he muttered to himself. "Hmm... Humiliating opponents... I'm an expert in that field too..."

Chapter 220 - Yun Che VS Fen Juebi

Today's Sword Discourse Arena was filled with a peculiar kind of atmosphere. Especially members of the Burning Heaven Clan; their complexions were all quite unsightly.

The first match of the Quarterfinals was Yun Che versus Fen Juebi. Although Yun Che had surprised people time and time again in every one of his previous matches, to the majority of the audience, this competition was still not suspenseful at all. It wasn't because they still held Yun Che in contempt after being shocked again and again, rather, it was because the image of the Four Major Sects prime positions had long since been deeply ingrained.

"You must win this match no matter what! Yuange was defeated by Frozen Cloud Asgard's Xia Qingyue, and Jin'er had the misfortune of going up against Ling Yun. Out of all of us, the one remaining that entered the Quarterfinals, is only you! Looks like, in this session, the fact that we are still ranked fourth out of the Four Major Sects has essentially been decided. But, if you lose to this Yun Che brat, then we would not even be able to enter the top four and can only rank fifth! For our Burning Heaven Clan, this is an absolutely unacceptable humiliation... You understand?"

Fen Moli said with a heavy expression. In yesterday's Round of 16, Burning Heaven Clan's core disciple, his last grandson, Fen Jin, had the misfortune of going against Ling Yun, so he had to leave the stage prematurely. This made him suddenly feel extremely pressured. He could accept being at the bottom of the Four Major Sects' rankings, after all, it had basically been that way for all these years. But if they placed outside of fourth place... This was a matter that had not happened for several hundreds of years! It was enough to bring shame to the entire Burning Heaven Clan, so he was absolutely positively unwilling to accept that.

And the first match of the Quarterfinals just happened to be the battle that decided that outcome! If they defeat Yun Che, Burning Heaven Clan would enter the top four, and even placing in the top three would become a possibility. But if they lose...

"Rest assured Great Elder. Coming across anyone of the six people outside of Yun Che and I, would have to make me carefully consider the match. But this Yun Che..." Fen Juebi laughed with extreme disdain: "Trash that completely relied on luck to get here doesn't even have the qualifications to go against me. If I can't even defeat him, then I seriously do not even have the face to continue living."

Fen Moli nodded his head slowly. Even though the strength that Yun Che had displayed was more shocking than the next, he still had never believed that Fen Juebi could lose. However, his complexion was still as tense as before as he spoke in a low voice: "For you to have such self-confidence is naturally good. You can be confident in yourself but you must not, by any means, be too arrogant! Because that will deceive your eyes. Also, when going against Yun Che, you must not underestimate him. Yesterday, he suddenly revealed a bizarre and unpredictable movement skill that even I did not see through clearly.

Not only that, he can also control fire as well, and it cannot be certain that he does not have the ability to restrain our Burning Heaven Fire. The most important thing worthy of careful attention, is that it does not seem like he has completely revealed his true strength... You must be careful!”

“Great Elder is overthinking it. His movement skill is merely a simple instantaneous displacement. How could it possibly compare to our Burning Heaven Clan’s ‘Burning Phantom Illusion’. Besides, even if his profound movement skill is a hundred times more delicately fine, it is useless within a Sword Discourse Arena entirely enveloped in the Burning Heaven Fire that has no blind spots. As for his control over fire, hahahaha... The fire he released yesterday was clearly the lowest level of profound fire, so how could it possibly compare to our Burning Heaven Fire? If you’re saying that he could possibly restrain my power, you might as well say that I could completely control his power.”

Fen Juebi’s expression was filled with complete disdain. His words made Fen Moli crease his brows as he said in a somewhat grave voice: “Juebi, there is one thing that I must remind you about. If you lose this match, then the entire Burning Heaven Clan would be humiliated. You must not become our Burning Heaven Clan’s sinner. If that happens, it is not certain if Clan Master would forgive you.”

