



THE SIX IMMORTALS

BOOK 01

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The Six Immortals

(六道仙尊)

by

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Synopsis

Six circles exist between the heaven and earth.

Bi Fan, weak and lonely, grows little by little and takes the world by surprise.

As the wars for power, glory, fame and money rage on, 'The Six Immortals', a tale of Love, Hatred, Regret, Passion, Rivalry and Self-Sacrifice unfolds.

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Chapter 1 – Wan Snake Cave

The heavenly blue sky oversaw as fog and mist curled around the Quinyang Mountains creating a picturesque shade.

A small lonely figure was busy at work inside the medicine orchard, and occasionally, his hand would wipe the sweat off his forehead. His name was Bi Fan.

Just looking at his weak body ignited a sense of pity, but in the Tian Yu world, vanquished of all compassion, no one would sympathize with him.

Bi Fan was an orphan who came to Quinyang School as a child and had been adopted by an old man at Quinyang School of medicine to look after the medicine orchard. He had never known his parents.

Immediately after adopting him, Old man Xing named him Bi Fan (Completely Ordinary).

Now 14 years old, Bi Fan still looked like an eleven year old owing to the malnutrition.

In the year that preceded Bi Fan's adoption by the old man, Bi Fan suffered hardships that were beyond description.

Status of a medicine orchard boy is awfully low, lower than a sweeper who sweeps the floor, but the nursemaid cooked good

food, where could he find that?

Medicine orchard farming required a great deal of expertise. It was a difficult task with a lot of pressure.

Inability to finish the task meant severe punishment, his wage might get cancelled and any fight would be futile.

From time to time, upon completion of the task, the old man would give some rewards, among these rewards was Dan (synthesized pellets which granted physical strength).

Bi Fan could certainly use some physical strength, but he had never had the good fortune.

Old man had handed over the management of the Orchard and rewards to Zhu San, only to make things even more difficult for him.

In the absence of the old man, Bi Fan answered to him.

As soon as the old man would go away, trouble followed Bi Fan, not only did Zhu San make things difficult for him, but other boys would also constantly bully him.

“Bi Fan, can you help me look after these purple stem grass, it’s very easy, great to have you helping me.”

“Idiot, hand over the Zhi Flower, if you make a mistake, you will regret it.” (Zhi is plant root used in Chinese medicine)

Bi Fan was very skinny as compared to the other boys at the farm and they had nicknamed him “idiot”.

In reality Bi Fan wasn't stupid at all, or incapable of understanding things, he just pretended to be, so he would receive lesser blame for his faults.

One day, Bi Fan was assisting a guy named Daniu. He asked Bi Fan to take care of a Zhu vermilion fruit but he accidentally broke a leaf.

After Daniu found out about the incident, he rushed to the orchard to catch hold of Bi Fan.

“Idiot, what did I tell you? You broke the Zhu vermilion fruit, now I'll break your arm!”

Then, Daniu pounced in Bi Fan's direction giving him no time to dodge, and within no time, his strong and well-built arms grabbed Bi Fan. One could clearly see that Bi Fan was no match for him.

“What.....?”

Then with one strong push, Daniu dislocated Bi Fan's slender arm, leaving him in agonizing pain. He trembled and shuddered, but he couldn't dare to complain.

“Patience, tolerance.....” these words repeated in Bi Fan’s head.

In the world of Tian Yu, strength was the supreme law and above everything.

Bi Fan was weak, weaker than even the most ordinary men, in fact, fragile would be the most appropriate description for him.

Perennially being a target of bullies, he had come to master the art of tolerance.

Once he had attempted to resist a group of boys at the orchard, and as a result of that, it took him a month to completely recover from the consequences.

Since then, Bi Fan had become slower, lonelier, and even more of an “Idiot”.

Bi Fan was always required to assist the other boys in taking care of their tasks, especially the ones that required constant attention.

He was never able to achieve his annual quota because he had to take care of the work assigned to the other boys as well.

In the two years that had come to pass, nothing good had come his way. His only benefits were that he had learnt a lot about the growing conditions of various herbs, more than any of the boys in

his company.

In the eyes of the world, Quinyang School was a paradise, but for Bi Fan, it was nothing short of hell.

He wanted to escape from the Quinyang Mountain, but the lofty mountains were very steep. He would never be able to escape as he was far too weak.

The day Bi Fan feared the most every year, had come. It was time to hand over the herbs to Zhu San. He not only had to take care of his herbs, but those of other boys as well.

Bi Fan hadn't completed his assignments for 2 years. If he faltered this year too, the consequences would be grave.

Zhu San had already told Bi Fan that he would tear him to pieces if Bi Fan didn't submit his assignment on schedule.

Bi Fan's life depended on this, but he was desperately failing. His assignment was harder than most boys, and to be able to complete it along with helping other boys was nothing short of wishful thinking.

Zhu San's ferocious appearance gave Bi Fan goose bumps.

Zhu San was fat like a melon and his walk shook the ground and there was always a ferocious look on his face. None of the other boys were a match for him and everyone feared him as well.

Zhu San would start collecting the herbs in 2 days and there wasn't enough time for Bi Fan to finish his assignment.

Growing herbs meant following a process rendering Bi Fan totally helpless. All he could do was sit and wait for the punishment, and hope that he could beg his way out with Zhu San.

Bi couldn't sleep that night, and first thing in the morning, he heard a noise outside.

“Not good!”

Zhu San was on his way, followed by a crowd waiting in anticipation, to see the herb collection.

Each time the herbs were collected, Bi Fan's shack was bustling with excitement, because each time he failed to deliver the herbs on schedule, he would face punishment.

“Idiot, first you turn over the herbs, and then explain why you didn't come out to greet Zhu San”.

“Idiot, you did not complete the assignment again! You are such a useless person that even your existence is the waste of food.”

A lot of boys had gathered to watch Bi Fan's punishment.

Bi Fan quickly ran out of his shack, and bowed his head, his fleeting eyes flashed with a light of resentment.

Zhu San didn't pay any attention to Bi Fan, as he finished scanning Bi Fan's orchard, and said, "Bi Fan you are getting bolder day by day, you seem to have finished only a third of the assignment, this is not going to work. You have forged the path of your own doom."

His tone was extremely cold, as his hand lashed out in Bi Fan's direction to slap on his thin body.

For Bi Fan, there was no place to hide, nowhere to run.

Zhu San was more powerful than anyone and even a normal person could not take his hit unscathed then how could he?

It would be foolish to think that Zhu San's fat body was a hindrance to his agility, because once he moved, his speed was beyond match.

Bi Fan didn't react as Zhu San's palm hit him.

"Bang!"

Bi Fan went flying 10 meters into the air, he emitted scarlet blood as he hit the ground, unable to move, he felt dizzy.

Zhu San had cultivated his power using the Yun Shi (stone inscriptions that grant power), and the power bestowed upon him was enough to kill a tiger. Zhu San only used a third of his power, but for Bi Fan, it felt as if he was about to die. (In the Tian Yu world, Yun Shi was a very important refined material that had high density, heavy and was extremely rare. The fist contained the great might of 1000 Jin. In the world of Tian Yu, Yun Shi was specifically designed to test the strength of practitioners.)

In the Tian Yu world, practitioners were divided into fetus category, emerging from the womb category, magical powers category, and going all the way up to the Immortal spirit category at the top. After reaching the immortal spirit category, one would be able to rise above the 6 Jies (realms).

The 6 Jies (Kingdoms or realms) consisted of Buddhist Jie, devil Jie, spirit Jie, world of immortals, magical Jie and chaos Jie.

Fetus category was again divided into nine layers, first layer was heavy strength (Qiang Zhuang), second layer was growing strength (Xu Li), third layer was martial strength (Wu Li), fourth layer was inner breath (Ne Xi), fifth layer was inner organs (Zang Fu), sixth layer was brave (Yong Wu), seventh layer was spiritual intelligence (Ling Hui), eighth layer was enormous strength (Ju Li) and the ninth layer was the transformation (Tui Bian).

The first layer, Heavy Strength, granted an enormous physical strength, where the practitioner would undertake training to achieve the strength of 200 Jin, which was far more than what ordinary people could ever achieve.

The second layer granted the ability to store energy, where the practitioner would consume Dan which strengthened their bones till they had effectively stored up to strength of 600 Jin.

The third layer, Martial Strength, was the layer which granted enough strength to be able to surpass the strength of 1000 Jin. After reaching this layer, one could join the ranks of the practitioners (martial artists).

After reaching the fourth layer, inner breath, practitioners studied the teachings of Buddha and were able to store their vital breath inside their body and produced qi, which could be used as an explosive surge of power, greatly enhancing all aspects of the body. One had to reach this stage to be genuinely considered as a martial artist.

As far as layers of inner organs, brave, spiritual intelligence, enormous strength and transformation were concerned, only people like Zhu San could hope to achieve it.

If one was able to produce inner breath, he would immediately be accepted as a martial disciple, irrespective of age or build and his status would see an enormous rise.

Bi Fan hadn't surrendered himself to mediocrity and kept on striving to work hard and practice, but his body was just too weak. He couldn't even match the strength of the people at the first layer. So being constantly bullied was not something surprising.

“Bi Fan, your body is not suitable for practicing, so give up.” This

was what the old man had always been suggesting him.

But Bi Fan never gave up and continued to increase his training volumes, only to yield negligible results.

“I don’t want to do minor jobs forever, I don’t want to be bullied eternally, I want to be strong, I will transform in to a man of” Bi Fan’s inner voice would scream as he would lose consciousness during training.

“Zhu San, Bi Fan has fainted, he might die soon, what do we do now? Should we throw him into the Wan Snake Cave?” A boy approached to examine Bi Fan’s condition with a pleased look on his face.

Throwing him into the Wan Snake Cave would be equivalent to destroying his corpse and so too so effortlessly and this would also be much less troublesome for them.

Zhu San waived his fat hand and commanded 7-8 boys to throw Bi Fan behind the mountain.

Behind the Quinyang Mountain was an enormous cave, dark and bottomless, inside it were countless poisonous snakes. It was known in the Quinyang School as the Wan Snake Cave (cave of ten thousand snakes). In Quinyang School, generally, the traitors and enemies were thrown into the Wan Snake Cave which was considered as the most vicious punishment.

The people of Quinyang School trembled with fear at the reference of the Wan Snake Cave.

The Wan Snake Cave's opening was only 100 meters in circumference, but you could smell its stench from far away.

Just the smell of the cave was enough to make most people dizzy and Wan Snake Cave had so much poison inside it that it could clearly be sensed from the outside.

The boys would not dare to go too close to the Wan Snake Cave, so they elected the 2 strongest boys from among themselves who then talked and laughed as they walked away carrying Bi Fan towards the cave.

Chapter 2 – The Strangely Wonderful Lotus

“well....”

Bi Fan did not know how long he had been unconscious.

“Ah!....” he cried out in pain, as severe pain shook his body.

Bi Fan tried to move, only to discover that his whole body had fallen apart, he was unable to move even an inch.

Gently moving one part of the body at a time was possible, but the pain was unbearable.

Bi Fan’s life meant absolutely nothing to anyone. As soon as he was in coma, the boys at the orchard abandoned him and threw him into the cave.

There were a lot of forks (side roads) inside the Wan Snake Cave, forks are very slimy and moist. These naturally occurring structures are exceptionally good for the survival of snakes.

The fork that Bi Fan had fallen into was not very steep but extremely smooth, because of which he had slid a long way down.

Knocks and bumps on the way down were inevitable, but unfortunately for him, not fatal.

Bi Fan's fragile body was broken in at least a dozen places, having survived till now was nothing short of a miracle.

Incapable of movement, coupled with intense pain made it impossible for Bi fan to even fall asleep. All he could do was look around from the corner of his eyes.

After days, maybe weeks, in the pitch-black darkness, he saw a faint light drizzling like rain at a distance.

He gnashed his teeth to hold back the pain; he tried changing his body's angle in hope of moving forward.

His plight was already hopeless, but Bi Fan nevertheless couldn't abandon hope.

He still had faith, that if he showed strength and resolve, he could still survive this.

He struggled for an hour; his clothes were drenched in sweat and sweat dripped from his forehead like raindrops.

Bi Fan stubbornly groaned in pain, he groaned and groaned.

His persistence eventually paid off, Bi Fan had found the proper angle to move forward.

A perfectly straight purple stem whose top seemed to be infused

into the sky appeared in front of his eyes. He looked up, the purple stem was over 5 meters tall, on top of the stem was a flower, a huge flower.

Radius of flower was at least 1 meter, complete with 36 petals, black and white in color. 18 petals were black, 18 were white.

Bi Fan looked at this exquisite flower as its glistening white petals lit up the surroundings.

Purple stem had round disk-like green leaves that resembled a lotus. But these leaves were smaller than lotus.

Next to the green leaves was a pool of milky white liquid, the liquid constantly produced bubbles. The bubbles were dissipating into a mist which was being absorbed by the white petals.

“Wannian spirit milk!” Bi Fan was astonished beyond description, he had heard of the Wannian spirit milk, so he instantly recognized it.

Bathing in the essence of Wannian spirit milk was enough to completely change a person’s body.

Moreover, the Wannian spririt milk was capable of harmoniously mixing with various herbs while refining Dan. It greatly increased the power of Dan making it a lot more effective.

Bi Fan did not have the slightest clue what this odd shaped, black

and white, lotus like flower was, let's just call it "yin yang lotus".

As soon as he saw the Wannian spirit milk, hope surged through his existence.

Consuming a single drop of it would make his physique immeasurably superior, his body would finally be fit for cultivation.

It was Bi Fan's dream to practice, his dream was right in front of him, yet out of reach.

The wannian spirit milk was less than 15 meters away, but in Bi Fan current condition, it felt like it was across a far horizon.

As Bi Fan's body reluctantly moved, moving the next inch was becoming harder than the previous one. The pain kept growing exponentially.

"I must not give up, I will not give up, never...." The new found hope in Bi Fan urged him.

Bi Fan, brimming with excitement, forgot about the pain. A line of blood trailed him as he continued to creep forward.

Suddenly the white petals starting radiating again, a thick mist floated above it. The cave shimmered in its light, as its fragrance drifted around the cave.

As he inhaled the scent, his spirits lifted. Even the pain started to subside.

He pushed himself to crawl forward, surprisingly, moving a few centimeters was a lot less painful now.

But Bi Fan's excitement was short lived. As his nose filled with stench, he heard a rustling sound.

“Poison!” he guessed.

As countless snakes emerged, Bi Fan saw the true colors of poison. Amongst these were pythons, as thick as a bucket.

“This cannot happen to me”, Bi Fan still didn't want to give up. He couldn't move as countless snakes crept closer.

Fear flooded Bi Fan's conscious. Regardless of so many snakes, Bi Fan did not lose confidence. But he was just a 14 year old boy, injured, incapable of movement.

The snakes went right past his side, paying no attention to him. They were obviously attracted to the exquisite scent of the flower.

Bi Fan relaxed as the tails of those thick pythons swept away.

“Ah!...” Bi Fan exhaled a sigh of relief.

The power of a python was more than that of Zhu San. His body, unable to bear the exhaustion, started to fall apart, and let out a loud crackling sound as his bones shattered.

There was still a long way ahead, and Bi Fan started to lose consciousness.

As Bi Fan's internal organs smashed to pieces by his cracking bones, coincidentally, the yin yang lotus stooped down. Blood from his body splashed and landed on top of the exquisite petals.

The yin yang lotus instantly absorbed his blood. And suddenly, the black petals emitted a black light, and gave off a dark gas.

The dark gas became even darker as it reached out and started to lift Bi Fan's body in the air.

Upon seeing the black gas, the snakes were overcome with fear. They started to crawl away; even the pythons were no exceptions.

Then the black petals ejaculated several black threads, these threads enter the bodies of the snakes in no time and the snakes vanquished. The threads continued to expand for a while then rescinded back inside the black petal.

Bi Fan knew that no one will believe what he was witnessing for he, himself found it hard to digest. He was now afraid of facing the same fate as the snakes.

After finishing its task, the black petals moved a few times, they seemed awfully excited.

Soon after, the black petals began to collect the dark gas, and Bi Fan found himself falling to the ground as the gas cloud around him loosened.

The white petals shot a pure white mist that started taking the shape of an enormous cocoon encompassing Bi fan.

Inside the white cocoon, Bi Fan fell into a serene sleep. As the white mist entered his shattered body, it began to heal.

The white fog's ability to heal was miraculous.

Bi Fan, who had been on the verge of death started breathing evenly, color returned to his pale face.

For 5 days and 5 night, the white mist didn't go back into the petal as it remained there, surrounding Bi Fan.

Slowly the mist began to fade away as Bi Fan still hovered above the ground.

Over the past 5 days, his injuries had fully healed, but Bi Fan was still asleep.

In the last five days, Bi Fan had completely transformed. He had gained at least 20 centimeters in height, his body had become a lot sturdier, his skin had become white, and very, very shiny.

He had completely changed, almost as if he had been reborn. So much so, that even if the old man Xing resurrected from his grave, wouldn't be able to recognize him.

The yin yang lotus began acting up again, it's and leaves began moving forward. It came in contact with Bi Fan and in a flash, disappeared without a trace.

After the yin yang lotus disappeared from the cave, the cave became dark again, very dark.

Chapter 3 – The Three Treasures

“ok..”

Bi Fan issued a comfortable sigh as he woke up.

As he opened his eyes, he was surprised to find himself at least 3 meters off the ground, floating mid-air.

“Ah...!” Bi Fan screamed, as he fell down.

With a splash Bi fan fell into a pool of Wannian Spirit Milk.

Bi Fan swallowed several big mouthfuls as he fell into the liquid.

After struggling for a while he realized that the few feet of Wannian Spirit Milk was insufficient to drown him. The pool of Wannian Spirit milk was deep enough to reach his chest.

The pool had a radius of over five meters, Bi Fan was amazed to find such a massive amount of Wannian Spirit Milk.

“I am freely able to access so much Wannian Spirit Milk” Bi Fan was amazed, he could barely believe his luck, he felt like he was dreaming.

For such a long time he had fantasized about Wannian Spirit Milk, but could never procure it. But now, he had found so much

of it, he couldn't contain his happiness.

Bi Fan gulped several mouthfuls of the Wannian Spirit Milk, in fact he kept drinking till he couldn't swallow any more of it. Wannian Spirit Milk had an amazing healing ability but it wasn't an easy substance to digest, it gave Bi Fan a headache.

It took some time for Bi Fan's head to clear up. To his surprise, he realized that he could see the objects around him even though it was very dark. Slowly as his vision got brighter, he could see everything distinctly.

Bi Fan rubbed his eyes in excitement, amazed at his new-found nightvision.

After he calmed down a bit, he started walking towards the shore, one step at a time.

"Splash" he went flying into the pool of Wannian Spirit Milk once again, as his foot slipped over a slippery circular object at the bottom of the pool.

Bi Fan felt somewhat strange, this thing didn't seem to resemble a stone, what was it doing at the bottom of the pool?

Out of curiosity, Bi fan bent over to pick up the object. The object turned out to be a purple colored bottle gourd. The top of the bottle guard carried an unusually delicate engraving of a bagua map.

The purple bottle gourd instantly captured his attention. He looked at it closely but couldn't identify its meaning.

Bi Fan liked this purple bottle gourd, this would enable him to carry some of the Wannian Spirit Milk with him.

Bi Fan reached the edge of the pool and opened the bottle gourd's cork and turned it upside down, only to find that it was empty.

So he quickly started collecting the Wannian Sprit Milk in the bottle gourd.

Bi Fan was very excited as he watched the Wannian Spirit Milk flow into the purple bottle gourd.

Even though the Wannian Spirit Milk had given him a headache, he wanted to carry as much of it as possible.

Although a lot of the liquid had already flown into the small bottle gourd, it was still taking in more of the Wannian Spririt milk. It's Capacity baffled Bi Fan.

“Could this be a magic utensil?” he speculated.

He had faintly heard about magical tools from the monastery located beneath Quingyang door.

Even the most inferior of martial artists were said to be making use of such tools. In fact, most martial artists in the fetus jie were said to use such tools.

Such tools could be used to provide power to martial artists. Using such tools made the fetus practitioners a lot more powerful, the better the quality of the tool, the more power it could provide.

It is said that there are magical tools, tools of such extraordinary strength that they are capable of providing enough power to destroy countries.

But these were all myths, and Bi Fan had never believed in them.

Bi Fan picked up the gourd and looked inside it, to his surprise, it seemed bottomless and empty.

Whether the gourd was magical or not, made no difference to Bi Fan, as long as it could collect more of the Wannian Spirit Milk. He continued to pore more and more of the liquid into the gourd.

He continued to collect Wannian Spirit Milk in the gourd for an hour, even the pool seemed to reduce in quantity but the gourd still appeared empty.

He wrapped the purple bottle gourd around his waist, then secured the hold by wrapping it around a few more times from the fear of losing it.

At last, Bi Fan started looking around for a way out.

He recalled his encounter with the snakes earlier and figured that maybe that's why the cave was called the Wan Snake Cave.

Bi Fan did not want to stay in the cave for long, he had survived this long due to good fate or karma, but he did not want to push his luck too far.

Suddenly, he found a wall which had a weapon thrust into it, so deep, that only its hilt was visible.

Bi Fan ran over to the wall and saw a silver ring hanging from the handle with the help of a string.

Without a moment's hesitation, he untied the ring and wore it, assuming that it was valuable.

The handle was red in color; it appeared as if it had blood flowing inside it. The blood appeared to be gleaming as if it was infused with rays of pure light.

Bi Fan hesitated for a moment, then he reached over and grasped the handle in his hand.

The size of the handle seemed just right for Bi Fan, it appeared as if the handle was tailor-made for him. For some reason, he felt like he was holding someone's hand rather than a handle, he could feel the blood flowing through the hilt.

Bi Fan pulled hard at the hilt in an attempt to pull it out.

The weapon however, did not even budge. No matter how much force he applied, it always seemed to bear the same result.

What to do now?

He wasn't going to give up so easily; he knew that it wasn't the weapon's fault.

“Maybe the weapon needs to identify its master by blood!” Bi Fan contemplated as magical weapons often shared a bond of blood with their masters. So he decided to try it out.

Bi Fan bit his index finger and dropped the blood onto the handle.

As soon as the handle came in contact with his blood, the handle absorbed it. And suddenly, it issued a gleaming ray of light that encompassed Bi Fan's hand.

Without a warning, the handle started sucking in Bi Fan's blood quickly; he found his body was shrouded in a thin layer of blood-like mist. The blood loss was clearly affecting Bi Fan, he was scared.

Bi Fan weakened, his vision started to blur and he could no

longer raise his hand to hold the handle.

Fortunately, the handle stopped leeching onto his blood in time. Otherwise Bi Fan would have definitely died due to excessive blood loss.

The technique worked. Not only could Bi fan hold the weapon, he could also feel its presence, almost as if the weapon was connect to his mind.

The weapon's name was Xue Ren(bloodshed). It had belonged to the devil monarchs for generations. The weapon continued to impart information to Bi Fan, it even told him the secret fighting techniques of its previous masters.

The weapon then emerged out of the wall and placed itself firmly in Bi Fan's grip.

Xue Ren had a long handle, it was magnanimously heavy, the double-edged sword appeared as if it was only single-edged. At the front of the sword were six sharp teeth; tooth shaped and hollow shaped, as if they were customized to suck onto someone's blood.

Upon seeing the thirst for blood inside Bi Fan's eye, Xue Ren seemed awfully pleased.

Bi Fan wasn't sure if he could move, but he was sure that Xue Ren was not just any other magical weapon. Magical tools and weapons were not supposed to have a mind of their own, their only function

was to boost their master's strength.

Bi Fan rested for a while, he wanted to try giving his blood to the ring and the bottle gourd. He wanted to see if they too would recognize him as their master.

He thought for a long time, but he decided to drop the idea for the time being, he had lost too much blood, to try it now could turn out to be very dangerous.

As he looked at the three treasures, he wondered if there could be more of such magical treasures hidden in the cave, he continued to search as he wanted more.

Eventually, he was disappointed to realize that the cave was empty.

As he had been in an excited state of mind this entire time, he had forgotten about the yin yang lotus and didn't realize that it had disappeared from the cave.

After searching the cave for almost half a day, he remembered about the yin yang lotus.

Bi Fan was sure that the yin yang lotus was no ordinary thing, as even the Wannian Spirit milk, such a precious and rare commodity hadn't disappeared the way the yin yang lotus had.

This entire time, Bi Fan didn't see a single snake, he wondered

where they all went.

And then all his injuries were now cured, his body as good as new, only significantly stronger.

All this left Bi Fan completely bewildered, he didn't know what to make of this, or how and why this happened to him.

Chapter 4 – Tianyuan Ring

Bi Fan knew that he couldn't stay in the cave any longer, his top priority now was to find a way out.

Even if he didn't encounter any more snakes, surviving inside the cave, wouldn't be possible without food.

The cave had only one way out, the same path from where Bi Fan had been thrown in. The path that lead to the exit was at an upwards angle of approximately sixty degrees.

Bi Fan tried to climb, but the path was extremely smooth and glossy, he realized that no matter how much effort he puts into it, climbing with his hands wasn't going to work.

“How did I forget about Xue Ren?” Bi Fan realized, pleasantly surprised.

Just the thought of it made Xue Ren present itself in Bi Fan's hand.

Bi Fan picked up Xue Ren and started hacking small pits to make his way up the cave, slowly and steadily.

After some time, he dug a bigger pit so he could settle down and rest for a while.

If the Xue Ren's previous owners found out that Bi Fan was using their famed weapon Xue Ren to dig pits, they would definitely rise from their graves.

Digging so many pits had made him tired, he decided to wait for a while, catch his breath, and then continue on his path.

Bi Fan had no idea how long the passage was, he had been continuously digging for over an hour, he still couldn't see any sign of the exit, or any light.

Suddenly, Bi Fan heard a rustling sound, he became very nervous, his body was cold with sweat.

“Snakes!”

Bi Fan was extremely afraid of snakes, he had spent ten long years at Quinyang Door, so naturally, he had heard an awful lot about the Wan Snake Cave.

Wan Snake Cave was the Qingyang Mountain's most frightful location, just the thought of it made people tremble with fear.

So being inside the cave made him feel very uneasy, he had been on the edge the entire time.

Bi Fan ran up some steps and realized the path ahead of him was covered with numerous snakes, big and small, so many, that counting their number wasn't possible.

“AAH!” Bi Fan was so scared that he almost lost his balance, he continued to breathe heavily as he tried to calm himself down.

Bi Fan was not willing to give up, but he was full of resentment.

“ARGHH!” Bi Fan roared, “I cannot die, never.....”

Just then, Bi Fan’s eyes flashed a dark gas, and it violently surged out of his body.

Those vipers rustled, almost as if they were afraid of Bi Fan, they started crawling away from him.

Bi Fan was completely puzzled by this incident, he had no idea how it happened.

He didn’t think much into it, getting out of the cave was his top concern right now.

Since the encounter with snakes, Bi Fan accelerated his work, he kept digging, tirelessly.

Finally, after two hours, Bi Fan got the first glimpse of daylight, he felt very relieved.

Soon, Bi Fan reached the end of the channel, he looked down at the path as he stood at the edge of cliff, he felt like cursing.

After much difficulty, he had finally managed to climb on top. Now, he was presented with another challenge.

The path that connected the cave to the exit, was around ten meters long, extremely smooth and glossy. On top of that, it was studded with snakes, snakes that weren't moving away upon seeing Bi Fan.

Instead of complaining, Bi Fan started to think, he need to figure out a way.