Fen Moli’s last words finally made Fen Juebi retract his sloppy attitude and made him nod quite seriously: “Great Elder’s instructions are, that in this match, even if the opponent is many times weaker, I still should not hold back... To only win, and not lose.”

Fen Juebi closed in next to Fen Juecheng’s ear and softly said with half-narrowed eyes: “Big bro, the match is about to start soon. Do you want to cripple both his legs, burn his face off, or turn him into an eunuch?”

“Burn his face off!” Fen Juecheng’s eyebrows sunk as he answered without the slightest hesitation. Because during a match, this kind of matter could completely be regarded as an “unexpected accident”.

“I won’t let big bro down.” Fen Juebi stuck out his tongue and licked the corner of his lips. He quietly laughed sinisterly: “To me, instead of saying that this is a competition, I’d rather say that this is a... Mn, incomparably wonderful game.”

Time was approaching in the blink of an eye. Yun Che and Fen Juebi leapt to the center of the Sword Discourse Arena at almost the same time with a distance of more than thirty meters between them.

Yun Che’s expression was completely tranquil. But in the eyes of the Fen Juebi in front of him, he saw a distinct disdain and mockery, as well as a close to perverted cruelty mixed within. The corner of Yun Che’s mouth twitched, as a hint of a sneer flitted by.

In Fen Juebi’s eyes, Yun Che was a mere dish that he could flatten or make round.

But in Yun Che’s eyes, Fen Juebi was not even considered a dish. He was not even as threatening as yesterday’s Mu Xiongyan. Mu Xiongyan’s various unknown firearms had at least, scared him enough to choose to win by a surprise move in the shortest time possible. This Fen Juebi however, could be said to not even be a threat since the very beginning... Because this guy only played with fire.

“Say, do you think it’s possible for Yun Che to defeat Fen Juebi?”

“Isn’t this fundamentally impossible? While Fen Juebi’s profound strength is the same as yesterday’s Mu Xiongyan, his true strength is in a different level. He’s Fen Duanhun’s second son!”

“If Fen Juebi actually loses, Burning Heaven Clan would be kicked out of the top four and that would surely be fun to watch.”

“How could that kind of thing even happen...”

“Quick, look at what’s in Fen Juebi’s hands... That must be the legendary Sky Profound Weapon — the Demon Flame Blade! It looks like that Fen Juebi’s not going to give Yun Che any chances whatsoever.”

“That’s only natural. To the Burning Heaven Clan, they have no other choice but to win and not lose this match. Even if the opponent is a mere grasshopper, they definitely cannot hold back.”

Even though the two on the Sword Discourse Arena had not exchanged words, the atmosphere was filled with a strangeness that was difficult to describe. Seeing that the two were already prepared, Ling Wugou did not wait any longer and waved his hand: “The first showdown of the Quarterfinals... Blue Wind Imperial Family’s Yun Che versus Burning Heaven Clan’s Fen Juebi, battle start!”

“Heh!” Fen Juebi laughed sinisterly: “If you had chosen to not get on stage and directly surrender, I seriously would not have known what to do. Luckily, you did not disappoint me and obediently came up here. It is already too late if you wish to surrender right now. Today, is going to be the most unforgettable day of your life.”

“Tch.” Yun Che curled his lips in disdain: “I never expected that not only are you ugly, you also say this much rubbish. No wonder Burning Heaven Clan could only stand at the bottom of the Four Major Sects, it’s actually made up of these piles of trash.”

With his poisonous tongue, Yun Che was indeed an expert in the same field. Fen Juebi immediately went into a violent rage once those words of his came out: “Die!!”

Scarlet flame ignited atop Fen Juebi’s body. Then, it all concentrated onto the Demon Flame Blade. The flame’s dazzling light reflected upon the surrounding profound energy barrier and revealed its shape, while bringing along an incomparably shocking high temperature. In the wake of Fen Juebi’s blade thrust, the flame on the blade’s body immediately swirled into a huge flaming tornado. Like a ferocious flame beast, it came at Yun Che with opened deadly fangs.