He was on top of the cliff, below him was a bottomless abyss, on top of that, numerous snakes stood in his path, taking one wrong step could mean the end of his existence.

Bi Fan stood there for a long time and observed, but he couldn't come up with a fool proof method, the only way out, was to take the risk.

Even though he had managed to come up the passage, he wasn't ready to make such a bold move.

After a few hours of crossing the channel, Bi Fan had realized that his strength and endurance had been greatly enhanced, and his body had become a lot sturdier.

Bi Fan did not know that the yin yang lotus was the reason that his injuries were healed, he thought it was because of the Wannian

Spirit Milk that his body had undergone this phenomenal alteration.

He thought to himself, with his new found strength, and the additional safety of Xue Ren, crossing this hurdle might only require a fraction of his ability.

He continued to rest for a while, once he regained his strength, he began to climb.

He applied the same technique, he cut out a portion of the wall, using it as leverage to place his hand. Step by step he started his ascend.

Because this wall was a lot steeper than the channel, the difficulty of climbing it, was at least 10 times greater.

By the time Bi Fan had climbed half of the wall, he felt exhausted, his clothes were drenched in sweat.

His teeth were gnashed together to prevent him from screaming in pain as he continued to struggle, sweat streamed into his eyes and mouth, but he continued forward, ignoring it all. His hands and fingers were bleeding, but Bi Fan was too busy to bother himself over it.

“Hoof!” he gasped as he finally exited the cave. He screamed and cheered even though he did not have any energy left in him.

“AARGHHH!!!” he roared for a while, venting out all his agitation and anger.

After all, there was no one living on this side of the hill, so he wasn't bothered about disturbing anyone.

Before he had time to rest, the thought of the Wannian Spirit Milk came into his head, Bi Fan had kept it in the bottle gourd which was tied to his waist.

Bi Fan had forgotten that his hands were bleeding, some of his blood dripped onto the bottle gourd.

The purple bottle gourd shone with a purple light, due to Bi Fan's blood, it was actually trying to identify its master's blood.

“This is also a magical utensil!” Bi Fan cried out in excitement.

Like Xue Ren, the bottle gourd also connected to his mind and gave him some information about itself.

The bottle gourd was named Babao (eight treasures), it had been in the possession of Buddhist immortals for generations, its function wasn't just to carry treasures, but wine as well. It had fourteen different sections inside it, each to hold a different kind of wine.

In addition to this, the bottle gourd also told Bi Fan how to operate it, how to add contents to it and how to take them out. It

also gave him a picture as to how he could store items inside the gourd.

Bi Fan realized the he can refine and store sacrifice in it and they could later be used to boost his body at a time of need.

To successfully refine a sacrifice, he would need the complete knowledge of the bottles gourd's interiors. It contained sixty four sections in total, ten of which were meant to carry wine and an additional four if the wine lovers made it overflow.

Furthermore, there was also a small space inside it where the Wannian Spirit Milk could be stored.

Babao also taught him the various ways to manipulate itself, Bi Fan realized that he could easily store large pools of water inside Babao in a flash without any trouble, using just his mind.

He had been playing around with Babao for a while, but then he realized that he had been standing right next to the cave, so he quickly moved away.

He went to the forest where he decided to stop and rest.

Inside the Wan Snake Cave, he had found three treasures, two of which were definitely magical in nature. So now he wanted to know about the ring's origin.

After experiencing Babao, Bi Fan knew that not all magical

objects require a huge amount of blood to identify their master.

He put Babao aside and dropped a drop of blood onto the faucet of the ring, the ring instantly absorbed his blood.

Bi Fan now connected to the ring and found out a lot about its origination.

The Tianyuan ring, was a secret library. Tianyuan house was one of the ancient factions, and this ring was a source to their secrets. The treasure of knowledge inside the ring was vast and endless.

Nevertheless, the Tianyuan ring still had an awful lot space inside it, and it would continue to increase as the strength of its master increased.

In addition to this, the Tianyuan ring had several other functions, but Bi Fan was not strong enough access them for the time being.

After linking to the three objects, Bi Fan's excitement had died down.

So he began to think about the next step.

He really wanted to leave the Quinyang Mountains, but at present he knew he wasn't strong enough.

If he stayed here, he could not reveal his identity to anyone, not that people would believe him anyway. In just a few days, he had gained 20 centimeters in height, and his body had become a lot sturdier. Even his face structure had changed, his face was no longer sleek and slim but a lot more resolute, furthermore, his skin had become many shades fairer.

Even Bi Fan couldn't recognize himself, let alone others.

Just then Bi Fan heard the sound of danger nearby, a frail shout; it appeared like a woman was in the middle of a combat.

Bi Fan decided to take a closer look, he cautiously moved closer to the sound.

Through the under bush, Bi Fan saw a woman dressed in pure white clothes, her hair were as white as snow, fighting with three large bears.

Bi Fan's line of sight was being blocked by a large bear, but he could see that the woman had an elegant body, her posture, the way she attacked and retreated was extremely graceful, it almost appeared as if she was dancing. She was definitely an expert.

Bi Fan was not able to see her clearly, but her figure transcended anything he had ever seen.

Hiding in the bushes, his eyes continuously and unceremoniously gazed at the woman, her waist, her hips. He remained there,

mesmerized.

Chapter 5 – The Woman Turns

The woman in white was holding a sword, her agility reflected her smartness, and her movements were subtle.

Defeating a bear would require a formidable amount of strength, even if a bear managed to wrap a single paw around a man, he could instantly crush all the bones.

The woman in white seemed afraid to let the bear close, as the bear's skin, was as hard as iron. She hit the bear with her sword, the bear backed away momentarily, but not even a single fur on its body was scathed.

As Bi Fan attentively watched, the sword in the woman's hand flickered, he was astonished when he realized that the sword was double-edged, he knew that this woman was about as strong as any in this territory.

He wondered how extraordinary this bear must be, that even a double-edged sword can't hurt it. He stared at the rough skin that covered its flesh.

“Xiaofeng, come back, there is nothing you can do about such a large bear” a melodious, and extremely sweet voice called.

The sound of another person surprised Bi Fan, he hadn't realized that there was another person in the vicinity.

The woman in white withdrew; she took a few side steps to ensure that she stayed away from the bears.

“Miss, this bear’s skin is too thick, I wish I had a magic weapon, I could have dealt with it then.”

“You, kid, you have peeped enough, now come out of there” the woman who had spoken earlier, spoke again, clearly directing her words towards Bi Fan.

Bi Fan smoothed out his clothes to make sure that he was dressed properly, and then he walked out of the bush.

As he came near, he saw the two women standing side by side, two tall girls, their posture reflected their pride, by the looks of it, he guessed their age to be around sixteen or seventeen.

The one who had been dueling with the bears was still holding the sword.

The girl’s eyebrows were pale, she had a small nose, a long mouth and her skin was as white as snow. Her eyes were fixed at Bi Fan, still on guard, anxiously, which made Bi Fan nervous.

The other girl comparatively, was maybe ten centimeters taller, she had big eyes and willow-colored eyebrows, an oval face, a cherry like nose, color as white as snow and tender lips.

She issued qualities that were very rare, like a flower in snow,

qualities that seemed unworldly.

Bi Fan had no idea what she was thinking; the look on her face had not changed.

Bi Fan had never seen such beautiful woman around here before, he was ecstatic.

“What are you doing out here in the wild, you could get killed” the woman who had been fighting the bears yelled. The other girl open her mouth to say something but kept it to herself.

“Ladies, my intention was not to peep, I just happened to be passing by, so when I heard the sound of fighting, I came closer to take a look. I didn’t mean to offend you, please forgive me” Bi Fan quickly said.

The two tall girls’ eyes were fixed at Bi Fan as if they were trying to see through him.

“Are you from Quinyang? Why are you here in the mountains?”

Bi Fan hesitated; he did not know how to explain things.

“Miss has asked you a question, answer her question immediately!” the girl still hold her sword looked at him ferociously.

Bi Fan decided to truthfully narrate his story: “I work at the medicine garden for boys, because I was unable to finish my task, the manager, Zhu San knocked me into coma, when I woke up, I found myself here in the mountains.”

He made no mention of the Wan Snake Cave.

The girl still staring at Bi Fan asked: “you would dare to lie?”

“No, please try to see the truth miss!”

“Your eyes are clear, so I doubt if you’re lying, once we return, we will enquire into this matter, and you seem to know the ins and outs of this area as well.” The woman reasoned, and then asked: “What is your name?”

“My name is Bi Fan.”

“You will accompany us to Quinyang door, if you speak the truth then later you can come with us to Yunufeng and help me take care of the medicine orchards there.”

Hearing the name of Yunufeng alarmed Bi Fan.

Yunufeng is the overlord of Quinyang Door, and is considered to be the best place to learn martial arts in this region, its master was Yan Yu Si. It was forbidden to enter the mountains without Yan Yu Si’s permission.

Bi Fan concluded that the woman in front of him must be Yan Yu Si.

Yunufeng was not only known across the country for its beautiful landscapes but was also worshipped for its nine talented martial art schools. One of which was the Xuannu palace door(school).

Bi Fan thought that running into Yan Yu Si could be his ultimate achievement.

“Miss, you really want to take him to Yunufeng?” the girl named Xiaofeng asked with some urgency, as she wasn’t at ease when it came to Bi Fan.

Yan Yu Si said: “Xiaofeng, upon our return, you will investigate Bi Fan’s situation, but in secrecy”.

“Yes! Miss.”

Bi Fan finally relaxed, and shifted his attention from Yan Yu Si to the mountain ahead. If he could reach Yunufeng, then, in the future he need not worry about his identity.

As far as Zhu San and the other boys were concerned, Bi Fan had no intention of letting them get away. Sooner or later, they would have to pay for what they did to him.

“Let’s head back to Yunufeng.”

Yan Yu Si was awfully fast on her feet, Bi Fan was running as fast he could but was still only barely able to match her pace.

Bi Fan knew that the difference in his strength and that of the two women, was far too great.

Yan Yu Si slowly kept increasing the speed and nodded with satisfaction to see that Bi Fan was able to keep up somehow.

Yan Yu Si followed Bi Fan’s movements closely, from time to time she would look at him from head to toe, she knew he wasn’t ordinary at all, but was unaware of it himself.

She told Bi Fan to stay inside Yunufeng at all times as it will be easier to find him later on.

The Quinyang Mountains did not have just one peak, it was a collection of several peaks. One such peak was the headquarters of Quinyang Door.

Yunufeng was at a height of fifteen hundred meters, its greenery was the shade of jade, decorated with groupings of beautiful fragrant flowers.

They followed the snaking trail to the hilltop very quickly and finally reached Yunufeng.

The Yunufeng summit, only had a few bamboo sheds and a few girls, who were sitting around a set of small tables and giggling.

Upon seeing Yan Yu Si return, the girls got up and greeted her “Miss is safe and sound.”

“Please continue” waved Xiaofeng.

Several of the girls dispersed in confusion, occasionally gazing and sizing up Bi Fan.

No man had ever stepped into Yunufeng, Bi Fan was the first.

Yan Yu Si after returning to Yunufeng had gone inside a bamboo shed and closed the door. She didn't come out after that.

“Bi Fan, find yourself a suitable piece of land and build a bamboo shed. Remember, don't already consider yourself a citizen of Yunufeng, if I find out that you lied, I will throw you down the hill.”

“Yes!” without saying much, Bi Fan started to look for a suitable piece of land.

If he did not build a shed quickly, then he would have to sleep out in the open. At night, a lot of dew settled on to the Quinyang Mountains, furthermore the wind got much colder; sleeping out in

the open was no joke.

Bi Fan quickly found a piece of land, land suitable for building a shed. He found a place at some distance from that of Yan Yu Si's so he could stay away from trouble.

Yunufeng only had girls, so they might all possibly avoid Bi Fan.

Bi Fan was awfully conscious of his status, he couldn't even dream of comparing himself to Yan Yu Si, but to even compare himself with Xiaofeng, a mere slave girl was of no use, for she too was an awful lot stronger than him.

Bi Fan had no noble merits, at least none that he was aware of.

Moreover, Bi Fan was now capable of practicing martial arts, with the hope of cultivating in the future. It was important for him to do so now, so he could at least reach the status of some of those girls.

Yunufeng had a lot of bamboo; Bi Fan, using the resources at hand and was able to finish building his shelter before nightfall. He had set up a humble bamboo shed, he finally had a place to take shelter.

Bi Fan was very satisfied with his shed; it was a lot better than the one he occupied in Quinyang Door. Moreover, now he wouldn't have to worry about getting bullied at night.

Bi Fan slept soundly that night, he even dreamt. He dreamt of practicing his way to become a peerless master, and he dreamt of marrying Yan Yu Si.

Chapter 6 – Longevity Burst

Bi Fan was accustomed to getting up early in the morning, so he got up early and continued to build his bamboo shed.

He figure that in the future, when he leaves the Yunufeng, the long term inhabitants of this place would benefit from it.

He however, was unaware of the fact that Xiaofeng had already done her inquiry and indeed, had found out that Zhu San had beaten him unconscious and thrown him behind the mountain.

Xiaofeng had used her sources to find out that Zhu San along with the other boys at the orchard had beaten Bi Fan up, and carried him behind the mountain to get rid of him.

However, Bi fan's cover was circled around a lie. But Bi Fan was confident that even if someone found out that he was thrown into the Wan Snake Cave, he would somehow be able to explain himself.

“Xiaofeng, you will help Bi Fan settle down, if I'm not around for any length of time, you will pay special attention to him, in addition to your existing responsibility of taking care of Quinyang Door. You will also teach him Wan Zu fist (boxing) technique, and keep in mind his whereabouts, and later you will be responsible for teaching him the successive techniques. ” Yan Yu Si had decided, after finding out that Bi Fan had been truthful.

Wan Zu fist might sound very domineering, but it was only

considered an introductory technique, and was no secret either in Tian Yu world, as it had been circulated for generations around the world.

Since Wan Zu fist had spread so much, naturally ever place had its own unique style of doing it.

Wan Zu fist, is used to increase the strength of a martial artist in order to make their bodies suitable for further training.

Bi Fan was working with a lot of energy and his shed looked a lot better.

Soon enough Xiaofeng came to Bi Fan and told him, : “As long as you stay in Yunufeng, you will be required to take special care of the medicine orchard, if you ever need anything, you can come to me.”

“Yes! Yes!.....” Bi Fan nodded, humbly.

Xiaofeng was very satisfied to see Bi Fan’s obedience.

“I will go and take a look at the medicine orchard, and take I will extra care of any special herbs or potions.”

Yunufeng had a large medicine orchard, it had various herbs, and hundreds of species, of these, at least a dozen or so were extremely valuable.

Bi Fan was given a large amount of work, but he didn't hesitate. Compared to his past, this was going to be an easy task, and on top of that, he was only required to look after the Panacea(Legendary magic potions).

Xiaofeng gave Bi Fan some reading material on Wan Zu fist and permitted him to leave so he could practice.

Xiaofeng, whose full name was Yu Xiaofeng, tended to Yan Yu Si, as her personal maid.

Incapable of going to Xuannu palace to practice with Yan Yu Si, she always stayed in the mountains and looked after Yunufeng on Yan Yu Si's behalf.

To call Xiaofeng a servant would be inappropriate; she was very powerful and quite popular with others.

After he was handed the Wan Zu fist technique's book, he got very excited and returned to his residence.

Ever since he was a child, he had always dreamed of practicing martial arts.

But his physique was poor, he was not able to practice, and even if he was able to practice, he would have never been able to learn secret martial art techniques.

But now, his physique had changed, he was strong and healthy, he was able to practice and learning secret martial art techniques could be possible in the future. He had a run of good luck in the darkest of moments.

Bi Fan could barely contain his excitement; he opened the Wan Zu fist technique book and began reading.

In the past, in order to take care of herbs and Panacea, he had learnt a lot about them from ancient texts, and now they were finally going to come in handy.

Wan Zu fist technique was actually quite simple; it consisted of a total of twelve strokes, which were designed to work different parts of the body to enhance strength.

In the Wan Zu fist book that had been given to him, pictures were illustrated above and their explanations were given below, making it very easy for him to understand.

After Bi Fan had carefully gone through the text several times, he finally began his first practice.

Long fist....splits....legs sweep...crane wings....

Bi Fan was very serious, and one by one, he started polishing his technique and style.

After a day's labor, Bi Fan had already managed to form a drill for

Wan Zu fist.

Unaware of his progress, he still felt very relaxed, but his strength had increased beyond his knowledge.

Bi Fan did not know how strong a force he could muster, but he reckoned that he might have surpassed the two hundred jin mark.

Strong body, that had always been Bi Fan's dream, unconsciously was now turning into a reality, Bi Fan still couldn't believe that he was living his dream.

Practice. Practice and then some more practice.....

Bi Fan was so excited, that he forgot about food and sleep, he kept practicing till late at night.

Bi Fan knew that he wasn't strong enough to go up against Zhu San yet, he was aware that it's too soon to take his revenge.

But Bi Fan was very stubborn, right down to his bones, he wanted to increase his strength as soon as possible, so he could finally take his revenge.

The next morning, a servant arrived at his shed to deliver food, Bi Fan had just finished practicing.

The communal food in Yunufeng was pretty good, which was a

huge plus as he wouldn't have to cook with his own hands, giving him more time to practice.

After breakfast, he went to the medicine orchard; today was his first day as the in charge of the medicine orchard. He decided that the situation of the nursery should be clearly set in his mind; it would come in handy if a problem arose in the future.

Bi Fan didn't want to stay in Yunufeng for long. He was aware that if other workers starting asking questions about his past, then it might not be possible for him to survive in Yunufeng.

Medicine orchard had a lot of Panacea inside it, Bi Fan observed them very carefully, and he examined each and every plant.

Pruning, weeding, fertilizing, transplanting.....

Bi Fan knew this all too well, he was able to do these tasks with great skill and efficiency.

He spent the entire day inside the medicine orchard, even though he had put in a hard day's work, Bi Fan was still in a very good mood.

Xiaofeng was still looking after Bi Fan, every day she came to deliver his meals, regardless of whether Bi Fan went to work or not, this left Bi Fan with a lot of time to practice.

Once Bi Fan had familiarized himself with the work, he was able

to finish the work that had been assigned to him in just a few hours and he could allocate the rest of the day to himself.

Bi Fan was trying to enhance his strength as soon as possible, he didn't waste any time resting, and his focus was on his practice.

Perhaps the Wannian Spirit Milk had also made him very energetic, because sometimes he would practice till late night and still wouldn't feel tired.

Furthermore, his power was increasing rapidly, and along with that his speed.

Every day he could feel his strength improving, Bi Fan was extremely excited, that goes without saying.

Not only that, every day Bi Fan's body was becoming sturdier, the fragile old Bi Fan ceased to exist.

As time flew, Bi Fan had now been in Yunufeng for a month now. Yan Yu Si had left Yunufeng a few days ago, but before leaving she had advised Bi Fan to prepare for the entrance exams of the martial art schools.

At that time, Bi Fan had thought that his ears were not functioning properly; he thought he had misheard her.

Yan Yu Si could see the greatness in him, in less than a month his power had reached 800 jin, he was already strong enough to store

energy and wasn't far from being considered in the 'martial strength' bracket.

There was a time when Bi Fan was considered an absolute waste, he was incapable of practicing, his strength was lesser than that of an average person.

Before leaving, Yan Yu Si had personally given Bi Fan a secret message — longevity burst.

In Quinyang, longevity burst was considered an introductory technique to store energy inside one's body. If done correctly, it could greatly increase a person's internal energy; this was a sign that a person was a disciple of martial arts.

Although it was only an introductory technique, Bi Fan knew that the boys at Quinyang Door will never be able to learn it. Even Zhu San would not be able to learn the secret technique of longevity burst.

Yan Yu Si had given Bi Fan this information with an ice cold look. Bi Fan however, had seen this in a completely different light, he was overwhelmed with emotions.

After breakfast Bi Fan really wanted to go out and practice, he really wanted to get back at Zhu San for those insults.

Unfortunately, Bi Fan was asked to wait until he reached the 'martial strength' mark, for the time being, he was asked to

concentrate on Wan Zu fist technique only.

Chapter 7 – He Announces His Return

As soon as he got back to his residence, Bi Fan started practicing.

He didn't care if he was being considered a genius or something; he just considered diligence to be a crucial thing.

Cultivation was a tough road, like rowing a boat against the current, if you stop, you move backwards.

This had been Yan Yu Si's sincere advice to Bi Fan; she hoped that it would take him to great heights in the future.

He would practice Wan Zu fist during the day and during the night he would mull over the ancient methods of blood devils.

The ancient technique of blood devil included inner breath; a person would have to hammer their body into shape in order to refine strength. This technique was all one needed.

It was said that using blood devil technique, a practitioner could possess a person by simple knowing their name. The practitioner could then make the said person, obey any command; this allowed practitioners to quickly kill their targets.

Bi Fan knew from Quinyang Door that the blood devil technique was not known to many people and was also a forbidden technique. So naturally, no tried to execute it.

Even though Bi Fan would soon be capable of practicing, he was determined to find out what the blood devil technique was capable of doing, although it would be a shame if he was caught.

So he decided to study for some time and see for himself, if it was possible to practice it.

After several nights of research, Bi Fan discovered that he would be able to practice several techniques of ancient blood devil, as long as people are unable to judge by his inner breath, so he decided to try it out.

Bi Fan found that ancient blood devil technique included several things such as poison, overcast, immense power ups, which later on could be used in a life threatening situations.

So eventually Bi Fan decided to learn the ancient blood devil technique, he would schedule those practices in the middle of the night to avoid being seen.

Bi Fan was convinced that there was nothing like the devil's path, it was all about strength for him.

He hadn't been brainwashed by anyone to follow the devil's path, he just wanted to be able to protect himself.

Bi Fan thought that as long as he doesn't reveal it to anyone, it was highly unlikely that he would be caught.

Ancient blood devil technique was indeed extraordinary. Bi Fan had only started refining his body and strength, which was only the first step; he was capable of doing Wan Zu fist a lot faster now.

Once he had tasted the sweetness, he could not give up on the ancient blood devil technique.

Ten days passed in the blink of an eye, Bi Fan's power was increasing rapidly, his Wan Zu fist power had reached over nine hundred and ninety jin, he was only a whisker away from 'martial strength' status.

But he felt stagnated, he couldn't get a breakthrough no matter how hard he practiced, he was unable to increase his strength even temporarily.

Hence, Bi Fan decided to explore alternate ancient blood devil techniques to increase his power.

Inability to expose his inner breadth was causing a hindrance to his practice of the ancient blood devil technique.

Moreover, practicing a technique without taking its advantages could assist the enemy.

Ordinary practitioners had no interest in inner breadth; they only learnt martial arts to refine their body and exercise.

Today, Bi fan had just finished looking after the Panacea in the

medicine orchard and returned to his residence only to find Xiaofeng standing outside, dressed in white. She looked very beautiful.

Xiaofeng, for her age, looked distinctly mature, her good looks, specially her proud chest invited glances from fantasizing men.

Although Bi Fan still looked young for his age. A few people were looking at them.

“Xiaofeng, what can I do for you?” Bi Fan greeted her.

Xiaofeng was surprised to see the change in Bi Fan, but she was aware of the people glancing at them: “Bi Fan, have you finished your work for the day?”

“Yes I have completed my work for the day.”

“Then, can you do me a favor and go away from the mountain for a few days for collecting and delivering supplies? Yunufeng is responsible for delivering supplies to your old friends in case of sickness, but since Yunufeng only has women, I don't have an option but to ask you for help. ”

Xiaofeng was speaking naturally without any trace of doubt.

“Sure, no problem.” Bi Fan instantly agreed.

Bi Fan was all too familiar with the location where supplies were given, the White Plains. There were many houses around the White Plains, mostly occupied by slaves, these people mostly did the odd-jobs, a lot of boys from the orchard also lived around the White Plains.

Bi Fan was supposed to go and examine the situation of his 'old acquaintances', he could not help but think about the orchard's steward, Zhu San and his colleague, Daniu, two of his biggest bullies.

They had left a very deep mark on Bi Fan, one that he will never be able to forget.

Xiaofeng, casually looking at Bi Fan, said: "Bi Fan, kindly also take some clothes for yourself, you have a big body, so you will require a bigger size of clothing."

To Xiaofeng, it may have been just a casual remark, but it warmed Bi Fan's heart, this was the first time anyone had spared a thought for him.

"Thank you, Xiaofeng."

This was the first time that he was leaving the Yunufeng in almost half a month.

Even though the journey down the mountain was bumpy, Bi Fan's spirit soared.

“Daniu, Zhu San, you two dogs, just you wait, I have suffered enough because of you two, now it’s time for payback.”

His heart cried for revenge as he walked down the mountain.

White plain is the outermost part of the Quinyang Mountains, a variety of materials were brought in from the outside and stored there.

It was a very busy area, always bustling with noise; the personnel in charge received a constant stream of supplies.

After arriving at the plain, there was no hurry to get supplies.

As he strolled around, Bi Fan decided to visit the medicine orchard.

Going back to the place where he had spent over a decade of his life, he felt a sad sensation.

This place was a sad memory for him, he didn’t want to ever return, and he wasn’t even willing to consider it.

But there could be some people who might miss him; he had to pay a visit.

Out of those two bullies, Daniu was the one whose behavior Bi

Fan could never forget.

So, Bi Fan decided to see his 'old friends', and announce his return.

Daniu's body was strong as an Ox, even though he didn't practice; he still had a strong body.

Daniu would often beat Bi Fan up, so he would help him in taking care of his tasks.

When he reached the orchard, the boys were having their meal; Bi Fan quickly scanned the place for Daniu, and found him feasting on his food.

"Daniu, I'm back!" Bi Fan shouted.

Daniu raised his head, and his eyes opened as wide as that of an Ox, looked at Bi Fan, but completely failed to recognize him.

"Who are you boy? Can't you see that I'm eating my meal, you dared to annoy me, I will kick your life out of you!"

Daniu didn't like to be disturbed when he was eating, it made him very, very angry.

"It's Bi Fan, you recognize me, right?" Bi Fan smiled.

Daniu muttered “I don’t recall anyone by that name, are you deliberately trying to pick a fight?”

Daniu, along with all the other boys were so accustomed to calling him ‘Idiot’, that they had completely forgotten his real name.

“Ah yes, well, you don’t even remember me, I’m the guy you used to bully and call ‘Idiot’, you haven’t forgotten that, have you?”

“No, how can you be ‘him’, you look nothing like him, but...Idiot is dead.” Daniu shook his head.

Bi Fan said: “Daniu, do you remember that day two years ago, you broke my hand, just to test your strength and....”

He wanted to recite a few more incidents from his miserable past; things that even a lifetime wouldn’t be enough, for him to forget.

“It’s you, Idiot!” Daniu’s mouth fell open in shock; he stared at Bi Fan as he was look at a ghost.

Chapter 8 – Greedy

Bi Fan slowly came close to Daniu; Daniu was very frightened and tried to stay back.

Daniu still couldn't believe that people could actually return after being thrown into the Wan Snake Cave and Bi Fan also looked as if he had undergone several changes.

Bi Fan walked closer and said: "Daniu, you threw me into the Wan Snake Cave; you never thought that I would be able to come out of it. I was afraid and helpless, so I secretly vowed, that if I ever survive, I would get back at you, and make you suffer a hundred thousand times more than you made me suffer."

"Now, finally I have managed to return, so today you will suffer the first installment of your penance."

Bi Fan was frowning, and his eyes had fire in them.

Daniu could not retreat, he couldn't move, as immense fear crippled him, all he could do was murmur: "Don't punish me, it wasn't me..... it wasn't me..... Zhu San ordered us to make things difficult for you...."

Daniu's pupils were dilated, his mouth wide open, he was frightened.

Bi Fan didn't pay any regard to mercy; he walked directed

towards Daniu, and pulled his arm.

“You pulled off my arm once; today I’ll break your limbs, so that you can sense the taste of disability.”

Bi Fan with all his agility, skill and technique, pulled at the Daniu’s limbs and dislocated them, one by one. He broke all but a few joints.

Daniu couldn’t scream as he fainted with the pain.

Bi Fan used the ancient Blood Devil technique, this technique could be used to break the wrong bones and tendons of the enemy as a means to torture them; in addition, it could also be used to control the enemy.

Bi Fan was able to fully utilize his skill for the first time, and backed with near ‘martial strength’, the results were amazing. Bi Fan was very satisfied.

He wasn’t done yet; Bi Fan splashed a bucket of water over Daniu, and woke him up.

“AH!.....” Daniu woke, and immediately screamed out in pain.

Bi Fan picked up some dirt from the ground and stuffed it into Daniu’s mouth, so he couldn’t say anything.

Bi Fan had woken Daniu up, so that he could enjoy the taste of pain, as it grew stronger and stronger.

“Daniu, I’m not done with you yet, I’ll be back for you, you cannot die; I will not let you die. And you tell Zhu San, I will come to see him soon.” Bi Fan said with a smile on his face.

Bi Fan strode away, he could taste his revenge in Daniu’s muffled screams; he felt good.

Time was running out, so Bi Fan decided to go and pick up the supplies.

“Every half a year, there is a contest for practitioners who aren’t enrolled into martial art schools. If you win the contest, you become a disciple of the secret martial arts at Quinyang, and you can then learn from the masters and practice the sacred teachings, I also heard that the top ten also get Dan as a reward.”

“Unfortunately, I’m three years too old to participate, but you are just the right age. Grab this opportunity and fight in the tournament.”

“We are trying to practice, let’s hope for the best results.”

In six months, the Quinyang schools of martial arts will conduct their annual martial arts contest to sort and select the best martial artists from outside the schools, only the good fighters participate, and only the extraordinary ones are taken in as secret disciples and

are trained in martial arts.

Under normal circumstances it is vital to practice the inner breath technique to become a disciple of the secret arts and sometimes one can also get in if they lose but manage to impress.

Outside practitioners, to put in bluntly are usually servants and slaves; fatigued, they are usually not capable of achieving the position.

These people keep arguing about becoming disciples of the secret arts.

But once you become a disciple of the secret arts, you can practice the sacred teachings; your power and status see an enormous rise.

Moreover, once someone becomes a disciple of the secret arts, they receive Dan on a monthly basis which helps them achieve a stable physical state and growth.

Even though some practitioners like Zhu San behave aggressively, if they want to be accepted as a disciple, they would have to conduct themselves with high integrity.

Bi Fan couldn't help as his heart raced at the thought. Moreover, six months was enough time for him to achieve the 'martial strength' status.

If Bi Fan could reach the 'martial strength' status, it would

increase his chances of getting a pretty good rank; he could easily win some Dan and might even be accepted as a disciple.

Bi Fan quickly collected the supplies, two large bags.

Earlier, Bi Fan had seemed a little anxious, but now he was very relaxed, he could carry the bags with great ease.

Yunufeng was at a towering height, Bi Fan was able to mountaineer to the top with two large and heavy bags, this was an indication that Bi Fan was within the reach of “martial strength”, as most people would not be able to do the task.

Night had already fallen, by the time he completed the task.

Once he returned, he washed himself and began his homework.

“Bi Fan, you are progressing really fast, even with two large bags, you were able to return to the mountain before nightfall.” Xiaofeng told him in a surprised tone.

This she had said intentionally to encourage him as she realized that he might be close to ‘martial strength’.

Since Yan Yu Si had asked her to take proper care of Bi Fan, she would naturally not slack in her role, so this behavior was rather interesting.

Each day, Bi Fan was either doing an important task or taking care of the herbs, but in recent days, he had noticed that almost twenty three Panacea had gone missing.

As he checked the soil for marks, he became even more suspicious “It’s strange, it seems that a small animal comes during the night, and eats the Panacea.”

That night, even though Bi Fan hadn’t finished his homework, he stayed behind in the orchard to guard the herbs and get to the bottom of the situation.

Bi Fan held his breath, stood there motionless. It was quite late at night when he finally saw movement.

All he could hear was a ‘rustling’ sound the grass was making, and then suddenly, a white lightening flashed in the orchard.

Bi Fan with his night vision could see everything, very distinctly, then suddenly, a small animal like creature appeared in his view.

The small animal was slightly bigger than the size of a fist, covered in white from top to bottom but showed no signs of clothes.

It looked like a ferret, but also resembled a chinchilla in some ways; it had two beards that resembled the ones that dragons have.

It had big, cute, clever eyes.

“A Long Diao!” Bi Fan was shocked for a moment, he knew just enough about them to recognize one.

Long Diaos are said to have the same blood as dragons, adult Long Diaos are said to have the ability to fly; they are clever and like feeding on rich foods mixed with poison. They possess a lot of poison.

It had a pair of small and exquisite paws, quite adorable but sharp as a blade.

Bi Fan wanted to catch the Long Diao; Long Diaos should only be caught straight after their birth, so that they can be tamed.

He was extremely careful as he approached closer, and then pounced.

Long Diaos can be very quick; in an instant he sensed Bi Fan's presence and dashed out of his way.

But the Long Diao didn't want to leave; he was now at some distance from Bi Fan. He looked at Bi Fan with his cute, watery eyes.

Obviously, the Long Diao was hungry and hadn't had any food earlier, so he naturally didn't want to leave.

If Bi Fan moved, the Long Diao moved. If Bi Fan remained stationary; the Long Diao also did the same.

Just one man against one Long Diao, it was turning into a stalemate to Bi Fan's frustration. He would never be able to catch the Long Diao like this.

Suddenly, Bi Fan's eyes lit up as an idea struck him. He pulled out a ginseng from the orchard and threw it at the Long Diao.

The Long Diao didn't even get scared, but lashed, flying through the air and caught the ginseng in his mouth.

The Long Diao turned beautifully in the air and landed steadily on the ground. He didn't even startle a single grain of sand.

The little creature still didn't leave; his front paws were humane enough to hold the ginseng. He quickly ate it, like he was eating a giant carrot, making a 'puchi' sound.

After several bites, the Long Diao ate the ginseng clean and resumed looking at Bi Fan with a helpless look in his eyes.

Bi Fan Scoffed: "You're really greedy, ah!, little guy."

He again pulled out a ginseng and threw it towards the Long Diao. The garden had a lot of ginseng, so even if a few went missing, no one would notice.

The Long Diao with his elegant figure and movement, quickly grabbed the ginseng, and with the ginseng dangling in his hands, quickly left.

Bi Fan couldn't even react, even in the night sky he couldn't even see the white Long Diao, he wanted to chase after the Long Diao but he was no match for his speed.

Chapter 9 – The Fierce Duel Under The Mountain

The next night, Bi Fan stayed back in the orchard, even though he was in the orchard, he continued to practice and waited for the Long Diao.

Finally in the middle of the night, the Long Diao appeared, as he saw Bi Fan standing there, he didn't scoop out the Panacea without his permission.

“Creek...” the Long Diao gave Bi Fan a pitiful look, his eyes looked very cute.

Bi Fan had always been lonely as a child; his peers had always been ignorant towards him and often bullied him.

Therefore, he really liked the Long Diao and wanted to keep such a cute creature as a pet.

“Little man, how about you follow me? And every day you can eat the Panacea.” Bi Fan tried to tempt the Long Diao.

Long Diao's eyes looked at Bi Fan, as he jumped up and down, almost as if he was trying to say ‘I want to eat the herbs, give me some Panacea.’

Bi Fan shook his head with a smile, pulled out a ginseng and

threw it towards the Long Diao.

The Long Diao caught the ginseng; it was like eating a large gourmet meal to him.

As soon as he finished the ginseng, the Long Diao moved a little closer to Bi Fan, his paws kept gesturing for more.

“Here you go.” Bi Fan laughed and threw another ginseng towards him.

The Long Diao didn't leave immediately, but he waited till he had finished his meal.

Since then, every night the Long Diao would come, he would eat only two ginseng, not more, but always waited for Bi Fan to toss him the ginseng.

Ten days down the road, Bi Fan had gotten to know the Long Diao a bit, its meal times, and he could even touch it now.

Bi Fan found calling him Long Diao to be a boring, so he named it 'Greedy'.

After finishing his meal, Long Diao would play around with Bi Fan for a while and then leave.

Bi Fan was very happy that he had come to close to the Long

Diao.

In time, Bi Fan realized that the Long Diao was exceptionally clever and even though he couldn't speak, he was very good at expressing himself.

One day, Bi Fan was looking after the Panacea in the orchard, when Xiaofeng came to see him.

“Bi Fan, will you go down the mountain tomorrow to the town and help us buy some makeup supplies?”

“No problem Xiaofeng, but who will take care of the orchards if I'm not here?” Bi Fan reasoned.

Bi Fan had wanted to go down the mountain for a while now, but he couldn't; now he finally had that chance.

Xiaofeng stated to Bi Fan: “I will arrange for someone to look after the orchard in the morning for the duration of your absence. I'll allow you to take the Red-Crowned Crane with you; it will allow you to travel down much faster. Naturally, the Crane will bring you up upon your return.”

“Well, I'll be grateful to you” Bi Fan said, unable to control his excitement.

Xiaofeng left, she gave Bi Fan some silver (currency) before she left.

After she was gone, Bi Fan started dancing with excitement. It took him along time to calm down, and then the thought of Greedy came into his mind.

If Bi Fan was gone, there would be no one to take care of him, he felt sorry for the Long Diao.

Later that night, Greedy came again. After Bi Fan fed him, he said: “Greedy, I’m going down the mountain tomorrow, do you want to accompany me?”

Greedy stared at Bi Fan, trying to distinguish if what he was saying was true or not.

“Greedy, I really have to go down for a few days, will you come with me? You will need some food to eat, so I will bring some for the road.”

Bi Fan really hoped that the amusing Long Diao would come along; he really wanted to pet him.

“During my absence, someone else will be looking after the orchard, so it’s going to be hard for you to eat the herbs, and you will have to be very careful if you don’t want to get caught.”

Bi Fan was practically trying to bribe the Long Diao into accompanying him, he was trying to use all sort of measures to spoil him.

Bi Fan had whined a lot over the last few days, and the Long Diao had been a great audience. If he had said those things in front of other people, the atmosphere would have been very strange.

Finally, the Long Diao stood up and nodded his head.

“Great!” Bi Fan was extremely excited, he hugged the greedy Diao, and tossed him up in the air, just the way a kid does with his favorite toy.

Then Bi Fan started to prepare an inventory of food for the Long Diao. The medicine orchard had so much Panacea that it wouldn't matter.

Bi Fan was very selectively picking his food, there were a lot of different types of herbs, he didn't want to attract attention by plucking too many of the same kind.

He had the Tianyuan ring with him, so he wasn't worried about storing the Panacea.

Greedy Diao realized that Bi Fan was preparing his food, so he gladly jumped onto Bi Fan's shoulder and kept pointing at his choices with his paws.

The next morning, Xioafeng sent the Crane to Bi Fan's residence, so it could carry him down.

The crane stood over two meters tall and its wide-open wings spanned almost three meters in width.

The Red-Crowned Crane could rip apart a tiger in terms of strength; in fact it was as strong as the fourth division of the fetus Jie, “inner breath”. Furthermore, the crane could be used to systematically increase a practitioner’s strength.

It was the first time Bi Fan had seen a crane up close, he had seen other ride crane in the past, and he had been very envious of them.

He had never expected to be able to ride a crane so fast, he thanked his wonderful luck.

After he had been thrown into the Wan Snake Cave and survived. He had witnessed a major twist in fate; his luck had been constantly doing him favors.

Bi Fan would have thanked Zhu San if he didn’t hate him so much. If Zhu San hadn’t knocked him a coma and thrown him into the Wan Snake Cave then Bi Fan would still be stuck at the Quinyang orchard, fearing the other boys and would have had no hope for a future.

Bi Fan was very nervous when the Crane took off. His hands were tightly clutching the body of the Crane.

The Long Diao had adorably hid himself in the Bi Fan’s arms, only his head protruded out; he had a curious look on his face.

Flying at high altitudes, Bi Fan felt as if he was travelling the world like an eagle.

The Crane was pretty fast, and in no time it brought Bi Fan to the foot of the hill. It landed down for Bi fan to get off and then flew up again. It quickly disappeared from Bi Fan's line of sight.

On the outer side, the Quinyang Mountain is very spacious. It was wide enough for two carriages to walk side by side, the material were transported from the outside world to Quinyang via this route.

The Quinyang town was still ten miles away, so Bi Fan got up on his feet and started walking.

Bi Fan didn't have the slightest idea of the outside world, this was the first time he had ever been able to see it, the plants and flowers on the outside seemed so beautiful.

Bi Fan hadn't gone very far when he heard the sound of fighting coming from the woods nearby.

Bi Fan always curious to see trouble, decided to go and see for himself.

He softly and quickly moved towards the sounds.

There was a clearing out in the woods; two individuals were engaged in a duel. Their fight was very intense.

One person was a long double-edged sword while the other was making use of a double-edged machete (broadsword). Their swords brilliantly reflected the light from above; it was obvious from their fighting that the two individuals were very strong, far stronger than Bi Fan.

Bi Fan held his breath, for he was afraid of being discovered.

Both the fighters were extremely strong, their swords shimmered, strong winds were sweeping trees aside and dust was blowing in all directions.

Their weapons were quite extraordinary, they were cutting through trees like a knife cuts through melons.

“When will I have such enormous strength?” Bi Fan refreshingly sighed.

Both fighters were in the middle of a decisive duel, they were going all out. Their strengths were almost at par with each other and soon they were both injured. But they continued to fight with no regard for their own safety.

“They will both die. They are going to kill each other....” Bi Fan kept repeating softly.

The Long Diao was very smart and kept watching silently, he didn't make a single sound.

Chapter 10 – Longevity Burst In Practice

“Bang!” came a loud noise.

In the middle of the forest, the two fighters had come in contact again; blood was spilling from their mouths.

The two people, who had been standing firm just a moment ago, were again pouncing at each other in duel of life and death.

Incessant fighting had tired both the fighters, they had gradually started becoming instable, and their stamina had started giving in.

Finally, the two fighters hit each other at the same time, dealt their blows, bled and fell to the ground.

The fighter with the double-edged sword masterfully pierced his sword through the other fighter’s stomach leaving his mouth open, almost as if he wanted to say something couldn’t and then cut his sword upwards at a devious upwards angle, killing his opponent.

The double-edged sword fighter’s shoulder had been split open by the machete and had hit his blood vessels. Blood was spraying out his arms.

They both fell to the ground, eyes wide open. They looked like they were dead but still wouldn’t close their eyes due to some remaining grievance.

Bi Fan hadn't gone very close to the fighting as he didn't want to be caught sneaking. He didn't know the identities of two fighters, nor had he been able to hear their dialogues.

Regardless of their death, Bi Fan knew that the two fighters might have some valuables, so naturally he wanted to take them.

In the Wan Snake Cave, Bi fan had found three treasures. Bottle Gourd, to hold liquid, Tianyuan ring to hold knowledge and materials. As far as Xue Ren, Bi Fan simply couldn't use it for now, even if was able to, he would first have to find an enemy, after all, it was a magic weapon.

To find two dead fighters in the middle of the forest with their weapons still on them was nothing short of finding a treasure.

Walking around the country side without any weapons to defend himself with, was not only impractical but also quite dangerous.

Bi Fan resolutely walked over to the scene, as his mouth continuously muttered: "Please don't haunt me, I will let you rest in peace."

He first walked over to the fighter who had the broad sword stuck in his arm, pulled it out and incorporated it into the Tianyuan ring, he decided to look at it carefully later.

Bi Fan turned his body over and found nothing but a single

golden pouch hanging by a silk thread.

“Yin yang pouch!” Bi Fan gasped with amazement.

Yin yang pouch wasn't exactly a treasure but could be very useful for practitioners.

Yin yang pouch is a very basic magic utensil but not something that an average practitioner could procure easily.

Only the core disciple would have a yin yang pouch like this one.

Bi Fan was overjoyed, he didn't check what was inside the pouch and quick incorporated it into the Tianyuan ring.

Plus, the man who had been fighting with the broadsword was also fairly strong and could have some valuable items of his own, Bi Fan eagerly walked over to his body.

The Sword stuck in his stomach looked really handy, received! He bent down to search the dead body.

Suddenly, the man actually sat up, with a fierce look on his face. In a hoarse voice, he said: “Go to hell!”

The man hit Bi Fan with his palm, vomited some more blood and then fell down again, this time, completely dead.

“Bang!” Bi Fan felt as if he had been hit with a hammer, he flew out and fell down on the ground.

Even though this was only a fraction of the dying man’s strength, it was enough to mortally injure Bi Fan.

Bi Fan didn’t feel good, he felt like his internal organs were shifting, then suddenly a lot of blood sprayed out of his mouth.

He lay there, on the ground, unable to move, the pain kept increasing with every passing second.

“In the future, I will not be so careless, I will sure that the dead are really dead.” Bi Fan secretly vowed.

Bi Fan didn’t know the secret healing techniques of inner breath, so it would be difficult to heal his injuries, and natural healing would take a long time.

“I must fight back; I must try the longevity burst technique.” Bi Fan decided.

Here, in the wilderness, danger could surprise you at any time; Bi Fan needed to finish his task as soon as possible.

Bi Fan had known the technique long enough to know it thoroughly; he started concentrating his mind and heart, and started initiating the process.

It goes without saying that to practice 'inner breath' one would have to reach the peak of 'martial strength', and Bi Fan was still about 2000 jin short of that. So Bi Fan was still a long way out.

In order to restore his injuries, Bi Fan would have to practice the entire summary of the longevity burst technique.

The hardest part however, would be to draw air into his body.

In order to practice the technique, it was a must to absorb the aura of the outside body into the practitioner's body. First step would be attracting the spiritual influence of the world into the body, which was very difficult, and had a very low success rate.

Even though he was at the peak of 'growing strength', it would still be very hard to absorb the aura, and his chances of success were very low.

Bi Fan was very helpless, like a horse who is about to die and needs medicine, he could only try.

He needed to make the longevity burst work, he started aura induction.

Only at the peak of 'martial strength', a practitioner's body is strong enough to sense the aura with ease.

Bi Fan tried to hold his concentration, and to his surprise, he could clearly sense the aura floating around in the air.

“How can I feel so much of aura?” Bi Fan could not believe himself.

Even though Bi Fan had drunk a lot of Wannian Spirit Milk, and his body's constitution might have changed, the Wannian Spirit Milk cannot influence a person's talent.

Bi Fan stabilized his mind, which was a key factor to practice the technique, and started absorbing the aura into his body.

“Aura is going inside my body, inside my body!” Bi Fan hesitated a bit as he started absorbing the aura.

Spiritual influence is like strands, methodically arranged strands, and they started entering his body.

Once the aura starts enter the body, then it's easier to go forward, according to longevity burst technique, the aura provides a power line to the body, and one needed to let the aura run through the body for weeks, before letting it travel to the pubic region for storage.

In order to play of safe, Bi Fan had let the aura run through his body for thirty six times before he had begun storing it inside the pubic region.

After Bi Fan had completed the first part, he was both surprised and delighted.

Surprised, because he could barely believe that it was actually happening, he was actually succeeding in practicing the technique.

So Bi Fan continued to perform the technique. If you store a certain amount of aura, then you heal up quickly.

Bi Fan couldn't delay himself, he continued to perform longevity burst tirelessly, and continued to enjoy absorbing the external aura.

As the aura ran through his body, he felt warm and comfortable; he almost wanted to say it out aloud.

Had anyone witnessed him performing this feat, Bi Fan would have gotten into trouble, as people might have thought that he's performing some sort of evil technique.

At Bi Fan's current status (growing strength), practicing the longevity technique was full of dangers, and the probability of success was very low.

Bi Fan however, was not able to practice it, but also succeed, and that too very smoothly.

Even the geniuses of the Quinyang Mountains were said to have taken at least ten days to perform the technique successfully.

Whereas, Bi Fan had managed to do it in the first attempt, so naturally if he tried to tell anyone, no one would believe him.

In a few hours, Bi Fan had saved enough auras to start the healing process. So he initiated the healing.

In order to cure the injury, Bi Fan would have to make the aura reach the core of his body.

Bi Fan started mobilizing the aura inside his pubic region to keep his organs warm.

With the aid of the aura his injury started recovering at an enormous pace, and he could feel the pain gradually subside.

After an hour of performing the heal process, Bi Fan had completely recovered from his injury.

So Bi Fan stood up and shouted: “You were almost dead, and still you made me suffer so much pain. You deserve to be eaten by wild beasts; they should devour your entire corpse.”

First he confirmed that the two fighters were dead, and then he walked over and searched their bodies, and took their valuables.

With the yin yang bag stored inside the Tianyuan ring, he casually dug a pit big enough to bury the fighter and then quickly left the woods.

Chapter 11 – Inventory Rewards

Once he was away from the woods, he could not wait to check the contents of the yin yang pouch, but first he needed to find a safe and secret spot.

He had two yin yang bags; he couldn't tell which one would be more rewarding so he just took one out randomly.

Since the previous owner was dead, refining the yin yang pouch went very smoothly.

After refining, Bi Fan started looking for items inside the yin yang bag.

The yin yang bag didn't have a lot of space, only two cubic meters in volume, inside it were a few magical tools, more than ten porcelain bottles, three books, several Panacea and some refining materials.

Apart from the Panacea, Bi Fan couldn't distinguish good from bad items.

So Bi Fan decided to start with the books, he picked them up, one was about the origination of the Tian Yu world, the second was about identifying Panacea and refining Dan (pellets, refined from various herbs, created to grant physical benefits) and the third recorded the arts of double-edged sword usage.

The yin yang pouch also contained some gold and silver, debris, and food. But none of this attracted Bi Fan's attention.

Bi Fan looked at these books and guessed that they might be the core of knowledge of the Quinyang door(sect or school) disciples.

Bi Fan opened the book that spoke about identifying Panacea and refining Dan, and he started reading it very carefully.

Bi Fan's memory had never been very efficient, he simply couldn't remember the interdependence of Panacea to create Dan, and it had taken him a long time and several readings of the same book to memorize things.

But now, Bi Fan found it a lot easier to remember things, in fact surprisingly, he never forgot what he read.

It contained information about refining Dan for 'fetus' jie and 'emerging from the womb jie'. It contained information about how one could use magical instruments to help refine Dan for the use of these two jies. The information was very, very detailed.

Bi Fan also kept an eye out for stranger as he continued to read the book for almost three hours, once he felt that he could identify the Panacea and instruments, he stood up.

Although he wanted to look again, he felt as if the contents of the book had been printed onto his brain.

Bi Fan extracted those porcelains and began identifying them to check his knowledge.

He open a vase, as he sniffed it, a light fragrance came out. Then he poured out a small amount and started examining it carefully.

“Solid Fu Dan (Dan for internal organs)!” said Bi Fan in amazement.

Solid Fu Dan could be used by practitioners at the ‘inner breath’ stage, it could be used the peak at the peak of ‘inner breath’ to breakthrough to ‘inner organs’ stage.

Bi Fan counted, a full thirteen dosages of the Solid Fu Dan, he was surprised at its quantity.

He put the Solid Fu Dan inside the Tianyuan ring.

He opened another vase and started identifying it; it was a Dan pertaining to the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer, but contained only six dosages.

This Dan was custom made for the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer and could be used by practitioners at the peak of the seventh layer to breakthrough to the ‘enormous strength’ layer.

Bi Fan was extremely excited and quickly finished identifying all the Dan.

He now had a variety of pellets in his possession, 'inner breath' Dan, 'inner organs' Dan, 'Spiritual intelligence' Dan, nine types of 'transformation' Dan, healing Dan, Dan to bathe essence, and Dan to change his bone structure.

These Dan(or refined pellets) could be used to great effect, healing all kinds of injuries, and rising through various layers, but only at the right time. From 'inner breath' to 'inner organs', 'inner organs' to 'brave', 'brave' to 'spiritual intelligence' and so on, in addition, the nine types of transformations Dan could be very useful, plus, he also had Dan that could be used to increase bone strength and Dan to bathe essence.

The healing Dan, Bathing essence Dan, Bone Dan were Dan dedicated to the 'rising from the womb' Jie and were extremely valuable.

Just finding these three valuable Dans had left Bi Fan very excited.

With the Dans now incorporated into the Tianyuan ring, Bi Fan started taking out the instruments and tried to identify them.

There were five instruments inside the Yin Yang pouch but only one was magical.

The magical instrument was a bell shaped object and was name Devil's bell. Devil's bell, once swayed, issued a sound that could be used to confuse the enemy's mind.

This bell however, was somewhat in despair, and temporarily unavailable for use. It still hadn't come to terms with its master's demise.

He incorporated all the items of the Yin Yang pouch into the Tianyuan ring and started refining the other Yin Yang pouch.

This Yin Yang pouch contained many instruments, nine of them to be exact. Even though none of them were magical in nature, they were still very valuable. These were some of the instruments that all core practitioners must have.

There were several Dan for helping practitioners grow from one layer to another, the highest Dan available here, was also bone Dan.

There were three books here as well, one talked about the origination of world, the second taught 'dance of mist', and the third taught the basics of 'free burst technique'.

The Dance of mist and free burst were techniques of bygone eras and were extremely powerful, almost like a wonderland for practitioners, very precious, and not somethings that practitioners just accidentally stumbled upon. They were almost like rumors, very secretive.

If the strong swordsmen in Quinyang door found about the treasures that Bi Fan had acquired, they would try to take them from him, by the force of their blades and Bi Fan would die a very

unnecessary and cheap death.

Of course, no one would come to know, he transferred the item from the Yin Yang pouch into the Tianyuan ring.

As he was extracting the refining material from the pile, he even found a bronze token; it was as big as a fist and carried the inscription of 'mist' word, in a great artistic manner.

Bi Fan looked at the other objects and threw them inside the Tianyuan ring.

Finally, Bi Fan took out the two swords, and started differentiating them.

The double-edged sword turned out to be a low-grade light-ray double-edged sword whereas the machete, unexpectedly, was a magical weapon.

The owner of the light-ray double-edged sword was definitely a disciple of the Quinyang door, so Bi Fan couldn't use the weapon for the fear of being questioned about his acquisition of the weapon. However, he wasn't sure about the identity of the machete's owner; still he would have to be careful while using it.

Moreover, at Bi Fan's current strength rating, using a magic weapon would be a complete waste; he didn't have enough strength to operate them properly.

Bi Fan had obtained fourteen different tools, which were suitable for his current position.

They were mostly considered common and ordinary and he could use them without turning any heads.

Bi Fan chose the light-ray sword to defend himself, and some silver colored armored clothing to wear.

The silver colored armor was far too beautiful, so he wore it on the inside and put the light-ray sword inside the Yin Yang pouch so he could readily use it against enemies.

Magical tools did not need much refining; one could offer a sacrifice(usually, the blood of the person, who wishes to use them) to refine and use them.

After going through the contents of the inventory, Bi Fan was in a good mood and continued to walk down the mountain road.