This power behind this strike made several tens of meters of audience cry out in alarm. Yun Che slightly lowered his brows as he instantaneously retreated backwards. The Overlord’s Colossal Sword immediately came out with a wave, and was then swung outwards, conjuring up a tyrannical profound energy tornado that collided with Fen Juebi’s flaming tornado. In a split second, Yun Che’s heavy sword energy was burnt out by Burning Heaven Fire. In turn, the Burning Heaven was extinguished by the heavy sword energy layer after layer. At the location of the two force’s collision, fire and space began to violently distort.

Boom!!

Following the loud explosion, the heavy sword energy and the flaming tornado were simultaneously exterminated. The two were pushed into the distance by the tremendous windstorm. Fen Juebi stood in place as his expression became even more dangerous: “Heh. You have truly surprised me. To have actually received a strike containing sixty percent of my strength, it looks like you did not entirely rely on luck to reach this place. Oh, but what a pity. In front of me, you are still merely trash.”

He pointed the Demon Flame Blade forward with slightly narrowed eyes and a proud posture, as if he was issuing Yun Che his life's trial: "I was just greeting earlier. I'll let you properly see and experience our Burning Heaven Clan's Burning Heaven Fire next. Believe me, it is something that you will remember for a whole lifetime. Even until death, you would probably never forget its exquisite scenery. Hahahaha!!"

In the midst of his wild laughter, Fen Juebi suddenly dashed forward at a great speed as fire ignited once more on his body and the Demon Flame Blade. Bringing along a strand of fiery silhouettes, he immediately attacked Yun Che. Before he was even fifteen meters away from Yun Che, the flames on his body suddenly changed from scarlet to blue.

Orange colored flame was known as "ordinary fire", and was the weakest level fire. Above orange fire, was scarlet colored fire. Middle-low level profound flame was also scarlet in color, and above scarlet, from the lowest level to the highest, was Blue Flame, Purple Flame, White Flame, Gold Flame, as well as the rumored Star Scorching Flame and Primordial Flame of legends.

When transforming profound energy into fire, its power could more or less be determined by the color of the flame. But as for the special flames of the Phoenix, Vermilion Bird, and Golden Crow, they were not ordinary profound fire, rather, they were the Divine Beast's personal "Divine Fire" that possessed their own properties and color, which did not follow that sort of procedure.

Blue Flame, was profound fire that surpasses the Scarlet Flame by one level!

To everyone's knowledge, only those who have reached the Earth Profound Realm were capable of releasing such high level profound flame!

Once this blue colored flame came out, it undoubtedly made the entire audience cry out in surprise.

"Blue... Blue Flame!!"

"It has been said that one needed to have profound strength in at least the Earth Profound Realm to have the capability of igniting blue colored profound flame... Fen Juebi's innate talent for flames was actually this high! To actually have the capability of igniting blue colored profound flames at only the eighth level of the Spirit Profound Realm."

"As expected of the son of Burning Heaven Clan's Clan Master, looks like Fen Juebi's true strength needs to be evaluated once more. With him igniting blue colored profound flames, it seems like Yun Che does not even have a little bit of hope left."

At the Burning Heaven Clan's seating area, Fen Moli faintly laughed as he thought out loud: "Looks like this Great Elder's words had frightened him. To have actually revealed his trump card so early, it is simply making a big deal out of a small matter, and using a butcher knife for oxes to kill chicken."

"Come, let me hear the sounds of you crying, begging, and struggling!"

Fen Juebi laughed wildly as he closed in on Yun Che. The blue colored flames on his body suddenly exploded, dispersing into more than a dozen different sized flaming tornados. The flaming tornados quickly combusted in the air, spreading directly towards Yun Che as well as every nook and cranny within the profound energy barrier. It was as if it wanted to completely cover the space within the profound energy barrier and change the surroundings into a sea of blue colored fire without any blind spots...