As the curtains of the night descended, Bi Fan decided to hurry up and reach the town as he did not want to spend the night in the wilderness.

Quinyang town is the area of the mountain where all the trading from the outside world happens, materials were consistently being transported around, and it was a very busy scene.

Quinyang town had thirteen large and small inns for travelling

exchange peddlers to stay the night in.

Bi Fan casually went looking for an Inn and picked one out, rented a room and went straight to the dining hall.

At this time, it was the peak dining hour, the hall didn't even have any empty tables.

Bi Fan could go somewhere else to have dinner, but it would be too time consuming.

As glanced around, he found one small table which was occupied by only one young man, so went over.

“Hello brother, can join you?” Bi Fan asked him courteously.

The young appeared to be only fifteen or sixteen, but look very cultured and sat in a very elegant manner.

Bi Fan carefully glanced at the young man in order to determine his strength, even though he couldn't pin point, he certainly knew that the young man was fairly strong.

“Please!” the man complied, showing no sign of bother.

Bi Fan didn't care, he only needed a place to sit and eat his food. Anyway, he had a lot of things he needed to look at later.

Chapter 12 – The Friendly Jing Feng

Bi Fan asked for beef first, then a few more dishes and then a pot of wine.

There was a lot of wine in the bottle gourd but under the influence of wine, Bi Fan had a habit of raising his cup.

Anyway, the bottle gourd mostly contained spiritual and medicinal wine, and medicinal wine had a very strong smell, Bi Fan didn't want to smell like a complete drunk.

Bi Fan had just started to eat, when the Long Diao popped out his head from under Bi Fan's shirt.

“Hey!” Someone from a nearby table exclaimed in surprise: “look at that, its young Long Diao!”

“Brother, you recognize a Long Diao, well; this one is the greediest one ever.” Bi Fan said and laughed.

Throughout his life, Bi Fan had never had any friends, even if someone talked to him; it was usually accompanied by a dull look.

But right now, it didn't seem so. So Bi Fan wanted to talk a bit more with him.

“Creak!” Long Diao jumped onto Bi Fan's shoulders as he issued a

protest.

“Little Brother, my name is Jing Feng; would you like to sell your Long Diao to me?” The stranger cordially asked?

Bi Fan shook his head and replied: “Brother Jing Feng, Greedy is my friend, I would never sell him.”

“Since you do not want to sell, I will not insist. Your build is pretty good; you must be a disciple at Quinyang door. My Door(school) is within Quinyang, I’m a disciple of Nei Men Door, and you can always find me there if you ever need help.” Jing Feng slapped his back in a friendly gesture.

“My name is Bi Fan; I practice outside the authority of Quinyang Door.” Bi Fan replied in excitement.

Jing Feng was the first person who had ever tried to be friends with him, in fact, no had ever been this friendly with him.

Of course, even though Jing Feng might become his friend, he still didn’t want to give up the Long Diao.

Selling the Long Diao would fetch him a very good price, as it was the ideal thing to impress women. Jing Feng didn’t have too many interests, but he liked chasing after women.

Naturally, Jing Feng had some morals, like he wouldn’t rob someone else’s woman, he always used the mantra “gentlemen

always opts not wins over”, in fact he didn’t even like fooling around with other people’s women.

Jing Feng’s attention was directed towards Bi Fan but occasionally he would glance over at Greedy.

Whereas, Bi Fan was very hungry, so he was busy gobbling up his food.

Greedy did not like these things, well, apart from the wine. Bi Fan gave him a small cup of wine to drink, after drinking it, the Long Diao started feeling a little dizzy. He kept shaking his head in a manner that looked very adorable.

To look at the irresistibly cute Long Diao, anyone would start contemplating means to get their hands on it.

Jing Feng believed that there was nothing in this world that wasn’t for sale; the price simply had to be enough to fill one’s heart’s desires.

“Bi Fan, my little brother, you must have something very important to do here, right?” Jing Feng started to enquire.

Bi Fan replied: “Nah, nothing important, just came to the town to buy some daily items.”

“Oh? Then you probably have no interest in learning about the news surrounding Ting Feng valley?” Jing Feng questioned.

Bi Fan didn't know what the Ting Feng valley was or where it was located.

So he listened as Jing Feng explained, Ting Feng valley is a place where practitioners go to make transactions.

Ting Feng valley was thousands of miles away from Quinyang Mountains and was the nearest market place to Quinyang, where martial arts practitioners could go and make sales or purchases. There were a lot of people there, who could even repair broken tools; it was very busy all year round.

Bi Fan had heard enough, he really wanted to visit the place, but then the thought of Yunufeng crossed his mind and he hesitated.

Jing Feng laughed: "Don't worry, Bi Fan, I have a few divine essence seals, so we can travel very quickly."

"Of course," Jing Feng took out two divine essence seals and gave them to Bi Fan: "You need to travel with a companion who knows how to use them."

He delightedly received the essence; he was even more delighted when he realized that he had found a few of them in the Yin Yang pouch, only he had no idea what they were and how they could be operated.

Bi Fan could not resist the temptation, and eventually agreed to

accompany Jing Feng to Ting Feng valley.

“Great! It’s going to be a lot of fun, we will leave tomorrow morning.” Jing Feng said with a pleased look on his face.

Jing Feng’s eyes had been continuously on the Long Diao and his heart kept wishing for a way to get him away from Bi Fan.

After the meal, Bi Fan decided to take a walk and then returned to his room.

After returning to his room, he practiced for a while and then decided to read the three rare books he had acquired earlier.

He started with the book that talked about secret art of using a double-edged sword, it mostly talked about techniques that only core disciples could practice, at his current level, and he would not be able to practice them.

However, Bi Fan read the book again; he wanted to memorize it by heart.

‘Dance of mist’ is an agility trade secret, Bi Fan read it again, but could barely remember, as his underlying concepts weren’t clear, so he couldn’t comprehend the technique.

However, there were some basic techniques involved in the ‘dance of mist’ that could be used for dodging and shifting positions. Bi Fan memorized them.

And then, Bi Fan picked up the 'free burst technique' book and started reading it.

Bi Fan was astonished to find that 'free burst techniques' comprised of several techniques from 'inner breath' and 'spiritual intelligence'. In addition to this, 'free burst' could be practiced as early as the 'inner breath' level, but it would be extremely difficult.

'Free burst' had basically been born from 'inner breath' techniques, but the variations used, made the techniques deliver formidable power. However, one needed to be at least as strong as 'spiritual intelligence' to practice them properly.

Bi Fan tried practicing the first technique of the 'free burst', 'the immortal finger', 'the immortal finger' technique was used to concentrate power on the tip of the finger and then hit the opponent with a huge impulse, but he couldn't feel the force being concentrated.

Having memorized the three books by heart and started practicing some of the techniques.

He started practicing some of the fundamental footwork movements of 'the dance of mist'. Soon he realized that the footwork involved was very delicate and would require a lot of practice before it could be used in a fight.

Obviously, it would take a long time to master the fundamental footwork of 'the dance of mist', as it contained several delicate

movements.

Later he tried practicing 'the immortal finger' again. Power needed to be concentrated on to the tip of the finger and then, could be directed as a burst of force towards the enemy. This burst could be used to a fatal effect. Moreover, it would be invisible to the enemy.

However, even at 'inner breath', a practitioner would only be able to harness a small amount of force, one would have to attain 'spiritual intelligence' before this technique would really demonstrate its purpose.

He practiced until dawn, but unfortunately wasn't able to succeed in implementing the 'the immortal finger' technique.

Bi Fan groomed himself and walked out of the room, he knew that Jing Feng would be waiting in the hall downstairs.

He headed downstairs and met a smiling Jing Feng, who greeted him: "Brother Bi Fan, you haven't even had breakfast yet, come on, let's go and get something to eat, and then we will leave for our journey."

His eyes were fixed at the projection that was protruding from Bi Fan's chest, as the Long Diao lay inside, sleeping.

They quickly ate their breakfast and then left the inn.

Jing Feng taught Bi Fan the method to use the divine essence seals. One had to allow the wind to rush by as they use the essence.

As soon as he started using the divine essence seal, it felt to him like his legs were floating through the wind, he had never experienced such speed.

He followed Jing Feng, as the scenery around them flashed by.

Jing Feng laughed, “So Brother Bi Fan, how does it feel?”

He looked at Jing Feng and poked his back gratefully.

Since last night, Bi Fan had grown fascinated with the ‘the immortal technique’, he was constantly looking for an excuse to use his finger. He had been doing a variety of things; pick his nose, trying to catch flies and so on, especially touching his chin in search of hair, only he hadn’t grown a beard yet.

Time passed quickly as they raced through their route.

“Brother Bi Fan, we will have to ease up on the seal, up ahead, and go slower, through the woods. Otherwise there is a chance that we might get attacked by someone” Jing Feng said, giving any further explanations.

Bi Fan stopped immediately, and looked around but didn’t find anything strange about this place, except, not a single soul was in sight, it was completely isolated.

Suddenly, it struck him, is Jing Feng trying to dupe me? Maybe he wants to steal the Long Diao.

And in an instant, Bi Fan become very careful, he was on full alert.

Chapter 13 – A Profitable Transaction

Jing Feng said: “Follow me, the valley out here is a maze, do not get lost.”

Bi Fan followed him very closely, but he wouldn't dare to trust him blindly. He knew nothing about Jing Feng's background, so naturally, he was worried.

Bi Fan was very careful, after all, he had suffered a lot of humiliation at the hands of people all his life. It had become really hard for him to trust people.

Bi Fan closely followed Jing Feng as he took a sharp left and then several right turns, and then suddenly, he could see their destination.

All three sides were covered with lofty mountain ranges, leaving only one path to go in.

Once he entered it, the size of the basin astonished him, there were several buildings all around and people were constantly going in and out. The whole basin was bustling with excitement.

“Welcome to the Jing Feng valley, if you see anything you like, you can always tell me, I have some savings” Jing Feng said.

The practitioners were using spar (crystal stones) as currency; however, the most precious of items were being bartered.

The two Yin Yang pouches that Bi Fan had acquired earlier, had some spars in them, but mostly low-grade. He took some time and counted them. He had one hundred and thirteen spars and approximately three thousand low-grade spars.

Low-grade spars could be traded for their grade counterparts in the ratio of hundred to one; similarly, a high grade spar would fetch a hundred low-grade spars. These were the basics that revolved around the exchange of the currency, and Bi Fan was well aware of it.

Ting Feng valley was a very liberal place; no identity verification was required to enter.

As soon as he entered the Ting Feng valley, he could hear the sounds of transactions and bargaining, peddlers advertising their products and so on.

“High grade magical instruments available for barter with a double-edged sword of similar workmanship.”

“Herbs from hundred year old tree trunks, interested people can come and have a look.”

Jing Feng heard the magical instruments peddler and walk over to him.

“What about this jade fan? How much for it?”

“Products will only be traded for swords, not spar” the middle aged man coldly replied to Jing Feng.

Jing Feng looked at the jade fan, his eyes were gleaming, he didn't have a sword to trade, but he still wanted the jade fan.

Jing Feng imagined himself holding the fan; he would have looked very handsome, and thought that he could make others jealous.

Bi Fan wanted Jing Feng to get the fan, and even though he had a high grade double-edged sword, he didn't want to help him out in making the barter.

He wouldn't reveal his valuables to people whose true intentions weren't clear to him.

This Bi Fan was well aware of; in fact he was a little more cautious than most people.

Jing Feng reluctantly put the fan down and walked away.

Ting Feng valley was very wide, it had a lot of streets and these streets were studded with stalls.

These stalls had some really fantastic items on sale. Pellets of Dan, rare books, copies of martial arts techniques, Panacea to

refine medicinal drugs, magical instruments, weapons and so on.

Bi Fan had always embraced the idea of expanding one's vision, so every now and then he would go into a vendor's booth and inquire about article, articles he had no intention of purchasing.

Recently, Bi Fan had acquired a lot of precious items, these items had raised his standards, and he was no longer interested in ordinary items, which would have earlier acquired his attention.

Jing Feng said: "Brother Bi Fan, if you like any items, let me know, I'll buy them."

Jing Feng was very smart, and Bi Fan was aware of it. Bi Fan knew that if he took too many favors from Jing Feng then it would be embarrassing in the future to refuse him some rights over the long Diao.

"No, its fine, really. I have some 'spars', so if the need arises, I can use them." Bi Fan said, shaking his head.

Jing Feng looked awfully confused, he could not understand how Bi Fan had acquired spars, and why was he so interested in magical tools, especially considering that he probably wasn't even at 'inner breath' stage, so he wouldn't be able to use them properly.

Bi Fan on the other hand was very enthusiastic, he was mostly inquiring about items out of curiosity, from the beginning he hadn't had the intention of buying any of the items he had

inquired about.

Jing Feng had bought a lot of small items, but he didn't look satisfied, he still wanted to buy the jade fan, he had been enchanted by it.

Bi Fan and Jing Feng entered a booth that had a lot of books. There were a total of eighteen books there.

Bi Fan started examining the books, some of them were meant for 'fetus' jie but most of them required the practitioner to be at least as strong as the 'inner breath' layer to be able to make use of them properly.

He had already executed longevity burst once, and knew that this barrier wasn't always true.

Bi Fan considered the options for a while. There was a book by the entrance, its title was written in beautiful calligraphy, 'Divine seals'. The title seemed to be portrayed in a very arrogant manner, the book was had a golden cover, a very bright golden cover. The golden color of its cover dazzled in the light but the book only spoke about some basic fundamentals, and didn't have of anything of much value in it.

"Sir, how much for this 'Divine seals' book?" Bi Fan asked.

The old man, wasn't used to be being called 'Sir' and felt flattered.

“Young man, if you wish to purchase this book, you can have it for ten spars.”

Bi Fan was about to make the transaction, when Jing Feng interrupted: “Brother Bi Fan, this book only speaks about some fundamental concepts, even though it has a golden cover, it does not make this book worth ten spars. It’s worth much lesser.”

“Young man, I will rephrase my asking price, you can buy this book for five spars, and it’s almost the same as my buying price.” The old man spoke.

The old man seemed to be telling the truth, one could see that the book’s cover was extremely delicate, it was obvious that it required a great deal of effort. Although the book didn’t contain any valuable information, but spending a few spars to study it, was okay.

Bi Fan quickly agreed: “Well, I’ll take it.”

He took out the spars and bought the book.

After leaving the booth, Jing Feng whispered: “Brother Bi Fan, you lost a lot of money on that deal, that book was worth a lot lesser than what you purchased it for. Please next time let me negotiate.”

“It doesn’t matter, as long as the book has use to me, five spars

won't make much of a difference." Bi Fan said expressing his difference in opinion.

If the items had no use for him, then even the most precious items were a complete waste, and he wouldn't spend a single spar to buy them. However, if the item had a use for him, he wouldn't mind spending a little extra, as long as he felt that the price was justified for his requirement.

Jing Feng didn't agree with Bi Fan's statement, but decided not to argue with him. It wasn't his money anyway.

As they continued to stroll down the market, Bi Fan would stop at almost every stall and examine the articles very carefully. Based on the knowledge he had acquired, he would try to distinguish the quality of the items.

Suddenly, Bi Fan came to stop at a vendor's booth where he saw a slightly damaged armor. This armor didn't seem to have anything special about it; in fact it looked quite ordinary, with some pieces of magical units attached inside it.

Even though it was his first trip here, he had already formulated some tricks.

He picked up a piece of magical instrument and asked: "How much for this one?"

He carried a casual look on his face, if he showed any signs of

likeliness to the object, then he would make an easy target.

He picked up another magical tool and looked it over.

The stall owner looked at him as if he was a sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

“This is a very high grade instrument, only the best materials were used to make this, it’s the best in the entire region. But since you are like my little brother, I will let you have it for a bargain, only five hundred spars.” The stall owner articulated, over-exaggerating the quality of the product.

The item he held in his hand was clearly an average item and was by no means of the best quality in the entire region.

That stall was quite dark inside, and was charging a fairly high price for general items.

Bi Fan put the item down “I don’t have five hundred spars to buy this product.”

The stall owner realizing that Bi Fan isn’t a complete fool, decided to lower his price: “Two hundred spars, this is the best price you will ever get for such a high quality product.”

“Two hundred spars for this, is still high, but if you throw in this broken armor, then I can give you two hundred spars.” Bi Fan picked up the broken armor.

The inside of the armor was awfully shabby along with some shiny parts.

The stall owner hesitated for a second, and then agreed.

The repairs on the inside of the armor were probably going to cost less than ten spars. And the two items put together were now worth a lot more than two hundred spars.

With the deal reached, Bi Fan collected his two purchases. His tactic had succeeded and he had made a profitable transactions.

Jing Feng had been watching from the side lines and wanted to interrupt Bi Fan, but decided to keep his mouth shut.

Since the conversation that had followed the purchase of the book, Jing Feng had realized that Bi Fan was very stubborn and wouldn't stop at anything.

Chapter 14 – The Three Lists Of Jiu You

Bi Fan collected his purchases and continued on, looking for any other useful products at different stalls, but couldn't find anything of use.

Jing Feng stayed with Bi Fan the entire time. He was watching Bi Fan closely, but couldn't understand Bi Fan's interests. To him, Bi Fan was a complete mystery.

Jing Feng's slightly arrogant attitude had, by now, changed to a humble one.

“Brother Bi Fan, you spent two hundred spars on broken piece of armor and an item that could have been purchased for a lot lesser, why?” This question had been tormenting Jing Feng, so he asked.

“I just felt that the tin used in the armor was good enough to provide some defense, when needed.” Bi Fan casually replied back.

Bi Fan didn't want to disclose much, he wanted to keep his head down in this place, as he didn't want any trouble.

Jing Feng didn't ask any further questions and they continued to enter and exit stalls.

The Ting Feng valley had everything.

Bi Fan had kept his eyes open, and was picking up things quickly.

Bi Fan wasn't rashly spending money; he only sought items that had a particular use to him.

Unfortunately, most stalls were meant for veteran martial artists and didn't have too many things he could use.

But luckily, he had found an armor he could make use of.

Ting Feng valley had a lot stalls, Bi Fan and Jing Feng spent the entire day wandering around.

"Brother Jing Feng, we will have to go back tomorrow, I can't stay away for long." Bi Fan said.

Jing Feng replied, "Well, we can come back later when we get an opportunity."

He still wanted to get his hands on the jade fan, the only transaction that he hadn't been able to make. This had been torturing him the entire time.

In the evening, Bi Fan and Jing Feng decided to find a hotel.

In the dead of the night, Bi Fan took out the armor, and carefully studied its interiors. He was right in assuming that the armor's core was concealed with an ingenious mirroring magic, and would

be able to provide some energy, along with defense.

However, Bi Fan couldn't identify how such a soft and humble armor had been covered with a magic of this kind. And even though the armor appeared soft, its defensive capabilities were quite amazing.

He tried the armor, it was very soft, and felt very comfortable, Bi Fan was very satisfied.

Early next morning, Bi Fan and Jing Feng were ready to leave.

Ting Feng valley had a lot of good things, but they didn't have the time to go shopping. So they had decided to leave early, to avoid being distracted by the stalls.

Jing Feng hadn't been able to buy the fan yesterday, which had made him very sad. He was still a little gloomy.

While they were walking towards the exit, they saw two young men walking towards them.

Jing Feng's expression changed a bit, as he continued to walk.

One of the men, pale-faced, smiled and said: "Hey! It's the great Jing Feng!"

His cynical tone and Jing Feng's reaction were clearly indicating

that this man was trouble.

“Jiang Wen, don’t gloat, I will beat you in the next tournament”, Jing Feng coldly replied back.

Jiang Wen laughed: “Oooo, I am scared, but I’ll still take you on. But hey, I’m afraid that I won’t get to beat you again and again, once I become a core disciple.”

“Humph!”, Jing Feng puffed his cheeks as he walked away.

Bi Fan caught up with Jing Feng and asked: “Who was that arrogant guy?”

“Jiang Wen, of ‘rising sun’ palace school, he beat me in the last Qianlong tournament. He tricked me, and since then, every time we meet, he arrogantly rubs it in.” Jing Feng said.

“Qianlong tournament? What’s that?” Bi Fan asked.

Jing Feng explained: “The schools in the Jiu You city select some of their students to participate in the Qianlong tournament, last time, I was awarded the third position, and Jiang Wen was second.”

Bi Fan knew that ‘Jiu You’ was a massive city, with a population exceeding eight million, and within the city, there were at least a hundred martial art schools.

Quinyang Door fell under the jurisdiction of 'Jiu You' city and was regarded as one of the good schools in the region, but not the best.

And Xuanu Palace was considered one of the best schools in Tian Yu.

Jing Feng explained to Bi Fan that, Jiu You releases three different lists for three different competitions, the 'fetus' list, the 'emerging from womb' list and the 'magical powers' list. The winner's name would be entered in the imperial listings.

Jiu You was one of the strongest territories, and to win such a tournament, would make a person very famous.

Bi Fan couldn't help but long to be on that list, but his strength wasn't even enough to compete with the average disciples of average schools, let alone win such a big tournament.

But now, Bi Fan's heart was set on a new goal; to win the Qianlong Tournament.

Bi Fan vowed to reach new heights and get his name on that list.

Bi Fan was convinced that with his new found motivation, he will be able to work even harder.

Who had earlier been just an orphan, Orchard farmer, now dreamt of a very comfortable life.

Now, Bi Fan's path was set, but it was studded with numerous difficulties and obstacles. He would have to climb them, one by one.

Bi Fan had secretly vowed to become strong. He didn't want to go back to those earlier days, and a life full of humiliations.

With the help of divine essence seals, Bi Fan returned to the Quinyang town in less than a day.

“Brother Jing Feng, I have to go back to the hills, would you like to come with me?” Bi Fan asked.

“You go ahead; I need to do somethings in order to get ahead of Jiang Wen. In the next tournament, I will beat him.” Jing Feng said, his eyes reflected his perseverance, brimming with passion and fight.

Bi Fan said: “Take care Brother Jing Feng, I will take your leave now.”

Bi Fan said his good-byes, and alone rushed back to the Quinyang Mountains.

Because he had been practicing ‘the dance of mist’ footwork, his speed had increased, and he was able to cover up the distance

faster.

Before nightfall, Bi Fan managed to arrive at the foot of the hill.

Bi Fan took out the tokens that Xiaofeng had given him and took the crane up the mountain.

Riding the red crowned crane once again instilled a sense of tranquility in Bi Fan. He couldn't help but think about his future.

Bi Fan was already practicing some 'inner breath' techniques now; he wanted to reach the 'inner breath' layer as soon as possible.

After returning to the mountain, he would get back to his training, and try to become a disciple.

He was determined to become a disciple as he was aware of their status in society; he was more motivated than he had ever been.

The minimum requirement to enter the Qianlong tournament was 'brave' layer, which was still a very long way ahead.

As his mind raced through, he didn't realize that he had already reached his destination.

Bi Fan had already wrapped up the packages at the time of departure, and quickly jumped out of the crane with the package.

On his second time down the mountain, he had acquired a lot of new valuables; he still had no intention of disclosing that information to anyone.

Bi Fan knew that like Jing Feng, most people here too, would be baffled by his acquisitions.

“Bi Fan, you’re back. Did you get everything?” Xiaofeng greeted him, seeming somewhat happy.

“Xiaofeng, everything you had asked, is inside this, although I’m not sure what it really is.” Bi Fan replied as he handed over the parcel.

Xiaofeng parted saying: “Bi Fan, you work very hard, go and rest till tomorrow, then resume taking care of the medicine orchard.”

Bi Fan, after his return, began practicing every day, even harder than before.

Chapter 15 – The Selection Begins

As time passed, Bi Fan started taking ‘inner breath’ Dan. And now he could even practice longevity burst properly.

‘Inner breath’ Dan in the beginning had given a warm effect, which then, rapidly circulated throughout his body.

With the Dan helping him break the layer barriers, Bi Fan was now moving up very quickly.

After consuming the Dan pellets, he could feel a significant rise in his strength.

Soon enough, he could practice the ‘Dance of mist’, ‘immortal finger’, backed by ‘inner breath’ strength, practicing martial arts was now, a lot easier.

Late night, he would practice ‘blood devil’ technique, in secrecy to improve his physical strength.

Regardless of any layer, physical strength was an important thing.

Most practitioners concentrated their practice of ‘blood devil’ technique to increase internal physical strength. Some extreme practitioners would even take small amounts of poisonous substances to increase internal strength.

After concluding his practice, Bi Fan would take out some time to study the 'divine seals' book.

Bi Fan had purchased the book with the sole principle of gaining knowledge about 'divine seals', so he could identify them at the required time.

Even though the book only contained very basic knowledge of 'divine seals', it was still very intellectually portrayed.

As he would study, time would simple fly by, and a bright sun would illuminate the sky.

Bi Fan would freshen up while Greedy slept, and then he would go to the medicine orchard to take care of his responsibilities.

The Panacea in the orchard didn't give him much trouble, making his life easier.

Yan Yu Si was well aware of Bi Fan's ambition, and was kind enough to give him less work so he could concentrate on his training.

And Bi Fan looked after those precious herbs as if they were his own property.

On any given day, Bi Fan would be found crouching over the herbs, inspecting them, caring for them, until he was satisfied with the result.

He was living a busy life, his passion for martial arts wouldn't let him sleep and his days were spent looking after the orchard.

And in a flash, three months had passed away. Quinyang door disciple selection tournament was fast approaching.

After three months of rigorous training, Bi Fan's strength had greatly increased.

His strength was at the peak of 'inner breath' layer.

In addition to this, Bi Fan was already able to execute 'the immortal finger' technique. However, the target would have to be closer than one meter to cause any kind of damage, but nevertheless, Bi Fan was ecstatic about his progress.

This technique was Bi Fan secret weapon, and could prove out to be very critical under duress.

Moreover, he had also been practicing 'the dance of mist', but at his current level, he was still unable to perform the technique efficiently.

He was still unable to practice the teaching from 'the double-edged sword' book. He was afraid that in the moment of need, he might not be very handy with a sword, as some of the trade secrets in the book could potentially be used to great effect.

Bi Fan still continued to practice the ‘blood devil’ technique, so much so, that he and his practice of the technique were practically inseparable.

He continued to read the ‘divine seals’ book, but still hadn’t tried to put it to use.

Strength is the key, but for exceptional rise in strength, one needs to make use of Dan.

One day, Xiaofeng came to see Bi Fan. She smiled at him as she asked: “Bi Fan, very soon the tournament for selection of disciples will commence. Would you like to participate in it?”

“I will go and give it a try.” Bi Fan nodded energetically. Bi Fan’s heart was set on it, he wanted to go and see the tournament for himself.

At his current level, getting selected into a school wasn’t going to be a problem, but he wanted to get a good ranking.

A good ranking would be accompanied by rewards, Dan pellets or even magical equipment. And not to forget, glory.

And if he performed really well, and some good school fancied him, then he could even become a core disciple.

The disciple in such schools fared much better than others. They received better resources for all kinds of trainings. Also the

tutelage offered in top graded schools was much superior, which would make his progress faster, much faster.

Xiaofeng looked at Bi Fan with a sense of surety, and said: “With your strength, you will surely make it as a disciple; I have no doubt about it, so you should definitely take part.”

After she finished speaking, she turned around and started walking away, as gracefully as always.

Xiaofeng had a very slim figure; Bi Fan couldn't help but stare at her as she walked away.

It's not that Bi Fan had any ill intentions for her; he was just simply admiring the sight.

The schools in Quinyang organized these tournaments every year to select their disciples. And every year, many participants would register, and would come prepared, having trained hard. On top of that, many experienced participants, who had previously tried and failed, would also return. Many respected elder martial artists would also come to watch.

No naturally, to be named into the top few in such a tournament would gain a lot of respect.

Neimen School had a great reputation, and was considered a very powerful school. If a young martial artist reflected a lot of potential, even Neimen School could be tempted into taking a new

student.

So naturally, Jing Feng was quite popular. He had ranked third in the Jiu You list, the first ever from any Quinyang School.

Neimen school students were often as strong as the 'brave' layer and went as high as the eighth layer, 'enormous strength'. Jing Feng, last year, had already crossed into the ninth layer, 'transformation'.

Jing Feng, aged only fifteen, was considered to be an immensely talented youngster in Quinyang.

Not only this, Jing Feng also had a great deal of combat experience as well.

In the list of young generation martial artists in Quinyang, many considered Jing Feng to be second only to Yan Yu Si.

However, he was most popular amongst the women; all they would talk about is how suave he is, and how handsome he looks.

With the contest, a lot of people had started discussing about Jing Feng.

Even the women in Yunufeng kept whispering about Jing Feng.

The more Bi Fan heard about Jing Feng, the more he started to

admire him.

Simultaneously, it also motivated him to surpass his targets, he would practice even harder.

The selection tournament was scheduled to take place in three days.

The selection tournament would take place in the Ming Fung valley, as the site was large enough to accommodate the number of spectators who would come to watch.

Xiaofeng after giving him the idea to participate in the tournament, she personally accompanied him there.

Most women in Yunufeng were also going to spectate the tournament. However, their goal wasn't to cheer Bi Fan on. They only desired to see Jing Feng in action.

After the completion of selections, i.e. the tournament, there was a huge possibility that Jing Feng might make an appearance.

Many female students had gone to Ming Fung Valley just to catch a glimpse of the charming Jing Feng.

Bi Fan reached the Ming Fung valley with Xiaofeng and saw a sea of people. The place was very crowded.

Quinyang region had a lot of practitioners, tens of thousands maybe. So such a large gathering wasn't very surprising.

In fact, this really was nothing. The contests for Neimen school students usually exploded with excitement and were immensely popular, sometimes, as many a million people would come and watch.

It was the first time that Bi Fan had ever seen such a huge crowd, he was appalled, and his mouth hung open in amazement.

Xiaofeng smiled at him and said: "Bi Fan, don't get so worked up, relax.... relax..."

"I am not nervous...." Bi Fan muttered. But in reality, he obviously was. His sweaty clinched fist gave him away.

Xiaofeng decided to help Bi Fan relax and started giving him a shoulder massage.

"Ah...." Bi Fan exhaled loudly, he felt a little uncomfortable, but kept his mouth shut, and continued to enjoy the beauty of the service being delivered.

Chapter 16 – Cheered On

The selection for disciples was actually quite simple. It only had two rounds.

Firstly, a practitioner would have to lift a stone to demonstrate strength; doing so successfully would send you to the next round.

The second round was an arms drill, a combat round. Two participants would have to go up against each other; in this round not only strength, but skill also mattered. This round was very exciting for the spectators.

Every year, hundreds of participants would enroll for the selection process, so there was a lot of fresh blood. But the standard required for entry into Quinyang schools was very high.

This year was no different. The deputy of the Quinyang schools selection committee approached the center stage.

Ling Xin Ya, had an amazing physique, that commanded so much authority, that people wouldn't even dare stare at him.

He was in the 'emerging from womb' Jie and was considered one of the best in the entire Jiu You region.

Ling Xin Ya, raised his hand high, and entire crowd paused their chattering and suddenly the valley became silent.

“Rules are as usual, let the selection of disciple begin.”

He was a no nonsense man, at his order, the selection had officially begun.

The contestants had lined up for the registration process, and were well aware of the eyes that watched them, and hence bore themselves in a disciplined manner.

Bi Fan strolled his way back to the end of the line.

Xiaofeng before heading off to the viewer’s stands, whispered in his ear: “Good luck, Bi Fan.”

As she left, the wind blew and carried her fragrance to Bi Fan.

Intoxicated, Bi Fan took a deep breath.

Bi Fan was surrounded by many other people, who were all looking at him with envy and jealousy. Most of them had never seen such a beautiful girl.

“She’s really very beautiful. Is she your girlfriend, brother?” a young man standing behind Bi Fan asked.

Bi Fan didn’t reply to the question, but gently nodded his head, and thought to himself: “This herd of perverts shall not be allowed to harass Xiaofeng, if they realize that I’m not her boyfriend, these

hell bound creatures will pounce on her like hungry hounds.”

Bi Fan knew that if Xiaofeng ever found out about this, then she would flip out at him on the spot: “How dare you, you cheap bastard?”

Even though Xiaofeng wasn't Bi Fan's girlfriend, he didn't want any other men to get close to her. This seemed to be the case with most men. After all, men can be a bit possessive and protective.

The man saw Bi Fan nod and realized that he might be participating alone, and asked him: “Brother, do you know any other beautiful women that you could introduce me to, later at the bar.”

Bi Fan didn't speak, just blankly nodded his head in reply. He coolly ignored all the guys standing around him as their faces turned a shade of disappointment.

First round was rather easy, contestants would have to lift a piece of rock, there were ten rocks and ten participants were asked to do their rounds simultaneously. It wouldn't take much time to finish this round.

Anyone who was serious about participating in the selection would be easily able to clear this round, lifting the stone up very smoothly.

The stone, was obviously quite heavy, lifting this stone up was an

indication that the participant was capable of breaking layer barriers by force.

People above cheered on as a man named Tieniu Zhuang took to the platform. He didn't just go for one, but lifted three stones as high as his chin at the same time. He was making a statement, a very bold statement. The other participants looked on, stunned.

Bi Fan was looking at him, and could make out that Tieniu wasn't even at 'inner breath' layer, he was just naturally gifted with a great amount of physical strength.

Ling Xin Ya had been watching the performance of the contestants carefully, sometimes shaking his head, sometimes nodding in judgement.

Soon, Bi Fan's turn came. He slowly walked up to the stone and easily lifted it. He just wanted to cross the level; he didn't have intention of making a statement.

"Bi Fan of Yunufeng has cleared the round." The announcer announced on the mike.

Many people had heard of Yunufeng, they also knew that Yunufeng was one of the best places to practice in Quinyang.

At the same time, everyone knew that Yunufeng never accepted male students; they looked at Bi Fan with a sense of confusion and surprise.

Although Bi Fan hadn't tried to reveal the true extent of his prowess, nothing remains hidden from the experienced eyes of Ling Xin Ya.

Ling Xin Ya could make out the Bi Fan had broken through several layers by now, and that too at such a young age. As he nodded at Bi Fan, Bi Fan recorded this moment in his memory.

After the first level was over, the number of contestants had reduced to four hundred and fifteen.

Now it was time for the second round. Combat.

The organizers used chits to randomly draw out names and assigned them a number, one, two, three and so on.

Bi Fan got one hundred and thirty five, so he would have to wait a while.

Ming Fung valley had only ten rings, and even if they were being used simultaneously, it would still take time to finish the process.

Most of the participants hadn't even reached the 'inner breath' layer, and hadn't started practicing any serious martial arts techniques as of yet. So most fights were purely physical and lacked any technical display.

The combat round was boring. Bi Fan, he almost dozed off at one point.

Finally, Bi Fan's turn came. He found out that his opponent was Teiniu Zhuang.

“Hello, I'm Teiniu. Pleased to meet you.” He bent slightly gesturing a sign of respect for his opponent, as was the custom.

Bi Fan did the same: “Hello, I'm Bi Fan, pleased to meet you.”

Bi Fan started moving around the ring, he could make out that Teiniu was a very strong guy, he had to be careful.

“Little brother, Bi Fan, here I come, watch out.” Teiniu shouted a warning, as he suddenly pounced at Bi Fan.

“This man thinks that anyone who's smaller in size, irrespective of age, is his little brother.” Bi Fan couldn't help but think to himself.

Teiniu charged at him with his arms outstretched, he wanted to grasp Bi Fan in a hold. Teiniu was almost two meters tall, and was fairly strong; it would be very difficult to break free from his grip. Bi Fan sidestepped, unwittingly putting ‘the dance of mist’ footwork to use, and he instantly went on to his side.

Bi Fan pushed Teiniu with his palm. Even though Bi Fan hadn't used much force, Teiniu's momentum was enough to throw him

outside the ring. Teiniu balanced himself, looking somewhat puzzled. He couldn't understand how Bi Fan been able to thwart his attack so easily, he wasn't this careless.

“Wow, that's good!” A lot of people cheered him on.

At first, everyone had thought that Teiniu was going to win easily, no one considered Bi Fan to be a match for him, and even Xiaofeng was no exception.

But the situation had changed quickly. But Teiniu wasn't going to accept defeat this easily.

“Agile, with a good sense of combat, he's worth cultivating.” Ling Xin Ya nodded and smiled at Bi Fan from his seat.

Teiniu shook his big head, straightened himself, and then charged again towards Bi Fan.

“AAARGHHHH!”

He shouted as he ran towards Bi Fan, with a great deal of momentum.

Teiniu's fist was as big as a bucket; he directed it straight at Bi Fan's face.

Bi Fan didn't move, not until Teiniu's fist had gotten very close,

and then he smoothly slid sideways, to open up Teiniu's attack. Then with a lightning fast speed, he grabbed Teiniu's arm and pushed him.

"Ah...Ah...." Teiniu cried out in pain as Bi Fan skillfully beat him again. He fell down on the ring.

"Amazing!" "Wow!" "Wonderful!" the crowd applauded.

Bi Fan's mind was a complete blank, and his spirit was flying high, he felt as if he had been sleeping all his life and had suddenly woken up.

He could not believe that all these people were cheering and applauding him.

In combat, there were no winners or losers. It was just a way for the schools to identify new talent.

The contest between Bi Fan and Teiniu was a high quality display and was being applauded by the crowd.

As Bi Fan strode off the stage, people applauded him again.

Honestly, Bi Fan was very nervous, even slightly embarrassed, he had never had so many eyes watching his every move.

And not forget, he felt very excited, he might just be accepted

into a school. He had never thought that he could stand in a ring and fight, and not only that, but also win.

“I’ve finally taken the first step, and now in the future, I must work harder to rise higher and higher. I will practice harder, enhance my strength, and become even stronger, the strongest of my generation.” Bi Fan vowed to himself, his blood boiling with encouragement.

“AAAARGHHH!!!”

Bi Fan shouted out, he roared out all those years of frustration and humiliation that had been flaming inside his soul.

After he roared, he felt very relaxed, having vented out all this anger.

And suddenly Bi Fan felt as if he was new person altogether, full of fighting spirit and self-confidence, with his humble status, tossed back over his head.

Chapter 17 – Cheers For Jing Feng

Selection process for disciple ended soon, but that wasn't the end of it.

Those who had been selected could now participate in the rankings tournament.

This year, a total of three hundred and eight nine contestants had been chosen as disciples, and could now participate in the tournament.

To participate in the tournament, one would have to register separately.

One would have to win at least the first three matches before having a shot at the top ten. The top ten would get rewards based on their rankings.

“Bi Fan, you quickly go and register yourself, hurry up, go quickly. Otherwise,.....hmmmm, you looked good” Xiaofeng delicately shook Bi Fan's hand, her eyes dazzling.

“I will go and register myself, and I will try to fight for the first place.”

Bi Fan wasn't blind to his low-status, he wanted to make a name for himself, and he wanted to get more combat experience. So naturally he wasn't letting go of this opportunity.

In the world of cultivation, having a low-key profile wasn't a very good thing. He needed a good school to select him; otherwise his chances of improving his strength would go down by a lot.

There was no point in being talented, he needed to show people what he was capable of, only then he would get the proper support and training. And only then, his strength would grow by leaps and bounds.

Even though Bi Fan had gained a lot of knowledge in recent times, he needed more.

After 'inner breath', each subsequent layer became harder to crack through. One would require a great amount Dan pellets at regular intervals and moreover, a teacher's guidance.

Even before participating in the disciple selection, Bi Fan's heart was already set on the ranking tournament; he wanted to get a good ranking, for rewards, and respect.

Registrations ended very quickly. Only a hundred and eighty participants enrolled, mostly lured by the attractive rewards.

The prize for the first position was top grade magical instrument, ten pellets of 'inner breath' Dan and three pellets of 'inner organs' Dan.

The second prize was top grade magical instrument, eight pellets

of 'inner breath' Dan and one pellet of 'inner organs' Dan.

Third, was rewarded with a high grade magical instrument, and five pellets of 'inner breath' Dan.

Fourth to tenth place was given either magical instruments or 'inner breath' Dan pellets.

The more gifted a fighter was; the higher reward he would get.

The rewards that the top three got were a lot better from the rest of them. Practicing with these resources at hand would ensure that these three would always stay ahead of the rest of them.

Bi Fan didn't care for such rewards. The Tian Yuan ring had enough resources in it to take care of his needs. He just wanted to impress the high-ranked schools in Quinyang, so he could get the proper training.

Even though he knew some secret techniques for using a double-edged sword, he was afraid to reveal it to people.

The tournament began, and only three stages were set up for this, so the schools could carefully watch and judge the contestants.

Bi Fan's number had been drawn towards the end, so he sat with Xiaofeng, and waited for his turn.

Suddenly a group of girls started making loud noises.

“Ah! Look its Jing Feng. Jing Feng has finally arrived!”

“Look, Jing Feng is so handsome.”

.....

The arrival of Jing Feng had caused a chaos, the girls were going crazy about him, and even those sitting in front of Ling Xin Ya were shouting and screaming.

Jing Feng had a serene look on his face, as he swayed his fan. His graceful movements made the crowd even more excited and they cheered and screamed for him even louder.

Bi Fan hearing all those cheers and screams felt very lowly.

“Jing Feng has a very loud reputation, he’s very well admired.” Said Bi Fan, secretly envious of Jing Feng.

He addressed Xiaofeng and asked: “Is that kind of shouting and cheering really necessary?”

Earlier Xiaofeng and the other girls from Yunufeng had been sitting very quietly, but now, they too seemed to be very excited. Even Xiaofeng was gossiping with the other girls.

“Xiaofeng, not only does Jing Feng look really handsome, he’s also extremely strong, what else does a girl want in a man.” One of the Yunufeng girls was whispering to Xiaofeng.

Xiaofeng looking somewhat unconvinced replied: “I would like to see him fight once.”

Her beautiful eyes couldn’t help but steal a glance at Jing Feng.

Bi Fan watched as Xiaofeng looked at Jing Feng, and his heart surrendering feeling sour.

Jing Feng had arrived in the Ming Fung valley earlier and knew that Bi Fan would be in the crowd somewhere; he spotted Bi Fan and started walking towards Bi Fan.

Most of the Yunufeng girls had come to the selection to get a glimpse of Jing Feng, watching him walk towards them, left them speechless and their mouths, hung open. Their obsession for Jing Feng was taking over.

Even Xiaofeng’s face was red with excitement, as she said to herself: “Is he coming in my direction, what will I say to him.”

As she whispered this, the shouting and cheering started getting even louder; Jing Feng was getting closer.

As Jing Feng got closer, Xiaofeng could feel her heart beat faster and faster.

Jing Feng was really handsome, and really strong too, everything a girl wanted, even Xiaofeng was no exception.

Bi Fan had noticed how Xiaofeng was becoming very self-conscious; he couldn't help but feel envious of Jing Feng.

Bi Fan was fond of Xiaofeng, he was very fond of her, a feeling that Bi Fan hadn't been able to understand.

On top of that, Bi Fan was very well aware of his low status, and had a very low self-esteem. Love was a luxury he couldn't even dream of.

And Xiaofeng had been very kind to Bi Fan. So naturally, he took a liking to her, and couldn't imagine another man getting close to her.

Jing Feng came over, looked at Bi Fan and smiled.

Bi Fan stood up and greeted him: "Brother Jing Feng, nice to see that you have returned from your training."

"I just returned, but I never imagined that Bi Fan would be tossing such big guys around the ring like that." Jing Feng said with a smile.

The two of them chatted as the girls looked on in amazement. They were curious about Bi Fan and Jing Feng's relations, many of them were suddenly interested in knowing more about Bi Fan.

Bi Fan was talking to a public figure and now had a much sturdier body; he was attracting a lot of female attention.

Jing Feng chatted with Bi Fan for a while, and then parted ways. A lot of Neimen students were here, and Jing Feng needed to meet them too.

Jing Feng had barely just left when Bi Fan realized that Xiaofeng had been staring at him with a look that said: "How do really know him?"

All the other girls too were looking at Bi Fan curiously, making him feel very uncomfortable.

"I met with in Quinyang town and then we went to Ting Feng valley together." Bi Fan explained.

Xiaofeng questioned him: "Why didn't you tell me, what happened between the two of you?"

Watching Bi Fan talk to Jing Feng like that had made Xiaofeng very skeptical, she could sense that something might be fishy.

“Nothing really...” Bi Fan said, “We stayed together for three days, after which we parted ways, I came back to mountain, and he left for his training.”

Most of the women were looking at him superciliously; they weren't very convinced with his explanation.

The rankings tournament was much more exciting than the selection combats, and from time to time, exhibited some excellent fights.

“Nice!....” the crowd burst applauding.

Bi Fan glanced around to the ring, just as a very young participant had picked up his big and bulky opponent in his arms in a very powerful stroke, leaving his opponent to struggle in vain.

“He seems to have broken through to ‘inner breath’ layer, if you have to fight against him at some point, be very careful. ‘Inner breath’ practitioners can be very strong and making even the slightest mistake can be the difference between winning and losing.”

“Understood” Bi Fan replied, making a note of the name of the young fighter on the stage. Li Shu.

Chapter 18 – Forces Collide

Bi Fan had been watching the contests carefully, and had noticed that there were several participants who were lingering around ‘inner breath’ layer.

But when Bi Fan tried to compare himself with them, he figured that he’s probably stronger than them.

And suddenly Bi Fan was booming with confidence, he hadn’t realized the true value of his own strength, he always thought that he was average.

“Bi Fan of Yunufeng, report to arena number three.”

Finally it was Bi Fan’s turn to take the stage.

“Bi Fan, good luck, the prestige of Yunufeng resides on your shoulder.” Xiaofeng waved at Bi Fan as he started to walk towards the stage, encouraging him.

Bi Fan strode towards the stage confidently, but his mind was very alert.

His was blood boiling with passion, but mind, cool and calm.

As Bi Fan entered the ring, his opponent was already present. He looked prepared, full of fighting spirit, but his mind seemed a little

worried.

Disciples would have to register a good winning streak before they were allowed to enter the next round, so no one would easily accept defeat, which made the contest even more entertaining and competitive.

After the two made their gestures of respect, the fight officially began.

Both the fighters immediately started exchanging blows, deploying Wan Zu fist boxing technique. It was evident that both the fighters had been practicing very hard.

“Bang!” Bi Fan at last managed to connect one.

Bi Fan stood his ground, while his opponent retreated a few steps before steadying himself again.

They were attacking each other recklessly, with no regard for their own safety.

The participant that got two points first, would be declared winner.

They both kept punching like wild animals.

Bi Fan wasn't trying to make any fancy moves, and was simply

trying to land a punch on his opponent's body.

So much so that Bi Fan hadn't even tried to dodge to the side of his opponents like he had done earlier.

Engaged in combat, they both were fully concentrated on their fight.

And then suddenly, Bi Fan managed to land his second, a hard one this time. His opponent flew a good two meters before falling to the ground, but immediately stood up again.

“Bi Fan of Yunufeng wins!”

The opponent stepped down, and a new contestant entered the ring.

Bi Fan still used the Wan Zu boxing technique, and with ease was able to replicate the result of the previous fight.

At this early level in the competition, technique wasn't very important, however, strength was a key factor to success.

Anyway, most fighters here were barely at 'martial strength' layer, and their techniques weren't very refined either.

Bi Fan estimated that he should be able to lift four stones, making him one of the strongest contestants in the tournament.

Even though Tieniu was naturally gifted with massive strength, wouldn't be able to compete with Bi Fan.

He would only have to careful against participants who had entered 'inner breath' layer, being careless around them could turn into a very costly mistake.

Bi Fan was able to register three consecutive win with ease, and smoothly made the cut.

“Well done Bi Fan!” Xiaofeng cheered and clapped loudly for Bi Fan.

Watching Xiaofeng cheer for him, distracted Bi Fan's thoughts, but he quickly shook his head and decided to focus his attention at the task at hand.

Xiaofeng was almost like a goddess, and way beyond the reach of an ordinary orchard farmer. The difference in their status was far too great.

Bi Fan lived in reality; he wasn't going to let himself get deluded so easily.

Soon, the first round finished, leaving twenty eight participants for the second round.

In the next round, the rules were slightly different. Only one fight would take place and the winner will advance to the next round.

Bi Fan was randomly allocated the number fifteen, so he would have to fight number sixteen.

Three rings were being used simultaneously, so it wouldn't be long before Bi Fan's turn.

Teiniu was allocated number two, so his fight was the first one to start, on stage one.

His opponent was fairly strong too; he had been able to lift two stones.

After the formalities, the fight started and Teiniu shouted as he charged at his opponent wildly. He managed to grab hold of his opponent.

“Ah..... Ah.....” the contestant struggled for a while, writhing in pain, but couldn't break free and ultimately admitted defeat.

Teiniu won, flashed a smile, revealing his disgusting yellow teeth; he looked rather scary. The females in the arena didn't even want to look at him.

The second batch of contestants came in to the ring, Li Shu was amongst them. Two of these six had crossed into 'inner breath'

layer and won their fight rather easily.

As the third round started, Bi Fan was called to stage two.

Unfortunately, Bi Fan's opponent was a guy called Wang Feng. He too had crossed into the 'inner breath' layer.

The two of them glared at each other, ready for a battle.

Wang Feng had seen Bi Fan's agile displays and wouldn't be careless enough to stand idly.

Bi Fan was aware of Wang Feng's plan, but didn't care, he was going to play this match purely on physical strength.

Both the participants started boxing with each other.

Bi Fan touched his chin, and then dashed at Wang Feng with all his might.

His punch aimed at Wang Feng's face, was more like a gale with an edge of a knife.

Wang Feng wouldn't dare stand up to such a powerful punch and leaned sideways to dodge.

Bi Fan swiftly changed his body's momentum to the left and

suddenly his punch was now again aimed at Wang Feng.

Because Bi Fan had been practicing ‘the dance of mist’ footwork, he could change directions with great ease. His body was capable of making such smooth, subtle movements at great speeds, that most people wouldn’t even be able to evade his attacks.

Wang Feng unable to dodge Bi Fan’s sudden change in direction, desperately punched back. Their fists collided with each other’s.

“Bang!” Bi Fan used the full force of his body to stabilize himself, took a step back.

Wang Feng however, had barely managed to cope with his sudden maneuver, went back five or six steps.

Bi Fan hadn’t been able to deploy his full strength to this attack; otherwise Wang Feng might have ended up a lot worse.

Bi Fan burst forward again, planning on using even more strength this time, employed Wan Zu fist boxing.

He volleyed an array of punches, directed at Wang Feng’s face. Each, more ferocious and more pressing than the last one.

Wang Feng had already reached the end of the ring, in attempts to dodge Bi Fan’s punches. Now he had nowhere to hide, nowhere to run.

He used everything he had, and exploded back at Bi Fan with a powerful punch.

They both groaned as their fists came together again. Bi Fan was pushed back, he went back at least ten steps before regaining his balance.

Wang Feng was much worse off; he directly went flying out of the ring.

Obviously, with the balance of power on his side, Bi Fan prevailed.

“Bi Fan wins!”

Bi Fan had won again, this time beating an ‘inner breath’ layer opponent. He looked at the crowd as they cheered and praised him.

However, in one corner, sat a man; glaring at Bi Fan with a cold and gloomy look in his eyes; as if his heart was wishing to tear Bi Fan apart.

Zhu San was the biggest bully Bi Fan had ever known. Not only had Bi Fan survived the Wan Snake Cave, he had also become a lot stronger, which made Zhu San very mad.

He had come to the valley to watch the tournament, and

accidentally stumbled upon Bi Fan. It was exactly like Daniu had described, Bi Fan was a changed man.

Zhu San was shocked to see Bi Fan; his heart was brimming with a desire to kill Bi Fan, once and for all. But Bi Fan had become a lot stronger, much stronger than him, eliminating Bi Fan now, would be a lot harder. He would need a proper plan.

Bi Fan felt as if someone was glaring at him, he turned around to see Zhu San sitting in the crowd.

As their eyes met, Bi Fan smiled at Zhu San. A chill ran down Zhu San's spine; intimidated, he got up and left in a hurry.

“He has seen me, this can turn into a problem, I need to find a way to kill him.” Zhu San walked away, thinking to himself.

Bi Fan paying no attention to Zhu San, strolled back to Xiaofeng's side.

Zhu San was nothing compared to Bi Fan, Bi Fan could crush him whenever he desired.

Bi Fan had already become a disciple, and if he did well in the tournament, he could end up joining a high class school. His reputation and status in the society would be greatly raised. An allegation such as killing an ordinary outside practitioner, like Zhu San, wouldn't make any sense to people.

Chapter 19 – The Contest Rages On

Soon the round came to an end, the fourteen participants that were left in the competition, advanced to the next round.

The ballot drew Bi Fan to be the first number and so his fight started on the first stage.

Bi Fan's opponent was much weaker, hadn't even made it to the 'inner breath' layer yet, making it an easy contest, and allowing Bi Fan to move ahead with ease.

In this round, both Teiniu and Li Shu won their fights easily; the other four participants who won their fights were also lingering around 'inner breath' layer.

Since there were only seven contestants left, one of them would be getting a bye, allowing him to go directly to the next round.

A name was randomly picked from the ballot and Teiniu was awarded the bye. He started laughing on the spot, flashing his yellow teeth, which give others a sense of nausea. Teiniu obviously didn't seem to care much.

This time, Bi Fan's opponent was a man name Yang Lin. He had already crossed into 'inner breath', had a plump build and carried a sneaky smile on his face.

“Bi Fan; pleased to meet you.”

“Yang Lin; pleased to meet you.”

Bi Fan’s tone was very firm. As soon as the fight started, Yang Lin charged at Bi Fan very quickly, his movements symbolizing his love for violence.

It was obvious that beating Yang Lin wasn’t going to be an easy task, and Bi Fan would have to seize any opportunity he could find.

He attacked Bi Fan employing ‘Iron plate bridge’ technique, and Bi Fan dodged it. Yang Lin quickly steadied himself and turned around to face Bi Fan again.

Bi Fan attacked with a sweeping kick, his legs moved at a lightning fast pace. Energetic and vigorous, he managed to connect the strike.

Yang Lin rolled over and fell to the ground, unable to dodge Bi Fan’s counter.

Yang Lin got up immediately, looking slightly embarrassed.

He took out a dagger from the folds of his clothes. It appeared to be a low grade magical weapon.

“Bi Fan, you’re still going to lose. You might be stronger, but you will kneel before my dagger.” Yang Lin said, feeling rather proud.

Bi Fan, in a cold voice retaliated: “I’d like to see you try.”

Bi Fan habitually touched his chin, as if poking his beard, which he obviously didn’t have. This gesture of his looked rather funny.

Many of the girls sitting in the stands chuckled at his action.

“Bi Fan, what are you touching your chin for?” Muttered one of the Yunufeng girls from the stands.

Yang Lin, still holding his dagger, charged at Bi Fan at an amazing speed.

Bi Fan, who was usually easy to scare, stood there motionless, poking his imaginary beard.

Xiaofeng screamed: “Bi Fan, what are you doing, get out of there quickly!”

As the dagger came uncomfortably close to his body, Bi Fan unveiled a sly smile. His right hand came forth at a lightning fast speed, his two fingers moving directly towards the attacking dagger.

“Bi Fan, you silly boy; you think you can thwart a dagger with just your fingers. Even though it’s a low quality magical weapon, it’s still a magical weapon!” Most of the spectators commented.

Bi Fan quickly used his 'inner breath' strength to cast out 'the immortal finger', not to attack, but to defend.

With the 'the immortal finger' coming to his defense, and he caught the dagger right between his two fingers.

Bi Fan's fingers looked like they were made of gold and jade, sparkling and translucent at the same time.

Yang Lin's dagger stood motionless between Bi Fan's fingers, no matter how hard Yang Lin tried to retrieve it.

Bi Fan raised his left hand and punched Yang Lin in the face.

Yang Lin had obtained this dagger with great difficulty and didn't want to lose it at any cost.

“Boom!”

Bi Fan connected the hit perfectly; Yang Lin's eye looked as black as a panda's.

Yang Lin shook his head, concussed and dizzy; he didn't even know where he was walking, his hands still tightly clinching his dagger.

“Go on!” Bi Fan said as pushed Yang Lin. Yang Lin was thrown

out of the ring, along with his beloved dagger.

“Ah!! Amazing!!...”

“Handsomely done! Are his fingers made of diamond or something?”

“Miraculous, fearless, he actually used the dagger to his advantage with those fingers!”

....

The crowd went ecstatic after Bi Fan display, Bi Fan was in the limelight again.

Bi Fan didn't pay any attention to any of it, and with an expressionless face, strolled back towards the stands.

Ling Xin Ya looked over at Bi Fan from his seat and said: “This boy keeps a cool head on the battle field, looks like a very exciting talent. He is still young and innocent, could be vigorously trained into something great.”

He immediately called out to his servant and asked him to investigate into Bi Fan's life.

“Bi Fan, show me your fingers.” Xiaofeng said, and without bothering to wait for his response, grabbed his fingers and looked

at them carefully.

“Hey, not even a single scratch! How did you do that?”

As his hand was being held delicately by Xiaofeng’s soft and warm hands, he felt very comfortable.

He closed his eyes, feeling intoxicated, and didn’t even hear what she was saying.

Xiaofeng let go of his hand and said: “Say something, will you?”

“What?” Bi Fan asked bewildered.

“How did your hand not get hurt?” Xiaofeng was staring at Bi Fan, puzzled.

Bi Fan replied: “I caught the dagger right between the fingers, and managed to avoid the blade.”

“I think there more to it than that.” Xiaofeng retaliated, her eyes filled with doubt.

“I’m telling the truth.” Bi Fan tried to defend himself.

Soon, the other fights were decided, Li Shu won his fight with ease. The other participant to go forward was a boy named Zhou

Feng.

With the last four remaining, there was now going to a stiff competition for ranking, as the difference between third and fourth place was a massive one.

The numbers were drawn once again, and Bi Fan was matched with Teiniu. Li Shu would go up against Zhou Feng.

For the next round, only one stage was set up, so everyone could watch the fights carefully.

First, it was Bi Fan vs Teiniu, Bi Fan had just come onto the stage when suddenly, Teiniu said: "I give up!"

Then, he turned towards Bi Fan and laughed: "You're too strong; I'm no match for you."

A close look at Teiniu's teeth was enough to kill a man, even Bi Fan couldn't help but feel a little nauseated, and he hurriedly stepped down the stage, as if his life depended on it.

Teiniu looked puzzled as he walked off the stage.

Then it was time for Li Shu versus Zhou Feng, after the two made their salutes, the contest began.

The winner in this fight would be competing against Bi Fan for

first place, so naturally Bi Fan was watching very attentively.

Zhou Feng and Li Shu were both considerably strong, and the two of them fighting against each other made for a very exciting contest.

As the fierce contest unveiled in the ring, the spectators in the stands cheered louder and louder.

Li Shu and Zhou Feng were both using very simple martial arts techniques, but the fight was very exciting, they were really getting the crowd going.

Bi Fan was watching their fight very carefully; he wanted to get a good feel of their styles.

It was no secret that if he could figure out how these two fight, then later it would be very useful for him. He could use this knowledge to gain an extra edge and use it to win.

Li Shu and Zhou Feng were charging at each other recklessly, they had both sustained injuries, it was the semi-final after all, and they were both giving it their all. In the end, Li Shu emerged victorious.

Next, a rest for one hour was announced. After the break, first the contest for the third and the fourth place would take place.

The one hour passed very quickly, Teiniu and Zhou Feng made

their way to the stage.

As Zhou Feng walked onto the stage, one could make out that he was in considerable physical discomfort, his injuries hadn't healed properly.

“Let the fight begin!”

Teiniu again ran for his opponent, trying to put him in a hold, this was his only trick.

Zhou Feng on the other hand, was a very skilled and flexible fighter; he dodged Teiniu and tried to open his attack up.

Zhou Feng hit Teiniu with his palm.

Teiniu had no skill, but had a very sturdy body, even though he took the hit, it barely made any difference to him.

“Hey!” Teiniu grinned as once again went for the hold.

He grabbed Zhou Feng by his feet and succeeded in completing his hold.

Even though Zhou Feng was very quick in the beginning of the tournament, the injuries in the previous fights were taking their toll; he had become a lot slower. And this time, he was unable to dodge Teiniu.

“I admit defeat.” Zhou Feng said, looking depressed.

If he hadn't had to fight Li Shu earlier, he would have beaten Teiniu quite easily.

The award for the fourth place was very lowly compared to the third. The difference was the same as fourth and tenth place. And Zhou Feng's face was dull with disappointment as he walked off the stage.

Chapter 20 – Number One

Next up, was Bi Fan versus Li Shu for the first position, both fighters came onto the stage at the same time.

“Bi Fan; pleased to meet you.”

“Li Shu; pleased to meet you.”

As the contest began, Li Shu was the first to launch his attack, his pace thunderous; his action, violent.

Bi Fan had no intention of going head-on; he used ‘the dance of mist’ footwork, and conveniently dodged to the right side of his attacker.

A Quinyang school senior exclaimed: “What great agility Bi Fan has, I have never seen anything like it!”

“This really isn’t anything great, it’s only the most basic of footwork, but he’s practiced it very thoroughly, and that’s what’s making it so useful. He is using it to great effect, even if such a basic footwork is practiced to the highest extent, can prove to be very useful in achieving big things.” Ling Xin Ya commented.

Li Shu couldn’t do anything about Bi Fan’s pace and agility, and he was running out breath. He was attacking with more urgency now, and even more desperation.

After his fight with Zhou Feng, he had sustained several injuries. It was impossible to recover from them in one hour.

Since Bi Fan's opponent had given up without a fight, he was already at an advantage.

Li Shu was fighting with desperation; he needed to end this quickly. The longer the fight wore on, the lesser his chance of winning.

Bi Fan still had no intention of colliding with Li Shu, he was dodging Li Shu's attacks. His agile footwork, made it look very easy.

As Li Shu's pace became slower, Bi Fan's eyes resonated his opportunity. The time to strike was almost near.

With Wan Zu fist boxing, he went straight for Li Shu's body.

Finally Bi Fan was launching a counter attack, and even though it was the most simplest of moves, his expertise and strength made it formidable.

Li Shu was broken and hurt, and at this time, it looked as if he was being bullied around by Bi Fan.

Li Shu side stepped Bi Fan, he wouldn't dare to go head-on now.

“AAARGH!!!” Li Shu didn’t even retreat as he charged straight back at Bi Fan, not allowing himself even a moment to catch his breath.

Li Shu had slowed down, even looked tired, and could barely stand straight.

In the end, Li Shu was unable to dodge Bi Fan’s next counter.

Bi Fan was very skilled with Wan Zu boxing. Li Shu’s already injured body couldn’t withstand the hit, and he was immediately knocked onto the ground. An entire day of fighting had finally got to him.

Bi Fan was declared winner, and the tournament ended.

Xiaofeng shouted loudly: “Well done, Bi Fan! Good job!”

The crowd cheered him on, not only had he had won the tournament, he had given an excellent performance, winning the support of many people and schools.

Bi Fan stood in the ring, brimming with emotions; it seemed like yesterday when he was just a fragile orchard farmer, cursed to be bullied for the rest of his life.

Today, not only had he been selected as a disciple, he had also won the tournament.

This moment felt very unreal to him, almost as if it was a dream.

It was a while before Bi Fan finally walked off the stage.

He knew that this was just the beginning, he still had a long way to go, and he needed to look ahead.

Bi Fan walked very slowly towards receiving the trophy; he knew he couldn't let this get his head. He still had a long way to go.

He hadn't reached his destination; he still needed to work very hard.

“The tournament has now ended, congratulations to the ones who ranked high, and those who didn't, don't despair, keep practicing.” Ling Xin Ya said.

Soon, the prizes were awarded; Bi Fan was the last to receive his.

First prize, a top grade magical instrument, ten 'inner breath' Dan pellets and three 'inner organs' Dan pellets. As Bi Fan held these generous rewards in his hands, a wave of emotions flurried through his body.

“Bi Fan, would you like to enter the devil Jie (territory) for training?” Ling Xin Ya asked.

“Enter the devil’s territory?” Bi Fan asked, alarmed. He had no idea what was going on.

The devil’s territory was a region where experience martial artists would go for training. Some schools would send their younger disciples to the devil Jie to learn discipline and to train.

Neimen School required their new recruits to undergo one month of training in devil’s territory.

If they survive this training, then they are officially accepted as students, and their status in society as well as the treatment they get would be greatly improved.

Obviously, the only reason Ling Xin Ya would ask him this was because he wanted to accept Bi Fan as a student.

Ling Xin Ya stated: “As long as you can survive in the devil’s periphery for a month, I’m willing to make an exception and accept you as a student at Neimen School. Think it over.”

“I won’t let you down.” Bi Fan responded without any hesitation.

As far as he was concerned, there was nothing to think about. The choice was clear.

To become a student of a man of Ling Xin Ya’s caliber was something Bi Fan had never imagined.

If he became a student of Ling Xin Ya, then no one would ever suspect him for the death of Zhu San, when the time came.

But right now, it was time to practice and learn; otherwise the road ahead could be rough.

“Very well then. After you have passed one month in the devil’s territory, come and find me at the Yangshan summit.” Ling Xin Ya took out a golden token from his pocket and handed it to Bi Fan.

Bi Fan took the token, bowed and said: “Thank you, deputy sir. I will pass the test you have set for me at any cost.”

“Devil’s territory... no matter how dangerous it might be, I will survive in it at any cost.” Bi Fan told himself as he stepped down from the podium.

It was getting late and the selection tournament was over, so the crowd had begun to disperse. Tomorrow, the student’s tournament would begin.

“Bi Fan, that was very well done, you were amazing!” Xiaofeng congratulated Bi Fan as she smilingly patted him on the shoulders.

Bi Fan was too excited to speak, so he just smiled back at her.

Jing Feng strode over towards Bi Fan and said: “Congratulations

Bi Fan for winning the first prize.”

“Thank you Jing Feng.” Bi Fan smiled.

Jing Feng’s females fan following was still lingering around him like wild animals, obsessed.

Even Xiaofeng couldn’t help but stare at Jing Feng for a while, before she finally turned her head the other way.

Jing Feng asked, “Bi Fan, did he just ask you to break through to the devil’s territory for training?”

Bi Fan nodded as he asked: “Yes, how do you know that?”

“Well, I guessed that after your astonishing display today, the deputy would never let you go to any other school. It would be very strange if he did.” Jing Feng laughed.

Xiaofeng asked in a surprised tone: “Really Bi Fan, the deputy actually wants to take you as his student?”

“Yes, but only if I pass a month in the devil’s territory.” Bi Fan replied.

Xiaofeng laughed as she playfully said: “Bi Fan, this is amazing, you are going to have a very bright future. Don’t forget us, especially the girl who took care of you.”

“Xiaofeng, I will never forget you. If Yunufeng hadn’t taken me in, taught me everything I know today, I would still be farming orchards.” Bi Fan replied back with all his heart.

He really didn’t want to leave Yunufeng. He would never be able to forget the kindness that Yan Yu Si had shown him.

Jing Feng started shaking his fan again, attracting even more attention from all the girls around.

“Bi Fan, I will take your leave now. Remember to watch the tournament tomorrow. And hey, cheer for me.”

“I will be here for you tomorrow, Jing Feng” Bi Fan said, touching his chin again.

“Jing Feng, we will also be cheering for you....” The girls surrounding Jing Feng said as he tried to flee the scene, seemingly embarrassed by his female fan club.

“He is literally a household name, then why does he get embarrassed so easily... ” Xiaofeng said as laughed.

Even though she was making fun of Jing Feng, the smile on her face was proof enough that she only meant it as a compliment.

Bi Fan could sense that Xiaofeng liked Jing Feng. A sinking

feeling took over his heart.

Chapter 21 – Watch And Learn

The devil's territory was massive in size; some considered it to be boundless. There were a lot of cities on the borders; Jiu You was one such city.

The devil's territory was full of demons, and all kinds of goblins, witches and other evil beings. This place was always reeking of trouble.

The devil's territory was a good place for all levels of practitioners to gain experience and train. Several schools even sent 'fetus' level students into the devil's territory.

In Jiu You city, a lot of schools had made it compulsory for their new recruits to survive in the devil's territory, so they could learn discipline.

Schools in Quinyang had the same rule; a new student would have to survive a month inside the devil's region before starting training with the school. No exceptions were made, not even if student belonged to an influential family.

This was done to improve the self-control of the students and would provide them with valuable experience, which would make them better over time.

Bi Fan had received all this information from Xiaofeng. Xiaofeng had taken the charge to mentally prepare Bi Fan for this test. She also told him about various other things that happen inside the

devil's territory.

“Bi Fan, if you wish to survive inside the devil's territory, then you will need to be very careful. It's not the demons that you really need to worry about, but the people. There will be a lot of people inside the devil's territory and you will need to be careful and on guard against them.” Xiaofeng had cautioned him.

This made sense to Bi Fan, practitioners competing against each other often held grudges. If such two martial artists happened to meet in the devil's territory, then a blood bath would be inevitable.

“Thank you Xiaofeng, I will make sure that I'm well prepared before I enter the devil's territory.” Bi Fan had said.

That day, in the evening, Bi Fan practiced even harder than usual. He even started practicing the first technique from the secrets of double-edged swords, ‘The rainy-flying sword.’

There was always of chance of running into trouble inside the devil's territory, and he needed to be well prepared to defend himself.

‘The rainy-flying sword’ technique was a rather strange technique. It didn't involve much use of strength; in fact the sword would appear as light as a feather, simply leaning to the sides.

However, it was a very difficult technique to learn, so naturally, in such a short time, Bi Fan hadn't been able to get a good grasp of

things.

In order to defend himself, Bi Fan didn't mind using the forbidden techniques. He knew that in critical times, when things got desperate, forbidden techniques could come in handy.

So, apart from practicing 'the rainy-flying sword', Bi Fan also practiced 'the blood devil' technique.

Next morning, all the girls from Yunufeng were ready to go out, to see the student's tournament, and so was Bi Fan.

Of course, most of these girls were more interested in watching Jing Feng, rather than the tournament itself.

Today Xiaofeng had dressed up all nice and had even put on some make-up. She looked very beautiful.

Looking at Xiaofeng made Bi Fan's heart a little sad. He knew that she had specially put in so much effort into her appearance today as she might get to meet Jing Feng.

"Am I falling in love with Xiaofeng? No, I don't deserve Xiaofeng." Bi Fan was a little surprised that this thought had even come into his mind.

"Xiaofeng has been very kind to me, I'm sure it's just an illusion, I'm just very fond of her." Bi Fan told his heart, in an attempt to convince himself.

The Ming Fung valley was even more crowded than it was yesterday. A large number of people had gathered to witness that student's tournament. Even though the tournament hadn't started yet, the cheers were already flying in all directions.

“Jing Feng! Jing Feng! You are the most handsome, you are strongest...” the girls kept shouting after him as he warmed up.

As for the boys, most of them were envious and jealous of Jing Feng, so they wouldn't cheer for him much.

“Mo Nan! Mo Nan! Knock out Jing Feng!”

Mo Nan was considered second only to Jing Feng, but he looked somewhat rugged and violent, so naturally wasn't a favorite when it came to the girls. However, when it came to beating Jing Feng and embarrassing him, he was the best hope the boys had.

Cheers for Mo Nan were louder, even overshadowed those for Jing Feng. After all, the number of boys present was more than girls; hence they were making more noise.

“Really crazy day, huh!” Bi Fan exclaimed.

Yunufeng girls had arrived a little late, but still managed to get seats very close to the rings.

Jing Feng quickly spotted Bi Fan and came to join him.

“Bi Fan, you kept your promise.”

Jing Feng had come over to meet Bi Fan so he could get a look at all the Yunufeng girls, as they rarely ever left the Mountain. Specially Xiaofeng, as she looked very gorgeous today.

Jing Feng had an accomplished name, and a gifted martial artist. Furthermore, he really appreciated beauty.

Bi Fan smiled: “Brother, you need to concentrate on your preparation.”

He couldn't catch Jing Feng's gaze, his eyes looked a little distant.

“This contest doesn't require much work” Jing Feng said, in a relaxed tone.

“Jing Feng, you're going to win!” A girl shouted.

Jing Feng was already carrying himself as a champion, so no wonder all the girls were going crazy about him.

Unfortunately, like every other man, Bi Fan couldn't help but feel jealous of him.

After the contestants had gathered, Ling Xin Ya took his seat and announced the start of the tournament.

Ten rings had been set up, and ten sets of officials would be monitoring and judging the fights.

The contest offered sixteen very generous rewards to the winners, which attracted a lot of martial artists to participate.

The tournament was being contested by close to a thousand participants. The ballot would randomly draw out two names, and the fight would start. The tournament followed an elimination system, and only the winner would be allowed to progress to the next round.

The participants would be put in a pool of sixteen, and the winners would progress to the next pool.

The student's tournament displayed some excellent fights between some very talented players, which was the reason it attracted such a large gathering.

Most of the students were around 'brave' layer, even the ones who were at 'inner breath' layer, were stronger than ordinary martial artists of the same rank as they knew some really skilled techniques.

To win at such a level, one would require a great amount of skill.

Bi Fan was already mesmerized, plus, he really wanted see some new tricks.

Bi Fan could now easily memorize new things, so he could use this skill and collect books that illustrated the new techniques that he witnesses, and then learn them.

And as long as he could a good look at the technique, he would be able to memorize it by heart with ease.

Even if he wasn't strong enough to practice these techniques, it would make it easier to deal with them if he ever encountered them in the future.

Not just that, the more skills he picked up, the easier it would be for him to come up with his own variations, which would very beneficial for him.

Previously, Bi Fan's memory hadn't been very strong, but now he could remember things with ease, which was oddly surprising.

Bi Fan wasn't aware that most of the changes in his body were brought about by the Ying Yang lotus. He believed that it was the Wannian Spirit Milk that had given him such amazing talents.

Xioafeng was sitting beside Bi Fan and was constantly looking at him as his eyes swept from one ring to the other, studying and observing the different techniques on display.

She was rather surprised, so she asked him: “Bi Fan, can you make you what they are doing?”

“Keep looking.” He replied, not even bothering to face her.

He needed to pay a very close attention to the techniques on display in order to practice them later.

“Bi Fan, you’d be better off picking one stage and watching the fight. It would help you gain some experience.” Xiaofeng advised.

“I know.”

Bi Fan’s eyes still not glued to one ring, as he continuously kept changing his line of sight to get a look at new skills.

“HMMPPHH” Xiaofeng groaned, slightly animated and offended.

Chapter 22 – Disgraced

Finally, it was Jing Feng's turn, and the Ming Fung Valley came to life amidst deafening cheers and screams.

“Jing Feng! Jing Feng! I love you! You're the best!....”

All the girls were standing up and cheering for him.

Yunufeng girls were no exception, they were shouting so loud that Bi Fan felt as if his ear drums would explode.

Xiaofeng wasn't shouting or cheering but looked seemingly tensed.

“Maybe I'm over conscious of my status. If I feel slightly better about my position, then maybe Xiaofeng will like me more.” Bi Fan tried to reason with himself.

Jing Feng walked onto the stage and took out a top grade magical weapon, a pike. The pike stood over two meters in height, and Jing Feng stood there, looking like a tiger. An elegant tiger, waiting to devour his prey.

This action seemed deliberate on Jing Feng's part and drew a lot of cheers from the crowd.

Jing Feng's opponent was a man named Han Zhuang. He was a

third-year student, big and brawny, but was no match for Jing Feng. Which he seemed well aware of as he didn't really seem interested in even putting up a fight.

“My respected opponent, now's your chance to make a run for it.” Jing Feng pointed his pike towards his opponent and charged straight for him at a thunderous speed.

Han Zhuang, seeing Jing Feng charge, looked terrified, and stripped of any desire to fight.

“I give up!”

As his opponent resigned from the fight, Jing Feng stopped his weapon close to his face and withdrew it to a standing position. He stood there with his pike next to him, tall and proud.

“Jing Feng! Jing Feng! You're so handsome!”

The girls in the Ming Fung Valley started screaming again, their voices flooding the arena like a tsunami.

Xiaofeng's beautiful eyes were looking at Jing Feng, the look in them clearly indicated the attraction she felt for him.

Bi Fan's head was hung low, his heart, even lower.

Bi Fan liked two women in this world; one was Xiaofeng, and the

other, Yan Yu Si, who was helping him with his career.

Yan Yu Si was not only the master of Yunufeng, but she was also very widely respected as one the most talented geniuses in Quinyang. In fact, she was well known and respected in the Tian Yu world as the master of one of the best schools, Xuannu palace.

She was so far beyond Bi Fan's reach that even dreaming of her seemed unrealistic.

Relatively, Xiaofeng was a lot closer to Bi Fan and had been looking after him.

Earlier Bi Fan had never had any hope of improving his strength but at least now he could afford that luxury.

Unfortunately, she seemed interested in Jing Feng and even though Bi Fan could consider fighting off others, he knew that he was no match for Jing Feng. Jing Feng was far too superior to him in skill, and he could never hope to compete with him.

Bi Fan in his depressed state couldn't help but think of Yan Yu Si's voice and gradually a smile returned to his face as he felt good again.

The contest progressed very quickly, and most of the skills on display gradually started repeating. Bi Fan would remain very relaxed until he found something new, something he hadn't seen before.

The Neimen school students were usually much better than their competitors and relatively stronger than Bi Fan; he was paying special attention to them.

Compared to these skills, 'blood devil' and 'rainy-fly sword' were much darker techniques.

Bi Fan put his thoughts aside, and began concentrating on memorizing as many techniques as he could.

Xiaofeng looked at Bi Fan's ecstatic face, she felt her heart flutter.

Some say that passionate men are the most attractive.

If Bi Fan knew that he was attracting interest from Xiaofeng, his now calm heart would revert back to a state of turmoil.

The second round was under progress, and Jing Feng made his way to stage again.

Jing Feng took out his pike and charged straight for his opponent again, and the fight again was resolved very quickly. Another easy victory for him.

Jing Feng was extremely strong and had a decorated name, and over the years had disciplined himself as a martial artist. He was already in the 'transformation' layer.

Amongst the Neimen students Jing Feng was the deserved best and by some margin at that. But Mo Nan could still hope to compete against him.

Even if Jing Feng came across a Neimen student, they would be too afraid to fight him. Most of them considered him to be unbeatable.

Jing Feng stood there, tall and proud, undefeated, ready for any fight.

Mo Nan had been watching Jing Feng carefully; he didn't care much about winning or losing. He just wanted to give Jing Feng a run for his money.

Mo Nan's eyes met Jing Feng's and time seemed to freeze for them.

Bi Fan looked at the two of them: "I must become stronger, and sooner or later, I will get there too."

The contest continued, and there were some excellent displays of strength and technique.

Jing Feng and Mo Nan were both very talented. And almost no other fighter was a match for either of them.

In the recent years, Quinyang schools had been unable to recruit a very large number of genuinely talented fighters. So naturally, the really talented fighters were very much sought after.

Because of this, whenever, Ling Xin Ya spotted a talented youngster, he would quickly inquire into their lives before accepting them as a student.

Jing Feng again swept his rival outside the ring with his pike and won conveniently.

Mo Nan wasn't weak either, he would charge his opponents like a viper, and his with his double-edged sword assisting him, would force his opponents to admit defeat.

Jing Feng again took the stage, and knocked his opponent around till he admitted defeat.

Mo Nan's feather light sword would reach his opponent's throat making them submit to his superiority.

.....

The arena was becoming a place to watch out for these two performers, Jing Feng and Mo Nan, each had their own unique skill set and their mutual rivalry.

The stands were divided into two factions, the girls were cheering for Jing Feng whereas the boys were supporting Mo Nan.

Ming Fung Valley was bustling with excitement, it was reaching a point where it could be a few days before the noise of the tournament would stop resonating.

After one day of memorizing so many different skills, Bi Fan felt as if head was going to explode.

Most of the participants had been knocked out of the tournament and were beginning to leave, as the day was coming to an end, the tournament would continue on the next day.

With the contest over for the day, Jing Feng was again surrounded with girls, and could help but produce a wry smile.

Yunufeng girls also wanted to butt in, so they dragged Bi Fan along.

It was obvious that Jing Feng was extremely popular, and they need Bi Fan to get his attention.

They hadn't gone too far before being stopped by five boys.

“If it isn't the beauties of Yunufeng, you should hurry back to your mountain...” spoke a man with a face as black as charcoal.

Bi Fan on account of everything that had been going on today, especially after Jing Feng's display was feeling slightly

provocative.

Xiaofeng said in a cold voice: “what do you want Luo Sheng?”

“Nothing really, I just heard about a male student from Yunufeng who has a good relation with Jing Feng. A strong and desirable talent, so I just decided to take a look for myself.”

Luo Sheng turned to face Bi Fan, who would normally do anything to avoid trouble.

Nope, not today.

Bi Fan took a couple of steps forward, carefully looked at Luo Sheng and said: “Brother, leave just the way you came, before you disgrace yourself.”

His words were enough, the Yunufeng girls started laughing, and even Xiaofeng couldn't help but produce a slight smile.

The look on Luo Sheng's face drastically changed, he was suddenly red and purple with anger.

“Oh, so you think that because you're friends with Jing Feng, I won't touch you? Boy, I challenge you!”

“Oh, so you've been a student for years and still go around challenging new comers if they make you blush, well, given your

complexion, I can't even tell if you're blushing or not.”

Xiaofeng was afraid that Bi Fan might accept the challenge. She wanted to say something as she knew that if he accepted the challenge, there would be no way out of it.

“I accept the challenge! But” Bi Fan suddenly responded.

Chapter 23 – Prancing Tiger

“Bi Fan....” Xiaofeng spoke up, she was trying to stop Bi Fan from accepting the challenge, but now she couldn’t do anything, Bi Fan had already replied, and foolishly gone ahead to accept the challenge.

Luo Sheng had already entered the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer and was a well-known disciple at the Niemen school.

Xiaofeng knew that even though Bi Fan was a very talented fighter, he would still not be able to match up to Luo Sheng.

Luo Sheng was very pleased that Bi Fan had agreed to accept his challenge and asked: “You were saying something “but”....?”

“Since the challenge was raised by you, I will get to decide the time and place.” Bi Fan said with a smile on his face.

“Of course, any place, anytime you like.”

Xiaofeng interrupted again: “Bi Fan, set the time for the match for a decade from now.”

Luo Sheng’s expression suddenly changed, he had no idea what the situation would be a decade from now.

“Luo Sheng, I don’t require ten years to beat you, I set the time of

the match to one year from now at this disciples contest next year.” Bi Fan said confidently.

“Well, then in a year from now, I will make you regret today’s decision.” Luo Sheng replied with a grave look on his face, looking mostly towards Xiaofeng.

Satisfied with himself, Luo Sheng left with his friends.

“Bi Fan, hesitating to set the challenge for ten years from now is understandable, but you will at least need three years. How will you be able to reach ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer in one year? That’s just not possible.” Xiaofeng scolded Bi Fan, animatedly angry with him.

“Xiaofeng, I assure you that in a year from now, I will be able to beat him.”

Bi Fan needed Luo Sheng to motivate him. If he needed to win, he would have to train harder, and could use this challenge to encourage himself.

He had started out much later than his contemporaries, meaning he would have to put in extra effort. If he couldn’t even challenge Luo Sheng, then how could he even hope of competing against Mo Nan or Jing Feng.

Moreover, as he would step outside Quinyang, there would be several others, others who would be much stronger.

Xiaofeng walked away in anger: “You do whatever you feel like.”

Her mind was busy thinking: “Bi Fan will have to grow at least two layers before he can hope to win against Luo Sheng.”

Upon returning to the mountain, Xiaofeng was still angry with Bi Fan as she continued to sulk, so Bi Fan picked up his books and continued from where he had left.

Bi Fan wasn't aware that Xiaofeng was angry with him because she was concerned about him.

He picked up the books and started to read.

He started reading about ‘Prancing Tiger’ boxing technique and ‘Fufeng double-edged sword secrets’, both of which he had noticed today at the tournament.

He was already capable of practicing ‘FuFeng double-edged sword secrets’.

The technique contained seventy two strokes, elegant and light, which would make the sword appear as light a feather.

In the tournament, a lot of students had used these techniques, and Bi Fan had tried to memorize as much of them as possible.

Bi Fan kept replaying the techniques in his head till he was sure he remembered them by heart.

Bi Fan was not very anxious to start practicing so soon, so picked up the 'prancing tiger' and started reading it very carefully.

'Prancing tiger' boxing technique was a firm and ferocious technique that had not originated from the Quinyang region. In fact, the technique itself was very different from the usual Quinyang techniques.

Most of the techniques practiced in Quinyang were agile and elegant. These techniques usually required the martial artist to be as fast as lightening.

In fact, even Jing Feng's display with the pike was also very unusual for a Quinyang student.

Bi Fan spent some time to memorize the 'prancing tiger' boxing technique thoroughly.

Afterwards, he decided to start practicing the 'Fufeng double-edged sword secrets' first, as he had already been practicing 'rainy-fly sword', and the two techniques were quite similar in nature.

It was imperative for him to increase his strength. 'Fufeng double-edged sword secrets' could prove to be a lifesaving technique, and he was still some distance away from being able to make use of 'prancing tiger' technique properly.

He practiced for most of the night, and managed to learn over twenty strokes, but was still far from being proficient with their use.

The next morning, Bi Fan got up early to take a look at the medicine orchard, so he could look at the panacea, and found that Greedy had made a meal out of two more of them.

Bi Fan would personally dig out the herbs for Greedy, if the Long Diao dug them out on his own; it could harm the other Panacea as well.

After completing his work, he met up with Xiaofeng and left for Ming Fung Valley to watch the tournament.

Watching the tournament was very important for Bi Fan, not only could he gain some valuable combat experience, but also get a glimpse of various new skills.

Memorizing different skills would help him with his practice and combat experience would pay dividends at a later stage in life.

If it wasn't for these reasons, he wouldn't have gone to tournament. He had no interest in enjoying himself; he wasn't as lively at heart as the other people.

Ming Fung Valley was bustling with even more excitement as compared to yesterday, as most of the martial artists had been eliminated leaving only the stronger ones standing.

The elimination rounds continued after the grouping process. Jing Feng and Mo Nan were both able to clear their pools with ease.

As the tournament progressed through to noon, the top sixteen had already been picked.

The tournament offered some very generous rewards, incentives for the top six were a lot better than the following ten positions. Obviously, the rewards for the top three positions were the most lucrative.

First reward was obviously the best, a top grade magical weapon enough to make any participant go crazy.

In addition, the top three would be getting up to ten pellets of nine different types of Dan. After winning the championship, with the help of these rewards, it would make it a lot easier to break into the 'emerging from womb' category.

Normally, it would be very difficult for a student to obtain such high level Dan pellets, and one would have to make a substantial amount of contribution to the schools for such rewards.

These rewards were enough to tempt any student.

In addition, the winner would be allowed to pick their weapon of choice as their prize from the Quinyang arsenal, which made the

reward even more maddening.

In contrast, the second position would get a magical weapon along with nine pellets each of eight different types of Dan.

The students who had made it to the top sixteen were gearing up for the battles ahead, they all wanted to end up as high as possible.

These participants were the elite ones, and were extremely strong and skilled, much more than Bi Fan. And Bi Fan was ready to learn as much from their displays as possible.

This level would be decided in a wheel like fashion, each contestant was up against his entire fifteen opponents. Each participant would have to fight three fights and the total aggregation of points at the end of the fights would determine the champion. If two fighters had the same points then their head to head points would be the deciding factor.

At midday, a one hour break was announced, and after much trouble, Jing Feng was somehow able to get rid of his female fan club and came to sit beside Bi Fan.

Even though Jing Feng had come to chat with Bi Fan, his attention had been more towards Xiaofeng's body.

He seemed to be attracted to Xiaofeng's good looks, and was continuously looking at her body, making it obvious that he was interested in Xiaofeng.

Most of the other Yunufeng girls were seemingly envious of Xiaofeng, but since they considered her to be their sister, they wouldn't try causing any trouble.

Moreover, most of them were happy enough to get a chance of getting close to Jing Feng.

Only Bi Fan was in a gloomy mood. He wished he could run away to some distant place so his heart could find some peace.

Chapter 24 – The Champion

Jing Feng's first opponent was fairly strong. He had already reached 'spiritual intelligence' layer.

Unfortunately for the latter, Jing Feng was in the 'transformation layer', and his pike made the match even more hopeless for his opponent. Even though Jing Feng's opponent was fairly strong, matching Jing Feng's strength and his powerful weapon at the same time was futile.

With his weapon to aid him, Jing Feng ended the fight in just five strikes, winning a huge amount of applause from the crowd.

Jing Feng managed to win his fight with ease.

Mo Nan managed to win his fight with just as much ease as Jing Feng. In fact, it seemed that Mo Nan was trying to draw a parallel with Jing Feng as he seemed determined to finish his fight in five strikes, same as Jing Feng.

However, Mo Nan's fighting style was very different from Jing Feng's; his attacks were fast and elegant, complying exceptionally well with the general fighting style of the Quinyang region.

Jing Feng on the other hand preferred to go with strength. He used his wild and overbearing strength to defeat his opponents, with was unusual for Quinyang disciples. And he managed to use his weapon to a formidable effect.

Mo Nan and Jing Feng represented the young and upcoming generation of Quinyang martial artists, and were two very highly objectified personalities.

Most people present were anxious to watch the two of them compete against each other.

To be honest, apart from Mo Nan and Jing Feng, the Quinyang schools had nothing much to show for. Most of the other students were in 'spiritual intelligence' layer, which could only be considered moderate from the general standards, and wasn't enough to attract much attention.

Bi Fan was gaining a lot from this tournament.

After the final sixteen had been selected, this final round had exhibited some excellent and fierce fights, which had enabled Bi Fan to gain some very valuable experience and a lot of new tricks to memorize.

With the knowledge of these new techniques and some very valuable combat experience, Bi Fan's own future practice would become a lot smoother.

Xiaofeng was watching Bi Fan as he took in everything he could, and couldn't help but secretly admire Bi Fan.

"So diligent and studious, he really might be capable of becoming

one of the strongest of his generation.”

As the rounds went on, both Mo Nan and Jing Feng maintained their unbeaten streak.

Finally, towards the end of the tournament, it was time for Jing Feng and Mo Nan to fight against each other.

This fight itself was basically the championship; the winner of this match would be crowned the champion.

Mo Nan and Jing Feng both came on to the stage, their eyes watching each other's movements, crying for battle.

“Jing Feng! Jing Feng! You're going to win...”

“Mo Nan! Mo Nan! You can beat him...”

Jing Feng was a thorn in the armpit of the male disciples and they desperately wanted Mo Nan to win.

Jing Feng's charm on the other hand made the girls go wild, who otherwise weren't much interested in the fighting.

Most of the couples standing in the crowd parted ways to cheer for their fighter, as most of the boys were hoping for Jing Feng to lose.

At the referee's signal, the fight began, but both Mo Nan and Jing Feng stood still, eye-balling each other.

“Mo Nan, Mo Nan! Hear all you friends cheering for me. Not so charming now huh?” Mo Nan said.

Jing Feng's reply wasn't audible.

But whatever Jing Feng said, was clearly enough to make Mo Nan very angry, as his face turned red.

“Fufeng double-edged willow!” Mo Nan was the first one to launch an attack.

“Divine despot, rushing thunder!” Jing Feng launched his attack in full force almost simultaneously.

Mo Nan's attack seemed as light as feather, but its exceptional speed made it very dangerous.

His fighting style was the epitome of Quinyang's martial arts.

Jing Feng's 'rushing thunder' attack was equally quick and awfully ferocious.

Mo Nan was well aware of Jing Feng's style, and wasn't foolish enough to take his strike head on.

Mo Nan's sword appeared like a serpent, quickly changing directions to avoid Jing Feng's swinging pike and constantly aimed at his chest.

Jing Feng couldn't afford to be careless as he swung his pike, retreating.

Even a very small mistake in this fight could prove to be very dangerous.

If Jing Feng made even the slightest mistake, Mo Nan wouldn't hesitate from making a meal out of him.

Mo Nan was easily able to dodge Jing Feng's pike and was managing to close in on Jing Feng at every opportunity.

Mo Nan's was far too agile from Quinyang's standards.

And his exceptional sword-play was even more challenging.

Mo Nan was constantly looking for opportunities to close down Jing Feng.

Jing Feng on the other hand was trying to retreat, so he could make room to execute his powerful strikes.

As the fight started, Mo Nan had managed to gain the upper hand, leaving the spectators marveled.

Bi Fan had been watching very carefully, and couldn't help but admire Mo Nan, specially his agility; he was nothing short of marvelous.

Bi Fan was trying to draw comparisons between Mo Nan's footwork and the 'dance of mist'.

Mo Nan's display was hugely beneficial for Bi Fan.

And Mo Nan's 'Fufeng double-edged willow' technique was even more educative for Bi Fan.

He has just started practicing 'Fufeng double-edged sword' but had been unable to understand it completely, but now things were becoming clearer.

Jing Feng had been at a disadvantage so far, and had been constantly forced to retreat, making him very angry.

“Divine Despot – Thunder Fury!”

Jing Feng finally found room to make his move, he raised his pike and countless thunderous bolts enveloped the ring.

Jing Feng wasn't strong enough to provoke really harmful thunder to attack his enemy with.

But even then, the noise of the thunder was deafening.

The 'thunder fury' enveloped the whole ring, and Mo Nan had nowhere to hide, all he could do was dodge it and repel it.

“Dhumm.... Dhummm...” successive collisions with the thunder forced Mo Nan to retreat.

Jing Feng's pike was constantly aimed at Mo Nan, as he kept attacking, forcing Mo Nan take back steps in quick succession, while giving him no space to breathe.

The fierce winds that were emanating from the ring were simply amazing; Bi Fan could barely see the fighting.

Mo Nan was extraordinary, and with the help of his agility, didn't allow Jing Feng do any damage for a long time.

But with time, Jing Feng's attack only got stronger and even fiercer.

Mo Nan was somehow able to dodge for the time being but wouldn't be able to last very long.

Between the two of them, Jing Feng was stronger than Mo Nan, but Mo Nan was quicker on his feet.

Over time, the pros and cons of both the fighters would become

clearer.

Jing Feng was looking good at the moment, and seemed to be taking control of the situation, no wonder all the girls were going crazy about him.

Whenever Bi Fan took a moment out to look at Xiaofeng, all he saw was the splendor with which her eyes watch Jing Feng.

At the moment Bi Fan's mood wasn't so bad, so he wasn't sure if he really like Xiaofeng or he was he simply very fond of her.

When it had come to love, Bi Fan had wanted it to be Yan Yu Si, but he knew that he couldn't even think of getting her, not even in a distant dream.

As Bi Fan continued to watch the contest, Jing Feng had established a very firm upper hand, Mo Nan was being suppressed, Mo Nan was running out of space to move into, the result of this fight wasn't very far now.

Mo Nan and Jing Feng had fought each other several times, and Jing Feng had always managed to beat him, but Mo Nan had never given up.

"I accept defeat." Mo Nan had nowhere to go, no place to hide, so he accepted his defeat with a straight face.

"You gave up!" Jing Feng replied, his face calm, not delighted.

The contest came to an end soon enough and Jing Feng was crowned the undisputed champion.

Even the boys around the ring, still feeling jealous of Jing Feng, couldn't help but cheer for him.

Strength was everything; strength could win over anyone, even the enemy.

Today, Bi Fan had learnt a lot, even more so than yesterday.

While the others were screaming and cheering, Bi Fan kept his head down, he was trying to recollect all the fighting he had seen, all those wonderful images filled up his mind.

Bi Fan's memory was amazing, he felt as if he was witnessing everything again, allowing him to retrospect the day's events in detail.

Chapter 25 – A Conspiracy Brews

After returning to Yunufeng, Bi Fan began practicing daily.

He had memorized several new techniques and had started practicing some of them, a few days had passed and with every passing day, he felt more and more comfortable with these new skills.

He had learnt a lot about ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ from Mo Nan’s display and had been practicing it very frequently, and to his surprise, was able to master the technique in a rather short span of time.

Presently, the sun had already set and Bi Fan was ready for his nightly practice.

He had been very excited with his progress regarding his sword play and couldn’t sleep much even if he wanted to, so he decided to take Greedy to the orchard for his meal.

The orchard, under Bi Fan’s care was coming out really well, with all kinds of herbs growing healthily, and Greedy would still get his two herbs a day.

Bi Fan’s life had taken a very calm note; he was practicing steadily every day, preparing himself to take on the devil’s territory.

On the other hand, after watching Bi Fan at the selection, Zhu San's life had been turned upside down. He too, was having sleepless nights, but his reasons differed.

“I must kill Bi Fan. He has been accepted as a student by the deputy, and sooner or later, will become exceptionally strong and influential. If I don't kill him now, then he is going to get me later on for sure.” Zhu San was willing to consider any and all means to eliminate Bi Fan.

Zhu San had been carrying a very gloomy look on his face these past few days, constantly thinking about his new problem and trying to contemplate means to sort it out.

“I need to find a man who has an axe to grind with Bi Fan. But this man should be strong enough to take on Bi Fan. Where will I find such a man in Quinyang....”

Zhu San shook his head thinking: “No man from Quinyang would dare to break into Yunufeng and kill Bi Fan. But I need him dead as soon as possible. He becomes stronger with every passing day.”

The thought of Lou Sheng sprouted into Zhu San's head. Not only was Lou Sheng a core student of Neimen school, he was also the grandson of a very influential monk.

Bi Fan had disgraced Lou Sheng after his victory at the selection and everyone at Quinyang was aware of it.

Lou Sheng wasn't the kind of man who would take such a disgrace with ease, and would be definitely holding a grudge against Bi Fan. This meant that he could be tempted into killing Bi Fan.

Zhu San decided to use this feud, after all, who better to kill Bi Fan than such a powerful and influential man, and even if somehow Bi Fan managed to prevail, he would end up making even more powerful enemies.

Lou Sheng resided at the 'peak of light' and that way exactly where Zhu San needed to go.

Zhu San knew that the guard at the gate wouldn't let him through, and he couldn't trespass into the vicinity in bright day light. So after a bit of struggle, he somehow managed to get a message across to Lou Sheng.

Since the message spoke of Bi Fan being a common enemy, Lou Sheng was naturally interested in knowing more.

Bi Fan had just barely managed to become a disciple and was already challenging Lou Sheng's authority. This wasn't even remotely acceptable to Lou Sheng and he had been looking for means to teach Bi Fan a lesson.

Lou Sheng asked Zhu San to meet him at the 'peak of light' and came personally to greet him.

“I heard that you requested this meeting with Bi Fan in mind, make it quick. You are causing an obstruction in my training and if I’m not satisfied at the conclusion of this meet then the consequences will be severe of you.” Lou Sheng said in a very cool voice.

Zhu San’s face turned purple with fear, making him look even uglier.

Zhu San would not dare to talk any nonsense at this point, so he quickly got to the bottom line and said: “Bi Fan has only just started practicing a few months ago, and in a very short span of time managed to become strong enough to win the selection tournament. He is moving up too quickly.”

Lou Sheng listened carefully to everything that Zhu San had to say, his expressions changing constantly.

“Zhu San, isn’t that your name? You’ve managed to offend Bi Fan, and now you’re afraid that he’s going to take his revenge on you. So now you have come to ask for help in order to get rid of him, but what’s in it for me?” Lou Sheng smiled.

Zhu San suddenly became very excited and his face reflected it: “Lou Sheng, you are such a respected....”

“Don’t give me any of that, I have agreed to fight Bi Fan at the tournament next year, and I will emerge victorious, that is the only possible outcome.” Lou Sheng stated, interrupting Zhu San.

“Lou Sheng sir, I’m willing to offer all my saving in return for this favor.” Zhu San said, gritting his teeth.

“No, no.... I’m not interested in your savings, but I heard that you’re managing a medicine orchard, and I would require a good amount of Panacea for my training...” Lou Sheng said, shaking his finger.

As soon as Zhu San heard Lou Sheng’s demand, he felt foolish of himself.

“If you do not agree to my terms, then you will be going down sooner or later.” Lou Sheng stated.

Zhu San was mad with fury and looked at Lou Sheng: “Lou Sheng sir, please give me some time to arrange the Panacea you require.”

“You can take your time, you can leave now.” Lou Sheng said, although it sounded like more of an order.

Zhu San quickly left the ‘peak of light’ and his heart rained curses at Lou Sheng: “I gave you vital information, and instead of helping me, you want to extort Panacea from me with threats. I curse you; I curse that you never be able to practice another day.”

Zhu San fat body looked like a ball, clumsily shaking down the mountain.

“What do you plan on doing, young one?” Spoke a man named Li

Yu Feng, a senior disciple at the 'peak of light'.

Li Yu Feng had been over hearing their conversation, but hadn't spoken out until now.

“Bi Fan is an evil doer. If Zhu San is telling the truth about Bi Fan, that means that Bi Fan must have encountered some sort of a miracle in the Wan Snake Cave which is the reason he has been able to progress so quickly in such a short span of time. Moreover, there is no saying where he could go from now, as nothing about his encounters in the cave is known, I need to get rid of him quickly.”

Lou Sheng said as his eyes reflected a lining of haze and his fists were clenched so tight that his veins sprouted out.

Li Yu Feng warned: “Young one, think of things from a long term perspective. Killing a fellow disciple in Quinyang is a very serious crime, and is known to be punished very severely. Be careful.”

“Don't worry about it, he dared to challenge me, I will bury him while his body still draws breath.” Lou Sheng replied in a very cold tone.

Meanwhile Bi Fan was busy with his practice in Yunufeng, and knew nothing of the developments in the outside world. He was completely unaware that Zhu San had been setting up trap for him, and was just sitting there and waiting for him to walk right into it.

His practice with his sword play had been coming out very well. He was practicing both 'Fufeng double-edge sword' and 'rainy-fly sword'. He was confident that both these techniques would come in handy at a later stage.

He was extremely happy that he was now capable of generating a lot more force with the 'immortal finger', but even then, at his current level, he couldn't go much further than the first move of the 'free burst' techniques.

'The immortal finger' after all, was only a basic foundation level move in the 'free burst' technique.

'The dance of mist' and 'free burst' at the end of the day were techniques that required a practitioner to be in the 'emerging from womb' category before the practitioner could fully make use of them. So Bi Fan presently, was only able to practice the very basic moves.

Even so, at present, even the basic moves were enough to take care of his enemies.

Recently, Bi Fan had also started practicing the 'prancing tiger' boxing technique. But the 'prancing tiger' boxing, again, required him to be a lot stronger before he could employ in properly in combat.

But Bi Fan continued to stubbornly practice the 'prancing tiger' boxing as he was sure that it would help him increase his strength and the skill would come in handy in a fight, if it was ever needed.

With a blooming mood, Bi Fan was preparing himself for the battles ahead.

Nowadays, Bi Fan had already reached the peak of 'inner breath' layer, and need to find a way to break into 'inner organs' layer now.

He practiced harder and harder as he needed to bottleneck through to the next layer without wasting any time.

Bi Fan was running short on time, so he decided to go away from the mountain, so he wanted get some outside experience which might help him break through to the next layer.

As far as going into the devil's territory was concerned, Bi Fan decided to wait until he had broken into the 'inner organs' layer, just to be safe.

Bi Fan decided to see Xiaofeng before departing from the mountain for his practice.

Chapter 26 – A Bitter Encounter

Upon finding out that Bi Fan wished to go down the mountain for training and to gain some experience, Xiaofeng gave him her permission.

Next morning, Bi Fan was ready to set off, along with Greedy.

Xiaofeng personally came to see him off: “Bi Fan, take care of yourself.”

Bi Fan boarded the red-crowned crane, and waved good bye, his eyes gleamed with a hint of moisture.

The crane took off and flew out of sight and into the horizon at a very quick pace, and soon Bi Fan was at the foot of the mountain.

The last time Bi Fan was in the region, he had managed to procure an awful amount of items.

Bi Fan hadn't really used any of these items yet, but wasn't against the idea of using them for the purpose of his training.

Bi Fan had a lot of 'inner organs' Dan pellets and could use them to quickly break through to the 'inner organs' layers.

But Bi Fan didn't want to use them too early, as he didn't want to build up his strength on a shaky foundation. Hence, he had been

waiting for the opportune time to use these subsidiaries.

While on the road to Quinyang town, Bi Fan decided that it was time to go on a shopping spree in order to make preparations for the road ahead.

In possession of the Tian Yuan ring and two Yin Yang pouches, Bi Fan knew that storing all that he needed and even a little extra wouldn't be an issue.

Soon after, Bi Fan planned on taking off to Ting Feng valley; he needed to buy a few items before going into the devil's territory.

Bi Fan intended to use his strength to survive in the devil's territory. The entry into the devil's territory was regulated, there was a registration process that would mark the entry and exit time of anyone entering the region. So Bi Fan knew that he wouldn't have to worry about any proof of the time spent in the region.

Bi Fan decided against using the divine essence seals he possessed.

He wanted to travel on foot, just to experience the countryside.

Bi Fan had already bought a map of Jiu Yu territory, as he was afraid that he might not be able to find the place on his own.

He decided to rest in Quinyang town for a while before setting off again.

The path was rocky and rugged, the road was surrounded by soaring peaks and the sound of water flowing in the river nearby made it a very pleasant journey.

“It’s so beautiful!” Bi Fan thought to himself, mesmerized by nature’s charm.

Just as he was appreciating the scenery, he suddenly started feeling uneasy in his gut, like something was about to happen.

And suddenly, Bi Fan was on high alert, ready for anything at any moment.

In front of him lay the passage of going into the forest, a dense forest with tall and towering trees all around.

As he got closer to the forest, Bi Fan’s earlier tranquil state of mind had now drastically changed.

However, upon reaching the entrance of the forest, Bi Fan decided to go inside, without the slightest trace of hesitation.

It takes more than just luck to become powerful, one requires many other virtues, such as willpower, valor, and wisdom.

If Bi Fan had backed off from going into the forest because he was afraid, then where would he find the courage he would needed for

the thousands of other obstacles that waited out there for him in the devils' territory.

With the light-ray double-edged sword in his hand, Bi Fan moved forward quickly, paying extreme attention to his surroundings for any sign of trouble.

“Haha, you're a careful one, aren't you?” suddenly a man laughing rather heartily came out of the woods and walked into Bi Fan's path.

The man, covered in black from head to toe, seemed awfully strong and exuded a strong negative vibe.

Needless to that this man was a rather strong martial artist was judging by the aura he expelled, a follower of the devil's ways.

Bi Fan's mind was shaking with fear as he could make out that the man in front of him was at least one or two layers above his strength.

The man on the other hand, was at ease, and seemed to like this game of cat and mouse that he had been playing with Bi Fan. Moreover, he seemed to be appreciating the fearful look on Bi Fan's face.

But well, Bi Fan turned out to be a disappointment on that note, as he calmed down soon enough.

“Looks like you’re here to kill me, what are you waiting for then? Are you afraid of me?”

This infuriated the man: “Boy, you look like you’re in a hurry to die. But I won’t make it that easy for you. First I will beat you, and then torture you in more ways than you can count. I won’t allow you die even after you have lost all will to live.”

Bi Fan lashed at the man, putting ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ technique to use.

Bi Fan had already learned all the seventy-two strokes of the ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ technique, and now was his chance to put it to use.

Bi Fan had managed to incorporate the ‘dance of mist’ footwork with his sword play, making his attacks very quick, graceful and effective.

The man suddenly took out a very dark colored broadsword, and managed to repel Bi Fan’s attack.

“Boy, you have done a good job learning the ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’, but your strength is no match for mine.” The man said as he repelled Bi Fan’s attack, seeming exceptionally relaxed.

“He’s in the ‘spiritual intelligence’ layer!” Bi Fan realized in that shocking moment.

This man could indeed kill Bi Fan with ease, he was stronger than most of the core disciples of Quinyang schools, and was at the same level as the top students in Neimen.

Bi Fan had never fought such a strong opponent before, and things weren't looking good for him.

Bi Fan knew that things were going to get very complicated here; he had gotten himself into a very tricky situation here.

“Well, By, since, you have just realized the true difference between our strength levels, surrender. And I will make this easy for you.” The man said, overly arrogant of his ability.

Bi Fan, presently, was at the peak of 'inner breath' layer, and the gap in their strengths was three layers. Even with all the skills and techniques that Bi Fan was aware of, he couldn't think of any that would allow him to cover up such a massive difference.

Even while his mind was busy thinking of a way to get out of this situation, he didn't let his hands sit idly. He kept attacking his enemy with his sword.

Even though he knew he would lose, he still, couldn't admit defeat.

The man on the other hand, seemed to be intentionally teasing Bi Fan, as he constantly blocked Bi Fan's every attack with ease, but didn't launch any counter-attacks.

This seemed more like a training exercise for Bi Fan's cool-headed opponent.

Bi Fan started increasing the force of his attack in an orderly fashion.

Bi Fan barely had any combat experience, but still was able to fight like an experienced fighter.

This was Bi Fan's second attempt to attack him with 'Fufeng double-edged sword' technique, which his opponent didn't seem to appreciate, and he started launching counter-attacks.

Credit to the man's 'spiritual intelligence' strength and his broadsword, he easily started suppressing Bi Fan, leaving him breathless.

Bi Fan decided to change his attack, and started using 'rainy-fly sword' technique.

Bi Fan attacked his opponent head-on, with all his might.

"This one still needs work...." The man retaliated with a sudden force, and damaged Bi Fan sword with his attacks.

The difference in strength of the two fighters was too huge, and there seemed no point in taking this fight any further.

“Boy, you’re no match for me; I could crush you this instant.” The man stated, with a mad and violent look his face.

Bi Fan realized that he was no match for this man in terms of sword play, so cast his sword aside and decided to go with the most proficient skill, Wan Zu fist boxing.

“Let’s have some fun shall we?” The man cast aside his broadsword as he sneered at Bi Fan.

Bi Fan wasn’t afraid of using Wan Zu fist and had several patterns of attack.

Since his opponent was intentionally making fun of him, Bi Fan launched a full force attack.

His attacks were a mixture of Wan Zu Fist, ‘dance of mist’ and ‘prancing tiger’ boxing’. He even tried to use the ‘immortal finger’ and the blood devil techniques in a haphazard fashion.

He was mainly relying on Wan Zu fist, the ‘dance of mist’ and blood devil techniques for attacking and used ‘prancing tiger’ and the ‘immortal finger’, only to sneak a surprise.

The man seemed to be enjoying the fight, so naturally, wasn’t using much of his strength, as he wished to prolong the fight.

Especially since Bi Fan had used the blood devil technique, the man was even less anxious to finish the fight and his face had visibly lit up.

The blood devil technique was secret martial art technique that was only used by darker martial artists, and had managed to take him by surprise.

He was really enjoying himself, and wanted to see the exact extent of Bi Fan ability.

Chapter 27 – Threads of Black Gas

Bi Fan had learnt a lot of new moves in recent times that he hadn't been able to put to use in a fight, until now, but as fight wore on, he was able to use all those techniques seamlessly.

His strength seemed to have increased a bit, but, was still no match for his opponent.

Bi Fan had been using blood devil technique to its full extent and rather ruthlessly.

He kept repeating the same tricks again and again, as he had nothing new in his arsenal.

“Boy, you are a practitioner of the sacred way but surprisingly, you're using the devil's techniques. I'm amazed, and I might be tempted to let you go, if you surrender yourself.”

Bi Fan was quite sure that he shouldn't trust a devil's follower. Surrendering to this man will only make things worse and death will be upon him sooner.

“Tell me who sent you and I will surrender.”

Up till now Bi Fan had no idea why he had been attacked in this fashion, so he figured that he should at least know why this is happening to him.

“Boy, if I tell you, then I will have to kill you, but if you do not surrender, then you.....” the man looked at Bi Fan coldly, his glance reeking of threat.

“It’s obvious that I’m only a beginner compared to you, and yet you’re afraid that I will get away from you.” Bi Fan reasoned.

“Well, you’re right. Since you’re about to die, I might as well tell you. I met him outside Quiyang, I didn’t bother to ask his name, but he was rather fat. You figure out his identity.”

“Zhu San, he would even be willing to collaborate with a devil’s follower to kill me!” Bi Fan said, surprised.

“Now you will surrender to me, right?” The man asked, somewhat anxious.

“Ha ha....” Bi Fan laughed as he stated: “I will die before I surrender.”

He was standing tough to the end; he didn’t want to die a cheap death.

“Then die!” the man gnashed his teeth and attacked Bi Fan’s face with blow that came with a gale as sharp as the edge of a knife.

“Why God?! Why would you give me a hope for a better life and then obliterate it in this way? Why could you have not left me in the mediocre state that I was in? Why did you give me false

hopes?!”

Bi Fan heart roared with rage, his eyes red, bloodthirsty.

“Die in hell!” Bi Fan poured every last bit of spiritual influence inside his body in this final attack as he recklessly charged his opponent.

“Boom!” the impact was devastating, Bi Fan fell backwards as blood splashed out of his body.

Bi Fan swallowed a lot of blood, but wanted to get up again and fight on.

The man on the other hand was sure that Bi Fan’s death was only a matter of time now and didn’t seem to be interested in attacking him again.

He extended his hands towards Bi Fan, in an attempt to take him alive.

Bi Fan had almost given up, and he made no attempts to dodge as his attacker grabbed him.

“ARRGHHH!!” He suddenly started struggling again, but couldn’t break free now.

“Boy, surrender yourself, or else you will die.” The man said,

angrily.

“ARGHHH!” Bi Fan roared again, like a wild animal. His mind was almost on the verge of unconsciousness.

Suddenly, threads of a black gas emerged from within Bi Fan’s body and rushed into his attacker’s body.

“OW! OW!...” the devil’s follower issue started issuing screams, earth shattering screams.

He drop Bi Fan, and started rolling on the ground in pain, his face started getting distorted and his body started curling into a ball, like that of a prawn.

Bi Fan’s hands were still stiff in a flurry, he had no idea what was happening, but still he wasn’t going to give up, not till the very end.

Suddenly, the man’s body started withering down and slowly dissipated into nothingness. All that was left behind was his skeleton, clothes, weapons, his broadsword, and a Yin Yang pouch.

The threads of that black gas hung over Bi Fan’s body. They seemed rather excited for a while, and then dissipated back into Bi Fan’s body.

Bi Fan completely unaware of his surroundings, relaxed on the soft ground as his body gave in to the exhaustion and injuries.

Then, after a long time, Bi Fan opened his eyes again, and looked around.

“Hey! I didn’t die!” Bi Fan said out loud, in a surprised tone. “That’s the man’s clothes, weapons and a Yin Yang pouch!”

Bi Fan got up, and started looking around, trying to make sense of things: “Looks like my ancestors came to my rescue! And also the enemy’s treasures have been left behind for me!”

“Unknown ancestors! Thank you!” BI Fan shouted loudly.

After Bi Fan had calmed down a bit, he started looking at the remains of his attacker.

The dress was low grade, the broadsword was good quality, other things were mostly useless, but Yin Yang pouch was good even if it didn’t contain anything useful.

Bi Fan knew that his injuries were pretty serious and he need to heal.

He climbed up a tall tree nearby, lay down on a branch, swallowed a healing Dan pellet and started practicing Longevity burst to restore his health.

Two hours later, Bi Fan’s injuries had healed completely owing to

the healing support provided by the Dan pellet.

Bi Fan jumped off the tree, feeling normally agile.

The battle with the devil's follower had been a very fruitful encounter from one perspective for Bi Fan. His martial arts techniques had improved by a lot, he had been able to use them in battle like never before.

Bi Fan had gained a lot of experience through this fight, and even though he didn't feel the need to hurry, he started on his way right away.

His boxing was as smooth as the wind, and his sword play, vivid.

He had learnt a lot new skills in the past few weeks and had just been able to understand the true extent to which he could use them.

Bi Fan kept replaying the fight in his mind as he continued on his path.

Bi Fan quickly got out of the forest and reached a small town, it was already evening and he felt that he could use some rest. So he decided to rest there for the night and then carry on his journey the next morning.

In the evening, he spent some time recalling the fight, and then began practicing again.

After such an extreme battle, Bi Fan felt that he might have become strong enough to breakthrough to 'inner organs' layer.

Later that night, he kept trying hard, but still couldn't make the breakthrough. However, he felt as if he was almost there, and should be able to make the breakthrough soon enough.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast, Bi Fan set off again.

Since Bi Fan's motive behind travelling on foot was to experience the country side, he didn't worry much about anything and continued on his way, enjoying the journey, almost like a tourist.

After a while, Bi Fan started feeling as if he was being followed.

There were many other pedestrians on the road, and Bi Fan had no idea about this tracker's identity.

Bi Fan wanted to speed up his footsteps a bit, as he felt that he was being watched constantly, and the feeling was only getting stronger with every passing moment.

He had felt something similar right before running into the man in the woods. However, this time, the feeling was a lot less intense.

"How is it that I have such a strong sense of danger?" Bi Fan thought to himself, amazed with his instincts.

After everything that had happened, Bi Fan couldn't help being a bit skeptical.

In general, as the practitioner becomes stronger, the ability to sense danger also becomes stronger.

Bi Fan wasn't strong enough to possess such ability at present. But even then, he had a very powerful ability to sense danger, which he found quite surprising.

Whether the danger was real or not, Bi Fan was prepared.

If the enemy was real, then Bi Fan was ready to defend himself and even launch a counter attack.

Bi Fan kept pretending as if everything was normal and continued walking on his path, but he kept an eye out for any trouble that might await him.

Bi Fan was baffled; he had only just got down from the mountain, why were so many enemies waiting for him?

The devil's disciple was sent by Zhu San to kill Bi Fan, but what about this new threat, Bi Fan was both anxious and curious.

Bi Fan started walking towards a more desolate part of the town, in an attempt to draw out his enemy.

Sooner or later, there would be a confrontation, and Bi Fan preferred if there were less people around when it happened.

Chapter 28 – The Trio’s Sneak Attack

The desolate path that Bi Fan was now on had no trace of habitation.

Once he had managed to walk a distance, he realized that there were three young men who had decided to follow in his path. The three of them were dressed rather nicely.

All three of them were fairly strong individually, and much stronger than Bi Fan.

Since the area was uninhabited, the three quickened up their pace and were able to outflank and intercept Bi Fan very quickly.

“Boy, are you Bi Fan?” A white-faced man asked.

Bi Fan responded in a cold tone: “That’s correct. I’m Bi Fan, and you must be street performers.”

Bi Fan knew that he was in trouble again.

Two of the three men were in ‘Brave’ layer and the other one was at least at the peak of ‘inner organs’.

Even his yesterday’s opponent was no match for their combined strength.

He was very lucky to have gotten away with his yesterday's encounter, and today, the odds were stacked even higher against him.

“You've got guts!” One of the three said. The trio was aware that Bi Fan is in the ‘inner breath’ layer and they simultaneously, in a no nonsense fashion prepared to charge Bi Fan.

Bi Fan responded to their actions accordingly, without fear.

With his light-ray double-edged sword, Bi Fan employed the ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ technique to a formidable effect, thanks to the learning that Mo Nan's display had imparted.

His light-ray sword glittered like a shooting star, cutting through time and space. He started attacking all three of them at the same time, his body moving as fast as lightening and somehow seemed to have gained an upper hand by surprise.

Bi Fan's sword play was surprisingly difficult to deal with, and the three men circled back to take a stand together.

The three hadn't expected much of Bi Fan and were taken by surprise due to Bi Fan proficiency, only managing to defend Bi Fan's attacks.

“Ah!... Ah!...” The three of them snarled repeatedly as he attacked them.

“Bi Fan, you will never be able to beat us, it’s not possible. You’re going to die. Your strength is no match for ours.”

Then, the three of them attack simultaneously, with power and speed to get themselves of their current predicament.

Out of the three, one took out a double-edged sword; another employed a knife and third one attacked using his bare hands, using boxing techniques.

The three of them had been fighting together as a team for some time, made obvious by their perfectly synchronized attacks.

Bi Fan immediately started falling back, using ‘Fufeng double-edged sword’ technique and every now and then resorting to boxing to defend himself.

Bi Fan was willing to employ any and all means to confront his enemies.

Even though Bi Fan had become a lot more proficient with his combat skill after yesterday’s fight, today he was struggling to cope up.

The fierce attacks of his opponents had put Bi Fan under a lot of pressure.

The tremendous intensity of the fight was making in difficult for Bi Fan to find any room to breathe, and as the fight wore on, Bi

Fan's body started tiring and his movements became slower.

“I cannot lose! I cannot die!” Bi Fan said to himself, in an attempt to pump up his game, as his perseverance still persisted in his heart.

Soon, Bi Fan had sustained several injuries, but thanks to the ‘dance of mist’ footwork, he had managed to avoid any severe damage to his vital body parts.

“ARGHHHH!” Bi Fan roared, trying to boost his morale, and began attacking in a frenzied fashion.

Bi Fan was giving it his all, and even though his three opponents were stronger, they were somewhat timid.

As soon as Bi Fan started attacking with ‘the immortal finger’ attack, the three of them started back up a bit, visibly afraid to confront him.

‘Rainy-fly sword’! ‘Prancing tiger’! ‘The immortal finger’

Bi Fan started attacking with his tricks, but targeting only person, he needed to find a scapegoat.

Bi Fan concentrated his fire on the weakest of his opponents, forcing the man to constantly retreat and finally managed to connect ‘the immortal finger’, leaving his target bleeding and hurt.

“Boy! You dare to hurt our brother, now you’re dead!” The other two furiously launched attacks at Bi Fan.

“Boom!” Bi Fan somehow managed to evade the sword, but was hit by the strong display of boxing.

His counterpart’s boxing was formidable.

Bi Fan flew out, as blood sprayed out of his body. The blood-spray filled the air around him, creating a grossly spectacular image.

The blood meant that Bi Fan had seriously injured a vital organ.

Bi Fan quickly started feeding aura into his body to restore his damaged body parts. The restoration started happening faster than expected and it seemed that his body had become a lot stronger all of a sudden.

In an instant his body was healed to great extent, leaving Bi Fan surprised, he thought to himself: “Seems like I have broken into the ‘inner organs’ layer, very timely at that.”

Of course, Bi Fan didn’t reflect this on his face; he continued to carry a seriously injured look on his face, ready to pounce his unsuspecting opponents at the opportune moment.

Unlike the devil’s disciple, Bi Fan had no idea as to who had sent

these men after him.

Bi Fan hadn't thought of asking yet, an enemy is an enemy. It was a matter of life and death and he couldn't afford even the slightest of mistakes.

“Boy! We'll give us this. You're strong. But you've managed to offend people you should not have offended.” The man who had delivered the hit said, as he slowly walked towards Bi Fan.

Bi Fan still carried to look of an injured man on his face, not revealing his state to his opponents as he was preparing to sneak a surprise attack.

Although the men hadn't revealed their benefactor, Bi Fan had already guessed that he wasn't the same one as the other day's.

The only man that Bi Fan knew he had offended was Lou Sheng.

Even though Lou Sheng had agreed to fight him at the tournament, in front of everyone the following year, it seemed that he had still sent an ambush party to kill Bi Fan.

It seems that Bi Fan had managed to anger Lou Sheng a lot more than he had initially anticipated.

His opponent's fiercely playful eyes looked at the ground where Bi Fan lay, occasionally vomiting a little blood, trying to cover up his surprise attack.

Bi Fan was confident that with the increase in his strength, he will be able to at least seriously injure his opponent. However, in his previous state, when the difference in their strengths was two layers, his attack might have gone in vain.

“Boy! I’m going to beat you till you can’t feel any pain anymore!”

As the man reached within one meter, which was Bi Fan’s attacking range, he slowly raised his hand, ready to attack.

‘The immortal finger!’

Bi Fan put all his strength into this surprise attack.

“Bang!”

His strong attack took his enemy by surprise and poked a small and bloody hole in the man’s throat and the man fell down to the ground.

“You...you.... ” he put his hand over his neck, as blood lashed out. His eyes were full of remorse and reflected an endless sea of resentment.

Eventually he gave in to the pain and died, but his eyes still remained open, staring at the endless sky.

“Brother! Brother!.....”

The other two men cried out in pain, their eyes red with rage.

“Bi Fan, you will pay for this with your life!” The man in ‘brave’ layer said in anger.

He threw himself at Bi Fan, his double-edged sword, aimed straight at Bi Fan’s face.

“You still think I’m afraid of you!” Bi Fan speedily got up and charged at his opponent with his sword.

Two men collided with each other, their strengths equally matched.

Bi Fan’s strength had increased a lot; his attacks were a lot stronger now, almost twice in strength.

As for the other man, he had sustained several injuries earlier, and was tending to his wounds and hence was in no shape to assist his companion.

“Brother, you must kill this guy to avenge our brother!” He roared to cheer his companion.

Bi Fan suddenly withdrew back, away from his opponent and started circling him, with his arms spread open.

“Divine essence seals! Assist my body!”

Bi Fan made use of divine essence seals and charged his opponent once again.

Bi Fan attacked his opponent in a brave move, and with the speed provided by the essence seals, started stifling his opponent very quickly.

Chapter 29 – The Battered Jade Book

Confronted with Bi Fan's frenzied counter attack, the last of his standing opponents seemed completely confused.

Even though the man was much stronger than Bi Fan, the fashion in which Bi Fan had used the divine essence seal had reduced the gap in their effective strengths to a bare minimum, due to the increase in his speed.

Bi Fan's knowledge of martial arts was superior to most other practitioners, especially techniques like 'the immortal finger', 'rainy-fly sword' and 'blood devil', weren't common or ordinary, and weren't exactly known to most people.

Bi Fan's opponent apparently didn't have such a diverse arsenal of attacks, and even though he was stronger, his technical knowledge was only mediocre. Bi Fan's attacks had left him under enormous pressure.

Now, suddenly the situation had completely changed, and Bi Fan was gaining control of the fight.

"Boss! Kill him, attack him. You have to take revenge for your brother's death." The man who had sustained injuries earlier shouted out, in a desperate attempt to cheer his companion on.

However, his current state of surprise had left him very unsettled, and the man's fighting had also taken a back step.

Suddenly with his sword in his right hand, Bi Fan attacked with the 'rainy-fly sword' towards the left hand of his opponent and blood sprayed all over.

With another strike, this time the 'blood devil' technique's 'blood palm', Bi Fan managed to finish off his opponent. His sinister hit had left the whole ground drenched in the blood of his opponent.

Since Bi Fan had already taken care of two of the men, leaving behind a witness to tell the tale of this encounter would only bring trouble, and he would now have to kill the witness in order to keep this encounter a secret.

In this fight, Bi Fan had used up a lot of his secret tricks, out of desperation, the knowledge of which, if ever reached his enemies, would only cause trouble in the future.

Taken by the surprise, as his opponent had tried to dodge the sword, but failing to do so completely, he had fallen prey to Bi Fan's palm.

"Arghh..." The man had shouted out loudly, his face deformed under the effect of the pain.

Then with a bursting sound, more like a crackle, he had fallen to the ground.

His body was now drenched in his own blood, leaving him in great pain, so much so that his eye balls seemed like they would pop out, but he was still alive.

The scene was so terrible that Bi Fan was having a difficult time holding back his own vomit.

“Boss! Are you okay? Boss.....” The injured man’s face revealing the fear his mind contained, tried to drag his injured body away, in a vain attempt to escape.

Bi Fan lunged over, and with one strike of his sword, took the man’s life.

As he looked at his blood soaked hands, he decided that he would never use the ‘blood palm’ attack unless it was a matter of life and death. This secret technique was far too sinister to use in any other situation.

The screams of the man were echoing too loud and were beginning to creep Bi Fan out. In order to alleviate the suffering of the man, Bi Fan took mercy on him and ended his life quickly.

The three men didn’t have any Yin Yang pouches or any other things that were of much value, just a few instruments and weapons. Bi Fan threw them inside his Yin Yang pouch and moved on.

As he continued on his way, he didn’t encounter any more

trouble, just like a bonny sailor on a voyage.

Soon, Bi Fan had reached the entrance maze to the Ting Feng valley, and since he had memorized the path, he didn't have any trouble finding his way even without any help from anyone.

Ting Feng valley was as lively as always and the moment he entered, he started hearing the hawkers.

“Quickly come and take a look, Dan pellets, magical weapons, come and take a look!”

“Remarkably rare books going out in exchange of magical weapons, very desirable! Hurry!”

Most of the noise was created by practitioners who due to lack of money couldn't afford to buy what they needed at were always hoping to make a barter transaction. The loud advertising of their offers subdued the hawkers and shopkeeper's voices.

Bi Fan would walk over to these people, and see what they had to offer, just in case they had somethings that he needed.

This time, Bi Fan had arrived in the Ting Feng valley, mainly to buy purifier Dan pellets, as it would be helpful in his preparations.

However, since he was in no hurry, he casually strolled around, checking out the stalls.

After his last visit, Bi Fan knew that even if he didn't purchase anything at these stalls, gathering information always came in handy.

Bi Fan had only even visited the valley once before, so this was a rare visit, and an opportunity.

No matter his interest in the item, Bi Fan would inspect it carefully, and then ask the price, even if he never intended to buy the product.

“How much for this damaged book?” Bi Fan asked, holding golden rimmed book jade colored book, with binding threads hanging out, making it obvious that the book was missing pages at the front.

Even though the title was missing, but Bi Fan was inspecting the book with some interest.

The shopkeeper was an old man, who seemed partially blind in one eye. He looked over at Bi Fan and replied: “This is a very important book; it speaks about refining body strength, it very important to make breakthroughs to different layers. Only three pages are missing at the front. It costs a hundred low grade spars. I always tell the truth to my customers.”

“Well, often the front pages are the most important, as they speak of the basics, with those missing, who would pay a hundred spars for this?” he put the book back in its place and got up to

leave.

Out of experience, he knew that if the shopkeeper was interested in selling, then this move would definitely get him to bargain.

He knew that most of the permanent shopkeepers wouldn't try to fool a customer as it will create trouble from angry customers in the future.

A hundred spars, even if low quality, wasn't a small amount, and even though the book seemed interesting, Bi Fan wasn't willing to spend so much on it.

A fragment of the book was missing, and since it was the pages at the front, the book's value was greatly reduced. So even if the shopkeeper offered a discount, the price would have to come down very steeply for it to be worth the purchase.

“Little friend, don't go, lets discuss the price. How about I give you a 20% discount? That sounds fair. It's a great bargain!” The old man grinned, pulling Bi Fan back in.

Bi Fan shook his head: “If the first page hadn't been missing, I would have paid the entire hundred spars, but with the first page gone, I could encounter problems as I might not understand the book properly. I think I'd be better off buying a completely intact book.”

Bi Fan pretended to walk away again, leaving the shopkeeper

anxious: “Little friend, okay, so be it. Just give me twenty spars, and you can have the book, that’s actually my cost price.”

“Ten spars, that’s my final offer. If you are okay with it, then I’ll take the book, otherwise you keep it.” Bi Fan was very straightforward this time.

The old man looked on for a moment, starting at Bi Fan trying to see if he would still be willing to negotiate. But in the end, sighed and gave in: “Ten spars, it is. The book is yours.”

With the deal reached, Bi Fan moved on to another stall.

Half a day had passed, Bi Fan had visited several stall, but hadn’t found anything interesting so far.

“Little brother, you need Dan pellets? I have all kinds available with me, all kinds of Dan pellets, as long as you have the money to pay for them.” A fat middle-aged man said.

Bi Fan glanced at the stall; there were several jars inside the stall, so maybe it was worth a look.

“Do you have a purifier Dan?”

“Purifier Dan? Do you want a regular purifier? Or something even better? I have a lot of variety here, even sunset jade purifier Dan.” The fat man enquired with a smile.

Sunset jade Dan is capable of purifying all most all kinds of poisonous substances, and is a top quality purifier Dan.

As soon as he heard Sunset jade purifier, Bi Fan was interested in knowing more, Yellow springs purifier was the best one but Sunset jade purifier was one of the best alternatives.

“Only sunset jade? How about Yellow springs?” Bi Fan asked.

He asked this with the intention of letting the shopkeeper know that he isn't an amateur and knows what he's talking about.

“Little brother knows his purifiers; there is no doubt about that.” The fat man laughed. “One Sunset jade purifier costs eighty spars (low quality), that's definitely worth the money!”

Bi Fan shook his head with a wry smile, he didn't know the market price of Sunset jade purifiers, and at eighty spars a piece, he wouldn't be able to buy a large quantity.

Sunset jade purifier would be very helpful in preparing Bi Fan to enter the devil's territory.

“Okay, I think I'll ask around that come back to you later.” Bi Fan replied, as he wanted to enquire around a little bit more.

“Don't worry brother.” The fat man smiled at said. “The price

can be discussed, how many tablets do you require? If the amount is significant, I can give you a discount.”

“The price is too high, I need a hundred of them, but I don’t have enough money.” Bi Fan said.

The Fat shopkeeper squinted, thought about it for a while and said: “I’ll give you the best price, five thousand spars for one hundred tablets of Sunset jade purifier Dan. You can ask around, my price is the best you will get.”

The fat man had a very serious look on his face, one could make out that he wasn’t lying.

Bi Fan knew that at a critical time, these purifiers could turn out to be a lifesaving commodity, but he didn’t have enough spars for a hundred of them.

However, he needed these purifiers quite badly, so he wanted their price to go down a little further, as he didn’t have enough spars with him. But if he sold out everything he had to spare, he could manage to get around seven thousand spars in total.

Bi Fan had managed to kill a few people, and had collected the spoils from the battles, these he knew would fetch him a few thousand spars at least.

Bi Fan knew the value of spars, and they weren’t very easy to come around either, so he needed to save as much as he could for

the future.

“Can you try to reduce the price a little?” Bi Fan asked, in hope of reducing his buying cost.

The fat man shook his head: “If I reduce the price any further, I will make a loss. I can’t do that.”

“Is it possible to exchange for magical tools?” Bi Fan thought of the weapons and tools that he had in the Yin Yang pouches. He knew that some of them were useless to him and would be better off being traded for purifier Dan pellets.

The Fat boss replied: “Of course, take out the things, let me take a look. And I’ll give you a valuation.”

Bi Fan started taking out the various things that he had gathered, in total he had about twenty eight items, amongst which, four were top grade instruments.

Bi Fan needed the light-ray sword and the silver armor for himself. Also he wasn’t willing to part with his championship reward. The machete was also valuable to him, and so was the devil’s bell. But the others, he was willing to part with them.

As the fat man saw Bi Fan take out all these items, he was almost in a state of shock. His eyes seemed as if they would pop out.

It took him a while to compose himself. After he did so, he

started looking at the items one by one and started their valuation.

Bi Fan was aware of their market worth, but for reasons beyond Bi Fan's comprehension, the fat man was valuing these items slightly above their market price.

Ultimately, the fat shopkeeper valued the items at four thousand and two hundred spars, so Bi Fan took out the remaining eight hundred spars to complete the transaction and made the purchase.

With the deal done, the fat shopkeeper looked very happy: "Little brother, what is your name?"

"I don't wish to disclose my name."

Bi Fan didn't want his name linked to the sale of these items, if anyone ever came looking and found out about him, then he could get into trouble.

"Little brother, whenever you come to Ting Feng valley in search of Dan pellets, always enquire from me once." The fat man called after him loudly.

Bi Fan had purchased everything he needed, but didn't want to leave the Ting Feng valley immediately afterwards. He hasn't sure when he'd be able to visit again, so he wanted to stroll around a bit more.

Bi Fan visited almost every stall he could, enquiring prices, and

tried to memorize them.

Bi Fan knew that the more he knew about the prices of various items, the lesser the chance of being fooled.

Bi Fan asked the price of Sunset jade purifier at another stall, but still couldn't figure out why the fat man was so happy after the deal.

Bi Fan was trying to take a look at as many books as possible, in the hope of memorizing their contents to some extent.

But the shopkeepers normally didn't appreciate this, as soon as they realized that someone is trying to read or even carefully inspect the book, they would take it back, so people couldn't read them properly.

Bi Fan must have looked at almost ten books, but as soon as he read past a few pages, the books were recovered by their owners, and nothing good came off it for Bi Fan.

“Little brother, this book is talks about various animals and beasts. Would you like to buy it? It costs only five spars, it's very cheap.”

“I'll take it.” Bi Fan took out the five spars and bought the book.

This was a very commonly available book that spoke about the various types of animals, beasts, goblins and other creatures that

existed in the world. This was something Bi Fan needed to know about.

When it came to items he needed, Bi Fan was never stingy.

Bi Fan continued to roam around, buying whatever he thought was necessary, like bandages to dress wounds, basic items needed to set up traps, hooks, cables and ropes to climb cliffs etc.

Everything was in order, Bi Fan had everything needed, he had entered 'inner organs', and now he was fully prepared to take on the devil's territory.

- End of Book 01 -